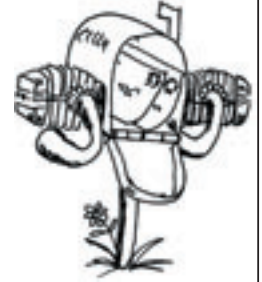


The Mail Boxer

September 2008

BMW MOA #7 BMWRA #5



The Prez Says

By Todd Herbst

Happy Labor Day,

I hope everyone's summer is winding down nicely. Mine just seems to be winding up. Still lots to do. Thanks to everyone who brought all the yummy food to the Club Picnic in August. The day turned out to be absolutely perfect (except for that salmonella scare:). For the last couple of years, Betty and I have hosted the Madison BMW Club Chili cook-off at our house in Oct. Derek Englen had an idea to change the cook-off to something else, like a baked bean cook-off or the roasted fennel bulb cook-off. I mentioned at the picnic that people should come up with ideas for the cook-off. We will be voting on the cook-off choices at the September meeting. So put on your thinking caps and come up with something good!

I got to go to the new Harley Museum in Milwaukee last week for a behind the scenes tour. This included a complete tour of the archives. A great experience. I highly recommend coughing up the 16 bucks for a ticket to the museum, it is definitely worth it. Lots of great exhibits and stories. Someone at Harley definitely knew what they were doing back in the early 1920's! They must have been German.

Enjoy,

Secretary's Report

by

Linda Low

August 2008 Picnic Minutes

Remember September breakfast is Sunday September 14

Sunday September 7 is Ironman. Please register asap as cycles are needed. Drivers will be reimbursed \$40 for gas

There will be the annual cook-off at Todd and Betty's in September/October. At the September meeting the club needs to decide chili or baked beans as the choice of food.

Upcoming Events

September 5-7, 2008
38th Wisconsin Dells Rally -
Sponsored by the Wisconsin
BMW Club.

Sunday, September 14, 2008
Club Breakfast J.T. Whitney's
9:00am
Note, the date has been
moved due to the Dell's Rally
and Ironman Triathlon.

Sunday, September 26-
28, 2008 Whitecap Mtn
Fall Colors Ride - Wisconsin
BMW Club. This is a A
"No Camping" Gathering.
Contact Bob Alexander,
rockers@centurytel.net, 715-
561-4001 for more informa-
tion.

Sunday, October 5, 2008
Club Breakfast J.T. Whitney's
9.00am

Sunday, October 12, 2008
Fall Color Tour/Poker Run
- Sponsored by the Madison
Motorcycle Club.

November, 2008 Tenta-
tive - Club Banquet, monthly
meeting, and officer elec-
tions. Place, Time and Date
TBA

Sunday, December 7, 2008
Club Breakfast J.T. Whitney's
9.00am

Treasurers Report

We currently have 80 members and the bank account is healthy.

Come September, John Ong will turn 80. He has been riding for 19 years and figures to ride for 19 more (fat chance!).

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Summer vacation

This won't be Hemmingway but here goes. This year because the national was in Gillette WY, I decided to combine two trips into one. I would visit some friends who live in Jackson and go to the national as well. Left work on the 11th of July and stopped for the night in Mason City, IA. The next morning I headed out bright and early following US 18 west. Not much in the way of scenery here unless you count going through Clear Lake, Iowa. Clear Lake is where the Music died. Two things of note in South Dakota are The dam at Fort Randall over the Missouri River (Sorry no pics) and the conversation at a gas station in Bonesteel, SD. "So where you headed?" the local asks. "Wyoming" I say. "Are you taking 18?" "Why yes I am." "Oh you don't want to go though the reservation. At least not at night." "Oh, why not?" "Well there will be people walking alongside the highway...". I think he was trying to be PC about something. That or Chupacabra was out after dark and doing X-files stuff. I won't mention the brain fart where I missed a turn and ended up on some state hwy. I found the right one after a while. Well, I turned south at Mission and headed into Nebraska. Continued westbound on US20. Stopped for the night in Chadron. Got the last room at Motel 6. Apparently there was some kind of convention in town. The scenery along the road was getting more interesting at this point, sort of rolling hills. 636 miles ridden this day. On the road next morning I passed a historical marker denoting a Cheyenne uprising that happened in 1878. The rock outcroppings were very neat, looked like a fortress.

Entered Wyoming. Started seeing Antelope. Luckily, they weren't doing the Kamikaze thing here do. They just sagebrush. I did see the shoulder with ing. Either road-kill a mad guillotine-killer. I eventually ni, Wy. At the gas friend Howard and was. He reminded that would save me I went. This route follows the Wind River. What a nice road, twisting and crossing the river at several points. Some of the red rock outcroppings were very cool.



like the Bambies munched on the some dead ones on their heads mistrophy hunters or wielding antelope ended up in Shoshostation I called my let him know were I me of a shortcut about 30miles, so off intersects US26 that

Encountered some road construction through Togwotee Pass, loose gravel and such, so I got some GS riding in. Leaving the pass and heading down the mountain framed the Teton mountains nicely. Rode into Jackson where I met Howard at work. I would be staying with him and his family for a couple of days.

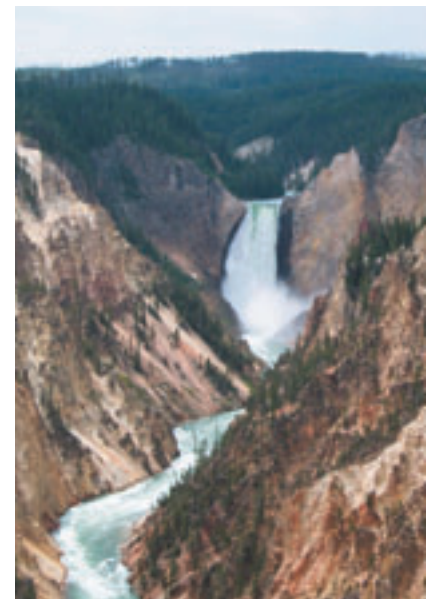
Now for a little history. Howard Cole and I used to work together at Nate's Place, a restaurant on the east side of Madison. We were both cooks there and he also tended bar. We hunted together a little bit. He gave me

a nickname one night after I repeated a Cheech and Chong routine and no, I'm not tellin' what it is. We used to make the nights at work go faster by repeating dialogue from old Warner Brothers cartoons. We knew them all. I believe he is now the co-owner of High Country Flies, a fly fishing supply and guide service. He had to finish work so I went on to his house where I was met by his wife, Wendy. Wendy works at the National Museum of Wildlife Art just outside of town. You need to see this place. The entrance has a life-size sculpture of a herd of Elk next to it. The building is set into the hillside and is much larger than it looks from the outside. The artwork inside is incredible. No pictures allowed so you'll have to see it for yourselves. Their daughter Jessie was also there. She is quite a talented artist.

Monday morning Howard and I left to tour around the area. He took me to the site of a major landslide that took place in 1925. A large section of hillside along the Gros Ventre River slid down and across the valley damming the river. Two years later, the lake that formed by the dam burst through, sending a flood of mud and water downstream that almost wiped out the little town of Kelly. We then drove up to Teton National Park and went over to Lake Jackson. What a sight. Crystal clear water with the Tetons for a backdrop. Ended up in Teton Village at the Jackson Hole ski area for lunch. Later we stopped in at the National Museum of Wildlife Art for a tour. Like I said, you have to see this place.



Tuesday morning we headed up to Yellowstone National Park. I had never been there, so this was a treat. So much to see and not enough time to see it all. We did get to go to Old Faithful. One of the most impressive sights was the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. This was formed by the Yellowstone River as it winds its way to Montana. A very steep gorge, up to 1200 feet deep in spots with two waterfalls. Another area of interest was Norris geyser basin. Mud pots, geysers hot springs, this place is otherworldly. We saw a couple of Elk in the park as well as some Buffalo. Unfortunately, we didn't see any Grizzly bears. Although when I went thru on Wednesday, there was a sighting along side the road, but I had no good place to park the bike in order to get a picture. I'm sure I'm leaving stuff out, but it's hard to describe it all. Later that night we sat around with drinks and good conversation. It was hard to leave the next day, but we said our goodbyes and I promised to visit again only this time I would not wait so long to do it. I am very grateful that Howard and Wendy were able to put me up for several days and also show me the sights.



I went back through the park, going around Yellowstone Lake. Nice ride but the lake puts out a lot of cold air.

When riding toward the East entrance you go across Sylvan Pass. Wow. A twisty, curvy road along the mountainside that goes down into the valley below. It was hard to just ride and not sight see at the same time. Stopped in Cody later for a quick lunch then onward to Tensleep. From Tensleep I rode up into the Bighorns and some much needed cooler air. I was passed by a couple other riders on an R1100S and an F800ST. They were moving right along so of course I picked up the pace as well. I kept up with them fairly well.

On to Gillette. I got to the rally grounds and tried to find a familiar face, but to no avail. So I set up camp next to a tree that made Charlie Brown's Christmas tree look like a Sequoia. Eventually I ran into other club members scattered here and there. On Wednesday night there was a little windy weather but no rain. Thursday night was very wet, and so was my tent. Any way, by Friday I had done the vendor thing and I was getting a little homesick, so I left by mid-day. Stopped in Murdo, SD for the night and was awakened by what looked like a hurricane around midnight. Earlier at dinner I met three other people who had also left the rally. They

commented on fact that some of the traditional rally food vendors were absent.

The rest of the ride back was just a slog to get home. Interstate 90 at around 80 mph. I only "almost" fell asleep on the bike once. The only real problem I had was slowing back down to Wisconsin speed limits after riding briskly out west.

In all I put 2861 miles on the bike with average fuel mileage around 45 mpg. The bike ran flawlessly.

J.T. Wagner



September 4th – 7th, 2008 38th Annual Wisconsin Dells BMW Motorcycle Rally

BMW motorcycle owners, riders and their guests are cordially invited to attend the 38th annual Wisconsin Dells BMW Motorcycle Rally. This will be our 6th year at the fabulous Chula Vista Resort. Enjoy a sit down indoor Saturday evening buffet, indoor and outdoor Water Park, seminars, vendors, live music Fri & Sat nights. Camping has been GREATLY improved for 2008! Rally Registration includes reduced Room rates for Chula Vista Hotel rooms and Condos on grounds.



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