

Alaska

submitted by Steve Huber

North To Alaska.

Maybe AMA Ride Guide Alaska \$10

L&M Map and Video Productions www.lmproductions.com

DVD Video, 75 min

In the February 2005 issue of the AMA rag American Motorcyclist was an article summarizing a junket by a group of AMA staffers, along with Greg Frazier (a well known motorcycle traveler). This bode well. Frazier is a great writer, plus they were traveling on a personal favorite bike, the KLR650.

The article was well written, described the sights and tribulations (including flat tire repair). They mentioned a video was made documenting the trip and would be released shortly. A junkie for all this, as I'm planning my own long trip north, I eagerly awaited the release.

It has arrived and as an Alaska-info-biased junkie, I gotta say: it isn't worth the money, even at \$10.

It's a 75 minute snooze of someone's helmet-mounted headcam view along various roads. There's minimal commentary, especially by Greg Frazier, the guy who wrote the book about riding to Alaska.

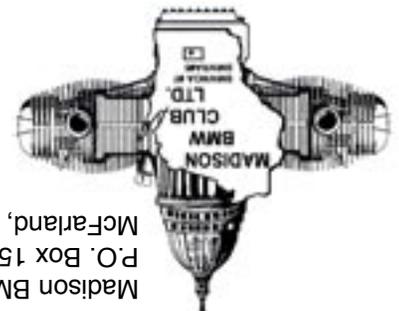
Brief maps appear, indicating the road sections the group will ride. The maps are poorly integrated into the footage, your 8 year-old niece would do better with a digicam. The majority of the footage is simply long vistas, some on the bikes, some off, absolutely no context as to where you are or what you're looking at.

There are long intervals of scenery passing pass, music playing, motorcycle sounds, and Ö. That's it.

If I hadn't had the original AMA article to refer to this useless mash of images would have been completely meaningless. Even with the article, and trying to follow along on my maps, the video provided absolutely no information.

My advice is skip this DVD; buy your maps, a copy of the Mile Post, and Greg Frazier's book (see below) and head off. Which is what I'm doing Real Soon Now.

Alaska By Motorcycle
Dr. Gregory W Frazier
Arrowstar Publishing
PO Box 100134
Denver, CO 80250-0134



Madison BMW Club, Ltd.
P.O. Box 152
McFarland, WI 53558-0152

The Mail Boxer

May 2005

BMW MOA #7



The Vice Prez Says...

by Todd Erickson

Having served as the Rally Czar for several years Bert Hefty is stepping down from that position. After this year's GR3 The Madison BMW Club will need a new Rally Chairperson. Thus far we have heard voices of interest from a couple of different parties in taking over the primary responsibility of Rally Chair. One club member in particular has committed to this position. However, in order to keep the process fair, equitable, and balanced, this topic will be on the table for discussion at the May breakfast meeting at the Maple Tree restaurant.

If there are other club members who would like this position, and are willing to throw their hats into the ring, we will hold a ballot election at the June picnic. Why possibly hold an election in June? The position of Rally Chair needs to be filled for organizational purposes. If we do need to have an election you will also have the opportunity to volunteer your nomination until May 29th, 2005 as well. The nomination extension is an option until the above date to be inclusive for members who cannot attend the May breakfast meeting and voice their opinions/nominations. If you would like to make a nomination contact me at the below #s and/or e-mail address to add to the ballot. Thank You to Bert for these many years of service to Club #7 and our GR3 endeavors and adventures. Contact for nominations; Home phone # 608.756.3822, cell phone 608.921.2580, e-mail R11GSA@Yahoo.com. See you at the Crud!

Secretary's Report

by Roland Thompson

Madison BMW Club
April 3, 2005 Meeting

The April meeting was held at the Maple Tree restaurant with 45 attending. Forty people rode, 32 riding BMWs.

New Business:

1. Steve Huber encouraged everyone to send in their MOA ballots for directors and also mileage forms. Tom Van Horn will collect mileage forms from anyone going to the Wild Goose Run on April 17.
2. Speaking of the WGR, Tom will also be leading a ride from Madison Motor Sports. The ride will leave at about 9:30 AM.
3. The Wisconsin Iron Man triathlon is September 11, 2005 and volunteers are still needed for motorcycle transportation of officials and media people.
4. An affirmative vote was taken to look into having the annual banquet at the Essen Haus.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 1 - "Slimy Gruds Ride" begins about noon and ends in Leland, WI.

Friday, May 20 - Sunday, May 22
- 31st Annual Great River Road Run (GR3) at Wisconsin Badger Camp near Prairie du Chien.

Sunday, June 12 - Madison BMW Club Picnic at Brigham County Park. JL Richards will cater.

Sunday, June 26 - Todd Erickson will lead a ride leaving from the Quaker Steak Restaurant on Madison's west side at 9:00am. "The ride will have a run through Blue Mounds backroads towards Spring Green, moving up more backroads towards Sauk City for a lunch/brunch at a location to be determined. For those who want to continue on I'll probably go up towards Devil's Lake to do some hiking in the rock climb area. State Park stickers are mandatory for Devil's Lake. The Wisconsin Area Ducati Enthusiasts (WADE) have also been invited to come along as well. Route maps will be made and of course available to all." For more details contact Todd at home #608-756-3822, or cell phone #608-921-2580.

Sunday, July 10 - Madison BMW Club breakfast & meeting at 9:00 am at Maple Tree Restaurant (Hwy. 51) in McFarland.

Sunday, July 17 - Glenn Rago will lead a ride out to the Platteville area. Meet at 8:00am at the Kwik Trip on Hwy. 138 and MM in Oregon. "We will visit the first state capital in Belmont. Then we will visit the Platteville mound which has the biggest letter M on it in the state

(241' high by 214' wide) which is the symbol for the UW Platteville College of Engineering. You can actually walk up to the top if you would like. Then check out the observation tower where you can see 4 states, followed by some lunch." For more details contact Glenn at home #608-882-3718, or cell phone #608-931-6167.

Thursday, July 21 - Sunday, July 24 - 33rd BMW MOA International Rally in Lima, OH.

Sunday, August 7 - Madison BMW Club breakfast & meeting at 9:00am at Maple Tree Restaurant (Hwy. 51) in McFarland.

Sunday, August 7 - "Ride for Kids" donations/pledges for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. Registration 7:30-9:15am at Fireman's Park in Middleton. Registration & pledge forms available online at www.rideforkids.org or contact John Schroeder # 608-325-4621.

Friday, August 19-Monday, Sept. 5 - Ed Burington to lead a ride to Skagway, Alaska. Per note, "This ride is not for the faint of heart but that said, it might be your easiest two wheel passage to Alaska. At present we have 4 motorcycles carrying 5 drivers and one truck carrying an additional MC class driver. We will travel to (or at least very near) Whitehorse in the Yukon territory before turning to Skagway and the Pacific Ocean. We will cover 5,500 land miles passing through at least 5 Canadian provinces and several Canadian National Parks including Jasper and Banff. We will travel approx. 1/2 of the ALCAN Highway and once we reach Skagway, we will become an ocean going adventure for a 36 hour ride through the inside passage to Prince Rupert, British Columbia. The cost to you is 11 vacation days, a well tuned and mechanically sound ride and probably should budget about \$100 a day for the 18 day ride. For more details, contact Ed at 608-772-1933."

Friday, September 9-Saturday, September 10 - Wisconsin BMW Club Rally at Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

Sunday, September 11 - Madison BMW Club meeting will be on the Wisconsin BMW Club Rally site at Chula Vista Resort. Time and exact location will be announced later.

Saturday, September 17 - Ride to American Players Theatre led by Todd Herbst. We will see The Marry Wives of Windsor at 3pm. Call 831-4439 for details.

Sunday, September 18 - John Schroeder will lead a "Non-Cheese Days Ride" to Monroe.

Sunday, October 2 - Madison BMW Club breakfast & meeting at 9:00am at Maple Tree Restaurant (Hwy. 51) in McFarland.

Saturday, October 15 - Chili cook-off. We'll break in Todd and Betty's new garage with fun, food, and drinks. More details to come.

Saturday in Early November - Madison MBW Club Banquet at Essen Haus Restaurant, 514 E. Wilson St., Madison.

**Madison BMW Club
P.O. Box 152
McFarland, WI 53558**

**President: Todd Herbst
(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**

**Activities Directors: Jeff & Chris Dargis
(608) 873-6190**

(Secretary Report continued...)

Rally Business:

1. A motion was made to spend \$300 for rally door prizes at Mischlers. Motion carried.
2. Bert will have rally signup sheets out at the May meeting. Be thinking about what you'd like to help with.

Upcoming Rides/Events:

1. Steve Lemke will be leading a ride to the Trail of Tears leaving Thursday afternoon April 21st. Contact Steve for details.
2. There will be a ride to the Pecatonica swap meet for a Saturday campout April 23.
3. Mischler's open house is April 23, 2005. There will be demo rides and discounts.
4. The July meeting will be July 10 so it won't interfere with the July 4th weekend.

Mary Klopp won the 50/50. The free breakfast went to Jim Keemey.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40.

Classifieds

For Sale: 1992 BMW R100RS. 139,459 miles. Blue and silver color. Stock seat and Corbin seat. Well maintained. Newer tires. \$3500. (608)222-3758 J.T. Wagner

For Sale: 1991 K75S, Red Violet, 12,000 miles, ABS, htd grips, Corbin Canyon Dual Sport, Integral Cases, Top Case, Kathy's Liners, Bagster Tank Protector & Bag, Wrist Rest, AeroFlow, New Battery & Tires, Very Clean. \$3,800. Call Dick Kusch at (608) 288-0614.

For Sale: 2004 BMW R1150GS. Only 3000 miles. Hard bags, backrest, ABS, heated grips, etc. This bike is like new — very lightly used and ready to go. \$10,900/offer. 920-582-3273 evenings and weekends.

For Sale F650GS: 12,000 mile maintenance complete. Ron Woods Kit. Approx. 58 MPG, 4.2 gallon tank. Hand guards, electric grips, and a tail trunk. Good rubber. Weighs about 370#. BMW TerraFirma red, but the painter used the wrong base coat and it came out about the color of a slightly tarnished copper penny. \$5500. Call Dave Jenneke at (608).

Garage Time

by Steve Huber

I just spent some Quality Garage Time redoing the inner & outer case gaskets on my KLR650. While some of the terminology is KLR-specific (e.g. the “doohickey” refers to the KLR’s cam chain tensioner, a known weak spot on the KLR) many of the events I went through are likely familiar to many of you. I present these items in the hope someone else will learn from my experience. I originally replaced the doohickey last November, at the SE Wisconsin Doohickey Swap.

- 1) Lose your ignition key on the way to the session. That way you don’t need to start the bike afterwards to verify everything works. (I was trailering the bike so at least I could get it home.)
- 2) Sell the doohickey tools you bought with the assumption you’ll never need to go back in there (after *still* not starting up the bike).
- 3) Fire up and run the bike in the garage, for only a few minutes. Don’t bother taking it out for a ride or noticing the extra oil puddle.
- 4) Run the bike for the first time two months later (New Years Day ride). Get to the meeting place and notice the oil puddle. Go home and get other bike.
- 5) Reorder doohickey tools you sold earlier, along with new gaskets. Remember Fred in the evening prayers. (Beemer Note: Fred’s business, Arrowhead Motorsports, has high regard in the KLR world.)
- 6) Wait for warm day. Take afternoon off from work. Print our Mark’s excellent Doohickey Replacement guide. Head out to garage. (Beemer Note: Another “Helpful Person”.)
- 7) Start removing covers. Realize you don’t have socket to fit rotor puller. Wipe off hands on pants and head off to hardware store for cheap 7/8" socket. Get grease from hands and pants on car seat. Remember to sell car ASAP.
- 8) Remove both covers. Discover tear in inner gasket where you mis-aligned the gasket on original install. Smack self on side of head, forgetting you still have a wrench in your hand
- 9) Spend next 10 minutes searching for glasses that flew off when you smacked head.
- 10) Reinstall gaskets and reassemble everything. Use Hylomar gasket sealer (It’s a gasket sealer! NO! It’s a desert topping! Time wasted arguing with voices in head.)
- 11) Struggle with aligning damn rotor key & rotor. Curse copiously. Thru no skill on your part rotor magically pops on shaft. Remember to offer sacrifice to minor garage gods.
- 12) Refill with oil. Choke on. Start bike. Bike won’t turn over. Damn. Take off sprocket cover & verify all wires connected. Try again. Verify that Run switch on. Hit starter. Nothing.
- 13) Realize bike is in gear from effing around getting rotor on. Find neutral. Turn on ignition, hit start. Bike starts! Oh wait. It’s dying. Remember to turn on fuel tap. Bike runs much better.
- 14) Leave bike running, expect the worst.
- 15) After warming up bike is not spewing oil as before. No new puddles appear. Declare success!
- 16) Go have a beer. Remember next morning to shut off fuel taps.