

the Legendary SHAFT

News from the Land of Enchantment BMW Riders • January 2001

“Whadjougetferkrismas?”

Remember back when that was the first thing you said to all your friends when you got back to school? These days the long list of toys has been replaced by things like socks. For most people. Bikers still harken back to those older days, though. I'll bet almost all of us got something motorcycle-related for Christmas. We still like toys.

For me it's tools. I'm hoping to put together a good enough collection that I won't have to go around bumming off my friends every time when I need to work on my bike.

That is, if I had the skill to do it. Something I've learned in the art biz is that just being able to hold a pencil, or buy a computer with graphics software, doesn't make you an artist. It takes some thinking, some skill, and not a small amount of talent to really do something worthwhile. And so I know that just owning a bunch of tools isn't going to make me a mechanic. I can do the thinking, as long as I remind myself to be patient with that bolt that won't go in as easy as it came out, and try to figure out why. I have a little bit of skill – I've gotten the oil change thing down to a concise procedure that takes about half the time it did when I tried it the first time.

It's the talent part I'm least sure of. My boss says he learned how to fix things by breaking so many of them he finally got the hang of it. If that's how it works I'm golden. Just about everything I try to work on goes through some stage of being broken before it's reattached to the bike. But I'll need to do a lot more work before I can distinguish where, if anywhere, my talent lies.

It's always amazed me to watch a gifted mechanic work. The sureness of action and confidence is inspiring. When I'm leaning on the wrench, listening to a rear wheel bolt creak as it decides whether to come loose or not, makes my breath get short. If I'm doing it at the direction of someone I know knows what they're doing, I'll dive right in. By myself, I'd be certain it would only be a matter of time before the bolt stripped or something snapped, and I'd be standing there wondering what to do.

I've seen almost every piece of my bike on a workbench at one time or another, but always under the guidance of someone I trusted. I've gone where no

artist-cum-mechanic has dared go before, then put it back together and it still worked. That usually happens at Mark Smith's house, or over at Gary Oleson's. At my house, I try to unscrew part of the gas cap, and it snaps, and it's time for a new gas cap. Maybe it's the confidence thing. Maybe if I charged in positive I knew what I was doing, it would be more likely to turn out okay. I know as an artist, faced with a blank piece of paper, I have to dive right in a push ahead until something worthwhile starts to happen.

Perhaps that's the way it is with things mechanical, also. Patience and persistence, and trying not to break things so bad along the way that they can't be fixed. Luckily my bike is of such an age, condition and mileage (not to mention being pretty easy to work on) that it's not a crushing defeat to do something wrong. I would hate to divot the fairing on a brand new K1200. But along with my mechanical education has come a lot of brand new parts, not being replaced due to wear.

But being the slow learner and bolt breaker that I am, it really helps to know that I have a group of friends in the club I can count on for advice and assistance (and nicer tools) when I hit the frequent dead end, or wonder what I'm going to do now that I stripped the bolt. Included in the tools I'm getting will be a breaker bar for those recalcitrant bolts, but I think it will probably be the cleanest tool in the box. Until I get a lot more confidence my phone may be my most used tool, and my most used phrase will be, “What do you do when...?”

So this will be a year of a million little toys for me, most of which with motorcycling intentions, but the instruction book will take a long, long time to figure out. And if you see me showing up to more and more events on borrowed four wheelers, you'll know that I've been playing with those toys again.

David Wilson, Editor

Welcome New Members!

Please welcome John and Jeanette Schmidt of Albuquerque (*welcome back John!*) and John and Lynda Wood of Weatherford, OK. It's great to have you with us!

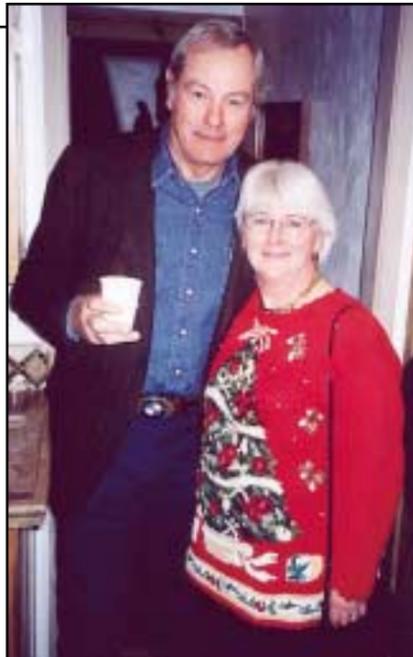


The Christmas Party!



Photos by David Wilson

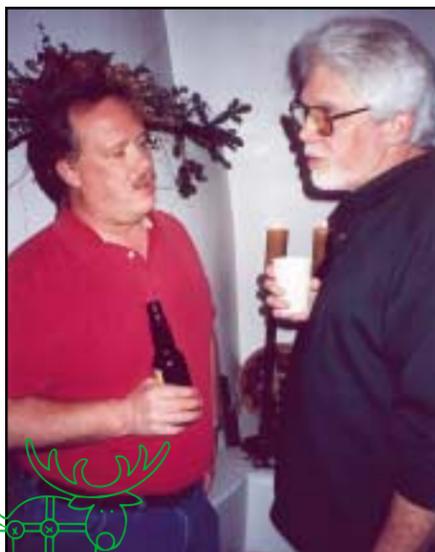
The Christmas Party was once again the most crowded event of the year. The ultimate ride- (or drive) to-eat event, it was lavishly hosted in the Espinosa's beautiful North Valley home, with excellent German food catered by Michelle's Café and more desserts than could be eaten – almost. Club members came from all over the state for the festivities. Many tires were kicked, past rides relived and future rides planned. It was a blast, as these pictures attest to. Then all went home to be tucked warm in their beds, with visions of new BMW motorcycles dancing in their heads.



Below: Bill explains the culinary intricacies of Bratwurst.



Above: TC offers his opinion on airheads vs oilheads.



Below: The coatroom was organized in true Teutonic fashion.



Left: Kathy and Donna discuss the comparable accelerative properties of nitrous oxide as compared to premium unleaded.



Right: Dan espouses a controversial opinion: dts versus AC-3.



On the Road

JANUARY						
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	31			

Monday, January 1
The Real Millenium Ride

25 bikes showed up for Steve Roe's Big Dog Ride (which I co-opted for my own nefarious purposes). Over three quarters of them were BMWs, a statement on our stick-to-it-iveness as the temperature at Hurricane's was about 25°. A report on this extraordinary ride will be coming in a future issue of the *Shaft*. Stay tuned for all the excitement!

Sunday, January 28
The Progressive Breakfast

Once again it's time to perform your duty to the club and get out and vote for the officers who will guide the club into the 21st century. This is not a simple matter of going to a polling place and casting a ballot – no, to do your duty you must first prove yourself worthy to vote by following the most important club tradition: *Ride To Eat!*

Stop 1 – 8:30am

The first stop is at Gary and Shelly Oleson's home at 419 La Comunidad in Alameda. There will be hot beverages to take the chill off, and something sweet to munch on. To get there,

Go north exactly one mile from the intersection of 4th and Alameda.

Turn left on La Comunidad and go carefully down a one lane road.

Turn right into the first driveway, and park where you see all the bikes.

Be sure to get good and warmed up (but don't drink too much coffee) because:

Stop 2 – 9:45am

The second stop is at Loch and Joanne Page's home at 1095 Monte Vista in Bosque Farms. Look for burritos and fixin's, coffee, juice, and maybe even some home made green chile stew. To get to the Page home,

Go south on I-25.

Take the Isletta/Bosque Farms exit to Hwy 47 South. Go South on Hwy 47 to Bosque Farms.

At the first stoplight in Bosque Farms turn right (west) on North Bosque Loop.

Take the second left (Calle del Bosque) to El Valle Go right (west) on El Valle one block to Monte Vista Go left (south) on Monte Vista two blocks Look for the BMW sign out front.

If you get lost, call 869-0102 and someone will talk you in.

Eat some burritos, get seconds on the green chile, add a little preload to your rear shock, and it's time to go to:

Stop 3 – 11:00am

The third and final stop is at Tom and Liza Volkman's home at 83 Olquin Road in Corrales. Still more coffee and calories, then the election and the first meeting by the new officers. The suggested slate is Mike McKee for President, Robert Keen for Vice President, and a second year for Ken Goode as Secretary/Treasurer. Anyone who wants to advance an alternate candidate for any post is encouraged to do so, so you had better attend this meeting or you may find yourself named as an officer in the next *Legendary Shaft*. To get to the Volkman's

Find your way back to I-25, go north through Albuquerque.

Take the Alameda exit and go west to the intersection of Coors and Alameda.

Go north on Corrales Road 3.5 miles.

Turn left (west) on Sagebrush

Turn right (north) on Loma Larga

Turn left (west) on Olquin Road

The Volkman's is the 3rd house on the right.

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).

(continued on next page)

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.

F E B R U A R Y						
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			

Sunday, February 11

Activities/Rally Committee Meeting

The first meeting of the Activities committee will be held February 11th, 10am, at Bill Koup's house. The committee consists of anyone who wants to help plan the club activities, so feel free to come and help. Bring an idea for your favorite ride. We'll attempt to set the calendar for at least half of the year's events. We'll also use this meeting to organize the schedule for the rally committee meetings – if you're interested in helping to organize the rally, this is a good place to start. Call Bryan Lally in Los Alamos at (505) 662-4083 for activity questions, and Bill Koup (505) 856-7513 for directions.

Stop the Mail!

If you are interested in receiving your newsletter online and not in your mailbox, let Dan and Ann Houck know (890-0310) and they'll take you off the mailing list. If you're not getting the email announcements from Dave Wilson when the *Shaft* is posted online, send him your email address at mrmtv@aol.com and he'll add you to the online listing. You can download the newsletter from the web site at www.nmbmwmc.org

The Hereafter

from Phil Rose, in the *Yankee Beemers' newsletter*

In Heaven, all the police are British, all the chefs are French, all the mechanics are German, all the lovers are Italian, and everything's run by the Swiss.

In Hell, all the police are German, all the chefs are British, all the mechanics are French, all the lovers are Swiss, and everything's run by the Italians.

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 February issue is Monday, January 22nd. Start typing!

For Your Buying Pleasure

FOR SALE

1995 R1100GS, 17k Miles. White, metal tank, RID, PARabellum & stock windshield, BMW hard bags, hand protectors. Less than 2k miles on new T66 tires. \$6800.

Call Terry @ 821-0063 or email ttombaugh@uswest.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

(505) 546-2193
(800) 626-3338



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The Best of Times, the Coldest of Times

Remember that incredible cold spell a month or two ago? During that freezing spell was the annual breakfast run to Henrietta's in Los Lunas. Usually that ride is pretty well attended – 12 or 16 riders make the show. This time, however, it was the small but intrepid contingent you see here. For myself, the 25 mile ride down to the restaurant was pushing the limits of comfort, despite full electrics on full blast. The breakfast was warm and cozy and we had great conversation, as well as a chance for lots of hot coffee.



Afterwards, this hardy reporter hightailed it back to the warmth of home in Albuquerque, but John and RJ actually went on a ride to the Bosque del

Apache. It was a beautiful day and I was told that the ride was great, even though the temperature never got above 35°. Inspired though I was by the bravery of the two tough travellers, I was happy to be home sitting in a warm room wondering how the Bosque was.

Since then I've gone on some little, cold weekend rides, but this winter hasn't been so great for motorcycling. Even so, despite the snow and clouds and all, I don't think it's been quite as cold as it was on that ride down to Los Lunas. And that's a good thing.



The Rear View

This is some party, but where are all the bikes?

I guess this is a drive-to-eat shindig!