



BMW MOA Charter 280

Mid-Atlantic Riders' Rag

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The Monthly Newsletter of the Mid-Atlantic Riders

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From the President

Our crab feast in Lewes was a great success this year. Twenty four members and spouses/significant others showed up to pick their way through dozens and dozens of crabs and wolf down an equal number of hot dogs and hamburgers. It was our best late summer event ever!

The weather could not have been more cooperative and most of us rode our scooters over to Joe Melchiorre's. Joe's son gave airplane rides to everyone who wanted to see lower Delaware from 1000 feet and Rogers George served as the semi official photographer. Rogers took the photo at right of Ed Lombardi (on the left) discussing the intricacies of changing the oil filter on a K1200GT with Joe Melchiorre while Dean Smith searches for a penny he dropped.



Next Breakfast

Our next breakfast will be at Matilda's in Newark at 9 AM on Saturday, October 8.

If you missed this event, you missed one of the better club outings.

Speaking of club events, the treasury gets its money from your dues but it comes mostly from the 50-50 drawings we have at the breakfasts, so please bring a few extra dollars with you to the breakfasts for the raffles. You may take home much more money than you came with and you'll be helping your club sponsor more events such as the crab feast and the mid-winter banquet.

By the way, if you would like to see Rogers George's photos of the crab feast, he's posted them on-line at www.flickr.com/photos/rogersgeorge/sets/960459/

A Nice Afternoon Ride

Rogers George

Well, it was the Saturday before Labor Day and I was a good boy, besides I have a pretty good wife. I got all my chores done by noon and that included watching *Raising Helen* (a rare movie in which the religious folks are good guys) in the bedroom before we got up, Val even served us breakfast in bed. So at noon she insisted I go for a ride. As I said, I have a pretty good wife.

The weather had been beautiful all morning during the chores, and now rain threatened, but I decided to chance it anyway (being from Minnesota I'm not afraid of a little rain). I decided to head south to check out the other side of the Susquehanna River. I gassed up my '81 R100RT at a truck stop and sure enough, it started to rain; it was that misty stuff that's great for the garden but makes the roads slick. It was time anyway to see if my 20-year-old rubberized cotton camo rain suit still worked, (Had it really been that long ago that I de-tasseled corn?) but about one mile down the highway the rain stopped and the sun came out and the weather remained perfect for the rest of the day. Oh well, probably safer anyway.

I got off I-95 to the right at the Havre de Grace exit and took the first right, pointing to Steppingstone Museum (which is part of the Susquehanna State Park). I noticed a hand-made sign and three balloons announcing a wedding somewhere ahead. Steppingstone was converted to a museum of antique technology hidden in the rolling hills above the Susquehanna floodplain. A rolling driveway leads to a farm site with a smithy, cooperage, woodworker (a real person demonstrating hand- and foot-powered tools.) and several displays of period medical science...and a wedding! I had to duck around to stay out of the way. The museum is about 25 miles from the Delaware toll plaza and well worth the trip.

I then followed the roads around and down to the park proper, which includes the remains of the Susquehanna canal, a working mill, and several period houses, not to mention some good hiking, an archery range, and camping and picnicking areas. A word about this road: after you're committed to it, you'll see a "Road Narrows" sign. It's already none too wide, but it's okay, however there are trees very close to the road. You'll then see another "Road Narrows" sign. Hey—it can't get much narrower—about enough room for a bike and a car to pass. Then sign number three! Room for two bikes

now and both sides feature steep drop-offs to a rocky stream below, so be a bit careful. I checked out a campground turnoff and scared up three woods rats.

You then travel along the defunct canal to the far end of the park where you can hike to the foot of the Conowingo dam, but I took the bike back up the hill and found my way to the steep and twisty road that leads to the foot of the dam. There were a lot of fishermen down there, and I watched them catch two catfish during the first couple of minutes.

I did about 20 miles or so meandering around, including an interesting conversation with a gravedigger at a nice cemetery, and had a key lime soda in a little town with a small general store/auto repair shop. I then crossed the dam, making an easy right turn onto Route 1 that runs right over the top. Just past the



east end of the dam, Route 222 turns downhill toward Port Deposit, so named because that was as far as you could get up the river, and the barges deposited their loads there. Sometimes the barges themselves were dismantled and turned into houses. It's an interesting little town. But I took about every side road first, and found some nice twisties and bridges, and a kid creating smoke by spinning his pickup tires with the brakes on.

About 5 pm I went to the Union Hotel out in the middle of the woods on Route 222 halfway to the town. Turns out it has a tavern next door that's a popular biker hangout—especially on Sundays. I knew only about the fancy restaurant at the main building. I met the wife there for supper and told our waitress that I had proposed to my wife there some time before and she took real good care of us. We left the bike at the park-n-ride near I-95 and took her car to IKEA at the White Marsh Mall to get stuff for the house, and I picked up the bike on the way home. We had fun when we got home, too, um... in hot tub, yeah, the hot tub.

I did a total of about 75 miles, with not even a marshmallow butt, and one of the best days of my life.

Upcoming Rides

Friday–Monday, October 7–10

Jay Schmittinger will again lead another one of his infamous rides through West Virginia, this time it's to see the fall foliage. We'll be staying at the same motel each night which should make things a bit easier. If you would like to go, please make your own reservations at the Smoke Hole Caverns motel and cabins in Seneca Rock,

West Virginia by going to their web site at www.smokehole.com/index.html or by calling them at 1-800-828-8478.

Jay and the group will leave Wesley's Restaurant on Route 273 in Maryland, about seven miles west of Newark, at 10 am on October 7 and plans to be back by 1 pm on the 10th. If you'd like to discuss the trip with Jay directly, he can be reached at jschmitter@schmittrod.com or at 302 674-0140.

Saturday, October 15

Join our newest member, David Hrenchir, as he leads a ride to Fredericksburg, Virginia to Morton's BMW Open House. You can meet David at 9 am sharp in Dover at the new Wawa on Route 8, just down the street from the Maple Dale Country Club. You can also meet us at the McDonald's on Route 50, just this side of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, at 10 am. David promises a fun ride down but doesn't know what his plans will be once he gets there, so we'll be on our own for the return trip. If you need more info, contact David at one4sipde@yahoo.com, or at 302 734-4449.

For detailed info on the open house, check out www.mortonsbmw.com.

Reminder

The club has two high-quality helmet headsets and two walkie-talkies for use by its members. The headsets are a universal type that will fit almost any helmet and the radios have a range of several miles. If you'd like to use them on a trip, please contact Ed Lombardi at edlombardi@comcast.net or at 302 453-8666. They're not suitable for use as an intercom between you and your passenger, however, because the distance between the units is too short.

Looking a bit ahead:

MARS' Mid-Winter Banquet

Saturday, January 28

Our mid-winter banquet will be held again this year at the Maple Dale Country Club in Dover. The social hour will begin at 6 pm, with dinner starting at 7 pm., after dinner will dance away the calories 'till 11 pm. We'll have door prizes and recognize those members who made significant contributions to our club in the past year. Dress is business casual.

We're going to have a special guest speaker this year who's a major force in the motorcycle industry in this region. We're not going to tell you the name just yet - we'll save that for later!

There will be more on the banquet in upcoming newsletters.