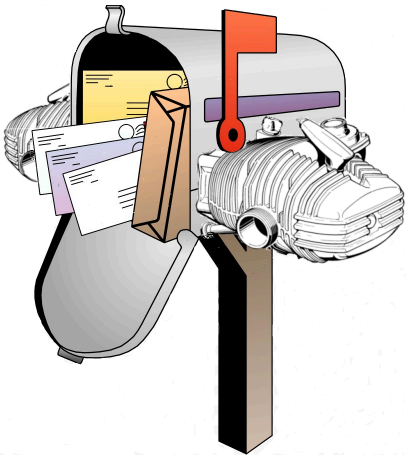


THE MAIL BOXER

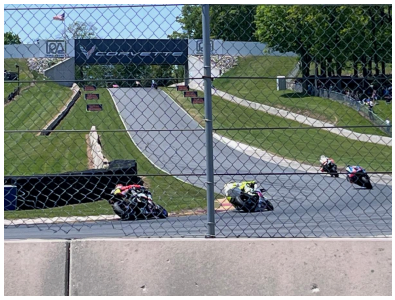
MADISON BMW CLUB ~ February 2026
BMW MOA #7 BMW RA #5

Established 1968

Click! Renew Dues or Join

Dreaming of Spring Destinations? Here's a Few.

The **St. Charles Motorcycle Museum** in St. Charles, IL has an amazing collection of vintage BMW motorcycles. Opened in 2025, the museum is the effort of Andy Koczwara who began restoring BMWs as a teenager in Poland. His collection is huge. **A 2-hour ride from our Monona meeting venue,** the museum could be an interesting solo or group ride destination in Spring.



This is what Turn 5 at **Road America looks like**, captured by our very own Jim Harms last year. If you're into fast motorcycles, you might check out the MotorAmerica Superbikes event at the end of May. **Getting there is a 200 mile round trip** from our meeting venue. More of Jim's visit below...

Looking to develop off road motorcycle skills? **Rocky Glen OHV Park** in Rockford, IL might be closest. Newsletter editor Liz completed an off road class with **Ride On Academy** there in prep of her riding in Tanzania this February. Rocky Glen is 1 to 1.5 hours from Tully's II where we meet.

President's Letter

Hello,

A little bit of business to start off with. Linda Low has resigned as Club Secretary. Thank you Linda for your service to the Club. A job well done. I need someone to step up to fill this vital position. If you are interested, and if you are not already an officer, please reach out to me. My email is **guanocave@gmail.com**.

The owner of the Esquire Club has passed away, which may force our move to another venue for the Annual Club Banquet. If you have any suggestions, please reach out to V.P. Tom Lubben.

I am trying to sell my R12GS. I've had two offers. One for a straight up trade for a rusty scooter and a no name Chinese bike; another for "some guns". I guess I will try again later in the year.

I do hope that every one has been keeping warm during this cold snap. I have taken to wearing my Gerbing heated vest. I just hate carrying that battery all day long.

The Wild Goose Run dates have been announced and I immediately lost them. Luckily, we've shared the ad in this newsletter a bit further below! We will talk more on that at the February meeting. I hope to see you there.

SamG

Inside This Newsletter!

- News from our Vice President
- Mark your Calendars - upcoming events!
- GR3 Registration is **LIVE**! Get registered today!
- **GR3 FLYER - Print it off and Drop It at Your Favorite Local Places**

Upcoming Events

- **Sun. Feb. 1, 8:30 a.m. - Club Monthly Meet-Up and Breakfast Eat-Up!** Tully's II, **6401 Monona Dr, Monona, WI.** Come at 8:30 a.m. to order breakfast. Club meeting starts 9:00 a.m.
- **Sun. March 1, 8:30 a.m. - Club Monthly Meet-Up and Breakfast Eat-Up!** Tully's II, **6401 Monona Dr, Monona, WI.** Come at 8:30 a.m. to order breakfast. Club meeting starts 9:00 a.m.
- **Sun. April 19, Noon - 41st Annual Wild Goose Run,** Bayside Supper Club, Beaver Dam, WI (Port Washington BMW Club - see further down for details)
- **Sat. April 25, 40th Flea Market/Moto Expo**, Leaf River, IL (Blackawk BMW Club - see further down for details)
- **May 15-17** - **Madison BMW Club's 51st GR3 Rally,** Soldiers Grove WI
- **June 11-13** - BMWMOA 2026 Rally, Vermont
- **June 18-21** - BMWRA 2026 Rally, Chippewa Falls, WI

Tully's II - Monona = see you there

Quick Up-Dates from Club Officers

Looking forward to 2026 Riding Events and GR3

From Tom Lubben - Club Vice President & Rally Chair

Hi everyone,

As I write this, I know as soon as I finish, I have to go outside and clear snow, again. The weather forecast says I'll be doing so tomorrow morning as well. Oh well. All my bikes have WI Collector tags, so I can't ride legally in January anyway.

Nonetheless, there are some motorcycle related things to do, like updating your calendars with motorcycle events coming in the spring. Whether your calendar resides on your phone, computer, wall or desk, you might as well do them all. The first riding event is Wild Goose Run,

hosted by the Port Washington Club in Beaver Dam in April, and the Blackhawk Club's swap meet in Leaf River. Both are detailed in the newsletter.

There is also a smaller event I'm going to in the Chicago area later this month, where we hope to say good things about the GR3 and get some more attendees. I'll have details at the meeting.

With regards to activities, we'd like to do more led rides this year.

How long they should be and the time of day are questions on which we've heard different things. I think we are looking at some shorter ones of 100 miles, starting about 9AM or maybe earlier, and back by noon, as well as some longer destination rides that would take all day. These are also a good opportunity to invite others, who might be prospective club members. Bring your ideas to the meeting.

GR3 planning going well!

The GR3 planning committee is working hard and our efforts are going well. The new logo is out! It will be on the quarter page ads in the MOA News and other motorcycle news venues, and of course on the flyer. We are looking at t-shirt options (more on that at our meeting at Tully's), and Registration is now open thanks to the work of Jim Harms, our website guru. Check it out! **https://madisonbmwclub.org/gr3/**

Other news this month...

With the passing of the owner of The Esquire Club, we may have a pressing need to find an alternative place for our November get-together. If any members have ideas as to where we might go, bring them to the meeting. Our requirements include a separate room to do the meeting, of the right size, so that we aren't paying a large fee for a wedding-venue type place. I think we paid nothing extra for the room at the Esquire. The Maple Tree in McFarland has been mentioned, but I haven't yet looked into it.

And finally, if you haven't done so already, bring your renewals to the meeting.
Tom

Road America Superbike Races 2025

I finally made it to Road America to watch the Superbike Races outside of Elkhart Lake, WI and was not disappointed! It's an awesome 4+ mile 14 turn track.
Many races that day, including baggers and different levels of Superbikes. There were plenty of great observation areas and vendors to visit. It was a bit of organized chaos with motorcycles, mini-bikes, bicycles, golf carts and pedestrians all sharing the same roads, but a lot of fun.
Not surprisingly, I ran into Bert. He's everywhere!

Jim Harms

New Club Secretary Sought... Can it be you?

After dedicated service as Madison BMW Club's secretary, Linda Low recently made the decision to step down from the position. We'll miss her great service. We're asking for another club member to step up and take on that role.
Contact President Sam Garst (guanocave@gmail.com) if you are willing to do so.
Primary responsibilities revolve around attending the meetings and recording the minutes. Estimated time commitment is around 2-3 hours a month (1ish at the meeting, 1ish to type up the minutes). Be part of this great organization!

Meeting Minutes - January 2026

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Tom Lubben.

Club board members present: Tom Lubben, Vice President; Susan North, Treasurer; Jim Kossow, Member-at-Large. Club official present: Liz Jacobs, Newsletter Editor; Jim Harms, Webmaster; Bert Hefty, Activities Director; Tom Lubben Rally Chair; Jim Low, Membership Director. A quorum of 20 active members were present at the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Susan North gave the Treasurer's Report, discussing the Club's 3 accounts, the balances, the charge for the trailer having been taken from the GR3 account, and the changing of signatory responsibilities from former Treasurer Sue Rihn to current Treasurer Susan North. Susan inquired as to why there is a separate rally account and Sue Rihn advised that the accounts were separated in the past due to bookkeeping issues and stated the GR3 account does not need to continue be separate from the main account.

Rally Fee Discussion

Tom gave a detailed overview of the GR3 expenses, break even points, review of comparable rally fees and amenities. Tom read a correspondence from our club President Sam Garst, stating he was in favor of an increase in the rally fee to $50 and also behind moving money from the general fund to the GR3 fund to cover the cost of trailer, provided the money would be paid back to the general fund from the sale of the donated R90/6 and from excess GR3 funds as they become available over an unspecified period of time.

Motions

Tom made a motion to transfer funds from the general fund to the GR3 fund to cover the cost of the trailer and provide startup money for the rally account. The motion was seconded and passed.

Tom made a motion to set the rally registration fee at $50, with the committee deciding on an early registration incentive. The motion was seconded and passed.

New Business

- Progress was being made on a new rally logo.
- Preparations were underway to submit rally information for the March/April BMW MOA Owners News.
- The GR3 committee was holding regular meetings and working through planning checklists.
- Bert announced that the Mama Tried Motorcycle Show is coming up in February.
- Bert stated an interest in organizing a club activity involving Rustic Roads.
- Liz shared comments related to a Madison club promotional flyer and ride planning ideas.
- Joanne Hayes thanked the club for the flowers sent in sympathy following the passing of Alan Penn.
- Corrine Lutz shared that his cancer doctor says he is doing great.
- Randy Boris announced that the RA Rally takes place June 21 and online registration would open soon.
- Tom announced that Brigham Shelter has been reserved for the August picnic and that the club is looking at alternative locations for the end-of-year banquet.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Submitted by Susan North

Membership Form - If you prefer to write a check for your membership, print this newsletter page and use this form:

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DUES: $30 full year. Spouse: $5

Complete the form, make your check payable to Madison BMW Motorcycle. Mail to:
P.O. Box 5601 Madison, WI 53705-5601.

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Spouse information, if applicable:
Name: Email: Phone number:

Optional Information: BMW MOA#: BMW RA#: AMA #:

Motorcycles you own - List Year/Make/Model
1)
2)
3)

Other Interests:

Madison BMW Club Presents:

The 51st Annual Great River Road Rally

- 2 nights camping
- Free firewood
- Meals Friday and Saturday night!

Spaces for tents, cars, or campers. BRING THE FAMILY!

May 15-17, 2026
Soldiers Grove, WI

Guided rides to Pete's Hamburgers Muscoda Mushroom Festival and other places!

In the middle of the Driftless Area, The BEST riding in the Midwest (and other places too) ☺

ALL BRANDS WELCOME!
Including scooters!
We want to see all of you!

$50 fee per person (on-site cash or check only)
(children under 12 free)
Incentive for pre-registration (see website).
Rally fee includes:

- 2 nights camping
- Firewood
- Evening meal Friday and Saturday.
- Roofed shelter with tables
- Led rides, plus pdf and gpx files

To get to Soldiers Grove Beauford T. Anderson Park - 101 Church St, Soldiers Grove, WI 54655

The easy boring way: Take US14 to US61 and head 5 miles south.
For non-boring ways, check our website for pdf or gpx files from Madison, the Twin Cities, or other points.

Social tent with Bring one/Take one Cooler
Mp3 Bluetooth player available
Vendors on site
Coffee/Tea/Lemonade
Quiet areas
Prizes: long distance, oldest, youngest bike, rider etc.
Bling bag
Door prizes
Field games

For up-to-date information:
https://madisonbmwclub.org/gr3/

Click! RENEW YOUR DUES OR JOIN TODAY

Submit Your Story, Product Review or Ride Photos for our March Newsletter by Feb. 23.

Just email Liz at **beekeeper60021@gmail.com** with your photo(s) and text.

BMW Motorcycle Club
of Madison, Wisconsin

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