



# GREATER CINCINNATI BMW CLUB



April 2006 Newsletter

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## President's Corner

by Tom Collins

Yesterday was the first day of spring, allegedly. If that was true, then I want my money back. My college kids are on spring break this week, what a gyp for them. This weather just goes to reinforce how manic the weather can be this time of year. I am looking forward to the day when I no longer have to spend 20 minutes getting geared up for a 10 minute ride. I wonder if anyone else feels the same way or if it is just me?

In spite of this little "good bye" from Old Man Winter, we have had an incredible winter for riding, haven't we?

In November, when it turned bitter cold, I winterized the Harley and David's Kawasaki thinking I would not see those bikes out again for some time. Boy, was I wrong. It seemed that from our New Year's Day ride onward, the good days did not stop coming. We even got to a point where we had had rain to clear the winter chemicals off of the street. The Harley came out. Of course, Old Faithful (a.k.a. the RT) never got winterized because I expected to have at least a few days each month to get out and add new fuel to her. She's now looking pretty dirty, so when the last of this mess is gone, I owe her some quality wash time.

Speaking of this time, we will have to put up with another few weeks of chemicals on the street. Let's all keep in mind that this stuff can be very slick. Watch for the little mounds of salt in the road and for wet looking patches, too, as these can be very slick. We should try to save the 10/10ths riding for another month or so. Also, don't forget to rinse the crud from our steeds after rides. About the only advantage to this weather is that it gives us time to plan this coming season's adventures. I have several adventures in mind and I hope all of you do as well. I would also suggest getting your requests into your bosses now as well just so your plans don't get blown by waiting too long.

Well, that about does it for me. I'll see you down the road.

## The Buck Stops Here

As reported in *Rider* magazine, February 2006, Lawrence Grodsky

The A to Zs of the dollar/discount store... You can't buy safety, but the tools to ride better can be as cheap as a buck.

**A**cetaminophen (Tylenol)

**B**ungees (six-pack of three assorted sizes)

**C**hapstick (in assorted tropical flavors)  
**D**iagonal cutters  
**E**yeglass repair kit  
**"F**amily Man" by Calvin Trillin  
**G**atorade (32oz)  
**H**eadphones (we use these when our \$50 headpieces routinely crap out)  
**I**buprofen (Advil)  
**J**ar of salsa  
**K**onica (35mm color film)  
**L**CD watches  
**M**esh utility bags (great for separating articles in saddlebags)  
**N**ightlights (for those labyrinth, shin-banging hotel rooms)  
**O**mega-3 tablets (consult your physician)  
**P**onchos  
**Q**-tips  
**R**eadng glasses  
**S**unglasses  
**T**oothpaste  
**U**mbrellas  
**V**itamins (A, C, E, multi-, and don't forget your Glucosamine)  
**W**et wipes  
**X**mas cards  
**Y**o-yos  
**Z**iploc bags

I'll make the case that I am a safer rider and that my students get a more thorough on-road safety course, thanks to the potpourri of useful acquisitions that never would have caught my notice were it not for their bargain price.

*Tom Raybuck's note:* Not a bad thing for our club members to take note of. Cheap and every town has a dollar store!

## **A picture is worth a thousand words**

by Ken Francois



The Honda rider was traveling at such a "very high speed", his reaction time was not sufficient enough to avoid this accident. Swedish Police estimate a speed of ~250 KM/h (155mph) before the bike hit the slow moving car side-on at an intersection. At that speed, they predicted that the rider's reaction time (once the vehicle came into view) wasn't sufficient enough for him to even apply the brakes. The car had two passengers and the bike rider was found INSIDE the car with them. The Volkswagen actually flipped over from the force of impact and landed 10 feet from where the collision took place.

All three involved (two in car and rider) were killed instantly. This graphic demonstration was placed at the Stockholm Motorcycle Fair by the Swedish Police and Road Safety Department. The sign above the display also noted that the rider had only recently obtained his license. At 250 KM (155 mph) the operator is traveling at 227 feet per second. With normal reaction time to SEE-DECIDE-REACT of 1.6 seconds the above operator would have traveled over 363 feet while making a decision on what actions to take. In this incident, the Swedish police indicate that no actions were taken.

## **April Club Ride**

*by Tom Collins*

The weather reports looked promising for our ride on April 2; partly cloudy and highs in the mid-50s. Now this is pretty typical weather for this time of year. However, considering that I managed to ride more days in January than the March we just survived, it sounded extra good to me. I was so looking forward to the ride that I was up early Sunday morning preparing. The thing was though, that even though the high temp looked good, it was still around freezing at 8:00 a.m., the time had changed the night before making it the equivalent of 7:00 a.m. the day before and our ride schedule had changed back to eat at 9:00 instead of 10:00. Gear on.

We had quite a good posse coming from Northern Kentucky that morning. Our group consisted of Mike and Barb Crum, John Wharton, new guy – Ken Norris, myself with Tim Hagfors joining us down the road a few miles. I am sure Steve and Brent Thoerner and Chris Katzer would have been there, too, had they not been on a riding trip out west.

We all arrived safe and sound and cold at Mama's Grill and went in for some blessed coffee to shake off the chill. I knew when I saw the weather report that there would be a good turn out and I was not disappointed. I believe I counted 24 folks, but maybe there were more including another guest, John from Columbus. Breakfast was good. When we returned to the bikes, it had warmed up nicely so my electric gear was stowed.

Oscar led 14 of us on a very unusual route with the eventual destination of Rabbit Hash. The unusual part was a tour of the waterfront area of Cincinnati eventually along Pete Rose Way (that guy should be in the hall of fame). The traffic was not an issue, except for one jerk in a Mercedes, so this part was very enjoyable for me. We then crossed over into the wilds of Kentucky and basically stayed near the river. Following a few missed turns by several members, me included, we all managed to pull into Rabbit Hash at roughly the same time. The little town was hopping because even some of the smarter Harley riders can read a weather report, or at least understand it if it is on the TV. After a Sarsaparilla, a number of us headed over to a unique little place called "Jane's Saddlebag" for burgers. If you have never been, this is a place you should seek out, not just for the burgers but because the place is very unusual. The crowd is always very friendly and rider oriented and it is a non-alcohol establishment. Maybe that is why the crowd is so well-behaved.

It is safe to say that a good time was had by all.

Following our meal, it was time to ride home. I love when the rides end in Kentucky.

## BMW Battle Creek

*by Tom Raybuck*

There's nothing nicer than a driveway full of BMWs. Especially when they come ridden by good friends from Michigan. This is from one of the annual September meetings that we host each fall. The meeting this year is set for September 16<sup>th</sup>, so mark your calendars...it's going to be a "Wild Wild West (Chester)" Party!!



## Wedding Wishes

Rumor has it that two of our club members may have tied the knot in March. Stay tuned for details (and pictures) of the happy event!



## Club Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2006

*by Tom Raybuck*

The March meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.

The reading of the minutes was waived. The Treasurer's report was read and we have a total of 36 paid members. The club account balance is \$2,235.00.

Website security was discussed and Mike LaBar has made several updates to the site. Several areas are now password protected and any new member must be approved prior to being able to post or add links.

The alternative rally was discussed and the location will be the Blue Ridge Motorcycle Campground. The Iron Horse Campground was discussed and may be an option for next year.

The Tech day at Miami Cycle Works was a success and Tom Ritter gave a short overview of the brake flushing process. He thanked everyone that came and participated in the training. The club decided that we will post a poll on the web for suggestions on future ideas that can be addressed.

Tom Collins received a letter from an old club member, Dave Denton. He sent a packet of old club papers and an update on how he is doing.

Tom Collins gave a shot recap of his trip to New York with Steve Thorner to pick up his new Moto Guzzi. He stated it is a beautiful area and, if possible, we should try to route our trip to the National through the Finger Lakes region.

Tom Raybuck reminded everyone "again" that the Mini Rally is the beginning of May, the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup>. It is in Sturgis, Michigan, and is always a great time.

The meeting schedule was set for the next few months. The June meeting will be at the home of Tom Collins, July at the National, August at Mike LaBar's home, September at the home of Mike Crum, and October at the Raybuck's.

The need for a second club flag was discussed. With members going to rallies in different locations on the same weekend, a second flag is a good idea. Mike Crum will be looking into this and getting a price.

The vinyl club logos for the windshields were discussed. We need new copies as we cannot remember who has the extras. With so many new members, we need to get replacements.

A new member was voted into the club. Charles Carter had attended the 2 events needed and was voted into and welcomed to our club.

Oscar gave a recap of his shoulder surgery and his recovery. After having the same procedure, I believe that he is going outside the doctors directions!

The April meeting is at the home of Henry and Mary Pierce. Their address is:

1186 Shaylor Woods Drive  
Batavia, OH 45103  
Phone: (513) 753-3064

Directions to the meeting:

275 to 32 East.  
32 E to Elick and turn right.  
Elick becomes Bach-Buchxtan  
Go straight thru Shaylor  
Turn left into Shaylor Woods Dr.  
Veer right and the house number is 1186.

The meeting was called at 8:00 p.m. and the 50/50 was won by Morgan de Jongh.

