

the Legendary SHAFT

News from the Land of Enchantment BMW Riders • March 2003

No Stabil-ity for Us

Even in New Mexico winter tends to be a time for motorcyclists to take the bike out just often enough to not have to add Stabil to the gas and put a brick under the engine to keep the wheels off the ground. But for members of the LOE BMW R it's really just time to get out a few more clothes and spend a few extra minutes layering up.

That was proved at last month's Progressive Breakfast. Usually held in January, which is cold enough, this year it was bumped to February, which is typically the Southwest's most winter-like month of the year. But as if further proof were needed that BMWs ride regardless

of the season, about 50 bikes (plenty two-up) turned out for the event. The riding was excellent, the company incomparable, and the whole day a big success. It was sunny, relatively warm, and the wind didn't even start to blow until things were nearly wound down. It was an exemplary start to this year's riding season.

The club's volunteer ride leaders are showing an extra amount of enthusiasm this year, with lots of rides every month going everywhere from around Albuquerque to around the Southwest. If you've got an idea of a place to ride, someone's probably going there. Road, dirt, camping, B&B's – it's all covered. All you've got to do is show up (and, in some cases, make a reservation). And we haven't even planned the second half of the season!

For myself, I'm trying to get my butt in gear and go further than the coffee shop. The recent MCN roundup of sport tourers but the K12 in kind of a bad light, but in its favor said that it is most excellent for rides involving speed, curves, and gas stations every



Even when the Progressive Breakfast is held in the deepest depth of winter, the weather was still nothing less than perfect, and the turnout nothing less than one of the biggest crowds of the year.

150 miles. Almost all of New Mexico fits into that category. This year I'm hoping to do a lot more of that than I did last year. Maybe I'll see you in Silver City, Chama, Magdalena or at the Four Corners. I'll be on the big red K12 with lots of luggage.

For the shorter trips, I was at Coffee at Dawn's today (again!) and was told that even though only a few bikes have been stopping in on weekends lately, the 20 or so members of the "BMW crew" could be counted on every Sunday morning. So even though 60 bikes may show up on a nice summer Sunday, it's the BMW riders who can be counted on throughout the rest of the year. No Stabil for us!

David Wilson, editor

Welcome New Members!

Please welcome George & Alene Vandegrift of Albuquerque and Will & Susie Parsons of Roswell. It's great to have you with us!

Progressively



Of course you know that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. For the LOE BMW R it's also one of the most important meals of the year. This year's Progressive Breakfast was no exception.

Nearly 50 bikes showed up to participate on the warm, sunny February morn-



crowd of motorcycles to set the neighbors wondering.

Next was a quick jaunt down to Los Lunas and the expansive spread of John and Margaret Ephlin.



ing, and do a little riding in between the great piles of food waiting at each of the hosts' houses.

Tim and Donna Stone kicked off the event with pastries, fruit, coffee and a big



Lines were long for the stacks of breakfast burritos and green chile stew, and people kept getting lost touring John's massive garage. Eventually everyone was accounted for, the horses were



BETTER



calmed down (*photo top right*) and the pack returned to Albuquerque.

Leonard and Pam Espinosa hosted the last stop. Electric gear was shed as the temperature climbed, and an outdoor business meeting was held. Motions were passed, officials elect-

ed and the rest of the food was finished off. It felt more like Spring than February by the time things were wrapping up, including the winds whipping the dust down the lane. Nobody left hungry, and Lynn and I went out on a ride (not a long one – the winds kept climbing in velocity). It was, as usual, a beautiful day for a great ride.

The club turned out in force, proving once again that if you provide the food motorcycles will be on the road no matter what the season. And everybody agreed that breakfast really is the most important meal.



Story (such as it is) by David Wilson, photos by David Wilson and Terry Tombaugh





On the Road

MARCH						
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
16	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**Wednesday, March 5
Rally Committee Meeting**

At O’Niell’s Uptown at 5:30pm. Come make Sipapu happen. And have dinner and a brewski, too.

**Saturday, March 8
Business Meeting in Santa Fe**

We will meet at the Chevron on the southwest corner of Central and Tramway and leave at 0900 for a leisurely ride up 14 to Santa Fe BMW. The meeting will begin at 1000. Afterwards Ralph (Rafa) Nevis will lead us to his house for snacks. He lives on a county maintained road that is an easy ride, even for RTs, LTs and such – there is a person who lives further down the road and rides her Ninja 250 regularly. This will be a business meeting and Robert will also try to get Ed to have one of his wrenches do a quick 650 tech session (no promises yet). He also will report on the AHRMA races in April and try to enlist help for that event.

**Sunday, March 23
Seboyeta Ride**

A mere hour, one way west from Albuquerque, the Seboyeta Loop is an interesting ride into the lightly populated area north of Laguna Pueblo up to the end

Join the LOE BMW Riders

Yearly dues are \$15. For more information or to pay:

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

www.nmbmwmc.org

or call Terry Tombaugh at (505) 821-0063.

of Highway 279. We’ll leave around 9am, after breakfast at Hurricane’s. Call RJ Mirabal at 299-4916 or email rjmirabal@centralpets.com.

At the end of the paved road in Seboyeta, those who want to get some dirt on their tires can continue for another fifteen or so miles to the end of the dirt extension north to a place called Marquez. But before that, there’s a great twisty paved section between Laguna and Seboyeta that will make it worth the street biker’s time. See you then!

**Saturday, March 29
Riding Through the ‘Rez
Springtime Ride in NW New Mexico**

We’ll meet at the Phillips Station at Tramway & I-25 on at 7:30am and the slower bikes plan to depart about 7:45. The planned route is the old highway to Bernalillo and Hwy 550 from there to Cuba. The next rendezvous point will be the “Cuban Cafe” on the south end of town. There are several gas stations in town but we’ll re-fuel ourselves at the cafe and plan to leave there about 10-10:30am. The next leg is via NM197 to Torreon and on to Star Lake and Pueblo Pintado where we’ll pick up 509 toward Ambrosia Lake and 605 on to Milan. From there we’ll take old 66 into Grants and a late lunch at the Blake’s Lot-a-Burger (unless the travelers agree en route on a different place to eat). After lunch we’ll head back to Albuquerque. According to MapQuest the total mileage will be about 300 miles. The last time Gary made this trip (with Bill, Tim and Gideon) it had good paved roads with very little traffic off the interstate.

It’s possible to continue westward on 197 to Highway 371 which runs down to I-40 at Thoreau but we don’t know the road conditions on the extension to Hwy 371. That would add about 100 miles to the trip, of which about 26 are via I-40. Another option is to take Hwy 117 from just east of Grants down to Pietown and NM 36 to US 60 to Socorro before going back to Albuquerque on I-25; that would add about 250 miles.

This is a point-to-point ride, not a parade or a race. Just pick your own pace and plan to meet up with the group at the rendezvous points. We’ll have someone standing by to make sure everyone makes the turns at Cuba and Pueblo Pintado and Ambrosia Lake and Milan. Any questions – call Gary Cade (296-4052) or Richard Knowles (259-4952). If it’s really cold or raining or snowing – it will be early spring in NM – we won’t be going.

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 unannounced rides and changes in the above schedule.

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

**Wednesday, April 4-6
Rally Committee Meeting**

At O’Niell’s Uptown at 5:30pm. Come make Sipapu happen. And have dinner and a brewski, too.

**Friday-Sunday, April 4-6
Mokee Dugway Ride**

Three days of scenic byways with two nights at the Desert Rose Inn & Cabins in Bluff, Utah. Suggested route: Day 1: San Juan River Valley, Shiprock, Four Corners; Day 2: Goosenecks, Valley of the Gods, Muley Point, Mokee Dugway, Natural Bridges National Monument, the ferry at Halls Crossing, Glen Canyon, Hite, Fry Canyon, Comb Ridge; Day 3: Mexican Hat, Monument Valley, Canyon De Chelly, Crown Point. And there’s much more, so bring lots of film for this spring time ride. A fantastic figure 8 route of about 1,000 mi. The ride coordinator is James Stevens. Contact him at JamesStvns@msn.com, 323-4238, Cell 505-690-9433.

**Saturday-Sunday, April 26-27
Cimarron Ride**

Sleep with the ghosts at the St. James Hotel in Cimarron. Possible ride to NE corner of NM. Contact Michelle Williams or Mark Winslow at 291-8396 for details. We are working on a group rate.

AND BEYOND...

**Friday-Sunday, May 2-4
Glenwood Ice Cream Ride**

It was a hit last year, it will be just as great this year. Come on a mind-bending (and leg-bending) GS ride you’ll remember for the rest of the year! See the Gila Wilderness and other “rocky roads.” Possible extension to the SW Corner if you have 6+ hours to spare. Room costs are single=\$35/night, double=\$20-22.50/person/night. They also have a suite (two bedroom) that sleeps 4 and would run \$15/person/night if 4 people share it. Contact Robert Keen for details at 883-4813 or motorkeen@aol.com.

**Saturday, May 17
Jemez GS Ride**

If there’s one thing they’ve got in the mountains, it’s dirt. Come see lots of it on a ride up to Virgin Mesa with Jim Salas, GS-trekker extraordinaire. Dirt road rookies and oilhead GS’ers need not apply! Contact Jim at 401-1165 for details.

**Saturday, May 31 (w/Sunday option)
Hermit’s Peak Ride**

A quick one day ride with options for everyone. GS around Las Vegas, NM, or travel the Paved Twisties past the hot springs. There’s camping for those wanting to stay and explore the Peak or the back roads to Angel Fire. Ride coordinator: James Stevens JamesStvns@msn.com, Hm 323-4238, Cell 505-690-9433.

**Friday-Sunday, June 6-8
Navajo Lake Ride**

Camp ‘N Ride to Navajo Lake with day road rides to Durango, Mesa Verde, Chama, etc. and lots of GS opportunities in the lake area. Also, a NW Corner ride is possible. Contact Bryan Lally at (505) 662-4083 or bryan@lally.org for details.

**Saturday, June 21
Jemez Ride**

Can’t find enough time to do a circumference of the state? Ride to Utah? Mow the lawn? Well, neither can I. But there’s always time to see the Jemez. Come on along! Contact Dave Wilson for details at 232-0266 or mrmtv@aol.com.

NATIONAL EVENTS

**Friday-Saturday, April 18-19
AHRMA Vintage Racing at Sandia Motorsports Park**

A major motorcycle racing event! Demo rides, vendors, trials exhibition team, bike show and swap meet. There’s also a Practice/Race School on Friday the 18th. Racing starts at 11am. For racing info contact Dave at (615) 851-3674, davidlamberth@ahrma.org. For bike show/swap meet info contact Stephan at (505) 856-1600, thirdbike@yahoo.com. Also check out www.ahrma.org (For those who can’t get enough, they’ll also be at Firebird Raceway in Phoenix, March 29 and 30).

**Friday-Sunday, May 16-18
Roadrunner Rally, Heber, AZ**

The “Best of the West!” BMW demo rides, vendors, door prizes, shady camping, hot showers, Friday night chili, Saturday night dinner and live music both nights. For information call (480) 987-9339, www.azbeemers.org or send \$35 pre-registration fee to PITS, PO Box 21514, Mesa, AZ 85277-1514.

**Thursday-Saturday, July 10-12
BMW MOA National Rally, Charleston, WV**

Expect to find BMW demo rides, excellent vendor area, seminars, vintage displays, and an honest-to-goodness beer garden. Many rallygoers camp. You know, “total immersion” and all that. For more information go to www.bmwmoa.org/rally03/index.html

Progressive Saga

by TC Hobson
There’s always a story at the Progressive Breakfast. The ride started uneventfully on an unseasonably warm

Sunday morning. Tim and Donna Stone welcomed everyone with lots of coffee and pastries. Then we were off to Los Lunas and John and Margaret Elphin's country estate for breakfast burritos and more coffee. Afterward, I followed a group of bikes that went through Los Lunas, then headed north. Trying to get by some cars that had come in between the group and myself, I grabbed a handful of throttle...and the bike died.

It was fairly obvious that a throttle cable had broken, which upon stopping was confirmed. A call to John Elphin's and the rescue process was initiated. Only problem was I told them the wrong highway. Doh.

While waiting for them to discover my mistake, the wind began to pick up making things less than comfortable. Several brand HD riders went by what was an obviously stranded bike and couple. Not one stopped. I started poking around looking for something to jury rig the broken cable. While investigating some old trucks in front of what appears to be a small junkyard, Mr Pitbull and I became acquainted. He was not happy with my presence. Good thing he was behind a fence.

After awhile, someone stuck their head out of the shop-like building. This guy actually lives there? I told him of my predicament, and he invited me into the yard to look for something that might work. I found an old Honda 750/4, got the throttle cable off of it, and was just trying to figure something out when, behold! two bikes and a truck with a trailer show up.

My rescue party had been scouring the route between Los Lunas and I-25 looking for us. They'd tried calling my cell, which didn't ring. Of course voice mail recorded a message, which went unnoticed until informed of the call. Argh.

The crew loaded the RS and we were on our way back to Albuquerque. Once home, a new upper throttle cable was installed in about ten minutes. I'd bought the darn thing this winter intending to replace it for good measure while rebuilding the carbs later this year. Guess I should have done this a bit earlier.

My sincere thanks go out to John Elphin for rescuing the RS, Linda and myself; to Garry and Shelly Oleson, and Gary Collins for not giving up on finding me. It would have made for a long walk home, and again shows me how this club's members are willing to go out of their way to help out when you need it. You folks are great!

Paris is a Moveable Blast !

by Ralph "BajaRafa" Nevis

Coming home from South Africa at the end of November, We had a two day lay over in Paris (no, not Texas or California). So what can you learn in two days, a lot! I had always wanted to visit France, but wanted to avoid Paris and just do the country side, like in the Tour de France. Wrong! Paris is a definite go to place. The two wheeled traffic was worth the price of admission. The cars were mostly tiny, not much longer than a bike, with tiny 12" wheels, and the scooters and motorcycles were just shooting thru them. It was like a full on street race with no police to slow things down. These are not the people that put bikes away for the winter. These were full time riders with all the skill to match.

The city made it easy for them to park. Most of the side streets had heavy duty racks to lock their bikes to. Security was taken very seriously, with some of the heaviest chains I've ever seen. Some locks were double. During the day while they were working they had a nice bike covers to keep rain and mist off the bikes. The cover mostly just covered the tank and seat and was attached to the front steering head. When it was time to ride, they slipped under the same cover which was fleece underneath and vinyl on the top. It became a lap blanket. Additionally, many had "hippo-hands", a tubular device that slipped over the clutch and brake levers and stayed on the bike. The rider would slip his gloved hand into the tube for warmth.

The sun wasn't cooperating, so I didn't get any fotos. I kept looking for just the right shot, but it never came along. But what a sight! Guys and gals would split lanes, even go on the wrong side of medians to get to the front of the line at stop lights. You'd see right hand turns out of the left lane shooting in front of cars on wet streets and leaning into the turn. Wow! I saw one babe stopped at a stoplight. Long black hair streaming out of her helmet, Long black coat and high heeled shoes. A guy gets out of his car walks over and hands her his card. He smiled and she blushed. I saw one Gold Wing and one KLT. They both looked way out of place. Way too porky. Had to stay in their lanes. The cops are driving white K bikes and are quite skilled, as well.

You wouldn't believe the scooters. We're talking big scooters here. There are several brands that have 500, 600 and 650cc scooters racing around town. BMW isn't the only one with the covered top. There are several others in France. Some of the smaller scooters like the Vespa have a shield a little taller than one's helmet then turns back over your head which seems to give a lot of protection.

Would I go back? In a heartbeat if I could afford it. A medium coke in a restaurant was \$6. Basic rooms in the city were \$150. I'm sure there are cheaper ways to go: hostels, paradors, and avoiding restaurants. Most people were not eating in the restaurants, just drinking coffee. You could stay further out of town as there is a good subway system. Be careful where you carry your money though, as Sally got pick-pocketed, and that after having no problems in Africa for a month.

For Your Buying Pleasure

FOR SALE

2001 F650 GS Dakar, white, 4k miles, heated grips, Givi saddlebags and trunk/rack, highway pegs, hand guards, warranty, new condition, \$7000.

Call Ed at 797-8028 or email at dukecitybiker@juno.com.

1978 R100RS 65k. New Metzlers, battery. Bagster bag, cover, two seats, heated grips, hard bags. Dual Plugs, flowed, DYNA. Progressive springs, fork brace, billet top clamp. Swingarm brace, KONIs.

Call Tom for photos and more info, 776-8615, or email maelder@taosnet.com

2001 R1150GS, 21k miles, 96.672% pavement. Blue/White and clean, clean, clean. Garaged indoors. Obsessively maintained, all receipts/records. Under warranty another 15k miles/14 months. Freshly serviced (of course) – all fluids, valve check/adjustment, throttle body sync, plug check etc. Best offer over \$12,200.

Call Ken at 798-2404 work, 823-6690 home.

2001 F650 GS Dakar, white, 3k miles, heated grips, Givi saddlebags and trunk/rack, highway pegs, hand guards, warranty, new condition, \$7700.

Call Ed at 505-284-3733 or email at emigna@spinn.net.

1964 R60/2, Very nice condition, Denfield seat, bar end signals, teardrop bags. All original. \$7000 obo, to a nice home.

Call Karen at 869-1231.

2000 R1150GS, Manadrin, 19K miles, with BMW system cases and BMW top case, Wunderlich cylinder head guards, factory warranted until 5/25/03, maintained by BMW, all records, always garaged (except while riding!) and never dropped. \$11,250 OBO. Substantial price reduction if I keep the system cases for transfer to a new Adventurer.

Call Axel at (505) 992-1927, or e-mail tuanputih@aol.com.

2001 Suzuki SV650. Red. 4500 miles. Center stand, Remus muffler, Givi windscreen, MEZ 4's. Excellent condition. \$4000.

Call Terry Tombaugh at 821-0063 or email ttombaugh1@comcast.net

Instrument cluster for 1976 R90/6 for 32/10 rear end. New overhaul on tach & speedo with receipts. \$200.

Call Dick Cochran at (505) 287-8403.

RCU Designs rear rack with passenger backrest, fits R1100(50?)R. New price was \$300, asking \$90.

Call Jim at 672-2863.

Set of **Michelin 100X Macadam tires. 120/60-17, 160/60-17. Brand new, never mounted. \$130 for the set.**

Call Terry Tombaugh at 821-0063 day or night, ttombaugh1@comcast.net

Even more Stuff! BMW folding key blank, \$5; BMW flat key blank, \$3. BMW Battery, 19.6 amp (small size), from my K12, guaranteed for 1 year, \$25. Kryptonite Disc Lock, brand new, never used, with lighted key (key needs new battery), \$20. 10' heavy duty tow chain \$10. 5 quarts of 10W-30 Mobil 1, \$15. Gas cap from K75, "refurbished" (that means it should work, but would at least be good for parts) with new gaskets, \$5. Lense hood for R100GS, \$5. Shoei RF-200 (white) or RJ-101V (white) or BMW System 1 (black) helmets, all size medium, all used, your choice \$10 each.

Call Dave Wilson at 232-0266 or email mrmtv@aol.com

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

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motorkeen@aol.com

Vice President: RJ Mirabal, **299-4916** **rjmirabal@centralpets.com**

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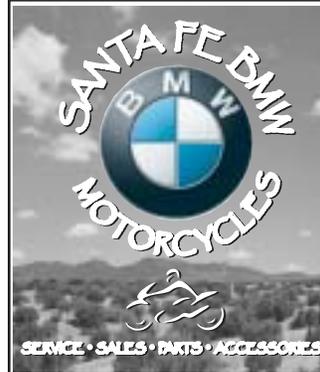
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The Rear View



Above: The dashboard of the legendary Skert's new K1200RS. Known nationally as the demonstrator for how to lift a tipped over motorcycle, she's also a decorated Iron Butt rider. Despite the 1500 miles on the clock of this bike, rest assured that the crazy array of gear will all find use before the odometer hits the century mark.

Left: The perils of showing off, which we BMW riders surely never have to be worried about. I want to see the picture taken 1 second after this one.