

May 2011

NEW JERSEY SHORE BMW RIDERS Inc

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John Malaska, Newsletter Publisher



"Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June."
Al Bernstein

"Being ignorant is not so much a shame, as being unwilling to learn." Ben Franklin

"Drinking beer doesn't make you fat, It makes you lean....Against bars, tables, chairs, and poles." Ben Franklin

"Unthinking respect for authority is the greatest enemy of truth." Albert Einstein

"Republicans have been accused of abandoning the poor. It's the other way around. They never vote for us."
Dan Quayle

"All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence, and then success is sure." Mark Twain

"You can always count on Americans to do the right thing - after they've tried everything else." Winston Churchill

"Do or do not... there is no try." Yoda

Meeting With My Old Guru

Michael Lamberti

Sometime ago I happened to see a picture of a fella standing by vintage BMW bikes in the BMW-ON magazine.

He was a salty old guy, suspenders, beard and yes a bit front heavy like me. Well after reading a bit I noticed the name and I realized it was my old high school photography teacher. Retired now, Bob Lonergan is also a restorer and collector of vintage BMW bikes. So he invited me up to his home in Milford NJ.

I was off on a Friday so I fueled up and took 287N to 78W Exit 11 once there I rode a few more miles through some beautiful rolling hills and back roads. I then had to get a little gritty making it up to his house about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile up a steep packed gravel'n'dirt driveway. My GS had no problem going up.

Bob greeted me outside his house and it was like stepping back into time. His wife Naomi, who was also my art teacher and art advocate made us lunch. Bob must have about 30 vintage motorcycles including a perfect museum quality Douglass. He had a few BMW mini cars, 3 wheels and a bunch of other stuff. Having known Bob when in high school he was known as the teacher who could make or fix anything mechanical.



Press Release – It's Official!

Jack Riepe, Twisted Roads

Jack Riepe, publisher of Twisted Roads will present a seminar at the BMW Motorcycle Owners Of America's (MOA) International Rally in Bloomsburg, Pa, on Friday, July 22, 2011. Titled, "How To Breathe Life Into Any Ride Report or Motorcycle Story," Riepe's presentation is slated to run 9:30am - 10:30am, in the room "Under The Grandstand." The first humor editor for the MOA's monthly publication — the Owners News (ON) — Riepe's presentation is alleged to rival his column (Jack The Riepe) for technical value and anecdotal content.

No stranger to headlines, a public reading of Riepe's latest BMW-oriented motorcycle column caused a cattle stampede at a rodeo, trapping a bus-load of campaigning politicians in 30 port-o-potties for over 6 hours. Allegations that rescuers drank beer and smoked cigars with Riepe while temperatures climbed to over 110 degrees in the fiberglass latrines are as yet unfounded.

Some, who have ridden with Riepe, have questioned his competence as a rider. One anonymous source claimed Riepe was unable to find the entire State of New Jersey on a ride from Philadelphia to Manhattan, despite using a GPS.

"Who are you going to believe? Me, or forty hysterical eyewitnesses," said Riepe, in his own defense. Details regarding the presentation, said to involve participants from the audience, will be released over the next month on "Twisted Roads," the biker blog for raw adventure and romance like broken glass. The blog may be read at: <http://jackriepe.blogspot.com/>

Morton's Spring Fling – June 13th-15th (and before and after)

John Malaska

On May 12, Don Eilenberger and I took a weekend trip to southern Virginia to attend the inaugural "Spring Fling Rally", hosted by Morton's BMW of Fredericksburg VA.

Our first day's route took us down the NJ Turnpike to Newark DE. From there, we followed one of

His skills have obviously transcended time and they have yielded some of the best restoration I have ever seen. We ate lunch and traveled down memory lane a bit, when looking at the sky I knew it was time to leave before the thunderstorms. Down the hill I went, Bob yelled out "back brake only Mike" once a teacher always a teacher! Safe on the tarmac, I cranked it up to almost "Grant" speed and was home in short order. 160 miles no sweat on the GS just on my body as it was 93 degrees! It was a good thing.



Maryland's Scenic Byway routes paralleling the MD/PA border to Westminster MD, then over to Frederick MD. Unfortunately, obstructive traffic (road construction, school busses, DOT vehicles) marred what usually is a very nice ride.

After Frederick, we followed US-340 through Harper's Ferry & Charlestown WV to Stephen's City VA. There, we ended our day at the Comfort Inn, a frequent overnight stop for many NJSBMW riders. We dined at the close-by Roma restaurant, serving the same good food which it did when I last visited in 2003.

We awoke the next morning to residual damp roads from a passing thunderstorm. Don had hoped to take us south via some Massanutten Mountain and Blue Ridge Parkway roads, but the wet conditions, especially at altitude, precluded that. Instead, we took a leisurely ride south down US-11, the historic "Valley Pike," down through Strasburg, New Market, Harrisonburg, Staunton, and Lexington. Fortunately, the weather improved the farther south we road. We arrived at the Natural Bridge hotel, headquarters of the Spring Fling, in early afternoon.



After checking in to the hotel and registering for the Rally, I decided to get a short solo ride in before dinner. I rode down I-81, exiting at Buchanan for VA-43 east, which took me up to the Blue Ridge Parkway north. At first, there were some clouds mixed with sun. But then the clouds grew thicker, and I dropped into a VERY intimidating layer of fog. London-type stuff. I couldn't see more than 20 ft. in front of me. I crawled along, hoping I wouldn't get overrun by another vehicle. Then I came upon an

accident involving a pair of H-Ds. Bikes scattered on the road, and riders up against the guardrail, being attended to by EMS personnel. I continued on, eventually regaining better visibility, and exited the BRP at US-501 and VA-130, back to the hotel.



I joined Don and several other riders from the DC area for dinner, including Jim Fletcher, who Don and I rode with to Nova Scotia last year. Good conversation, but the seafood buffet dinner was expensive and forgettable. At least we were comped for the adult beverages that took forever to be served.

Saturday started sunny, with some lingering patches of fog nearby. Don & I rode to Lexington, where we then took different paths. I had read about VA-39, which runs from just north of Lexington to West Virginia. A rider at the Rally also highly recommended it to me, which convinced me to try it out. The portion of 39 I traveled has multiple personalities: beautiful horse country, cut-n-thrust curves, scenic vistas along the Maury River through Goshen Pass, and fast sweepers over Mill Mountain to Millboro Springs. I intended to take VA-42 south from there, but encountered some showers. So I double-backed to the hotel via the way I came. I love VA-39!

Weather was still nice at Natural Bridge, so it was time for more riding. I rode I-81 down to Buchanan again, but then headed west this time via VA-43. Another great road, with non-existent traffic. It led me to US-220 north ... not impressed then I-64 back to Lexington and the hotel. Heavy rain arrived shortly thereafter.

At 600pm, the Rally dinner was held at the hotel, with the new K1600GTL was on display. The buffet offerings were quite tasty. BMW Motorrad USA's Laurence Kuykendall was on hand to provide a humorous presentation, as well as to field questions from the audience. Morton's then handed out door prizes to lucky ticket holders. Not me, of course.

Sunday morning, Don and I were on the road early. We crossed over the somewhat-foggy Blue Ridge via US-60, greeted with blue skies on the eastern side. We ate a quick breakfast at MickyD's in Amherst, then rode US-29 up to below Culpepper.

Don suggested finding lunch at Front Royal, so we headed northwest via VA-609 (which Don REALLY liked), VA-231, and US-522. After some wandering, we ended up at 3 Brothers Burgers. REALLY good burgers, plus REALLY REALLY great milkshakes! Highly recommended! Inexpensive too.

Clouds were building above us, so we headed east via VA-55 (paralleling I-66), then US-17 north to what is known as "Mosby's Confederacy", the horse country in Fauquier and Loudoun Counties dominated by that CSA partisan during the latter stages of the Civil War.

We passed through the quaint ... and uber-toney ... towns of Upperville, Middleburg, and Aldie. Still mindful of the gathering storm clouds to the west, we headed north via US-15 to Leesburg, then crossed the Potomac River at White's ferry.



Now in Maryland, we took some interesting and scenic roads north to Frederick. We checked into our

hotel just before the storms broke. Dinner at the hotel bar was forgettable, but there was an adult single's party going on next door that kept us entertained.

Monday morning, we mostly retraced the route we had taken the previous Thursday, although we sat in traffic at the Delaware toll plaza on I-95. Temps dropped dramatically once we crossed into New Jersey. Near Mount Holly, Don headed east, while I continued north. We separately ended our ride home on chilly and foggy I-195. 1178 miles travelled over the long weekend.

Don and I agreed that this is a "must do" rally. Morton's did a good job organizing it, and is planning to have another in 2012 at the same location. 180 riders showed up this year. The not-so-great weather didn't dampen my enthusiasm, especially when given the opportunity to traverse some awesome roads.

More on the Spring Fling Rally

Don Eilenberger

Ever find a perfect road? Usually it happens by accident. Once in a while by plan. In this case, it was a last second decision just because we were running a bit early.



On our way down – we had the first of what would be many encounters with dinosaurs.. this was very close to the motel in Stephens City, VA.

As John wrote – we had a great time at the Morton's Spring Fling Rally. As some of you know – there is a

group of old motorcycle friends that I'm honored to be in – many are from the WDC area, others are around the world. Once a year we try to get together and break bread. Since one of the people in the group is the General Manager of Morton's BMW, he thought having a rally would be a good excuse for us to meet.

The group managed to get together Friday night for a dinner – expensive and not very good at the hotel's Friday night "Seafood Buffet." There is a lesson here – never go to a seafood buffet if the nearest source of the seafood is more than 200 miles away. And don't arrive late for the buffet. Luckily, the conversation made up for the food – and a good time was had.



John M, Ian Schmeisser, Bill Shaw, dunno, Gary Harris.

Natural Bridge Virginia is a throwback to the old auto-road tourist attractions. The "Natural Bridge" is a cutout through rock caused by erosion from a creek off the James River – leaving a stone arch about 30 feet high. Natural Bridge is private property and a collection of tourist "attractions," centered on a large old hotel are found. The tourist attractions include a museum of the natural bridge, complete with cowboy riding dinosaurs', a wax museum, and the obligatory gift shop.



There seems to be some confusion with eons at the Natural Bridge Museum (or it might just be some fundamentalist thing..)



The rally was held at the hotel. There was a choice of the rooms in the hotel, or rooms in buildings across the road – sort of 4 room motel type buildings. The rally room price was reasonable, food and a pub were on the site – so it made for a nice compact rally for riders who weren't die-hard campers.

The Blue-Ridge Parkway was about a mile away, and the surrounding roads were just fantastic. As an offshoot of the hotel complex – just down the road was the Pink Cadillac Diner.

John and I stopped there on the way to the rally for lunch, and I returned the next day for lunch. It is a theme diner. One room was dedicated to Elvis. Another is an old-fashioned soda fountain.



Right across the road is a deserted children's amusement park – with the theme of the Ten Commandments (slightly edited to remove anything “suggestive”) – with an obligatory raptor. It looked like a very strange park.



As John pointed out – the riding in the area, indeed the ride to and from the rally - was just great. Now to the great road we found.

On the way back, after we stopped for fuel on VA-29 (a very nice road,) John asked if I wanted to take a more scenic route. Since we were running early – I said “Why not?” So about a mile down the road we made a turn onto a small country road – County Rt 609. What a wonderful road. Looking at it on Google Earth doesn't do it justice. Great sweepers with some interesting elevation changes, surrounded by bright green forest and farmland. Perfect pavement, and not a car to be seen. We passed one person on

a bicycle – that's it. I was ready to turn around and do it a few more times – but we continued on.



We stopped for the night on the way home in Fredrick MD – at a motel in the edge of a large shopping center. Just as we arrived and pulled under the portico – the skies opened up. Perfect timing – we managed to stay basically dry for the entire trip (a few sprinkles, but nothing to even wipe a faceshield for.)

As John said – the rest of the ride was fairly uneventful – a nice ride across the top of Maryland, with a photo stop at one of my favorite places on that route:



And I managed to finally get a photo of the odd signs in Rising Sun MD:



I'm still wondering when one becomes the other. We continued on to I-95 where we got to sit in traffic in the great state of Delaware, for no particular reason I could see.. and finally were back to NJ.

Good ride, great roads, good companionship. A winner!

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ARC Walk, May 4th

Roger T

The ARC of Monmouth held their annual Walk-a-Thon fundraiser on May 15th at Liberty Park-II, Tinton Falls. Although cloudy, the rain held off and the event was a success for the ARC.

The club showed up around 8:30AM and lined up our bikes in the main activity/starting area. As the walkers registered and got ready for the 2 hour walk, several participants came by to view our bikes. The club banner was hung on the fence behind the bikes. To date, the ARC has raised over \$33,000 from the Walk-A-Thin from the walkers, sponsors and advertisers. We presented our club donation for \$100 as approved at our April meeting.



Club members in attendance were Jerry Schreiber, Dave Rosen, Grant Duncan, Jay, Charles Manfredi, Michael Lambreti, Joe Karol and I.

2011 Event Calendar

John Malaska (please send events to John!)

June

- 3-5 BMWBMW Square Route Rally
Thurmont, MD
- 7-11 Americade
Lake George, NY
- 10-12 Antique M/C Meet
Rhinebeck, NY
- 18 Classic Bike & Blues Festival
Erwinna, PA
- 30-7/3 BMW RA National Rally
Chippewa Falls, WI

July

- 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
- 22-25 Last Chance Rally, New Sweden
BMW Riders, Elmer NJ

The above does not necessarily mean that the Club will organize a ride to these events. Consider it more of an "FYI". Feel free to inquire on the Yahoo Group whether any members are interested in a ride to an event.

Insurance packages could save you money



Whether you're on the road or at home, we can cover you. By placing your auto and homeowners insurance with our agency, you could qualify for premium discounts, get preferred rates and have added clout when both policies are placed through the same insurance company.

Best of all, when you place all your business with us, you'll save time, eliminate claims confusion and have a single, full-service agency ready to handle all your insurance needs.

For professional insurance advice, contact:

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MEETING: May 11th – Meeting at Schneider's

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