



November 2011 Newsletter



Visit us on the web

WWW.GCBMWC.ORG



Subscribe to our eGroup by
sending a blank email to:
gcbmwc-subscribe@yahogroups.com

Inside this issue:

Karma	1-5
Hocking Hills	6-7
Ra Rally 2012	8
Meetings	9
Minutes	10
Events	11
Mileage Form	12-13

Riding Three Up with Karma

by: Bill Wright

As I'm sure, all of you can relate to the anticipation of a much needed and long overdue motorcycle trip. So after a particularly grueling, early summer schedule with my new job and my graduate studies at Wright State, Shelia and I were giddy with excitement about the chance to spend six days on the bike with zero commitments. Out come the RoadRunner magazines and after a quick review of the Shamrock tours, based within a 300 mile radius of Cincinnati, we chose to head for Lexington, Virginia known for its idyllic mountain roads, gorgeous scenery and early American historical site seeing opportunities. After all, we've been successfully throwing together such spur of the moment rides for many years now and can actually pack the bike for a ten day trip in less than an hour with our destination subject only to the whims of the weather and the simple directional change related to same. 'No big deal' you're saying, and so we thought.



We gathered all of our typical trip clothing and gear which I then proceeded to methodically load into my new bike's luggage, which by the way is cavernous compared to previous bikes I've owned. It was during this process that Shelia asked if I should at least see if the bike will start after sitting neglected for over a month. Dismissing her question with typical male bravado, I finished packing the steed and we geared up, ready for that sweet rush of excitement one gets upon departing on an adventure. At this precise moment, Karma joins the festivities as I depress the starter button – click, click, click. To Shelia's credit, she simply walked back inside the house and turned on the TV as I humbly hooked up the battery charger while feeling like a doctor frantically attempting to cardiac shock a patient back to life after neglecting him

for the past six weeks. Within minutes, the beast labors to life and is soon up to full power and ready to roll. At this point, I should have considered the incident a foreshadowing of things to come but in my haste to get rolling, the thought never crossed my mind. Off we go, 'No big deal' you say, and so we thought.

It's now one o'clock on Saturday afternoon and we're on the road heading east. The plan was to boogie across the Double A, pick up Interstate 64 east in Huntington and motor over to Charleston where we would secure a nice room and have dinner at a local eatery. We arrived in Charleston around 5:30pm only to discover all rooms in the Greater Charleston area were booked which is somewhat typical and really didn't surprise us too much. So it was onward towards Beckley, WV, a mere hour or so away. 'No big deal' you say, and so we thought.

We arrive in Beckley about 7pm, hungry, tired, and in need of showers to wash away the grime of riding all day in mid-90 degree heat. As we entered town, we noticed extremely heavy traffic and restaurant patronage not typical of a town this size. Disregarding these indicators, we started checking the hotels for available lodging only to be advised by a desk clerk that the PGA was "in town" and there was no lodging available for many miles. This situation was beginning to test my fortitude but gathering my wits, I felt myself beginning to slip into 'survival' mode. We needed shelter soon because the weather was changing rapidly in the mountains and the clouds were looking quite ominous. We elected to skip eating as lodging was now the priority so onward we headed towards Lewisburg, WV which was only about an hour away. 'No big deal' you say, and so we thought, but with less conviction this time.

Now having adjusted our 'plan' several times we realized that Lewisburg would place us within 100 miles of our final destination and we took comfort knowing that we could sleep in late the next morning then easily roll into Lexington by mid-afternoon. However, the priority at hand was to get there as quickly as possible as the rain was very near and darkness was setting in soon. It was a simple calculation of time and distance to solve the immediate challenge so I twisted the throttle and we spirited eastward with purpose and determination. 'No big deal' you say, yea right!

Somewhere just east of a little 'burg named Dawson, which turned out to be a closed restaurant and a gas pump, the blue strobe lights of one of West Virginia's finest revenue generators beckoned me to pull



over. Thinking that it was about time for me to receive another safe driving award, I realized that he was only there to protect me from myself as I handed him all of the requested documentation. After a colorful dissertation regarding the horrors of 90+ mph motorcycle crashes and next of kin notification he suddenly changed his demeanor. Realizing that he had just discovered my association with a certain fraternal organization he offered a relative handshake and issued me a verbal warning to



slow down. Thinking how wise I was for having displayed my fraternal allegiance on the back of my bike, I began feeling a little cocky. This is when Karma once again joined the party as the officer, and new found Brother, advises me that not only was there no lodging available where we were heading but that there was none in a 150 mile radius of the Greenbrier Resort which was in fact, where the PGA was playing that weekend. So he bids us safe passage and resumes his duties of catch and release. 'No big deal' you say, LIKE HELL!

We were in the middle of nowhere, it was beginning to rain, almost dark, and the fog in the valleys was so thick it was like riding in milk.

We continued into Dawson where the now closing restaurant/gas pump operator told us that there was no quick way out of our predicament and that the closest secondary surface road heading south was miles away and ripe with feeding deer. Weighing our limited options, we decided to turn back towards Beckley where we could pick up Interstate 77 south and begin heading away from the grip of the PGA activities. We arrived back in Beckley around 9pm in the pouring rain and the kind of darkness found only in mountainous regions. Finding 77, we cautiously rode south as the skies really opened up with torrential downpours and crosswinds. I couldn't pull over anywhere as I couldn't see the shoulder and I didn't want to get hit by a drifting 18 wheeler while sitting on the shoulder, so I plodded on, navigating by the occasional reflective marker alongside the road. Meanwhile, my pillion and bride of 34 years was cold, soaked to the bone, terrified and reconsidering the next 34 years.



Now in full blown 'survival' mode I began to critically analyze my options and developed several plans to get us through the night. I decided that safely exiting the highway was the first concern followed closely by finding shelter before hypothermia reared its ugly head. The next available exit was the obvious choice, so I then began considering shelter options. My first thought was to find a car wash as I've ducked into many of these in the past to don raingear, fix a flat, repair my bike or to dodge the revenue generators. But the thought of Shelia trying to rest amid the alluring aroma of road grime, sewer gas, and a hot Honda ST1300 wasn't very enticing but an option all the same. Then I thought, if

only there were a Waffle House at the exit, we could sit in the comfort of a booth and thermostat ergonomically designed to promote table turn over while feasting on smothered and covered fried stuff. Not very appealing either but once again, an option just the same.

It was at about this time that it appeared, the Wytheville, VA exit. Oh it wasn't just an exit, it was a major exit positioned at the crossroads of Interstates 77 and 81. Not only were there two carwashes and an Awful Waffle, but there were hotels and motels as well. The reasoning in my helmet guided me to the cheapest looking place in sight, thinking that the PGA types wouldn't dare stow their plaid pants in such a dive. Into the Econorest motel I swoop, sliding to a stop under their awning and directly in front of the office. I bailed from the bike and burst into the office looking like some alien from a different dimension, slinging water and groping around as I couldn't see through my dripping eyeglasses. Once I removed my helmet, regained my sight and composed myself I could see that the clerk now realizes that I'm not a serial killer but just a weary traveler in need. She tells me of one remaining vacancy which I eagerly agreed to secure without any discussion of price or amenities. Eureka, we were safe and secure for the night! It was now 10:45 pm. As I looked from the window to the awning outside, I saw Shelia pressed up against the glass with a look of absolute despair knowing that, having been rejected several times already today, there would be no room at the inn. The look on her face was priceless and I briefly considered toying with her but instead, I gave her the thumbs up sign to which she responded with a look I haven't seen since I quit racing. We carried our luggage into the room and stripped from multiple layers of wet clothing and swollen boots. The room was as sparse as I've ever seen but for us this night, it was the Taj Mahal. As I waited for my turn in the hot shower I heard the distinctive rumble of a Harley outside. I looked from my window only to see its rider being turned away as there were no vacancies. After our showers and Shelia's quick yet thorough in-

inspection for bedbugs we both fell into bed feeling quite fortunate and humble. As I began drifting off to sleep, I couldn't help but wonder how the Harley rider was fairing – smothered or covered? 'No big deal' I thought when I realized that Karma was surely listening. Before dropping into deep slumber, I wished only good luck upon this fellow motorcyclist and traveler. I awoke with a curious desire to pass on some lessons learned over the previous 24 hours.



Before embarking on an impromptu trip; call ahead for reservations or at least availability, check the regional

forecast, find out where the PGA is playing, and never pass an unmarked, Chevy Suburban in West Virginia. Perhaps more importantly, when you start regarding yourself as a seasoned and experienced, veteran rider, be certain to invite Karma to your planning session – just sayin'.

The rest of our trip was excellent after arriving the next afternoon in Blowing Rock, North Carolina. I knew my redemption with Shelia was complete while standing on the sidewalk in front of potpourri store number twelve with several other husbands, all yearning for the relief that only a drive by shot to head could bring (romantic, eh?). We did, however, spent four days playing and relaxing in the mountains and enjoyed lots of great food, scenic roads, and world class riding without a single complaint from my partner. Apparently, she understands Karma better than I do.

We traveled the back roads (RT 421) home (content for another story) and arrived safely and rejuvenated, ready to go again as soon as the opportunity presents itself because, really, IT'S NO BIG DEAL! Ride safe, ride often,

Bill



Fuel Coffee Gathering
10/16/2011



GCBMWC in Hocking Hills – October 2011

By Tom Ritter

The announcement promoting this weekend promised Curvy Roads and Good Friends! Comments from members who attended included; “Great Weekend!”, “Great Roads!”, “Great Weather!”, “Great Group!” And, “Scenery as good as North Carolina and a lot easier to get to!” So, I guess you could say the weekend was “as advertised”.

For most of us, the weekend began on Friday afternoon with a leisurely 2 ½ - 4 hour ride to the Holiday Inn Express (HIE) in Logan, Ohio. Of course, happy hour with adult beverages and hors d'oeuvres quickly followed (for some us even before check-in J).

Dinner on Friday required just a brief walk down the street to Millstone BBQ. Although this location did not provide seating for us as a large group, the reports I heard all indicated that the food was excellent!

Saturday began with a fairly heavy fog. But, it turns out that the fog was mostly concentrated near the Lake Logan area which includes the HIE. Once the temperature warmed a little, the fog began to disappear and we set out for a day of exploring.

John Fischer led a group of twelve motorcycles on a day long ride via a route that included many curvy, scenic roads. And, of course, John managed to incorporate the obligatory Fischer gravel section just so we could maintain our skills. Despite many decision points, the group managed to stay together all day. Never did find that Moonville Tunnel though!

Once we finished our gravel road practice, we made our way to the Buckeye Furnace. Here's an excerpt about the furnace from the Ohio Historical Society web site (<http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/places/se02/index.shtml>); Buckeye Furnace is a reconstructed charcoal-fired iron blast furnace with original stack, typical of those operating in southeastern Ohio's Hanging Rock Iron Region more than a century ago. Visitors to this 270-acre site can see the furnace, originally built in 1852, which went out of blast for the last time in 1894. Attached to the furnace is the reconstructed casting shed. Above the furnace is the charging loft where iron ore, limestone, and charcoal were loaded into the furnace, and the engine house which contained a steam-powered compressor. The reconstructed company store serves as a visitor orientation area.”

When we asked the volunteers at the Buckeye Furnace where we should go for lunch, they immediately

said “Marie Laveau’s” in Jackson, Ohio!! This place had character, and characters, including a manager/owner nick-named Big Sexy!! I'll confirm the Big part but let the ladies opine on the Sexy part. Marie Laveau (September 10, 1782 – June 16, 1881) was a Louisiana Creole practitioner of Voodoo renown in New Orleans. (For a taste of the atmosphere at this fine drinking/dining establishment, listen to this; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9galFS16nE&feature=related>.) Let's just say that if you were a





customer of Marie's, you were not likely engaged in what most would consider moral behavior. Regardless, Big Sexy and his one-armed helper managed to fire up the grid-dle and eventually provide some tasty lunch.

The route back to the HIE included a stop at the **Leo Petroglyphs State Memorial**. So, what, you ask, are the Leo Petroglyphs? They are "outstanding examples of prehistoric Indian inscriptions". This proved to be a picturesque spot with plentiful, level parking that included a view of some natural rock formations, and a small waterfall.



Saturday evening included another happy hour and a display of the goods purchased by the non-riding spouses who spent their Saturday, or at least a portion of it, shopping. Dinner time came and we walked across the street for some Mexican food and hospitality. When I told the manager we needed seating for a group of twenty-four, he replied with the stereotypical "Aye Yi Yi"!!!! But, the food was tasty and a good time was had by all. Before calling it a night, several members convened to the Ritter guest room for a night cap and some World Series baseball on the not so big screen TV.

Sunday morning brought cold temperatures but clear skies, and most of the members left for home by ten o'clock or so. Based on popular opinion, we will likely look to schedule another visit to the Hocking Hills area to explore more of the area's many good roads, enjoy some of the area's natural attraction and beauty, and maybe another visit to Marie Laveau's! (If you haven't yet, give it a listen. But, fair warning, it's one of those catchy tunes that will play repeatedly in your head!.... ♪another man done gone!♪..... dag gonnit!)

Colorado Here We Come!

The BMW Rider's Association is announcing a vacation to remember.

Save the date! June 14-17, 2012

Copper Mountain, Colorado

Let's celebrate forty years of the RA by going back to the state of the first "RA Grand National". This anniversary rally will be an unforgettable "all about you" event. Do you want to ride, relax, hang out with friends. This is the place to do that.

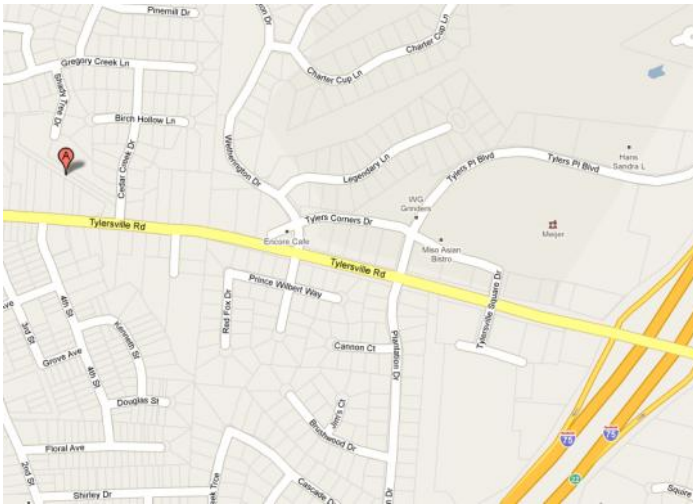
Copper gives you the freedom to define your own vacation experience. Easy access to several 14,000 ft. peaks, hundreds of miles of Colorado Scenic Byways, an 18-hole championship golf course and long stretches of celebrated fishing waters make Copper a premier summer destination. That access, combined with an intimate resort village that produces world-class events and entertainment, is especially appealing to motorcyclists. To see more, visit www.coppercolorado.com.



The November OTL has a fabulous article written by Mike Rand about Colorado GS riding. Mike is our GS coordinator for the 40th. He is planning 12 GS rides of varying degrees of difficulty. We also have 10 different day trips set up.

Follow us in OTL, Facebook and the forum. We hope to see you in Colorado/Tina Doggett – rally chair





Please send your RSVP and checks for the Christmas Dinner as soon as you can. We need to let Germania know how many to cook for by November 20th.

Cost is \$35 per person.

Do Debbie and the club a favor and send your check to her today. May as well include your 2012 dues too.

GCBMWC Dues

\$15.00 for a single membership or \$18.00 for both single & associate

Send your dues to:

Debbie Smith
3646 Longhorn Dr.
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

Your 2011 Officers

President **Tom Ritter**
tritter5@cinci.rr.com

Vice President **Tom Raybuck**
bucksinohio@aol.com

Secretary/
 Webmaster **Mike LaBar**
labrew@gmail.com

Treasurer **Debbie Smith**
dasbmw@zoomtown.com

Joni & Tom Raybuck are hosting our November 12th meeting. The meeting starts at 7:00 pm and is located at:

7703 Shady Lane
West Chester, Ohio 45069
(513) 759-0889



Meeting Schedule for 2011

- January..... Jim & Rosemary Osbun
- February 12th..... Tom & Joni Raybuck
- March 12th..... Mike Meister
- April 9th..... John & Barb Fischer
- May 14th..... Debbie & Allen Smith
- June 11th..... Scot & Lisa Friedman
- July 9th..... Joe & Chris Berry (BBQ Contest)
- August 20th..... Jesse & Eric
- September 10th..... George Nyktas & Mary Tholking
- October 8th..... Merrill & Diane Glos
- November 12th..... Tom & Joni Raybuck
- December 3rd..... Holiday Party Germania

1st Sunday Ride
November 6 10:00 am
 Breakfast at

Mima Mae's

11500 Alexandria Pike
 Alexandria, KY 41011

It looks now, like nice weather for Sunday. The restaurant is south of town so we will head out in the country down towards Falmouth.

Daylight savings is Sunday morning at 1:00am don't forget to fix your clocks before you go to bed !!

Nomination for all officers are now open. The office of Vice President or more commonly known as Ride Captain/Leader –Breakfast Coordinator Extraordinaire is open and must be filled for 2012.

Tom Raybuck has done a wonderful job for us every month on the 1st Sunday for the past 3 years. These are big boots to fill. Who can lead us? If you would like to give it a shot, we would love to follow you.

Thanks Tom from your fellow officers for your service to the club.

Minutes of the GCBMWC Meeting

October 8, 2011

Meeting held at the home of Merrill and Diane Glos Kenwood, Ohio - called to order at 7:40 PM by President Tom Ritter.

Board Members Present: Tom Ritter, Debbie Smith, and Mike LaBar. Tom Raybuck was fishing in Florida.
Guest(s) Todd Lever.

Minutes of the prior meeting were read by Mike LaBar as presented.

Treasurer Debbie Smith reported that the club treasury held \$1,384.58 at the beginning of the period. Income was received from the 50-50 (Split-the-Pot)(STP) drawing (\$25). Eric & Jessie where reimbursed \$30 to help cover the cost of last month's meeting. Debbie reported that the club still has 66 members. The treasury had a balance of \$1,379.58 at the end of the period. Debbie's report was accepted.

Old Business – President Ritter thanked George & Mary for a great meeting in September. The newsletter was praised for its content. The October club ride that Steve Thoerner lead from Erlanger to Augusta was praised. Mr. Ritter also reminded members of the Christmas Party on December 3rd at Germania – cost this year is \$35.00 per person – discussed collecting money in advance this year. Need to RSVP by Nov 20th Attendees were reminded of the need for officer nominations, in particular VP. Tom Raybuck's term ends this year. Steve Thoerner and John Fisher were both nominated for VP. Tom Ritter discussed the possibility of having 2 ride captains.

New Business: Hocking Hills Ohio weekend approaching - October 21-23. There should be a good showing with 22+ folks attending. Be thinking of routes.

The Fuel Coffee gathering on Riverside drive will be held next weekend from 8-12

Bill Duning's gathering in Lebanon is hillclimb Sunday (tomorrow) from 3-dark.

The November 12th meeting will be held at Tom and Joni Raybucks.

The MOA mileage contest entry forms must be sent in by Nov 14th

The Club mileage contest will end November 14th also.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

A Snapshot Back

Who are these folks?

Last year they were members.

What Event was this taken?

What date was this photo taken?



November 2011

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	1
13	14	15	16	17	18	1
20	21	22	23	24	25	2
27	28	29	30			

December 2011

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	1
11	12	13	14	15	16	1
18	19	20	21	22	23	2
25	26	27	28	29	30	3

January 2012

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	1
15	16	17	18	19	20	2
22	23	24	25	26	27	2
29	30	31				

Rallies & Events

Tuesdays—Bike night at the Comet

Wednesdays—Bike night at Quaker Steak & Lube Milford

To see a full listing from the MOA Calendar click [HERE](#)

2012 MOA International Rally

Sedalia, Missouri
July 19 - 22, 2012.

December 3rd 6:00 pm
Club Christmas Party at Germania Club

The Club Mileage Contest ends **November 14th**. Email Your Odometer readings to Mike LaBar.

The ABC Towns Contest ends also on **November 14th**. Email your pics or link to pics to Mike as well.



Neil's 25 lb. Red fish.

Website of the Month

<http://www.bmwmoafoundation.org/>

Who are these folks?
Pat and Chuck Waldemayer

Last year he was a member.
2006

What event was this?
Progressive Dinner

What date was this photo taken?
6/6/2004

STORE HOURS

Monday	Out Riding
Tuesday	9:00AM - 6:00PM
Wednesday	9:00AM - 6:00PM
Thursday	9:00AM - 8:00PM
Friday	9:00AM - 5:00PM
Saturday	9:00AM - 4:00PM
Sunday	Out Riding

MOTOHIO
european motorbikes



2011 BMW MOA MILEAGE CONTEST ENDING FORM



Mileage Contest Guidelines:

- Top 3 finishers should be able to provide verification of mileage upon request (service, gas or tire receipts).
- Always send your **BMW MOA** number with **all** correspondence.
- When filling in miles, always put total miles of the bike over 100k.
- Miles **must** be on a BMW.
- Entrant must be a BMW MOA member in *good standing*.
- Please indicate if miles or kilometers.
- **If you trade bikes or change speedometers during the contest, send in the Final Mileage and the new starting mileage, signed by the dealer or trader. Must be postmarked within four weeks (if loaner/rental bike used, please provide verification of miles).**
- Mileage readings that are not on the official form will not be accepted.
- If you live in a remote area, and have difficulty getting signatures, that will be taken into consideration.
- **Start and Finish forms will NOT be accepted at the same time (in October), unless you join BMW MOA after the start of the contest AND verification of starting mileage can be provided.**

NOTE: BMW MOA promotes safe riding and recommends participation in an MSF rider course.

Entries must be Postmarked by November 14, 2011

Return Form to:

Steve Brunner
c/o BMW MOA
P.O. Box 3982
Ballwin, MO 63022

2011 BMW MOA MILEAGE CONTEST

ENDING FORM – Ends Sunday, Oct. 9, 2011

BMW MOA# _____ Female: _____ Male: _____

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____ E-mail _____

Chartered Club (provide MOA Charter Club Number): _____

NOTE: The annual contest is intended to record miles ridden on BMW Motorcycles.
Please specify if **MILES or KILOMETERS** on all readings:



YEAR	MODEL	ODOMETER READING	MI / KM

⬇ Verification:

By two (2) BMW MOA members, or one (1) signature by an MOA Chartered Club Officer, MOA Director, Ambassador, Staff, BMW Dealer or Notary Public.

Must be postmarked by November 14, 2011

1. _____
Signature BMW MOA # Date

Address City / State / Zip

2. _____
Signature BMW MOA # Date

Address City / State / Zip

Signature of Entrant: _____

The annual contest is intended to record miles ridden on BMW motorcycles.
BMW MOA does not encourage unsafe riding practices. See reverse side for guidelines.

Must be postmarked by November 14, 2011