

the **Legendary** **SHAFT**

News from the Land of Enchantment BMW Riders • August 2000

The Same Old Roads?

Even in such a beautiful and diverse state as New Mexico it's easy to get jaded about the riding possibilities. From Albuquerque, there are about three day rides. North 14 to Santa Fe (or Madrid, cut it even shorter) is probably the most popular route. Head south and it's Mountainair, then it's either west to the relative emptiness of the Tierra Grande area, or back up 337 ("South 14") the way you came. West and it's the Jemez loop, through San Ysidro and into the mountains to Los Alamos. Then head to Santa Fe, or turn around and do the mountains the other way.

Sometimes when I'm sitting in the morning contemplating which way to go on an impromptu day ride, I reflect that I've done each of these routes more times than I've got fingers and toes, and there's nothing new to see in any direction. Eventually I'll pick a direction and head out.

Pretty soon something a little magical happens. I become struck by the beauty of the road and the landscape I'm passing through. Even though I've "been there, seen that" a million times, I find something fresh and wonderful and rejuvenating on whichever route I end up on. I was especially thinking about this on my umpteenth Jemez ride of the summer a couple of weeks ago.

Apart from the fact that each season, practically each week, and certainly every change of the weather, completely alters the character of the Jemez River valley and the mountains, I find an overwhelming sense of clarity and newness creeps up on me as I ride those same roads I know like the back of my hand.

The corners that I can set up instinctively for having carved them so many times still provide the same thrill they did the first time I saw them. Now, though, I'm not as hesitant as when I didn't know what was around them – they are like old friends that I know intimately but who remain fresh and inspiring every time I meet them.

Sometimes I won't realize until I'm far into the ride – up

at Valle Grande, for instance – that far from being bored by following the same route I take 20 times during the summer, I'm invigorated by the clear mountain vistas, the trees and the water and the stunning expanses the the great valley or the view out toward Santa Fe as I begin the descent toward Los Alamos through Bandelier.

I guess I find nature has a way of being new and exciting even though it's been pretty much the same for so many millions of years. I find myself filled with energy just by being immersed in it. And somehow it never is, really, the same.

I started thinking about this a couple weeks ago on one of the season's many Jemez excursions, contemplating the club ride I planned to lead at the end of July. The club generally plans rides to far and out-of-the-way locations, but there are still the staples that tend to show up over and over again: North 14, Mountainair, the Jemez. And my ride, on the face of it, was a repeat of a ride the club had make just a few weeks before, and that individual members had no doubt made on their own even more often.

But still, riding through the tall pines and watching the clouds gather over the higher peaks; watching the hawks circling; sitting at a pullout listening to the wind at Valle Grande; I knew that my club ride would be different from this ride. And the Jemez club rides before and after wouldn't be the same either. The same roads, the same mountains, but entirely different experiences. And I have confidence that it will be new in ways I can't guess at this point, sitting at home in front of a computer, just thinking about the ride.

David Wilson, Editor

Welcome New Members!

Please welcome Robert Stembridge, Kenny Green, and William (Bill) Olsson of Albuquerque. It's great to have you with us!

LOE BMW R Birthday Party August 5th – Details Inside

BMW MOA Charter #123

www.nmbmwmc.org

BMW RA Charter #81

G A B E , K A T H Y , A N T H O N Y , D A N A N D A N N ' S

Excellent

By Dan & Ann Houck

The mid-summer visit of club members Gabe and Kathy Fontana and son Anthony of Washington, DC provided us the perfect excuse for a mini-camp and ride in southwest Colorado and the San Juan Mountains. This area is rightfully dubbed the "Switzerland of America" for its soaring mountain peaks and high altitudes. If you haven't been there, you are missing one of the great places to see relatively close to home.

But before they got to play, like good LOEBMWR members all the Fontanas pitched in and helped us get the July newsletter out just hours before departure. A much appreciated helping hand!

We set off up Highway 550 (Old NM44) on a Saturday morning with the guys riding Dan's R1100RT and R100GS Bumblebee. Despite all the horror stories about road construction, we made good time and reached Durango, Colorado in early afternoon.

We stayed at the United Campground on the north side of town. Among other attractions, the Durango and Silverton railroad runs right through the campground. It also had a nice pool and was sparkling clean and meticulously maintained. The tent camping was near the river and was

Gabe, Kathy and Anthony getting out the July "Shaft".



Gabe and Kathy off to Durango on the R1100RT.

first-class with world-beater views. RV parking was nearly as good. We highly recommend this campground for Durango bound motorcycle campers. Not cheap but well worth the price!

After a day in Durango seeing the sights, we headed out to Silverton. I thought Gabe was going to run off the road trying to look at all the scenery. The weather was perfect and we arrived in Silverton too soon. There we set up camp at an RV park that was as bad as the previous one was good. Although Silverton is interesting, we found camping at 9300 feet to be a bit taxing and there are no really nice places to camp there. Next time, we'll stop over there for a 2-hour visit and walk-about but not stay overnight. The camping in Ouray is far nicer and the altitude more comfortable.

As always, the Million Dollar highway between Silverton and Ouray is one of the scenic and riding wonders of the world. Somehow we managed to hit it with relatively light traffic which made for an exceptionally enjoyable ride. The road is in better repair than I have seen it in some time and was relatively gravel free.

In Ouray, we stayed at the KOA which is

Adventure



Gabe & Anthony between Silverton and Ouray.

about 5 miles north of town. We were first introduced to this campground by Bill Koup. He suggested it for the great tent camping and complete facilities (including a decent restaurant). It is a truly pleasant place to stay and we stayed there for 3 days, riding and renting a jeep for the trip over the top to Telluride. I had originally planned to make that run on the GS but was not feeling well and decided to go in the jeep with the others. Good decision! This is an incredibly difficult ride and I would not recommend it even for a GS. Bring your KLR 650 or something even lighter if you want to make this run and be prepared for a major work-out! But the view from the top at Imogene Pass (elevation 13,000+) is simply not to be missed and the entire ride from Ouray to Telluride is amazing.

After Ouray, we took the big circle around by way of Montrose (gas and grocery stop), the Black Canyon of

to fly back out for the incomparable Datil weekend. How about it Gabe? Ready to come back for another great ride??

The Fontanas at Imogene Pass on the way to Telluride.



the Gunnison National Park (not to be missed!), Gunnison Lake, Lake City and stopping overnight in South Fork. Next time, we'll stay over in Lake City as it is higher, cooler and much more scenic. From South Fork, we took the fast run home by Tres Piedras on US 285. If you have more time, I suggest you continue to follow the river south from South Fork and come out just west of Chama. Heron Lake State Park is a fabulous place to camp overnight but bring insect repellent!

By now, Gabe and Anthony are thoroughly hooked on riding BMWs in the Southwest. We're trying to persuade Gabe



On the Road

AUGUST						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Birthday!	5
6 Camping!	7	8	9	10	11	12 Sturgis! Also racing at Pikes Peak, CO
13	14	15	16 	17 	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Sierracade	26
27 Camping!	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 	5	6	7	8	9 Sipapu!
10 More Sipapu	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 	18	19	20	21	22	23 Golden Aspen Rally, Ruidoso
24 Ruidoso	25	26	27	28	29	30

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.

Wednesday, August 16
 Rally Committee meeting at 6:30pm at David Barringer's house. Call him at 994-9585 for details.

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.

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 Koup, Activity Committee Chair, at 856-7513, (email koup@swcp.com).

Monday, September 4 (Labor Day)
 The last Rally Committee meeting and chili making extravaganza starts at 11am at Gary and Shelley Oleson's house. Call them at 898-8320 for details.

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.



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.

2000 **Bavarian Mountain Weekend** Rally

September 8,9,10 in Sipapu, New Mexico
25 miles SE of Taos on State Highway 518

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Continuous Coffee Pot | Friday Night Green Chili |
| Saturday Evening Meal | Grassy meadow camping |
| Free dorm facilities (first-come-first-served basis) | |
| Tech Sessions | Vintage Ride to Taos |
| Self-guided Tours | Not your Usual Awards |
| Door Prizes | Live Saturday night music |



Limited lodging available on site, phone (505)587-2240 for info

Registration Information:

Pre-registration by 9/1/00: Adults \$27, Children 4-12 \$13, Children under 4 Free
Gate registration: Adults \$30, Children 4-12 \$15, Children under 4 Free

Disclaimer (each attendee must read and sign)

I/we hereby waive, release and hold harmless the Land of Enchantment BMW Riders, its' officers and rally organizers and tenants of the premises from any liability from damage, loss or personal injury while traveling to and from or while attending the 2000 Bavarian Mountain Weekend Rally or for any cause of action I now have, or in the future, may have against them. This agreement extends to my heirs, executors, administrators and assignees.

Attendee Name (Please Print) _____

Attendee Signature _____

Payment _____

Attendee Mailing Information (Please Print)

Total Enclosed _____

Mailing Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail this registration card and check made payable to:

LOEBMWR Rally Registration PO Box 92095 Albuquerque, NM 87199
For more information: www.nmbmwmc.org or loebmwr@email.com

Print and mail today!

AND BEYOND ...

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, August 4-13

Sturgis, SD

The Sturgis extravaganza just keeps getting bigger and noisier. Take off your mufflers and join the crowd. For information contact the Jackpine Gypsies at (605) 347-3418.

Saturday, August 5

Colorado 100,000 Ft Ride, Denver, CO

Starting in Denver, this ride travels to 10 mountain passes that result in over 100,000 feet of altitude change. Ends with dinner in Colorado Springs. \$25 registration includes patch or pin. Call Jerry Kelly at (303) 675-9641, or email coloradobeemers@hotmail.com for details.

Friday-Sunday, August 11-13

4th Super Pig-Out, Pikes Peak Raceway, CO

With the AMA Superbike races will be this night of camping and gluttony sponsored by the Pikes Peak BMW Road Riders. Call Jim Van Riper at (719) 685-9458 or email jimvrhome@aol.com for 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.

Wednesday-Sunday, September 20-24

Golden Aspen Rally, Ruidoso, NM

One of the West's biggest. Contact Ron Andrews, PO Box 1458, Ruidoso, 88345 or call (800) 452-8045 for details.

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 for details.

The Birthday Party!

by Dan Houck

Come join us August 5th for the LOE BMW R birthday celebration. For the third year in a row, the party will be held in Manzano State Park. The club has reserved the group area, and Saturday at noon lunch will be served. The club will provide the main dish (probably burgers and brats), and soft drinks. We encourage those who can to bring side dishes and deserts. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Tim Stone at 343-8396 by Wednesday, August 2nd to help us know how much food to bring.

Manzano State Park is an easy day ride from central New Mexico. It is located just west of the town of Manzano, about 42 miles south of Interstate 40 on NM 337 (better known as South 14) and 14 miles north of Mountainair on the same road. For those who like to camp, there are usually 6 or 7 club members who arrive Friday evening and stay over on Saturday night. You are responsible for your own camping and food for Friday and Saturday – if you would like a 4 wheeled vehicle to carry your gear or a cooler, Tim Stone or Dan Houck (890-0310) can help with that too.

There will be a short business meeting before the meal. This is a good chance to eat good food, meet new members, and get out and ride that BMW that's in your garage. We hope to see you there.

Letter!

from Ziggy

Just got my first newsletter, and I have to tell you how good it is. Every bit as [good as] BMW ON (in its new version), and better in its brevity. The two articles, "Leather" and "Words to Survive By" were gems of experience, humor and intelligence. Thank you.

One addition/correction to the latter article: Point 12, "Anticipate the moves of other drivers": "...you may be able to tell where they are going by watching their heads turn just before they change lanes."

The vast majority of (blind) drivers *don't* turn their heads to look, and that's where we riders get in trouble; a far better and surer anticipatory defensive strategy is to watch the front tire; you will often see it begin to close the gap to the white lane line before you can see the vehicle moving toward your lane.

It is a matter of relative distance/size; the small distance between them the tire and the white line is more easily seen to change than the movement of the larger vehicle itself.

Also, the new Santa Fe BMW dealer plans to open around the 10th of August. I suggest members get acquainted with Ed Lind, who will be the new motorcyc-

cle depepartment manager. He is currently working at Sandia BMW (cars) in Albuquerque – the owners of the new Santa Fe dealership – and is a good man to know.

Thanks again for a great newsletter.

Speed Trap Update

by David Wilson

The construction on the Big I in Albuquerque has become a cash cow for Officer Friendly. There has been some disruption in the traffic flow, but so far nothing major. There has, however, been a stunning increase in speeding stops. It's all about safety – I'm sure it couldn't have anything to do with the fact that fines are doubled in construction areas. In any case, a mind-boggling number of citations have been issued, particularly during rush hour.

Sneaky patrol news: spotted on Tramway, heading north from I-40: an unmarked car, probably local Sandia authorities, are driving a completely unmarked brown Pontiac Grand Prix. This one doesn't even have a light rack in the windows, they're mounted in the grille!

Informed is aware. Hope this helps keep you ticket free during these hot summer months.

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

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 September issue is Monday, August 14th. Start typing!

For Your Buying Pleasure

FOR SALE

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.

Nolan helmet, full face flip-up. White, size XL. Excellent condition. Needed larger size. \$125.

Call George at 875-3481 or email him at georgev@sgi.com.

Cal-X Spa, Ultimate model, 450 gal capacity, seats six (more than your BMW) excellent condition, \$1750 or best offer. We can make moving and reinstallation arrangements.

Call Joel at 792-8408 or e-mail kate@nm.net.

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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Fire Danger: EXTREME

The beginning of the summer was another big season for forest fires in New Mexico. These pictures are from a couple of the fires we experienced earlier this year. Luckily, the recent rains have reopened the trails and mountain roads, so the club's camping activities can continue.

Bottom: the Santa Fe fire as it started. The other pictures on this page and the next are the results of the Jemez fire near Los Alamos. These shots were taken along the road in Bandelier descending toward the Los Alamos turnoff. Even since these pictures were taken, green has started to return to the area, proving the tenacity of nature and the world's ability to recover from natural disaster.





The Rear View

Bryan Lally, Tim Stone, and Don Cameron enter Alaska on the Top of the World Highway from the Canadian Yukon. Later that same day they would brake hard to avoid moose, get soaking wet in a downpour, and battle hoards of ravenous mosquitos.