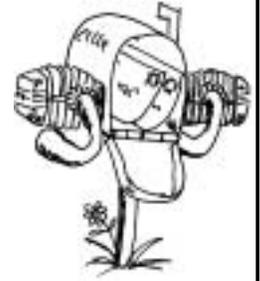


The Mail Boxer

January 2004

BMW MOA #7



The Prez says...

by Todd Erickson

Did Santa fill your stockings with inner tubes and tire slime? Valve stems or valve shims? With all that lutefisk and lefse from the traditional Norwegian family X-mas I'm full of Garrison Keillor and the Lake Wobegon. (Although I wouldn't mind some tickets to the Home Companion at the Civic Center. Sold out in 20 minutes!) On to the business of the church of our two wheeled state.

Holy sauerbraten beermemen and women. Grab your atlas and find Dakota MN.. On Dec. 6th one of our Minnesota members rode down on his airhead in 40 degree weather and minimal electrics to be with us for the breakfast meeting. Ernie Bell, you wild and Crazy German you. Congratulations on definitely being the long distance rider. For a breakfast meeting!!!! Next time bring the whipper snapper Tia along at least for body warmth on the super slab freezer. Way to go!!

January 24th the Ride For Kids organization will be meeting in Lake Mills at 10 a.m.. These good folks raise money for combatting and researching childhood cancer. That's right, children with brain tumors need our assistance. If there is a member who would attend this informational meeting and give the club a report at the February breakfast call me at 608.756.3822.

Show up on a bike and shock all the 'wingers! This is an opportunity for our club and BMW alike. Yes, we do give monies to charities, food pantries, and the like. However, what I am ask-

ing of a club member or two is to simply investigate the RFK and give the rest of us your impression. Thank you for considering this.

Wow, opportunities abound to jump around like ice cold popsicles in January's calendar; New Years Day ride, the wood cutting party at Rob's Ranch on the 4th after breakfast, popsicle for a weekend at Mr. Werlein's winter campout, and there's all the ice racing on Lake Koshkonong in front of the Sunset Tavern. Pheww!! How's AZ Mr. Dean?

Attention: All Italian bike owners take a look at the WADE website through milwaukeeeducati.com. Our Milwaukee friend Mr. David Cavill has set up the Wisconsin Area Ducati Enthusiasts, one heck of a great club, with about 60 members in a calendar year. They are an enthusiastic bunch of folks. Troy Kratz and I met up with some of them last August for their breakfast on the square meeting in Elkhorn. Eric Trosper, one of their proud Laverda owners, gave us the tour of his Laverda Executive. No, it is not an Italian Rolodex, but the Sardinia version of a sport tourer, circa '83, I believe. Very cool. Anyway, check them out milwaukeeeducati.com.

Safety Check: If you wear prescription glasses for riding please have your eyes checked this winter. Give those peepers some time to adjust to a new 'script if necessary. Come check us out, your club, at the Jan. breakfast meeting on the 4th. Put in your .02 cents.

Upcoming Events

1/1/04: Madison Motorcycle Club New Year's Day Ride. For more information call John Troya at 271-0582.

1/4: 9:00am Club breakfast at the Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland.

1/4: Following Club breakfast—wood cutting @ Robb Himmelman's in preparation for the winter campout.

1/9-1/11: Annual Winter Campout at Blue Mounds State Park

2/1: 9:00am Club breakfast at the Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland.

2/6-8: Cycle World Show @ Donald Stephens Convention Center 5555 N. River Rd. Rosemont, IL

Secretary's Report

by JT Wagner

December breakfast 43 people attended, several riding. The winter campout will be January 9–10 at Blue Mounds State Park.

GR3 for '04 will be the weekend of May 21–23. Registration will be \$25.00, with \$15.00 for club members working the rally. There will be a pig roast on Saturday night. And a possible band on Saturday as well. Todd Erickson and Ernie Bell will be leading the GS ride. Todd Herbst will be leading a sport ride. Dave Mally will be doing his annual led ride as well. Tanya Erickson will be leading a "Moto Yoga" class on Saturday A.M. during the rally. Sign-up sheets for work crews will be out at the next breakfast.

Steve Huber states that he found a new hosting service for the club web site. The cost will be \$36.00 per year with more features than before. There will also be space for up to 500 e-mail accounts. The domain registration was renewed for \$55.00 for five years. An article from explaining everything will be forthcoming.

The club gave a \$100.00 tip to the wait staff at the Maple Tree for their service.

There will be a wood cutting get together for the winter camp-out at Rob Himmelman's place on News Year's weekend. Volunteers are needed. The Slip'n Slide Ride will also be at Rob's on the 2nd or 3rd weekend of February.

Free breakfasts for January went to Alex Depillis and Ron Boehn. 50/50 went to Dan Baum. There were several door prizes given out as well. An \$100 cleaning kit went to Glenn Rago. And a bottle of "Pig Snott Cleaner" went to Brad Beghin.

Next breakfast is January 4.

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Product Review: Cee Bailey's 21" W/S for 650 GS

by Tanya Erickson

I was the lucky recipient of the windshield for a birthday gift. Todd and I put it on within minutes and left for the maiden voyage.

After riding nearly naked, the bike that is, for two years, I noticed a huge difference. My height is 5'5", inseam 30", weight "classified". Riding at highway speeds with the short Givi windscreen the wind would hit me at the collarbone. So, there was a lot of windnoise and buffeting.

The Cee Bailey's windshield is considerably taller and wider. At highway speeds the wind goes right over my helmet. Gee, no wind noise. I can now hear the engine sing.

I'm not sure of the price tag on this accessory. As I mentioned it was a gift. I feel it was a bargain at any price. Why? I'm toasty warm while riding mid-November in Wisconsin. Two thumbs up.

FEAR & LOATHING IN PEORIA



Oh man was it hot at the Peoria TT this year. How hot was it? Hotter than a July GOP convention in Fallujah, Tikrit, and

Baghdad combined. The cold beer would be flowing heavy, and the crew's contingents would be coming from all over the midwest. New friends and old were coming together again. Somehow my press credentials from the Mail Boxer were accepted at the AMA authorization website. Access to racers at the Peoria TT was ours. The heat was on. An executive decision was hammered out. Attorney Dr. Wilson would be coming on the outing for sure. When crossing state lines for a race, bring your attorney. This one is a flattrack knowledge legend second only to Gary Nixon himself. Furthermore, Dr. Wilson is always up for excursions of such horror and decadence. We were off down superslab 39, /6 and the ST4s haulin' for a brawlin'.

Love American Style best describes Val and Kay's place in Chillicothe Ill., and it was loaded with love. Chicago Art was there brandishing his snub nosed AR-15 in the backyard looking for a target match. Just smoking a Marlboro made Art look guilty and usually got him in trouble with the law. Mike the Bike Shannon was there from N. St. Paul and had the inside scoop on the Brainerd bash. Brainerd, Bloody Brainerd. Papa Joe Smurf was there to give the local constable lip about insurance coverage options when we got pulled over Sunday after the races. Rick and Katie Rose were flattrackin' their XT500 and XR500 up in the cities and would be down Sunday morn..

Dr. Phil and I arrived late Saturday afternoon in Chillicothe after having had a late nocturnal excursion Friday night with the wildman airhead wrench in Freeport who shall remain anonymous. Flaming Ouzo shots are not part of a /7- Le Mans III conversion recipe. (We awoke Sat. afternoon in the quonset shack slathered in #10 spline lube surrounded by strange women in Midas muffler shop coveralls. Enough said.) Val and his beautiful wife Kay had my Guinness supply properly hidden and there were several kegs tapped for Dr. Phil's delight. To Chicago Art's delight one of Val's sons had graduated from high school, was going off to college, and was throwing a party for intoxicated cheerleaders. Chicago was the BMOC. We barely had reason to go to Big Al's Emporium of Deelight. But, we did anyway. The races were on Sunday. We still had the August night in a town that was ready to race; Peoria.

Cool Keith was our designated driver to downtown. For \$20 and a handshake he dropped us off and picked us up at 3am in the style of the MR2. Dr. Phil, Mike the Bike and I went to partake in the Deelight of Big Al's. Through the cigar haze and a dozen pints we watched the usual bachelor party parody of fools parted with their money for little to nothing. I would not recommend this sort of lurid entertainment to my worst enemy. Horrible. No fun at

near fiction by Todd Erickson

all. The downtown Peoria is a beautiful place to explore when it is full of motorcycles. We were exploring the bowels of the city; body piercings and tattoos gone awry. Who says we're in a recession? There was fresh ink everywhere. Dr. Phil hooked up with a wonderful gal who happened to be dancing that night. What a coincidence, she was a paralegal as well!? It was a classic Tom Waits night heavily scented with Muscatel under a Thunderbird sky, hanging out on the corner of a Fifth and Vermouth. All in moderation of course, this is a family publication. Mike the Bike was hooked on our front row seats and I wasn't complainin' none either. However, Sunday was a full race day coming at us quick.

Bright and a blaringly early three hours later Val Schoenberger stood over me in the basement where I had slept, wearing his signature old bathrobe and a cup o' java, singing Lee Greenwood's "Proud to be an American". I rolled over. He played it again but louder. And again. And again. O.K., time to get up. Rick and Katie Rose had arrived in time for breakfast. They had taken five trophies between em and had driven all night to get to Peoria. Rick is a cross between James Dean and Paul Newman. Katie Rose is straight outta a Tom Robbins novel, complete with stocking stitching tattooed up the back of each calf and thigh. Striking. She only drinks Jameson.

We got to the track early, about 10am, so Val could show us where his sons will spread his ashes after he departs for the big TT in the sky. And, to lean across the fence at Turn 1. Holy cow, cover your beer and borrow some safety glasses. The clay is flying everywhere and so is the horsepower. This is pure, good clean fun. Kevin Atherton, Chris Carr, Rich King, JR Schnabel, Haydens everywhere, and on and on. The day is filled with heat, heats, and Busch Beer. The Peoria TT track is a natural bowl, the surrounding hills of the saucer being your seating. Unless you choose to stand in the infield spinning like a top, and we did. There, in the Illinois heat, we bumped into Bobby "gravel" Orr. What a treat!!

The race was everything Val ever built it up to be—fantastic. A seventeen year old from New Jersey had the race until lap 18. Then Chris Carr looked to be taking it away as usual. All race I had noticed Schnabel's speed over the jump. Most guys were hitting the distance marker at around 110–120 feet. JR was hitting the marker at around 120–130 ft. He was flying fast and low. On the very last lap, not 30 feet from where we were standing in the infield, Schnabel passed Carr and his Harley in turn 4 to run the rabbit race to the finish and take the checkered flag. It was awesome. Incredible. People were hollering, screaming, jumping up and down all over the place. The crowd went wild. Crazy. It was a pure moment in racing. Who had won the race did not matter. It was how the race had run that was glorius. And on a Sunday, imagine that.

Thanks to Val and Kay.

Boxer Bits

by P.J. Francis



Harold and Mary Cosgrove are president and secretary of Halmar Video. Harold raced at the Isle of Man from 1962 until 1973. He attends the T.T. races to this day. If you want a video about the T.T. races this is the place to go. They also arrange vacations to the T.T. They stock other racing videos also. Check them out at: Halmar Video, P.O. Box 474, Lewiston, NY 14092 or Halmar Video, P.O. Box 793, Niagra Falls, Ont. L2E 6V6, Canada. Telephone: (905)356-6865. Email: halmar@niagra.com Web address: www.niagra.com/~halmar/videos/

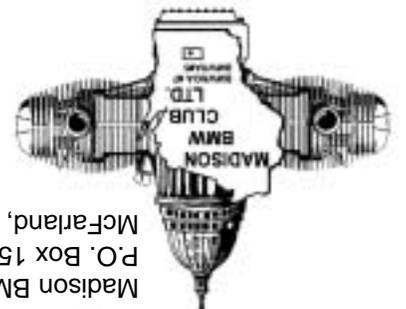
BMW Motorcycles of Rockford had their Grand Opening on September 13. Clint Space of BMW Motorrad USA was in attendance. Food and soft drinks were available. The service area was open for inspection. Bruce Pickering is the general manager of the new store. Jeff Sluiter is in charge of parts. John Deane takes care of sales. Certified technician John Rambow is the service manager. They are located at 2201 Harrison Avenue, Rockford, Illinois. Phone: (815)986-2269.

Take the Rt. 75 exit (South Beloit) to Rt. 251. South on 251 (North Second) to Harrison Avenue. Left on Harrison (at Rockford Products) and watch for BMW of Rockford on the right. Alternatively take 251 North from Bypass 20 and go right at Rockford Products.

Classifieds

WANTED: K fairing parts: everything EXCEPT headlight, three main pieces, windshield. NEED hardware, brackets, signals, mirrors, radiator cowling, seat cowling. For 1990 K75RT. Alex DePillis 608-259-9255 alex@depillis.org

FOR SALE: 1985 Honda XR600 dirt bike titled and licensed in Wisconsin. Asking \$1000 if interested call Todd Herbst at 608-441-8839.



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