



# GREATER CINCINNATI BMW CLUB



February 2006 Newsletter

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## A plan comes together...

By Bill Berry

A plan comes together...

September and October are arguably the best time to ride with the milder temperatures, seemingly less traffic, and the turning of the leaves for a beautiful ride. But since my last ride to the Bluegrass rally I haven't gotten to ride much at all since it also happens to be marching band season. Loveland has a competitive marching band so this means most Saturdays we're at a competition. Now I get bored sitting in the stands watching countless bands so I volunteered to help, what was I thinking.

Anyway I had been quietly studying the schedules of work, band, family, weather charts, moon cycles, trying to find a time when I could ask for a kitchen-pass. Halloween weekend looked promising with a crisp but clear forecast. There was a competition Saturday in Beavercreek at noon and then they had to wait until 5 to learn if they would perform again that evening. There was no way I was going to sit and watch 5 hours of band competition so I met the band at Beavercreek. As soon as we loaded the equipment back into the trailer I told my son to behave and I would see him later. I now had 4 hours to ride around and find lunch.

I took off to the north on all the little back roads I could find to avoid the greater Dayton area. I ended up in Bellefontaine at a little greasy-burger joint called Crabill's. Imagine homemade White Castles in a building that's only wide enough for 8 stools at the counter and a carryout window. Tasty... <http://www.roadfood.com/Reviews/Overview.aspx?RefID=519>

As I head back to Beavercreek I end up on 235 and in Fairborn. While I'm sitting at the light waiting to turn left I notice a sign that says "tattoo", could it be? I turn right and it is Fairborn Tattoo, gotta stop. I walk in and Chris Long does a double, triple take to make sure he is seeing what he is seeing. "Bill, you're the last person I expected to see." To be honest, that is the only tattoo parlor I've ever been in. Stood around for awhile shootin' the breeze with Chris while he tortured some lady getting her first tattoo. Yeah, looks like fun.

Got back to Beavercreek just in time for the next performance and then a nice evening ride home, almost 200 miles for the day. Not bad for what looked like a 0 mile day.

Sunday morning I took off at first light, which also meant a frosty start, for western Kentucky and the state parks west of Mammoth Cave. I made it to I-71 before I had to stop to put on my leather bandana to fill the gap between my helmet and jacket. Let me tell ya, a beard does not add warmth, it actually funnels air, cold crisp, numbing air, into a helmet. It was very cold but crystal clear and a forecast of nice for Sunday and Monday. My first picture would be in Owensboro since the other trips had been as far west as Mammoth Cave. So into Kentucky, into Indiana, back into Kentucky on I-71 to I-64 to SR231 was the fastest way to get started and since it was still cold there was no reason to stop. 240 miles later I get the first picture and then found some gas.

As I continue west and south I roll thru Sturgis, KY and guess what, they hold a little rally there also. A couple more state parks and thru Possum Trot and it's off to Monkey's Eye Brow. Now I had heard it was hard to find so I was studying the map and tried to keep heading in the right direction. All of a sudden the crossroad is called Monkey's Eyebrow Rd so I managed to haul it down and make the turn. This must go right to it right? I'm looking for groups of houses, or a store or something that might give a clue when in the middle of an S-curve there's a mobile home with 2 motorcycles, 3 guys, and a girl in the driveway. Now with my twisted brain, I immediately wonder which one is gay. I continue on thru the curve glance down at the map and decide this must be it so I turn around to ask the locals at the trailer. They turn and look at this funny looking 'motor sickle pulling' into the drive and as I pull up I see one of the guys is sipping' on a Zima, guess I have my answer. I open my helmet and say:

"You guys look trustworthy."

"Huh?"

"I'm looking for Monkey's Eyebrow."

"You're right in the damn middle of it."

"Is there a sign so I can take a picture?"

"Sums-a-bitches keep stealing' it, suppose to be in my front yard." "Road name is all there is."

"Thanks!!" and I do a quick u-turn followed by a BMW get-a-away back to the intersection.

After that picture it is off to the western-most park, Columbus-Belmont S.P. on the Mississippi river. Basically a cemetery with a campground but it looks like a nice place. In need of more fuel I realize that this is the middle of no-where and the Pickens are slim. I pass on one station because all they have is regular but soon realize it was the nicest station I would see for awhile. When I do stop they have a "plus" grade so I get it from an old pump, not crank, but close. I go inside to pay and the drinks are hot (sorry, broke) and they can't take credit (sorry, broke), they do have running water so I can wash the bugs from my face shield. I get about 10-15 miles from there and the bike starts running real rough with the slightest throttle, the sun is dropping quickly and I'm still miles from anywhere that might have a room for the night. After about 30 miles I find another station and pull in. I haven't gone far enough to top off the tank and do any good and at 2.50/gal I don't really want to pour a couple gallons on the ground so I decide to drop the bowls, maybe there's something in them. Can't really see water or debris but empty them anyway (probably a dollar right there) and start the bike. Seems to idle fine, red's fine, I'll take it down the road a couple of miles and see what happens. Off I go and it runs just fine, thank you very much, can you do that with fuel injection? I make it to Murray, KY at dusk and find a room at an old motor lodge that is proudly American owned and operated.

Up early Monday and a quick 6 mile run south to Hazel, KY (it's on the list) on the Tennessee border and back to Murray for breakfast. I pass Hannibal Motor sports near Murray but it's too early to stop. When a pumpkin (pumpkin) waited on me in the restaurant I remembered it was Halloween. For

some reason this trip was not a dining pleasure, every place I stopped this time was mediocre or bad. I should have left when Miss Pumpkin asked me if I wanted the big omelet or regular, the big omelet is 2 eggs. Around here they're all 3 eggs. It was served on Styrofoam, must be something about being a college town or something.

Off to the Land between the Lakes region, another beautiful morning, but not as cold. These are some big lakes. Penny riles Forest State Park seems almost forgotten compared to the parks around the lakes, but maybe that's the plan, nice and quiet. East of Hopkinsville I find the Jefferson Davis Monument, hard to miss really, a huge monolith about half the size the Washington Monument in DC I'm guessing.

As I start scanning the map north and east towards home I find the towns of Do-Stop, KY and Ready, KY almost right on the way. Not sure they're on the list but should be if not. Labret said it was a work in progress. About 5 miles the wrong way from home should be Do-Stop on SR62 and as I come up on a crossroad I spot the Do-Stop Hair Salon, so up around the bend and over the hill I find a place to turn around but cannot find any "official" sign. The beauty parlor will have to do. Must look odd, a motorcyclist stopping in the middle of nowhere taking a picture of his bike in front of a beauty parlor. "WHAT, What are lookin' at!!!!" Back at the route home I head off another 5 miles the wrong way to find Ready, Ky which turns out to be an abandoned carryout, but the sign is still there.

So after about 45 minutes I'm back on the trail home and now I start calculating time to get home and realize it's time to roll and quit playing. A stop in Elizabethtown for fuel and drink and hit the slab for home. Even a gas stop can be entertaining if the gas station also happens to be a Greyhound stop. People milling around the station with luggage I thought were drifters until the bus pulled in. I pull into the driveway with about 1/2 an hour to spare before the little beggars start coming around. Maybe I should leave the helmet on to hand out candy. The wife says no, I'm scary enough as is and she has lots of candy to get rid of.

Another great trip thru Kentucky. I was expecting the western side of Kentucky to be flat, delta like with the big rivers merging but that was not the case. There was plenty of gently rolling hills all the way to the Ol' Miss. Turns out the whole state is good for motorcycling, who'd a thought.

## Speaking of Safety

*By Jerry Cummins*

I have reserved a date for the club's Experienced Rider Course. The date is: Saturday, April 1, 2006, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It will be held at: Scarlet Oaks, 3254 E. Kemper Road in Sharonville. Please plan to arrive by no later than 8:45 so that we can complete some mandatory paperwork.

The cost is \$25. If you are interested in taking the class, please email me. I will be passing out applications in January and will need the completed applications back, with payment, by the end of January. **Remember, the club will reimburse you for the class fee, after you successfully complete the class.**

Past participants have commented on how much they learned from the class and how much fun it was. We all spend a lot of money on helmets and riding gear so that we may protect ourselves in case of a crash. I would venture to guess that most members have spent \$1000 or more on

protective riding gear. One thing we must remember is that the best way to protect ourselves from injury in a crash is to avoid the crash in the first place! It has been proven that the best thing that we can all do to prevent crashes is to take a class that will enhance our riding skills! Considering that this class is essentially FREE, I don't know of a better opportunity to bone up on your skills and invest in your safety.

The NHTSA has released statistics for 2004. This report had several interesting facts:

1. Motorcycle riders were more likely to be involved in fatal single vehicle crashes with fixed objects than any other type of driver. The most likely reason behind this is that motorcyclists do not understand the concept that the motorcycle will go towards where they are looking! The MSF courses teach riders to look where they want to go.
2. Motorcycle riders that were involved in fatal crashes were more likely to be inexperienced in driving their vehicle than any other type of driver.
3. Motorcycle fatal crashes increased by 8% during 2004. The biggest increase involved riders over the age of 40!
- 4. In Ohio, there were 134 fatal motorcycle crashes during 2004. 128 of those riders have never attended a formal course on motorcycle safety.**
5. 24% of all motorcyclists killed in the United States did not have a valid motorcycle endorsement.
6. 51% of fatal crashes with motorcyclists involved other vehicles. 39% of those crashes involved vehicles turning left in front of the motorcycle.
7. 36% of all motorcyclists involved in fatal crashes were speeding. 31% of the motorcyclists had been drinking.

The safest drivers on the road are large truck drivers. Three reasons: 1) they are constantly driving, gaining experience; 2) they are constantly being monitored by the companies they work for and many companies have training programs to ensure driver safety; 3) since it's their livelihood, truck drivers tend to take their driving skills seriously.

The lesson for us motorcyclists: there is no substitute for experience and training when it comes to our safety. I ask everyone to take some time out each year to attend some form of formal training and to practice your skills.

## **Oh, no, not again...**

By Tom Raybuck

Michigan May 5-7, 2006

### **33rd Original Mini Rally**

BMW Motorcycle Club of Battle Creek

You are invited to attend our rally at Green Valley Campground, Sturgis, Michigan. Fee is \$12 at gate (no pre-registration) and includes coffee, donuts, tea, hot chocolate all weekend. Plus, mid-day subs

and pizza sold on the grounds (can be ordered for dinner). Nice restaurants in the area & motels, if you're not camping. Door prizes and awards. Great Sunday morning pancake breakfast. Campgrounds have hot showers, inside/outside eating areas, firewood and miniature golf for only \$1/game. Located 1.5 mi west of MI-66 on Fawn River Rd, which is 1.25 mi S of US 12 and 2mi N of I-80/90. Info: Carol Blackmore 269-965-1673, Joyce Baines 269-979-1969, Connie Cadwell 815-226-7062 or [bccadwell@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:bccadwell@SBCGlobal.net).



Aerial view of  
Mini Rally  
campground

YOU ARE  
HERE

## Club Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2006

by Tom Raybuck

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Jerry Cummins as out-going president. Our host for the evening was Larry Lovejoy. The reading of the minutes was waived. The treasurer's report was read with a balance of \$1,148.00 as of the meeting. Dues are due now! - \$15.00 (single or \$18.00 couple.

Jerry turned the meeting over to Tom Collins as the new President. Tom went over the new meeting process. We will not be reading the minutes if a motion to waive is seconded. We will be looking into a time limit on topics to try to speed up the meetings. Lengthy topics may be sent to a committee, if needed.

Tom Collins went over the status at BMW of the Tri-State. The shop will be open on a limited basis, Tuesday to Friday 12:00 to 5:00. Service is by appointment only.

Oscar announced that he will be opening Miami Cycle Works, in Mt. Healthy. The store will be based on service and repairs. A formal announcement will be coming in the near future. We look forward to the new addition to the BMW family.

The New Year's Day ride was a great success. And the weather cooperated, with an almost balmy 48 degrees. There were 35 members for breakfast plus guests, and 28 members came on bikes. 22 people went on the ride that took us through several small towns - Morrow-Lebanon-Caesar's Creek-Ft. Ancient. The ride was about 90 miles in beautiful weather...what a way to start the year! Mary Pierce mentioned to Deanna Smith that Henry is still a little under from his surgery. He looks forward to a full recovery and attending the National in Vermont!

The deadline for items for the newsletter is the Friday after the meeting. Please try to write up any trips or rides along with photos.

We had 4 guests at the meeting, Jimmy Smith's nephew, Shane, and his wife, Amanda. Also, Janet and Eric - Janet purchased a K100 at Tri State. Welcome.

The Club ERC class is April 1st, and will last 6 hours. We need 12 members to have a full class. If interested, your name needs to be on list by the end of the month. The club will reimburse the fee, if the course is passed. Take advantage of the opportunity.

Larry Lovejoy offered an invite to go out to the Sturgis, Black Hills area. He has access to camping and rest areas. He will be supplying more info in the near future.

Tom Collins spoke about the Club Website Forum. It is in the web site and thought it could be a more secure and personal place for questions and threads.

Bob and Gail went to the R.A. winter camp-out in Marietta, Ohio. A good turnout and enjoyable time. The R.A. Rally this year is in Boise, Idaho, from July 6th to the 9th.

Oscar is working on a "footprint" of the club members' addresses. He is trying to find a more central meeting location that would not be so far for some members. This will be an ongoing project to improve the club rides.

Tom Ritter will be scheduling another Tech day. It will be on flushing and bleeding an ABS brake system. He has done a lot of research and would like to share it with the Club. Date and time to be posted.

The February meeting is at George Nyktas' house on Saturday, the 12th.

The meeting was called and Jerry won the 50/50!



**Grand Rapids  
BMW Vintage  
Bike Show**

**2004**

