

# the Legendary SHAFT

News from the Land of Enchantment BMW Riders • October 2000

## *The Pictures Tell the Story*

As a graphic artist with a vivid imagination, I can look at a picture and run with it, story-wise. I'm usually not as interested in hearing the cold hard facts as seeing a photo and reading the stories in the faces and machines in it. My work as an artist has shown me that each person will read the story somewhat differently, sometimes totally differently than what was intended. But that almost always makes it richer for what the viewer brings of themselves to it. I can explain how it happened, with all the details and excitement I felt, and if I'm eloquent enough you may even feel a piece of what I'm trying to convey. But if I show you a picture, you can fill in a million details yourself – make the story something that's actually a piece of yourself by what you bring to it, in a way to tell the story to yourself and include yourself in it.

So there's lots of pictures coming up in the next few

issues of the *Shaft*. If you were at the events, hopefully they will recall for you some of what you experienced when you were there. If you weren't, I invite you to read the pictures the same way you would a written story, to tell yourself the story of the ride or event and fill in the excitement for yourself. In the long run, it's really only by participating (even vicariously) that you will find the incentive to get out and be with the club, at the rally or a campout or a party or a day ride or a Sunday breakfast.

The July ride pictured below only had a few participants, but looking at the picture brings back the whole day to me: the road, the weather, the friends and the unexpected excitement that closed out the ride. You can fill in the details. My own story is to come – stay tuned.

I invite you to share your own memories with the club by sending them, words and pictures, to me.

*David Wilson, Editor*



BMW MOA Charter #123

[www.nmbmwmc.org](http://www.nmbmwmc.org)

BMW RA Charter #81



# DATIL THE RIDE

by Bill Koup, photos by Bill Koup and Janice Fry

The annual Datil Wells camp-n-ride has grown to be one of the most enjoyable LOEBMWR outings of the year. When Gary Oleson and I planned the first Datil Camp-n-Ride in 1997, our goal was to maybe get a dozen campers and riders to attend. Last year there were perhaps as many as 40 attendees at sometime during the weekend. So, with each successive year bringing several new attendees I thought it might be wise to detail the Saturday ride to all those who may be considering this exciting ride for the first time.

Right now the plan for the Datil Camp-n-Ride is to meet on Friday afternoon and evening at the Datil Wells BLM Campground about 1/2 mile west of the town of Datil on US 60. You can call me if you are looking for someone to ride with to Datil. Bring your beverages of choice and perhaps something to share. Mike McKee and Monroe Bonfoey have generously agreed to cook up something for all attendees for Friday evening sustenance. Saturday riders may choose to eat breakfast at the Datil restaurant. Right now there are no plans for the club to provide food or beverages for everyone on Saturday evening. This has become way too big a responsibility and seriously limited the fun factor for those who have volunteered to do this in the past. Therefore, be responsible for yourself, come prepared, bring what you need. Departure from Datil will be at your leisure Sunday. There's a good restaurant in Magdalena (west of town on north side of US 60) and if you delay long enough Frank and Lupe's will be open in Socorro (on I-25 access road north of town).

Yes, the camping and socializing at the Datil Wells Campground is fun, but for me, the main event for the weekend is the Saturday ride. The route is beautiful, entertaining and exciting. The road will take us along the northern edge of the Plains of San Agustin into the Tularosa Mountains of the Gila Wilderness to the towns of Reserve and Glenwood. Next we travel into Arizona past the huge

Phelps Dodge open pit copper mine at Morenci. Then north to Alpine on what is undoubtedly one of the best stretches of motorcycling pavement in North America, US 191 (formerly 666). From Alpine we head back to Reserve and Datil for an evening of socialization and fun.

First the caveats. The ride will take all day and will be somewhat strenuous for those not in riding shape. The total mileage for the ride will be a minimum of 360 miles. Plan on a minimum of eight hours to a maximum of about ten hours. The pavement will sometimes be less than ideal with occasional broken pavement, sealing snakes, fallen rock, sheer cliffs with no guardrails and even large animals. The US191 stretch is a workout. It is probably the 93 most curvy miles in the southwest. You will smile with relief when you come upon a whole 500 yards of straight pavement. Your reward for "enduring" this will be the happy vision of some of the biggest grins on the faces of your friends that you will ever see. There will be one on your face too! Exciting roads, breathtaking scenery, great weather and good friends, all the ingredients for a day to remember for a long, long time.

The weather should be ideal for riding with a few cautions. Early October in southwest New Mexico is fabulous. The temperature at departure time on Saturday morning will probably be in the low to mid 30s. The ride to Reserve *will be cold* but this will last for only about an hour. By 9:00 am the sun will be high and the air will be warming rapidly. The rest of the day will be quite pleasant with high-altitude riding that will probably see temperatures hit the high 70s and perhaps even 80 or so on the last stretch back to Datil Wells. Of all the times I have traversed this route, I have never encountered rain. However, be prepared, it can happen.

There will be a variety of machines and riding styles represented on this ride. I know of at least two machines that will be traveling the route two up. Therefore we have never expected this ride to be a group ride. However, since it is a long, all-day ride in a Wilderness area we will expect all riders to check-in at three stop/checkpoints along the way and be responsible for communicating problems or

messages to me. It is also a good idea to find one or two other riders that wish to ride at a similar pace as you. A map of the route will be provided to all-riders with stop/checkpoints marked. I will be at each of these checkpoints and be responsible for ensuring all riders have passed the various stop/checkpoints before proceeding. Your obligation will be to make sure I know you have passed the stop/checkpoint. If you intend to ride the route quickly, and do not wish to wait at a particular checkpoint for me, you must let me know you will be ahead of the group and that you will not be at a particular checkpoint. Familiarize yourself with the map and the itinerary before departure.

Be prepared for one of the best rides in the country, but please, ride within your skill level and comfort zone. Don't try to keep up with any other rider that may be riding at a far faster rate than your comfort level. *Please* allow faster riders a safe pass. Pull over to the right and give them a wave to proceed around. Most important, *don't push it!*

Please familiarize yourself with the provided map (I'll have maps available for all riders at the campground on Friday evening.) and the following itinerary. If you are doing this ride for the first time, try to partner up with someone who is familiar with the route so that you won't miss your chance for fuel or miss one of the stop/checkpoints.

## Saturday, October 7, 2000

**1. 6:45-7:30 am - Breakfast at the restaurant in Datil.** Use this time to eat a good breakfast and to buy some snacks. Be sure to have some water too. There will be no planned restaurant stops along the way.

**2. 7:30 am -** Leave Datil on SR 12 and travel through Reserve to US 180. Gas is available at Apache Creek (55 miles) and Reserve (74 miles).

**3.** Turn south on US 180 and proceed through the town of Glenwood (gas available-105 miles) to the junction of US 189 and SR 78 to the first Stop/Checkpoint.

### 4. Stop/Checkpoint 1 - US 180 and SR 78 Junction

Please stop in the gravel area at the junction of US 180 and SR 78 and check in with me. This junction is very easy to miss, there's nothing there so watch for it! It is about 17

miles south of Glenwood.

**5.** Proceed west on SR 78 over the NM/AZ state line to the junction of SR 78 and US 191. Turn north (right) on US 191 and proceed through Clifton and Morenci, AZ. Gas is available in both towns, but no more until Hannagan Meadows (75 miles from Morenci) and Alpine (93 miles from Morenci).

### 6. Stop/Checkpoint 2 - Mine Overlook Parking Area

Proceed north from Morenci on 191 to the Phelps Dodge open pit copper mine overlook area about three or four miles north of town. There will be a sign along the road that says "mine overlook area" to the right. Pull into the large gravel parking area check in with me (under the shaded shelter) and enjoy the view of one of the largest open pit mines in the US.

**7.** Proceed north on US 191 to Alpine, AZ. This is the twisty stretch that will truly delight you. It is full of surprises so have fun, but be careful. This leg is about 89 miles so plan on stopping a couple of times to take photos and have a rest. Blue Vista is a great place to stop for photos. It is a turnoff about 10 miles before you get to Hannagan Meadows. Blue Vista also has restroom facilities. There are no other services on the route except for a convenience store and gas pump at Hannagan Meadows which is about 20 miles before our third Stop/Checkpoint at Alpine.

### 8. Stop/Checkpoint 3 - Conoco Station Convenience Store

As you enter the town of Alpine, watch for the Conoco station and convenience store on the left at the junction of US 191 and US 180. Please check in with me. This will be the last official stop/checkpoint of the day. However, I will bring up the rear and see that all make it back to Datil.

**9.** Proceed east on US 180 (there may still be some construction on this stretch) to SR 12 (an easy intersection to miss). Turn left on SR 12 where you will now be backtracking to the town of Reserve and on to Datil. Gas may be purchased in Reserve, Apache Creek and Datil.

Now it is time to relax. Do you have all the supplies you need? Food and beverages are available in Datil at the gas station/restaurant. They have small grocery and meat counter too. The restaurant is good and some feel their green chile burger is one of the best in the state.





# On the Road

| OCTOBER       |        |         |           |          |             |          |
|---------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|-------------|----------|
| Sunday        | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday      | Saturday |
| 1             | 2      | 3       | 4         | 5        | 6<br>Datil  | 7        |
| 8<br>Camping! | 9      | 10      | 11        | 12       | 13          | 14       |
| 15            | 16     | 17      | 18        | 19       | 20<br>Chaco | 21       |
| 22<br>Camping | 23     | 24      | 25        | 26       | 27          | 28       |
| 29            | 30     | 31      |           |          |             |          |

**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"

## 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](http://www.nmbmwmc.org)

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

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?

| NOVEMBER |   |         |           |          |        |          |
|----------|---|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| Sunday   | Monday                                      | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|          |   |         | 1         | 2        | 3      | 4        |
| 5        | 6 7 8 9 10 11<br>Copper Canyon, Mexico tour |         |           |          |        |          |
| 12       | 13  | 14      | 15        | 16       | 17     | 18       |
| 19       | 20  | 21      | 22        | 23       | 24     | 25       |
| 26       | 27  | 28      | 29        | 30       |        |          |

**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.

*Please note that if no person is listed as ride coordinator, you can check the club website at [nmbmwmc.org](http://nmbmwmc.org) for updated news and events. Or call Bill Koup, Activity Committee Chair, at 856-7513, (email [koup@swcp.com](mailto:koup@swcp.com)).*

## AND BEYOND ...

**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.

*(continued on next page)*

**Sunday, December 17**

**Tech Session**

Place, time and subject to be announced.

**NATIONAL EVENTS**

**Friday-Sunday, October 6-8**

**South Central BMW Owners Reunion, Bandera, TX**

The BMW Club of Houston sponsors their 30th anniversary reunion at Mansfield Park, near Bandera and San Antonio. \$25 registration includes camping, meals, awards and more. Call (281) 424-4230 or check out [www.bmwclub.org](http://www.bmwclub.org) for details.

**Online & Upcoming**

This month's online edition of the *Shaft* features a pictorial spread of Ira Agins' recent adventure in Africa. If you're looking for exotic you can't get much more than this, awesome scenery and great roads, not to mention some native wildlife you definitely won't find around here. So fire up that computer, log on to [nmbmwmc.org](http://nmbmwmc.org) and check out a trip most of us will only ever dream about. There are also links to even more Africa pictures, and other amazing adventures that Ira has taken aboard two wheels.

Coming in upcoming issues will be an in-depth wrapup of this year's Bavarian Mountain Weekend, another stellar event with just the right number of riders, great weather (for the most part) and the best roads in New Mexico. There will also be reports on this month's Datil ride, along with other club rides that have taken place over the summer. It's been a great season for riding, and if you missed any of it you can experience it vicariously here, and make plans for next year's motorcycling adventures. And don't forget to put in your two cents: submit your own stories!



**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: [mrmtv@aol.com](mailto:mrmtv@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 November issue is Monday, October 17th. Start typing!

**For Your Buying Pleasure**

**FOR SALE**

**1992 BMW R100GS**, black/yellow (Bumblebee), 30K mi, BMW bags, WUDO & stock windshields, spline lube, full tool kit, well-maintained, excellent condition, \$6100.  
**BMW tank bag for R100GS**, new condition, raincover, extensions, yellow piping, \$225. Stock-size windshield for R100GS, smoke color, mint condition, no scratches, \$100.  
Call Ed at 254-9092.

**Roadcrafter** riding suit. Size Men's 42, gray and black, good condition. \$400.  
Call Ken Goode at 892-5690.

**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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# African Ira's Excellent ~ Adventure

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*Clockwise from top: Cape Town, 10% of Victoria Falls, Cape Agulhus, Blyde River Canyon, before the ride, Botswana/Zambia ferry, Hout Bay.*





*Left: Thunder and dust, Namibia.*

*Right: Out hotel window, Swaziland.*



*Left: Down from Sani Top.*

*Right: Golden Gate.*



*Right: Namibia.*



*Left: South African bay.*

*Right: Pier at Hout Bay.*



*Left: Up Sani Pass.*

*Right: Sani Top.*



*Left: Namibia, straight and flat.*



*Left: Cape Ajelhus, southernmost point in Africa.  
Above: Sani Pass.  
Below: Sani Top, Lesotho.*



**The Rear View**