

News from the Land of Enchantment BMW Riders • June 2002

### Selling Glad, Selling Sad

I was going to write this month about how difficult it is to sell a used bike. It seems that interest rates are so low, along with interest in used machines, that people are snapping up new bikes like crazy, and selling a used one is next to impossible.

But now I've sold my bike, and soon it will be gone, and my whole perspective is different. Though I've put a fair amount of effort into selling my bike (you've seen it in these very pages), I am suddenly wistful about the whole thing. The first thing I realized after closing the deal is that I've gone the better part of 100,000 miles on this bike. In another year I would have been taking that quintessential "100 at 100,000" photo. That's a load of time and a commitment spanning a lot of years.

It has moved with me 3 times, been through 4 jobs and a couple of relationships. My bike has been with me longer (and been more stable) than my work life, my home life, and my relationship life. When I got this bike I was 32 years old, weighed 165 pounds, and used it to commute into Manhattan. Now I'm, well, older, um, heavier, and (at last, the better part!) use it to commute into the mountains on the weekends.

We've gone cross country together 3 times, seen more national parks and monuments than I have fingers, been through blistering heat, and cold the electric gear couldn't keep up with. Every now and then I'll be doing something and remember some ride I had forgotten, and smile. And over the years and many, many miles it's never even hiccuped. It's always been there, ready to go – any time, any speed, any where.

Some people get a kick out of tinkering with their bikes. I set this up on day one, and since then have mostly just ridden. Every now and then, when it got so bad I could barely touch it, I would wash it, but almost always if it was a question of cleaning or riding, I would be on the road. And the bike never minded – it just put away miles fast and painlessly.

The first trip I made with it was a 6,000 mile



odyssey from New York to Utah and back, going the long way everywhere. That trip included 3,000 miles in Utah alone, a change of tires, engine and gear oil, and my one and only 1,000-in-1 day. And that was just the first trip. It proved just as capable going 10 hours a day at 90mph as carving the corners on the switchbacks on the way up to Sandia Peak. It's seen almost all of New Mexico, the Eastern Seaboard, and nearly every state in between. It's gone 2-up to Montana (though most of the longest trips have been me, myself and I), and gotten thumbs up from many pillion riders. It even once won an award as the best sport touring bike at a New York event.

If I think about it rationally, of course I am glad. My next bike will provide a new challenge to me, be a change of scenery, be inspiration to do new things. But right now, filling out the paperwork, preparing it for shipping, my heart is talking louder and I am sad to see it going. It has become a part of me.

I only hope that John in Oregon, the new caretaker, finds all the magic in this K75S that I've lived with over the last decade. This bike shows no inclination to slow down its travelling days. I hope the bike takes him on as exciting of adventures as it's given me.

David Wilson, Editor

LESSONS LEARNED ON THE ROAD

by RJ Mirabal

**Lesson 1:** Big groups don't always mean big fun. This ride appears like a mirage of proved that small groups can have a great time.

Bright and early on Sunday morning at Hurricane's, over middle of a flat expanse half the LOE BMW R folks there didn't even know we were heading out to Big Bend until we started talking about it.



Above: The group at Hurricane's before disembarking (support van in the back). Right: Smoke from fire as seen near Čarlsbad (the camera is not out of focus).

Oops, a few more folks might have joined us if they would've read the fine print in the *Shaft*. Oh well, there's plenty more long rides in this year's schedule. Pack your bags and join in, but be sure to contact the ride leader as soon as possible.

A bit of breeze started to pick up as Gary Oleson, Doug Guinn, Terry Hern with his daughter Elizabeth on the pillion, and I headed out followed by the Support Van driven by Selma, Terry's wife. Although slightly cool, the ride to Carrizozo, was pleasant. A hard eastbound wind was starting to kick up as we headed toward Roswell by way of Capitan.

**Lesson 2:** If you want to "refresh" your tires often, like about every 6,000 miles, just follow the Gary Oleson method of riding sedately on the straights, accelerate hard as you lean far over into the corner past the apex and then ease up again until the next corner.

The Pine Lodge Road (a northern alternate route to Roswell) was way too much fun for Gary as Doug and I struggled to keep up. Terry and family took the straighter route and we all eventually congregated in Roswell for lunch.

Now the wind was getting serious as we journeyed south through Artesia and Carlsbad. The air was sure foggy or very dusty out here – oh no, that's the smoke from the Alto Fire in the Sacramento Mountains. There was no smell of smoke, but it followed us all the way to Big Bend although it looked more like mist once we got south of the New Mexico border.

The wind totally died out just as we entered Texas, just exactly the way it was depicted in TV weather maps the night before. Pecos, Texas, the home of the first rodeo,

flat buildings out in the

of green desert shrubbery. We stayed the night at the Swiss Clock Best Western (I am not making this up), which actually turned out to be a very pleasant motel featuring a good free breakfast the next morning with plenty of cuckoo clocks hanging on the walls in case you wanted to know what time it was.

**Lesson 3:** Just because you're in West Texas, don't assume it's all flat nothingness.

A short way south of Pecos and we entered "Texas Alpine Country," taking us through wonderful sweepers and twisties allowing Gary to further trim his sidewall thickness while Doug did a much better job keeping up (we can now consider his new 1150RT to be properly broken in). Are we in Colorado, or Northern New Mexico? Texas? No!

Lesson 4: Don't ever assume a passing train will just keep on going!

Traveling on my own Monday morning, I started to head south from the town of Alpine when I came to a railroad crossing while a long container train passed. I shut off the bike to wait. It seemed the train was moving slower and slow-

er, but I thought it was just an illusion until the train actually stopped! Looking up and down the tracks, I could see that every street in this small town was similarly blocked.

Oh well. I headed east and entered Big Bend park through the north gate. What had been a fairly cool morning turned into an oven as I crawled (at a National Park mandated 45 mph) south. After a while, I decided my speedometer had an error of about -30% and upped my pace to 60 keeping a sharp eye for government-green SUVs.

Don't get me wrong, it's been a very dry winter for Big Bend country, too, but as I approached the main lodge at Chisos Basin, the terrain had that Mexico Mountain look to it and the ground was thickly carpeted in a tangle of hardy desert plants. Kind of like a desert jungle very

low to the ground sprinkled with rather tough but colorful wild flowers, cacti, etc. A nice climb up a twisty little road lead to the lodge where I met up with the Herns, Gary, and Doug.

Later, it was time to take Selma out of her van and put her on the back of the bike with Terry, Elizabeth with Gary, Mountains near Alpine, TX.

and we all went on two wheels down the delightful sweepers to the Santa Elena Canyon Overlook. It was like being at river level in the Grand Canyon only not as deep.

From there we left the park and headed west for Presidio, a friendly little Mexican town that just happens to be on this side of the border.

Lesson 5A: When driving into the setting Texas sun, even sunglasses and a polarized, gold coated face shield aren't enough to prevent blindness.

Lesson 5B: When planning a ride, think about what direction you will be traveling at sunset, then go east!

Once we settled in at the famous Two Palms Motel (you see, there are two palms out front...), and having to move our bikes from under a perfect carport parking space because "that's where the manager parks her Escalade," we enjoyed some Tex-Mex food next door.

**Lesson 6:** When ordering in a funky little Texas café, be sure to read the fine print and practice the pronunciation of what you're ordering. Elizabeth decided she wanted a roast Visitor beef sandwich and a chilidog, noth-Center

got was two full meals with all the trimmings (she didn't read what came with each sandwich!). I

some kind of ignorant gringo. But she smiled and let me continue eating after I mumbled some lame excuse about not wanting to return the order when she first brought it...blah, blah, blah.

Lesson 7: Always ride with at least one "new rider" to help remind yourself of

the enthusiasm and delight we all experienced way back when we first mounted up and headed off on two wheels.

Just before the Herns were to head up I-10 and I-25 to home while Gary, Doug, and I would retrace our way up through Carlsbad, we shared a great breakfast in artsy downtown Marfa, Texas. We even saw Robert Arber (LOE BMW R member, who still occasionally lives in Santa Fe) wandering past, admiring the BMWs parked out front. So after Gary and he had a good chat, we went over to see his huge formermovie-theater-turned-into-lithographic studio.

The conversation turned to Terry's excitement about this ride and how much he enjoyed riding with us. He made the comment that riding with us and talking it over at the eating and motel stops was like a "riding college." Well, I don't know about that, but I guess we all have something share from our varied experiences riding motorcycles, hence the inclusion of the little "lessons" in this article.

But it did take me back to my first experiences out on the long roads across deserts, through mountains, and the thrill of leaning way over and living to tell about it. It added a pleasant edge that lasted the whole trip back, which we ing more, nothing less. What she all did in one day, Terry included. I could have never done that when I was a "green" rider!

Lesson 8: Put down this newsletter, suit up, and ride, that's the only way to really get it. Printed words can't match

the wind in your face, the vibration of a finely tuned engine, and the sweep of those two wheels over the road.

Left: Santa Elena Canyon (the Rio Grande is at the foot of the canyon walls). Below: The group at the Santa Elena Canyon overlook.



ordered something called by a name I can't remember now and when it came, it was actually nachos. Thinking the waitress just misunderstood my New Mexico accent, I started eating it, since everyone else was already digging in.

Then I hear this conversation over at the window to the kitchen about how someone at another table didn't get what they ordered and that funny name was mentioned. Oops, I was eating some other patron's meal. The waitress come over to the table with my original order and looked at me with cheese and jalapinos all over my face like I was



JUNE								
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23 Red Rock	24	25	26	27	28	29		
30								

### Saturday, June 1

#### The Tunnels to Fenton Lake GS Ride

Still haven't gotten enough sand in your teeth? This ride is light on the sliding and heavy on the scenery. The Jemez in the spring is one of the most beautiful places on earth! Contact Mike McKee at 266-6118, mckee@unm.edu for details. You'll be glad you did.

### Wednesday, June 5 Rally Committee Meeting

To be held at O'Neil's Uptown restaurant at 5:30pm. Come help plan the big event! Contact Robert Keen at 883-4813, motorkeen@aol.com or Steffan Marley at 265-6885, smarley@swcp.com for details.

#### Saturday, June 22 The Jemez

You've been there a million times, and it's been great for every single one. We may stop for lunch in Los Alamos at one of the best Chinese restaurants in the state (or so I hear), or not depending on the vote. Meet at the Giant Station in Bernalillo at 9am. Contact Dave Wilson at 232-0266 for details.

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 RJ Mirabal, our fearless and constantly busy Activity Committee Chair, at 299-4916, (email rjmirabal@yahoo.com).

If you're looking for an impromptu ride check the club web site's Message Board for unnanounced rides and changes in the above schedule.

JULY									
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
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2   AMA Vintage	22	23	24	25	26	27			
28	29	30	31						

### Wednesday, July 10 Rally Committee Meeting

To be held at O'Neil's Uptown restaurant at 5:30pm. Come help plan the big event! Contact Robert Keen at 883-4813, motorkeen@aol.com or Steffan Marley at 265-6885, smarley@swcp.com for details.

#### Saturday-Sunday, July 20 Northern New Mexico Ride

We'll go to Taos for lunch via Cuba, Tierra Amarilla and Rte. 64! We'll leave from the Phillips station at I-25 and Tramway at 8am and meet at Orlando's in El Prado (just north of Taos) for an early lunch. We will return via 64 to Tierra Amarilla then to Cuba via 96. For info call ride leader Joel Widman at 792-8408 or email jlw@nm.net.

#### **AND BEYOND...**

#### Sunday, August 18

#### **Business Meeting in the Mountains**

If you're going to have a meeting, it might as well be in a beautiful place. First Santa Fe, and now in the Sandias, where we'll meet at a picnic area, then go grind our

### 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 Terry Tombaugh at (505) 821-0063.

footpegs (I mean leisurely take in the sights) on the way up to the Peak. Details to come.

# Saturday-Sunday, August 2-3 LOE Birthday Party in the Monzanos

One of the Big Event of the Year for the LOE BMW R. Cooking out, riding in the mountains, tents and friends. What more could you ask for? Details to come.

### Wednesday, July 7 Rally Committee Meeting

To be held at O'Neil's Uptown restaurant at 5:30pm. Come help plan the big event! Contact Robert Keen at 883-4813, motorkeen@aol.com or Steffan Marley at 265-6885, smarley@swcp.com for details.

#### Thursday-Sunday, August 15-18 BMW RA Rally in Red River

We'll be a part of this rally, so we're claiming it as (partially) our own. We'll be the source for ride and restaurant suggestions, maps and local info. And pitching our great club, and our own rally a month away. More details to come, or you can call Steve Mounce, who has agreed to be the rally coordinator for the club. His number is 275-3811.

### Friday-Sunday, September 6-8 Bavarian Mountain Weekend, Sipapu

The most fun of the year! Our nationally-famous rally. Mark your calendars now and watch the *Shaft* for details as they develop.

### Friday-Sunday, October 4-6 Datil Camp 'N Ride

The last big club ride of the year, where we say "Thanks" and pat ourselves on the back for doing such a good job at Sipapu. Not to mention riding like crazy people all weekend. All the best club legends come from this event. Come be part of it! Details to come.

#### Sunday, October 20 Alien Crash Site Tour

One of the best kept secrets about all the places aliens are said to have crashed in our great state is that they all crashed along roads that are ideal for motorcycle riding. We'll tour several of the claimed locations and end up in – do I need to say it? – the UFO Museum in Roswell. Not for the weak minded, we'll be challenging both those infamous coverups and how long our butts can last in the saddle. Those aliens must have ridden sport bikes, and not very well. Contact RJ Mirabal at 299-4916 for details.

## Saturday, December 14 The Christmas Party

Maybe there aren't as many people here as in Sipapu, but they're packed into a much smaller space so there seems like more. And dressed pretty snappily too. Come to one of the biggest bashes of the year at O'Neil's Uptown restaurant. More details will come.

#### **NATIONAL EVENTS**

#### Monday-Saturday, June 3-8 Americade, Lake George, NY

The biggest touring rally in the world! Join 30,000 riders for one of the biggest events this side of Daytona and Sturgis. But more laid back. Demo rides, 200+ exhibitor Tour Expo, parades, mountain rides and more food than you can eat. Contact (518) 798-7888 or go to tourexpo.com for details.

#### Friday-Sunday, June 7-9 Red Earth Rally, OK

Sponsored by the Oklahoma Airhead Beemers Club, the rally will be held at the Red Rock Canyon State Park in Hinton, OK. Fee includes t-shirt, Friday night snack and Saturday night meal. For more information call John or Lynda Wood at (580) 772-0307, or email jcwood@itlnet.net



#### Friday-Sunday, June 14-16 Chief Joseph Rally, John Day, OR

Held in an old west town with all the modern conveniences. Friday and Saturday night dinner included, with entertainment, field events and bike judging. Contact Dan & Ellie Hall at (541) 862-7411 or duckhall@cdsnet.net, or go to www.bmwro.org for details.

### Friday-Sunday, June 21-23 Red Rock Rendezvous, Panguitch, UT

The Beehive Beemers rally. Day rides to Zion, Bryce, the Grand Canyon, Capitol Reef, Kodachrome and Grand Staircase. It doesn't get more spectacular! Contact Crit at (801) 575-6561, rallymaster@beehive-beemers.org or go to www.beehive-beemers.org for details.

### Friday-Sunday, June 21-23 Missouri State BMW Rally, Springfield, MO

Crane City Park in Crane, Missouri, 30 miles southwesst of Springfield of ST13/ST265. Contact Springfield BMW Roadriders, c/o Connie Meyers, 1158 S. Mumford Dr., Springfield, MO 65809 or call (417) 883-1853 for details.

### Thursday-Sunday, July 11-14 BMW MOA National Rally, Ontario, Canada

On the shores of Lake Ontario in the City of Trenton 100

miles east of Toronto. Call Don Faichney at (905) 885-7354 or email donf@nhb.com for details.

### Friday-Sunday, July 12-14 Top O' the Rockies Rally, Paonia, CO

A popular destination for the LOE BMW R. This year they'll be giving away a pretty nice door prize... an F650 Dakar! The club has a new web address that folks can access to print a pre-registration form and obtain other info on the rally: www.coloradobeemers.com

#### Friday-Sunday, July 19-21

#### AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days, Lexington, OH

At the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course. Contact Will Stoner, 13515 Yarmouth Dr, Pickerington, OH 43147, (800) AMA-JOIN or go to www.AMADirectlink.com for details.

#### Saturday, August 3 100,000' Colorado Pass Ride

Sponsored by the BMW Motorcycle Club of Colorado, this event is a self-paced 450 mile road ride over 10 mountain passes with elevation totalling over – you guessed it – 100,000 feet. A hot ticket. Sells out fast, so go to coloradobeemers.com right away to download a registration form. Or call Brad Bolton at (303) 399-7029.

### Monday-Sunday, August 5-11 Sturgis! ND

'Nuff said. Bring your Beemer to add a note of sanity to the proceedings. Or load that hog onto the trailer and put some latté in the SUV's cup holder – it's a long drive! Contact Bob Moore, PO Box 627, Sturgis, SD 57785, (605) 347-3418 or check out www.sturgis-rally.com for details.

### Thursday-Sunday, August 15-18 RA National Rally, Red River, NM

GS rides, poker runs, BMW NA demo fleet, all the roads of Northern New Mexico, southern Colorado and, well, you know it already. Check out www.bmwra.org for details.

#### Friday-Tuesday, August 31-September 3 Three Flags Classic

Touring event begins in Cuidad Juarez and ends in Regina, SK, Canada. Entry fee \$200, limited to 250 riders. Call Jo Anne Gamble at (714) 775-8246 or go to www.3flagsclassic.org for details.

#### Tuesday-Friday, September 3-6 Cowboy Curve Reunion, Santa Fe, NM

Formerly known as the BMW K1200LT Rally, you can bookend your rallies with the Iron Horse (Four Corners) Rally and our own Sipapu rally. All bikes are welcome. Check out www.curvecowboyreunion.com/index.htm for details.

#### Thursday-Sunday, September 12-15 Best of Colorado Gypsy Ride

Sponsored by the BMW Motorcycle Club of Colorado, this event is a 1,500 mile rolling gypsy ride on Colorado's best 2 lane roads, mostly scenic byways. Go to coloradobeemers.com for more information, or call Brad Bolton at (303) 399-7029.



Bryan Lally test rides an airhead. Photo from a recent quick tour of Utah. Photo by Tim Stone

#### Wednesday-Sunday, September 18-22 Golden Aspen Rally, Ruidoso, NM

One of the biggest touring rallies in the country. Relaxed and unpretentious. Contact Ron Andrews, PO Box 1458, Ruidoso, NM 88355, (800) 452-8045 or go to www.motorcyclerally.com for details.

## Thursday-Sunday, October 17-20 Biketoberfest, Daytona, FL

Did you miss the Big Event? Well here's your second chance. Turn right at Louisiana and follow the line of bikes.

# Thursday-Sunday, November 8-10 Deming Cycles Cookout, Deming, NM

Contact details to come.

### Remember the Toilet?

from Joel Widman

I think the toilet seat would make a great pillion for squeamish passengers assuming an appropriate disposal system could be worked out. A "dedicated" exhaust pipe perhaps? But then that could create a problem for those riding behind (pun intended). The cover could double as a backrest in the up position!

### Don't Forget About Mexico!

by Axel White

In late April, I returned from another solo motorcycle trip into Mexico. My goal was to meet a Mexican friend and his girlfriend in Puerto Vallarta and to spend some quality time in Mazatlan, Durango, and PV. The trip took about two weeks. I had been to PV and Mazatlan on motorcycles before, so those cities were not new experiences. But since this trip's route required stops in Cuauhtemoc and Durango it was interesting to get to know these cities a little better.

Cuauhtemoc has got to be one of the cheapest places in the world to buy cowboy boots and Durango served up some of the finest steaks that I have ever eaten anywhere in the world.

In April of 99', I took a much longer solo trip into cen-

tral and southern Mexico. I wrote that trip up for the BMW 2001 Ride of the Year contest. A few weeks ago I was advised by BMW that out of 700+ entries, I was fortunate enough to have won one of the twelve Rides of the Month awards. My ride's write-up and photos will be featured on the BMW web-site later this year. Each of the Ride of the Month recipients will be featured for a month at www.bmwmotorcycles.com. Besides all the glory of having your article in printed, you also get \$1000 in credit to spend at your favorite BMW outlet! In my case that is BMW of Santa Fe.

The purpose of all this is to try to stimulate some interest in the LOE BMW membership to think about organizing a ride into Mexico. Certainly Mexico is not for everyone, but I am sure that there must be many members who would like to have some new experiences other than the "same old rides" that seem to be featured in the Legendary Shaft each month.

Trips to Mexico do not need to be two weeks long. Copper Canyon's beauty is a two days ride away from Albuquerque/Santa Fe. To hit the beaches in Mazatlan takes three days. With proper planning and documentation the border crossing at the smaller places like Columbus, NM and Douglas, Arizona is a 30-minute happening. In Mexico you have your choice of fast toll roads fit for a K1200RS, or you can follow a similar route on the non-toll roads, albeit at a much more leisurely, but cheaper, pace. Unless you want to do serious dirt riding, any bike that BMW makes will work out fine on Mexican roads.

If you belong to the BMW MOA I would encourage you to read the article in the May 2002 issue of the BMW ON, written by Ralph (Rafa)Nevis, detailing his adventures of riding in Mexico. He emphasizes the great times that can be had in Mexico. The Mexican experience includes meeting great people, wonderful scenery, good food and most of all riding experiences that can't be equaled in the USA.

Mexico is not a scary place to ride. On this last trip to Puerto Vallarta I was surprised at the number of older guys and gals on Honda Gold Wings that I ran into in Mazatlan. Many were Canadians that cruise down the coast to Mazatlan on the toll roads. If our northern brothers can make it through Mexico on Gold Wings, certainly we New Mexican's on our Beemers can make it too.

# Quebec Separatists Urge Queen Dump Bikers

OTTAWA (Reuters) - Quebec separatists in Canada's Parliament urged Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday to change her mind on allowing a Hells Angel to lead a cavalcade of motorbikes in London next week month as part of official celebrations marking her 50-year rule.

The Bloc Quebecois, a party dedicated to the breakup of Canada and not normally a fan of the British monarchy, made a motion in the House of Commons on Thursday asking her to reconsider because it was inappropriate to invite criminal bikers to such a ceremony.

"This is unbelievable and unacceptable when we know the criminal record of the Hells Angels," Bloc Quebecois house leader Michel Gauthier said of the motion that was later defeated.

The Hells Angels have waged a bloody turf war with rival gangs in Quebec, resulting in the death of more than 160 people since 1994.

A Hells Angels called Snob will lead a cavalcade of motorbikes through London next Tuesday. He is the second representative of alternative England to be picked to take part in the celebrations after Buckingham Palace called on the services of veteran rocker Ozzy Osbourne – better known for biting the heads off bats – to perform.

Snob, 43, a member of the London chapter of the worldwide Hells Angels motorbike club for the past 18 years, will sit astride his hog at the head of a parade of 50 motorbikes – one from each year of the Queen's reign – on June 4.



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### 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 July issue is Monday, June 24th. Start typing!

### For Your Buying Pleasure

### **FOR SALE**

**1978 R100RS,** \$4,000. New Battery, Metzlers and hard bags. Bagster tank bag and cover, two seats. Progressive

springs, fork brace & billit top clamp. Swingarm brace, KONI's, and SS brakelines. Dual plugs, flowed and Dyna ignition. Lightened and balanced flywheel. Deep sump, Hi Lift Rockers and heated grips.

For photos or more info Call Tom at 505-776-8615 or maryann@laplaza.org

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

# LOE BMW R Officers

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206.40.48.186/uploads/DANG – The best comment on the internet thread attached to this picture: "Did he save it?"