THE MAIL BOXER

MADISON BMW CLUB ~ MAY 2025

BMW MOA #7 BMW RA #5

GR/3. (Pic: Sue R.)

- ⇒ **NEXT MEETING: MAY 4th**
- ⇒ **RALLY NEWS (page 8)**
- ⇒ **SLIMEY CRUD RUN after meeting**

Calendar of Events

CLUB MEETING May 4th
Tullys II 8:45AM
Monona Dr.

SLIMEY CRUD CAFÉ RUN May 4th
Pine Bluff, WI 10AM

50th GREAT RIVER ROAD RALLY May 16-18
Soldiers Grove, WI
https://madisonbmwclub.org/gr3/

48th HIAWATHA RALLY May 30-Jun 1
Money Creek Camp, Houston, MN
https://www.bmwmocm.com/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=285381&module_id=290524

NO CLUB MEETING IN JUNE

BMWMOA NATIONAL RALLY June 19-21
Lebanon, TN
https://rally.bmwmoa.org/

MAY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

2024 Club Officers and Officials

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GREAT RIVER ROAD RALLY CHAIR
* Chris Brown christopherrb@sbcglobal.net

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

In March the BMWMOA Board of Directors held their open meeting in Essex Junction, Vermont as that is the site we have chosen for the 2026 BMW MOA National rally June 11th-13th.

Our open board meeting was well-attended and some traveled hours to get there. They were all very excited that the MOA National rally will be held there in 2026. The last time the rally was held there was 20 years ago and if you haven't been to the northeast part of our beautiful country then you are in for a treat.

There are a ton of restaurants and beautiful areas to ride. The fairgrounds offer lots of camping, RV space, food vendors, seminar space, music/beer tent space and indoor/outdoor vendor space.

We are excited to go back to Lebanon, TN this year, but we really can't wait for next year in Vermont! Plus Randy Boris announced the BMWRA National rally will be in Chippewa Falls, WI in 2026!!

The 2025 riding season is just starting and I'm already looking forward to the 2026 riding season.

-Chad

Pic: Chad G.

Top: 4/26 swap meet.

Bottom: 4/27 Wild Goose Run. (Pics: TVH)

Pine Bluff, May 4th!..

As the warmer months approach, motorcycle season kicks off, and many riders will be taking to the roads for exciting adventures. I wanted to share some tips for our pillion riders in the club. Whether you're a seasoned motorcycle passenger or it's your first time hopping on, preparing properly is essential for a safe and enjoyable experience.

Here's a guide to help you get ready for motorcycle season as a passenger:

1. **Safety Gear: The Foundation of Your Ride**

One of the most important aspects of being a motorcycle passenger is ensuring you have the right safety gear. It's not just about comfort; it's about protection too. Here's what you'll need:

- Helmet: Always wear a DOT-approved helmet. If you don't have your own, check with the rider to make sure theirs is safe and in good condition.
- Jacket: Leather or textile jackets designed for motorcycling offer crucial protection in case of an accident. Look for one that includes armor in key areas like the shoulders, elbows, and back.
- Gloves: A good pair of gloves will help protect your hands from abrasions and give you a better grip.
- Pants and Boots: Wearing sturdy pants (preferably made from denim or specialized riding gear) and closed-toe shoes or boots is essential. Avoid wearing shorts, skirts, or sandals.
- Reflective Gear: High-visibility clothing is a smart choice, especially if you'll be riding at night or in low-visibility conditions.

2. **Communicating with the Rider**

Effective communication is key to a smooth ride. You'll need to work in harmony with the person riding the motorcycle. Here are some tips:

- Hand Signals: Before your ride, review basic hand signals for turns, stops, and other maneuvers. This will help you communicate with each other without verbal communication.
- Body Position: Pay attention to the rider's movements and try to stay in sync. If the rider leans into a turn, you should lean with them. When stopping, keep your feet on the foot pegs until the bike comes to a full stop.
- Relax and Stay Balanced: Tension can throw off the balance of the bike, so relax your body and keep your weight centered. Hold onto the rider with both hands or use a passenger grab rail if available.

3. **Know the Route and Weather Conditions**

Before you head out, it's essential to understand the route you'll be taking, as well as any weather conditions that may affect your ride:

- Route Planning: Make sure you're aware of any potential hazards or challenging stretches on the route. Long trips may require breaks, so discuss this with the rider beforehand.
- Weather Forecast: Always check the weather before you ride. Dressing in layers can help you stay comfortable if temperatures fluctuate, and knowing when rain is expected can help you prepare with waterproof gear or plan to avoid it.

4. **Maintain Proper Riding Etiquette**

As a passenger, you are part of the motorcycle team, and your role is just as important as the rider's in ensuring a smooth and enjoyable ride. Here's how to maintain good riding etiquette:

- Be Mindful of Your Movements: Sudden movements can be dangerous. Always try to move with the bike, especially when leaning, braking, or accelerating.
- Don't Distract the Rider: Keep conversations brief, avoid sudden outbursts, and don't make any jerky movements that could disrupt the rider's focus.
- Stay Confident, Not Nervous: A calm and confident passenger helps maintain the rider's stability. If you're nervous or unsure, discuss this with the rider before the ride, and don't hesitate to ask for advice or practice in safe environments.

—Continued next page

5. **Understand the Passenger's Responsibilities**
As a passenger, you are part of the team that controls the bike. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Stay in Position: Once you're on the motorcycle, stay as still as possible. Don't shift around unless absolutely necessary, as it could affect the balance of the bike.
- Foot Pegs: Keep your feet on the foot pegs at all times unless you're dismounting or stopping.
- Assisting with Balance: When taking sharp turns, make sure to lean into the turn with the rider. The two of you should be a cohesive unit in maintaining balance, especially in more aggressive maneuvers.
- Safety at Stops: When the bike is stopped, don't move too much. Wait until the rider indicates it's safe to dismount.

6. **Preparing for Longer Rides**
Longer rides require a bit more preparation. If you're planning on spending hours on the road, consider the following:

- Stay Hydrated: Bring a water bottle or plan for breaks where you can hydrate.
- Take Breaks: If you're going on a long ride, it's important to take regular stops to stretch your legs, get fresh air, and rest.
- Snack Wisely: Don't overload on heavy or greasy foods before a ride, as it may make you uncomfortable or sluggish. Opt for light, easy-to-digest snacks if you need fuel during the ride.

7. **Mental Preparation**
Being mentally prepared is just as important as physical readiness. Make sure you feel calm and comfortable before taking a ride. If you're new to riding, start with short trips and work your way up. Over time, you'll get used to the feeling of being a passenger and develop a stronger sense of confidence.

8. Enjoy the Ride
Lastly, remember that motorcycle rides can be thrilling and incredibly scenic. Don't forget to enjoy the experience! Appreciate the fresh air, the open road, and the unique sense of freedom that comes with riding a motorcycle. Just keep your mind on safety, and you'll have a fantastic time.

—V.P. Rhonnie

Club tech-mavens and hangers-on descended on Bert's garage to give James B's R90 a Good Going-Over. Brows were furrowed, wrenches were twirled, and things went well. (Pic: Jim H.)

BMW bikes for sale:

*1999 R1100R with 21,000 miles.
*2017 R1200RS with 33,607 miles
Contact Mary Barwick at marybarwick264@gmail.com for details.

2007 R1200 RT. 51,000 miles.
Custom seat heated. Heated hand grips.
Cruise.control. Power adjustable windscreen.
asking $6,000.00.
Dick Olson—bmwrichard2000@yahoo.com

Subject: 2013 BMW R1200RT 90th anniversary edition $5000

BMW 1200 RT. Unfortunately, I must sell due to health reasons. The fluids were changed regularly. Paint matched top case with chrome rack. Recall work on fuel pump and all hand controls were done. Includes BMW Tank Bag, Odyssey battery, bag liners. All new brakes and brake fluid flush last year. Tires are about 50%. All synthetic fluids. Great runner. Needs nothing. A new one will set you back nearly $30,000. 54600 miles. This baby has a lot of miles left in it. Pick up in Waukesha. See pictures below

Mark Doggett phone: 414-313-9885

SECRETARY'S REPORT, April 6

9:01 Meeting started

Prez Chad mentioned that he will visit next year's MOA rally site in Burlington, Vermont. The rally will be held June 11 – 13, 2026.

VP Rhonnie – some discussion on whether or not Kavanaugh's has re-opened. Dawn reported that it is. Jim Kossow will get the new phone number (on the door) and pass it to Rhonnie. Chad and Rhonnie will be gone during the club picnic in August. Sam Garst will coordinate headcount for ordering chicken.

Treasurer Sue – Annual membership dues are due. The Dells Rally will be at a new location this year – Sky Hi Campground. It will still be the weekend after Labor Day. We discussed and voted to donate $400 to the MOA Rally Children's Charity this year (same as Redmond). There will again be sidecar rides given to the kids from the charity organization like there was last time we were in Lebanon. Jim L. encouraged all members with sidecars to take part. Both checkbooks have healthy balances.

Newsletter Editor – Tom confirmed that all received the last newsletter. He also suggested that anyone wanting to lead a group ride should let him know so it could be put it the newsletter.

Activities – Bert reminded about the Leaf River Swap Meet on April 26th. It's a 1 day event but some folks will be camping the night before. Any items you want sold, take to Bert. Norm B. will have some of Jeff Dean's items there. Some of the MOA specific stuff will go to the MOA Foundation. Jim D. mentioned that if attendance is low, this may be the last meet.

Wild Goose Run – Tom will lead a ride on April 27th to the restaurant in Beaver Dam. Meet at the Petro on Commercial Ave. (near Thompson Dr.) at 10 AM. $19 prepaid, $22 at the door.

Webmaster – Jim H. said that the GR3 rally web stuff has been completed.

GR3 Rally – Chris said that the rally activities are on track. There are 53 pre-registered. He suggested that members could donate door prizes to add to the items. We still need cooks for Friday night's meal. The volunteer list is filling up. Chris plans on riding the trail ride route before the rally. We'll be using wrist bands for door prizes and the meals. Jim Bronson's motorcycle will be sold at the rally. Jim K. suggested that we purchase an enclosed trailer to haul and store rally stuff. It can be stored at his cabin up by Warren. He can get a 6x12 for $4000 which doesn't require a license. We're spending $1000 a year on the storage unit for the rally stuff now so it would pay for itself in 4 years. The plan is to use the proceeds from Jim B.'s bike for the trailer. We voted to have the club pay the difference if we don't make $4000 on the bike.

RA – Randy mentioned that the RA Rally will be in Athens, Ohio Labor Day weekend. In 2026 it will be in Chippewa Falls. Randy and Bob Alexander will be rally chairs next year.

Liz mentioned the Snow River Resort motorcycle gathering coordinated by the Chicago BMW club on July 17 – 20. It's $99 per room (https://www.snowriver.com/things-to-do/upcoming-events/chicago-region-bmw-club). The resort has been recently remodeled. On Memorial Day Sunday there will be the Bonzai Rally in LaCrosse (https://www.glmc.org/bonzai.php) including a scavenger hunt. The locations will be provided so you can plan a route ahead of time. Sunday night dinner and Monday breakfast are included.
Some discussion on the rally fee and starting the rally work earlier but there is an issue that the rally chair is not elected/ appointed until the November banquet.

Corrine is still in remission. Judy mentioned that she found out recently that your skin changes as you age and that a bruise could actually kill skin tissue and cause other problems.

Jim K. mentioned that there's a lunch with Jim B. organized for tomorrow at Headquarters in Oregon at 12:30.

Joann said that Alan is selling his riding gear and will take any offer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:47.

—Submitted by Jim Low (filling in for Linda).

50TH GREAT RIVER ROAD RALLY UPDATE (submitted by Rally Chair Chris Brown)

Patience, they say, is a virtue.
Which is fortunate, because everyone involved in this year's GR3 planning deserves sainthood by now.

We're less than three weeks out from the 50th Anniversary of the Great River Road Rally (GR3), and we're still (mostly) upright and moving in a forward-ish direction! This would not have been possible without the remarkable patience, talent, and downright stubbornness of our rally committee. A standing ovation—and maybe a strong drink—is due for Tom, Dawn, Jim K, Susan, and Jim H. Frankly, each one of them deserves their own full-page tribute in this newsletter... but we decided to spare you the 80-page special edition (you're welcome).

A heartfelt thanks also goes out to our officers and board members, who somehow managed to steer us toward the finish line without needing to file an insurance claim. Your steady hands and good humor have kept this circus rolling, and we are truly grateful.

Special recognition must also go to JT, Liz, and Doug for their incredible rally prizes. JT crafted beautiful award plaques, while Liz and Doug turned out some seriously cool metal GR3 motorcycle pucks—works of art that might just cause a few friendly rivalries over who gets to take one home. Their selfless generosity and creativity added a whole new layer of magic to this year's celebration.

If we forgot to mention anyone, please know it's not because you weren't appreciated—it's because some of us have been running on caffeine fumes and last-minute checklists for about two months straight.

The Soldiers Grove community is just as excited as we are to help celebrate this historic event. They've been incredibly welcoming and supportive, and we can't wait to share a weekend of good rides, good food, and great memories with them.

Here's hoping for sunny skies, safe travels, and an overabundance of volunteers.

See you all soon! Let's make the 50th one to remember—preferably for all the right reasons.

See you soon,
The GR3 Rally Committee

Join us for the 50th Anniversary of the Great River Road Rally (aka GR3) in Soldiers Grove Wisconsin on May 16-18, 2025. The Madison BMW club is putting on an extra special rally to celebrate this milestone!

Located in the driftless area of SW Wisconsin, the scenic Mississippi River Road is just a short ride away. With no glaciers to flatten the terrain, we have the best riding roads in Wisconsin. Just pick a direction! The same fun continues in this part of Minnesota and Iowa, just across the river.

You'll enjoy two nights of camping, free firewood, rally pins, meals, door prizes, led rides, and more.

For additional details, free gps routes, and options to register online or via paper (mail), visit our website via the link below.

Feel free to use the contact info if you still have questions. Hope to see you there!

https://madisonbmwclub.org/gr3/

Great River Road Rally

Madison BMW Club

MADISON BMW CLUB, LTD
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
DUES: $30 full year. Spouse: $5

Print this form out, fill it out, & mail it with your dues to:

Madison BMW Club, LTD
PO Box 5601
Madison, WI 53705

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL:_____

OPTIONAL INFORMATION

BMW MOA # _____

BMW RA # _____

AMA # _____

MOTORCYCLES YOU OWN:

YEAR_____MAKE/MODEL _____

YEAR_____MAKE/MODEL _____

YEAR_____MAKE/MODEL _____

OTHER INTERESTS OR COMMENTS _____

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