

May 2013

NEW JERSEY SHORE BMW RIDERS Inc

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Genius may have its limitations, but stupidity is not thus handicapped. *Elbert Hubbard (1856 - 1915)*

Friends may come and go, but enemies accumulate. *Thomas Jones (1892 - 1969)*

Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines. *John Benfield*

I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I needed to be. *Douglas Adams (1952 - 2001)*

Never try to tell everything you know. It may take too short a time. *Norman Ford*

A good friend can tell you what is the matter with you in a minute. He may not seem such a good friend after telling. *Arthur Brisbane, "The Book of Today"*

Indecision may or may not be my problem. *Jimmy Buffett*

President's Message

Customer Satisfaction Matters!

A few weekends ago a bunch of us got all carbed up at the Breakfast Club and then after a visit to a local cemetery for some odd reason we made our way to Cross County BMW. My agenda at this Open House event was to have a persuasive discussion about the poor quality control concerning my \$650.00 C3 helmet. The outer edge black band which keeps the insides connected to the shell had deformed to the point where I could no longer use it.



I was told, very nicely by the way, that they would send it off to California and fix it like new or be given a new one at no cost to me. To my astonishment, I received a phone call indicating they would indeed be sending CCBMW a new helmet for me to pick up.

I never have this kind of luck so you can imagine my joy. However, here's my point. At times we all have been short changed, taken advantaged of and have had no luck at all when seeking satisfaction from a vendor. Certain companies really do build into their operating mantra the idea that the customer actually matters after the sale. Schuberth and Cross County BMW obviously do.

The one thing to keep in mind is to always approach a problem like this with a cool head, educated demeanor and a Shore Riders BMW shirt with front and back logo's shining into the eyes of every potential customer while having your discussion with the service person.

Rev'n Mike, your President

Grover's Grave - April 6

RD Swanson

In the present days of the "Imperial Presidency" and American Empire, it's interesting to see Grover Cleveland's gravesite (not elaborate tomb) in Princeton. It's located in the downtown business area and a couple of blocks from the University. The tombstone is in harmony with the others in this necropolis of the near-famous, famous and the obscure. Aaron Burr, Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon and Jonathan Edwards also have modest gravesites. Perhaps this would remind us that we are all equal in death.

Capt. Don and I also visited a Big Tooth monument adjacent to a "rust-belt factory" on the way to Princeton. Really impressive! But then I jest.



Grover's Grave

Not much to say about the ride out and back. It's central Jersey and not particularly motorcycle-friendly.

Fluffybutt 2013 - Oddities, Cemeteries and even a Cow.

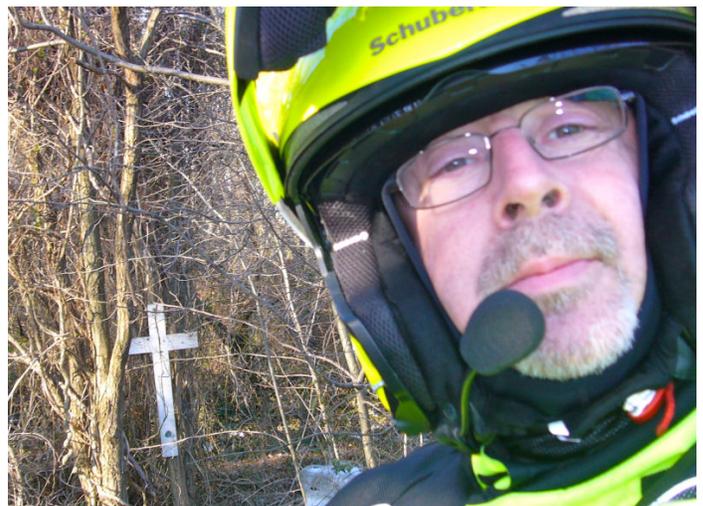
Dan Thompson

So I ventured out one fine weekday afternoon, post work, to find some Fluffybutt sites to get my numbers in the plus column. Punching in some sites close to home so as not to make this an overnight adventure (work the next day),

I thought an easy jaunt to Leonardo for a Qwik Stop, a smooth transition to face down an angry

clown and a single solitary visit to a Mass grave would do the trick. Allowing my GPS to lead me on my quest, I was pleased to find some curvy hills through Middletown that took me to my first stop. A snap of the camera lens and I had my tally going. I was off to see what was making the clown so annoyed. The only thing I could figure was his parking lot was more potholes than asphalt. No matter, another picture to capture the moment and I starting thinking this is going to be a breeze, and was on my way to scenic Parlin NJ.

My trusty GPS announced my final destination had arrived, but as I scanned the surroundings there was no cemetery in sight. I pulled into a strip mall, that had the odor of curry clogging my sinuses and regrouped, checked the GPS, the address given and found nothing but trees. Thinking this was a trick to make the contest more challenging I tooted around the parking lot and found a cross on a tree. Was this the Mass grave marker or a talisman left by some weird cult of the Raritan Bay clans. I took the obligatory photo and headed home.



Strange cross in the woods

Some lessons learned, check the point values of the sites, higher points require a visit into the said site, back to the Qwik Stop. Research your planned attractions for the day, There is a cemetery, it has a real address and a proper marker. Back to scenic Parlin. Don't mind the clown, he can be angry as long as he is not from outer space.

Believe it or not, I convinced Gigi to accompany me the next day to rectify my mistakes of the

day before, yes on the RT. The Mass grave does exist, we picked up a transistor, need a really big radio for that and my pillion actually eyed the Big Cow before me.



Big Cow

Not bad for two weekday afternoons in early April.

April Fluffybutt II Diaries

Bill Dudley

The first warning is that google maps (and anything that uses google maps, like an Android navigation program) has errors in the location of street numbers. So if you put Don's carefully researched addresses into Google maps, Google will as often as not put you somewhere in the general area of the actual address, but the error could be 1/4 mile or more.

I found that using Google Maps satellite view, I could often *see* the landmark, or it's shadow, and this helped in figuring out where to go before I actually got on the bike. Also, Google Street View allows you to "look around" and see if you can see what you are going to be looking to photograph once you get there.

I've put all of Don's 100 landmarks in a google map (as others have done.) Here's a link in case you're lazy and want to have a look at it: <http://goo.gl/maps/HSR5J>

Notes on individual landmarks, in no particular order.

The memorial in Ernst Cemetery is easy to find, but the parking lot is gravel and has a couple of "speed bumps" (runoff control, I think) that make it a little hairy on a bike. And the parking lot is sloped, making parking a bike a little challen-

ging. Nothing you can't handle, I'm sure.

The QwikStop from Clerks *always* has people taking pictures of it. You will just be one more, but probably the only one in a helmet.

Visiting the biggest transistor at the Holmdel (former) Bell Labs building, I was surprised to see a security guard roll up as soon as I had parked the bike. Fortunately he was satisfied that I was just there to snap a quick piccie and drove off. Not like those fun boys at the prisons.

The Muffler Man near "our Wawa" has been painted to look like Alfred E. Neumann (from Mad Magazine). Or else George W. Bush. Not sure.



Muffler Man near OWW

It's surprising that once you get to the WOO parking lot, the fence is down and I suppose you could walk right up to the abandoned building. I didn't try, but it might even be possible to get inside.

The Mercedes tomb stone is easy to find if you ask a grounds keeper where it is. Otherwise, well, it's a huge cemetery.

Eagle eye Dan found the Three Stooges tomb-

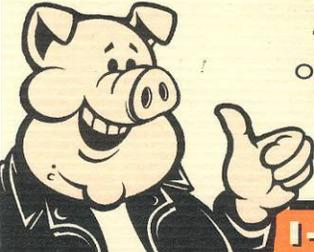
stone immediately. It's right by the cemetery road and pretty easy to find.



**Laugh, Don't Weep, It Feels Better
(photo by Don)**

The Carranza Memorial address is "Carranza Road". Carranza Road is *long*. If you come in from the northwest, it's paved all the way to the Memorial. I expect ALL you guys with BMW GSs to come in from the *east* side, on the dirt road. It's only about 5 or 6 miles of (mostly) packed sand, and I did it on my Moto Guzzi, so you GS guys have NO EXCUSE. (Also, Joe on his KLR included here.) I rode in from the northwest and rode out to the east because I didn't want to back track all that way just to avoid some dirt. Just keep going until you find the monument.

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The Stone Museum is a trip (in several senses of the word), and really deserves some time spent off the bike. The "clown" in Don's description is waaaaay back from the road, you'll have an entertaining hike to nab a photo of it. Nothing challenging like the Carranza Monument, but memorable none-the-less.



**Two clowns at the
Stone Museum**

The Burlington Prison Museum is a much friendlier place than last year's prisons. Interesting, too, and worth at least a half hour of your time. The nice young man working there when we visited has a Yamaha R1 and is about to take his first MSF course(!) soon. But he's been riding on the dirt since forever, so he's probably not as wobbly as you might suspect. (30 years old is young?)

Finally, Walt Whitman's grave. It's worth doing some internet research before you go so you'll know what to look for. It's not that hard to find if you know what the grave looks like before you set off. If you *don't* research it, well, you could be there for hours and hours looking at grave stones.

Concrete Bottles - April 10

RD Swanson

Capt. Don, ex-prez Dan and I decided to ride on this beautiful early-spring day. We met at Don's quaint stream-side cottage. Pre-ride deliberations focussed on a destination that would collect points for this year's "fluffy-butt" contest. The ultimate prize this year might be a new motorcycle, but more likely a \$100 gift certificate.

I wanted to find an ethereal glade of flowers, crystal springs and clear-running brooks inhabited by maidens in diaphanous gowns. Dan said there were no crystal springs or clear-running brooks in New Jersey. Don said he knew where to find maidens but that they would not be in an ethereal glade. Diaphanous gowns maybe.

So we settled on roadside concrete bottles along route nine in southern Ocean County.

First stop was at the Maritime Museum in Tom's River. Small but interesting, a collection of craft that were designed and built to harvest the estuaries and bays of the region was on display. Some were fully restored and inside the museum but most were stored outside and in various states of decay. They really do have beautiful lines. I suppose that someday when time and money are available they too will be restored.

Then we viewed the first concrete bottle. You had to be sharp to find it wedged between a lawnmower shop and a bottled-gas refill facility. To get close enough for a photograph required a maze of parking lots, turns, and illegal lefts. But somehow it was done. It truly was inspiring. The bottle not the maneuvering.

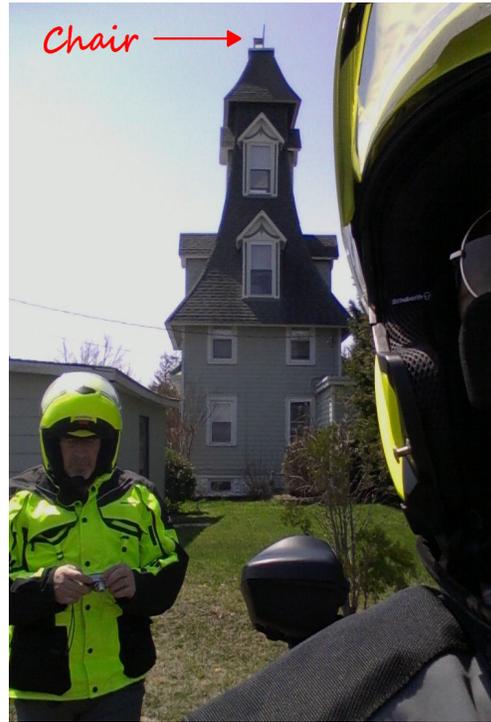


Next was the chair on a roof. We stopped at a nursery school parking lot. I thought Don was checking his GPS, but I was wrong. I was confused as Don and Dan were busily taking pictures of the oddly-shaped house adjacent to the lot. Then I saw it! There, way up was a lonely chair. Facing east it would be a great spot to view the ocean sunrise. If you could get up there.

Next was another concrete bottle. You've seen one you've seen them all.

We had lunch at the Tuckerton maritime village. If you join their breakfast club and eat before 8am it's \$2.99. Roger, take note! Since we were late we had the \$8.99 lunch special. It was pretty good.

After lunch my curiosity moved me to ask how they fared during the great tidal surge of October 29. Not so well it turned out. They had a 14 foot surge that caused a lot of damage to their buildings. They are on the bay and a couple of miles from the ocean. Volunteers were in the



Chair on a roof..

process of reconstructing. They were very friendly, enthusiastic and informative. Jersey strong!

More concrete bottles along picturesque route 9 were planned for the afternoon. My boredom threshold had been reached and so I took the Parkway north for home. My partners persevered and moved south for Egg Harbor City.

I guess my chances for winning a new motorcycle are slight.

The Gathering of the Nortons April 28th

Bill Dudley (your Vice President!)



Kate on the Velochonda

The 2013 Gathering of the Nortons was held on Sunday April 28 and the weather was absolutely

perfect. The Delaware Valley Norton Riders (the organizers of the Gathering) "lost count" at 900-plus bikes in attendance.

Kate and I rode directly to the Gathering, me on my 1971 Norton Commando, and Kate on the Honda GB500. The GB was wearing its "Halloween costume", all dressed up to look like a 1967 Velocette. The disguised GB sure caused some head scratching at the Gathering. The vintage bike weenies mostly got the joke, and their wives/girl friends wondered what was so funny.

After the 50-50 (the DVNR really needs a PA system to announce this), the attending NJSBM-WR people, and Kate, rode up 32 to their "regular post gathering lunch stop" just south of the Uhlerstown bridge.



60 MPG!

The seven of us had a nice lunch, complete with entertainment by our waitress, who had a marvellous sense of humor. In attendance: Dennis, Joe, Harold, Don, Grant, Dud, and Kate. Roger and Harry were also at the Gathering but not at lunch. I hope I didn't forget any of the NJSBM-WR people.

After lunch, we all headed back south on the NJ side of the river, on NJ 29. Kate and I filled up our tanks in Allentown, NJ. The GB500 got 60 MPG for the 130 miles on the tank, but the bigger surprise was that the Norton *also* got 60 MPG; I was expecting more like 50 MPG. That single Mikuni carb modification is wonderful. All in all, a fine day out; saw many old friends, had a nice ride, and good food with friends.

Norton Rally - April 28

RD Swanson

This rally is the official start of the riding season. Riders gather at Washington's Crossing Park on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware. This is where our founding father led the troops across the ice-laden river on Christmas Day to attack the Hessians at Trenton. There is a museum on the site and some old colonial houses. You probably know the rest. Washington won the war and started the United States.

Some Shore Riders met at "Our Wawa" and others arrived from various other points. Ex-Prez Dan and his bride Gigi, ex-prez Joe Karol, ex-prez Don, ex-prez me and never-prez Grant met at 10 and departed shortly thereafter for the brief trip to the rally.

Motorcycles of all ages and marques were lined for all to see. Nortons, Hondas, BMW's, Royal Enfields, and BSA's were just a part of this yearly display. Ex-prez Roger, vice prez Dudley, Harold the Gantz, Barack Obama, Hilary Clinton and other notables of the motorcycle world were on hand.

So we walked around and saw what we would and then left for a lunch at the Buck's Bounty, a charming place beside the Delaware. The chicken pot pie was excellent. Barry made an interesting lunch guest.

I foolishly decided to follow Grant for the ride home. So we sped, passed on double lines, passed on the right, lane split and ran lights. It was an absolute joy. I jest. But Grant does ride on the edge and this can be a lot of fun. And so I smiled a lot.

We separated on at least four occasions only to cross paths and rejoin. At one point I passed him in Princeton and figured he was history only to find him in front of me outside Hightstown. How did he do it? At another point I approached an intersection to see him ride through in the opposite direction. But we again rejoined down the road. A mystery.

It was a perfect Spring day with temps in the sixties and seventies and a clear blue sky. A good beginning for another year of riding.

The Gathering - April 28th

Roger Trendowski

The gathering of the Norton's at Washington Crossings was well attended with all types of bikes, new and old, on show. Of course there were a gaggle of Nortons, but many vintage BMWs, Triumphs, BSAs, Indians, Yamamomas, Hondos, and Suzkis,.

Don Gordon brought his vintage and very rare 250cc 4 cylinder Bennelli. If you do the math the pistons size in his 4 cylinder 250cc bike are 62.5ccs each. ... all revs with little torque.

There was a very nice Vincent and an unusual 3-wheeler powered by a VW 1.6 Li turbo diesel engine.

Arriving with leader of the Pack Don E.. was Joe Karol, Dan Thompson and Gigi, Grant and RDS. Separately, I met Harold Gantz, Al Pierson, Pete Lisco (New Sweden) at Bitter Bobs in New Hope for breakfast at 9 and arrived at the park about 10:30am. This is definitely an event not to be missed.

2013 Event Schedule

Please email the editor with additions/corrections.

May

1st - Moribundi Lunch, for the old, infirm and other 47%ers. Turkish restaurant, Howell, Rt 9.

8th - Regular Meeting, Schneiders/Avon

17th to 19th - Morton's Spring Fling, Natural Bridge VA. Hotel rally, with great food, great entertainment and great riding. Don will be leading some members on a 2 day ride to the event, leaving on Thursday May 16th, and returning on Monday the 20th - including some Blue-Ridge-Parkway if the group is so inclined.

31st to June 2nd - Square Route Rally, Thurmont MD. Usually has great speakers and reasonable entertainment. Cabins with bunks are available for those who no longer sleep in dirt. See Harry Costello or Don for info, and a possible ride to/from.

June

5th - Moribundi Lunch, for those who are gentlemen of leisure, Location to be announced.

12th - Regular Meeting, Schneiders/Avon

20th to 23rd - BMW-RA Rally, Asheville NC.

Located just a few miles off the Blue-Ridge Parkway. Don will be leading a 3 day ride to the

rally, probably including roads in West Virginia and the BlueGrass Parkway in Virginia.

July

3rd - Moribundi Lunch, still breathing? Join us! Location TBA

10th - Regular Meeting, Schneiders/Avon

12th to 14th. Lunatic Fringe Rally, Alberta, Canada.

18th - 21st - BMW MOA International Rally, Salem, Oregon. There are several club members planning on riding to/from the rally. Come to a meeting for details. Roger Trendowski is looking for NJ club member volunteers to help in registration on Friday - please see Roger.

August

7th - Moribundi Lunch. It's hot so cool off with the cool guys. Location TBA

14th - Regular Meeting, Schneiders/Avon

September

4th - Moribundi Lunch. It's cooling off, so it's time to join us! Location TBA.

11th - Regular Meeting, Schneiders/Avon

20th to 22nd 10-billionth New Sweden Last Chance Rally. Join our friendly souf'Jersey club, the New Sweden BMW Riders at campground in Elmer NJ.)

October

2nd - Moribundi Lunch. Old and tasty. Location TBA.

4th-6th - Oktoberfest/Bavarian Weekend.

Round Top NJ, Crystal Brook German Resort. An all-meals included weekend, timed to coordinate with Colors in the Catskills in nearby Hunter Mountain. \$83/night/person includes a real bed (and shower) and three huge meals per day. Hard to beat! Reservations are made by the members directly with the Crystal Brook. More info will be available as the date gets closer.

9th - Regular Meeting, Schneiders/Avon

November

6th - Moribundi Lunch. Old and wrinkly. Location TBA.

13th - Regular Meeting, Schneiders/Avon

December

4th - Moribundi Lunch. Old and cold. Location TBA.

11th - Regular Meeting, Schneiders/Avon

22nd - Annual Toy Run, Children's Hospital, Toms River

April 1st – October 31st – FluffyButt! Get out and RIDE! Watch for ride announcements via the Yahoo group email.

Motorcycle Insurance from a fellow rider and club member



Contact Greg Wright for all your motorcycle and other insurance needs. Greg is a club member, fellow rider, and club supporter.

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Meeting – Weds – May 8th

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