

# The Mail Boxer

February 2004

BMW MOA #7



## *The Prez says...*

*by Todd Erickson*

Recently in Roundel magazine one of the contributing editors was writing about a track experience. (Roundel is a mag. for BMW car buffs.) The author had attended a racing rally weekend at Elkhart Lake's Road America, and took the opportunity to camp in the track's grounds. Late one night this fella took himself for a solo walk around the road course and takes us, the readers, along down memory lane. The course holds over 30 years of memories and he tells about experiences he had with family, and friends, in what corner of the track and what year it was. Imagine a cool summer night, so very full of stars. Admiring the towering oaks next to the course in Canada Corner where you remember slipping the rear end out a bit accelerating up the hill towards the bridge. Many years of memories this talented writer transcribed to paint the picture I saw. Although I love any time spent at a track and the racing itself, especially of bikes, that's not what I would like to write about.

The picture I saw was of heritage, friends, family, and the blessed Remembrance of Things Past. (M. Proust) I feel fortunate to be walking this course with the Madison BMW Club, it's history, and all of it's members old and new. We have collectors, builders, endurance riders, Iron Butters, cops, robbers, mothers and fathers bringing their children, hippies, blue collar, white collar, racers, newlyweds, soon to be newlyweds, and let's not forget the Minnesotans too. Now and again you'll even be able to hear the song of the Sausage

Creature. (H. Thompson) This club is a hodge podge melting pot set on simmer. Set to simmer and the memories are always floating from the kitchen to our friends that have become like family. If you haven't been to a breakfast at the Maple Tree in McFarland come on over and try the Powdermilk Biscuits! (G. Keillor) Just Kidding! Come on over and meet some new friends. Meet the guy that went on the road with his band and found his three Indian Chiefs had disappeared while he was away. Meet the fella who while in Germany saw Mike Hailwood race a GP bike on Saturday, only to watch Mike race a CAR on Sunday. The stories are here to be heard and made. We have to show up to continue on with the heritage.

That's all I have for this month. It's still dues time for those who would like inclusion in the Club Directory. Send your \$20 and \$5 for each associate member at your address to Mr. John Ong, 4725 Nora Lane, Madison Wi., 53711. Make sure to include updates on your bike collection, address, and phone #'s as John can forward them to Derek Engelen. Thank you Derek for putting the Directory together this year. I believe the cutoff date for Directory inclusion is the 15th of February. Thank You as well to Mr. Steve Werlein for putting together a successful campout in Blue Mounds. Thank You to Betty Bruun as well for putting this paper together every month. Thanks also go to the anonymous donor of a brand new Bell helmet for the GR3 raffle cause. See you at the February breakfast.

## Upcoming Events

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

2/21: Slip Slide Ride Tentative Date contact Rob Himmelman for more information.

3/7: 9:00am Club breakfast at the Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland.

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

5/1: Madison Motorcycle Club poker run begins and ends at Madison Motorsports.

5/2: 9:00am Club breakfast at the Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland. Followed by the Slimey Crud ride; don't miss the incredible display of bikes and testosterone!

5/21-23: 30th Annual GR3 Rally at the Wisconsin Badger Camp. Don't miss this one—lots of new, exciting events planned.

6/5: Club picnic details to be announced.

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# Secretary's Report

by JT Wagner

January Breakfast. We had a guest, Heather McKinney, Ironman Wisconsin volunteer director. She thanked the club for its volunteers at the '03 Ironman event. Dues must be in by Feb. 1st if you want to be listed in the club directory. There was some discussion about the GR3 for this year and an organizational meeting was planned for Saturday, Jan. 18. 50/50 went to Ben Cimino. The Feb. breakfast went to Boyd Weber.

At the organizational meeting for the rally several items were discussed. Tom Shirz donated \$100. for rally prizes. Steve Huber will take care of ordering rally pins. There will be a bake sale held on Friday of the rally by Theresa Schroeder's group. Badger Camp will be selling dinner on Friday night and breakfast on Saturday morning. The prototype rally poster done by Betty Bruun was approved. Any door prize donations by club members will be much appreciated. Possible alternative field events will be run by Betty Bruun, Tanya Erickson and Troy Kratz. Troy is also the rally czar in training. Dick Olsen volunteered his truck as transport vehicle again. There will be a work day prior to the rally to stuff rally packets.

The next breakfast will be February 1.

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# Treasurer's Report

by John Ong

The New Year's Day Ride around the square and out to the White House Inn at the N.E. corner of Lake Mendota had 63 riders signed up at \$8 to \$10 each (included a commemorative coffee mug) and about another 30 or 40 came along but did not receive the mug. I saw a couple of dealer plates, one collector plate, three U.S. veteran plates, and the rest were regular plates. The weather was warm (in the 20's) and dry.

As this is written we have 76 members signed up for 2004. I'm told the cut-off date to be included in the club directory will be February 1, 2004; our next breakfast. Dues are still \$20 per individual per calendar year and \$5 for associate members.

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# Letter from the Editor

Hello to the masses! Some of you may have noticed that the January Mailboxer was rather thin. Would anyone like to guess why? It is because I need articles—we really do want to hear what you have to say about wrenching, riding, trips you've taken and even why it is that you like to ride. Those of you have contributed—Thanks a million and keep up the good work!

I'd also like to take this opportunity to forewarn you of my spring class schedule. I'm entering my final year of college and it appears to be grueling. At this time I do not intend to produce a June Mailboxer. Not to worry you should receive all others as planned. I appreciate your understanding.

—Betty

# Arizona

by Jeff Dean

Prez Todd asked in the January newsletter, "How's AZ, Mr. Dean?" Thusly challenged, I submit herewith my response.

Life in Arizona is fabulous for the obsessed motorcyclist, myself included. Riding every day in sunshine and 60s (it's cold here this time of year) does not get tiring. At this time of year the average high is in the 60s, and the average low is around 40. It's amazing how much the temperature fluctuates daily in this dry climate. The 70s are coming soon, however, so things are looking up.

Tucson is suffering from a multi-year drought, so it is not raining much. Unremitting sunshine results, but puts smiles on riders.

As usual, wildlife outside our living room windows is abundant. Herds of Javelina (wild native pigs) visit every few days. We are visited nightly by 2 gray foxes. Coyotes also are abundant around our house, as are mule deer. An occasional tarantula also visits—very cute. The avian world has too many representatives to recount. Most common are quail, house finches, curved-bill thrashers, cactus wrens, and gila woodpeckers. We live in a saguaro "forest" and among other flora not found in Wisconsin.

Regarding motorcycling, the big news in Tucson is that Marty Cohen is retiring and has sold Iron Horse Motorcycles (exclusive BMW dealer) to John Cartwright, who becomes the official



owner February 2. Fireworks will no doubt soar. IH is just a wonderful BMW dealer, and is one reason why Jill and I chose Tucson for winters. IH's best selling bike? The R1150GS, which is no surprise considering the area's terrain. Second is the R1150RT.

While you were doing the traditional New Year's day ride to the Square, we were doing the traditional New Year's day ride up Mount Lemmon. Rob Lentini and I will ride to the annual Death Valley Days rally Jan. 23–24 in Furnace Creek, California. I continue to teach rider

courses for T.E.A.M. Arizona. Most Mondays, Jim Strang, I, and whoever else wants to join us do GS rides to some of the hundreds of dirt roads in SE AZ. I sold my Yamaha TT-R250 off road bike, so now use only my R1150GS for off-road riding.

Edelweiss is now running several tours out of Tucson every winter. If some of you want to check out the local scenery here, you might consider one of their tours, which use Iron-Horse maintained BMWs. Tucson is really THE place to ride in the winter—at least in North America.



## Wedding bells for Ernie & Karen

Mr. Ernie Bell and Ms. Karen Kaiser would like to invite the Madison BMW Club to their wedding reception on May 8, 2004. Their reception will be held at the Legion hall in La Crescent MN., just a few miles across the WI/MN border from LaCrosse. This is sure to be a fun time. Ernie would like to see... "a parking lot full of Beemers there, don't ya know". Come on up and help us celebrate their union. RSVP to 507.643.8888.



# Winter Wonderland

by Steve Werlein

The 2004 Madison BMW Club Winter Camp/Outing was "intimate" this year. No, we didn't all sleep in the same tent ... we core winter campers just cked a weekend

where most other club folks were busy with indoor activity.

Friday late afternoon Activity Director Todd Herbst delivered a pick-up load of wood he had cut the weekend prior at Rob Himmelman's place—thank you Todd and Rob for keeping us warm!

Tasty fish fry at Hooterville Inn featured little red potatoes and pints of Winterskaal from Capitol Brewery. Next time we go for 3 pieces of fish, or 2 fish and 2 shrimp. Kirk, Mary, Hannah, and Grace Erlinger visited Friday nite and we talked about fast motorcycles under the glow of Kirk's fluorescent camp lite.

Friday night was the lowest temperature reached, +10F. The transition period between fully clothed and reduced clothes was not too bad, thanks to a polar fleece sleeping bag liner. Liquid intake control for the hour before bedtime helped to delay the inevitable bladder call until 4AM.

Blue Mounds Park was pretty quiet Saturday morning, there not being enough snow for the usual parade of skiers who glide past the campsite. About 1PM Ben Cimino stopped by for hot chocolate and to talk about his trip to the Czech Republic. Bert,

despite heavy bronchitis, stopped to grill a cheezy brat.

Ken Nunes brought the newest winter camp innovation: an ice shanty made from an old camper trailer. It featured propane heat, and you can ask Tanya how well it works as a warming hut. Mr. Prez and Tanya had joined us right after Roger and Mary Klopp stopped in. Roger set up for the evening at the next (more level) campsite. We all enjoyed hot cider, hot chocolate (with or without candied alcohol addendum), and an occasional beer slushie. The temp was mild, reaching +29F.

As the sun slipped toward the horizon and temperatures slipped with it, folks drifted away to leave Roger, Ken, Todd H, and myself for the evening. Ken made some delicious bar-b-que marinated chicken sandwiches that helped absorb the evening's antifreeze intake. We settled around a nice fire and okay-doked about motorcycles, rallies, skiing, camping, and whatever came to our minds.

WORT 89.9 FM provided pleasant background music all afternoon and evening. We had Lantino/Mexican music until 6, then vintage rock until 8 and Rhythm & Blues after that. The R&B songs all had a monkey theme, and the DJ reached way back into the 40's for some songs. We all partied out by 11PM Saturday nite (I think that's when Todd and Ken crashed).

Sunday morning dawned a mild +22F and we wasted no time packing (throwing things in the back of the trucks) and heading back to central heat and a warm shower. This was the last year for a white-gas fired stove, as it was just too much hassle to keep it pumped up. Next year we cook by propane and electric, and maybe Ken will bring his grill again.

# Book Review

by Jeff Trapp

Being a book junkie and Beemer person, put BMW on a book cover and it's a no brainer. So Ian Falloon's "Original BMW Air-Cooled Boxer Twins 1950-1996 The Restorer's Guide" completely overwhelmed my usually modest expectations. The book's purpose is to help a collector or restorer find what features and specifications are correct for models and years. It does this in depth and interestingly. Each model is broken down by year and changes are given for chassis, engines, electrics, suspension, etc., virtually everything. Highly collectable bikes like the r90s, early r100rs, r80g/s are given their own chapters. While this isn't a torque value or capacities book, things like chassis #'s, final drive ratios, original carb specs are given. What makes this book unique is that you don't have to be agonizing over finding the correct turn signal lens to find it interesting and enjoyable read. And it's obvious that Falloon is a motorcyclist and has considerable experience with the subject. In addition to

the bounty of information you'll also find o 200 well done col pictures, most of them taken by the author.



The final chapter is "Living with an Air-Cooled Boxer Twin" which is a pragmatic overview of purchasing, owning and using a vintage motorcycle. I highly recommend this book. I've had a copy for a month now and I'm far from tired of it, despite picking it up daily. I haven't seen it available locally, though I'm sure Borders or Barnes & Noble can order it. List price is \$34.95. Amazon has it for about \$10 less, plus shipping.

# Solo Riding

by Peggy Waters

Isn't interesting how time away from home always seems to provide a new lesson in our microcosmic existence? Some portion of insight into who we are? Funny how simply riding a motorcycle generally provides us ample time to reflect and actually hear our own thoughts. But longer trips tend to allow a deeper, more pensive intrusion inward.

Long distance riding and attending rallies are a fairly new addition to my personal annual riding agenda, despite the fact that I've been riding for almost 15 years. The national BMW rally Midland, Michigan 2000 was actually my very first rally ever! Thanks to TVH and JTW my big initiation trip was well-planned and smoothly executed. Not to mention the serendipitous bonus of meeting my then neighbor and now best friend Betty and her soon to be husband, Todd.

Since then I have attended rallies each year, often riding with different riders. I enjoy riding with other people, especially folks from our great Madison BMW Club. It makes me feel like I'm not alone, odd-ball, which is what some non-riders think when they see a lone motorcyclist commuting. I feel especially empowered when I gang-ride with my women friends—Betty B., Tanya E., and Mary K. And although I truly enjoy riding with others for a change, it doesn't make me like riding alone any less, after all up

until I joined the Madison BMW Club in late 1999, I only rode alone.

Well despite this year's attempt at a very early and highly detailed pre-trip West Virginia National BMW plans with riding buddies, schedules changed and I found myself with the opportunity of making the trek alone. Because of the fact that I do ride alone so often that it never crossed my mind that traipsing across the country was any more dangerous than taking the Beltline from McFarland to Middleton. I guess I just feel comfortable and confident enough in my riding skills, my judgement, my fabulous machine, and my ability to be quick on my feet.

So off we went on our merry way into the wild, furious gray yonder. Like many other rally-goers we rode into rain. And we rode through rain, rain, and more rain. Whee. I had barely gone 300 miles, was just getting into Indiana and was greeted with a monster storm. The winds were gusting at over 50 mph, there were multiple lightening bolts lighting up the sky at the same time, and the rain was coming down so hard I could hardly see six feet in front of me. The sitting water was up over my tire and wheel and was actually casting a wake up over my boots. Yea, a blue sign, I finally came to a Rest Stop, so over I pull.

I parked my bike specifically to be in-line with the wind so my Bella would not get blown over by these treacherous winds

and tornado conditions. And in all my glorious Mischlin Man garb, I swaggered up to an overhang where about five truck drivers were standing around watching and discussing this hurricane-like weather.

They greeted me as I began the slow process of disrobing—gloves first, then the helmet. While I was working on my second sopping wet glove one excited driver tells me, "Boy, I was watching you work that bike through this stuff. I was worried that you might get blown right off the road. And there you were in between all those semis, boy I was just so glad I wasn't in your shoes with all that wheel spray and sitting water. Why the water was so deep, a guy couldn't even see a tire track after you had gone through!"

He and the others were all chiming in and agreeing with how bad the sitting water was and how the wind was nearly blowing the 18-wheelers off the road, they couldn't imagine being perched on only two! Right about here I extricated the helmet from my skull with a big fat smile on my face because #1) I was free. #2) I was off the scary damned road, and #3) I didn't pull off in an overly cautious fashion—this was some pretty bad stuff and I wasn't being dramatic. I am no fair weather rider, but sometimes when group riding we are more apt to continue riding even when we shouldn't.

# GR3 Report

by Bert Hefty

Well, its GR3 time again. The planning is well on its way. The dates this year are May 21–23 at the Wisconsin Badger Camp. This is the 30th anniversary. We are looking at doing some extra stuff to make it memorable. The Saturday evening meal will be a hog roast done by JL Richards. There will be several lead rides by Dave Maly, Todd Herbst, Todd Erickson and Ernie Bell. For the past 30 years Dave's rides have been a hit. Todd E. and Ernie Bell will be conducting a dual sport ride and they have been doing their homework so it'll be a good one. Todd Herbst is leading a sport ride on some of Wisconsin's finest to Wildcat Mountain State Park. Also, the camp directors are looking into having beer for sale on the grounds. These are all ideas in the works but not firm yet.

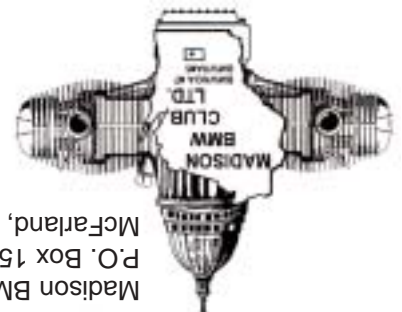
This rally is our main club event. It would be really nice to see more of our members become involved. For those of you who don't camp; bunks are available for \$5 per night. For the past seven years I've been rally czar. I've been trying to get more help from members and each year the same 25 or so help out. We are now up to approximately 100 members, it would be great to see more of you help out; after all we have a compound of 632 acres and 230–250 guests to care for that weekend! Now would also be a good time to mention my new assistant Troy Kratz. He has volunteered to help me put together the rally and eventually take my place as rally czar.

At the last meeting there was a discussion about whether or not we should continue the rally. I know that we haven't made a great deal of money from the rally but this rally was established 30 years ago by the club. The rally does promote the respectability of motorcycling and has developed many friendships. I believe that discontinuing the rally would be a huge mistake. If you have ideas to improve the rally don't be afraid to speak up. And by all means show up and check it out but don't allow a piece of our history to be shut down.

## Classifieds

**FOR SALE:** 1980 R65 24K miles brown with red pin stripes. Krauser bags, wind shield, after-market side stand. In great condition. Recent carbs rebuilt and sync-ed, rear main seal, and all fluids. \$4000. Call Peggy, 608-334-0713

**FOR SALE:** 2000 Ducati M900 I.E. - yellow 944 Big Bore Kit. Ducati High Performance Cams. Polished & ported heads. Termignoni carbon fiber slipons, EPRON reconfigured to match the engine work Sargent Saddle with yellow piping Napoleon Bar End mirrors. 8000 miles on the bike - 1500 miles on new engine work Good Rubber New Battery Fresh Oil Change Loads of fun to ride - power everywhere - 50 MPG Asking \$8500 Call Dave Jenneke at 838-0638 - Evenings



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