

The Mail Boxer

January 2006

BMW MOA #7



The Pres Says

By Todd Herbst

It's all about the Rally

Well, for me at least. It's been almost 9 years since I got my first bike. I had many friends and acquaintances that owned BMW bikes and if I was going to get a bike there was only one choice.

My friend Eric had a Bumble Bee GS and was a member of the MOA, so I had two good resources when I finally came up with enough money to start looking for a bike. Eric and I narrowed my search down to a few models. RT, RS or a naked bike boxer with a fairing. I started pouring over his ON and picked out about 8 bikes in Wisconsin that fit my fairly wide criteria.

I made some calls and started driving around the state looking at bikes. I first drove to Appleton to check out an RT some guy was selling to get a new 11RT or a Wing or something, this bike was immaculate it had 50-60k and looked new but this was March and he wasn't going to sell it yet because it needed its fluids changed and it wasn't riding season yet, I'd have to wait until May or June! "Ahhhh! I hope all these BMW folk aren't this Anal". I didn't think an RT was for me anyway.

So, it was off to Stevens Point to look at an RS some college kid was selling, WOW, talk about a completely different experience. I find his place and go to look at a bike that's in a shed, it has a flat tire and the seat is soaked through and frozen solid. We get the tire filled, and jump start the bike. It's really loud and sure enough there are holes rusted through the exhaust. Ixnay on the RSay. What a wasted day. Back on the road to my home in Oconomowoc I'm a little put off, but I have another bike to see tomorrow. (After years of riding BMWs I'm not sure that seat was frozen, just stock.)

Eric was able to go with me to look at this one. It was in Racine, we meet with Dave and after a few formalities we went to see the 1985 R80. It was in really nice shape. It was originally a naked bike but had a Rabid Transit fairing on it. Eric and I rode it and decided it was worth the asking price. Imagine that, this guy was going to actually sell it to me today, not in a few months.

After a very cold ride home in the Twilight, with Eric and I switching between the car and the bike every 10-15 min. so we wouldn't freeze. I finally had my new bike. Yeah!

It turns out the Blackhawk BMW swap meet was only a few weeks away. My first BMW gathering. It was great, but way too much eye candy for an amateur like me. The R80 lost its RT bars and got S bars, a huge improvement.

An old friend from college, Kirk Erlinger, who first got me excited about BMWs, called to invite me to a rally near Prairie Du Chien, some place called Bagley. I'm in. I've done a lot of camping so equipment wouldn't be a problem.

I rode out to the rally and meet up with Kirk and have an absolute blast that weekend (minus all the rally-virgin jokes anyway). I'm hooked. I think I've only missed 1 of our rallies since then.

At first I was just an attendant, then I moved to Madison and started dating Betty. I took her to her first rally at the Dells then Bagley the next year. It didn't take long to meet Burt and we were soon helping pass out wood to the campers. He had wrangled us into helping and we weren't even members. We meet a lot of great people

Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 8, 2006 - Madison BMW Club breakfast & meeting at 10:00am at The Dry Bean Restaurant on Hwy 151 in Fitchburg. Cost will be ...

Sunday, February 5, 2006 - Madison BMW Club breakfast & meeting.

Sunday, February 3-5, 2006 Minneapolis Cycle Show located at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Sunday, February 10-12, 2006 Chicago Cycle Show located at the Donald E. Stevens Convention Center in Chicago.

Sunday, March 5, 2006 - Madison BMW Club breakfast & meeting.

Sunday, April 2, 2006 - Madison BMW Club breakfast & meeting at 9:00am Note: Daylight Savings Time begins.

Sunday, May 7, 2006 - Madison BMW Club breakfast & meeting at 9:00am.

Friday, May 19 - Sunday, May 21, 2006 - Madison BMW Club's 32th Great River Road Rally in Solder's Grove, WI.

Sunday, July 2, 2006 - Madison BMW Club breakfast & meeting at 9:00am.

that year. People from all over the Midwest. There are so many riders from Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota that really look forward to our rally, to some of them it's "their" local rally and some of them have to ride 500 miles to get here. Well, not to long after that we became club members. And the rest is history, right. Well, continuing history anyway.

I want to thank all you who have spent so much time with the development of the new rally and the interaction with the people of Solder's Grove to continue the great tradition of this great rally.

Long live the Great River Road Rally and happy New Year!

BMW's-Relationships are Built on These

by Betty Herbst

Todd briefly mentioned in the Pres says that BMW motorcycles were a part of our relationship almost from the beginning. Todd and I began dating in August of 1999. At that point I had been living in Madison for about a year and Todd was still commuting to Madison for work daily from Oconomowoc. Neither of us had really established friendships in the area outside of work.

Our first "date" was to meet for drinks after work one day. Todd casually mentioned that usually his commute to work was enhanced by riding his BMW motorcycle. I said, "Really?" I cannot say that I would not have seen him again if I didn't know about the motorcycle however from that point on BMWs have been a constant in our relationship.

Our next date consisted of dinner and a motorcycle ride. Shortly there after we attended the Dells Rally, which was my first rally experience. By the time next May and my first Great River Road rally came about, motorcycling was a central part of our relationship—even in the winter we would get the bike out whenever the weather warmed a bit.

We heard about the Madison BMW Club from Todd's friends Eric and Kirk, and attended our first meeting in April of 2000. Although we were not members the enthusiasm about the upcoming rally was contagious and we volunteered to get there on Thursday evening and help set up and distribute wood. This set up time allowed us to really get to know many club members including Bert, Steve Huber, Roger and Mary Klopp. We finally found people in the Madison area with a passion for BMW motorcycles comparable to ours. These are the people who were instrumental in our decision to join the BMW Club.

Since then Todd and I were married and various club members have become more than just friends; but part of our family. As I reminisce about all that motorcycling has brought to me it is the people that I have met, from all over the country and the world, that I most cherish. While some of these people I may only see once a year it is that shared passion for BMW motorcycles that creates a bond that endures the test of time.

Thank BMW Motorcycles and BMW MOA for the all the relationships you've helped to create.

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: Mary Klopp
(608)877-0209**

**Treasurer: John Ong
(608) 222-6489**

**Newsletter Editor: Betty Herbst
editor@madisonbmwclub.org**

**Rally Chair: Roland Thompson
(608) 222-3758**

**Activities Directors: Bert Hefty
(608) 862-3671**

VP's Report by Todd Erickson

Howay,

Just a couple of updates on some Club stuff. The donation from the Port Club is a possibility at this point, and only a possibility. I talked this over with their club Pres. last month, Dan Wundrock, and the topic was going before their BOD this month. If their BOD thought it should be a "go" they would be bringing it up to their General Membership meeting for a vote in this capacity; Donating 1/2 of the proceeds of the 50/50 raffle at this coming Wild Goose Run. IF they decide on this route for a donation we will be given an opportunity to help promote and sell the 50/50 tickets at the Wild Goose. Just to clarify-they are NOT donating a specific dollar amount of 500 or 1000 dollars. Perhaps their BOD changed their minds and will do something different. However, Dan was quite specific on the percentage of the 50/50 drawing, if a donation was to be okayed by their membership.

Secondly, Roland Thompson, Derek Engelen and I met with the Lions Club in Soldier's Grove last week at the Taylor Tap. They can handle our food needs without a problem. (Their annual Dairy Days festival sees them feeding around 4000 people a day, for 3 days.) They can also handle selling us firewood and will be approaching some of the other local groups for doing a Saturday morning breakfast in the Lion's pavilion.

Lastly, Lake Louie brewing in Arena distributes from Woody's Liquor Store in Spring Green. If Mike Shannon agrees on a nice 1/2 barrel keg of Scotch Ale from Lake Louie, I'll pick that up on Thursday on my way up to the Rally site.

That's it. Happy Holidays, Merry X-mas, Kwanza, and Festival of Lights to all. Safe travels.

Ramblings from the Treasury

by John Ong

2005 Expenses:

Web site	\$36.00
Vondra Engraving (name badges)	142.69
Directories	147.71
Postage	10.00
Table @ SWAP meet	85.00
PO Box Rental	24.00
Banquet Expenses (not covered by members)	270.00
Corporation Renewal	10.00
Newsletter through November	<u>638.37</u>
Total	1363.77
Petty Cash Fund	379.00
Checking account balance	2494.67

Year ended with membership of 94 people.

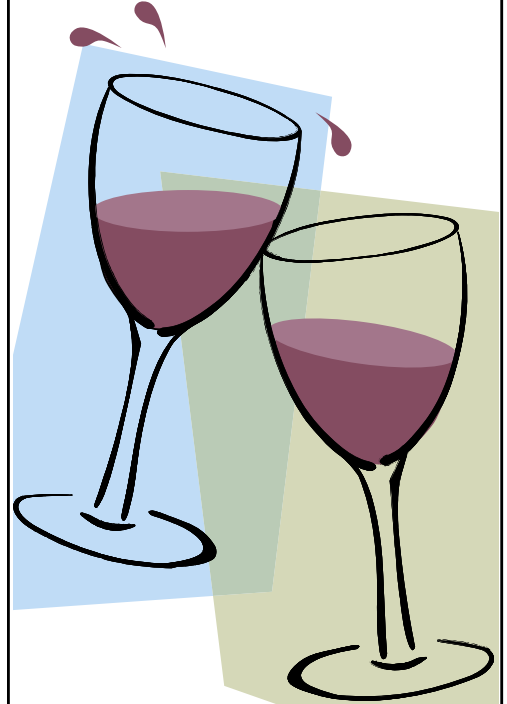
Membership News

by Derek Engelen

Please note the following address change:

Russell Champion
1401 S. Cage Blvd Unit 28
Pharr, TX 78577
Phone: 956/787-7898

A Special Thanks



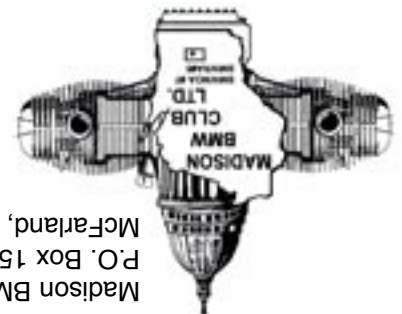
from
**Madison
Motorsports**

Celebrating 8 years of
loyal customer support
with anniversary specials
beginning on January 9th

Madison Motorsports
(2613 S. Stoughton Rd.)

Exhaust note

With 2005 coming to a close, it seems appropriate to wish it a fond, or otherwise, farewell with photos of last year's impromptu club New Year's party. Congratulations for staying awake until midnight (from left to right) Jim Dickey, Jan Neubauer-Engelen, Todd Erickson and beverage du jour—Maker's Mark, Bert Hefty, and Todd Herbst.



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