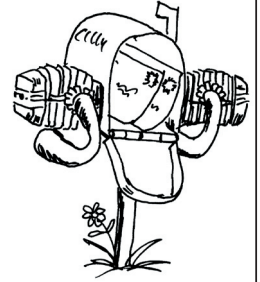


The Mail Boxer

February 2009

BMW MOA #7 BMWRA #5



The Prez Says

By Todd Herbst

Happy February all.

It was a rough Christmas for Betty and I. Two weeks wine tasting in Sonoma and Mendocino Co. in California. My wrist is really sore, I think I'm gonna need therapy. The Dragon anything can't hold anything to these roads, just as twisty and much more continuous. Zero runoff, no center lines and trucks that like to think that the road is their's would make for a much more spectacular way to leave this world I suppose.

While watching Satellite TV out there one night I came across a great program about the Sturgis, SD rally. They were out of town at a far where there we're 20-30 thousand camper and rally goers, partying, drinking and having a great time. Sound like our rally minus 19,800 people.

Then came the fun, Burnout contests, Wet tee shirt contests, etcetera. They even had a woman bring a bike up in the burnout machine, (Yes, they needed a burnout machine) take her top off and do a burnout.....guess who won the competition?

This got me thinking about our rally and field events. I know we haven't had good luck in the recent past, with participation, when we've tried to hold the events, but, just think of the crowds if we advertised a "Wet Boxer Short Contest". We'd have to get fencing to hold them back.

I can't wait to go the Falling Leaf Rally this fall, enter the slow race, Disrobe, and ride. I'd be a hands down favorite.

*Sorry about any bad visual from the last story, they'll eventually go away.

We finally have a Membership Director to fill Derek Englen's shoes. Add the winner is-----Jim Low! Thanks Jim!

We'll see you at the February Breakfast.

And, if your not covered in molasses, keep the sticky side down.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 1, 2009
Monthly breakfast meeting
J.T. Whitney's 9.00am

February 6 - 8, 2009
28th Cycle World Motorcycle
Show. Donald E. Stephens
Convention Center, 5555
North River Rd, Rosemont, IL

Saturday, February 7, 2009
Tech Session - K-Bikes (New
models) 12:00 - 2:00PM.
Sponsored by Nick's BMW,
2246 Mid Valley Drive, De-
Pere

Saturday, February 21, 2009
Tech Session - F/G Series
(F800/F650/F650 twins)
12:00 - 2:00PM. Sponsored
by Nick's BMW, 2246 Mid
Valley Drive, DePere

Sunday, March 1, 2009
Monthly breakfast meeting
J.T. Whitney's 9.00am

Saturday, March 7, 2009
Tech Session - Topic TBD
12:00 - 2:00PM. Sponsored
by Nick's BMW, 2246 Mid
Valley Drive, DePere

Sunday, April 5, 2009
Monthly breakfast meeting
J.T. Whitney's 9.00am

Sunday, May 3, 2009
Monthly breakfast meeting
Hilltop Restaurant 9.00am

May 15-17, 2009 35th
Great River Road Rally.
Soldiers Grove, WI

Sunday, June 7, 2009
Monthly breakfast meeting
J.T. Whitney's 9:00am

Sunday, July 5, 2009
Monthly breakfast meeting
J.T. Whitney's 9:00am

Sunday, August 2, 2009
Monthly breakfast meeting
J.T. Whitney's 9:00am

Sunday, September 6, 2009
Monthly breakfast meeting
J.T. Whitney's 9:00am

Sunday, October 4, 2009
Monthly breakfast meeting
J.T. Whitney's 9:00am

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

President:
Todd Herbst 608-831-4439
president@madisonbmwclub.org

Secretary:
Linda Low 608-838-2690
lrloww@verizon.net

Membership:
Derek Engelen
membership@madisonbmwclub.org

Treasurer:
John Ong 608-222-6489

Newsletter Editor:
Sam Garst 414-704-7767
editor@madisonbmwclub.org

Rally Chairs:
Jim Harms 608-798-3645
Jim Low 608-838-2690
rally@madisonbmwclub.org

Activities Directors:
Tom Schirz 608-221-9682
Bert Hefty 608-831-4439
activities@madisonbmwclub.org

FROM AN ANONYMOUS SOURCE

I picked up my 1988 R100GS from Glen at Thoroughbred Cycles on Thursday. This bike has gone through quite a transition from starting off as a very tired 78000 miles plus stored outside and ridden hard machine to the mechanically renewed rider that it has become. Glen did quite a fine job. My ride now has double plugs, new valve guides, new exhaust valves, a fully inspected transmission with a nice new circlip, all the seals renewed, gaskets replaced, forks rebuilt and rebooted, steering head smooth as silk, drive shaft lubed and nice new swing arm bearings. The lights come on, the horn honks and my grips are warm. Yee Haw!!!!

Now the real fun begins. Can you say farkeling? First up is an electronic speedometer that promises to give me an accurate speed reading (I think I may faint), display my RPMs, tell the time, count the miles and if I read the description correctly, dispense the beverage of your choice. I'm going to rehab my custom aluminum panniers that I built for my now departed and deeply missed wrecked K-75 to fit on the luggage racks on the GS. Can you say mucho storage? These bags saved my legs twice when my K went down (once my bad, and the other the fault of a cell phone yakking, hand waving, I'm busy talking to my girlfriend and can't be bothered to pay attention to my driving young lady. And no, I am not bitter). I'll be glad to have them with me again. The bike had supplemental lights installed, but the wiring was such a rats nest that I will be replacing all of it and installing a relay and a weatherproof switch of some sorts. And that's just the beginning. Maybe it will be ready for the April meeting. Here's hoping.

A Message from Steve at Madison Motorsports.....

SHOP EARLY AND SAVE!

BUY OIL AND FILTER FOR YOUR
MOTORCYCLE (at least 3qts.)
AND RECEIVE YOUR CHOICE
OF A FREE CAN OF REPSOL
CHAIN LUBE OR
1/2 OFF MOUNTING
AND BALANCING OF
THE FIRST TIRE YOU
PURCHASE FROM
MADISON MOTORSPORTS
IN 2009

OFFER EXPIRES FEB. 28, 2009

Secretary's Report

by
Linda Low

January 4, 2009 Minutes

No guests at the meeting

New Years Day Ride – Tom VH, Dave M and Nora all braved the elements

2009 Rally Update

JT has designed this year's pin
Ads in MOA and RA magazine

Need to get posters done and registration form
for web site completed
Need pics from 2008 rally

New Business----

Mischlers will be celebrating their 50th anniversary the last weekend in May.

The new K1300 should be arriving end of February, beginning of March.

Overstocked on F800S on sale now
They have set up a BMW450 for ice racing

MaddMoto open house on January 10

Chicago Motorcycle show on February 6-8

Nick's Tech Days – oil head session coming up.
See store web site for dates and info

Bert's Tech Day – oil head valve adjustment on February 22, 2009 in his heated garage

Dues due now

Sam – please submit stories for newsletter
(Pretty Please!!!!!!!!!!!!.....ed)

John Ong just got out of hospital after undergoing some repair work to his bypass surgery of last year.

Next breakfast February 1, Super Bowl Sunday

Check your Calendars

The following change has been made to the Nick's BMW Tech Day schedule.

The Valve Check/Fluid Change for F Series is switched

from 2/21 to 2/14.

Grant Fisk
Nick's BMW
2246 Mid Valley Drive
De Pere, WI. 54115

920-347-9144

Bert's Tech Day

Sunday, Feb. 22nd, 10:00 am
at my house --203 Park St., Albany WI. Just a good Sunday to hang out in my garage. I will put the oilhead RT on the rack to give you guys a chance to see what they look like naked. I will be setting the valves and checking the bike out to get ready for spring. I will be putting on a Z-Technic exhaust as well. Brats at lunch--bring something to share. I don't drink coffee so bring your own. Will have adult beverages there. I have a big garage but would like to know how many are coming...

SPRINGS COMING!!!!

Madison BMW Club Membership Form

First _____ Last _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phones: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

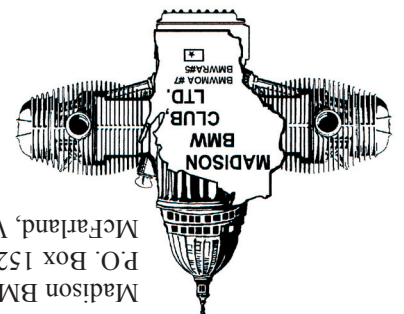
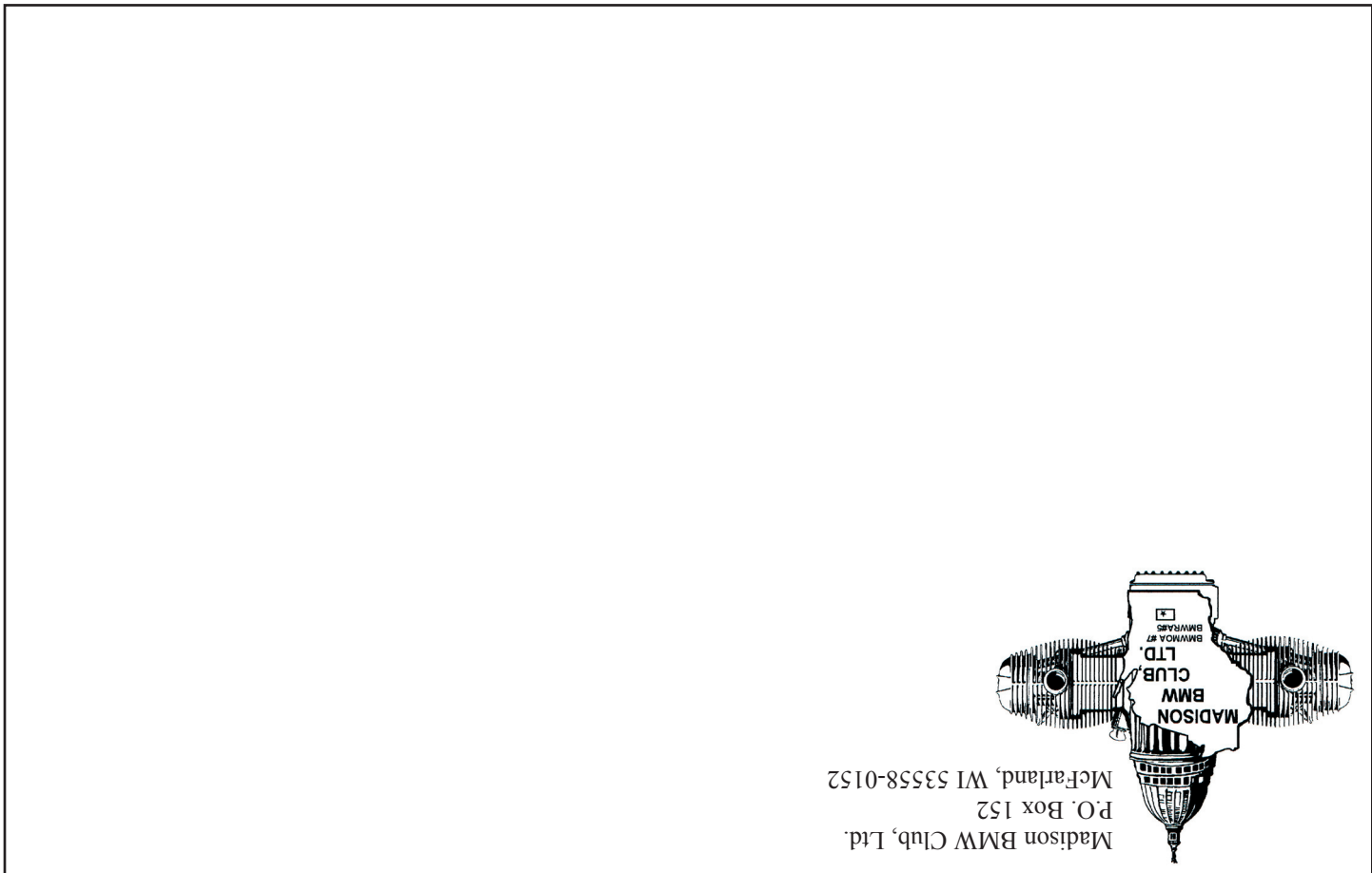
Current Member Yes No New Member Yes No

MOA # _____ RA # _____

Bikes owned _____

Interests, comments, etc _____

Please e-mail the Mail Boxer to my e-mail address Yes No



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

New Years Ride Snippet

by Tom VanHorn

Club Mascot.....ops, I mean Ambassador!

As we enter <sarcasm ON> this-magical-winter-wonderland-time-of-year<sarcasm OFF>, some of us keep a winter-beater or aggressive-tired dual purpose bike in a kind-of-ready state for occasions like a winter thaw or attack of acute insanity. In my case, I store the sidecar rig at the front of the garage, just for such events.

One event I try for most times is the Madison (all-brands) Motorcycle Clubs First Ride, held on New Years Day from the Capitol square. Most years, I unplug the rig and just get one despairing groan out of it. The gods say, not this year. But, this time, the groan was followed the 30-year-old airhead mill roaring (mutedly of course) to life !! The gods say, gitch yer rear out there. So I did. Layers, layers, Kantesu electrics, nylon suit outermost, heaviest gloves, nose fog guard in the Nolan.

I had several blocks of sometimes-unplowed, sometimes-packed snow to negotiate from my driveway to reach 'cleared' pavement. Down my block, a not too bright kid leaped off a snowbank right into my path to goggle at the rig, which I got sideways. Goggling more, he long jumped back onto said snowbank. Straightened rig out. That'll learn ya.

The streets were okay if I didn't try anything dramatic - fingertips and chin got cold...

...Got to the square around 10:15. One Harley super-glidish thing there, period. Hmm. This IS new years morning, right? More goggling, from people going in and out of the Inn On The Park. Damn tourists.

Ride registration was up in the lounge (as usual), club member Nora presiding (as usual). The crowd grew: The usual amalgam of righteous bro' types mixing with hard-core dirtsters, Steve & Judy Parker, Bob Barr & son, BMW club founder Russ Atkinson and Nancy, ex-members Stan Bang and John Haight and instructor Trent Sveom. Current members moi, Dave J. and Nora. Usually-there-but-not-this-time: Dave Maly (Florida, I think), Todd/Betty (California, I think), Roger K.(stomach flu, I think), and Steve H., among others (intelligence, I think). Todd E. rode through, but kept up his momentum...

...I'd guess 12 - 15 bikes all told - one other airhead rig besides mine, most were dual-purpose types. There were slightly fewer at Quaker Steak&Lube, which also hosts a new years run. Once again, the number-tagged and spandex crew looked at the spattered-leather and lids crew, who looked back. Pleased ta meet'cha.

For those new to winter riding, the stuff on the streets is not kind to aluminum - after a few of these runs, the Akront wheels and engine of my rig will never be the same.

Garage queens need not apply...

...TVH

A Twin Cities.com article By Joe Soucheray from Minnesota

Perhaps you've seen him — or them. Victor Wanchena explains why he rides his salt-encrusted Ural on an arctic January day. Almost daily, it is reported to me that a motorcyclist is in our midst. Granted, a motorcyclist cannot top the unicyclist who was reported to me Tuesday morning, when it was 14 below — a unicyclist on Kellogg Boulevard. The motorcyclist invariably is reported to be driving a bike with a sidecar. That makes sense; at least there would be some stability. He is reported one day taking the France Avenue exit ramp off Interstate 494; the next day, slogging up Minnesota 100; three days later, he is spotted on Interstate 35E, up around the weave. Who is this mysterious traveler?

A guy named Victor Wanchena is the publisher of Minnesota Motorcycle Monthly. I had it in mind it might be him. "I'm out there," Wanchena said Tuesday, "but there are others. I am never at the location where I hear reports of the rider. There are a couple of us, and I think we have been morphed into one legendary character." They ride Urals, Wanchena said, Russian-made copies of an old BMW design. "Those things are cheap," Wanchena said, "and they start in this weather." "But you're crazy, right?" "That's what people keep telling me," Wanchena said. "But my yardstick is snowmobiling. It's no different than putting on a snowmobile suit and going out on a sled. It's nice to have some small challenges in life."

The salt this year already has eaten Wanchena's electric means of firing. He has to kick-start it. At home, the bike is in a garage, but at his real job with the Department of Corrections, the bike sits outside. "I have entered the ritual stage of kick-starting it," Wanchena said. "It's quite interesting." Quite interesting means words are said over the machine and a choreography of feet and hands act in concert to bring the cold beast to life. He said small challenges? This isn't the winter riding so charmingly depicted in British motorcycle magazines, where a chap might eloquently write of taking his bike through the melting snow to the pub in the yonder village over a meandering lane.

Those same magazines routinely show photographs of a time when winter motorcycling was apparently common — maybe it was common in this country, too — but again, you can tell from the pictures that even though it snowed, the temperature had shot up into the 40s or 50s.

No, this is "so we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past," crunch time, beating against the rush-hour current, to update F. Scott Fitzgerald. This is placing yourself out there in competition with the texters and the cell phone caterwaulers who aren't paying attention anyway. This is taking your chances against big trucks and black ice and the flying mists of sand and salt spray.

Wanchena is 36. He is still young enough to give it a shot, and it certainly gives him some panache for his role as publisher of the state's only monthly devoted to motorbikes.

I don't know who the others are or whether they wish to come forward. I am reasonably certain that the others, the regulars, ride Urals, as Wanchena suggests. There is the occasional report of a Harley Davidson tearing up one of the 35s or flying around the belt line, but they appear to be sightings of lark rides or dares, or a kind of stir-craziness brought about as a result of cabin/road fever. They are quickly put away and washed even more quickly.

Those Urals, born crudely in grim factories in the Russian mountains of the same name, wear road salt like a badge. And their owners, if they survive, have great stories to tell in the spring and probably shin splints, too, from the kicking.

Joe Soucheray can be reached at jsoucheray@pioneerpress.com or 651-228-5474. Soucheray is heard from 2 to 5:30 p.m. weekdays on KSTP-AM 1500.