

June 2015

NEW JERSEY SHORE BMW RIDERS Inc

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President's Message:

As I write this, we are still out west, having successfully ridden my 1971 Moto Guzzi to Albuquerque via old Route 66. Most of that was merely "interesting", but the last day was more of a "trial". First, I elected to take a really old section of Route 66 west from the New Mexico border. Though I had probably read a warning that this would be dirt, I still managed to be surprised when I actually got there and found a dirt road. Fortunately, it was only a 20 mile section, and also fortunately, it was only badly washboarded for a small portion of that, so I could maintain a 30mph rate for most of the 20 miles.

The second part of the "trial" was the strong head winds we had to ride into for the latter half of the day. The weather is positively weird everywhere in the US this year: a cold spring and then early heat wave on the East coast, an early heat wave followed by a cold, rainy start to summer out West. So the heavy winds were by no means normal, nor were the heavy rains, hail, and even tornadoes that we (mostly) dodged riding through Oklahoma. Don E. has had the same difficulty in his ride to the West (see his article later in this newsletter).

Once in Albuquerque, we spent a delightful week with my son, Wm III, some time of which was spent fettling my 1978 R100RS for the trip to California. I got to put gas in my new 7.5 gallon gas tank, tune up the "new" Bing carburetors I put on it to up the gas mileage, and replace the rear tire with a new Heidenau.

We'll not be back for the June meeting, but you will be in Klaus' good hands.

President Dud

In honor of our "all Route 66" issue:

If you ever plan to motor west,
Travel my way, take the highway that is best.
Get your kicks on Route sixty-six.

It winds from Chicago to LA,
More than two thousand miles all the way.
Get your kicks on Route sixty-six.

Now you go through Saint Looney
Joplin, Missouri,
And Oklahoma City is mighty pretty.
You see Amarillo,
Gallup, New Mexico,
Flagstaff, Arizona.
Don't forget Winona,
Kingman, Barstow, San Bernardino.

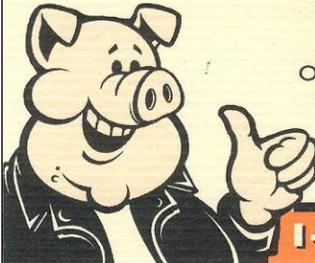
Won't you get hip to this timely tip:
When you make that California trip
Get your kicks on Route sixty-six.

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Get your kicks on Route sixty-six.

Bobby Troup

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paper, or however you do it, it finally becomes time to hit the road. And then you have another dilemma.



The Pryor Creek Route 66 Bridge

Riding Old Route 66

Bill Dudley

I've always been fascinated by "industrial decay": old buildings, abandoned roads and tunnels, rusting machinery. As a motorcyclist I've indulged that interest by "researching" and riding roads like the Old Lincoln Highway and Route 66. This trip riding across the country, my first, finally allowed me to try to ride most of the "middle" bit of Route 66. I've ridden the bit between LA and Albuquerque a few times, but never the part between Chicago and Albuquerque.



Mystery Teepee Thing



Zhao with the Blue Whale

The reference is Jerry McClanahan's Route 66 EZ Guide, and I dutifully tried to create a trip route that would follow "much" of the remaining bits of Route 66. Of course, "Route 66" isn't one route – it's been re-routed several times over its long history, so there are multiple choices for which route to take, all along "the route". Plus, bits of Route 66 are gone, or under the interstate, or on private property, or otherwise unrideable. So one does one's best at picking "the route" that one will try to follow.

Route all loaded into the Garmin, or printed on

Riding the old pavement seems attractive until you actually do it. The older and more attractive the pavement, the slower you'll have to go to ride it, which means making progress becomes more difficult. Eventually, I start to realize that if I can ride *near* the old pavement, but on an improved road, I can make progress while still getting the visual benefits of riding the old road. This becomes the "new rule" – it's just as good to ride where you can see the old road as to actually ride on the old road, and a heck of a lot faster.

For much of its length, old Route 66 is the service, or "frontage" road that runs parallel to the interstate (I-40, mostly). This sounds boring, but the advantage to riding this is that you go slower, and the road is more interesting because it has to dodge and weave around exit ramps and cross over the interstate from time to time. If you're riding an old bike, like we were, the "going slower" part is a feature, as we could potter along at 50 or 60mph and not have to worry about stressing the old dear (the bike, not me).



Seaba Station Bike Museum, nr Chandler, OK

An unexpected benefit of riding the “old road” is that you meet others who are also “old road” weenies. Zhao and I met a couple of guys from Belgium who had flown to Chicago, rented a pair of Harleys, and were riding Route 66 to Santa Monica, where they'd drop off the bikes and fly home. We met them at this amazing little motorcycle museum just outside of Chandler, OK, and had lunch with them at a roadhouse west of the museum.



Another old 66 bridge, west of Tulsa, OK

Notes From the Road West

Don Eilenberger

(This is a compilation of Don's Facebook posts starting when he left the Morton's Spring Fling location and headed west, posted here with Don's encouragement.)

May 18: Comfort Inns are one of the better values around. Comfortable bed, decent breakfast all for under \$100.

Today is scenic routes west of Lexington KY. Route 60 looks fun. Weather iffy again,

supposedly clearing tomorrow.

Local place lunch report #1: When in Rome, eat what the Romans eat.. in this case a Pollyburger.

Left Lexington KY, rode through Louisville KY, stopped at a bike accessories store when I crossed into Indiana and found my way to the Ohio River Scenic Highway. It's the old road.

Started thinking of lunch and what do I pass? Pollys.. a quick u-turn and I was talking to a young lady about what she'd order.

Pollyburger with the Works. Great choice. With a small milkshake about \$8.

Where I'm living large for the night.. in a \$35 very nice room. — at Tropicana Evansville.

May 19 - There is no on the road dinner report because I couldn't bring myself to do it. How bad can a casino restaurant be? The clues were there but hunger made me ignore them. The uncleared tables, workers joking around.. all clues I ignored.

We'll move onto breakfast. Buffet. Started out good with fruit, quickly degraded with the oddest western omelet I've ever seen. – at Tropicana Evansville.



Don finds some great buildings.

Nice ride today. Turned Doofus to "Avoid Highways" and ended up with lots of nice back roads. Did about 200 miles. Clear and cool.. so on to the pics including Lunch on the road Report #3. Staying tonight with Jon and Sue Diaz across the

river from Saint Louis. Tomorrow the Ozarks.

May 20 - Huddling in a Comfort Inn in the Ozarks. Cold (45f) rain all day gets old after a while. Did visit Missouri's, Route 66 Museum and visitors center . Bought a sticker. These sections of 66 aren't terribly interesting, they're mostly frontage roads along I-44. Hopefully this will improve as I get more west.



Gas station; sadly, not selling at these prices.

Breakfast was a great egg sammich made by the lovely Sue Diaz. Lunch was Arby's. For some reason Arby's left NJ a couple of decades ago.



Sign in a museum, unfortunately.

May 21 - Sort of long day. Started in Missouri, went 1/2 mile into Kansas, ending up in Tulsa Oklahoma. Around 300 miles or so.

Weather started out cool (46°) and overcast but as the day progressed things improved. It's about 65°

and bright sun in Tulsa at 7PM.

Breakfast was a Comfort Inn standard waffle, juice coffee and banana.

Lunch was a place along Rt66 that seems very popular with truckers. The 400+lb trucker sitting near me told me it was held in high regard among the Knights of the 18 wheeler. In my opinion the food was meh with grease.

I didn't get the daily special which was an entire chicken deep fried with a pecan crust and two sides and dessert. The 400lb chap did and proclaimed it wonderful. I opted for a BLT on sour-dough bread and somehow it turned out meh.

I alternated between I44 and bits of Rt66. A lot of the Missouri Rt66 is now frontage road, sometimes unpaved. Since it runs right along I44 I could see I wasn't missing much. I did take some I44 business loops since those are always "the old road" Some were interesting and some were just strip malls and a Walmart around a decaying downtown.

Was going to visit the Will Rogers center but couldn't find the entrance and circling the block meant all uphill, off camber, falling away to the left stops at every corner. Once was enough, if I'd done it twice I'd be smelling clutch.

So I continued on to Tulsa. Nice town. I'm quite impressed. Apparently oil money has been good for Tulsa. Phillips 66 is noticeable everywhere. Big new stadium, new performing arts center and a vibrant looking restored area full of clubs and restaurants.

I had planned on staying at a somewhat fancy boutique hotel called "Aloof" built in the old city hall. Problem was I couldn't find it. Many times around many blocks, and still no luck.

So I looked online to see what else was available. Every travel site had \$99 rooms in the Hyatt Regency that I happened to be parked in front of.

Pulled in, the valets guarded the bike, and charming devil that I am I got a \$99 room.

So what? You say.. it could be booked on line.

Well, no. The young lady put me on the 14th floor, one of those floors you have to use your room key

to access. The Regency Club floor. The room is huge and VERY nice.

Heading out to dinner shortly. Regency Club guests have an on demand shuttle to take us the 5 blocks to the restaurant district. Have to see what the concierge suggests. — at Hyatt Regency Tulsa.

Back from dinner in the Blue Dome section of Tulsa. I'm rather impressed. Lots of good choices in a 4 square block area. I walked the area first checking the menus and finally decided on Tallgrass. I think their EAT sign convinced me.

Good choice. The menu was heavy on meat, and they had a great local IPA on tap. When it smells like old socks you know it's going to be good. — at Tallgrass Prairie Table.

May 22 – Rain, rain go away.. this bringing rain to California isn't for sissies. After a leisurely room service breakfast this morning I managed to leave the hotel just as the skies opened. About 10 minutes on the payway had me getting off to investigate a wet crotch (antifog stuff leaking from a tankbag will apparently go through Gortex. WHO'D thunk..)

Anyway told Doofus no highways and it happily routed me on Rt 66. And that's where I'm riding — at Route 66 Interpretive Center.

May 23 – Hiding out in Lucille's Roadhouse in the aptly named Weatherford OK. The weather reports have been pretty miserable but today's tops the charts. Severe storms with the possibility of tornadoes.

I got this far from Oklahoma City when battling crosswinds on I40 became just too tiring. Riding in these sort of crosswinds just is no fun when it feels like the bike is being driven from under you. The new tailcase doesn't help. Adds a flag area up high. I may rethink this when I get somewhere civilized Condense and ship it home via UPS.

Meanwhile outside the window things are picking up. The orange and red parts should be here soon. I asked the young waitress about a storm cellar. They don't have one, it's everyone into the walk-in freezer when the sirens go off.

Now for lunch. — at Lucille's Roadhouse.

May 23 – I'm beginning to dislike rain. I generally don't mind riding in rain, but rain, combined with sudden high wind and lightening and me being the tallest thing around for several miles is making me dislike it.

Today started out with fog as I was leaving the Oklahoma City area. Got on I40 heading west at a good clip. According to Doofus I'd be in Amarillo before 2PM.

Well, that didn't happen. I'm STILL in Oklahoma. Hobart to be exact.

I decided to leave Lucille's when the wind settled down a bit, despite it still being rainy. I told Doofus no highways and picked the shortest route. Doofus promised I'd be there by 4:30PM.

Obviously that didn't work. What Doofus couldn't account for was avoiding the big red blob and staying away from some very ominous looking sky. I was basically chasing clear skies and avoiding black sky.

The grid road layout isn't the most efficient. No diagonals means my riding pattern looks like a staircase. 20 miles south, followed by 15 miles west sort of pattern.

There is a certain beauty to the straight roads going over undulating hills. At the crest of a hill I could often see miles ahead.

So.. what happened? I ran out of clear sky to chase in any desirable direction and the darkness had caught up with me.

So in the middle of nowhere, Tommy Franks birthplace I ended up in an old fashioned strip pull up to the door motel. Its cheap and very clean and has local dining. . A Pizza Hut is across the parking lot. Not deluxe, not gourmet, but a bed in the storm and a source of food. — at Hi-Way Inn of Hobart.

May 24 – Finally broke out of the rain, and Oklahoma. Still have Doofus on a "avoid highways" diet. So.. its been long 2 lane back roads. Lots of evidence of the flooding in the area.

Went over some bridges where the stream below had become a torrent level with the bottom of the bridge. Last night it had been over the bridge and road.



Cadillac Ranch

Lots of small almost deserted towns. If there is a historic monument or marker they usually get a stop and a few pics.

Lunch, \$6, at a DQ, the only place I've passed in 80 miles. The Texas tacos aren't bad.. it was empty when I arrived, it's now packed with after-church seniors. Guess when you're the only place for miles.

Settled in for the night at the Desert Inn in Tucumcari, New Mexico. Tucumcari was a big stop in the days of Rt66, with over a dozen motels and motor courts lining Rt 66 (Tucumcari Ave.) Most of them are still there, trying desperately to survive on Rt66 mania.

Although I followed 66 from almost the state border, i opted for a slightly more modern place, that still is different from the standard issue/decor motel chain. Its right next to them out near the highway, so there are places open to eat at. Back on Rt66, the few places remaining are closed for the weekend.

It was a bit windy coming across the high plains, which made taking historic 66 even better. There was no traffic on it and especially no trucks. The wake off the back of a semi combined with 30-40mph gusts from the side made riding interesting. On 66, just had to react to the side gusts.

My bike ran crappy for a bit today, stumbling at idle. Bad gas. Last night in desperation I filled from an old no name in town station in Hobart. That was a mistake. Took the better part of a fresh

fill with name brand fuel to clear it up, but it's running fine again. Will turn over 90,000 miles tomorrow.

My GPS says I've traveled 2,384 miles so far, so i figure I'm 2/3rds there. Of course I'll also have to return probably. Moving average is 50MPH which isn't shabby figuring lots of the miles were two lane roads. — at Desert Hotel.

May 25 – Lunch break in Albuquerque NM. Bit late (2pm here). By the direct route it is about 170 miles and 2.5 hrs from last nights stop to Albuquerque. What would be the fun of that?

When I left this morning it was 69F, and the forecast predicted mid 70s. I dressed accordingly. Mistake.

I40 wasn't bad when I started out, and there was basically no other route. Historic 66 and I40 are one and the same for about 130 miles. So I got on I40. Few trucks and no crosswind made it almost pleasurable. Temps about 67F, but it will warm up right?

Stopped in Santa Rosa since there was a historic marker sign. Participated briefly in a rather pitiful Memorial Day parade (6 marching, some kids tagging along, me with headlight modulating and two cop cars.) Found the county courthouse, the closed theater, deserted downtown. Took pics then back on I40.

Things change. Trucks start appearing. Wind starts up. First from the north, then out of the west and finally strong out of the south. This wasn't a bunch of fun.

At about the 100 mile mark I pulled off and had Doofus plot a route sans highways. It added 100 miles to the trip. It took me north to Santa Fe, then back south to Albuquerque. Think of two upright legs of a triangle.

It was SPECTACULAR! Had snowcapped mountains, no traffic. I stopped and fixed the cold problem with my Gerbing liner. Great detour. Hard to take pics, not many places to pull off on the two lane roads. I do have lots of video though..

At a local hamburger joint I've never heard of. Burger was ok. Undecided if I'll stay here tonight or go a bit further. If I can avoid I40 I might continue. — at Freddy's Frozen Custard &

Steakburgers ABQ Central.

May 26 – There is a reason for the success of the large chain motels. Consistency. The allure of the 50s-70s era mom and pop motel is better enjoyed in memory and photo than reality. While the family running this motel is doing their all to provide the same experience the physical structure just doesn't allow it.

My room was adequate, no funny smells but it could have been a bit cleaner. Not dirty, but not the sanitized experience of a Hampton.

The biggest problem is almost non-existent noise isolation. I understand now the standalone cabins of the motorcourt. Every flush sounded like it was in my room. The upstairs shower woke me up at 6AM. There isn't much the owners can do about structural deficiencies like this. You can put lipstick on the pig but it's still gonna dance like a pig.

On the plus side I got to meet the Wild Pigs in person. At first I thought it was a terrible thunderstorm but then realized it was 6 guys arriving on hogs. Guys in their 60s with uniform goatees and varied degrees of wet weather gear covering their leather and fringe. They rumbled to registration then off to the other end of the building from me.

Later in the evening I wandered over to say hi, and see where they were off to. "Here" is where they were off to.. its a yearly event. They pick a place to go take off for two weeks and do it.

The fun was their destination this year. The destination was the town where "Wild Hogs" was filmed. They thought it was great. I doubt if they would understand the irony of a group modeling themselves on a stereotype going to visit the spot the stereotype was immortalized in film.

There are a thousand stories along Rt66, this was just one of them. -- to be continued ?

2015 Event Schedule

Please email the editor with additions/corrections.

- Wednesday, June 10th - Meeting. Schneiders, Avon. Eat and chat 6PM, meeting starts at 7:30PM.
- Friday June 12th-Sunday June 14th. Antique Motorcycle Club of America. Rhinebeck

Fairgrounds, Rhinebeck NY

- Monday June 15th - Ride to Work Day
- Wednesday, June 17th - 3rd Wednesday Pizza Run - 6PM Location To Be Announced on Yahoo.
- Wednesday, June 24th - Don's birthday.
- Wednesday, **July** 8th - Meeting. Schneider's, Avon. Eat and chat 6PM, meeting starts at 7:30PM.
- Wednesday, July 15th - 3rd Wednesday Pizza Run, 6PM. Location TBA on Yahoo
- Wednesday, July 22nd-Saturday July 25th. BMW- MOA National, Billings Montana. See Roger for details
- Saturday, **August** 8th-Sunday Aug 9th - Weekend overnight. Bills Bike Barn, Bloomsburg PA. Lodging at a local motel Saturday night. Slab out, back roads back. More details as it evolves.
- Wednesday, Aug 12th - Meeting. Schneider's, Avon. Eat and chat 6PM, meeting starts at 7:30PM.
- Sunday, Aug 16th - Club Picnic.
- Wednesday, Aug 19th - 3rd Wednesday Pizza Run. 6PM. Location TBA on Yahoo
- Friday **September** 4th-Monday Sept 7th - Finger Lakes Rally, Finger Lakes NY. See Roger for details.
- September 9th - September Meeting - HARPOON WILLIES, Brielle, Rt 70. Schneider's is on vacation! Eat and chat 6PM, meeting starts at 7:30PM.
- Wednesday, Sept 16th, FINAL 3rd Wednesday Pizza Run. Location TBA on Yahoo
- September 25th – 27th New Sweden Last Chance Rally. Location TBA
- Thursday **October** 1st-Sunday Oct 4th - BMW-RA National Rally. Harrison AR.
- October 2^d- 4th – Oktoberfest Weekend, Colors in the Catskills, Round Top, NY
- October 14th - October Meeting – Schneider's (Nomination of Officers)
- November** 1st – DUES ARE DUE!
- November 11th - November Meeting – Schneider's (Election of Officers)
- December** 9th - December Meeting – Schneider's
- December 11-13 Javitt's Motorcycle Show
- December 12th - Annual Holiday Party at Rod's
- December 13th - Annual Children's Hospital Toy Run

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**Meeting – Weds – June 10th (Eat 6-7:30PM, meeting 7:30PM)
Schneider's German-American Restaurant
Rt 71-Main St, Avon , NJ**

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