

# July 2008 NEW JERSEY SHORE BMW RIDERS Inc

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**Club Membership Application at:**  
[http://www.njsbmwr.org/NJSBMWR\\_Application.pdf](http://www.njsbmwr.org/NJSBMWR_Application.pdf)

You need only reflect that one of the best ways to get yourself a reputation as a dangerous citizen these days is to go about repeating the very phrases which our founding fathers used in the struggle for independence.

[Charles Austin Beard](#) (1874 - 1948)

You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.  
You cannot help small men by tearing down big men.  
You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.  
You cannot lift the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.  
You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income.  
You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatreds.  
You cannot establish security on borrowed money.  
You cannot build character and courage by taking away a man's initiative and independence.  
You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.  
[William J. H. Boetcker](#), 1916 (often attributed to Lincoln)

## President's Message

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School's out for summer and all the kids have scattered to the four winds, (well three winds no one is riding east.) Joe Karol our missing V.P. is touring the Rockies at least until his Exxon credit card is maxxed out. Maybe some of our members will run into him at the MOA. He'll be the guy with the "Will Work for Gas Money" sign. Several of the guys are planning the trip to Wyoming in the next few weeks, including an unnamed group is planning to (gulp) trailer out west. Oh the shame!

Don led a tour of West Virginia with a small group in search of some boring crap roads. He was

unsuccessful. What he did find however was great roads and good food all shared with great friends and a bit of drink. Go figure.

Finally it should be of no surprise to find out that the top honors for traveling go once again to John Ryan. Two trips up and down the haul road through Alaska. A heroic timed run from Barrow Alaska to Key West Florida in a scant 101 hours. Then just a quick run home by Wednesday for the Matheny School Event and BBQ.

Not too shabby for one weeks work.

Summer's just beginning.

See you at the meeting next week (if anyone is left in town).

-- Jerry R.  
732-938-3940  
[sic.pup@verizon.net](mailto:sic.pup@verizon.net)

## Matheny Ride, June 18<sup>th</sup>

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*Skip Palmer*

Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, Roger Trendowski and Tom Suhocki met me at the Cheesequake Rest Area for an evening ride. We joined the Skylands Riders to celebrate the joys and freedom of our sport with the children and staff of the Matheny School in Gladstone.



The weather was not promising; however, the chance to interact with the children was reason enough to ride north and let the evening unfold. We rode on some wet pavement and had a few drops on our windshields, but we arrived at the Gladstone Firehouse dry.

We met several of the loyal Skylands members and some new friends with half dozen sidecar rigs, six convertible sports cars, and one Isetta (Italian designed BMW car that saved the company from bankruptcy – it uses a motorcycle engine.)



The bikes with sidecars were Russian Urals, Chinese manufactured BMWs, Kawasaki's, and Kenton's BMW, which he trailed in spite of his recent shoulder, collarbone and rib injuries.



The gray skies opened up at 5:30 and the downpour lasted for almost an hour while we waited inside the firehouse. By 6:30, the front passed and the fire chief and the captain of police escorted us to the school to greet the excited children. The opportunity to give them an evening of joy and freedom from their wheelchairs is something I always look forward to. Each capable or interested child got to ride around the campus in a sidecar or sports car. Staff sometimes accompanied the children and later some of them requested their own private rides. The amount of joy these children share with everyone who attends is indescribable.



Over the years, I have come to recognize and know several of the children. I always look forward to sharing their contagious enthusiasm. This act of kindness is reciprocated in ways that just cannot be expressed. You really must experience it to understand what I am trying to convey.

As the evening with the children concluded, John Ryan invited everyone to his home in Long Valley. Even though he had just returned from his ride to Prudhoe Bay and Key West, he was eager drive one of the sidecars

and make a difference in their lives. His sister and several of her neighbors prepared a fantastic feast that was as spectacular as her home. We couldn't ask for a more gracious hostess and hearty welcome! Thank you from all of us.



## Club Moribund? July 1<sup>st</sup>

RD Swanson

Moribund is defined as an adjective and derived from the Latin moribundus, dying<mori, to die: see mortal// 1.dying, 2. coming to an end, 3. having little or no vital force left -- moribundity n. Could the Shore Riders fit this description? Are we lacking vital force? Are we coming to an end? Are we dying?

Probably not. But then again you never know. Comparing the club's activities to past years, we do seem to be in a steep decline. What's happened?

To be sure, I am not one to preach. I think I am part of the problem. I know that I have been riding a lot less than I used to ride. I have yet to hit the 6000 mile service on my '07 GS. In past years I would always do at least 10,000 miles each year. I've even thought of giving it up. Do others in the club feel the same way?

Last month's Matheny Ride only attracted 3 or 4 Shore Riders. In past years we would have 10 to 20 attend. In past years there would be a ride most every weekend to some place or another. We would have good participation with 10 to 15 riders on some of these rides. Not anymore. We always had good representation at the national rallies. Did anyone from the club go to the RA National in Michigan last month? Is anyone going to the national in Wyoming? I can remember rallies where we had entire sections cordoned off for our club's exclusive use. Not anymore it seems.

Monthly meetings have been fairly well-attended and that might be a good sign. We did have good participation at Capt. Don's accident scene management

course, but at the moment I can't think of much the club has done recently or is planning to do in the future.

Perhaps we need a wake-up call. Club Moribund really doesn't have a nice ring to it.

**And – a footnote on this from your editor.** *This years national rallies have not garnered the interest prior years events have. I don't know why. I found no one going to the RA Rally, and only a few people considering the MOA Rally.*

*I did set up a "birthday ride" in West Virginia that I opened to anyone who was interested. The people who were interested could be counted on the fingers of one hand if I cut 2 fingers off. People have said to me "we need more weekend destinations" – OK – here is the challenge to you. Become "them" or "they" – it seems people wait for "them" to get a ride together, or will go on a ride if "they" plan it for the club. How about getting involved and setting up some ride – a day ride, weekend ride, week long ride – and opening it up to the club.*

*The club will only be as good as the people who are in it – and the events they plan and participate in. I'm thinking of an August ride to Canada to attend the "Return to Trenton" rally – it might take a full week because I want to spend time exploring the Adirondacks by two wheels. I'll open it to the club again, but it won't bother me at all to ride it alone. The rally date is August 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> – if you're interested ping me.*

*You'll also find the registration form for the Last Chance Rally at [www.lastchancerally.com](http://www.lastchancerally.com) – which the club is participating in and helping with. It's run by our sister club New Sweden BMW Riders. The club has voted to subsidize the registration fee IF you pre-register in the amount of ½ of your annual dues (\$10). Please fill in the form and mail it in to Nancy G.*

## Upcoming Rides and Events

The following rides and events are sponsored by the AMA or other organizations and are not NJSBMWR's sponsored. Please feel free to personally arrange rides with your friends and attend.

- July 9th ~ 7 PM Shore BMW Riders Monthly Meeting at Schneider's Restaurant, Main St. Avon NJ
- July 11th – 13th ~ The Black Hills Stampede, South Dakota
- July 17th - 20th ~ BMW MOA National Rally, Gillette, WY
- July 25th- 27th ~ Top of the Rockies Rally, Gunnison, CO
- Aug. 3rd ~ The Gathering at Ephrata, PA
- Aug. 4th ~ 7 PM Skylands BMR Riders Monthly Meeting ~ Sky Manor Airport, 42 Sky Manor Road, Pittstown, NJ
- Aug. 9th ~ John Ryan's House Party Long Valley, NJ

- Aug. 13th ~ 7 PM Shore BMW Riders Monthly Meeting at Schneider's Restaurant, Main St. Avon NJ
- Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> Return to Trenton Rally, Trenton, Canada. See Don.
- Aug. 23rd ~ Shore Riders Club Picnic, Alliare State Park, NJ
- Sept. 19th – 21st ~ Last Chance Rally, Appel Farms, Elmer, NJ
- Sept. 26th – 28th ~ Black Diamond Rally Poconos
- Oct. 26th ~ Polar Bear Rides Start, Cape May, NJ

## Birthday Ride – West Virginia June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>

*Don Eilenberger*

I usually start to get the long-ride itch about when the weather warms up.. which is also about when my birthday is. So.. I had such a great time riding through West Virginia on the way to the RA Rally in 2007, I decided to take a birthday ride, and spend a short week in WV just enjoying their roads. I was accompanied on the ride by Dennis Swanson for a very short time, and Jim Cavallo for most of the week, and John Ryan on Thursday afternoon.

West Virginia has been described as being like a rough ocean - wave after wave of mountains, separated by small valleys. None of the mountains is particularly high, but due to economic conditions, West Virginia hasn't found the need to flatten the roads that go up and over the mountains into uniform bland roads.. instead, the usual East-West road in West Virginia is a series of switchbacks, climbing up over the top of the mountain, and then descending on the other side. the north-south roads run the length of the valleys between the mountains, usually following the stream that meanders down the center of the valley. These roads have a combination of great sweeping turns and some sharp switchback turns where the valley and river takes a turn. West Virginia has a motto - seen on all the signs "Wild and Wonderful" - it's a good description.

My goal for the ride was to try to find a straight road in West Virginia.

### DAY 1 - MONDAY, Spring Lake NJ to Stephen's City VA



Our first day's ride was simply to get out of NJ - and close to the border of WV. The track through NJ was slab, cross the state and head south until you're in Delaware. In Delaware, we headed through Newark DE, and then on backroads to Stephen's City Virginia. It's a 4-state day, since there is a very tiny section of West Virginia we passed through at Harper's Ferry..



**Entering West Virginia - for less than a mile - at Harper's Ferry**



**Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Virginia again - all in about 1 mile**



**Jim Cavallo hamming it up**

We ended up staying the night at the Comfort Inn in Stephen's City, VA, and dining at Roma's right around the corner. I've stayed at this motel a number of times -

good food and reasonable priced motel room is hard to beat. They also have a nice pool that Jim and I made use of. Somehow Capt. Dennis got misplaced and we never saw him again. Go figure.

Two brothers on a trip to the Blue Ridge Parkway also checked in for the night and joined us for dinner - one riding an MV Brutalle, the other an FJR. Good company and interesting to talk to. For some reason I think they thought of us as old guys (they were about 20 years younger than us..)

Despite predictions of 60% chance of severe thunderstorms for Monday - we only passed through a few brief showers - not enough to even bother zipping up the zippers on my Aerostich. Apparently nearby - the weather had been severe, with Washington DC getting hammered by thunderstorms, and just south of us in Virginia - thunderstorms with hail. We lucked in and had a great ride in almost dry conditions. There was a passing storm during the night - which cleared out the muggy conditions of Monday.

## DAY 2 - TUESDAY, Stephen's City VA to Snowshoe, WV

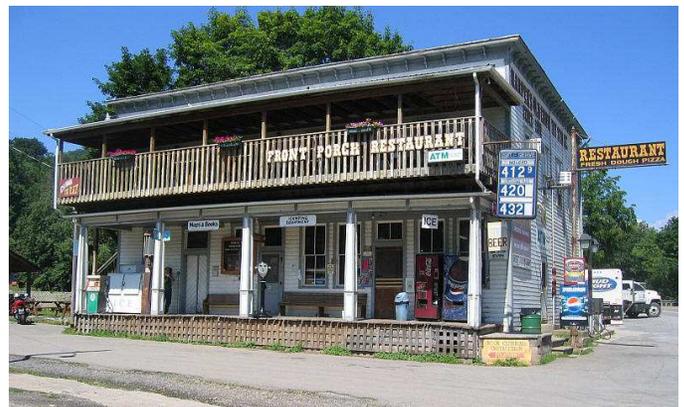


Next morning - I awoke unusually early - and we were on the road into WV by about 8AM. Our first stop was Seneca Rocks, WV:

Rt 55 in West Virginia is almost all "Interstate" for this section of the ride - but Interstate with a twist, it winds through the mountains, with great scenery, and almost no traffic. If you have to travel by Interstate - this is the right way to do it. Weather was perfect - high 60's to low 70's, dry and sunny. The weather-guessers had predicted rain



Seneca Rocks - at the intersection of WV Rt 55, 33 and 28



We stopped at the general store at Seneca Rocks for a few minutes. I'd passed through this intersection several times, going in different directions in the past, and had never stopped. I also had never really noticed the rocks. They are rather obvious once you notice them.



Me with Seneca Rocks in the background - doh'..

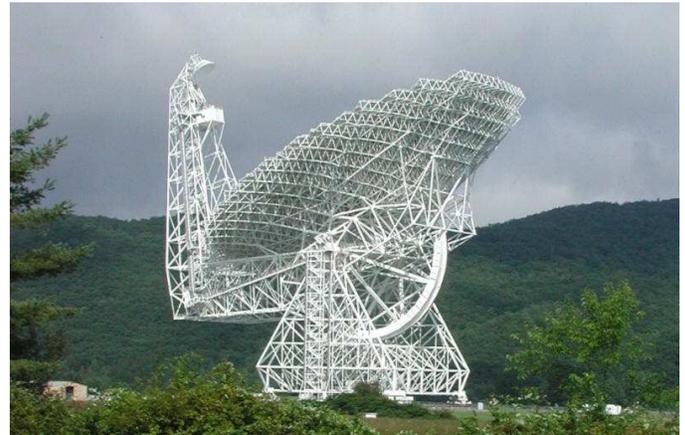


**General Store - Seneca Rocks - they had pretty much whatever you needed**

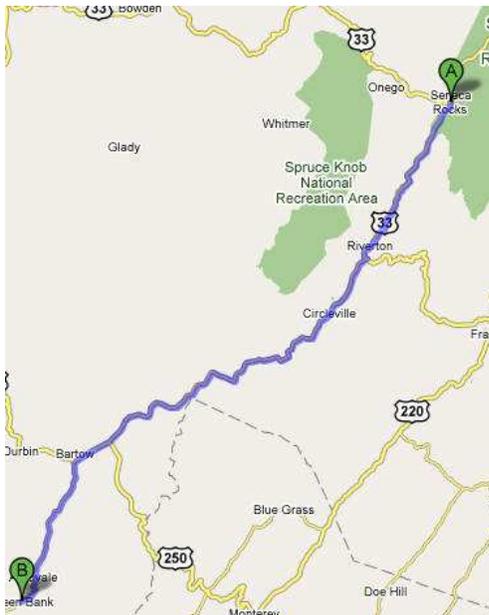
We then headed south on WV Rt 28 - a great road going down the valley - sweepers, no traffic, great pavement.



After a quick stop at Boyer Station (Motel and Restaurant - semi-famous as the site of motorcycle gatherings), we continued to the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank WV. <http://www.gb.nrao.edu/> - there is a great 1 hour free tour of the facility that is worth the time to stop. We did - and enjoyed it.



**Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope (photo US Gov.) - the worlds largest moving object on land. The dish is 100m x 110m**



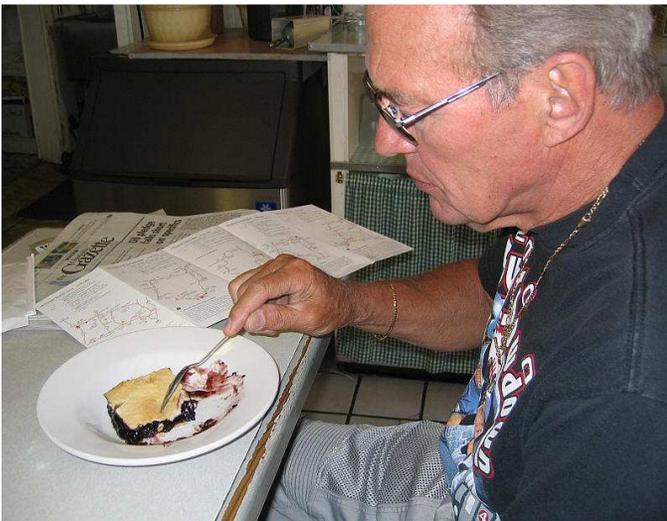
**Rt 28 from Seneca Rocks to the Green Bank National Radio Astronomy Observatory**



**Green Bank to Snowshoe WV by way of Rt 28, 39, 219 and 66.**



**Lunch stop at a real greasy-spoon in Marlinton WV**



**Jim found some home-made pie he said was excellent**



**We arrive at our destination for the night - the Inn at Snowshoe**

**DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY - Snowshoe Inn to Canaan Valley Resort**



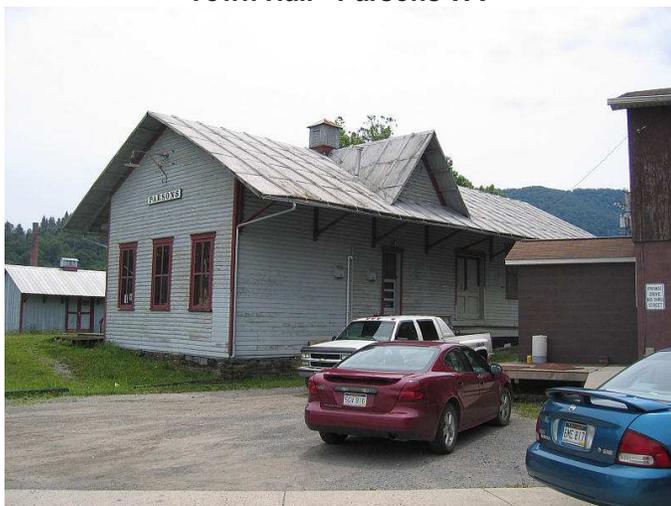
The ride from Snowshoe to Canaan Valley was mostly on Rt 219, with a side order of extreme twisties on Rt 72.. a road the locals call "The Snake" - it IMHO is better than the Dragon in North Carolina/Tennessee. It has at least as many turns as the Dragon, but most of them are more extreme and combine with large elevation turns (ie - 270-300 degree uphill switchbacks). Most of it is single lane, some of it gravel covered, all of it a challenge. Great road - highly recommended.



**Rt 219, Snowshoe to Parsons WV**



**Town Hall - Parsons WV**



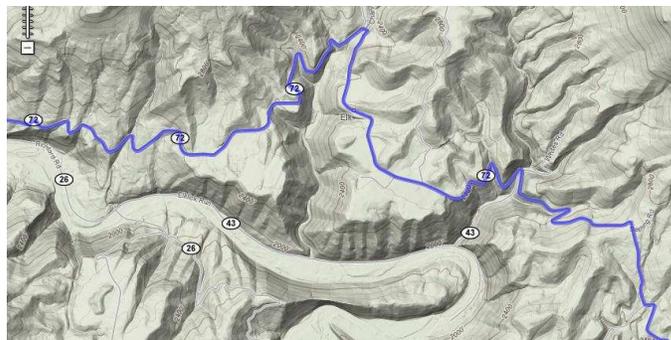
**Parsons Depot**

We had lunch at a small place next to the depot, right off the Sheetz gas station. After lunch (good, but too filling) we decided a short walk would help our digestion, and next door was the Parsons Depot - home to the town museum, and gift shop. On the side of the building was a sign that gave me pause after reading it. It looked like a real official printed sign. It said **"No Trespassing after 4:30PM"** - I'm still puzzling over the real meaning of it.

**RT 72:** Just outside of Parsons was a road that on the tourist site map I was using looked like a real road. There was no warning on the map that the road might be otherwise - so I included it in the route to Canaan Valley State Park. It's WV Rt 72 - AKA "The Snake". I'll let the more accurate maps from Google speak for themselves - it is no ordinary road:



At the beginning of the road is a sign: "WARNING! Extreme turns and elevation changes next 20 miles. NO THROUGH TRUCKS!" Just for fun - a closeup:



**Rt 72 West Virginia - "The Snake" - it is that good.**

After surviving The Snake - it was a short ride down Rt 32 to the main entrance of Canaan Valley Resort (and state park.)

<http://www.canaanresort.com>

I had stayed at the resort in 2004, when the BMW-RA <http://www.bmwra.org> held their annual rally there. It has wonderful facilities for a rally, or just for an overnight stop riding through WV. There is a large lodge building, with an excellent restaurant, a snack-bar, a booze-bar, indoor and outdoor pools, tennis courts, golf-course and lots more. The lodge building is surrounded by several motel-style lodging units - with reasonably priced rooms. There are also cabins for rent - which would sleep 4-8 people and include a kitchen.

The RA Rally was somewhat of a washout due to the arrival of hurricane Ivan - which swept up through the WV valleys and dampened the attendance at the rally. That was sort of a shame since the site was great - and the weather never really was all that bad - and coming and going days actually had good weather.

Our good-weather luck held out again - despite threatening weather reports - we only had rain when we were asleep, the rest of the time, sunny and warm was the rule.



**Canaan Valley Resort**

At Canaan Valley we accidentally stumbled into the Motorcycle Touring Association rally, <http://www.mtariders.com/gathering/index.shtml>. Nice bunch of people, we ended up getting their discounted room rate, and they were a fun group to socialize and chat with. MTA is a very couple oriented group, who have an annual "Gathering" - we just happened to drop in on theirs. I wasn't asked once if I was hot in my AeroStitch.

After checking in at Canaan Valley - Jim and I took separate rides. Jim wanted to revisit Seneca Rocks to see if he could get a photo with sunlight hitting the rocks - he reported success. I visited Davis WV - a small town I'd been to before during the 2004 RA Rally held at Canaan Valley (the one made infamous by coinciding with the arrival of Hurricane Ivan. Davis has a great looking bank/city-hall/post-office, and a neat junk store.



**Davis West Virginia**

I checked out Grampa's Attic - the junk/antique store - looking for hammered aluminum ware to add to my wife's collection, but all the items they had were a bit large to carry home on the bike. I headed back to Canaan Valley - where a nap was in order to prepare for dinner. Jim returned from his ride - we had dinner at the restaurant in the main lodge - and it was excellent.

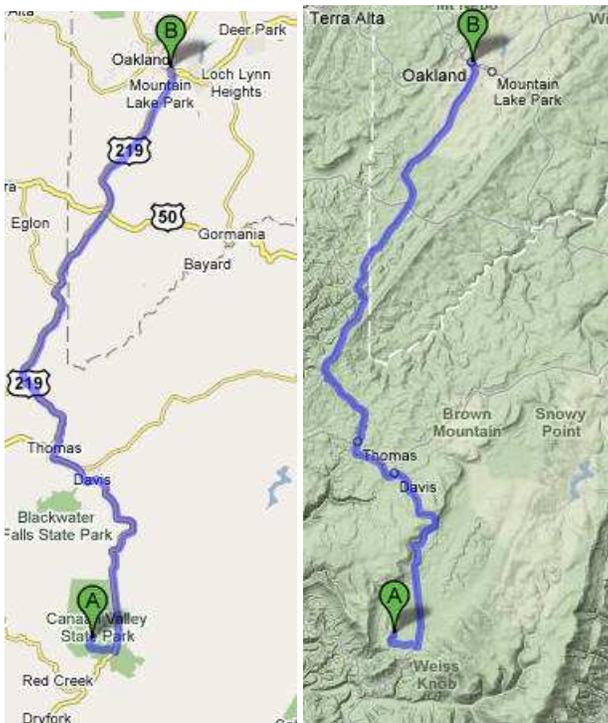
Wednesday night - we were treated to a light show by the members of the MTA. It was a bit hard to get any good photos since the bikes only had the lights on for very short periods of time (they ran the battery down - even with the engine running) and they were moving while the lights were on.

#### **DAY 4 - THURSDAY, Canaan Valley and exploring the area**

Jim had to get back to NJ on Thursday, so he was on the road early in the morning. I had managed to convince John Ryan to join me Thursday night, since his birthday is the same day as mine (June 24th).. but he wasn't due to arrive until later in the afternoon. So... I had the morning free to take a ride and do some exploring of the area. I decided to see what Rt 219 was like - going north from Davis WV up into Maryland's western panhandle.



**Windmills on the ridge above Thomas WV**



**Lower Main St - Thomas WV - on the way back to Canaan Valley**

### Canaan Valley WV to Oakland MD (and back)

Rt 32 in West Virginia leads you from Canaan Valley into Davis, where you can pick up Rt 219. Rt 291 leads through the town of Thomas WV, which has a main street with lanes separated 40' horizontally. It eventually leads you past a large windmill array, through a corner of Monongahela State Forest - and into Maryland. The change between WV and MD is somewhat startling. Where West Virginia has small towns barely holding onto the sides of the mountains they're built on, MD has rolling countryside and prosperous looking towns.



**Lower Main St - Davis WV - Hypno Coffee**



**Upper Main St - Thomas WV**

I stopped for coffee in Thomas WV at the Hypno Coffee shop. Thomas is an unusual town.. the two lanes of their main street are separated horizontally by about 40-45 feet. The 3rd floor of the buildings lines up with the upper main street, the ground floor with lower main street.

John Ryan arrived at Canaan Valley around 2:30PM - just in time for a nap, then some late lunch/early dinner at a nearby pizza/spaghetti joint. John then decided he had to see why I was excited by Rt 72 - so around dusk, he left to run it both directions. He came back impressed - saying it was "some road.."

## DAY 5 - FRIDAY, Canaan Valley to Home (410 miles)



John had promised relatives to help them move - in Tinton Falls NJ - at Noon on Friday, so he was up early at about 5AM. John is not the quietest person in the morning, so about when he was pulling out - I got up - around 6AM. I was on the road by 7:15AM for a 7.5 hour projected ride home. The ride ended up taking about 8 hours - counting gas stops/food/pee stops. It was nice on WV 219 getting up to I-68. I-68 was nice for an interstate - little traffic, good pavement, great views. It then turned into I-70 - and things weren't quite as good. I then had to take I-81 up to near Harrisburg PA to pick up the PA Turnpike. Things got really ugly.

I noticed as I got closer to NJ - the roads got worse, the traffic got heavier and the dumber the drivers were. I'd gotten used to the uncrowded roads of West Virginia and it took some culture adjustment to get back into the NJ semi-urban riding style. Due to awful cell-phone coverage in WV - you never see a driver yakking on the phone. Never. Zilch.

It was a great week, and I had great company in Jim Cavallo and John Ryan. I'm sure Dennis Swanson would have been great company also if he hadn't disappeared the first day.

I didn't find a straight road in WV this time - so I guess I'll just have to continue looking. I'm thinking of doing some more of the western part of the state next year. Perhaps there is a straight road there. I just heard today that the 2009 BMW-MOA Rally will be in Gary Tennessee - which means I have to travel through WV again to get there. Damn - it's a dirty hard job, but someone has gotta do it.



End of the trip.. (I think the Max Speed is a tiny bit off..)

## Seen on the Web



**Gasoline Crisis causes soccer mom's to downsize their SUVs..** (R. Trendowski)

From the "Tell us something we don't already know" file - **The Nation's Dumbest Drivers by State**

How smart are drivers in America? Not very, according to the 4th annual [GMAC Insurance National Drivers Test](#). 33 million licensed Americans would not pass a written drivers exam if taken today and may be unfit for the roads!

But where are the smartest and dumbest drivers? We count down the states that scored lowest to a new No. 1 dumbest-driver state and then reveal where the smartest drivers reside. So strap on your seat belts and see if your state is among the dumbest.

The national average score was 78.1%.

**No. 1 Dumbest: New Jersey, Average Score: 69.9%**

For the first time ever, New Jersey drivers rank as the dumbest. And to throw salt on the wound, they have the lowest average score ever. No score has been below 70 percent before.

**Random Fact:**

*While average test scores between the genders were similar, women were more likely to fail the test than men (20 percent versus 13 percent)*

**New Jersey Shore BMW Riders**

c/o Art Goldberg

82 Kings Way

Freehold, NJ 07728

(Postmaster: Address Service Requested!)

TO:

**Club Meeting – July 9th - 7PM**

**Schneider's German-American Restaurant, Rt 71, Avon**

*Ummm... folks – LETS RIDE!*

.....new for 2008, the BMW K1200R Graphite Over Black



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