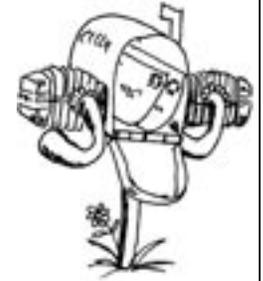


The Mail Boxer

April 2007

BMW MOA #7



The Prez Says

By Todd Herbst

Global warming?

Once again I've planned and failed at having a St Patty's Day ride. I believe it's been 4 years since I've been able to scoot around leading club members cattywampus on gravel strewn roads, I don't remember, maybe 3 years. My memory fails me.

It was 30 degrees when I was supposed to lead the ride and my bikes were soaked in by 2 ft. of solid ice. (outside the garage door that is.) Now it's only been 4 days since St. Patty's day, it's 60 out and the heavy rain last night tore a bunch of canyons through our yard.

This global warming seems like just a bunch of lousy weather to me. And what about El Nino? He's another one of those nasty weather bringers. And, let's not forget those Super Cells, Alberta Clippers, Nor' westers, Micro Bursts.....ect..... Oh, I can't forget...Cooler Near The Lake.

Anyway, enough about the weather. Today it's 50 and clear, beautiful, lovely, I think I smell flowers..... Hey! enough about the weather! After chipping 9 inches of ice this morning I managed to open a path to the world.

I did ride my bike to work today. The first time since the beginning of January.

Yee Haw

PS (this is a couple of days later) I went for a ride today and was surprised at how gravel free the roads were this spring. Usually there are piles of crap in the corners in March. all the better for us, right?

Membership News

by Derek Engelen

Membership directories were mailed the second week of March. If you did not receive your copy or have other issues/concerns, please let me know by email at: membership@madisonbmwclub.org.

The following member renewed during March:

Art Mischler
N8131 Kellom Rd
Beaver Dam, WI 53916

Phone: 920/887-8425 Work
Bikes: Way too many to list

Upcoming Events

Sunday April 1—Madison BMW Club
Breakfast, J.T. Whitney's 9:00 a.m.

April 22—Wild Goose Run. Meet
Sunday at noon at the Bayside Supper
Club in Beaver Dam sponsored by
the Port Club. Meet at Madison
Motorsports for group ride lead by
Tom Van Horn. Leaving @ 9 a.m.

April 22—BMW Flea Market.
Pecatonica, Il. sponsored by the
Black Hawk Club

April 20-21—Mischler's Open House

May 4-6 —Original Mini Rally Sturgis
MI Battle Creek MI

Saturday May 5—Madison
Motorsports 10th Annual Open
House

Sunday May 6—Madison BMW Club
Breakfast, J.T. Whitney's 9:00 a.m.

Sunday May 6—Slimy Crud Run

May 18 — GR3 Rally Soldier's Grove

June 1-3—Hiawatha Rally Honey
Creek MI, sponsored by the
Minnesota Club

Sunday June 3—BMW Club Breakfast,
J.T. Whitney's 9:00 a.m.

June 7-9—RA Rally at Biltmore
Estates Ashville, NC

Sunday July 1—BMW Club Breakfast,
J.T. Whitney's 9:00 a.m.

July 12–15–MOA Rally West Bend, WI

August 10–12–Annual Field Of Dreams Ride. Friday, ride to New Vienna, Iowa for a charcoal grilled steak dinner. Then camp at the New Wine camp ground (on-site registration). Saturday, group ride and/or Field Of Dreams visit. Sunday, ride to the Madison BMW picnic at Brigham Park. ed_burington@yahoo.com or 772-1933 for details.

August 5–Wisconsin Ride For Kids leaving from Middleton Fireman's Park at 9:15 a.m.

August 12–BMW Club Picnic Brigham Park

September 7–9–BMW Dells Rally Chula Vista

September 9–Iron Man Competition Madison

Sunday October 4–BMW Club Breakfast, J.T. Whitney's 9:00 a.m.

October 4–Slimy Crud Run

October 12–14–32nd Falling Leaf Rally Potosi, MI Sponsored by the Gateway Riders of St Louis

GEAR'N UP FOR RIDING SEASON

by Bert Hefty

Riding season is coming. As Activity Director it's time to start hitting people up for some lead rides. A lead ride is anything from a small jaunt to a dinner place or an all day excursion. This is up to the person setting up the ride. All I'm saying is if you have an idea for a ride let me know about it. It would be nice to see at least a couple rides each month. If you have one please e-mail me. It would help to make the summer more fun. But for all the planning that it takes, it also takes club members to go on these rides. It's a little lonely and frustrating when someone takes the time to plan a ride and no one shows up. So, let's have a good riding season.

Upcoming Events:

August 5th the Wisconsin Ride For Kids will start at Fireman's Park Middleton at 9:15 a.m. This is the National fund raiser for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. Come early for registration coffee and donuts. The ride cost is \$35/bike, 1 or 2 riders. Trikes and sidecars are needed to transport survivor kids that can ride. We return to Middleton for the Celebration of Life program and a box lunch from Culver's. Phone John Schroeder at: 608-325-4621 for Premium incentives and a chance to win a new motorcycle!

This year's club picnic is on August 12th. If anyone is interested in camping out on the 11th, let me know and we can get it organized (or as organized as it can get).

Secretary's Report

by Linda Low

March Minutes

Guests at the meeting:

DC, friend of Bert and Laurel Hefty's, and Jean, friend of Ed Burington's.

Rally update:

Advance registration on flyers is not \$23, it is \$24. Will honor \$23. Old Oak Inn will be having a blue grass group on Friday night. JT made the pin design that will be used this year. The American Voyager Assoc is holding a rally in LaCrosse the same weekend.

Events:

- Wild Goose is April 22. Tom Van Horn will lead group ride there. Tickets haven't been sent out yet.
- Swap meet at Pecatonica is April 29. Alexis DePils is going to go and have a table there according to Bert. Anyone taking stuff may want to chip in for the table.
- Daytona 200 Party at Harpo's West on the 11th

Misc.:

- Dave Jenneke spoke about a new "Seasoned Riders" course which is being developed at MATC for the older rider. Cost will be around \$10. video, work in small groups. Reflex tests. No range, all classroom about 2 hours long. The club may try to get a session if there is enough interest. Cost for new rider training will go up June 1. MATC got new bikes donated by Engelhards .
- Bert Hefty announced he has his 2004 1150GS up for sale \$10,500
- Website has been updated thanks to the work of Jim Harnes and Markus Schumann.
- Winner of the 50/50 was DC; Scott Fischer won the free breakfast.

River Ride To Missouri

By Jim Harms

Up until last summer, two wheeled excursions were limited to Wisconsin and bordering states. With my 97 BMW R1100RT confidently checked over and packed up, I headed out for a 3 ½ day trip into the wild unknown, Missouri.

My intent was to follow the Mississippi south to the Missouri River. Leaving around 11 am, I had no reservations and set agenda. I took 18/151 to the Tri-State region, pulling in for lunch at Arby's in Dubuque. The only reason I remember this, is because I dropped my brand new helmet while waiting to order! Only a foot to the floor, but enough to make me cuss under my breath.

Following the Great River road down the Iowa side, there were plenty of nice twisties south of Dubuque. Taking the city of Bellevue's River Walk route, I stopped to down a Gatorade and cool off a bit. The casino boat looked busy, but the new city water park across the street was packed to the gills (pun intended).

There were more good roads to Savannah Illinois. From here on, everything would be new to me. My first visit to Savannah was two years ago. It was on a ride with some Harley friends and we stopped at a popular HD hangout called Poopy's. It was a combination Harley Davidson accessories store and Tattoo Parlor, with a smoke shop in the basement. I've yet to see a similar BMW arrangement. :)

About 30 minutes south of the Quad Cities, I dismounted at Muscantine, Iowa. Turning into a park / boat launch on a short dead end road, I assumed that more than one person had driven straight into the Mississippi River. There were several signs along the way that made me come to that conclusion; such as "Road Ends in Water 100 feet" and "Road Ends in Water"!

Darkness fell as I pulled into a campground in the small town of Keithsburg, Illinois. It was managed by your typical hosts, a nice retired couple (with a small dog of course). Pitching my tent 20 feet from the Mississippi, it was clean, reasonable, and had hot showers to boot! In the morning I was awakened by the sound of barge fog horns. A good pancake breakfast at a local restaurant and I was on my way for day two.

My next stop was Nauvoo, Illinois, the site of an large Mormon's settlement of 15,000 back in the 1840's. A huge temple sits at the top of the hill in the current town. I had never heard of this place before, but apparently it is a popular Mormon destination.

Staying on the Illinois side, I continued southward, until I saw a sign in Lima for the Canton, Missouri Ferry. I'm a sucker for ferry rides, so I blindly turned westward for the 10 mile jaunt to the river. That was about the last sign I saw. Making some assumptions and following my GPS compass and map, I found my way to the ferry, behind a grain facility. According to the sign, it is the longest continually operating ferry on the Mississippi. The first, was powered by two horses on a treadmill which connected to paddle wheels in the back of the boat. I kid you not.



I was now officially in Missouri! Ya Hoo! Hannibal up next. As Mark Twain's childhood home, it hasn't changed much since my last visit 20 years ago. It was very hot, so I decided to tour the Mark Twain cave. On the way, I glanced over Lover's Leap. The road to the top was steep and curvy, even for a cycle.

The cave was 'really cool', complete with a camping area and music hall. The older gentleman who led the group had a nice, but dry sense of humor. Great stories about the real life 'Injun Joe' and kids getting lost in the cave for days.

My initial thought was to grab a campsite here and call it a day. However, with daylight to burn, I kept the rubber to the road. I wasn't disappointed! My first great Missouri road started just outside of Hannibal on Highway 79. The approximately 30 miles to Louisiana Missouri was what I was hoping to find. Up and down, with tight turns, many of it's curves were marked with yellow arrows and lower speed limits. This required extra attention, but the RT handled it no problemo.

Arriving in Louisiana, I stopped to admire the view and take some snapshots in the picturesque river park. There was a semi truck trailer, serving as the band stand for a Christian group. I was now in the South.

Having found a great little camping gem the previous night, I thought, my luck would repeat itself. Options tonight were slim. Although the maps on my GPS were a bit older, I was able to search on camping and find one place within the next 45 miles. So, I called up the marina / campground, asking them to save me a spot. It was close to dark by the time I got to the end of the long bumpy gravel road.

Not a tent in site. Many campers had permanent mobile home trailers on 6 to 8 foot pylons, but I couldn't be picky at this point. The owners were nice enough as they put me up in a mowed corner, near to an abandoned building. The neighbors warned me to pitch away from the back waters to avoid mosquitoes. A 180 from the previous night. Lots of rowdy people drinking, driving ATVs, and shooting off fireworks. I made small and hoped for the best.

Up early, for breakfast in Elsberry, where I met a few of the locals. Most were retired guys shooting the breeze over coffee. Proceeding south, I went as far as St. Charles, a St. Louis suburb. From here, as Eastwood would say 'Right turn, Clyde' and westward up the Missouri I went. Before leaving, I had outlined

a few possible roads that I wanted to take and this one, Hwy 94, was high on the list.

It quickly became my favorite road of the trip! Tight turns, smooth pavement, glimpses of the Missouri, and extremely high grin factor. Unlike Wisconsin, they seemed to just pave the surface, even if it wasn't quite flat.

I took Hwy 94 all the way to Herman and started back down the river, on Hwy 100 to Hwy 185. From 185, it was an enjoyable ride to Sullivan. Could it get much better? Darn close. My second favorite road was between Sullivan and Potosi, with the first half being terrific! Not as tight as Hwy 94, but much the same terrain.

Arriving at Potosi, I noticed Mineral Point was not far away. I felt like I was back home. I decided this was as far south as I would go. Not until later did I hear about Potosi's BMW Falling Leaf Rally, where they blast anvils into the air. I've got to try to make one of those in the future.

Taking highway 8 to St. James I found myself on another superb stretch of road. Great scenery through one of the Mark Twain forests (How many are there?). Curves were often, but wide

and easy. A brief stop at the state capitol building in Jefferson City and then lunch to avoid a passing thunderstorm. I wanted to swing by 'Mexico', just to say that I was there on my cycle, but I didn't have time.

Not wanting a retake of the previous night, I played it safe and returned to Hannibal's Mark Twain campground. Two things stick in my mind. A man and his two young sons walked by as I was setting up my tent. His exact words were 'Man! You're Extreme!' Secondly, I was told not to worry about the roped off area two sites away. A bee colony was looking for a new home for their queen and were temporarily 'hanging' around. Even so, I'd recommend the spot, tucked nicely in a valley.

My last day was pretty much all riding, taking mostly the main roads. I covered 500+ miles and arrived home around 10PM. A bit sore and tired, but very happy to get a taste of Missouri. I'll be back!

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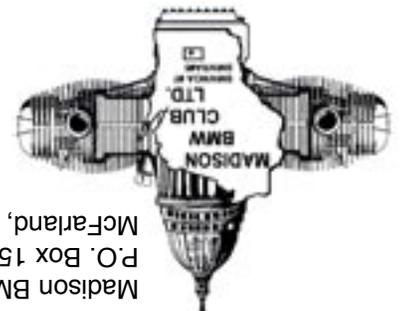
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