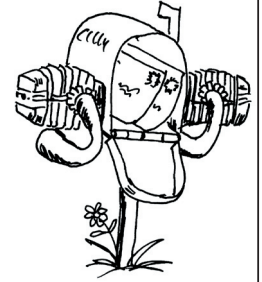


# The Mail Boxer

October 2009

BMW MOA #7 BMWRA #5



## The Prez Says

By Todd Herbst

OK, in October the Breakfast will be Sunday October 4th at 9 o'clock AM at Monona Gardens Family Restaurant, 6501 Bridge RD. Madison, WI. OK?

Last Sunday, the 13th, a whole hoard of bikers gathered in downtown Madison to haul around officials, videographers, photographers and others for the Ironman Wisconsin. It is a long day slogging through masses of bodies, but nobody observes the Ironman more intimately than the motorcycle support. If you haven't volunteered for it before, consider it. It's fun.

October 4th is also the umpteenth biannual running of the Slimy Crud, I'm sure there will be 1 or 2 led rides from the breakfast to the event.

On October 10th, Betty and I will be hosting the 4th annual Madison BMW Club Chili Cookoff at our house in Cross Plains. It is our 5th anniversary, so we will be supplying a keg of beer and live music by Frogwater, a Bluegrass/Celtic/Scottish/Irish/Acoustic couple from Milwaukee. So, fire up your slow cooker, and see if you can woo the masses with your culinary skills and become the champion of this, the most prestigious cooking event in the history of the Madison BMW Club. Oh, and don't forget your Gas-X.

Betty and I will not be attending the Banquet in November. We will be in California trying to find the ever elusive "Disappearing Zinfandel". We can't figure it out. Every time we get near it, disappears. Maybe someday we can have some around for awhile. But for some reason I can't see that happening.



### Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 4, 2009  
Monthly Breakfast Meeting  
Monona Garden Restaurant  
Club meeting is at 9:00am  
Slimey Crud run will leave at the end of the meeting

Saturday, October 10 2009  
5-Alarm Chili Cook-off and Potluck Hosted by Prez Todd & Betty Herbst. Starts @ 5PM. Door prizes for the 1st - 3rd place chilis. Beverages and bonfire. Music by Frog Water from 7-9PM. 4593 Rocky Dell Rd. Contact Betty and Todd 608-831-4439 if you need directions.

Saturday, October 24, 2009  
1st "The Bucky" Dual-Sport Rode - Madison Motorcycle Club. For more info check out their web site.

November 7, 2009  
Annual Club Banquet and officer elections. Nau-Ti-Gal restaurant, 5360 Westport Road, Madison. Club members and their invited guests only. Cocktails and socializing starts around 5PM, dinner served around 6PM.

Sunday, December 6, 2009  
Monthly breakfast meeting  
Monona Gardens 9:00am



# Scarving to Mineral Point

By Joann Hayes

Having lived all my life in Madison, being a professional graphic designer and amateur landscape painter, I am surprised at myself for never having visited Mineral Point. On top of that, I really love traveling around SW Wisconsin on my BMW 650 Scarver (F 650 CS) finding neat local places for coffee, brunch, lunch, local lore, etc. My husband, Alan, also a Scarver rider, is an enthusiastic and perfect travel partner (among his other numerous attributes). We love our small belt drive Beemers.

So...we decided to meet up with Dave, a fellow Beemer rider from Lake Geneva whom we met at last year's Great River Rally. He said he was going to the Wisconsin Moto Guzzi rally being held at Lake Joy Campground near Mineral Point, July 31-Aug 2.

We didn't want to camp, so we got a motel room in Mineral Point, planning to stop by the Guzzi rally, check out some neat bikes, hook up with Dave, and get some good riding on beautiful roads. All of the above was happily accomplished, but I was especially pleased with the city of Mineral Point itself.

Any time a place is billed as an "artists' community" I get uneasy at the thought of the typical tourist disappointments. We went to Galena, Illinois, a couple of weeks ago and I came away with mixed reviews. The Good: museums and whole piece architectural preservation to keep this town's physical history intact. The Bad: too many over priced T-shirt stores, and the even more abundant shops overflowing with Chinese made "Americana" schlock to fill your house, second house, and cabin Up North at The Lake. I always wonder what the Chinese workers are thinking as they crank out another boat load of faux-antiqued cute slogan signs, or miniature birch bark canoes filled with plastic pine cones, or teddy bears in checkered pajamas, or porcelain bells with American flags. Yikes!

I'm happy to report that Mineral Point is much more genuine and mellower, at least on the weekend we were in town. Yes, there are antique shops, and there are real art studios, inhabited by real artists, and some good galleries representing local and national artists. You can support them by purchasing a piece. But it's perfectly OK to look and poke and chat. Then find the coffee shop, some Ice Cream Shoppe ice cream—a double Zanzibar chocolate, thank you— and a nice, unpretentious place for dinner.

Preservation of historic buildings is paramount in Mineral Point too. The masonry and stonework speak to the skills of the area's craftsmen. One can see the influences of the Welsh and Cornish immigrants and their descendents who shaped this place, and they are still active. Shake Rag Alley is an amazing peek at earlier life. Federal Springs still bubbles from the ground here as it has for centuries, providing drinking water for earliest settlers in the 1820's. Shake Rag Alley has real charm and serves today for arts education workshops.

Of course, the riding is great. This is part of the Driftless area, but it's more open with broader vistas than typically found north of the Wisconsin River in Crawford and Vernon Counties. The pasture land is intensely green with vast cattle farms, significant dairy herds and some fine looking horses. Always a sign that someone has cash in order to keep horses. (Although there are Amish farmers in the area who use them too.) There's also some beautifully integrated-into-the landscape homes that seem to have colorful and well kept flower gardens. All in all, very pleasing textures and colors unfold as you ride.

(Continued on next page)

It's a lovely trip, if you stay off HWY 151 and take county roads to about Hollandale then pick up HWY 39 west into Mineral Point. There are lots of routes to be devised, but it's an easy day. Better still, get a room for the night, check out some art, history, and architecture, then have a delicious wood oven pizza with a decent red wine, followed by a stroll back to your motel or B+B. Mineral Point has a good web site with lots of useful information to help you plan.

We'll definitely go back, especially since we're retired and can travel mid week on short notice when the weather's amenable.

So, GO! Ride, shop, eat, mingle, learn more about Wisconsin—all the things that make motorcycling so great in our area.

Joann Hayes, Madison Club member



## **Soldier's Grove Extras**

**By Peter (& Dawn) Feneht**

When we heard about their Art Fair and the extra club trip that fit very nicely with what we had already planned. We had a personal day to use and chose a night or two in the driftless area and settled on the weekend of the Vernon County Fair in Viroqua. We began our travels Thursday and came home Saturday after hooking up with some club members at the art fair. Besides nice artwork they had fun, nice music going on almost continuously. It turns out we never went to the Vernon County fair; it was always secondary to the great riding in the area. For some you long time riders who may already be very familiar with hilly SW Wis., this may be old hat to you, but maybe you can catch a few ideas of things we enjoyed or simply feel our enthusiasm about this kind of touring.

A little bit of our riding history before describing this trip. For many years our riding was limited to spontaneous, often fairly short afternoon rides due to some mixture of being too busy, lack of planning and just not knowing any better. That's why we waited so many years to join the club; since we only fitfully found time to ride, I thought we'd never have time for club activities. We were both on a 1986 BMW r65 which was barely adequate realizing the limitations we never considered any overnight tours with this bike since I was vaguely waiting to have all that extra money for one of the biggest cruiser bikes. Then when all that extra money was not falling from the sky we decided to make do with what we had. We got some ideas and encouragement after a chance conversation with someone in a parking lot that was admiring our bike.

Also, on a car vacation up north we happened to see a bunch of riders in the parking lot of a scenic waterfall site. Dave Maly and others were very welcoming and that clinched it, our club membership would happen, we were getting signals! So we ordered side cases for the old bike and used them a little for one season. Then another chance event was at a club breakfast, news of someone selling a bike. While test driving the R1100RT we now own, my eyes opened wide to the enhanced riding I didn't know I was missing! I guess I didn't do any cycle shopping and test driving because of reluctance to spend the money and feeling frustrated with the smaller bike after trying the newer, more powerful ones. Without reading any motorcycle magazines or being in a club to learn stuff from others, there are literally decades of information I have been missing.

(Continued on next

The other good fortune is that we chanced upon the purchase from a club member before even knowing I'd be more happy with an RT rather than bigger cruiser. Sure we test drove a big new K1200LT but we would not spend more on a motorcycle than we would on a car. So what we feel lucky about is ending up with what suits us the best, a BMW that has plenty of cruising comfort with great handling for a machine that is pretty manageable for parking, setting on the center stand etc. And without camping we have enough room in the RT's lockable, removable cases for a couple of nights.

On to this trip...Since we don't camp we stayed in the Hickory Hills Motel just south of Viroqua, good prices (\$58 for a queen bed), not super-modern like an expensive Holiday Inn type of place, but it was very neat and clean and the owner-operators are very nice people. From a Vernon County tourism book I noticed a nice map that I pulled out on used to put for reference on the tank bag. Besides showing the right number of roads to make route planning more visible, they showed a couple of rustic roads but much more that were indicated as 'scenic township roads' which are just the type enjoy. Some of our favorite riding includes the smallest roads that are paved, short of private driveways and the more winding and hilly, the better. I remember one fork of a road that was so unclear where it continued that I happened to chose the curve that literally was the access to a cornfield!

A few route highlights: Spring Coulee Rd., Harrison Valley Rd., a short jaunt along the Mississippi River's Hwy 35, Trout Creek Rd. (right near Soldier's Grove), Hwys 131 to 60 and 60 all the way back to Sauk and then the regular main route home to Madison. So far these have been the best we have experienced in terms of sharply winding roads in a narrow valley, then occasionally climbing to the top of ridge for a magnificent vista in all directions. The other part of this kind of touring we enjoy is the quirky little places we find to eat which usually offer great food at reasonable prices and down-to-earth, friendly people. The Driftless café in Viroqua fits that bill with great food, moderate prices and friendly servers. Sibby's Café in Viroqua was a great breakfast place which also offers organic ice cream. The owner, Sibby came up to our table, introduced herself and chatted about her plans to expand her business regionally and maybe even nationally. We also went through Romance, Wis., as Sam Hokin made widely known with his photo in 'ON' magazine earlier this season. Unfortunately we did not take any pictures on this trip; I guess we get caught up in all the other aspects of touring for us to not take the time and bother for photography. I'd like to get one of those suction-cup, windshield mountable cameras to make that easier.

A few riding tips we have learned the hard way is to take a stretch break about every hour. Also we now use a small pillow for Dawn's seat which, more so than for cushioning purposes, it raises her up enough to let her knees last longer on a ride. I'm guessing this may be part of the reason some of the bigger cruiser bikes have the passenger up higher, so we try to imitate that a little. A big help were the Alaskan Leather sheepskin pads by themselves and we add Dawn's pillow by putting it under the sheepskin. That's my report of this trip, some of our riding history and a few tips we have learned in our fairly new riding career at this new and enhanced level. We are open to hearing what others have learned, a great advantage of being in the club. Some said they wanted articles so there you have one!



# Annual Madison BMW Club Banquet



Annual Madison BMW Club Banquet and officer elections will be held on November 7 at the Nau-Ti-Gal restaurant, 5360 Westport Road, Madison. This event is for Club members and their invited guests only. Cocktails and socializing starts around 5PM with dinner served around 6PM.

We will choose our entries at our table with no pre-orders.

Here are the menu choices for this year.

Key West Chicken	\$14.99
Tenderloin Steak	\$17.99
Rosemary Tilapia	\$15.99
Portabella Ravioli	\$13.99 (vegetarian)
Stuffed Shrimp	\$16.99

The above entrees come with choice of soup or salad. There's an optional fish fry for \$10.99, however soup/salad is extra for \$3.99.



# Madison BMW Club

## Cherished-but-Totally-Insignificant

### Awards Form

Members!! Please fill out all the blanks below and send this form to Tom Van Horn at: 302 Glen Hwy., Madison, WI 53705 by October 31. Estimate your BMW miles ridden between January 1st and October 28, 2009. (to the nearest 100 miles) You may use this form for more than one rider but please separated with different ink colors or a slash (/) mark.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

For 2009, Your Total BMW miles ridden \_\_\_\_\_

Divide your Totals into:

Commuting Miles \_\_\_\_\_ Sport or Day ride miles: \_\_\_\_\_ Touring Miles \_\_\_\_\_

My Co-rider \_\_\_\_\_ as along for \_\_\_\_\_ miles.

My/our longest trip was \_\_\_\_\_ miles over \_\_\_\_\_ days.

Most miles in one day \_\_\_\_\_; two days \_\_\_\_\_

Number of nights in a tent: \_\_\_\_\_; in a motel \_\_\_\_\_

Number of states/provinces ridden in \_\_\_\_\_ miles in the rain \_\_\_\_\_

Number of rallies attended (not club rides) \_\_\_\_\_

How many GR3 rallies total \_\_\_\_\_

Sidecar miles \_\_\_\_\_

Trailer miles (motorcycle on trailer does not count) \_\_\_\_\_

Estimate your total overall mileage on every BMW you have had \_\_\_\_\_

How many years riding \_\_\_\_\_

Share any unusual or memorable incidents you have had this year. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

Who should this year's shafty character be? \_\_\_\_\_

Who should get special mention for service to the club and why? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Madison BMW Club Membership Form

First \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home # \_\_\_\_\_ Work # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a New Member    Y / N                      or are you a Current Member    Y / N

MOA # \_\_\_\_\_ BMWRA # \_\_\_\_\_

Bikes Owned \_\_\_\_\_

Interests, comments, etc... \_\_\_\_\_

Please send the *Mail Boxer* via e-mail    Y / N

A one year membership is \$20.00

