



Die Zeitung

Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle Club
of Hampton Roads, VA

<http://www.bmwchr.org>

February, 2008

President's Corner

By Gerry Schulte

Well, we're officially into Spring now, complete with April showers, and warm sunshine when it pops out. Those in winter hibernation are probably starting to think about riding again, and the rest of us are gradually switching from winter to summer gear. I hope that means a big turnout for this month's meeting.

By now, I hope you all know that we have another(?! *%\$) new meeting place. Our old restaurant in Suffolk suddenly closed a week or two after our last meeting. Something about doubled rent, and wanting to sell the place. And just when everyone was getting used to it. This became the first order of business at the last board meeting. We looked at all the prospects that have been found since our last vote, and none seemed to be a good alternative. Therefore, we went back to our second choice, Golden Corral at Chesapeake Square Mall. For those unfamiliar with the area, it is located directly behind last year's meeting place, Paradocks. Actually, the buffet price isn't much different than Suffolk Diner.

We also started looking into possible riding events for the year. In the past, longer rides have been attempted, with mixed results, so at the meeting I will be asking for ideas and interest from the club to make sure we have a good turnout at these events. Some possibilities include Open Houses, race weekends at VIR, Blue Ridge Parkway, Skyline Drive, and/or West Virginia rides, Crooked Road Bluegrass events, and even National Rallies. We are also looking at the various TAMA events on the calendar, to see if any of them would be of interest to the club.

Along these lines, last Saturday Brian Farrar gathered as many riders as he could find, and assisted with the triathlon event in Smithfield. From experience, these events are fun and a real change of pace from normal riding, and organizers donate \$40.00/motorcycle to our club for each event. They will have three more events around the area during the year, in case you are interested.

This month's ride after the meeting is the famous Five-and-Dime Ride along the James River. I don't know much about it other than the roads are fun and the scenery is beautiful, and I'm sure you've noticed that the trees and bushes are in

full bloom right now, so it should be spectacular. I hope ya'll can make it.

See you at the meeting.

Ride safe,

Gerry

Editors Ramblings

By Kyle Arnett

It was great to see everyone at the open house for Adventure BMW. Rick put on a great event and the entire staff were instrumental in the success. Thanks to those who volunteered to help out. The volunteers helped give a warmth and friendliness that is essential.

Recently, I was installing my GPS on my K1200RS, while the plastic was off, I was giving the bike the normal once over that I do every time the plastic is removed, and noticed that the radiator was just hanging by the hoses. This illustrates why cooler temperatures are a great reason for going through the bike. It is best done every six months or so, even if you have to take the plastic off just to check things out. In this case, the radiator mount had broke at the welds. I was able to order the part from <http://www.beemberboneyard.com>, a company that purchases wrecked BMWs and parts them out. Within three days, I had the new mount and was able to put the bike together and it is working excellently.

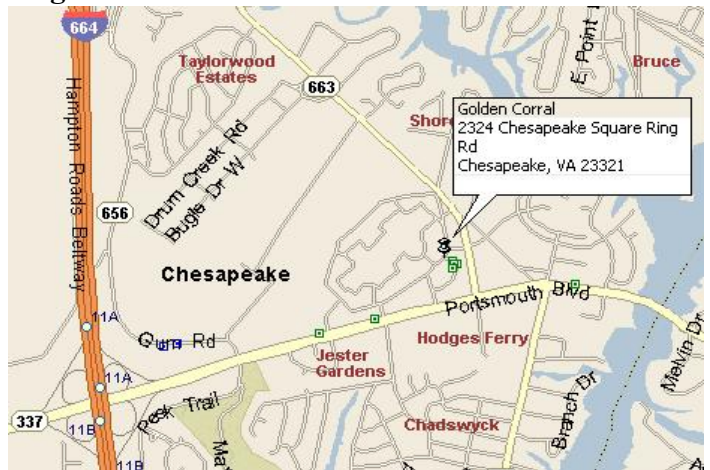
I have received more "notices" and information about items for sale and you will see these at the end of the Newsletter. There have been several articles submitted but most have been included in this newsletter so I am still looking for more. Please use the final cool days to author just one such article for future publication. If you happen to be enjoying the warm days that are occasionally creeping in, then how about a ride report? Finally, thanks to those who have submitted articles!

Be safe, gear up, and watch out!

Kyle

Another New Meeting Location!

It seems this may be a permanent column for the newsletter, but some things are simply unavoidable. This month's meeting will be held at the Golden Corral Buffet, 2324 Chesapeake Square, Ring Road, Chesapeake, Virginia phone: 465-2021. All you can eat \$9.05, seniors \$8.50. Many of you may recognize the area as the shopping mall we previously met at. If you need the gps coordinates:



2008 Rally Update

By Carol Beals

Hey Guys Rally Planning is already underway! We are currently running a contest for coming up with the rally design. The design must be able to be digitized and not have too much detail due to the size of the patch. If your design is selected you will receive free items with that design on them. For further details and deadlines please check with Wendy Tyler.

We have sent out about 350 letters to vendors for requests for door prizes and we have already received over \$1,000 worth of door prizes. If there is a vendor/dealer that you do business with please check with Carol Beals to make sure that we have them on the list for requesting door prizes. We have also already sent out 50 special invite letters for on-site vendors. We ask RevIT at Adventure's Open House and we are on his calendar. We are in the process of sending out rally flyers to about 70 BMW dealers in the Eastern region.

We also need someone to take the point for lining up people for presentations at the rally. Please contact Amber Beals for some of the possible presenters' contact information. This person would also determine all equipment needs of the presenters and work with the rally committee to procure all needed equipment. Coming up we will also need someone to take point for the field events. This person would work to determine which field events we should have, determine any equipment needs and ensure coverage at the rally of people to set up and run the events. Contact Carol Beals on existing equipment and its status.

If there is anything you would like to see or do at the rally please get that information to your rally committee. If there is any special skill you have that might help the rally committee out please let us know (designing, painting, wood work, etc.). If there is a job for the rally that you would really like to do, please let the rally com-

mittee know and they can make sure that it gets assigned to you.

We have both the Rally flyers and Ride flyers ready for distribution, please see Carol Beals for copies. If there are any questions please feel free to contact your rally committee.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the following businesses for their generous contributions to our rally.

DONOR	DONATION
Real Gaskets Tennessee	Cert for Gasket set (X3)
Beach's Motorcycle Adventures	\$250 Gift certificate
The Eastwood Company	\$25 off \$75 order
Bing Agency INTL	Gift from Bing (X3)
Omar's Café Motorcycles	\$25 gift Cert off BMW rear seat
Hachette Filacchi Media	2XL Black Twist T-shirt
Held USA	30 % off Gift Certificate shirt White (X3)
Helmet Sunblocker	Helmet Sunblocker (X2)
Carl Hungness Publishing	Vincent Laminated poster (X12)
DOWCO	Traveler Motorcycle cover (X5)
WhiteHorse Gear	Book - Ride Guide to America
	Book - Motorcycling Excellence
Cramp Busters	Crampbuster motorcycle cruise assist (X11)
CIMA International	Head Scraf HAD-UV Solid Yellow (2)
	Arrow tall sock 5-6 (X2)

Rally notification

Attention Airheads !!! Great North Carolina Spring Fling April 25-27

Come join the Airheads, Poverty Riders International, and Triumph Riders in a joint venture to usher in the 2008 riding season with fabulous roads and camaraderie at High Country Motorcycle Camp. Donation rally. Cooking and dining facility provided. We'll figure out group meals as we go, Tech Sessions as they arise. if you have bike parts to sell or trade, bring them.

Rally coincides with the 21st Annual Merle Fest, an incredible music festival, held in Wilkesboro just down the road. Check out www.merlefest.org for talent and tickets. Several people will be coming up a week early to help work on the campground. Come one, come all.

For more information see www.highcountrymotorcyclecamp.com or contact Brent Hollowell at 336-973-3911 or hcmc@embarq.com.

For Sale

It seems that Moon, a longtime member of BMWCHR has been unable to utilize his K100RT as it's Bavarian designers had anticipated, so this is an opportunity to give a lonely bike a good home and gain a bike. It is currently in Norfolk and the price has not yet been determined, if you are interested, contact Pete at pete.hahn@norfolk.gov

50 CC Follow-up

by Gary Shanafelt

Last month I wished my friend Dorsey luck on his attempt to ride from coast to coast in 50-hours and am happy to report Dorsey made it with 5-hours to spare. He called me the next day and I got a chance to ask the obvious question, "Why?" Remember, Dorsey is nearly my age and I can testify that neither of us thought we were going to live this long. In his job with Raytheon, Dorsey travels all over the World and his boss expressed some concern over Dorsey making these long overseas trips. After completing his 50CC, or more accurately 45CC, Dorsey was able to tell his boss, "Come back and talk to me when you've matched what I just did!"

If you would like to know more about the rules of the ride above or any other Ironbutt recognized rides, simply refer to this site: <http://www.ironbutt.com>.

Spring Social Recap

By Gary Shanafelt

Appreciating the sedate nature of the BMWCHR, the **Poquoson Seafood and Steak House**

eagerly accepted our request to host our **2008 Spring Social**. Some of the restaurant customers were a little apprehensive when about 13 motorcycles pulled up and the riders were ushered to a private section of the restaurant. The only incident we had were when Pete Hann and Pat Patterson, both looking formidable in their padded riding jackets and Pat with his new-well trimmed beard, sundered up to two young couples seated in the back and said, "Do you mind if we dance 'wif your dates?" The incident was quickly neutralized when Ann Patterson went over, grabbed both of them by the ear and led them over to our reserved area.

Our waitress Tara greeted the group with her warm Poquoson smile and friendly attitude then wasted no time in setting high marks for service to the sixteen attending club members and quickly served lunch that exceeded our already high expectations. **Poquoson Seafood and Steak House** is definitely a repeat!

Most of our Southside participants brought their passports to assure a smooth return across the James River even though one member asked if they sold unleaded gas on the Northside and wondered if the water was safe to drink. In spite of apprehensions in traveling so far away, we all enjoyed the ride up to the "other side" and, even though I was tired by the time I finally got home, I highly recommend more outings North of the James! For those of you who would like the address, the restaurant is located at 480 Wythe Creek Road, Poquoson, VA 23662. For GPS Minded individuals— - 76.391582 / 37.126821

Nate Kern Schedule

Nate Kern will be in the area on a few occasions this year. He has stated that his pits are open to fans who want to see BMW's leading the pack.

Dates	Track
April 5-6	Jennings (Jennings, FL)
April 12-13	Carolina Motorsports Park (Kershaw, SC)
April 18-20	Barber Motorsports Park (Leeds, AL)
April 25-27	Heartland Park (Topeka, KS)
May 3-4	Summit Point Raceway (Summit Point, WV)
May 24-26	Summit Point Raceway (Summit Point, WV)
June 21-22	VIRginia Int'l Raceway (Alton, VA)
July 4-6	Road America (Elkhart Lake, WI)
Aug 9-10	Barber Motorsports Park (Leeds, AL)
Aug 15-17	VIRginia Int'l Raceway (Alton, VA)
Sept 6-7	Summit Point Raceway (Summit Point, WV)
Sept 20-21	VIRginia Int'l Raceway (Alton, VA)
Oct 16-19	Daytona Int'l Speedway (Daytona, FL)

Tech Tips

By Gary Shanafelt

Occasionally my loving wife will drag me to some snooty event with some of her snooty friends, some of which even finished high school. During these social gatherings I always find it fun to work into the conversation that my favorite singer is Astrud Gilberto (pictured at right). Generally nobody takes notice but anyone that knows anything about music realizes immediately that I don't know what I am talking about. Astrud is not well thought of in true music circles as she has a limited tonal range and not thought to possess great talent.



I can associate with Astrud because I have never let a lack of talent keep me from starting a project and I admit that I do not possess much of a repertoire in technical matters. I do, however, have several friends on retainer as advisors that do have in-depth knowledge and, so far, have bailed me out of some pretty tight technical corners. Don't get me wrong, I love working on my bikes; I'm just not very good at it! But our Club has several very good mechanics that can generally talk us through a tough situation and, if necessary, will even make house calls. Working on your own bike is not about saving money but the knowledge you gain, the confidence to try other self-repairs, and to diagnose problems that pop-up when on the road. When you get stuck remember you have a Club full of help at your disposal. Today's tech-tip is, "Use 'Em!"

Oh, by the way. Astrud Gilberto had one hit: **Girl from Ipanema!**

GPS: Tool, Master, or Expensive Handlebar Ornament?

By Kyle Arnett

As a pilot, I have used location devices including Omega, Loran, Doppler, and most recently (1993 or so), GPS. I have seen it relied on, dismissed, ignored, and seen it used as a crutch. I have witnessed pilots who used to be trained to use the map as a main means of navigation with the GPS simply as a backup who now use the GPS only and are completely incapable of using a map. Which side do you see yourself?

My first personal GPS was one which required individual loads of needed maps, loads that took hours. This gps provided nothing but an arrow pointing to the ultimate destination, not the next turn. Recently I installed a Zumo 550 to replace the previously mentioned unit (which I still have) and my learning curve again improved. Today's GPS units are multi featured items, combining multiple functions such as Phone, MP3s, Traffic, Weather, XM Radio, and much more. When you buy a device, do you dedicate yourself to understanding it as much as possible or do you simply learn to use it. Learning

how to use it and how it works? With increasing complexity, do you understand the file system of our device? Is it finicky about where data is stored? Is there better ways of organizing music or other files? Can you take your music and create your own playlist so you can listen to a variety without hitting shuffle? Do you even know the difference between an MP3 and MP4? Having read a number of forums, I am finding that many do not know the difference and this is costing them the enjoyment of their device after giving up trying to get it to work (the music files have to be .MP3 and won't play if they are .MP4 as you get from iTunes). What I am getting at is understanding one system often means the need to understand other systems.

For my Zumo, I have spent a great deal of time and have discovered a number of features and websites that are easy to use. Items such as Point Of Interest (poi) files are excellent. POI files are lists of like items, I have one of all BMW Dealers (complete with roundel, just like BMW's navigator), I have a list of schools, etc... When I bring up any of the above lists, it lists them in order of closest first and the location is automatic, even the phone number is available. If you don't feel like making this list (as it is a learning experience), I have found a site on the internet (<http://www.poi-factory.com>) where you can download these lists which have been made by others. I wanted to learn even more so I started creating my own files, such as lists by state of restaurants which my airline gives bonus miles, now when I am looking for a restaurant, all I have to do is tap the screen and I will get closer to a free trip too. This illustrates the bonus of such a list. While making the list, I found a site (<http://www.gpsvisualizer.com>) which will take lists of addresses and return lat/long coordinates to aid in making the lists. I have even learned to change what the Zumo says to me (geeky I know, but I learned from it)... for what it's worth, my Zumo will now say "flip a u-turn" instead of "make a u-turn" and "hang left" rather than "turn left".

Now on the practical side, this type of knowledge comes in handy when trouble shooting or needing to operate the system without taking a great deal of time. I can do many tasks while at a stoplight where many may take 5 minutes to complete. It gives a great deal of flexibility when challenges approach, and it helps you use the GPS as a tool while recognizing when something is not right. Technology is a wonderful thing but if we don't grow with it, we do not get full advantage and, in the end, will enjoy our trips/rides less because of spending more time trying to figure out items we didn't think we could use or that we wanted to learn later. I understand some don't want to spend time learning in advance... I'll be the one making a few quick taps and grabbing my camera while you wrestle with your system.

I will try to make some other articles explaining specifics of this if you would like some of the above mentioned features.