



GREATER CINCINNATI BMW CLUB

January 2004 Newsletter

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BMW Marque of the Year at AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days

By Bob Wood, Trustee & Ohio Region Coordinator
BMWRA

In case you haven't heard yet, the official announcement went out last week. BMW has been selected to be the marquee of the year at the AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days held at the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course near Lexington, Ohio on July 16-18, 2004. What this means to you, is that you are going to have the largest collection of vintage BMW motorcycles ever assembled in the United States (or perhaps in the world) right here in Ohio. The AMA is working closely with the Vintage BMW Motorcycle Owners, Ltd. (VBMWMO) and the BMW Riders Association (BMWRA) to make this the best and possibly the biggest BMW event ever in the US.



If you were plotting your route to the MOA's Spokane rally you may want to reconsider those plans. The AMA VMD dates are the same as the MOA's fairgrounds rally and the event is some 2,000 miles closer. Besides that, you were just to the Pacific Northwest a few years ago with the MOA -- same old, same old. You can bet there will be BMW people everywhere at this event and a presence by BMW AG, BMW NA, BMW Mobile Traditions, and more. It is a "not to miss" BMW event.

The VBMWMO is the world's largest "vintage BMW club" and with the help of the AMA and the RA plans to hold their First (ever) International

Vintage BMW Rally. Because of this, the AMA has set aside a large portion of the event area specifically for the VBMWMO and their rally inside the VMD event. The RA is helping to coordinate this event and has already heard from sources within Europe that some vintage bike owners are packing for the event. I have been told that at least one model of every BMW motorcycle ever built will be on display. The enthusiasm is running high and much more information will be forthcoming as it is released. So mark your calendars today. If there is one BMW rally event that you will want to go to in the next fifteen years, this one will be it!



For more information go to:

<http://www.amadirectlink.com/vmd/2004/index.asp>

The Prez Sez...

Our club is growing. When I first joined, back in 1999, only about a dozen members would attend an average monthly meeting and most rides had less than a dozen bikes. We had over forty

members at our last meeting and our last group ride had over twenty bikes. I am pretty excited to see the increased interest in our club by fellow BMW riders!



As the club grows, so will the complexity of doing things. While we once took up two or three tables in restaurants for our breakfast rides, we now take over a portion of the restaurant. I still remember the shock on the faces of the Perkin's staff when our group came in for breakfast on New Year's Day. They weren't ready to handle our large group and had to call in extra staff, while we waited, drinking coffee.

With this growth, group rides are becoming more like parades. Soon we may need to apply for parade permits and have escort riders! I can just see Travis on his Kawasaki (which ought to be a RTP) racing back and forth, stopping traffic at intersections so that we can ride through as a group. Parade attire/costumes wouldn't be a problem either, as we all have our club shirts and hats. Tom could mount the club banner on his KRS and I'm sure that Chris will be happy to tattoo the club logo on everyone's arm...

(Oh, oh, Lynn is beginning to wonder what's in the cigar that I'm smoking or if the fumes from running my GS in the garage have affected me in some manner...). Better get serious...

I have attached an agenda for the next meeting right after the minutes of the January meeting. Please review the agenda and come prepared to discuss and decide upon the issues that are presented. If you don't think you can make the next meeting, feel free to let the rest of the officers and me know how you may feel about any issue that we plan to take up.

The four officers and Mike LaBar, our Web Master, met prior to the last breakfast non-ride

(since no one rode due to the weather) and we reviewed some of the upcoming issues. We will present some of our thoughts and look to the membership to discuss and vote on each item.

Since more members are attending meetings, it is sort of necessary to have some structure to our meetings. Each month I will publish an agenda and we will try to stick to it. This will help everyone stay on track.

Additionally, we need to involve more members in the operation of certain areas. The officers as a group have decided to have someone assist Tom Collins in planning for rides. Hopefully, you are up to this Chris.

I will assist Tom Raybuck in producing the newsletter as I have the technology to distribute it electronically. The newsletter has become something that is more than one person can handle. To keep it interesting, we need articles for the newsletter. Everyone can assist in this effort, so volunteer/contributing "journalists" are welcome! Please submit articles to Tom and I so that we can publish them!

Mike LaBar needs items for the website. The website, as well as the newsletter, are only as good as the effort put into them. Please, send him pictures and articles. Both the website and the newsletter belong to the club—and that's you!

We may ask volunteers to form a committee to review difficult issues. I don't like adding meetings as I know we are all very busy in our daily lives. Committee members can probably discuss things by using e-mail.

No, I'm not pushing to get away from the informal and fun way we have been doing things. We do need a little more structure, but we don't need to go overboard with the structure thing. I still want to keep things low key. If the things I've mentioned scare you, let me know. The main purpose of this club is to have fun. We need some structure, but not so much that the fun will go away. As Tom Collins said, "no one should feel that participating in the club is like having a second job."

Having said that, we all like to ride. Anyone can organize an informal ride on weekends. There's nothing that says that we have to stick to just one ride per month! Feel free to announce a ride

on the Club's Yahoo Forum--but please don't "post" your routes on the website for anyone to see. Anything posted can be seen by individuals intent on disrupting the ride. Chris and I plan to go for a ride next Sunday, if the weather permits. Feel free to join us.



Speaking of Safety...

By Jerry Cummins

Chris Long just placed something on the club's Yahoo Forum regarding hand signals to be used on group rides. He went on to further place a link to a discussion on the BMWST Forum regarding how one of their members used the "one finger salute" to another motorist and this motorist, with friends, stopped to physically assault him.

This brings to mind a discussion I had early last year with a student over the use of hand signals while riding. This was at a class that I taught in Mansfield, Ohio. This student, an elderly gentleman, who was taking the class in order to gain his endorsement (after years of riding without one), insisted that hand signals given in conjunction with the bike's turn and stop signals actually enhance a rider's safety. He went on to point out that he always uses hand signals when he rides.

I disagreed with him—not because of any position the MSF takes—but because I've done so much research into Road Rage and I've seen too many articles about how hand gestures can be misunderstood. A motorist might mistakenly see a hand signal as an obscene gesture and become enraged—enraged enough to use his/her automobile as a weapon against another motorist. I went on to point out that many drivers do not even know what hand signals mean. I asked the class to call out what various hand signals meant and most didn't know what the right turn or stopping signal were.

I usually give out my e-mail address to everyone taking a class from me, as I like to hear from students. Many students write me to get advice on cycling issues and to update me on their riding progress.

This gentleman e-mailed me a couple of months after the class. He and his wife were riding in Columbus on a sunny weekend day, when he raised his left arm to indicate a right turn. The motorist behind him turned, sped past him, and then applied his brakes. Two young men came out of the car, yelling something about how they didn't like to be "flipped off." They then shoved the gentleman, causing him to drop his bike. The young men then left the scene. The gentleman and his wife weren't hurt—just the Harley's chrome and one of the fog lights.

In the e-mail, this gentleman stated that he'll never use another hand signal when riding.

Most of you remember how I was the victim of a road rage incident. I have since uncovered evidence that the individual became angry with me due to the flashing hyperlites on the back of my bike. He thought that I was deliberately trying to slow him down. Considering traffic in front of me was slowing down, I guess he was right! In his twisted mind, he saw my flashing lights as an excuse to attack me with his car.

Had I been in my larger SUV, I doubt that this guy would have attempted to hit me. Had the elderly gentleman been driving a large truck, I doubt the two younger guys would have attempted to stop him, even if he had given them the hand gesture they accused him of using. Size does matter. Most motorists fear large trucks and give them plenty of room. Motorists don't see motorcycles as something that will hurt them. Drivers are more likely to cut off a motorcycle than to cut off a 20-ton truck. They are also more likely to take out their aggressions against a motorcycle.

Please be careful of who and what is around you.



GCBMWC Meeting Minutes 12-6-03

Meeting was called to order at 6:52. Minutes were read and approved. The treasury report was read and accepted. The New Year's Day ride was discussed and ride rules were brought up. The hammer was turned over from Bob To Jerry.

Old Business

Bob was thanked for his 3 years of service to the club as president.

Bill berry went over the alternative rally. Sent e-mail about contact with campground. The will have camping equipment if wanted. MSF classes were discussed. Two are available. The BRC is in April, ERC is on May 8th. Classes are still \$25.00 and club will refund first 24 to complete the classes.

Club shirts-Lynn has some extra shirts and will have for sale after meeting. She can still get golf and chambrey shirts in small orders.

New Business

New member John Campbell was voted into the club.

The 2004 riding contest was discussed and Mike La Bar will run again this year. Several different choices discussed and will continue at next meeting.

Club rides were discussed and this was a concern to all members. There were several suggestions made due to the large # of members showing up for the rides. This is a hard topic due to the varied riding styles. Several suggestions were made from flashing lights to someone staying at all direction changes until the rider following arrives. Dividing the group into 2 smaller groups was suggested. Also it was agreed that if you leave the ride you must let someone know you are doing so, this will keep riders from waiting and no one show up.

The Mini Rally in Michigan was mentioned and the date is the first week of May.

Jerry handed out the mileage certificates for last year.

Mike La Bar handed out the prizes for the Ohio barn contest. 11 club members made it to all 88

locations. Pete won a signed poster for finding the mystery location. There was an auction for a large Ohio centennial sign won by Mike La bar.

The club Poker Run will be on April 24th. Dinner at 4:00. this will be rain or shine.

Meeting was called and Larry Lovejoy won the 50/50.

Next Meeting Agenda

Club Contest. There are currently three choices on the table:

- A. Mike's idea of visiting unique sites in Kentucky.
- B. Visiting Kentucky courthouses.
- C. A combination of the two.

The club should vote on these or any others that are proposed, so that we can proceed with plans to get information onto the website and so on.

Group Rides. Rides are becoming larger and there's a need to have a plan to keep everyone together. Ideas include:

- A. Splitting the group into smaller sections of ten or less riders.
- B. Distributing the ride route to members by e-mail, by printed maps or both.
- C. Having a drag rider in the back who will keep track of members who wish to leave the ride and who will stop to assist members who have problems on the ride.

Volunteers to Assist in Ride Planning. Chris has already volunteered and we plan to put him to use. Anyone else wishing to contribute, now is the time to step forward.

Alternative Rally. Do we want to move the rally to the weekend after the National Rally so that members may attend the Vintage Motorcycle Days?

MSF Classes. Members who are attending must come prepared to fill out the forms and pay for the classes. The first 24 members who complete the entire course they sign up for, will be reimbursed by the club. Class spaces will go to members first. Additional spaces can be filled by guests of members. If any spaces are still remaining, I must fill them with members of the general public. Class fees are \$25.00.

Mini Rally in Michigan. I'm sure Tom Raybuck will have something to tell us about this event.

Poker Run. Any updates?

Next Meeting Location. I failed to bring this subject up in the last meeting, but we do need to cover this, as there's no location picked for the March meeting.

Club Dues. Please come prepared to pay your dues, if you haven't already.

New Members. Anyone interested in joining will be voted upon.

New Business. Anything not discussed that any member wishes to bring up for discussion or vote.

Club Calendar

Feb 14: 7:00 pm - **Meeting** at Ft. Mitchell Civic Center

Feb 27: Daytona Bike Week Starts

Mar 7: 10:00 am **Breakfast Ride** Pearl's

Mar 28-30: 8th April Fool's Rally

Mar 13: 7:00 pm **Meeting**, location TBA

Apr 2-4: Dogwood Trail Rally

Apr 4: 9:00 am - **Breakfast Ride** Pearl's

Apr 10: 7:00 pm **Meeting**, location TBA

Apr 13: 6:00 pm **BRC Class**, Scarlet Oaks

Apr 17: 1:00 pm **BRC Class**, Scarlet Oaks

Apr 18: 1:00 pm **BRC Class**, Scarlet Oaks

Apr 24: 12:00-2:00 pm **Poker Run**, Summit View Middle School - Independence, KY

May 8: 8:00 am **ERC Class**, Scarlet Oaks

Membership Dues

Please pay your membership dues by the March meeting. Dues are as follows:

\$15.00 for a single membership

\$18.00 for a couple

Checks are to be made out to: **GCBMWC.**

GCBMWC Market Place

1999 K1200 LTS - 15K, Champagne color, 2K on Metzeler 880s. Includes Kathy's Bag Liners.

All services current and BMW performed. New windshield in September 2002. Garaged, never down. \$9,250

Allan Smith - 513-738-2930 weekends or leave a message.

1990 Honda Hawk GT 650- Red. Very stock and very nice. 14K Newer tires. Single sided swingarm. \$3000

Chris Katzer (859) 426-7486 or e-mail C8Chris@yahoo.com



Directions to February meeting:

South Hills Civic Center
10 Bluegrass Ave, Ft. Wright, KY
859-331-2355

