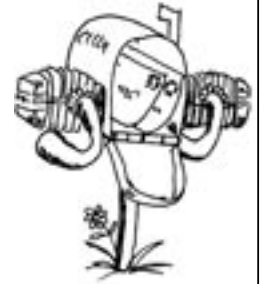


The Mail Boxer

September 2004

BMW MOA #7



The Prez Says...

by Tom Van Horn

The season's starting to wind down - we didn't have much of a summer - but we're not done yet!

The first thing: Due to the Dells rally, we voted to have the 'September b'fast early - so: **THE NEXT BREAKFAST IS SUNDAY, AUGUST 29th. IT'S AT STONEMASTERS COFFEE, ON MAIN ST. IN ALBANY. CZAR BERT SAYS THAT THEY'LL HAVE A BREAKFAST BUFFET, PLUS OFF-THE-MENU ORDERS. WE'LL GATHER THERE 8:30ISH AND EAT AT 9:00ISH.**

Dave Maly has offered to lead a ride there from the Maple Tree, leaving 8:00ish...

...this isn't a permanent change, just something we voted to try...

Next up is the Dells Rally, 10-12 Sept. If you haven't attended, this is what V.P. Steve calls A Large Time. Some folks have been scared off by the Chula Vista venue, calling it a 'hotel rally'. While you can get a room, there IS a camping area, with camping as good as a lot of places.

Then, on the 12th comes the Ironman Triathlon. Many members provide their services to this affair, which I think is another Large Time. Consider pitching in - Call Bert or Tom Weisen if you're interested.

A special thanks to a club member who wishes to remain anonymous! This person read about our short-fall in finances on the GR3 rally and the club picnic and sent a contribution of \$50!

I don't have much to report beyond the above—how 'bout you? Anybody go to Vintage Days or the Dinks Rally or Ride for Kids? Well? How'd it go??

See yawl in Albany on the 29th!

Classifieds

For Sale: 2001 Red BMW F650GS; 30K, ABS, Dakar hand protectors, engine guard, hard-expandable BMW bags, accessory plug, BMW tankbag, Givi windscreen, DID VMX-ring chain, second set Michelins, touratech sealed battery, service records. Can deliver in the Madison area. \$4800 obo. Contact Mike Shannon (651)704-9294.

Help Wanted: Do you plan to attend the Wisconsin Dells rally? Do you have free time? A vendor who has attended the rally numerous times in the past will need help at the rally. (Here is your chance to earn "goodies" or pay off your trip.) The vendor sells First Gear, Oxtar, Arai, etc. He is looking for help any or all of the rally. This includes set-up on Thursday and teardown on Sunday. If interested contact Darcel Stephan, Dells Rally Vendor Chair at bmwdms@juno.com or (414) 875-5421.

Upcoming Events

8/29: 9am Club breakfast at the Stonemasters Cafe on Main St. in Albany.

9/2–9/6: Midwests Old Thresher's Reunion Ride to Mt. Pleasant IA. Camping on site, street cars, locomotives, antique cars and farm equipment, multiple music venues. Contact Ed Burington at 772-1933 for details.

9/12: Wisconsin Ironman needs motorcycle volunteers. Contact Tom Weisen.

9/19: Cheese Day Ride leaving at 9am from Kwik Trip at 138 and MM in Oregon. For more information contact John Schroeder at (608)325-4621.

9/25: Big Woods 200 Dual Sport Ride-Wabeno WI. Sponsored by the Madison Motorcycle Club.

10/3: 9am Club breakfast at the Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland.

10/3: Slimey Crud Run 10am in Pine Bluff and Leland at 1pm.

10/8–10: Point Brewery watch the unique harvest and ride numerous country roads that wind through picturesque forest. Enjoy the Cranberry Highway™ as it leads riders to JuRustic Park in Marshfield. Visit our events page at www.madisonbmwclub.org for more info.

Membership News

by Derek Engelen

The Club welcomes 2 new members this month!

10/12: Fall Color Tour Poker Run sponsored by the Madison Motorcycle Club. Sign-up at Alt 'N Bach's Town Tap from 10am-11:30. Destination TBA; approximate length is 100 miles. Followed by a delicious meal.

10/16: Bruun/Herbst wedding reception. Join us at our home (4593 Rocky Dell Road) for a band and bonfire from 7-11pm to celebrate our marriage which will have taken place in TN on 10/2. For more info or directions call (608)831-4439.

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.

12/5: 9am Club breakfast at the Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland.

Bob Chybowski
5389 Reeve Road
Mazomanie, WI 53560-9371
608.836.4040

Bikes:
2003 BMW R1150RT
1995 BMW R100RT
1982 BMW R65
1978 Honda CX500

Dale Jenkins
P.O. Box 772
Lake Mills, WI 53551
608.206.5433
email: trafsaf2@aol.com

Bikes unknown

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editor@madisonbmwclub.org

Rally Chair: Bert Hefty
(608) 862-3671

Activities Director: Todd Herbst
(608) 831-4439

Join Betty & Todd in a Celebration of their Marriage

**When: Oct. 16th
from 7pm-11pm**

**Where: our home
4593 Rocky Dell Road**

**Featuring Live music
by Ain't Misbehavin'**



Lake Express Ferry

by Jeff Dean

When heading east, do you loathe having to ride through or around Chicago? I do! And I have done it enough to know I want to avoid doing that whenever I can.

Since just last June there had been an answer: the Lake Express Ferry (<http://www.lake-express.com/>). This new ferry is actually a huge catamaran that runs between Milwaukee and Muskegon, Michigan. Stretching 192 feet long and 57 feet wide, it has the capacity to carry 46 cars and 250 passengers. It can always carry 12 motorcycles, but can carry many more if there are fewer car reservations that day. Reservations are strongly advised—I would not try to take the ferry without them because it is often fully booked. You can make them by phone toll free at 866-914-1010.

The ferry crosses Lake Michigan in 2 1/2 hours, traveling at from 38 to 40 MPH. That's a lot faster than anything previously available. It makes three round trips each day, departing Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. At present, cell phone service is available inside the cabins all the way across the lake. Wireless internet service will be available soon—perhaps by the time you read this.

So what does all this cost? A motorcycle costs \$30 each way, half the cost of a car. An adult passenger costs \$50 one way, or \$85 round trip. I gladly pay that to avoid Chicago. It costs more for the



“business class” cabin, but I do not feel that is worth it. If you are like me, you will want to spend the whole trip on deck outside, dodging or enjoying that 40 MPH wind. If it's raining, bring you motorcycling rain gear with you so you can stay outside. Inside the main cabin, there is available a pretty complete food counter.

I took the Lake Express Ferry both directions in August, and both trips were a lot of fun. Lake Michigan was relatively calm both ways, but if it's rough some folks do experience seasickness.

And you never know who might be traveling with you. On my return trip from Muskegon to Milwaukee, I was joined by Presidential Candidate John Kerry and his retinue of Secret Service agents, staff members, and media. Read about my experience on the internet at <http://bmwdean.home.att.net/kerry.htm>.

Chicago no longer intimidates me when I am heading east. I take the Lake Express!

SmarTire Tire Tips

By John Bolegoh, Technical Services Manager, SmarTire Systems Inc.

The Importance of Tire Pressure on Load

The amount of air pressure that a particular tire requires is based on a combination of factors including the weight of the bike, the type of riding the bike was designed for, the weight of the rider/passenger and any additional gear. All of these factors contribute to load, either in terms of weight or to other load forces such as acceleration, braking or cornering.

It is critical to understand that it is the air pressure inside a tire that enables the tire carcass to support a load. Although the tire carcass and overall

structure of the tire has a significant effect on performance, it really is the air pressure inside the tire that provides the tire structure with the ability to support the weight of the bike and rider as well as the cargo, additional passengers, etc.

Touring Bikes – On the Edge!

Since most touring motorcycles operate at or near their rated load maximums, it is easy to see why maintaining air pressure at proper levels is so important with respect to achieving a tire's rated load

carrying capacity.

On a typical touring motorcycle, 4 psi (.275 bar) of air pressure loss is approximately equivalent to losing 60 or 70 pounds (30 kg) of load carrying capacity. This means if a tire's pressure is 36 psi instead of 40 psi, you should take 60 or 70 pounds of load off the motorcycle. This example illustrates how under-inflation by just a few psi can have a huge effect on a bike's load carry capabilities.

Additional Load Requires More Air

When carrying a passenger or gear, it may be necessary to increase both your front and rear tire pressures to compensate for the additional weight. Motorcycle manufacturers will specify different cold inflation pressures depending on whether the bike is loaded or not. Check the owner's manual or vehicle placard for more information on recommended cold inflation pressures for your particular bike and load.

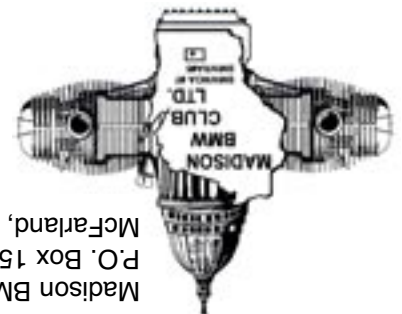
Different Tires for Different Loads

Most tire companies offer tires with different load-carrying capacities. Consider carefully the weight of the motorcycle, the weight of any optional equipment and whether it will carry passengers when choosing a

tire. Remember, it is possible to overload a tire even though it is the size specified by the motorcycle manufacturer. Maximum load ratings at the specified inflation pressure are marked on the tire and should never be exceeded. Consult with your local dealer for recommendations on the correct tire to suit your riding and load requirements.

Under-Inflation + Too Much Load = Trouble!

Considering that [surveys indicate that] almost half of all motorcycle tires are under-inflated and many touring bikes are overloaded, this combination can have serious consequences. Riding on under-inflated and overloaded tires will cause steering, handling and braking problems as well as greatly increased tire wear. Also, the heat buildup of riding on under-inflated tires is greatly increased when the tires are also overloaded, causing internal damage that can quickly lead to a complete tire failure.



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