



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

This is my penultimate newsletter; the next one will be my last. My BMWMOA membership expires in October, and so must my term as president and editor. It's been a great 18 months and if I still had a BMW I would serve as long as you would have me. However, BMWMOA has their rules, and as a chartered club, we must abide.

Tracy Novacich has agreed to become the newsletter editor. She'll do a great job and will undoubtedly improve the look and content of the newsletter. I know she'll appreciate your articles, trip reports, ride announcements and photos.

We still need a president. In the five months since announcing my October departure, no one has stepped up to take the position. However, now that the editor's job has been taken, I'm once again asking for a volunteer to lead the club. If there is only one interested person, then he or she has the job. If there are more than one, then we need an election at the October breakfast.

Please give this serious consideration. Leading the club is a fulfilling job with its share of challenges, but I promise you'll enjoy it.

Attendance at our monthly breakfast has fallen off in recent months, and it's at a point where we should reevaluate how we do the breakfasts, and their locations. I feel bad having Matilda's and Maple Dale set out a buffet for 24-30 people only to have six or eight people show up. Perhaps many members were on vacation during the last several breakfasts, or were on rides. But if the attendance

Next Breakfast

Our next breakfast will be at the Maple Dale Country Club in Dover at 9 AM on Saturday, September 9.

continues to be sparse, we should have our breakfast meetings at a restaurant where we simply order off the menu. I believe Maple Dale will allow us to do this, but Matilda's will not because they don't do breakfasts normally. At Tracy's Novacich's request they open early just for our club.

Your thoughts?

MARS' First Annual Scavenger Hunt on Saturday, September 9

David Hrenchir has spent much of the summer putting together another of his infamous scavenger hunts. Please clear your calendar to join David and other club members and guests on this all day event. He promises that you'll have a great time and it will give you something to talk about for many months to come.

The hunt starts at the Maple Dale Country Club immediately after our monthly breakfast, and will encompass much of the Delmarva Peninsula (minus the "va"). It will finish by 6:00 pm at a location to be announced.

The \$25 entrance fee includes your breakfast at the country club. Any questions should be directed to David at maxscycle@yahoo.com.

October 14th Goat Roast

Rogers George

Val and I are looking at Saturday, October 14 for the goat roast. The weather is supposed to be beautiful and warm, but we'll have the event inside if the weather doesn't cooperate. (That means we'll cook the entree outside under a canopy; we will not build a fire in the living room.)

Do not miss this event! It promises to be one of the, um, most interesting gatherings of the year, with a passel of intelligent, glamorous, interesting, lively, and perverse people in attendance. Conversation will be lighthearted and serious, hilarity will reign, and there will be free tours of the new chicken coop. If you wish, bring a musical instrument. We have a piano, harp, guitar and dulcimer on site. You can meet Kathleen, and the other geese will be available for sale.

The location is our place, a couple hundred yards due south of the toll booths on I-95 on the way to MD. It's 1314 Whittaker Road, Newark, DE 19702. Google map it.

We're figuring on a midday/early afternoon meal and a campfire in the evening for those willing to stick around until dusk or spend the night here. If anyone would like to be our guest for the night and go home on Sunday, we have camping and crashing (inside) accommodations.

The event will be pot luck for everything except the entree. We'll also do supplies like plates and cutlery, and maybe some soda and ice chests.

You are welcome to donate to the cost of raising the creatures in addition to whatever you bring for the pot luck. The entree will be one goat and one lamb, suitably prepared on a spit, over a fire, and available for every one's inspection before we eat. If you want to inspect them live, visit us some time before the event. We'll cook some Boca Burgers® for those not of the carnivore persuasion.

Cars, motorcycles, bicycles and parachutes are acceptable modes of transportation to the party. You can walk here, too. Bring any guests you like; we invited a few neighbors who are goat aficionados.

I'll repeat all this down the road, but I want you to be able to mark your calendars.

(Rogers George can be reached at rogers.george@gmail.com)

Angels On The Road!

Jeff Culbertson

In mid-July, I left from my home in Hockessin en route to Wayland, MI (about 25 miles south of Grand Rapids) to join my family who were there on vacation. I planned on a two day trip, cutting through central Pennsylvania (Routes 322, 144, 44 and 6) for an overnight in Erie, PA. Obviously not the most direct route, but chosen for the roads and vistas, and to visit with a friend who lives in Erie.

On day two, in an attempt to cover a lot of distance in the least amount of time, I rode the slabs (I90/80, 69N, 94W) as far as I could, then I jumped onto Route 37N for the last 30 or so miles to my destination. In short, most of the day was spent riding at 70-80 mph. While working my through the small town of Hastings, about 15 miles from my final destination, while trying to following some written directions, it became apparent that I had missed a turn somewhere. I circled the block and pulled into a gas station to check my directions, and as soon as I got off the bike, I heard the loud hissing of escaping air from the rear tire. Upon a through investigation, it became apparent that the valve stem had failed internally, and could not be fixed. I was lucky this had not happen 30 minutes ago while on the slab at 80 mph.



So, it is now late Saturday afternoon, with no extra valve stem, or way to install it even if I did have one. What to do? Out of the blue, who pulls up to the gas station but a guy riding a 1982 R80ST, with a sidecar! We immediately discuss the situation; the driver of

the R80ST takes a look and confirms that it is an internal failure of the valve stem (like me, this is the 1st time he has seen this type of failure), and says “let’s get that rear wheel off and run it up to my house and see if I have a stem that will fit.” So, with me sitting in the sidecar, holding my rear tire, we are heading up the road. We found a stem that fit, broke the bead on one side, changed the stem, aired up the tire, and we were heading back to the gas station within 40 minutes.

This guy who bailed me out of trouble on a late Saturday afternoon is none other than Tom Winebrenner of Hastings, MI. He refused to take anything for his trouble, just saying that “I know what is like to need a hand when you are far from home.” With bike all back together, and thanking Tom again, I was back on the road. A few days later (since Tom gave me his name, and I had made note of his address while we were fixing the tire), I sent Tom and his wife a gift certificate to a nice local restaurant, with a formal thank you note.

I related this story to the service manager of the Grand Rapids BMW dealer the following Monday morning when I was getting the proper stem installed before heading back to Delaware. He told me that the fellow I met is what the biker community calls “Angels.” Well, he most certainly was for me! Thankfully the ride back home was nice and uneventful.

For Sale

Red 1995 BMW R1100RA (ABS) with 43,800 miles, in excellent condition.

BMW hard bags, tank bag, windshield, hand guards, accessory plug, tach, clock and good tires. Always garaged and BMW-serviced; all service is up to date.

Price: \$4,800

Located in Chadds Ford, PA (SE Pennsylvania)

Contact Jose Avila at (302) 521-0771, or joseavila1@mac.com

Photos at http://homepage.mac.com/joseavila1/95_r1100ra/PhotoAlbum237.html