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April 2011 Newsletter

BMW Motorcycle Club
Greater Cincinnati



The Prodigal Son (Mule Boy) Returns Home

By Steve Thoerner

You've got to jump into the wayback machine for this story. Back in 1996 I had a great 1996 R1100RT that I had bought at BMW Tri State (you remember BMW Tri State right?). My son Brett was 16 and I wanted to get an airhead to mess with thinking I might let him ride it a bit on the road. Up in Cincinnati was a neglected 1975 R90/6 that looked like a good bike. I brought it home and

rode it around a bit but it needed some work.



In 1997, I was at the BMW RA rally in Fontana Village NC (you remember that one - Jim Smith won a new F650 at that rally right?). While at Fontana there was a vendor named "Gator" that had these big aluminum bags for sale. For

some reason I thought they'd look great on the /6 and bought them. Butch Roelig & Randy Campbell (you remember Butch & Randy right?) were down there with a car - one of them had a cast on their leg (I can't remember which) so they couldn't ride their bike. Anyway, that was fortunate for a few reasons - they had a vehicle to get the hard bags home for me & they drove to town to buy beer since the RA site couldn't get an OK to sell beer....This was also when I learned BMW engineer type riders were smarter than me....why...they finally got the OK and you could get one beer at the rally site on Saturday night - they marked your wrist band to indicate you had received



your single beer. I mentioned to one of the BMW regulars that I would sure like a second beer. They said no problem, turn your wristband inside out and get another beer (then they mark the inside!). Wow! Those BMW guys are thinking.

Fast forward to 1998 and the Missoula Montana MOA rally was coming up. I told Brett we better fix up the /6 and he should ride it to Montana with me since he was graduating from high school that year and in a few more years he'd have too much going on to take a trip like that. That conversation began the "fix up" of the /6. Randy Hermes knew the BMW's inside and out (you remember Randy right?). I had a buddy from work weld me up a massive luggage rack (Home Depot flat bar stock) and we attached it to the factory bag mounts, then the bag mounts were modified to mount the aluminum bags. We were ahead of our time by building a BMW "adventure tourer". Throttle linkage, cables, electronic ignition, seals, oil sending unit, and it seems a ton of other little stuff made the bike ready for the epic ride to Montana.



Karen & I were on my R1100RT, Randy Hermes was on his K bike, and Brett was on the 1975 R90/6. The Mule Boy moniker came up as soon as we hit the road. Brett was carrying two tents, 3 sleeping bags, cooking gear, lights, rain gear, a week's worth of clothes, tools, oil, and a bunch of other crap because we didn't know how to pack for a tour!!

The trip went well except a few breakdowns...There was a dead cylinder at one point that was repaired and a bad gas leak that was repaired on the road (Randy knew the /6, we were learning). As we pulled in the rally somebody yelled at me "hey, you're tire is flat". Sure enough it was (on the R1100RT). I have no idea how I rode into the rally without knowing I had a flat tire. The /6 was ran full tilt all the way to Montana trying to hang with the RT & Randy's K bike so we thought a valve adjustment at the rally would be prudent. When I popped off the valve cover the needle bearings out of the rocker arm were all loose inside the valve cover. That's BAD news. After some haggling we found a replacement rocker arm at a used parts table at the rally. Fixed at the rally, the /6 was ready to roll on to Glacier National Park.



Long story short (somewhat) we made it back home and the next year (1999) the /6 went up for sale. A nice guy bought it, Mike Glisson of Local Riders Fame (you remember Local Riders right?). Mike rode the bike hard for a bunch of years and even started calling his son Mule Boy just like the bike!

Fast forward to December 2010. Brett sold his GS to get some money to build a new house and he's bikeless. I ask Randy Hermes if he's seen Mule Boy around the last few years. Randy knows that Mike still has the bike and heard it might have a blown motor. I get hold of Mike and beg him to sell it to me for a nostalgic restoration project. Mike said it had been sitting for the past 5 years! Spun rod bearing, one piston out, heads off & lots of motor parts in boxes. Mike had dug up a bottom end donor motor but hadn't got around to fixing the bike. Reluctantly, Mike sold me & Brett Mule Boy on December 23, 2010. Ever have a bike so good you bought it twice?

A bike sitting for five years with the cylinders removed doesn't do them good. Ever see a master brake cylinder with no brake fluid? Where'd the fluid go? The oil pan had a wad of shredded aluminum about the size of a golf ball. That's scary. Brett went to work on it. Both motors were 100% disassembled. The crank & cam of the donor motor went into the original block to keep the matching numbers for frame & motor.





About a month and a half later Brett fired up the bike. Mule Boy lives to ride another day.

March Breakfast Ride by Tom Raybuck Photos by Bob Ulrich

The March breakfast and ride started at the Mason Grill in Mason Ohio. For a cold morning we had a good turn out. I think there were 14 members at breakfast and 3 even came on bikes. Neil and Marsha were in attendance and it was good to see them. We had a new member Bill May join us and he also brought us 2 new club banners. 1 full size and a smaller one to carry to rallies. The 3 riders Mr. Berry, Mr. May and myself went on a short ride in the low 30 degree temps. A trip north through Lebanon up to Red Lion and west back down to Lebanon again. A short ride and on the last part heading south the sun was starting to add a little warmth! Hopefully as the weather warms up we will have better riding conditions and get back to more riders.



From our Road Captain, Tom RayBuck.

Have you.....

- _____ Checked the air in your tires and tread left?
- _____ Checked all of your lights?
- _____ Checked your bike for loose bolts?
- _____ Checked your spoked wheels for loose spokes?
- _____ Checked the gear oil and final drive oil?
- _____ Changed your oil after sitting over the winter?
- _____ Checked your bag mounts?
- _____ Checked your tool kit for tools you may have "misplaced"
- _____ Checked your camping gear? Was you tent dry when you put it away?

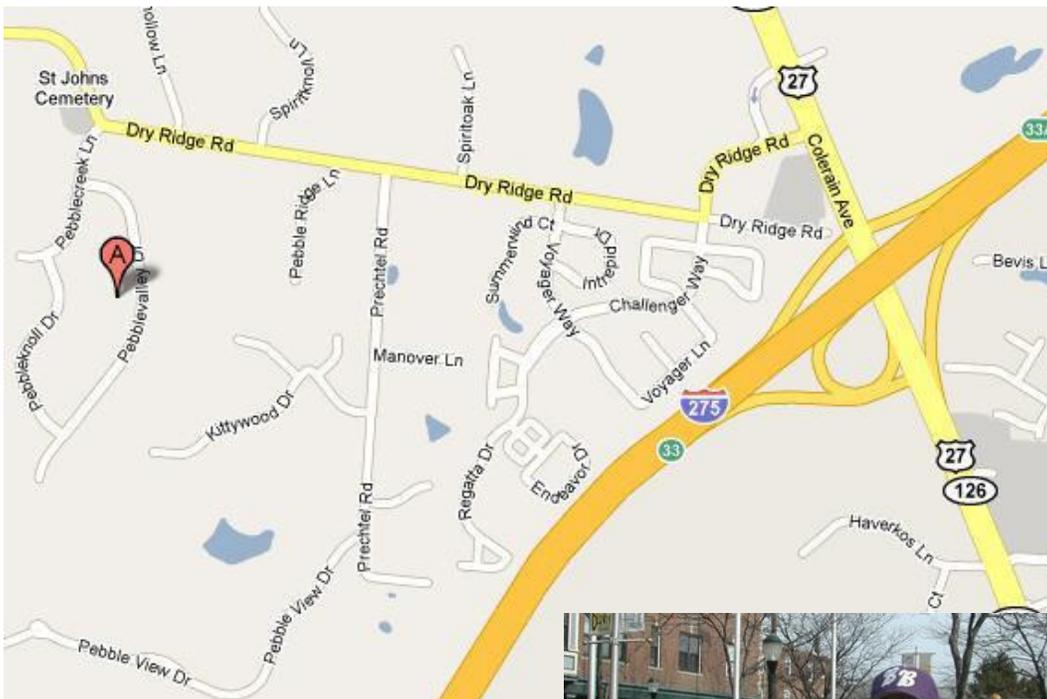
Do you have.....

- _____ "In case of" contact info on your person and your bike?
- _____ A spare key on your bike?
- _____ A spare headlamp bulb?
- _____ A spare taillight bulb?
- _____ A tire repair kit-tubeless?
- _____ A spare tube/patch kit tube type?
- _____ Tire pump or O2 cartridges?
- _____ Tire irons in your tool kit?
- _____ Spare fuses?
- _____ A first aid kit?
- _____ Registration and insurance card (is it up to date)?
- _____ Sun block-yes you can burn through a tinted visor?
- _____ Pain reliever-aspirin-Tylenol?
- _____ Spare ear plugs?
- _____ Your rain gear-Does it still fit?
- _____ Bungee cords or tie down straps?
- _____ Plastic pull tie straps?
- _____ A small flashlight?
- _____ Small tire pressure gauge?
- _____ Kick stand plate?
- _____ Small emergency space blanket (avail at Bass Pro)?
- _____ Cell phone charger cord?
- _____ Small red blinking light-avail at most pet and sporting good stores?
- _____ Clear or tinted visor- what ever is not on your helmet?
- _____ Visor cleaner and soft cloth-Plexus comes in travel size?
- _____ A flattened roll of duct tape?



We have very limited space on our bikes so we should use it wisely. All most all of my emergency items listed, I have stored in a old soft side binoculars case. You can pick up most items in small sizes to make up your kit. A spare taillight bulb will fit in a 35mm film plastic tube. A spare key in the bottom of you saddle bag will come in real handy when you set your tent up in the dark and you drop the key somewhere. I keep my spare visor in a large old sock to protect it from scratches and it will sit perfectly in the front of your tank bag. And the most important thing to have on your bike is your ANONYMOUS book! Bikers willing to help fellow bikers...

Take a look at your "stuff" and lets get ready to ride!



John & Barb Fischer are hosting our April 9th meeting. The meeting starts at 7:00 pm and is located at:

5109 Pebblevalley Drive
Cincinnati, OH, 45252

[Map](#)



GCBMWC Dues

\$15.00 for a single membership or \$18.00 for both single & associate

Send your dues to:

Debbie Smith
3646 Longhorn Dr.
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

Your 2011 Officers

President **Tom Ritter**
tritter5@cinci.rr.com

Vice President **Tom Raybuck**
bucksinohio@aol.com

Secretary
Webmaster **Mike LaBar**
labrew@gmail.com

Treasurer **Debbie Smith**
dasbmw@zoomtown.com

Meeting Schedule for 2011



April 6 10:00 am
Breakfast ride at:
Colonial Cottage
3140 Dixie Highway
Erlanger, KY 41018 - [Map](#)

- January..... Jim & Rosemary Osbun
- February 12th..... Tom & Joni Raybuck
- March 12th..... Mike Meister
- April 9th..... John & Barb Fischer
- May 14th..... Debbie & Allen Smith
- June 11th..... **OPEN**
- July 9th..... Joe & Chris Berry
- August 13th..... Larry Lovejoy & Gail Detherage
- September 10th..... George Nyktas & Mary Tholking
- October 8th..... Tom & Joni Raybuck
- November 12th..... **Open**
- December 3rd?..... Holiday Party

A recent study found that the average American walks about 900 miles a year. Another study found that Americans drink, on average, 22 gallons of alcohol a year. That means that, on average, Americans get about 41 miles to the gallon!

Makes me damned proud to be an American!!!

-Karl Perry

Greater Cincinnati BMW Club

Meeting Minutes - March 12, 2011

- Meeting called to order at 8:03 PM by President Tom Ritter - 25 members in attendance
- Thanks to Mike and Terry Meister for hosting this meeting
- Minutes from the previous meeting were read by Tom Ritter and accepted
- There were no guests to introduce

- Medical Report

- Tom Ritter's father has suffered a heart attack, has aortic stenosis, and is waiting for approval of a new procedure before having surgery to correct the stenosis.
- Kim LaBar has been diagnosed with breast cancer and will require surgery

- Treasurer's Report

Previous balance	\$1275.58
Income	
- Dues	18.00
- 50/50	27.00
Expenses	- 0.00
New balance	\$1320.58

We currently have 30 paid memberships plus 20 spouses for 50 total members

- Old Business

- March Breakfast Ride from the Mason Grill in Mason - There were 3 riders who then went on a ride for 30 ice-free miles.
- The club acquired a new banner thanks to newer member Bill May
- Tom Ritter mentioned the Butler Tech Motorcycle Expo - It was a very rainy day - No one from the club attended
- Butler Tech will be offering motorcycle safety courses
- It was noted that Progressive Insurance offers a 5% discount to those who have passed a safety course
- Someone thought State Farm offered an even larger (20% ?) discount to those who have taken the ERC
- Cosmos in Newport hosted a Daytona 200 Party - The race was stopped due to tire issues
- Club contests for 2011
 - Mileage contest - Get your starting mileage numbers to Mike LaBar
 - Alphabet Towns - Take a picture of your bike or self or both in front of the town sign or post office or firehouse that has the name of the town. Choose 26 cities, towns, villages that start with A through Z. The further away the more points.

- New Business

- We have three dealers vying for our service business by offering deals on pick-up and delivery - BMW Motorcycles of Louisville, BMW of Indianapolis, and Motohio
- Motohio events
 - March 20 - Accident Scene Management Course
 - March 25 - Ducati Diavel Unveiling
 - March 26 - Spring Open House
- Moonshine Lunch Run to Moonshine IL - April 9 - Bill Berry will post his travel plans for those who want to join him

- Battle Creek Mini Rally - April 29 to May 1 - Mr. Raybuck says it will be sunny and 70
 - Tom also noted that the high school basketball player who died after making the game-winning shot was from Fennville, the town where Tom takes us for Mexican lunch
 - Tom said this year's lunch run will be to Aries London Grill in Plainwell MI
- Club weekend getaway - Tom Ritter is requesting member input. Do we want to go back to the Iron Horse again? Do we want to go someplace closer? Site requirements include: camping, cabins or lodge, food on site, and alcohol allowed.
 - Daylight Saving Time - Spring ahead tonight
 - Our April meeting will be on the 9th at the home for John & Barb Fischer
 - Our July meeting will be a repeat of the Berry Brothers BBQ contest and eat-a-thon - There will be awards for the best smoked meat and best side.
 - Christmas Party - Tom Ritter is requesting member input. Do we want to go back to Raffel's? Where else might we go? Should we schedule the party for Dec. 3 or Dec. 10?
 - Flat Tire Repair Kit - The club received a promotional flyer from Genuine Innovations. With a minimum order of five units the price for the kit will be reduced from \$60 to \$35.99
 - AMA National Adventure Riding Series - Bybee TN - April 16 & 17 - from Ron Monnig
 - Two Wheels Only motorcycle campground in Suches, GA closing - Campground owners can't make lease arrangements with new property owners
 - Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course - Track purchased from TrueSports, Inc by Green Savoree Racing Promotions
- Meeting adjourned at 8:38
- 50/50 won by Ken Norris

A Snapshot Back in Time

Who is this guy?

What was the last year he was a member?

Where was this picture taken?

What GCBMWC event was this?

What date was this photo taken?



April 2011

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	S
					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

May 2011

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	S
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				

June 2011

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	S
			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		

Rallies & Events

1st Saturday each month visit Lenny at [Autobahn Craftwerks](#) for Open House

Tuesdays—Bike night at the Comet

Wednesdays-Bike night at Quaker Steak & Lube

To see a full listing click [HERE](#)

7th Annual

[Moonshine Lunch Run](#)

9 April 2011 in Moonshine, IL

April 8 - 10, 2011

+ 19th Dogwood Trail Rally
BMW Riders of Mississippi #15

April 17, 2011

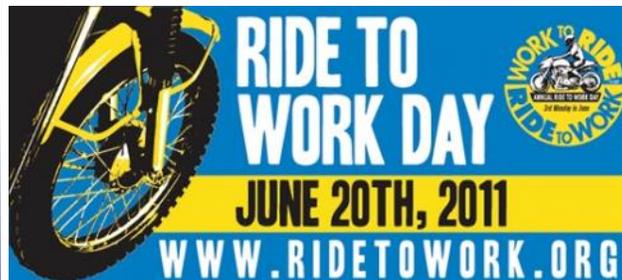
+ 26th Wild Goose Run
Port Washington BMW Club #116

April 29 - May 1, 2011

+ 38th Original Mini Rally
BMW Club of Battle Creek #14

April 29 - May 1, 2011

+ 21st Georgia Mountain Rally
BMW Motorcycle Owners of Georgia #23



Websites of the Month

[Motorcycle Safety Foundation](#)

May 7, 2011 Xenia, Ohio

Ride with the Ribbon

Sponsored by Moose Lodge
The event starts at Moose Lodge 1629, 947 Cincinnati Ave, Xenia. Sign up starts at 10:00 am and the first bike leaves at 11:00 am. The ride is a breast cancer benefit. For more information call (937) 657-2414, or [click here to send e-mail](#).

Who is this guy?
Mike Crum

Last year he was a member.
2008 member

Where was this picture taken?
Mamas Grill

What GCBMWC event was this?
Breakfast Ride

What date was this photo taken?
9/3/2006 11:10am

We just got in a large shipment of the newest Arai and Scorpion Helmets in a variety of colors and a full range of sizes.

At Motohio we believe in Premium Protective Full Face Headgear. What's your Head Worth?

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