

April 2011

NEW JERSEY SHORE BMW RIDERS Inc

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John Welch, Trustee in Absentia in Florida

John Malaska, Newsletter Publisher

Skip Palmer, Trustee, Trustee in Absentia In Florida

ROOM AVAILABLE for NEW Trustees – come to our

April meeting to find out more!

Club Membership Application at:

http://www.njsbmwr.org/NJSBMWR_Application.pdf



"If we take care of the moments, the years will take care of themselves."

Maria Edgeworth, O Magazine, April 2004

"Sweet april showers Do bring May flowers."

Thomas Tusser, Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry (ch. XXXIX)

"The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off."

Abe Lemons

"Sitting quietly, doing nothing, spring comes, and the grass grows by itself."

ZEN Proverb

"The best time to start thinking about your retirement is before the boss does."

Anonymous Quotes

April brings lots of activity to the motorcycling community here, and the events list for the balance of the year keeps growing and growing. There are countless rallies, weekend rides, club events and outings that are flooding all of the moto publications. I find the biggest problem is which one's will make the "Do Not Miss" list and which will make the "I Hope I Can" list. There's never enough time to do it all.

Above and beyond all of that, there is a renewed excitement about all of the new farkles, new gear, maybe even a new bike? Technology is changing so quickly, so there's always something new that you'll want to add to the stable. This may not include Harry Costello.

We've got a lot to discuss at this month's club meeting; the Arc Walk-a-thon, the BMW MOA Mileage Contest, the Bloomsburg rally, TT3D movie, the Gathering of the Norton's just to name a few. Grab or print your MOA Mileage Contest forms and bring them with you to Schneider's on April 13.

Looking forward to seeing all of you then.

Dave Rosen
President

President's Message

As we finally dive into some of the best riding weather in the Northeast, I expect most of you have already made those first rides of the season. If not, it's time to fix your calendar and set aside some time to do so.

Daytona 2011

John Malaska

Since last summer, Skip Palmer and I had been discussing the possibility of me riding down to Florida to visit him, in conjunction with BikeWeek at Daytona Beach. Skip & Sue live about 20 miles north of downtown Tampa, in Land O' Lakes. I initially took a wait and see approach for my decision, as the trip would be very weather-dependent (yeah, I'm a wuss), and this year's winter had been "memorable." But by mid-February, I decided to go. Alex E would provide wing-man support, as well as entertainment only Alex can provide. We planned our departure on March 3, but at the last minute changed it to March 2, because it would be about 15 degrees warmer.

We left New Jersey at 800am in 38 degree temps. They rose to 45 degrees at our first gas stop in Joppa MD. Crossed the Potomac river on I-95 just around noon, Temps were over 60 at our second gas stop outside Richmond VA, so we were able to shed some winter riding gear. We ended our first day in Fayetteville NC, after 450 miles. Had a nice Southern dinner at the Sandpiper Buffet, recommended by staff at our hotel. Fried chicken, biscuits, gravy, meatloaf, NC barbeque, and apple cobbler. Alex sampled the seafood. Couldn't go wrong for \$8, although my arteries might disagree.

Second day, we continued south. BikeWeek should be renamed "TrailerWeek", based on the number of bike-carrying trailers we rode by. Many of them were not equipped with proper mirrors to see behind the trailers they were pulling, so it was a questionable tactic passing them on the right. Law enforcement along I-95 was present, but we managed to avoid any performance awards. Arrived in Daytona at 300pm, but hotel prices were inflated, so we decided to push on to our niece's place south of West Palm Beach. Arrived safely after a 700-mile day.

Spent the weekend visiting relatives on both the east & west coasts, sans motorcycles, laying on the beach, and figuring out which local restaurant had the best Key Lime Pie. Some light rain during the weekend, which didn't affect us.

Monday morning, it was off to visit Skip & Sue. We backtracked up I-95, then crossed over to the west coast via FL-60 and I-4. The delightful fragrance of orange blossoms was everywhere. We managed to

avoid getting clobbered by a huge piece of flying carpeting that a semi kicked up in front of us. It nicked my leg, and almost collected Alex. We arrived at S&S's around 200pm. Skip then led us on a short 85-mile pre-dinner ride of the area. More scent of orange blossoms. It dispelled the notion that Florida is a lousy place to ride a motorcycle. Just need some local knowledge to find the good stuff. Plenty of twists and turns, hills and dales, all with non-existent traffic.



Tuesday, Skip led us down the Gulf Coast. Our first stop was a huge electric plant on Tampa Bay, where heated waters from the plant are pumped into a lagoon, providing a spa-like setting for a the local manatee population. It was the first time I had seen them in a natural (if you want to call it natural) setting. Some big tarpon lurked there too. But how anyone could conjure up the image of a mermaid from a manatee is beyond me. Strong rum must have been involved.

From there, we rode down to Sarasota. Skip intended to lead us to the Gulf, then up Siesta Key, Longboat Kay, and Anna Maria Island. Unfortunately, we got tied in traffic congestion with snowbirds, Spring Breakers, and other vacationers. We crawled along for about 10 miles, until we got back on the mainland in Bradenton. For lunch, Skip led us to the Starfish Seafood Market in Cortez, which doubles a Jimmy Buffett-like seafood dive on Sarasota Bay. We had to wait nearly an hour for our lunches, but it was worth it. Besides the rustic atmosphere ... it is a working fishing village ... they have some of the best oyster and shrimp anywhere. Then he rode back to Skip's. Upon our return, Roger

Trendowski arrived from his Alabama travels to stay for the evening.

I have to mention that, throughout our visit with them, Skip and especially Sue went out of their way to make Alex & me feel most welcome. Sue prepared the most spectacular meals morning, noon, and night. We suggested that they run a bed & breakfast out of their home.

Wednesday, Skip hooked us up with members of the Tampa Bay BMW Riders. Former NJSBMWR member Vic Comune led a group ride from Land O' Lakes about 20 miles north to Brookville, where we collected some additional club members.



Then about 25 of us rode through the region that Skip had taken us on Monday, and beyond. We stopped for lunch at a diner west of Clermont. Roger said his goodbyes, and took off for Daytona. It was then that I noticed that I had picked up a screw in my almost-brand-new rear tire. There were offers to put a plug in it, but my tire pressure monitor indicated that it was holding air. So Alex, Skip and I headed down to EuroCycles near Tampa, the local BMW dealer. Fortunately, they had a PR2 in stock, and had me back on the road in about an hour. Good dealership, and nice folks too!



Thursday, the storm front that swamped NJ came through. Not especially good riding weather, so the four of us ran some errands.

Friday, it was a "Dawn Patrol" ride. Having said goodbye to Sue the night before, the three of us left Casa Palmer at 500am in 36 degree temps to Brookville, where we collected some Tampa BMW riders. Then our group set off for eastern Florida. The Tampa riders were going to a breakfast spot while Skip, Alex and I were headed to Deland for the motorcycle auction at Stetson University. Being the caboose in the group, I managed to lose everyone, but Skip looped back and found me, and together we rode by ourselves to Deland. Alex eventually hooked up with us there.

After spending a couple of hours at the auction, seeing Roger again, and confirming that Skip knows nearly every motorcycle rider in Florida, we headed up to Daytona. Once near the Speedway, bike traffic grew en masse. We stopped for a while at Daytona BMW, which has morphed into a Triumph, Victory, and Ducati dealer. The Ducati girls were mesmerizing. Then Skip left us to visit some relatives, while Alex & I rode over to our hotel in Ormond Beach, for which we made a reservation while at Skip's, via the Daytona Chamber of Commerce's website. Ended up paying \$125 p/n for an Oceanside room. Good deal.

Riding in Rain is like the Stock Market

Roger Trendowski

Sounds like last month's article doesn't it?

On my ride to Daytona via Birmingham, Alabama I had plenty of time to think. The first leg started Saturday March 5th at 12:30pm.

I made it across Interstate 78 to I81 in PA and south to Roanoke VA. The weather was 50's and pleasant. I arrived at the motel by 7:30pm with only the last 15 minutes misting, otherwise, the 450 miles was uneventful. I chose this route rather than NJ Turnpike/ Interstate 95 to avoid the big city traffic (Baltimore, Washington, Richmond), and also because weather forecasts for late Saturday and

Sunday showed rain east of the Appalachian Mountains all the way down to GA.. The forecasts also showed eastward movement of the storms with cleared skies west of the mountains.

Wrong!

Sunday morning the Weather Channel showed rain further down I81 from Roanoke to the Tennessee border but they forecast clearing as the day went on since the storms were still moving east. Wrong!



So this is the obvious tie-in to the title (again). I put on my AeroStitch and heated gloves and in a light rain started south on I 81. Unfortunately the temperature dropped to 40 degrees and the rain got heavier.

Did you every notice in a heavy rain storm the dark clouds extend to the horizon but there sometimes is a light cloud clearing about 2” on the horizon. This gave me hope that I would soon be out of the storm.

Then around Bristol, TN the snow started...luckily not sticking to the road but definitely lowering the temperature. That distant light-clouded area on my horizon stayed the same... I wasn't getting any closer to breaking out of the storm.

At my 200 mile gas and breakfast stop at a TA truck stop, somewhere south of Bristol, TN I sat shivering with gloves and helmet dripping on the dining table top. Then it came to me... This is just like the GPS gone wrong/stock market situation that I wrote about last month.

When you're riding and it begins to rain. What do you do? You put on rain gear and continue. But then the rain gets worse, it gets colder, and snow begins to fall. What do you do? You're already wet, your cold, there is hope that the rain will soon end (you see the light on the horizon where dark clouds "are no more."

Like the stock market pull back scenarios occurring over the last decade, you believe the situation can't continue much longer. You think you see light at the end of the tunnel and you are very committed so you keep the course. You have hope. You don't stop, rethink your strategy, or exit. So like the stock market crashes in the past, I just kept on going forward, getting wetter and colder.

My "hope" was finally realized after passing through Knoxville. The sky remained cloudy but the rain stopped and the temperature rose to a balmy 45 degrees for the rest of my 550 mile second leg to Birmingham.



Overall, Middletown, NJ to Birmingham, AL was about 1000 miles. I accomplished it in 16 hours over two days. It took an hour to warm up at my friend's house and all night to dry my boots and gloves. Monday we visited Barber's Motorcycle and Motorsports museum <http://www.barbermuseum.org/> and then I left for Florida by mid-afternoon.

By the way...I am probably focused on the title (...like the stock market) because it is tax season and I'm still writing off my 2001 stock losses.



I finally connected with Alex Edly and John Malaska at Skip and Susan's on Tuesday afternoon. S&S's hospitality was great as was their new home. The next morning the four of us met a few of Skip's club members at nearby McDs, then headed to a lunch stop about 100 miles away. It was the Florida that I had never seen before, even when I attended junior college in St. Petersburg 40+ years ago.



Daytona Bike Week Again

Roger Trendowski

My goal was to hit Daytona Bike Week which I've missed for three years due to w-o-r-k. Now I remember what fun 7 years of retirement was!

My trip lasted 7 ½ days and 3,234 miles. I didn't even camp out once thanks to several friends including Skip and Susan Palmer who now call Florida their home.



As described in my first article, I traveled Interstate 81 through Pa to Knoxville, TN then south on other 4-laners to Birmingham, AL. After visiting the Barber Museum (<http://www.barbermuseum.org/>) I tried to find a direct high speed route to Skip's place in Land-O-Lakes, FL (north of Tampa). Guess what? There isn't one... in fact there are no interstates going south-east toward Albany GA/Interstate 75. Because of the late start from Barber, I stayed overnight in Albany.



Our route took us down narrow moss-laden tree-lined roads, sweeps past huge orange groves, and twisties through a local neighborhood. I couldn't believe the twisties... at 30+ mph, in a single line, ten of us swept right then left then right again. Neat! At a bathroom break mid way through our trek we met more local club members. Then probably 20 bikes continued to the lunch stop. I have no idea where.

Following lunch I left Skip and the group and headed east via GPS shortest route toward Daytona. Quite by accident I ran through Deland, FL where the motorcycle auction was to be held. Since it was Wednesday and the auction scheduled for Friday, the Bikes were on pre-auction display. (I took a lot of pictures that will be shown at the next club meeting.)



Syracuse, NY & Stuart, FL at his friend's condo on Daytona Beach. I could tell it was Daytona Beach and Bike Week because the tattooed arms and butts and balcony babes per square mile were rapidly increasing.

From Wednesday night to Friday morning, four of us who shared the condo rode the area looking at the sites. As the saying goes, "it's a small world." I ran into Bill Clark, NJSBMWRer who was staying a couple floors up in our condo complex. In January, Bill and I traded emails about tripping together but he wound up trailering his Harley.

Skip, Alex, John and I met again Friday morning at the bike auction at Stetson University. Bikes located outside in the flea market area were as interesting as the auction ones on display in the gym. They all were outstanding. After a few auctioned items we all hit the road. I headed northwest toward Interstate 75 and to Atlanta (overnight Friday) and I85 and I77 to Winston-Salem (to visit my 96 year old friend from when Ginna and I lived there) and then north on Rt 220 to Roanoke, VA and home.



Usually we expect to see Tom Spader in this sort of photo..

By early evening, I met my friend Ron Jones from



Around Winchester, VA, the temperature dropped from 65 degrees to mid 40s and stayed in the low 40s the rest of the trip home. I couldn't find the thermostat for my heated jacket/gloves so I just layered-up. By the time I arrived home, I was the

coldest that I had been on the trip... even colder than through the Roanoke-Birmingham rain and snow. Two hours with heating pads on my front and back finally brought me back to life. Great ride!

A Challenge!

Dave Rosen

I received the April 2011 BMW ON magazine and noticed the results listed for the 2010 MOA Mileage Contest. Of course I went right to the New Jersey section to see all of our esteemed club members listed.

A huge thanks to Roger Trendowski and John Malaska for representing the NJSBMWR's as the only club riders listed out of a whopping (15) entrants for the whole state???? Really, only (15) riders in New Jersey participated?

To all current MOA/NJSBMWR club members....

...reach for your April 2011 BMW ON and tear out the mileage contest sheet found between pages 112-113, (it's probably also available on the MOA website) bring it to the club meeting next Wednesday April 13 at Schneider's. Note your bikes current mileage, and we will complete the applications together, as you will need written verification from other MOA/NJSBMWR members.

The club will mail all filled out forms together – so bring your form to the meeting! Don will be there to sign them – you only need one Ambassadors signature to qualify.

There's no reason why the NJSBMWR's shouldn't "own" the New Jersey entrants list in this years contest! Be proud!

2011 Event Calendar

John Malaska (please send events to John!)

April

- 6-9 Montgomeryville BMW Demos
Hatfield, PA
- 16 Morton's BMW Open House
Fredericksburg, VA
- 17 Gathering of Nortons
Washington Crossing SP, PA
- 23 Bergen Co. BMW Open House

- 29-5/1 Rochelle Park, NJ
Georgia Mountain Rally
Hiawassee, GA
- 29-5/1 Antique M/C Meet
Oley, PA
- 30 Bob's BMW Open House
Jessup, MD

May

- 13-15 Morton's BMW Spring Fling Rally
Natural Bridge, VA
- 20-22 BMWWSM DownEast Rally
Phippsburg, ME
- 22 British & Euro Classic M/C Day
Clarksburg, MD

June

- 3-5 BMWBMW Square Route Rally
Thurmont, MD
- 10-12 Antique M/C Meet
Rhinebeck, NY
- 30-7/3 BMW RA National Rally
Chippewa Falls, WI

July

- 18 Classic Bike & Blues Festival
Erwinna, PA
- 21-24 BMWMOA National Rally
Bloomsburg, PA

August

- 8-11 BMW SportTouring's "UnRally"
Little Switzerland, NC

September

- 3-5 AMA Roadraces @ NJMP
Millville, NJ
- 3-5 Finger Lakes Rally
Watkins Glen, NY
- 5-9 Salty Fog Riders Rally
Guysborough Co., NS, Canada
- 16-18 Black Diamond Beemers Rally
Honesdale, PA

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MEETING: April 13th – Meeting at Schneider's

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