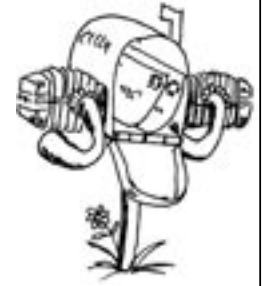


The Mail Boxer

March 2005

BMW MOA #7



V.P.'s Report by Todd Erickson

Mr. Hefty and I visited the folks in Badger Camp's offices in Platteville on February 8th. Matters discussed included rain, beer, raffle ticket fund raiser, gravel, tee pees, and so on and so forth. Everything will be about the same this year as far as food services are concerned; the Friday night dinner and Saturday morning breakfast will be put on in the Badger Camp cafeteria once again. We as a club will be allowed to arrive about noon on the Thursday before to begin setting up and it should be lots of fun as usual.

The Chicago Cycle Show was quite the success. Even more vendors selling gadgets and whizzbangers than usual. Tanya and I had lunch and discussed purchases in the cafeteria and realized we only needed a replacement helmet; funny to find you have everything you want or need. (A K12GT might be nice too.) I believe KTM was the only manufacturer missing an official factory semi.

The riding season is almost here. I'll be trying something new for the breakfasts this spring; local dealer inventories will be available for inspection at the monthly club breakfast. I'll save you the footwork and phone calls by bringing it to the breakfasts on paper. One safety reminder- please have your eyeglass prescription checked now and adjusted if necessary. Give yourself a month or two to get used to the new prescription. Well, see you all at the breakfast, and if not, you are hopefully on your way to Daytona.

PS The Motorcycle Diaries are now available on DVD.

Membership News

by Derek Engelen

Welcome new members this month!

David Cerutti

1006 Ashbury Ct.
Fond du Lac, WI 54935
Phone: 920/903-1634 Home;
920/322-3800
Bikes: 2005 BMW K1200LT

Scott Fisher

1612 Gray Owl Ct.
Oregon, WI 53575
Phone: 608/845-3045 Home;
608/224-3202
Email: sfisher@execpc.com
Bikes: 2004 BMW R1150RT;

1999 Harley Davidson STD; 1996
Honda Goldwing

Tim J. Kerns

5441 Kalesey Ct. #42
Waunakee, WI 53597
Phone: 608/831-5207 Home
Email: timothykerns@mac.com
Bikes: 1975 BMW R90/6

Alan & Chris Sponem

630 Mayfair Ave.
Madison, WI 53714
Phone: 608/246-8840 Home
Bikes: 1996 Honda Magna; 1982
Honda Sabre

Upcoming Events

3/6: 9:00 am Madison BMW Club meeting & breakfast at the Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland.

3/13: Annual St. Patrick's Day ride led by Todd Herbst. Departing from the Citgo in Cross Plains at 10am. Route to be determined by road conditions.

4/1: 9:00 am Madison BMW Club meeting & breakfast at the Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland. Followed by ride to Slimey Crud Run.

4/17: Noon; 21st Annual Wild Goose Run at Niles Restaurant on Hwy 33. \$9 per person.

4/24: BMW Flea market at Winnebago county fairgrounds in Pecatonica, IL.

5/20-5/22: GR3 Rally at Wisconsin Badger Camp in Prairie du Chien.

6/12: Club picnic at Brigham Park.

Secretary's Report

by Roland Thompson

February 6, 2005 Meeting

The February meeting was held at the Maple Tree with about 55 people attending. Eight people rode bikes. Madison Motor Sports announced they are adding other accessories and service items such as brake pads to their tire discount program. Check them out for details.

New Business:

1. Bert Hefty managed to get a club flag made for free to possibly put up at the Quaker Steak & Lube.
2. Rally items: The Badger Camp raffle is going well, Bert H. reports. If anyone would like to help out selling raffle tickets, contact Bert and he will get you the tickets and details on pricing. There was discussion about giving out bandanas instead of pins for the rally with no decision. Cost is a factor. Another item of discussion was to number this year's rally the same as last year as a way to attempt last year's rally again with more success. The idea was nixed, as it could make future years numbering confusing and unnecessarily complicated. The GR3 dates are May 19th-21st.
3. A motion was made to hold the club picnic the 2nd Sunday in June rather than the first Sunday, to avoid conflicts with the Hiawatha Rally in MN and Road America race weekend. The motion carried and the picnic will be scheduled Sunday, June 12th. Brigham Park will be the venue if we can get reservations there. The caterer has agreed to 7.50/person.
4. There is a club shirt order form in the last newsletter. If you want to order a shirt, send it along with a check made out to Madison BMW Club to J.T. Wagner and do it soon.

Coming Events:

1. Chicago Bike Show Feb. 11-13. Get on the list serve or phone to arrange car pools.
2. Todd & Tanya Erickson are hosting a "tropical" party Saturday, Feb 19th at their home in Janesville. Call them for details.
3. Rob Himmelman's slip slide ride is Saturday, Feb. 26th.
4. The next meeting is March 6th at the Maple Tree.
5. Looking way out, note the dates on the MOA National Rally—July 21st-24th.

Welcome new members Scott Fisher, Tim Kerns, Dave Ceruttr, Kris & Allen Sponem. Ben Cimino won the 50/50. Free breakfasts go to Marcus Schumann and Tom Van Horn. Meeting was adjourned at 10:30.

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(608)831-4439
president@madisonbmwclub.org

Vice President: Todd Erickson
(608)756-3822

Secretary: Roland Thompson
(608) 222-3758

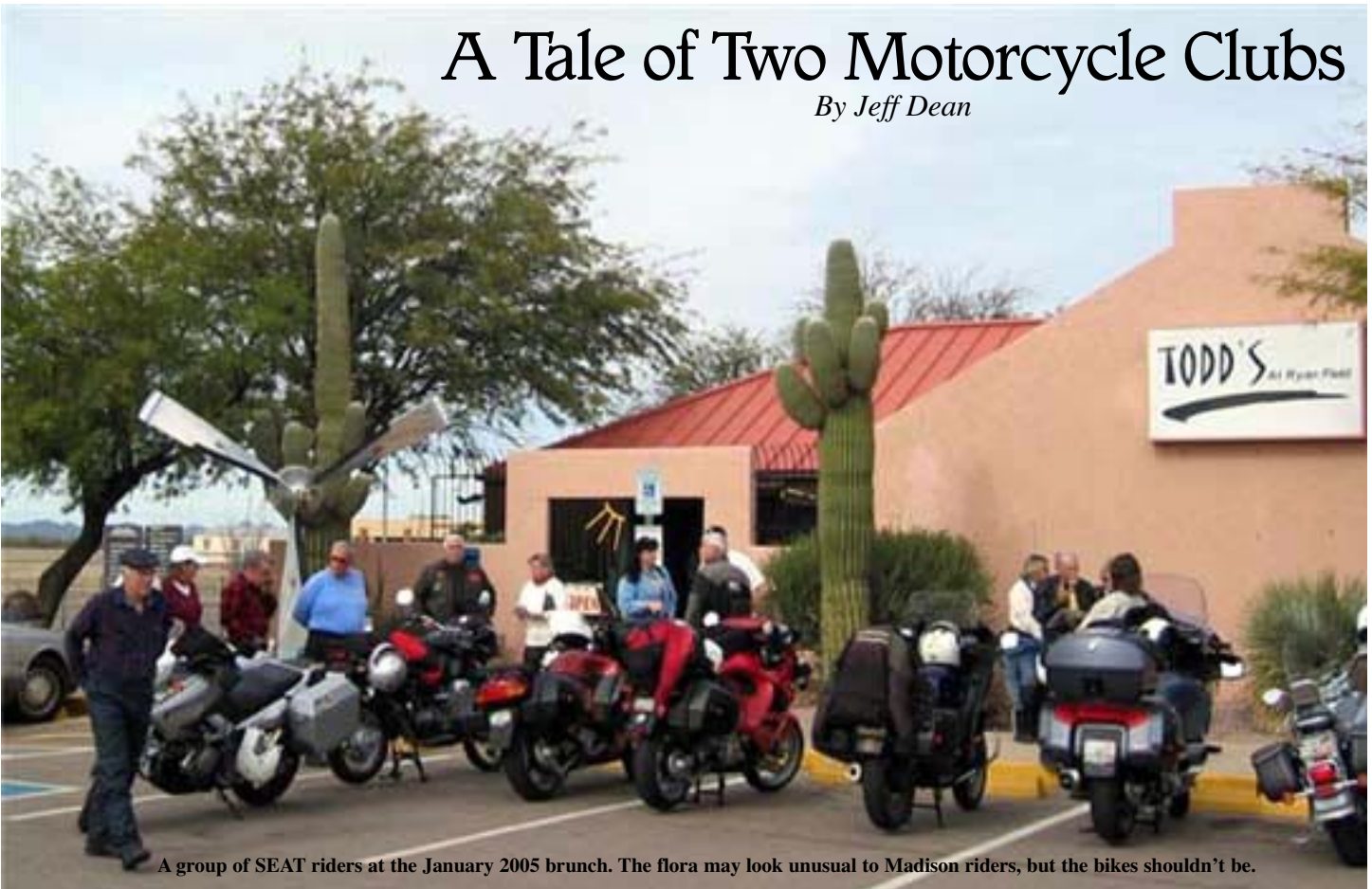
Treasurer: John Ong
(608) 222-6489

Newsletter Editor: Betty Herbst
editor@madisonbmwclub.org

Rally Chair: Bert Hefty
(608) 862-3671

A Tale of Two Motorcycle Clubs

By Jeff Dean



A group of SEAT riders at the January 2005 brunch. The flora may look unusual to Madison riders, but the bikes shouldn't be.

In Madison, I am a long-time member of the Madison BMW Club. When I am in Tucson, which is half the year, I belong to SEAT. What's that? That is the South Eastern Arizona Touring riders (BMW MOA charter #213), which reminds me of the original club title of 1968 in Madison the "Madison BMW and Touring Club." Both clubs are similar, and are quite different.

You all know what the Madison BMW Club does, so I won't repeat that. SEAT, which has 200 members, is similar in that it has one brunch meeting each month, 12 months a year. It is on the second Sunday. Deryle Mehrten, of Sierra Vista, brought the club back to life eight years ago after its temporary demise, and runs things today with help from his long suffering wife, Wanda. Here is how Deryle recalls it:

"By 1996 Wanda and I were getting more and more into touring on our Beemer. The experiences we had on our '88 K100RS ABS SE were awesome. We road some of the best motorcycle roads in the Southwest and met some really great folks on BMWs.

"So one bright and sunny Sunday morning we got several other former SEAT members together for breakfast at what was then called the Coffee Cup on Fry Boulevard. Little did they know that this was to be the resurrection of the SEAT club. Wanda and I volunteered to do the newsletter and keep track of any finances associated with the club. The club was off and running. For the first six months the newsletter and club membership was free. The idea was to get as many BMW riders as possible aware that there was a club in Southern Arizona. Wasn't long before membership hit one hundred. The rest is history."

There is no elected anything in SEAT just an overworked newsletter editor who refuses to be called a "president." Deryle takes all the work on his shoulders, including a monthly

newsletter he prints on his home computer and printer, with color photos (his printer cartridges run out fast). It takes 2 days to print the 200 newsletters, collate them manually, and mail them.

Both clubs have websites. Here is SEAT's: <http://www.seatriders.com/>. An interesting aspect of the SEAT website is that it devotes an entire page to each member. You can check out that feature by clicking on "Membership Directory" on the above website. SEAT has a very active webmaster in Craig Littlefield, who updates the web site several times each month.

Some other differences: Deryle arranges for brunches in different restaurants each Sunday. We usually have 40–60 diners at each gathering, so it is hard to find enough restaurants to accommodate us. Sometimes we repeat some places, but not more than once or twice a year. Brunch locations can be right in or near Tucson, or can require a ride of 50 miles each way.

Another difference: There is no SEAT sponsored rally, so that makes running the club a lot easier. Many clubs like to host annual rallies but SEAT seems not to suffer for not doing that.

There is an annual overnighiter, usually in June, to some place with nice motel or resort accommodations. It is well attended. This year it will be to Springerville, Arizona, located at an elevation of 7,000 feet in the White Mountains a very nice place to go in an Arizona summer.

One neat thing about SEAT is that it has spun off some informal subgroups. Craig Littlefield gathers together a Friday riding group I call "Dawn Breakers," because they always leave so early in the morning. Jim Strang has spun off a Monday riding group, because Iron Horse Motorcycles is closed that day and Jim is head of the parts department. Iron Horse staffers usually come along and the trip that day could be on road or off road. I often go with this group.

10 Days in Utah

By Jeff Trap



It's hard to believe it was a fall back plan! A 10 trip day trip to Utah was a spur of the moment idea after another trip fell through.

My friend Ken and I trailered our bikes to Moab. He didn't feel like riding the interstates on his KLR, and his new VW camper make it an easy choice. Making us 3 for 3 in the good decisions department was taking along my Airheads Club Directory. We needed ideas on where to park a van and trailer for the duration so I called the first name in Moab. Tom answered and invited us to his house, gave us the key to his shop/office complete with shower and made us breakfast every day we were in town. Got to love these Airhead guys, turns out Tom was born the day before I was, in the same hospital in Milwaukee.

I'd roughly mapped out an approx. 1200 mile figure 8 route across southern Utah. Planning a trip in this area may be easier than anywhere else in the states. There is an staggering amount of information about the history, geology, inhabitants, roads, parks etc. Our trip which included 300 off road miles, went through or skirted 17 National Parks, Forests, Monuments and State parks. We had temps from 90 degrees to below freezing. The scenery ranged from incredible vistas, and wonderful green canyons to ancient Anasazi ruins. The wildlife we saw was equally diverse from tarantulas and scorpions to peregrine falcons, antelope, desert bighorns and elk.

Some highlights of the trip may help relate what Utah has to offer. Dead Horse State Park just north of Moab is a don't miss, the 30 mile out and back road is incredible and the vista with the Green River 2000' below and the beautiful Manti la Sal mountains in the background in one direction and the White Rim in the other is unforgettable.

If there are better motorcycle roads than the 220 mile 2 lane from Hanksville to Hurricane there can't be many of them. Scant traffic, beautiful flowing curves, gorgeous scenery from alpine meadows to Dakar rally like dunes and rocks. Two especially wonderful areas were the Dixie National Forest with aspens and pines and elevations over 9000' and the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. There is a section through the latter with a much higher than usual pucker factor. Imagine twisting 2 lane, no guardrails, little to no shoulder, drop offs over 1000 ft. both sides, scenery you have to struggle not to look at. And did I mention the rental RV 's mostly driven by German tourists who are also trying hard not to gawk. Brian Head Panquitch Scenic By Way, Hwy. 143, is another one you'll want to ride. No traffic, mountain curves and the almost ubiquitous spectacular vistas.

The off-road opportunities are mind boggling. We chiefly visited 3 areas and barely scratched the surface of these. The San Rafael Swell is remote and rugged and largely unvisited. Check out Goblin Valley State Park if you're here.

A fun river crossing of Muddy Creek was one of the highlights on this loop. The Burr Trail is a historic route across the Waterpocket fold and runs South of the Henry Mountains There are some amazing switchbacks in the middle of the trail, where you lose 800 ft. in one half mile. This section is in Capitol Reef National Park and there's lots of places to explore. We camped in the Henry's at a little 8 unit campground, 15 miles off the pavement. Not another soul was camping or on the road. Elk Ridge is a huge area, abutting the south end of the Needles district of Canyonlands National Park. This area includes Dark Canyon Wilderness Area, the Abajo Mountains and part of the Manti La Sal National Forest. It's easy to get 75 to 100 miles off the pavement in here. We spent a memorable night camping above a small canyon listening to Elk bugle the whole time we were there.

Southern Utah is one of those places that you won't begin to see in one trip. You could have a wonderful trip by simply not planning a strict route, just follow your nose and pay attention to local knowledge. But do plan your gear and bike prep. Services are few and far between and what's there will often not have what you need. Utah has only one BMW dealer and it's 200 miles north of Moab in Salt Lake City. It doesn't matter what type of motorcycle you are riding, off road or on or dual purpose you'll find unlimited and unique opportunities in Southern Utah.

HOW TO RIDE IN AN ICE STORM

By Bert Hefty

The sun was shining on January 1st, and the thermometer stood at 22° outside. It looked like a good day for the first ride of 2005. As I was suiting up, I knew I had until about 3:30 that afternoon before the weather changed, as reported by the airport computer. What the hell; I headed to Mad-Town.

I stopped by my friend Curt's house in Oregon to get him to join the ride, but this year, he had 30 people coming to the house and wasn't able to go (good excuse.) So, after our traditional shot and a beer, I hit the road. Pulling into town, people looked at me like I was crazy. How did they know? Well, when I got to the square, there was quite a lot of bikes sitting there and more pulling in. It was a good turn out this year. It was good to see that there were a good number of club members there.

We sat there for the noon take off. The weather started to change, FAST. Sleet was already coming down and people started to leave and head home. But not me! I had the "window" until 3:30 p.m.! It was a straight shot down University Ave to the Quaker Stake and Lube and it was still sleeting. Ah, what the hell! I'll make it home by 3:30 no problem! I was there long enough for a burger and beer then said good-bye. During my short stay, the weather turned into an ice storm! As I walked outside, it was glare ice. Not just a thin sheet, but a thick layer of ice. Well you know, I grabbed my trusty cell and made a call to Todd & Betty who were recovering from the party the night before.

Todd was all ready to hook up his trailer for a rescue. I told him, "Hell no! I have a GS now and I can go anywhere."

Classifieds

Wanted: One highly active club member that is actively active with activities. Must be motivated in an active way to activate others to be active. No acting experience necessary. Free club membership. If interested in acquiring this prestigious position, Please contact acting Activities Director/Club Prez Todd Herbst.

For Sale F650GS: 12,000 mile maintenance complete. Ron Woods Kit installed by Eric Mischler. Rock solid. Approx. 58 MPG, 4.2 gallon tank. Runs on premium; runs best with octane boost. Hand guards, electric grips, and a tail trunk. Good rubber. Weighs about 370#. Sort of custom painted; BMW Terraforma red, but the painter used the wrong base coat and it came out about the color of a slightly tarnished copper penny. Pretty color. \$5500. Call Dave Jenneke at (608).

For Sale: 2003 F650CSA with ABS, black, factory warranty thru 3/2006, heated handgrips, SW Motech centerstand, stuff bay bag, Wunderlich and original windscreens, GS hand protectors, new battery, and accessory socket. Only 3300 miles, and dealer-maintained. Excellent mechanical and cosmetic condition. Pictures available on request. Price: \$6500.00 Contact Linda Low at lrllow@hotmail.com Telephone: 608-222-5967

For Sale: Women's First Gear Air Pants. Size 14. Excellent condition; lost weight—pants no longer fit. Asking \$75. Call Betty at (608)831-4439.

Helmet Hanger

by Russ Champion

Do your expensive helmet(s) get the respect that they deserve? Or are they, like mine previously were, precariously placed on a crowded shelf hoping that they would not fall. Or perhaps they are just located in some unhandy place. Taking a cue from an advertisement for helmet hangers seen in a magazine I made my own version to handle two helmets for much less than the \$30 advertised price for just one helmet hanger.

Common materials were used, all readily available at your local hardware store and lumberyard. Plywood, melonite paneling, 1/4" steel rod, plastic tubing, fasteners and wood glue are all that are needed. The rod, tubing and fasteners were all that I had to buy, as the other products were already on hand. This would make an excellent winter project, one way to combat the winter blahs.

The result was well worth the few dollars and hours spent fabricating my helmet hanger.

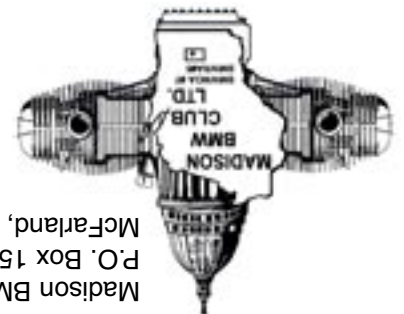


Exhaust note

(How to Ride in an Ice Storm continued...)

While I was beating the ice off of Red, I was interviewed by Channel 15. The first thing they asked is WHY? I just said, "Because we can!" I got enough ice off the ignition, the flashers and the seat and off I went to Todd and Betty's. The four-mile ride wouldn't be a problem. The ride down HWY 14 was rally bad. I turned on to Rocky Dell Road and laid Red down right in front of two cars, who luckily stopped. One car pulled ahead and put on his flashers. The other did the same behind me. Thanks to the gentleman in car 2 for helping me pick up my bike. Back on the road, I turned around and went back down to the corner and let the two cars pass. I used the gravel and road to make it to Todd and Betty's house. They had the garage door open. With a blast up the driveway and a handful of brake, I stopped! WOW, COOL! I MADE IT! Betty said that I looked like the Ice Man and had to take a picture (exhaust note.) I used her truck to get home, picked up the bike the next day and took Red home. All in all, it was an interesting day.

The moral of the story: Don't ever trust the weatherman or the computer!



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