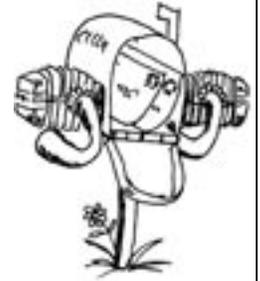


The Mail Boxer

February 2006

BMW MOA #7



Secretary's Report

by Roger Klopp

Minutes: Madison BMW Club meeting 1/8/06

Respectfully submitted by Roger Klopp, temporary secretary

The first club meeting of 2006 was called to order by President Todd Herbst after those in attendance (except Dan Baum) had their fill of the buffet at a new meeting site, The Dry Bean Saloon. The somewhat late opening of the doors at 10AM was offset by a splendid array of brunch delights. In addition to breakfast meats, fresh fruit, bakery sweets, pancakes, and omelets made to order, there were choices of freshly carved ham and prime rib, BBQ ribs, casserole dishes, and more. A larger plate would have helped, but with careful selection it was possible to mound up all you could eat (except Dan Baum) in one trip to the buffet. The first order of business was to vote on the Dry Bean as our new "permanent" meeting site. This was approved and a club representative will ask if it might be possible to open the doors earlier in the future.

Important visitors to this meeting were Steve and Judy Parker and Art Mischler. The Parkers announced their 8 year anniversary coming up the following week and discussed changes to their tire program. The Madison BMW club will be offered discounts of 20% off brake pads and batteries. Tire pricing is dependent on the number purchased: Metzler and Dunlop tires will be discounted 30% for one tire and 32% each for two. To obtain these discounts, just mention that you are a member of this club when you stop in. They also announced that on-line shopping will be a new upcoming feature of their website, www.madisonmotorsports.com.

Art Mischler announced the arrival this Spring of new R1200S and GT models plus the new R1200GS Adventure. In the Fall of this year he expects the new F800 models plus three other completely new bikes from BMW. Mischler's will also be having a Valentine's Day sale coming Feb. 10,11,13 & 14. There will be 20% store-wide discounts and 25% off Tourmaster apparel. Check http://www.mischlershd.com/event_calendar.asp for details. Art mentioned that he also offers other discounts to BMW club members.

Among the new and ongoing business items discussed were:

- The annual club picnic will be held on 6/11 at Brigham Park. Todd Herbst is considering bringing his famous smoked ribs.
- The annual winter camp will be held at Blue Mounds State Park during the first weekend of February.
- Roland reported on GR3 progress. The Soldier's Grove Lions Club has offered to prepare a Saturday night BBQ chicken dinner for a minimum of 140 attendees at \$7.50 per person. Additionally, firewood and liability insurance issues have been worked out. Wristbands have been ordered and promotional bulletins have been printed. Roland asks that club members consider attending meetings of other regional BMW clubs to promote the GR3. He is assembling a photo album to help in this effort.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 5, 2006 - Madison BMW Club breakfast & meeting. 10am at the Dry Bean Saloon.

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. Note: Daylight Savings Time begins.

Sunday, May 7, 2006 - Madison BMW Club breakfast & meeting.

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.

- Betty discussed the feasibility of producing a club newsletter on a bi-monthly basis due to a lack of publishable material submitted by club members. The cost of postage and other expenses may not warrant sending out a monthly one-page newsletter. Receiving the newsletter by email was also promoted as a cost saving measure. Contact Derek if you are interested in this.
- Renew your club membership by paying your dues now!
- The club voted to approve reimbursing Derek \$30 for mailing and other expenses associated with producing the club directory.
- Because all members in attendance (except Dan Baum) were filled by a one trip visit to the buffet, it was proposed that a club officer approach the Dry Bean's management and request a package deal for future club meetings.

Also discussed:

- Todd Erickson and Ernie Bell will be splitting a table at the Rockford Swap Meet the weekend of 4/30. If you are interested in sharing their table to sell something that shrunk while stored over the winter, contact either of them about contributing towards the cost.
- Jim Dickey proposed the concept of a club loaner bike to be left at local dealers to be borrowed when a motorcycle needs to be left overnight for service. Although a nice idea, there were many concerns expressed about liability issues for the rider, owner, and dealer. Art Mischler also felt that wear and tear maintenance issues opened yet another potential can of worms.
- Betty announced that she made an email pen pal in France who is interested in sharing BMW club info and news. This is an opportunity to learn about the issues affecting European BMW riders such as problems with servo-assisted brakes. This French club is quite large, about 1000 members, and is actively involved in governmental safety and other regulatory issues.
- John Schroeder and Jim Low announced that they have R1100RTs for sale. Linda Low also has a beautiful low-mileage 2004 Honda Reflex 250 scooter for sale at a very good price. Call her at 838-2690 if you are interested.

Due to the freakishly Spring-like January weather, there were about a dozen motorcycles ridden to this meeting. 44 people attended - 41 enjoyed the buffet. Marcus Schumann and John Schroeder won free breakfasts for the next meeting. Kirk Erlinger won \$14 from the 50/50. He tried to donate his winnings to the club treasury but was turned down by the activities officer.

We thank Steve and Judy Parker for generously donating door prizes of a tire repair kit and several motocross DVDs that were given away at this meeting.

Membership News

by Derek Engelen

Dues for 2006 are due and payable now (\$20 individual / \$25 couple). February 28th is the deadline to be included in the 2006 Membership Directory. Save the club money! Receive the newsletter via email, please email membership@madisonbmwclub.org to sign up today.

New Member:
 Charles Elson
 7 Gray Birch Trail
 Madison, WI 53717
 Phone: 608/833-5894
 Scooter: 2003 BMW R1200

Mary Klopp has changed her email address to: mklopp@charter.net

Madison BMW Club

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 (608) 222-3758

Activities Directors: Bert Hefty
 (608) 862-3671

SR500

By Tom Van Horn



Somebody (Kenny Roberts Sr?) once said, “It’s more fun to ride a slow bike fast than a fast bike slow”.

Dave Hough, in his excellent book *Proficient Motorcycling*, touches on polishing one’s road skills on a “smaller” bike. Especially on twisty technical roads, the little bangers require that the rider conserve momentum.

On a big machine, we can tiptoe around corners—maybe cautious of the bike’s weight?—and reel in the straights with the big motor. This is a no-go when you have less power;

The more speed we can maintain around the curve, the more we have coming out, and the better our pace. This calls for focus and involvement, and is rewarding when done well.

Where am I going with all this? Well, here, I guess: Three of my machines are largish—900/1000/1100—and have the usual pluses and minuses of such bikes. The fourth is a ‘78 Yamaha SR500, the street single peddled in this country for just a few years. It’s reminiscent of the big British thumpers of the ‘50s, or tried to be—purists differ (sometimes loudly) on just how reminiscent (the cast wheels were a clunky note, true)...

...anyway, the SR became a “cult bike” largely

ignored by the market, but gaining a few rabid fans. Many of these modify their SRs, mostly with flat track or café racer re-dos.

I went the café route myself: Wire wheels (grafted from other Yam’s), clubman bars, flyscreen, black sidecovers, bead-blasted cases, rearsets, Brit taillight, Dunstall-knockoff exhaust, etc.

The seat, until recently, was stock. The seat pan was cracked and sagging in places, the foam was the consistency of ancient tapioca, and the cover was coming apart. Hmm. Re-upholster? I think the pan’s shot too. Replacement stock? From a bike last sold (in small numbers) 23 years ago? They’re not all over the place—don’t seem to be anyplace, in fact, one fellow on a forum offered a seat pan (‘rusty, but sound’) for \$220. Errr, aaah, ummm, no.

A few outfits offer aftermarket seats in several patterns, but the \$\$ seems to start at \$350 and go up. Errr, aaah, ummm, etc... An original Ducati 900SS solo seat can be made to fit, but again, \$\$.

...a couple decades back, I did some business with one Frank, who dealt in various fiberglass and aluminum café bits out of Connecticut. Lo and behold, a web search unearthed him, and a phone call revealed that he still purveys a few things. He offers two types

of 'Ducati single café seat', one of which he had on hand.

Upholstered (more on this later) and the 'glass is colored: "It's for a Ducati", Frank said, "Any color you want, as long as it's Ducati racing red". I replied, "Or SR500E red?" He just laughed...

...a smidge over \$100 included shipping, and it was at my door in 3 days. Now then... ..nicely made, it IS a small little devil, isn't it? Fits neatly "inside" the seat rails. I'm reminded of a photo from a Slimey Cruds' run, showing a race-faired Bultaco Metralla parked in Pine Bluff. Behind it is an SR500. Now, a Metralla was considered a pretty serious bike in its ('60s) day; An SR500 was not a very big bike in its ('80s) day, but it looks like a Super Glide next to the Metralla. My, how bikes have grown...

I had to do some channeling of the tail to clear the fender, and cobbled up a mounting arrangement. And the result? Well, I think it looks kinda neat—the Duck color is a near match to the SR tank. Comfort? Errr, aaah, ummm, well. Interesting word, 'upholstered' — we apply it to everything from BarcaLoungers to Russell touring seats to GSXR perches to, well, to this thing. Peter Egan once compared some chopper-type perch to 'an upholstered Gideon Bible' — this thing might be 'an

upholstered sci-fi paperback out of the 25 cent box'...

...Nonetheless, I like it. The feathery weight and feedback of the thumper make it one of my favorite rides. Kicking it to life gives me a sense of accomplishment, and it looks like I think a motorcycle should.

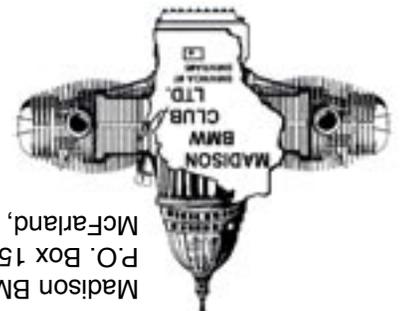
Would it be my only bike? Nope. Glad I have it? Yep.

Classifieds

For Sale: 1997 BMW R1100RT. 61,500 miles. Looks and rides great, pictures available. Glacier green, ABS brakes, heated grips, top case, Kathy's saddle bag liners, Lite-Buddies brake lights, Stop Alert Flasher, Motolights with autoswitch, double accessory outlets, Sargent and stock saddles, Cee Baileys and stock windshields, Aeroflow headlight cover, Schneider's Flip-A-Lever plus other extras. Always garaged. Price:\$6,000. Contact Jim Low at lowjim@hotmail.com or (608)838-2690.

For Sale: 2004 Honda Reflex (250cc) Badger Red. 1800 miles. Includes Englehart Center Motorcycle Maintenance Package. Price \$4295. Contact Linda Low at (608)838-2690.

For Sale: 1982 Honda Sabre V45 750. Price \$1500. Contact Chris Sponem at (608)345-1476.



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