



# die Zeitung

Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle Club  
of Hampton Roads, VA

[www.bmwchr.org](http://www.bmwchr.org)

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## Editor's Ramblings

by Gary Shanafelt

I have always felt a close association with William F. Buckley because our backgrounds are strikingly similar. Mr. Buckley grew up surrounded by undeniable wealth, attended boarding school in England, and after a short tour as an officer in the US Army he attended Yale, wrote a best selling book the year after he graduated, and went on to be the founding editor of the *National Review*. I grew up in shotgun house in Oklahoma, barely graduated from high school, completed a couple classes at the local community college, and had the privilege of occasionally contributing to a widely read newsletter for the BMWCHR; something that even Mr. Buckley cannot claim. Since our editor, Kyle Arnett, is out defending our freedom against all enemies, both foreign and domestic, and I am setting back enjoying my 4F status, I am honored to be allowed to put out this special edition of *die Zeitung*.

## President's Corner

by Gerry Schulte

I know it feels like winter most days, but we're turning the corner on spring weather, any minute now. Overall, the winter has been pretty mild, but I'd still like to see another 10 – 20 degrees. We've been lucky so far this year, with good weather for our first two group rides after our meetings, and I hope it holds for this weekend as well. As you know, we are riding up to a Civil War Fort on the James. I haven't explored the south side of the river before, and am looking forward to it.

Speaking of rides, I hope everyone enjoyed the trip to Virginia Beach Airport. We lucked out on a special treat, with two of their most famous planes, the Mustang and the Spitfire, sitting outside when we got there. They took off while we watched, buzzed the runway at about 50 feet off the ground, then left for a promotional fly-by at the ocean-front. As the last people were leaving they came back, buzzed the airport again and landed. The best part is anyone can go down there 7 days a week and you never know what you'll see.

The board and the rally committee are hard at work making plans for this year's rally, to make it the best, and hopefully biggest, ever. Advertising information has already been submitted to various club publications, and requests for rally prizes will be going out soon. We have been brainstorming new ideas, and fine-tuning the already tried-and-true features of the rally for maximum enjoyment by everyone.  
(Cont Pg 4)

### Upcomming Events

- **02 Mar: Club Meeting 08:00 for chow; 09:00 for meeting.**
- **3 to 9 Mar: Daytona Bike Week**
- **08 Mar: Adventure Open House 10:00 to 3:00**
- **15 & 16 Mar: Bike and Tattoo show in Richmond (Hey, it's a slow month for news!)**
- **12 Apr: Morton's Open House & Flea Mkt**
- **10 to 17 May: Myrtle Beach Bike Week**
- **26 May: Rolling Thunder, Washington**

## Unofficial and Uninvited Dealership Inspection

by Gary Shanafelt

Cutting down on my travel last year made for a more harmonious life at home but didn't do much for contributing to the newsletter. However, last month I was asked by my boss to make a "quality control check" on the steaks at *Pinnacle Peak's* in Tucson to see if they were as succulent as they were during my first visit in 1967. In the mid 60s, *Pinnacle Peak's* was easy to find; you drove northeast just out side of town and it sat all alone on your left hand side about half way to Mt. Lemmon. Today I would highly recommend you load the address in your GPS because Tucson has grown and the restaurant is virtually "downtown"! As expected, the "Cowboy T-Bone" got an A+ but since I was already in Tucson, I thought I better go by the local BMW dealer and check it out.

Accompanied by my "*Cookie Rating Book of Standards for BMW Dealers*" (see Jul 05 newsletter for rating criteria) I stopped by Iron Horse Motorcycles of Tucson where the first thing I noticed was a modest sized cement pad in the tarmac parking lot that is most likely jam-packed in the summer when the temperature gets into three digits and the tarmac is soft. I was met at the door by their friendly sales manager T.R. Wenning who showed me around the shop. Iron Horse has a modest inventory but a good variety of BMWs displayed. Their clothing and accessories section is fairly small even though they have 1000s of T-shirts. (I began to get the idea that the Gerbing Company won't be hosting any displays of heated riding gear at this particular location!)

Iron Horse Motorcycles works hard to interface with their clientele. So far this year they have already booked a fund raising trail ride and BBQ in Jan, a lecture by Simon and Lisa Thomas on their 4½ years of travel in Feb, and scheduled the requisite Open House in Mar.

T.R. told me they will soon be hosting an off-road training course for their GS riders. In the recent past, Iron Horse organized:

- A free seminar on how to get the most out of traveling on your bike.
- Track Day
- Road trip to Guatemala
- Advanced GS riding course
- Skilled Rider Course
- Presentation by Kevin Sanders from GlobeBusters
- Tire Changing Seminar
- A Rally with new demo bikes
- Oil Changing Seminar
- A seminar on how to pick up your bike if (or in my case-when) you drop it and how to tie you bike down for transport.

Also check out their website,

(<http://www.ironhorsemotorcycles.com>) for an informative little newsletter and a list of other activities sponsored by Iron Horse. Iron Horse Motorcycles is really a pretty small dealership compared to some of the mega-stores but they get off their butts and make things happen for their customers. I'm giving them ☺☺☺.

## Finance 101

by A. Miscreant

If you have already paid your 2008 dues, you are through with this newsletter and can throw it away. If not, read on! "I thought I had paid my dues!" I bet Rusty Barton heard that about twelve times at the last meeting. I know he heard it once from me. I felt badly since it not up to Rusty, or Gerry, or Larry, or anyone else to chase us down for our dues. Being an officer in this club is embarrassing enough let alone having to hound your friends to cough-up a "Jackson". I have traveled with you guys and I have seen what we will spend \$20 on and believe me, club dues are a bargain compared to that. That being said, if you will please excuse me, I need to drop a check in the mail.



If you haven't already liberated one of your wife's cup cake pans to keep track of small parts, now is the time to do so. I strongly suggest you only work on one carburetor at a time so you will always have an assembled one for a reference. The first carburetor took me almost 2-hours to remove, disassemble, clean, assemble, and reinstall; the second one took me about 20-minutes.

If you already know how to balance your carburetors, stop reading now! If this is your first time, I might be able to save you a lot of wasted time as a couple things I tried just did not work. Syncing the carbs using one vacuum gauge and pinching off one line at a time is not doable. In desperation, I built a nanometer from an article I found that showed promise. I could get the vacuum balanced between the two carbs but they still weren't contributing equally to the idle power. Finally a kind hearted club member took pity on me and showed me how to set the idle by grounding out one cylinder at a time. (*I still owe him a bottle of Jack.*)

Once you have your carbs rebuild and the motor tuned to perfection, it is really hard to not swagger when you pull up to a group of Beamer riders, dismount, and have one of them say, "Sounds good."

### Pres' Corner (Cont)

This year, we will have a little more formal organization, with groups formed and practiced, where necessary, to perform certain tasks. We are trying to spread the load among more people, so more than the usual few will be keeping everything running smoothly. The goal is for everyone to know ahead of time what they are expected to do, and also how to do it and when. We will have more information as the rally gets closer.

Besides the after-meeting rides, we are also looking at some more ambitious riding occasions, to choice locations around the state and region. Some may involve more than one day, and they may not all be on pavement. We are working on a list to present to the club in the next few months, and are also looking for suggestions. It would be helpful to pick these as soon as possible so the hard details can be worked out.

Folks, it feels like another great riding season coming up, and I hope everyone can take maximum advantage of it. See you at the meeting.

Ride safe,

*Gerry*

### 50CC

Remember the short article in Aug 06 newsletter on Dorsey Price, the friend of mine who has logged over 1.3M miles? On 5 Mar, Dorsey will collect sand and water from the Pacific Ocean in San Diego and has 50-hours to do the same thing in Jacksonville, FL. **FIFTY hours, Coast-to-Coast.** Dorsey is going to have a transponder on his bike so we can track his progress on the internet. I'm already making plans to attend the International Motorcycle Show next January. Dorsey's butt is going to be on display.

