THE MAIL BOXER

MADISON BMW CLUB ~ JUNE 2025

BMW MOA #7 BMW RA #5

A fabulous meal served at GR/3 by the local Lions.
(pic: TVH)

⇒ **<u>NO</u> MEETINGS IN JUNE or JULY**

⇒ **CLUB PICNIC AUGUST 3rd**

Calendar of Events

JUNE 2025

NO CLUB MEETING IN JUNE

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

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					

JULY 2025

NO CLUB MEETING IN JULY

EDITORS CLUB RIDE Date/time TBA
A back road meander to lunch somewhere ...

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		

2025 Club Officers and Officials

President
* Chad Garcia tazmanianbiker69@gmail.com

Vice President
* Rhonnie Garcia rhonnielyn@gmail.com

Secretary
* Linda Low lrlow2@gmail.com

Treasurer
* Sue Rihn sue@beemerhill.com

Membership Director
* Jim Low lowjim09@gmail.com

Editor
* Tom Van Horn tvh@beemerhill.com

Web Master
* Jim Harms webmaster@madisonbmwclub.org

Activities Director
* Bert Hefty bhefty1954@gmail.com

Great River Road Rally Chair
* Chris Brown christopherrb@sbcglobal.net

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am very happy with the weather we have had lately and to finally be putting some miles on the bike.

This past weekend I rode to the Northernmost Point of the contiguous USA located in Angle Inlet, MN. My riding partner and I have been talking about it for a few years, but never found the time until now.

We took off on Thursday with a stop at Aerostich in Duluth, MN and then rode to Black Duck, MN for a total of 560 miles. On Friday we rode about 50 miles into Canada to get to Angle Inlet, MN then another 10 miles or so to the Buoy. This ride was about 50 miles of unpaved roads, so we were happy to be on GSA's.

Next we headed to Hayward, WI for the night for a total of another 560 miles. Saturday we rode the remaining 400 miles back home.

Our weather varied from between 39 degrees to 83 degrees with about 5 minutes of light rain. We did the entire ride off interstate, so we could take in all the awesome scenery and avoid traffic. If you are looking for a nice ride I highly suggest it. Now it's time to pack up for the GR3!!

-Chad

50th GR/3. pics: TVH

The weather has finally cooperated to kick off the riding season. Looking ahead, we are following the meeting schedule from last year so there will be no meetings in June, July and September.

Enjoy the weather and get out on the road. I hope to see some of you in Tennessee at the Rally. If you haven't already signed up to volunteer, we still have a few openings at the RV check in.

Our August club meeting/picnic will take place at Brigham Park Shelter 1 on Sunday, August 3 at 12pm. Chad & I will on vacation the latter part of July into August, so Sam Garst will be handling the RSVPs for the picnic.

Please email Sam: guanocave@gmail.com with your names and the number of people attending the picnic by July 20, so the correct amount of chicken can be ordered. Remember to bring your own beverage and a dish to share.

Enjoy your Summer everyone!

Rhonnie Garcia
Vice President

Chair Chris B. pontificating.
(Pic: Jim H.)

Not a warm Saturday night. (Pic: TVH)

SECRETARY'S REPORT, May 4th

May meeting called to order at 9:02..

Treasurer Sue: Treasury is full. On the 5th of the month MOA sends money to us (renewals and rally fees paid via the Club website).

Newsletter Tom: Need information, pictures for newsletter.

Webmaster Jim: Rally registration closed 5/1. Payments are still coming in.

GR3: 120 preregistrations received. The Drifters Adventure Ride will be led by Brian Halverson. Lunch will be in Prairie du Chien at Petes. Field games will be Saturday 9-9:30.

RA Randy: Plans for Labor Day rally in (Athens) Ohio are moving along. There will be a movie night, bike show and Paul and Voni Glaves will be doing a presentation. 2026 RA rally will be in Chippawa Falls.

Meeting adjourned 9:16. Next meeting will be the annual club picnic on August 3.

–Submitted by Linda Low

Pic: Jim H.

50th GR/3 RALLY REPORT (by Chris Brown, Rally Chair)

Well, we did it. The 50th Annual Great River Road Rally has come and gone, and despite the weather's best efforts to soak our spirits, 268 riders showed up—many of them first-timers. That's not just impressive—it's a testament to the quiet power of stubborn optimism and some really well-placed flyers.

This year, the rally took a slightly different approach. We tried something novel: a committee. I know—radical. But working with Dawn, Jim K, Susan, Tom L, and our webmaster extraordinaire Jim H turned out to be one of the best parts of the experience. They didn't just lighten the load; they expanded the reach. Thanks to their efforts—especially their boots-on-the-ground flyer blitz throughout southern Wisconsin—GR3's attendance held strong, even with clouds looming large. The rally's scope and success would simply not have happened without them.

Personally, I learned more about my fellow club members—how they think, how they navigate problems, how they pour themselves into this quirky, beloved event—than I ever could have otherwise. If you're considering taking on the Rally Chair role next year, I strongly encourage keeping the committee format. The work becomes more collaborative, the experience more meaningful, and, let's face it, it's a lot harder to forget something when five people are reminding you.

We also made a commitment this year: we said yes to the American Legion handling our food. Treasurer Sue will crunch the numbers and let us know whether we came out ahead or took a small hit. But even if we end up a few dollars short, what we gained was a reestablished relationship with a community that welcomed us warmly. The American Legion, the Lion's Club, and the Volunteer Fire Department were all engaged this year—and grateful. They want us back. And they want to build on what we started. That's not something you can measure on a spreadsheet.

Speaking of building: we tried a couple small things. The hospitality tent (a.k.a. the White Tent) turned out to be a fantastic gathering spot, rain or shine. I'll eat a slice of humble pie and hand full credit to Tom L, who championed the idea from the get-go. It was easy to set up, heavily used, and served as a much-needed shelter for music, conversation, and dry socks.

We also planned some field games—on motorcycles, no less. The kind of games that are as much fun to watch as they are to ride, full of skill, swagger, and just enough ridiculousness to make them crowd-pleasers. Sadly, Mother Nature had other plans, and the skies opened up before we could start the games. Still, several first-timers were genuinely excited to give them a go—and many walked away saying they'd made new friends anyway. Even if we couldn't show off our slow race prowess, we still managed to toss around stories, firewood, and a few good-natured jabs under the shelter of the White Tent.

One sentiment came through loud and clear this year: Keep it simple. We heard it in passing conversations, over coffee, and around campfires. Firewood, a meal provided by the club, the chance to reconnect—that's the GR3 people remember and the one they still want. And we listened.

But we also did our homework. "Keeping it simple" used to look a bit different, and we took cues from that past. Led rides. A Lions Club dinner. Camaraderie that wasn't just spontaneous—it was part of the design. We set out to bring some of that back, and from what we saw and heard, it worked. (Cont'd next page)

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So where do we go from here? Soldiers Grove is already on the books for 2026. The essentials are timeless—campfires, cookouts, and old friends catching up. But fresh faces brought fresh energy this year, and that matters too. Maybe the answer isn't choosing between tradition and change. Maybe it's honoring both. I look forward to seeing where the next Rally Chair—and the club—steer us next.

Special thanks go to Steve Eliasen of GryphonMoto for his continued support and his generous door prize contribution. Your partnership over the years has never gone unnoticed, and we're grateful for the relationship.

Big thanks as well to all the volunteers who pitched in. Whether you signed up in advance or walked up mid-rally asking, "What can I do?"—we appreciate you. That said, a gentle plug: signing up early helps us tremendously. Once the gears are turning, having a plan makes everything run smoother. So if you've got the time, we've got a spot with your name on it.

Kudos to JT and Doug J. for the incredible plaques and pucks they crafted—pieces of true rally art. Their skills run deep, and they brought something truly special to this year's event. The handcrafted touch added more than just decoration; it added heart.

And a final, personal note of thanks to my predecessor, Sam G. We didn't always see the rally the same way, but Sam was nothing but supportive—never a roadblock, always a class act. I appreciated that more than I ever said out loud.

To all of you who pitched in, who rode in the rain, who welcomed newcomers, who helped make this year's GR3 happen: Thank you. It mattered.

– **CRB**

If you are considering any pin-striping, Russ Maynes is a master.

Russ's new number is:

608-449-0008

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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