

the Legendary SHAFT

News from the Land of Enchantment BMW Riders • April 2000

Where's the Ride?

Last week it was cold, rainy and snowy. It wasn't so bad, then. This weekend was sunny and in the 70's, and today is even nicer. That was a real bummer. I've been on the phone talking to friends in the club, hearing about all the rides announced and unannounced and the great times that were had by all. It keeps getting worse and worse.

Why all this whining, you may be wondering at this point? Well for the past few weeks my bike's been off the road, down for the count, mechanically unsound, non-functional! You can imagine how this may affect someone without a car, whose only transportation for the last several years has been on two wheels. Not to mention coming into spring, out of winter, and on the very cusp of a new riding season to be off the road!

I thought maybe some gaskets were wearing out. After all, the bike has 70,000 miles on it and the O-rings on the fuel injectors are "common replacement items." I dutifully ordered new parts and waited for them to arrive. In the meantime, however, I noticed that the gas wasn't coming *up* from the fuel injectors, but *down* from the gas tank. Still not a big deal. A cracked hose, a loose clamp – a quick fix.

Until I touched that odd-looking chip of paint along the bottom of the gas tank, and it popped off, and the gas came out in a more "spirited" manner. Now it was a problem. Now we're looking at some serious time and labor. A new opportunity to learn things about my bike I never dreamed I'd ever know.

Once again, the friends I've found in the club come to the rescue. Mark Smith, on top of the million things packing his schedule, found the time and expertise to troubleshoot the situation, offer technical advice and moral support

and generally save my butt once again.

The tank was emptied, cleaned, dried, disassembled, sanded, welded, ground and is now being painted. Weeks have passed, and soon, God willing, I'll be back on the road. New parts are waiting for reassembly, and hopefully the next 70,000 leak-free miles.

I really, really hope to see you all on the road soon. Back east we called it Cabin Fever, and it struck every winter. I guess here it's Mechanical Fever, and I'm looking forward to the cure. Thanks Doctor Mark!

David Wilson, Editor

Welcome New Members!

Please welcome Jonathan Evans of Albuquerque, Mark Stair of Santa Fe, and Thomas Bennett of Los Lunas. It's great to have you with us!



One of the previous episodes, with a little help from my friends. This was a little better-timed than the current predicament. In both cases, the friends are invaluable.

DOWNUNDER JOURNAL PART I:

Ki Ora from Aotearoa

by Mike McKee

Background

Some trips must serve more than one purpose and this trip was one of them. I was off to New Zealand for three weeks in which I would ride a motorcycle some of the time and visit family some of the time. My family emigrated to New Zealand in 1971 and I was the only one to stay behind in North America. I visited in 1976 and in 1981 we (Jane, my sons and I) stayed for a year when I taught at the University of Auckland. For a variety of reasons, I had not returned since. So, although my parents had visited several times in the intervening years, I had not seen my brother or my two sisters in 18 years. I would have to spend some time with family to make up for the absence. I relate this only to set the stage. I would do some riding but a lot less than if my only purpose had been to explore the country. I'll describe the riding part of the trip and I have some photos to show what the country looks like.

The Trip Itself

I left Albuquerque on December 14 and landed in Auckland on the 16. Ah, the dateline. The airfare was about \$1500 and it is 12 hours from LA. I proceeded to the appointed place to collect the bike I had rented. John Rains runs the Auckland portion of the tour and rental company that I am renting from. He greets me with a hearty "Ki Ora (Hello in Maori) mate," and a welcome cup of coffee. I had selected a BMW F650 from John's extensive stable. This is a very good bike for NZ. The roads are narrow, tight and curvy so a light nimble bike is a perfect ride for here. The rental was \$100 NZ per day (at the current exchange that is about \$53 US). The bike came with Givi bags. For a three or four week visit renting is a viable option. There are also buy and sell back options that I would explore for the next time. By the way, I'll quote all prices in NZ\$ and all distances in kilometers here.

Below: Main street in Tirau. Typical small town in NZ.



Aotearoa is the Maori name for New Zealand. It means Land of the Long White Cloud. I wish the clouds had been white. New Zealand is getting the less pleasant side of La Nina and this summer has been slow to start. It was overcast much of the time and rained on several of the days I was there. It was also much cooler than I remembered. Despite the weather, I had a great time. Rain gear is a must for NZ. There is a reason it is so green!

First, I had to reacquaint myself with riding on the left side of the road. The hardest part is to remember to look RIGHT first. Think about it. Immediately after leaving the bike shop I was on the Auckland Harbor Bridge. Way up in the air. Would have taken photos, but there is no place to pull over. Awesome views of the harbor. The America's Cup Race was in progress when I was there and there were thousands of boats in what is surely one of the prettiest harbors in the world. Once off the bridge, I was on the motorway heading south through Auckland. On the way out I did not linger, and we will pick up Auckland a bit later.

I headed south from Auckland on Highway 1 which the main north-south route across the North Island. For those unfamiliar with the geography, NZ is comprised of two main islands (North and South) and several smaller islands. The North and South Islands are about as geologically different as it is possible to be. The North Island is largely

volcanic in origin while the South Island is sedimentary rock that has been folded by the plate tectonics to produce some spectacular mountains. On the North Island there are also fabulous mountains but they are of more gentle slopes since they were formed through volcanic eruptions and the lava flows tend to make for smoother slopes. The



Above: Beautiful falls – Napier to Taupo Highway. Below left: Lake Taupo. Below right: My sister and brother-in-law in front of their shop. Discount tattoos for anyone who makes the next trip with me.



North Island is still geologically active and recently Mt. Ruapehu erupted and spread ash for several thousands of square kilometers. I stayed on the North Island for this trip. There is enough good riding and scenery on the North Island to last most people a month.

I leave the traffic of Auckland (1.5 million people) behind and head south towards my first destination, Taupo. The city of Taupo sits on the edge of the largest lake (Lake Taupo) in NZ. It is a truly spectacular as you approach from the north. The lake is framed with mountains and is a clear, cold blue. Taupo makes its living off tourists but has not yet acquired the total tackiness of, say, Lake Louise in Canada or Orchard Beach in Maine. It is still possible to get to quiet spots and take photos with few manmade structures in view. Although, I do sight a KFC, a Pizza Hut, and a McDonalds. I tell my brother-in-law that we do export the

best of our culture. "You're not wrong!" he replies. He has a great sense of humor.

My sisters and one brother-in-law own a small business in Taupo. They do tattooing, piercing, and screen-printing. My sister, Meagan has won awards in Australia for her tattoo work. Nevertheless, I resist the offers of a freebie. I also pass on the piercing but do accept a couple of printed t-shirts and hats.

I spent a couple of days in Taupo visiting.

After I have worn out my welcome, I head toward my next destination, the city of Napier on Hawke Bay. The road to Napier (Highway 5) has been dramatically improved since I was last here. The 150-kilometer journey used to take more than 3 hours and rivaled our beloved Hwy 666 in terms of twisties. It was also dangerous as hell since you shared a very narrow road through a mountain range with massive logging trucks. NZ has long "enjoyed" one of the highest traffic fatality rates in the world. The newly worked road has been straightened somewhat but still has enough curves to make in an interesting ride. The most important addition, from my perspective is the addition of extensive passing bays. I'll find some really twisty stuff in a day or so.

Incidentally, NZ has come up with a novel way to remind us of the dangers of the road. Every so often a sequence of large signs appears on the side of the road. The questions

on the signs are of the form, "Is it DEAD clear to pass? Are you DEAD tired?" The final sign in the sequence simply says DEAD and has a mangled car parked under it. Subtle folks these Kiwis.

NZ is an awesomely beautiful country. One of the first things I learned when I lived there was that if you stopped to take pictures of every pretty vista, you would make your journey in a series of 100 yard dashes. I took many shots (some of which are in the article) but I passed up many, many more.




Next month: More of Mike's laid back adventure, plus some carving of the southern hemispheric canyons.



The bike on the way from Taupo to Napier.



On the Road

APRIL						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 
9	10	11	12 	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Saturday, April 8
El Rito Farolitos

Ride north to El Rito for lunch at Farolitos. Catch some of the beautiful springtime colors. Meet in Albuquerque at 8:30am at the Phillips Station at Tramway and I-25. Bill Koups will be the ride coordinator, call him for details at 856-7513.

Saturday, April 22
Get cher History

Ride to El Morro National Monument via El Malpais National Monument, and get a dose of local natural history. We'll picnic at El Morro or ride west to Ramah for cafe food. The plan is to leave from the Furrs Cafeteria parking lot on the west side of Coors just south of I-40. Paul Browning is organizing the ride, you can call him for details at 275-7856.

Wednesday, April 12
Rally Committee Meeting

To be held at Bill Koups's house. Come and help plan the Big Event! Call him for details at 856-7513.




Join the LOE BMW Riders

Yearly dues: \$15 single, \$20 couple; payable each January 1. New member dues prorated on a quarterly basis. For more information or to pay dues, write or go to the web site:

Land of Enchantment BMW Riders
PO Box 92095
Albuquerque, NM 87199-2095

www.nmbmwmc.org

or call Ken Goode at (505) 892-5690.

MAY						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 Villanueva	13 
14 Villanueva	15	16	17	18	19	20 
21	22	23	24	25 Utah Trip with Jim	26	27 
28 or Silver City	29	30	31			

Friday-Sunday, May 12-14
Villanueva Camp 'N Ride

The weather should be perfect for this popular camping destination. Great country, tenting with all the bells and whistles, and the official Club RV (actually it's Dan Houck's)! Dan will be providing a dinner, and is also coordinating the weekend. You can reach him and Ann at 890-0310.

Saturday, May 20
Jemez Dual Sport/Road Ride

Meet at the Mustang gas station in San Ysidro at 8:30am. Enjoy a late breakfast in Cuba. Road riders continue to Abiquiu, Los Alamos, and back to San Ysidro through the Jemez. Dirt riders take NM 126 to La Cueva and FS 376 through the train tunnels, also ending up in San Ysidro. One ride leader (for either the road or dirt ride) is needed. Contact Bryan Lally in Los Alamos at 662-4083 if you have questions, or email him at blally@concentric.net.

Thursday-Monday, May 25-29
Monument Valley or Moab

Jim Salas, Mountain Man, is planning a trip to one or the other of these places. It will be a dual sport type ride. If you have any interest contact Jim Salas 296-8232.

Saturday-Sunday, May 27-28
Emery Pass, Silver City, Gila Cliff Dwellings

An all pavement ride over Emery Pass to Silver City. If you want, get a motel room here or continue on to the Gila Cliff Dwellings for overnight camping. Possible return via Glenwood/Datil/Magdalena, or backtrack over the best "motorcycle pass" in New Mexico, the incomparable Emery Pass.

Please note that if no person is listed as ride coordinator, you can check the club website at nmbmwmc.org for updated news and events. Or call Bill Koups, Activity Committee Chair, at 856-7513, (email koups@swcp.com).
(continued on next page)

AND BEYOND ...

Friday-Sunday, June 2-4

Guerilla Camping!

The idea of Guerilla Camping is to ride and ride... then stop and pitch a tent. The general area of this kickoff event will be the Gila Wilderness near Magdalena. There will be plenty of highway, but also some off-road excursions for those so inclined. No telling where we'll end up! Steve Beggs is at the helm, he can be reached at 890-2921.

Saturday, June 17

High Road to Peñasco

Ride the high road to Peñasco for lunch at the Italian restaurant on the north side of the road in Peñasco. Leave from the Giant station next to McDonald's in Bernalillo at 8:30am. Meet northern riders at the Giant station in Santa Fe on St. Francis/I-25 at 9:30.

Sunday, June 25

Jemez Jemez Jemez!

Just can't get enough of those roads! Today we're riding to Jemez Springs for breakfast at the Bakery, then heading for the hills (or at least more of those hills). We'll leave at 8am from the Phillips station at Tramway and I-25. Bill Koup is ride coordinator, call him for details at 856-7513.

Saturday, July 1

Henrietta's/Sky City

Meet at Henrietta's in Los Lunas for breakfast at 8:30am, then on to Acoma/Sky City.

Sunday, July 16

Grants, White Horse, Pueblo Pintado, Cuba loop

Meet in the Furr's parking lot at I-40 and Coors at 8:30am. Travel the loop to Cuba for lunch at the Mexican restaurant at the north end of town across the street from the Tastee Freeze.

Saturday, July 29

Dave's Speed Trap Extravaganza

Haven't got any tickets yet? Well c'mon along! We'll meet at the Giant on the east side of Bernalillo at 8:30am (30mph, strictly enforced), then head north on I-25 to Raton (couple of cops not paying too much attention). Then it's over to Clayton (no cops sighted there last year) and down to Tucumcari (speed trap on I-40 west). South to Clovis and on to Roswell, cleverly avoiding the traps between Clovis and Vaughn. From there it's over to Las Cruces (traps in Tularosa, Alamogordo and Las Cruces), then a loop through Deming and Silver City, zipping up to Springervilled and over to Socorro through Magdalena (where I found my own personal speed trap). Then it's home to Albuquerque (trap just north of Bernardo). It'll be kind of a long day, but I think Beemerphiles will be up to it. Of course, we'll strictly follow the speed limits the whole way, I promise (heh heh)!

Friday-Sunday, August 4-6

Club Birthday Party, Manzanos Camp 'N Ride

Another club tradition to put into your calendar right

away. Always well attended, lots of fun and lots of great riding. Look for more details in upcoming newsletters.

Thursday, August 17

Dome Road ride

For those with more time during the week than on the weekend, and a bike with knobby tires, Vince Vigil has your ticket. Give him a call for this scenic dual-sport ride at 891-4904.

Saturday, August 19

Back to the Jemez

Just can't get enough of this trip! Get away from the heat by hitting the mountains, but be sure to build up a sweat carving those corners (and not *literally* hitting the mountains). The ride through San Ysidro to Los Alamos will leave the east end Giant station in Bernalillo at 8:30am. Call Richard Knowles for details at 259-4952.

Saturday-Sunday, August 26-27

Camping de Guerilla

Another spontaneous camping event, so spontaneous it isn't even planned yet! Jim Salas will be leading this off-road ride with wilderness camping at its end. You can bet he'll be planning it for months. You can reach him for details at 291-6391.

Friday-Sunday, September 8-10

Sipapu! The Bavarian Mountain Weekend

The club event of the year! Our popular international rally draws more riders every year, and is a regular stop for people from all over the country. Last year's rally was about as perfect as it could be, but it gets better every time. Get involved with the rally now by volunteering, and help to make it all happen. Then come spend a few days at one of the best BMW rallies in the USA.

Sunday, September 17

Madrid, Santa Fe, Romeroville, Anton Chico loop

Meet at the Chevron at Central/Tramway/I-40 at 8am. Travel north via Madrid to the Giant Station at I-25/St Francis at 9:15am. Continue north on I-25 to Romeroville, then south on US 84 to Anton Chico and I-40. Lunch in Las Vegas at El Rialto.

Friday-Sunday, October 6-8

Datil Camp 'N Ride

After the public event in Sipapu, the LOE BMW R takes this time for a more personal event. All your friends from the club will be there, riding all the best roads New Mexico has to offer. What happens at this ride gets talked about for the rest of the year. Look for more details to come, and listen at other club rides for the stories.

Friday-Sunday, October 20-22

Chaco Canyon Camp 'N Ride

This is the year of ambitious club events, and this will be no exception. A dual-sport bike would help, but Gold Wings have been known to traverse the dirt roads into the park. Whatever you ride, the trip will be worth it. One of the best preserved, most important, and beautiful parks in the Southwest, this will be a trip you'll remember for

a long time. Call John Desko, ride coordinator, for details at 883-2662.

Saturday, October 28

Fort Sumner/Gravesite of Billy the Kid

Leave from the Chevron at Central/Tramway/I-40 at 9am. Visit the grave of Billy the Kid to collect "Ride 75" point(s). Lunch in Fort Sumner. How about meeting up with some of the folks from the Dust Bowl Beemers for a little tire kicking?

Week of November 6 (now in the planning stages)

Copper Canyon, Mexico Tour

The date for the club trip to Mexico has been moved to the fall to allow for better planning, and to set up a committee to be sure the trip will be smooth. Response to the idea has been good, and enthusiasm is building for the most ambitious club ride yet. If you want to add your head to the count, or add some suggestions or opinions, call committee members Steve Mounce at 275-3811; Bill Koup at 856-7513; or Steve Beggs at 890-2921.

Saturday, November 18

Henrietta's/Ride to be Determined

Meet for breakfast at 8:30am at Henrietta's in Los Lunas. Ride to be determined based on weather and attendees' preferences.

Saturday, December 9

The LOE Christmas Party

Nothing ends the year better than a big crowd of bikers reliving the rides of an excellent riding season, and the annual Christmas party is the perfect place for that. Come join all your friends at one of the club's most popular events, and we'll all eat until we start looking like Santa Claus.

Sunday, December 17

Tech Session

Place, time and subject to be announced.

NATIONAL EVENTS

Friday-Sunday, March 31-April 2

BMW Vintage Twins and Singles Hill Country Ride, TX

Sponsored by High Plains BMW. All bikes welcome. The River Inn in Hunt, TX (1-800-841-0501) is holding a block of rooms until March 25 – tell them you are with the BMW group. Lunch on Saturday in Utopia, TX. Call Ronnie Fry or Jim Davidson for details at (800) 687-2697.

Monday-Saturday, June 5-10

The Great Western Posse Run, St. George, UT

2000 mile tour in five days! Less an organized tour, stressing comradery and lots of riding throughout the western region. Limited to 150 participants. Call (800) 600-8969 for more information.

Thursday-Sunday, July 13-16

BMW MOA National Rally, Midland Michigan

You wouldn't want to be there now, but it's beautiful in

the summer... There are often club members who make the trek, even cross-country, so look for more information on LOE members planning to ride the Great White North for the biggest BMW rally in the world.

Friday-Sunday, July 21-23

Top O' the Rockies Rally, Paonia, CO

There's always an LOE contingent that makes the trip up into the *real* Rocky Mountains for this wonderful little rally. Stay tuned for more details on the rally and how the LOE BMW R will be doing their part to make it fun, or call them direct at (303) 986-1472 for more details.

Thursday-Sunday, August 24-27

Sierracade Rally, Grand Junction, CO

Pin, program, field events, fun run, mini tours, parade, demo rides, seminars and clinics, motorcycle stunt show, drawing for a new motorcycle, barbecue dinner, western show and more. At the Two Rivers Convention Center. For more information call (800) 999-7064.

Address Changes

Here are some member address changes to keep your records up to date. The annual Club Membership List is due to be published this summer, either in July or August.

Ralph "Rafa" Nevis
542 County Rd 55
Cerillos, NM 87010

Leonard Itkin
PO Box 31009
Santa Fe, NM 87594

Bill Retires!

First as LOE President, and now from his job. People who have their act together really make me jealous. And Bill Koup is more together than most. In fact, youthful as he is, he's planning to retire! So the club, whose act is not quite so together, is planning to celebrate his retirement at one of the May rides.

Check out next month's issue of the *Shaft* for more details on the party, or look up the club's web site at www.nmbmwmc.org for breaking news as it develops. If we can get our act together...

Utah 2000

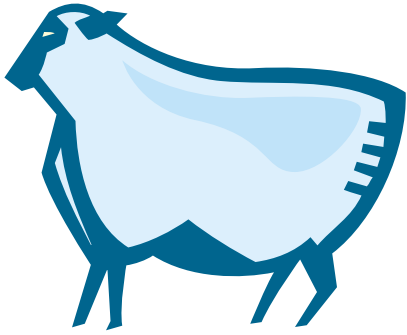
by Gino Pokluda

4th Annual Utah Get-Together 2000, Moab, Utah June 7-10. Dual sport rally for all types of dual sport motorcycles and all levels of expertise.

A reception, 3 catered meals, door prizes, live entertainment and the best dual sport riding on the planet await you. Call Gino Pokluda for more info (505) 281-9886.

(continued on next page)

Clue #3



You Can Write!

Send in your stories, reviews, opinions – don't forget pictures, too (shots of club members and their bikes strongly encouraged). We'll publish anything! Send your contributions to:

David Wilson
5700 Copper NE, #B34
Albuquerque, NM 87108
Voice: 505-232-0266
Email: mrmvt@aol.com

Computer files are best; please send material via email or on disk saved as Text (ascii). I can also scan photos and graphics, so take lots of pix on that cross-country trip and send them along.

NOTE: The deadline for the May issue is
• Tuesday, April 17th. Start typing!

For Your Buying Pleasure

FOR SALE

1998 BMW F650 Funduro, dual purpose, 1K miles, rare white, absolutely perfect condition, never dropped, garaged and covered, BMW hard bags and top box, BMW hand guards, BMW engine guards, cruise control, \$1,800. of extras, warranty, will consider delivery, \$7,000.

Call Ed at 254-9092.

1982 BMW R100RS, 76,000 miles, pearl white, superb condition. Has three windscreens, BMW hard bags, Sargent seat, lots of suspension and engine upgrades. This is a fine example of an appreciating classic! Space prohibits full description here. \$5,000, am willing to consider trade for airhead GS in like condition.

Call John Gillis at (505) 988-3777.

1996 BMW R1100RT, 12,000 miles, Glacier Green, perfect condition. New Tires. \$10,500. Corbin dual seat to fit same bike, \$400. BMW Trunk, also from R1100RT, \$350.

Call Joe Conti at 994-0161.

1995 R1100RSL Stock Exhaust system. Good shape (30,000 miles). Use to convert your roadster (R1100R, R850R) or R1100GS to the low pipe – this gives you room for a full size bag on the left side! A Steal at \$150.00!

Call Monroe at 255-4075 or e-mail him at mbonfoey@juno.com

NOTE: Classified ads run for 3 months, then
• are deleted unless I'm told to keep them running.

LOE BMW R Officers

President: Tim Stone, **343-8396**

Vice President: Bryan Lally, **(505) 662-4083**

Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Goode, **892-5690**

Activity Committee: Bill Koup, **856-7513**

Newsletter: David Wilson, **232-0266**

Newsletter Delivery: Dan & Ann Houck, **890-0310**

Rally Chairs: Bill Koup, Tim Stone, Mike McKee

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The Rear View



Spotted at last year's IBMWR cookout at the Jemez Falls campground. It drew bikers from all over the region, along with their beautiful and unusual bikes. And they all came for Bryan Lally's hamburgers! Photo by Dave Wilson