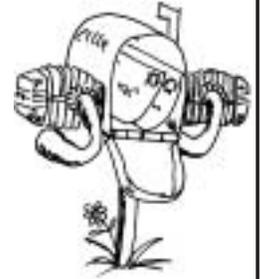


The Mail Boxer

May 2004

BMW MOA #7



The Prez Says...

by Tom Van Horn

Finally, some riding, even for Yerz Truly - the April 4th b'fast was well attended—Especial Thanx to Art Mischler for bringing a new K1200LT for our viewing pleasure.

By the by, Mischlers is having an open house on May 1st, with the customary food and bargains. Also, Madison Motorsports is having their open house/bike show the same day. Also, Kevin Knuth is hosting an Airtech session in Milwaukee on—you guessed it—the same day... and the next day(Sun, 5/2) Besides the final, pre-GR/3 meeting, there is the Slimy Cruds Cafe Racer Run, gathering in Pine Bluff and in the scruffy part of downtown Leland. The machinery makes this a must-do, folks...

The Port Washington crew is having their usual poker run—which, thanx to the extra weekend this May, doesn't clash with GR/3. It starts on May 16th, 10am at the Park View Grill in Saukville.

Things are clattering into place for the 30th GR/3(on the 21-23rd of this month—you knew that, riiight??). Beer vending looks like it's going to happen, we'll be well fed Sat night despite a slight jump in meal price, AND there's talk of the road in being blacktopped sometime..! DOOR PRIZES! DOOR PRIZES!! DOOR PRIZES!!! Perhaps now would be a good time to mention that we could use a few more door prizes for the rally. If you don't have/can't get something, plan "B" is to give a club officer the sum you want to spend (\$10. is di rigeur), and we'll take care of it. Thanks!

On April 18th I led a crew up to the Pyramid restaurant for the 20th Wild Goose Run. Between our folks and the attached Mischler Mob, the Madison table had 32-33 people—though this is still edged by the Badger, Port, and WI club turnouts. We talked up the rally, passed out flyers, visited and ate, ate, ate...

'MOA Mileage Czar Karol Patzer showed—Wisconsin won most entrants and miles again!! Let's keep this streak going—let me know if you need an entry form! Also, I picked up the '03 mileage finishers pins for members not present—IF YOU HAVE AN '03 MILEAGE PIN COMING, LET ME KNOW - I'VE GOT 'EM(heh heh).

We usually have a good turnout at the May meeting—be there, eh?

Secretary's Report

by J. Wagner

34 attended this month's breakfast. Bert hefty gave a rally update. There will be beer vended by the Lancaster JCs. There will also be bottled water for possible sale. Food and all the other rally details are taken care of. We still need door prize donations. The club voted to spend \$400.00 dollars for raffle prizes. We will have the use of the campground from noon Thursday to Sunday.

Dave Jenneke announced that the state will be funding ERCs this year so if you're interested, call MATC.

50/50 drawin g went to Roland Thompson and the free breakfast went to Tom Wiesen. Dave Laufenberg donated free tickets to Airventure at the EAA museum in Oshkosh which went to Steve Schlough.

Upcoming Events

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

5/1: Mischler's Open House.

5/1: 9am Wisconsin Spring Airhead Tech Day at the home of Kevin Knuth. Call (414)303-7716 for more information. See also details in this newsletter.

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: 2pm Club picnic at Brigham County Park. Menu includes rib-eye steaks, chicken breasts, hamburgers & brats, several salads and lemon bars. Cost to be determined. For more information contact Ben Cimino at (608)831-6714.

6/10-13: 28th Iowa Rally at the Windmill Ridge Campground, Kalona, IA. Pre-registration \$25 adults/\$13 children under 12. At the gate \$30 adults/\$15 children. For more information, contact rally chair at (319)354-2027.

9/8: Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation's Ride for Kids. Information at www.rideforkids.com.

11/6: 5:30pm Club banquet at the Imperial Garden-West. Family style dinner served at 6:30pm. Cost to be determined. For more information contact Ben Cimino at (608)831-6714.

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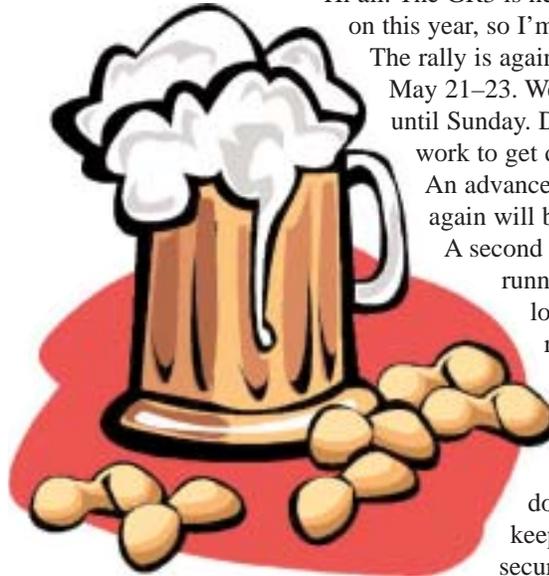
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GR3 Rally Report

by Bert Hefty



Hi all. The GR3 is here. We've had a lot of things going on this year, so I'm going to get straight to the point. The rally is again at the Wisconsin Badger Camp, May 21-23. We have the place from Thursday noon until Sunday. During this time, we have a lot of work to get done, starting Thursday with set-up. An advance team will be needed. Dick Olson again will be our transporter for the weekend. A second vehicle will be needed for doing the running around, and believe me there is a lot of running to do. Friday when the rally starts, the biggest thing is the registration tent. This must be manned at all times when open. At the next meeting, I will have sign up sheets for the work to be done. There's also a clean up crew for keeping the rally grounds clean and a security team to help keep an eye on things. The lounge will need to be set up and

coffee made. We have 24-hour coffee going all weekend so this is a big must do. We have 3 different rides this year; Dave has been leading a ride for all of the 30 years of our rally (thanks Dave!), Todd Erickson and Ernie Bell will be leading a GS ride, and Todd Herbst will be leading a sport ride to Wild Cat Mountain. A big thanks to all you guys willing to volunteer your help. The food this year will be interesting. We have a Friday meal put on by the camp staff for \$5. Additionally on Friday, there will be a bake sale. Saturday, JL Richards will be coming out to serve a pork and chicken dinner complete with potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw, and pasta salad for the main meal. We are still working on beer sales at the rally. This will hopefully be done by the camp staff. This is still in the works. The door prizes and raffle prizes will be done just like last year. Door prizes will be pulled and posted throughout the day. Raffle prizes will be done at the awards ceremony. Saturday night we have a band coming in, Madison Lint featuring our own Jim Low on guitar. Another volunteer to help out. I hope you get what I'm about to talk about next. Volunteering. Folks we need help. Every year the same 20-25 members help out. We have close to 100 members. So where are the rest of the members? I don't know, but we sure could use your help. The more members that help the more quickly the work gets done. Come on folks help out your club and your rally. Well, that's the scope of things. Let's have a great 30th rally. And I hope to see you out there.

LDT SIG

(Long Distance Touring—Special Interest Group)

by Ed Burington: ed_burington@hotmail.com

First I'd like to open up this space in the newsletter to all who are planning trips of greater than one day duration. This is a place where you can announce an upcoming trip, ask about the logistics of such a trip, test the waters to see if anyone else would be interested in your trip, etc. I'll get the ball rolling with the trip I am planning.

Alaska in two weeks? Yes, I think it can be easily done. Maybe not Anchorage, even Fairbanks would be a push but how about this. Take a 6 day ride to Prince Rupert, British Columbia (~2,500 miles), hop an Alaskan ferry for a 33 hour ride up the inside passage, spend a day frolicking with the dance hall denizens in the old gold rush town of Skagway, Alaska. Then ride north near Whitehorse, Yukon where we pick up the ALCAN Highway and head towards Dawson Creek and home through Edmonton, Alberta (~2,900 miles). Those who have the luxury of greater than a two week vacation can split at Whitehorse and head north to more Alaska adventure.

When: 2005, probable mid June or mid August

Miles: About 5,500 road miles + the inside passage.

How: Motorcycle, Ferry, camping about 2/3 of the nights.

Cost: Pre trip maintenance, new tires, gas and oil for 5,500 miles, camping/motel costs, ferry ride at about \$200 for the bike and \$160 for the rider. Each additional passenger would be a \$160 additional fare. Cabins are available on the ferry for an additional charge.

Logistics: If I don't get to Spokane this year, I'd like to roll through the Lake Louise and Banff area of BC. On the way out. If you can camp, I would suggest not renting a cabin on the ferry. I slept in my sleeping bag on a chaise lounge on deck under an ample overhang with about 15 other passengers. Other passengers slept in the observation room or theater. The ferry has a diner and beer/wine bar. I saw whales, seals, eagles, etc. The inside passage is fairly protected from ocean waves.

The most the ferry rocked on my trip was when we encountered the much larger (and more expensive) cruise ships. Although I saw all of the bear and most of the moose north of Whitehorse, I saw most of the large mammals along the Yukon and BC border that we will be traveling. In this area I saw moose, caribou, long horned (Dahl) sheep and even a bobcat. The hot water swamp and hot springs pool in Liard provincial park in northern BC is almost worth the trip in itself. The admission is free to the park. They have dammed up a large pool of hot springs water for swimming
<<http://www.wildnatureimages.com/British%20Columbia.htm>> I could go on and probably will in future writings. For now, I will open it up for questions and suggestions. Please forward both to me at the email address above or to our Mailboxer editor. I, and hopefully others, will respond in this column to your touring questions and suggestions.

Miscellaneous Rantings

by Kirk Erlinger

I wanted to share with you a few wonderful experiences I've recently had with 3 of our local BMW Dealerships. BMW Motorcycles of Milwaukee, Mischlers BMW/Harley and Nick's BMW. I had the pleasure of riding several NEW bikes from each of these fine dealerships and after the pleasant way in which I was treated I couldn't help but wonder if we realize how lucky we are. Lucky in the fact that we have available three dedicated dealerships that will allow us riding time on any number of demo bikes. Sure we each may have a favorite dealership for sales, service or accessories, but it appears to me that each of these dealers are extremely sincere and friendly. A short time ago I had an exchange with a dealer principle whose main focus was service after working the sales floor. We discussed how "I thought" it must be a refreshing change to deal with service as opposed to working with potential customers looking for good "deals". The response was no. The fact that dealing with disgruntled riders whose bikes weren't running was the worst. In most instances no matter what the problem with the bike the "customer" thought he/she was being overcharged or misled. I must admit I'm guilty of this reaction too. In my real world job I'm faced with this exact situation when my customers are looking for service work. The answer is that any dealer looking for sustained growth and customer satisfaction cannot afford to mislead anyone one, when they're all looking for repeat business. So now when I'm faced with the inevitable visit to the shop (especially the way I ride) I try to be more realistic, just my two cents!

So in closing I just wanted to publicly say thanks to the dealers for letting me ride the latest and greatest from BMW, now I just need help convincing Mary that we need a GS 12!

Lockhart Phillips and Championship Cup Series Announce LP USA Privateer Sport Rider Days <http://www.formulausa.com/sportrider>

Track Days! I highly recommend and echo Todd Erickson's comments from last year that all riders can benefit from track experience. To know the limits of one's own abilities and those of the bike only make for a safer riding combination. Having said that please visit the above link for schedule info. One of the first track days this year is at Black Hawk Farms on May 10th, 2004. As of now I'm planning on attending, it sure would be fun to share the day with my fellow club members. Feel free to call or email me.

Baker Bits

by P.J. Francis

The 19th annual BMW motorcycle flea market will take place on Sunday April 25 at the Winnebago county fairgrounds, Pecatonica, Illinois. Pecatonica (or Peck as the pleasant small town is often affectionately called) is located one mile north of US20 and 15 miles west of Rockford.

This event enjoys the status of being the largest indoor BMW flea market in the world. The flea market opens at 8am and there is Saturday night camping available. Hot food starts at 8am. There will be a delicious breakfast menu including biscuits and gravy. The extensive lunch menu will include home made German potato salad. There will be hourly door prizes (must be present to win). Electricity will be available in many seller's booths. Admission—\$3.00 donation.

For more information contact Earve Brauer (815) 962-8911 or Rolf Schoelkopf (815) 943-5650. The event is being sponsored by BMW Motorcycles of Rockford, 2201 Harrison Avenue, Rockford, Illinois 61104. (815)986-2269. New name, new location, new management, new attitude, same quality service.



Do you know the way to

If you are going to the BMW MOA National Rally I have a few tips for you. Number one, get off the Interstate. By the time you reach Sheridan, WY you will hopefully be ready to take advantage of some of the best motorcycle riding country available. Hop off the Interstate and pick up Highway 14 in Wyoming for some miles. I've taken both 14 and Alternate 14 and both are fun mountain routes with a few miles of switchback riding thrown in for good measure. Drive through Yellowstone or take one of the scenic routes north after Lovell, WY. Once in the Missoula, Montana area, head west on Highway 12 for one of the great motorcycle rides in this country. You will be following the Lewis and Clark trail through Idaho and the Nez Perce Reservation. The highway tracks along side a river for most of the route. While rolling through the curves you can watch the rafting and kayaking going on in the river beside you. I rode this highway on my way back from Alaska. I had already covered 6,000 miles and some terrific scenery but I was still delighted by this highway.

Altitude: If you have an airhead and your not adept at doing carburetor adjustments or just don't want to take the time, be sure to take along a couple sets of spark plugs. I have taken a couple of different airheads through these mountains and both

fouled plugs after returning to lower altitudes. A 1991 K100 I took through had zero problems other than an expected power loss above 10,000 feet but I did have an altitude plug with that bike.

Open Range: Once you hit Wyoming and points west you are in cattle country. On the two lane roads you won't see many fences except right near buildings. You may see cattle right along and sometimes right on the highway. Driving at night should be done with extreme caution. Ask me about the black angus steer I had a close encounter with in the Wind River area one Wyoming night.

Camping: Once west of the Mississippi you will find campgrounds are plentiful. They range greatly in price. You may end up paying mid to high teens for a KOA. Personally, I always feel like an RV is going to back over me in the night when in a KOA. You can sometimes find community campgrounds sponsored by Rotary or some other civic organization for cheap if you ask around. You may also find a campground listing on the Internet if you search by campgrounds and state name.

Happy trails until we meet again.

Chicago and Indianapolis Cycle Shows

by Dave Jenneke

At the last b'fast I told Betty I would try to write something for the newsletter. Yesterday she threatened to leave a blank space in this newsletter for the article that I had not submitted yet. The subject of this masterpiece is the motorcycle industry in general and the above two shows.

The first weekend in February was the Cycle World / Toyota Trucks Show in Rosemont, IL. This is a consumer oriented event. The Chicago Show as this is known as, is the third largest of the 10 or so shows presented throughout the country. I believe that New York and Cleveland are larger.

You might note that two of the most popular shows are in the upper midwest. Why? This area is a hotbed of motorcycling. Related to the population base, the motorcycle registrations are higher here than in most other areas of the country. The only two areas I can think of that have a higher per capita registration rate than here are Florida and California. This might also help explain why Wisconsin wins the BMW mileage contest every year. There are lots of riders in the midwest.

Back to the show, it was again well attended. I did not notice much change in the presentation of the manufacturers. Their "booths" were pretty similar to last year. Based on the economy, that does not surprise me. When things are slow, booths are reused more often. Those exhibits are really costly.

It appeared that there were more exhibits selling clothing. Joe Rocket seemed to be popular as was Roadgear. I noticed a little more Alpinestars and Icon. These latter two are a little more upscale in pricing and quality. Firstgear was also present as was Technics. One clothing exhibit had three of the brands. The Alpinestars was right next to the cash register, the Roadgear & First Gear were in the middle area. The Joe Rocket stuff was on the outer aisle.

The two primary trends seem to be the cruisers and street fighters. In this latter category, J.T. and Tom V. H. noticed no less than 7 video displays of extreme riding in the form of wheelies, stoppies, and 360 degree burnouts. Not exactly activities that will prolong the life of your machine or it's different parts.

A year ago, Honda brought us the Rune. This year Triumph brought us a

2000+ CC cruiser. That thing was huge. Bigger and badder cruisers were everywhere. Lots of accessories too.

The BMW exhibit was a repeat from last year. Many people wanted to see the new 1200 GS. Didn't happen. Aprillia had a nice set up. They had a couple of young guys who were willing to talk to everyone.

The Manufacturer's exhibit was about the same size, but had less reps to talk with than last year. I believe that was because of the number of shows that were pending over the next few weeks.

Many of those reps had to be at the V-twin show in Cincy the following weekend, the Indy show the weekend after that and Daytona two weeks after that.

The V-twin Show in Cincinnati was very well attended and many expect it is going to impact on the Indy Show in the future. Even this year, there were several last minute pullouts from Indy of exhibits that were V-twin oriented. These shows are extremely costly and some of the smaller people just cannot afford to do both. They are going to have to choose which one to participate in. If you want a good idea of what the exhibitors face at these shows, talk to Steve and Judy. Ask them about the union workers that help set up the shows. Another example I ran into at Indy had to do with telephones. To rent a phone for the 4 days of Indy, it's about \$500. Hence the proliferation of cell phones.

Just what is "Indy". It's official name is the Dealer News Power Sports Expo. It is the biggest trade show in the industry, in this country. As a guess, I'd say it's about 10x the size of the Chicago Show. It is exclusively for dealers and their representatives.

To give you some idea of the economics here, the Chicago Show has about 60,000 people over the 2.5 days of that show. Indy caters to only about 15,000-20,000 people. You can actually walk the aisles without rubbing shoulders all of the time. And, the show is 3 days. And, the costs are quite a bit higher.

What was new at Indy? Actually, again, after last year's economic downturn, most displays were identical to the year before, some people even downsized. One example of this is Bell Industries. These guys are based in the twin cities, but have a facility in Oak Creek, WI. They used to

have a 20 x 20 foot island display with several people and lots of product in it. This year, they had what looked to be a 10 x 20 foot display backed up to a wall with minimal product displays and only a couple of people.

What are the trends? Nothing stood out. There was a high degree of optimism and everyone seemed upbeat about the coming season. I did not see any must have products. I did notice more "skin" that in recent years. Lots of models in various stages of dress. Some were just there to look good and attract attention to an exhibit. Others were there to roam the convention center with a particular brand of clothing. It will be interesting to see if the organizers try to curb this attraction, like they did when the show was in Cincy and the "skin" stuff got a little out of hand, according to the "uptights".

Now, keep in mind, in the motorcycle industry, "sex sells". In the U.S. we're kind of prudish. The Milan and Munich shows have much more "skin" than Cincy at its peak.

Harley customizing is still strong. Building your own Custom is very strong. ATV modifications are very strong. Cobra had their latest metric (Denny Berg) creation on display. If you are into just looking at custom cruisers, you could bring a few discs for your camera (or rolls of film if you're still back in the 20th century with your picture taking) and O.D.

The latest trend for the custom cruisers is really fat tires. They're now up to 300 MM in width. To give you a comparison, my X5 SUV only has 225's. A good sport bike may have a 190. Some of these things look like drag cruisers. With that kind of rubber on the back, they're only going to go in a straight line. Probably don't need a side stand either.

My last observation was the increase in Chinese products, primarily scooters. They are everywhere. Must have been 20 different brands. However, if you talk with Randy Knudson at Scooter Therapy, they sell like crazy. Even the Motorcycle Safety Foundation is releasing a new curriculum for scooters. Personally, I think this is a waste of money. Their previous course was offered at the Tech School in the late 80's and was basically a bust.

Classifieds

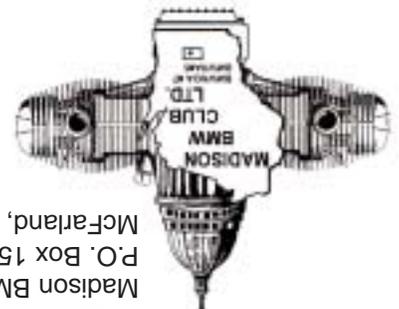
FOR SALE: 2000 Ducati M900 I.E. - yellow 944 Big Bore Kit. Ducati High Performance Cams. Polished & ported heads. Termignoni carbon fiber slipons, EPRON reconfigured to match the engine work Sargent Saddle with yellow piping Napoleon Bar End mirrors. 8000 miles on the bike - 1500 miles on new engine 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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Motorcycle Parts and Accessories for Sale

ITEM	Condition	Retail Price	Sale Price
1999 R1100RT Blue ABS 44,200 miles, X Tall (23.5")	YOU NEED TO SEE	Average of last	\$8,900.00
Parabellum Windshield	Almost new	\$140.00	\$90.00
Battery Tender Plus (Deltron)	PERFECT	\$60.00	\$40.00
Battery Charger	PERFECT	\$40.00	\$25.00
1.5 Amp Schumacher F Mirror Right Side (For Handlebars)	Almost new	\$45.00	\$30.00
Mirror Left Side (For Handlebars)	Almost new	\$45.00	\$30.00
Handlebar Risers/Setbacks	Very Good	\$60.00	\$40.00
Handlebar Risers/Setbacks	Very Good	?	\$20.00
20" Windshield Fits ????	Very Good	?	Make Offer
Shoei Large White Full Face Helmet W	Almost New	\$300.00	\$225.00
Large Motorcycle Cover	NEW	65.00-90.00	\$40.00

Contact Mike Cohen of the Wisconsin Club at rpwis@earthlink.net.



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