



Die Zeitung

Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle Club
of Hampton Roads, VA

<http://www.bmwchr.org>

June, 2007

President's Corner

By Gerry Schulte

Well, the winds of early May finally quieted down (the ride home from the last meeting was downright exciting!) and the month turned out to be a wonderful time for riding. The cold blasts of winter became a distant (?) memory, and the heat of summer has not hit us yet. I hope everyone has been taking advantage and riding as much as possible.

I'm starting to feel guilty, this is the second month in a row that I didn't go on the 3rd Saturday ride, but I couldn't be gone two days. I'm way behind on parks visited (0). I promise to do my best to make the next one. Many thanks to Brian Farrar for planning and leading a great ride to one of the premier areas in the country for our favorite activity. Personally, I have been doing local rides whenever possible, and doing my usual spring ritual of acquiring "stuff" for this year's long ride, to the MOA National and home to Nebraska.

We have several big events coming up, the RA National next week, and the MOA National in mid-July. For anyone planning to go to Ashville, please make it known at the June meeting, so we can at least get a head count. This will be my first RA rally, and it looks to be a good one, with the Carolina mountain roads and the Biltmore Estate for a backdrop.

I've heard quite a few people making plans for the MOA National in Wisconsin, and even beyond to Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. As the time nears, we should coordinate there as well, and maybe get together once while we're there. I can't believe I only saw 6 people out of the 13 who went to Vermont last year.

A few other tidbits. For those not following Jeff Munn's trip, in his last blog from May 17th, he was in Baku, Azerbaijan and having a great time, with new wonders every day. He'll have plenty of stories to tell this fall.

As for Nate, he's had a bump in the road, literally. While riding another racer's bike at Barber Speedway in Alabama, the rear suspension came apart and put him on the ground hard. He was unconscious for a half hour, and injured his wrist and knee. Fortunately, he's healing fast and plans to be back racing by VIR in June. Iron man.

Ride safe, and see you Sunday,

Gerry

Editor's Ramblings

By Kyle Arnett

Wow! Time is moving faster than ever... I have been more behind with this month than I like... If I am lucky you have this by Friday!

Rally season is in full swing, I have already taken two trips for the year, one rally, and am planning on hitting the RA rally next week... no rest here! As we are on the rally subject, do we have anyone putting anything together for the newsletter prior to the MOA? If I get a prep article, or a route article with suggested stops, sights etc... on the way, I will promise that you will have the newsletter not less than a week prior to the end of the month; want your newsletter early, work with me! How's that for prodding.

I ask that everyone take a close look at their safety gear regularly. Last August, I was stopped in a convenience store wearing all my gear, one of the ladies behind the counter asked, "do you wear all that for every ride?" I responded, "no, I only wear it for one ride, and if I knew when that ride was coming, I would only wear it then". My goal here is to reinforce that we need to ensure we are ready for "the ride" at any time. Our safety gear needs periodic replacement or maintenance even though it is the one thing we all have and hope is a waste of money. Now, I will leave my soapbox and wish you safe passage!

I have been coming into this Editor position and would like to entertain a couple more sections, a humor section, a classified section, and a technical section. I would like to challenge anyone with information for any or all of the three to send it to me, I'll try most anything once. I want to ensure the Newsletter does not get stale and predictable. I want someone other than Leo wondering where it is... this would mean that you enjoy it and find it useful and these things add to a publication which we can use as well as new owners can use. A technical section may seem remedial but some of us like to work on our bikes, yet don't have the vital tid-bits to actually do it.

Thanks for all the contributions I have been getting! Keep the ride reports and articles coming and Ill put them in!

Safety always!

Nate Kern Update



Brian Parriott and Nate Kern took the #46 R1200S to the center of the podium at the third race in the 2007 series. After a late-night transmission swap following Friday's practice, the bike performed well and with the exception of one penalty stop the crew conducted an uneventful race. Out on the track, the race was a lot more exciting as the San Jose team was never far ahead of the #6 Aprilia who finished less than half a minute behind.

Jeff Munn

For those of you who have not been able to keep up with Jeff's progress on his around the world trip, he is currently well on his way, his latest....

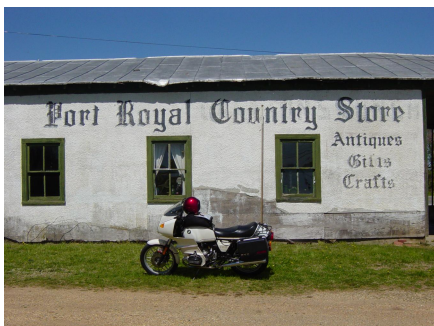


Road Trip

by Gary Shanafelt

Occasionally all the moons align to set the conditions and opportunity for the perfect ride!

The weekend of the 21-22 Apr was my daughter's birthday so my wife and I planned to go up to Manassas and celebrate with her. Since my wife wanted to stay an extra day I saw a great opportunity to ride the RS. Things were working out perfectly and I even got to where I did not want to even think about the ride incase I *jinxed* it. My plan was to leave early, meet up with Greg Cutter and the gang at Waffle World, then ride up to the Northern Neck with them on our Third Saturday Ride. The bike was gassed and loaded, I was putting on my gear and my wife said, "Don't forget..." (When she starts a sentence like that, you know the rest of it is going to not be something you want to hear) "...you have to run the dogs by the kennel and they don't open until nine O'clock!" Oh. So much for the Third Saturday Ride.



Regardless, I got the dogs delivered, got back on the bike, and headed off toward Hwy-17. When the wind picked

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Like Father Like Son

By Pete Hahn

A quick bit of history first. My 18 year old son, Tim, passed the MSF BRC last March. Shortly afterward he found a used Suzuki GS500F to buy as his first bike. Since then, we've taken a number of local rides, the longest being a close to hundred mile loop down through Knott's Island.

Traditionally, our family spends the Memorial Day holiday with my in-laws in Gloucester. A week before, Tim said "let's ride the bikes to Mima and Poppi's". I said "as long as we're



riding, let me tell you about JR's State Park Challenge".

We rode to Gloucester Saturday morning. My wife and daughter followed in the car. Sunday we left for Belle Isle State Park a little after 9. My in-laws used to live near Kilmarnock so Tim has been over the Rappahannock River bridge many times, but he was worried this time. Low guard rails and who knows how windy its going to be? It was an uneventful crossing. There was an Antiques Show at the Park so we got the pictures for the Challenge and then took off for Westmoreland State Park. Another hour passed on route 3 and we were at the entrance. It was now 11:15 and for some reason I had told my wife that we'd be home by 12 at the latest. So we got the Challenge pics

Featured Website: http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/index.shtml

With the current "State Parks Challenge", you may want to check out the State Parks web site. Complete with information about all the parks and the areas to visit.

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up and I lowered my visor I remembered reading somewhere that it was a good idea to clean the visor between riding seasons. If you were outside at all that weekend, you know the weather was absolutely prima for riding. The dogwoods were in bloom, trees were budding out, the bike was running great. *It just don't get no better!* Just short of Saluda I looked up and saw three Turkey Buzzards dinning on a road kill. Two of them flew away but the third decided to take the road kill with him, slowing his rate of climb and acceleration considerably. My only thought was, "Oh no! The highlight of this perfect ride is going to be being slapped in the face with a dead opossum's butt." As I ducked behind what I now thought might be the smallest windscreen ever put on a motorcycle, the Turkey Buzzard abandoned his "take away" and accelerated out of harm's way. The opossum fell uncomfortably close but harmlessly back to the road. I rode on uneventfully to Fredericksburg and made the mandatory stop at Morton's before going on to Manassas.

For her birthday my daughter had chosen the most elegant restaurant Washington DC has to offer and remembering one of Jeff Munn's Technical Sessions on how to pack for a road trip, I had covered my suit in a plastic cleaner's bag to keep it from wrinkling. As my daughter drove us in to DC I



was quite pleased with snappy new clothes until we got to the restaurant and the *maitre d'* looked at my suit and said, "Good Lord, what did you do? Ride in on a motorcycle?"

The best was yet to come as I started back to the Tidewater area on Sunday. At Fredericksburg I picked up Hwy-3 and rode it along the Upper Peninsula and on to Gloucester. That ride is a **MUST** during the springtime! I had to fight the temptation to turn around and ride it again. At the next meeting I'm going to make a motion that everyone in the club has to ride Hwy-3 each spring or we sell your bike!

V.R.

International Touring

By Carol Beals

Looking for a different vacation ever thought of during a motorcycle tour. The kids and I have been on two of the Edelweiss tours. For any of the tours you must bring your own riding gear and you must ride in proper gear at all times. You always have a choice to ride with the group or ride by yourself. For trips outside of this country we suggest to add a day at least at the front of your trip to arrive and get use to the trip change and environment before starting to ride.

If you have a passenger riding on the back taking pictures I strongly suggest using 35mm 800 speed or greater film. They will be able to take pictures without blurring the picture. I am including some pictures from trips.



If you are traveling with the whole family and some of them are not into motorcycling or not sure if they are up to all day riding check out the various Edelweiss touring centers. The touring centers are in beautiful locations with various activities available for both riders and non-riders. With the touring centers you can decide whether to ride that day or not. You can decide to ride with the group or go riding on your own. Every night you stay at the touring center so there is no packing and unpacking each night, you pack and unpack once. We stayed at the Alps touring center and it was very beautiful and the rides were great.

The other Edelweiss trip that the kids and I have taken was the Ireland tour. This was a great trip. We saw very beautiful scenery and rode some great motorcycle roads. With this tour you stay in different hotels each night except the couple rest days. Your luggage is transported to the next hotel by Edelweiss. You bring your luggage to the lobby each morning and it is in your room each night when you get to the hotel. You can ride with the group to the next hotel, just follow the mapped out route going your own speed, or choose your own route to the next location. The roads are not the super slabs. Some of the roads are paved one lane roads. You share some of the roads with sheep, cows and horses.



BMW Motorrad-UK

by Gary Shanafelt

About once a year my boss directs me to travel to some large European city and report back to our office on the length of this year's skirts. He has found a spring trip is normally best as it sets the fashion expectations for the summer so last month I packed my bags and headed off to London for a couple days. Taking a break from my fact-finding mission I was able to stop by **68 Park Lane** and visit the BMW Motorrad showroom. You will recall from my Mar 05 report that during my last visit the showroom was not quite ready to open. Well, it's open now and is well worth the visit.



The Park Lane facility, owned by BMW Motorrad-UK, represents our favorite brand as a national store as well as serving the London metropolitan area and is the largest selling store in the UK. As I entered the showroom and presented my BMWCHR business card *with my name neatly printed with an ultra-fine point Sharpy toward the bottom*, Lisa Cole (Pictured above) showed me around their well kept showroom where in addition to a wide variety of new bikes on display they have a well stocked clothing, helmet, and accessory section.

I had already been impressed with the wide selection of bikes on hand but as it turns out, what was on display was only about half of their inventory. Steve, one of their very knowledgeable and well spoken salesmen, invited me to accompany him to their "overflow" facility in the garage below the BMW car dealership next door. BMW Motorrad had transformed a section of the (dingy) parking garage into a well lit, very clean alternate showroom containing not only several more new bikes but also a large inventory of very presentable used bikes.

The store also had something I have yet to find in an American dealership; an **R1200RS Adventure** demonstrator bike. Steve did say that a prospective buyer must convince one of the salesmen that they have a modicum of experience before one is allowed to take a demonstrator bike on to the streets of London for a "test drive"! He went on to say that because of the demand they just cannot keep any of the **RS** bikes in the store.



I give the BMW Motorrad Park Lane facility three and a half cookies on our dealership rating. (See the Jul 05 newsletter for the criteria.) You will enjoy meeting the staff and seeing the facility...if you can tear yourself away from your work! (☺ ☺ ☺ 1/2)

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and turned around for home. We were only an hour and a half late. Later that day we rode back home to the Beach.

Tim accomplished a number of firsts.

First time on Rt 64.

First time through a toll booth (York River Bridge).

First time to refuel during a ride.

Most miles in one day (235 miles).

I asked him after we got home how he felt. His response was "my butt's fine but my neck's a little sore."

Upcoming Events:

June

- 3 Monthly Meeting (Parrot docks)
- 7 - 10 **35th Annual BMW Rider's Association Rally**, Ashville, NC
- 15-17 **Gathering of the Clans** (Airheads) Ferguson NC (www.highcountrymotorcyclecamp.com)
- 23-24 **Nate Kern** at VIR

July

- 7 Monthly meeting
- 12-15 **BMW MOA Rally**; West Bend WI

August

- 16-19 **Dan'l Boone Rally**, Boone NC
- 31st—Sept 2 **Sherando Lake Rally**, Richmond VA

If you have an event or anything that you would like to share here, email it to kyle@chilei.net.