

December 2013

NEW JERSEY SHORE BMW RIDERS Inc

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President's Message: Final Words

Well my friends December is here which means the new regime is in the wings ready to take over the helm. I just want to say thanks for the opportunity to lead and to have had your support.

I am sure that Bill will make a great President. Why? Here is a short list of why Bill is going to do a great job:

1. He is a natural orator, one only has to sit across him at the Breakfast Club to realize he should have been a radio announcer.
2. His long hair has a built in cool factor.
3. He has a couple of motorcycles and actually sounds like he knows the names of the various parts that make it run.
4. He is always up for a ride and weather is never an obstacle.
5. He managed to get Klaus to accept the VP position.
6. He understands all things computer and electric.
7. His Mexican made motorcycle boots allow him safe passage to any rally anywhere.
8. He is retired and available.

So everyone, thank you, have a great holiday and New Year and hope for some nice sunny dry winter days when the ride to the Breakfast Club takes on new meaning!

Happy Holidays, Rev'n Mike

Perhaps I am a bear, or some hibernating animal underneath, for the instinct to be half asleep all winter is so strong in me. *Anne Morrow Lindbergh*

If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.

Anne Bradstreet (1612 - 1672), 'Meditations Divine and Moral,' 1655

One kind word can warm three winter months.
Japanese proverb

In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer.

Albert Camus (1913 - 1960)

Every mile is two in winter.
George Herbert (1593 - 1633)

To shorten winter, borrow some money due in spring. *W. J. Vogel*

In the bleak midwinter Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone; Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow, In the bleak midwinter, Long ago.

Christina Rossetti (1830 - 1894), A Christmas Carol

If winter comes, can spring be far behind? *Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792 - 1822)*

Toy Run - December 8th

Jim Thomasey

The annual ride to the Children's Specialized Hospital has been set for Sunday December 8, 2013. This the day after the Holiday Party at Rod's.

We encourage all to attend and we will meet at the motor vehicle station on Route 70 west at 9:45 am. After a quick coffee and donut break we will have kickstands up at 10:45 to be at the hospital at 11am. I am sure this year there will be a short presentation and tour as the hospital staff is also welcoming Holiday Express right after us. Of course as in the past, toys can be brought the day of the ride for motorcycle delivery to Toms River.

If you prefer to forgo the coffee and chat at the the Motor Vehicle Inspection Station and go directly to the hospital the address is:

Children's Specialized Hospital
94 Stevens Road (off Rt 70 – WAWA on corner.)
Toms River, NJ 08755

See you there!

Book Review - Riding Off the Edge of the Map - by David Bryen

Donnie Dog

Amazon/Kindle free books is a great thing. There is an email list you can get on that sends a daily message listing books that can be downloaded to your Kindle account for free. Most of the books are ones where the author is trying to garner an audience/fans for other books they've published. This book caught my attention since Amazon described it thus:

"Riding off the Edge of the Map is a true account of the author and two fellow motorcyclists on an adventure-tour into Mexico's rugged and stunning Copper Canyon. They follow an errant map until they have traveled so far into danger that returning is deemed more precarious than continuing. Struggling with nearly impassible roads, injury, terror, and broken equipment, the three men were eventually forced to independently find their way back to civilization from the most remote part of the Canyon. The quest begins in the heart of Central Mexico's Sierra Madre Mountains and traces their journey up the Pacific Coast and into the largest canyon system in North America, 1700 feet deeper and four times the size of

Arizona's Grand Canyon.

Bryen, a career psychotherapist and motorcycle safety instructor, integrates his lifelong zeal for motorcycle riding and his passionate commitment to the life of the soul, and weaves the events into an odyssey that pulls the reader into an exterior and interior exploration of what it takes to venture into the heart of the Canyon. The trip required a crash course in new motorcycling riding skills, adjusting to rural customs and new language in a foreign culture, settling the stress-created conflicts among the riders, and finding the courage to face and deal with personal limitations. Eventually stripped of everything familiar where old maps, old rules, and old understandings no longer applied, this life-changing journey becomes an examination into fundamental questions of how to ride and how to live. The book describes being caught between the allure of beauty and the repulsion of terror, and explores how to access the deeper powers that become available to us when life seems most challenging. The author turns this motorcycle adventure tour into an opportunity to contemplate the longings, the fears, and the misapplied maps that govern our lives."

Sounds good right? Almost like adventure touring at it's best. Well - the blurb doesn't catch the real essence of the book. Reading it made me annoyed with the author, and questioning how smart the guy really is. Imagine leaving on a trip into the unknown, rough country of the middle of Mexico, on a bike that is totally unsuited for the job (some form of Suzuki - the model is never mentioned by as far as I noticed - Suzuki doesn't make an "adventure-touring" type bike), with two dudes you've never ever ridden with before (both on GS's) and without any trip planning or even decent maps of the area. Made me want to slap him silly for whining when things inevitably went bad.

It wasn't just that things went bad - he proceeded to make them worse, and let his misguided thinking ignore the small inklings of common sense that occasionally rose to his consciousness. On almost any decision where he could have made things better - he made the wrong decision and made things worse. Then he whined about the outcome. Dude - you need not only a riding coach, but a life coach. And this guy was a motorcycle safety instructor.

I almost gave up reading it several times, but since I had invested as much time as I had - I continued torturing myself. It isn't that the book is badly written -

it's actually quite well written. It's not as if the story doesn't have interest - it does - sort of like watching a train wreck has interest. He was doing about the same thing as the train in the Bronx was doing - going 83MPH in a 30MPH curve while "zoned out." I really almost quit when he got to the discussion of his hemorrhoids (he never heard of Preparation-H?) but I made it to the end, where in one chapter he tried to relate the entire experience in some psycho-therapist babble to his of belly-crawling through a swamp to get up close and personal with a dying heron - (which apparently is a life-changing experience) and justify his actions.

Well - I'll leave the author "to contemplate the longings, the fears, and the misapplied maps that govern our lives" and avoid any other books he might pen. As I said at the beginning - Amazon/Kindle "free books" are a great thing - besides turning me on to some authors I've really enjoyed, it's helped me to find ones I really want to avoid. As over-rated as I find "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance" - this is worse. Much worse. That is a work of genius compared to this book.

On a scale of 1-10 "Touring Adventure Books" (where Ted Simon's early books are a 10, Robert Fulton's book is a solid 10) this is about a 2 (and I'm being generous because I saw no glaring grammar errors.)

RECOMMENDED BOOKS for your HOLIDAY GIFT LIST:

Your 'umble editor..

"Conversations with a Motorcycle" - Jacke Riepe. A very funny look at how a callow 17 year old kid became a callow adult of sorts riding motorcycles. The protagonist of the story was mostly interested in getting laid, and looked at motorcycles as the means to that end.

Unfortunately - he choose a Kawasaki to make the attempt. It all turns out OK in the end, and actually many of the places he mentions visiting (with barely disguised names) are ones I also remember. Good book Jack! Available from his blog: <http://jackriepe.blogspot.com/> - he'll even put a nice note in the book for you.

"One Man Caravan" - Robert Edison Fulton Jr. If you want to read the first account of a round-the-world motorcycle tour - this is the book to get. I often

come back to this book - thinking about his experiences in the early 1930's traveling the world. A great read, interesting viewpoints on what he saw, and some of his descriptions of the middle-east show how little that area has changed in almost a century. Available from Whitehorse Press: <http://www.whitehorsegear.com/one-man-caravan> -

There is also a DVD available **"Twice Upon a Caravan"** also by Fulton - highly recommended.

"The Perfect Vehicle" - Melissa Holbrook Pierson. It's not an easy thing to describe the passion for motorcycles that grabs us and makes us do risky things in a risky environment, but Melissa nails it with this book. Very readable, enjoyable and interesting. It's a hard to put down sort of book. Available from www.wwnorton.com (and I'm sure Whitehorse Press carries it.)

Melissa also is the author of a book on John Ryan - also recommended for insight into what drove John. That book is **"The Man Who Would Stop at Nothing"** Also recommended.

"101 Road Tales" - clement salvadori. A compilation of columns Salvadori wrote for Rider Magazine. There is something for everyone in this collection. Available again from Whitehorse Press.

"Jupiters Travels" Ted Simon. The story of Ted's journey around the world - by a totally inexperienced motorcyclist the book centers on the people he met and how he related to them as he stumbled around the world.

Ted repeated the adventure as a spry 69 year old - and wrote about it in the book **"Dreaming of Jupiter"** - which is an interesting companion read since he compares the world he saw in his first journey with the world in the 1970's with how he found it in 2001. Both are Whitehorse Press offerings.

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Riding through the wettest June on record

Ben E. Dictus, F.N.G.

June 2013 set the record for the wettest June in recorded history.

Like many others who ride BMWs, I rode throughout the month and got my fair share of getting rained on.

Being on a new bike at the time, I had to experiment with what gear works while riding a K1600 GTL. My gear selection has been shaped by riding on a Harley Dyna Super Glide with a windshield and a Honda Valkyrie, also with a windshield.

Well, it turns out that getting drenched is less of an issue with the BMW's big windshield and complete fairing, as long as I'm moving above 40-45 mph. But there were still lessons learned:

I tried a Tourmaster Transition 2 jacket with/without its insulating/waterproof liner. Water eventually soaks through the jacket in the rain but while the liner keeps things dry, it gets hot and uncomfortable. Opening the front vents did nothing but get me wet if I had no liner.

My leather perforated Vanson was just not for withstanding rain so I had to hang it and let it air dry naturally if I got caught out with it.

Turns out my favorite combo was my Tourmaster Draft mesh jacket with my military issue Goretex jacket over it. The Goretex jacket has a long zipper from just below the elbow to the armpit and a big vent high in the back. This allowed a nice draft to blow through my mesh jacket and kept me from wearing a swampy, sweaty shirt while still keeping me dry.

I don a haute couture construction mesh reflective vest over the Goretex jacket to aid visibility. I wear BMW ProSummer gloves (with Goretex) when it rains. BMW Allround boots and Goretex pants (also military issue) worn when I expect heavy rains.

To be honest, I barely get wet in heavy rains when I just had jeans on and my jackets would get wet on the outer sleeves and shoulders.

YMMV, depending on what bike you ride.

Cross Country Open House November 30th

Yon editor

Cross-Country's annual Thanksgiving weekend open house was a great success for them, and for our club.

As usual – there was free food (which drew in the New Sweden contingent – who never stopped to say HI!) Skylands was there in force, and of course members of our club wandered in and out.

As part of what I hope will be a year-long membership drive (more details at our December meeting), several of us manned a club table – generously provided by Scott and Dan of Cross-Country. Greg Wright and I did the early setup, we were joined eventually by Ken Hulse, Dan and Colin Thompson.

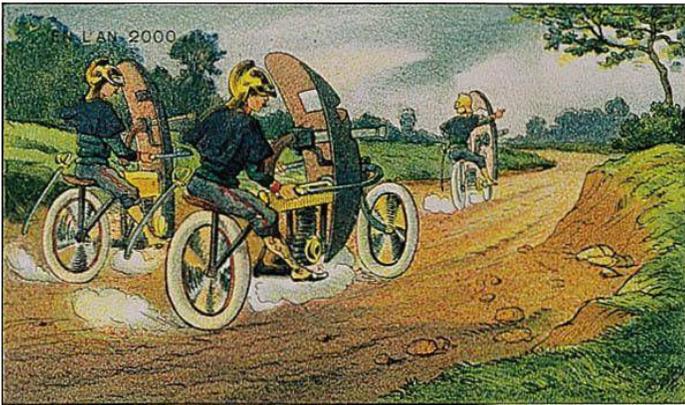


Colin, Dan and salesman extraordinaire – Greg!

Greg revealed his true calling in life – a natural salesman. Within minutes he'd worked up a patter to approach any potential members to tell them about the great reasons to join our club. His success was evident by the end of the day – he'd signed up 10 new members (a 18% membership gain!)

The membership drive will be ongoing and there are awards planned for the people who bring in the most new members to the club. We always welcome new blood to the club – some of our older members seem to be fading away and giving up riding.

I also got my 8th (and hopefully final) fuel strip installed (all under warranty) and Greg had his replaced. Ride up was in the low 30's, the ride back was most enjoyable with temps in the mid 40's.



Winter Riding at it's best..

It's a long ride to Cape North.. or how I spent my fall vacation – Sept 2nd -14th Part-III

Don Eilenberger

When we last saw our intrepid world travelers, they had just crossed the causeway from Nova Scotia the peninsula onto Cape Breton – the island. Cape Breton is part of Nova Scotia province, but in many ways is a world of it's own.

Our destination for the first night was just across the causeway – at St. Peter CBI. The Bras d'Or Inn is located on the shore of the Bras' d'Or lake – an inland sea of sorts. The lodgings were deluxe, and there was an exceptional restaurant and bar attached.



Bras d'Or Inn

As usual, we arrived in time for a quick nap before dinner. The weather was delightful, clear and dry in the high 60's. Dinner was – seafood of course, followed by a brief visit to the bar. Herb and I were the only customers in the bar, so we got to chatting with the young lady

serving as our bartender.

She had only been “off-island” (CBI) once when she was 16. She was the middle child of 6 girls – her father took a long time to give up hope of a male child. She finished high-school, but that was about all the education she felt she needed – she was engaged to be married, and perhaps will remain on the island trying for a boy child to make her father happy.



View from the Inn

The next morning dawned with drizzle, and the weather promised to get worse, not better. Happily I'd planned an extra day into the trip, so rather than try the Cabot Trail in fog and rain, we decided to spend the day traveling to Sydney CBI, and then visit the historic Fort Louisbourg. Louisbourg was celebrating the 300th Anniversary of it's founding in 1713, as a French trading port.

We found the Fort an interesting way to spend a wet afternoon. The fort has been restored to reflect it's condition in 1744 – which was the peak of it's colonial growth. At it's peak the port/fort was exporting millions of pounds of cod to France.

We had lunch in a historic inn at the fort – with what else but.. fish chowder. Unlike the other chowder's we'd tried, this one was made without flour or cream – since it just wasn't available to the fort in 1744. It was served in period bowls, with a period single spoon like utensil. Seating was family style and the servers were all in costume.

Unlike many other historic restorations such as this – when it came time to pay the bill, there

was no hesitation in stepping into the 21st century. The server arrived at the table with one of the ubiquitous WiFi based credit-card devices we saw all over Nova Scotia.

troops. The tour guides were informative without being pedantic (as many are in these sort of restored attractions.)



Louisbourg Chowder



Historic Bill Paying

After lunch we wandered the grounds a bit, visiting the “Governor’s Palace” which is actually a lot more than just his residence – it was the center for government, and had barracks for



Bill, Don and Herb at Louisbourg



The Governor's Palace



Drum and Fife

Eventually we decided to head for our lodgings for the night – a motel/restaurant in Sydney CBI (in the North-East corner of CBI) where we once again sampled the local seafood.



To be continued next month as we eat more seafood and circle the Cabot Trail anti-clockwise....

Welcome to New Members!

The following members have joined the club in the past month, please make them welcome!

- George Kress, Fanwood NJ
- Jimmy Libman, West Orange NJ
- Robert Tartaglia, Chatham NJ
- Michael Smith, Titusville NJ
- Tim Teachan, North Brunswick NJ
- Tom Gardner, Montgomery NJ
- Timothy Garrett, Colts Neck NJ
- Stephen Garrett, Colts Neck NJ
- Robert Ryan, Staten Island, NY
- Matthew DeWald, New York, NY

2013 Progressive Motorcycle Show – NYC – December 13th-15th

Don – yet again..

Our usual club contingent will be traveling via rail from Long Branch station to Penn Station in NY to attend the NY Motorcycle Show on Friday, **December 13th**.

If you'd like to join us – I'll be leaving my house at about 9:15AM, and will be taking the 9:54AM train from LB. It arrives at Penn Station at 11:13AM (if our engineer doesn't "zone out" in which case it might be a lot earlier..)

If you're interested in carpooling with me up to the station – let me know. So far Harold has shotgun. Or – just meet us at the station or one of the stops the train makes.

Harold and I intend to take a cab to/from Javitts – we're undecided on where to have lunch.

BTW – NJ Transit now has a smartphone "app" for ticketing on the Coast Snail. You can find it searching for "myTix" in the usual places. I checked, it does offer senior discount tickets (whew!)

2013 Event Schedule

Please email the editor with additions/corrections.

December

- **4th - Moribundi Lunch.** Old and cold. Location TBA.
- **7th - Annual Holiday Party** – Rod's, Sea Girt
- **8th - Annual Toy Run, Children's Hospital, Toms River**
- **11th - Regular Meeting,** Schneider's/Avon



Caption This.. send entries via email.

PS – my wife asked if anyone sent anything in for the newsletter. Aside from Mike and Ben – this was a negative. That makes for a difficult job. Let's get with it eh?

Motorcycle Insurance from a fellow rider and club member



Greg Wright

greg@johnbwright.com

www.johnbwright.com

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**Meeting – Weds – December 11th (Eat 6-7:30PM, meeting 7:30PM)
Schneider's German-American Restaurant
Rt 71-Main St, Avon NJ**

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18 William Lane
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