



# die Zeitung

01 Sep 05



What would bring two nice ladies to the Great Lakes Brewing Company with six guys of dubious reputation? ANSWER: The MOA Rally this July held in Lima, OH. Representing the BMWCHR are (LtoR) Jo Smithdeal, Gerry Schulte, Marvin Sylvest, Bob Chapman, Greg and Linda Cutter, Pete Hahn, and Jeff Munn.

## Upcoming Events:

- NOTE THE CHANGE!** Because of Labor Day, our Sept meeting will be held on 11 Sep; still at Waffle World.
- Colonial Rally: 30 Sep-2 Oct. Jamestown Campground.
- Morton's Octoberfest: 15 Oct, 9am-4pm
- Rick Moran Memorial Ride: 16 Oct.

## Diversity 101

by Gary Shanafelt

I don't remember a time when I wasn't infatuated with motorcycles. Like a lot of kids, I used to appropriate my mother's clothespins and clip playing cards to the frame of my Sun Racer bicycle to make the motor sound against the spokes. Most kids only did that for a week or two.... I did it for years! Maybe it is for the best that the kids today are not as interested in motorcycles as we were but the rapid aging of our "sport" should be a concern for all of us.

The June 05 edition of *On the Level (OTL)*, BMW Rider's Association near-monthly periodical, has a very good article on the subject. I encourage you to read Toby Fulwiler's treatise, "A Mediation on the Missing Generation of Motorcycle Riders"(pg 35), which outlines some of the reasons young adults don't think motorcycles, or motorcyclist, are COOL. Toby states that if a young adult begins motorcycle riding it will probably be for the wrong reason with the wrong bike, they often confuse riding with racing, and they will probably never transition over to appreciating the esthetics of riding. "Motorcycle riding taught (Toby) quickness and agility, observation and judgment, control and power, independence and freedom, vulnerability and release."

I find it humorous and at the same time sad when I see a young military enlisted person put every dime he has into a sport bike then ride it with the invincibility that only youthful ignorance can conjure. Sadly, they are missing so much of what motorcycles are all about. The Air Force loses at least one young airman per month through fatal motorcycle accidents. At the same time it is pathetic to see the response of some of their senior leaders, the latest of which is to dictate that bike riders have to wear a reflective vest. ("There," says the installation commander, "I did something about motorcycle safety.") I AM NOT MAKING THIS UP: You

can ride your motorcycle on a military installation wearing gym shorts and shower clogs provided you also have a helmet and reflective vest! Consequently, the young airman rides around the base building up a resentment that can only be extinguished just outside the base gate with speed. We owe our young people so much more.

I don't know how we win over the young adults to a point where they want to enjoy and propagate our sport. Closer association with young riders might help but what young adult wants to hang around someone as old and crotchety as me. I even started this article with the all too familiar phrase, "When I was a kid...."; which is exactly what they do not want to hear. If we are to retain young members and grow as a club, we are going to have to listen to what interest them and move, or should I say compromise, in their direction. I have also been to enough diversity-training classes to know that to have a strong organization you need a diversity of people. Let's go get some!

## August Meeting Highlights



And a finer looking array of bikes cannot be found!



Do you know what your kids are up to? Guest Jody Sawyer does! Jody, his daughter Ariel, and a really snappy looking GS added a lot of class to our August meeting.



Guest Mike Krizadsky (L) rode one of his SEVEN motorcycles and is seen exchanging stories with Larry Martin and Gerry Schulte.



Dan Franken shows off his USMC son, Dan, during the August meeting. The younger Dan is stationed at Little Creek and is in-between Iraq tours.

## Club Ride to Edenton

by Bob Ross

I posted an announcement on multiple email list to BMWCHR members for a ride on Sunday, 8/21. Received responses, two out of the country on important assignments related to employment. Others had prior family engagements or other more thrilling things to do....oh well, next time!

Three hearty souls showed up at Franks Truck Stop in Chesapeake at 7a.m. We had a tasty breakfast and stimulating conversation. We solved all the problems in Iraq and discussed the issues involving Oceana and the BRAC Commission.

At about 8am Larry Martin on RS airhead, Dan Franken on Honda Goldwing, Pete Hahn on R1150RT and I on a similar R1150RT set out for Edenton, N.C by way of Suffolk on Route 32. I picked this route with the help of MapQuest, being new to the area. Pleasant ride down to Edenton, little or no traffic, very cool at 8am.

About an hour out I noticed that Larry's turn signal was on (kept flashing). I thought he might have to stop and this was his signal. So...when in doubt check it out.... We stopped. Larry asked why, he didn't need to...and was not signaling. After a short lecture by Dan about the responsibilities of a Wingman in combat formation (shut up, don't growl, stay in formation and keep going) we got underway again.

We cruised into Edenton, very quaint, old houses, quiet community. We stopped on the town outer limits for a break...John Deere Tractor dealership. Larry used the time to adjust or disconnect his foot brake light. Dan had noticed that it seemed to keep coming on

with out reason....during the ride down to Edenton.

Dan offered to lead the group to an historic, recently remodeled coffee house in Elizabeth City...just a few miles to the north...we crossed a scenic bridge overlooking a part of the Albemarle Sound. Through Hertford, up route 17. In Elizabeth City we located Dan's coffee house, Muddys on Main Street. Many locals came in for coffee, some with dogs. A unique coffee bar patterned after Starbucks but with a rather antique atmosphere.



Larry Martin on his RS between Dan Franken and Pete Hahn standing in front of their respective tractors.

Dan agreed to lead the return ride back to Virginia Beach by way of The Back Bay. We twisted and turned on numerous back roads, which I would be unable to duplicate. Crossed the Inland Waterway and in a short time arrived at Dan's house. We checked out his latest interest, a 30 foot Airstream trailer. We also toured his well-appointed workshop/barn.

All in all it was a good ride, had fun, enjoyed the company of club riders: Larry, Dan and Pete....got home in time to enjoy the pool with the grandkids!

Bob Ross