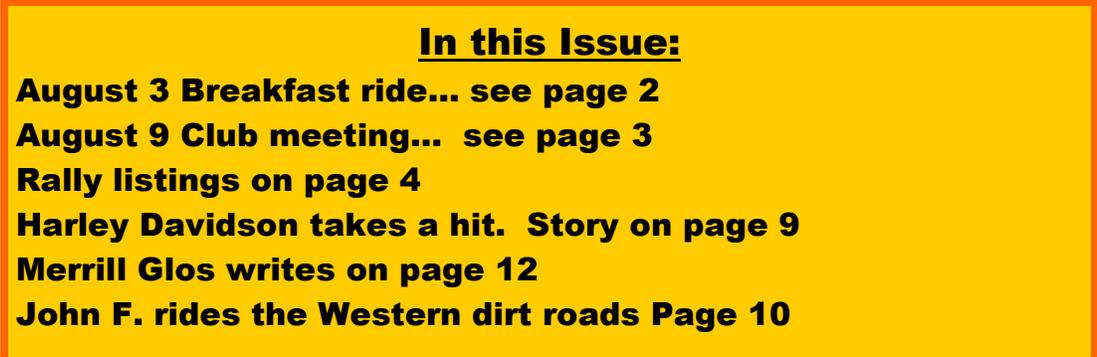




“Carpe Viam” - - - “Seize the Road”

GCBMWC e-letter — neiljones@aol.com

August 1, 2008



Ninth (fourth from final) Issue by New Editor!

In July I added a couple of thousand to my BMW odometer with a familiar trip to southern New Hampshire. My plan was to use the interstates to get into Pennsylvania, then head north through Oil City, and north east to US Rt. 6, which is a wonderfully scenic ride. With a slightly wrong turn, my bike and I ended up going north into New York state as the sun was setting. No worries that there was not a motel in sight, but there wasn't even a campground to be found. I found what looked like an abandoned, overgrown road. As I considered a level grassy area, the farmer came along on his Kawasaki ATV. I asked for his permission to set up a tent and he said, "Aw hell, I got a prettier place than this for you. Follow me." So I did follow and he set me up beside a pond full of fish and frogs. He introduced me to his dog "Dozer," who kept me safe from night critters. The moon was almost full, the night air was cool the cell phone worked and the sleeping was delicious!

Neil the Editor



Greater Cincinnati BMW Club 2008 Officers

President	Bob Ulrich	rulrich@ameritech.net
Vice President	John Fischer	JBFischer@fuse.net
Treasurer	Tom Ritter	tritter5@cinci.rr.com
Secretary	Neil Jones	NeilJones@aol.com
Web Master ...	Mike LaBar	LaBrew@gmail.com

New Members are always welcome!

Bring cash or check to a meeting or mail a check to
Tom Ritter, 9881 Voyager Way, Cincinnati, OH 45252
Single member \$15. Couple \$18.

Club Breakfast & Ride Sunday, August 3

Mike LaBar, Club Web Master writes:

I will be leading our ride this Sunday. A breakfast ride with an International flair...

Where: Meet at **The International House of Pancakes (IHOP)** on route 28 in Milford. (just off 275)

When: **9:00 am** Sunday Aug 3, 2008

Why: To have fun riding and to promote our International Cities club contest. We will visit several internationally names towns on our eastern route that should take us 100-150 miles. We should end up in Manchester or Rome. Bring your camera, there's prize money at stake here!

Next Club Meeting Saturday August 9!

At the home of Debbie & Allen Smith!
3646 Longhorn Dr., Ross, Ohio

Debbie Smith says:

We will have shredded pork barbecue, cole slaw and soft drinks. Desserts or side dishes are welcome.

We have seating for about 25-30 people.

Parking - bikes on the driveway, cars on the street, please.
BMW Roundels will be on our mailbox.

Driving directions - 3646 Longhorn Drive is about 1 mile north of the center of Ross in Ross Township.

From I-275 - travel north on US 27 about 8 miles, when you cross the Great Miami River, take the next exit (Hamilton/Cleves - SR 128) and turn left at the light. At the next light (School Rd), turn right. School Road deadends at Layhigh Road, turn right. Turn left at the 2nd street on the left (Ross Trails), it is about 100 feet long and ends at Longhorn Drive. Turn left and we are the 5th house on the left - Red Ford Ranger truck in the driveway.

If you are traveling from the Fairfield area over River Road, the bridge over US 27 was closed last week for repairs and there is a detour.

If you want a more spirited ride, turn left off US 27 onto Old Colerain and follow it down to East Miami River Road. Turn right to cross the bridge over the Great Miami and continue through the light onto Layhigh, following it to Ross Trails drive and Longhorn

Be there. Come as you are. Bring a veggie or dessert, or just show up.

Rallies & Events

August, 2008

- August 15-17
- Four Winds Rally
- New Bethlehem, PA
- www.4windsbmw.org

- August 29-Sept 1
- Finger Lakes Rally
- Watkins Glen, NY
- www.fingerlakesbmw.org

-
-

-

The longest continually held BMW rally in the US is this year's 42nd annual Four Winds Rally. Held in the beautiful hills of Western Pennsylvania, be prepared for some of the best motorcycling roads. Hot showers, shaded camping, tech sessions & seminars, GS adventure ride, Sat. nite BBQ, Sunday morning donut breakfast.

The Finger Lakes Rally is scheduled for Hidden Valley Campground in Watkins Glen State Park. 2 exceptional catered dinner meals, 2 exceptional live bands. Three miles west of Watkins Glen, NY on state Rt. 329. You can pre-register on line to save \$.



**Minutes from the July 12, 2008
Meeting of the GCBMWC
Held at the riverfront home of
Gail Deatherage & Larry Lovejoy
In Warsaw, Kentucky**

Meeting convened at 8:10 pm

Officers present: *President Bob Ulrich, Vice Pres. John Fischer, Secretary Neil Jones & Treasurer Tom Ritter.*

Guests present: *Leesa Wiesner, Frank Alfaro, Bill Hanna.*

Members present: *George Nyktas, Mary Tholking, Jeff Lemkuhl, Larry Lovejoy, Gail Deatherage, Bob Ulrich, Tom & Cheryl Ritter, Bill & Shelia Wright, Joe & Chris Berry, Merrill Glos, Allen Leach, Bill Berry, Steve & Karen Thorner, Jim & Deana Smith, John Fischer, Neil Jones.*

Next meeting will be held *on August 9 at the home of Allan & Debbie Smith, 3646 Longhorn Dr., Ross, OH 45013.*

*Neil Jones read the **minutes from the prior meeting.** Minutes were accepted as presented.*

Treasurer Tom Ritter reported *that the previous balance in the club account was \$2,191 and that the club had income of \$37 (\$18 from dues and \$19 from split the pot) making the July 12 balance \$2,228. The club has 38 paid members for 2008. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.*

New Member *Bill Hanna applied for membership in the GCBMWC. It was determined that he had met the necessary requirements. After a vote by membership, Bill was welcomed as our newest member.*

Old Business

*Bob Ulrich brought up the subject of selecting a location for the **December 6 meeting & Holiday Party.** Tom Ritter, Jim Smith and Bill Wright presented info regarding sites they had studied. Bill Berry entered a motion (Neil Jones seconded) that we hold the event at Germania Park. This facility charges \$900 for all beer, use of the hall, and serving staff. Food costs are additional and range from \$9 to \$11 per person. The motion carried with one dissenting vote. Bill Wright will finalize the choice of dates available and secure the reservation with a \$200 deposit.*

(Old Business continued)

*October 3 Club event at **Iron Horse Motorcycle Lodge & Campground**. Tom Ritter suggested that both campers and lodgers email Kathy at the campground Info@IronHorseNC.com to let them know how many to expect.*

*The **September Club Meeting** originally was set to be held at the MOTO GP in Indianapolis. After discussion, Steve Thoerner moved (Bill Berry seconded) that this meeting be held at the home of John & Barb Fischer, who offered to host the event on September 6.*

New Business

*Bob Ulrich announced the local showing of the film, '**Long Way Down**' 7/31/08 at the Deerfield Theater in Mason.*

*Club President Ulrich announced **Vintage Days** at Mid-Ohio July 25-27, followed the next week with **Super Bikes** at Mid-Ohio.*

*Joe Berry announced that former club member and former Parts Mgr. at BMW Tri-State, **Dan Thomas** is back in Ohio.*

*George Nyktas reported that 1115 attended the **RA Rally in Houghton, MI**, enough for the national to make money. The 2009 RA national will probably be located in the Adirondacks.*

Bill Berry made a motion to adjourn, which was passed by wide margin.

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 PM

[Prior to the meeting, guests were treated to grilled brats & metts, some wonderful salads, baked beans and a variety of adult beverages and desserts. Larry and Gail took a number of passengers on a pontoon boat tour of the mighty Ohio River. After adjournment the 50-50 drawing was held wherein host Larry Lovejoy drew a ticket (his own) and won \$18. The Rules Committee is looking into this.]

Minutes prepared by Neil Jones, Club Secretary.

2008 GCBMW Membership List

Jack & Arlene Basham
George Becker
Woody & Tena Benson
Joe & Chris Berry
Bill & Nancy Berry
Mike & Barbara Crum
Greg & Kathy Cullers
Alan Disher
John & Barb Fischer
Ken Francois
Gary & Sue Franklin
Merril & Diane Glos
Neil & Jackie Jones
J. Chris Katzer
Mike & Kim LaBar
Allen Leach
Jeff Lemkuhl
Chris & Anne Long
Larry Lovejoy & Gail
Deatherage
Curt Nichols
George Nyktas & Mary
Tholking
Karl Perry
Heny & Mary Pierce
Tom & Joni Raybuck
Tom & Cheryl Ritter
John Sires
Jim & Deana Smith
Allan & Debbie Smith
Steve & Karen Thoerner
Ralph & Terri Todd
Bob & Gail Ulrich
Robert Utz
John Wharton
Pete Wilton
Bill & Shelia Wright
Kregg Wright



Thank you to each person who has joined the club in 2008.

**If your name is missing from this list, contact club Treasurer Tom Ritter at:
Tritter5@cinci.rr.com**

Schedule of 2008 Club Meetings

Date	Location/Hosted By
August 9	Allan & Debbie Smith
September 13	John & Barb Fischer
October 11	Tom & Joni Raybuck
November 8	
December 13	Christmas Holiday Event

If you would like to host the November meeting at your home or business, please advise Club President Bob Ulrich, or make your interest known at a club meeting.



Harley-Davidson Takes Its Lumps

By [JERRY GARRETT](#)
NEW YORK TIMES WRITER

If motorcycles generally get better mileage than cars, and if everyone is so concerned about the price of gasoline these days, why are motorcycle sales cratering instead of skyrocketing?

It's the economy, stupid (with apologies to Bill Clinton).

"When the economy turns sour, motorcycles are considered a luxury item, and people stop buying them, it seems," notes Kurt Antonius, a spokesman for American Honda, whose motorcycle sales, like almost everyone else's in the industry are off around 20 percent so far this year.

Harley-Davidson, which enjoyed two decades of record sales and earnings growth leading up to 2007, is the latest to feel the sting. Sales for the second quarter of 2008, which were announced Thursday, dropped by 23.3 percent from the same period last year (which was not a great quarter). Earnings were down 16.7 percent. Its stock did rise to \$39 a share Thursday, though, as analysts had expected even worse results. But that's down nearly 50 percent from its high of \$76 a share in 2006.

In April, Harley-Davidson cut back production and reduced its workforce. It announced plans to ship to dealers between 76,000 and 80,000 bikes during the second quarter, and even less — 74,000-78,000 — for the third quarter, the prime summer selling season. As recently as last year, Harley shipments approached 100,000 units per quarter. But that's when Harley's sales first started to slow, causing it to fall well short of Harley's dream of selling 400,000 bikes for the year. That may be a dream that just went poof for the foreseeable future.

It's not like Harley-Davidson is hurting for money. The company still raked in \$1.67 billion in total revenue for the quarter. It also recently announced plans to acquire MV Agusta, a boutique Italian bike maker, opened a lavish new museum and previewed for the press some splashy special edition models for 2009. Those seem to sell out whether the economy is circling the drain, or not. Later this month, Harley will unveil its full line of 2009 models, and an extensive celebration of its 105th anniversary kicks off in August.

"We expect U.S. economic conditions and ongoing consumer concerns to continue to create challenges at least through the end of the year," said Jim Ziemer, Harley-Davidson's chief executive. Still, he said, the company expects to ship more than 300,000 bikes for 2008 — a total seldom exceeded in company history.

But Harley's business probably can be expected to suffer more than many motorcycle manufacturers, because of the lack of diversity in its lineup of mostly cruiser bikes. Mr. Antonius noted some of the drop in Honda's motorcycle sales have been offset by increased sales of scooters.

"Scooters," he said, "are flying off the shelves."

Wonder what a Harley-Davidson scooter might look like?

(Lifted from the July 26 NY Times, without permission)

Transamerica Trail Ride

By John Fischer

Mike & Dave Meister, Steve Thoerner and I departed from Taylor Mill, KY on Friday, June 27 @ 4PM ET and arrived in Boise City, OK about noon Saturday, CT. We were on the Trans American Trail within the hour and made it to Trinidad, CO that evening. The very early parts of that flat ride were not interesting but as soon as we approached the NM-CO border the terrain changed and I thought I was riding on cloud nine---just really neat country.

The second days ride was even prettier but it was a long ride from Trinidad, CO to Salida, CO. with spectacular scenery. Day three from Salida, CO to Lake City, CO turned out to be the toughest. We could not make it over Hancock Pass due to snow but it took us about 4 hours to discover that. After re-

routing ourselves to Sargents, CO we continued on the route but wound up at a spot where the road in existence when the maps were made was no longer a road. It had obviously been part of the route at one time but was fenced off. It took us about an hour to get back on track after making several wrong choices. After some more really enjoyable roads and we finally pulled into Lake City, CO around 7PM MT. That cold brew was one of the best ever.



Day four from Lake City, CO to Monticello, UT was another pretty tough one because we reached our second pass which was blocked by deep snow. We detoured through Silverton, CO before getting back on the trail towards Ophir Pass, which was another awe inspiring view. We were way behind schedule for the day and wisely choose to skip a flat portion of the trail just east of Monticello, UT. We arrived in Monticello in time to take care of a few things like doing some laundry and putting a missing bolt into my Kawasaki's sub frame. I had heard some clacking noise when bouncing on the trails. One of the bolts was gone and the other one was half way out. I'm glad Mr. Meister had some spares with him.

The next day's ride from Monticello, UT to Moab, UT was also spectacularly beautiful in the high elevations east of Moab. We arrived in Moab around noon and had time for brews at the pool before riding through Arches NP that evening.

Our last trail riding day was the most memorable for me. We departed Moab at 6 AM MT and headed into Canyonlands NP onto the White Rim Trail just shortly after sunrise. The ride down into the canyon left me struggling to keep my eyes on the road so as not to fall off of the cliffs. It was a really neat place. The approximately 100 mile dirt road was not technically difficult to ride

about 3 hours before seeing anyone else. I think it took us about 6 hours to complete the trail. I'd guess we took about 1 million pictures between us.

The return back to Boise City, OK took us two days. The first day we went from Moab, UT to Westcliffe, CO with no trouble except one flat tire. The big trouble came in Westcliffe when we couldn't find a motel. We wound up riding down to Walsenburg, CO before finding a place. It was another night when the brew was extra good. Our final days ride took us back to Boise City where the trailer was parked. Due to my poor planning my bike ran onto reserve about 40 miles from the city but fortunately those good Kawasakis go a long way on reserve. We loaded up and headed back to Taylor Mill, arriving home about 9 AM ET the next day.

The trip was a thrill for me.



(editor's note: In addition to BMW's, John Fischer & Steve Thoerner ride Kawasaki KLR 650's. Mike Meister did this trail ride on his GS Adventure. Dave Meister rode a Honda XR650.



Editor's note: Merrill Glos is an international motorcycle adventure rider and writer. Horizons Unlimited holds meetings all over the world to promote adventure motorcycling. In July the Eastern US meeting for HU was held at the Iron Horse MC campground near Robbinsville, NC, site of the GCBMW October 3-5 GTG. Here Merrill writes of his ride with friend Dave, of sights seen and characters met.

Horizons Unlimited Meeting
Iron Horse Moto Campground,
July 17 to 20

Dave and I took the scenic path to Stecoah, NC, down I-75 to Mountain Parkway past Slade to KY15 south, bypassing Hazard to Rt. 699 to 160 stopping in Benham to visit the Kentucky Coal Mining Museum. We both qualified for the senior discount which was like getting a free quart of gas. The museum is housed in what was the "company store", a robust three story concrete structure that exemplifies the surrounding buildings. The Loretta Lynn display is on the third floor with costumes and personal artifacts etc. The quality of the surrounding communities is reflected in the museum, rich in history, long on suffering and poor by today's standards. Worth a stop.

From Benham, we followed the river valley south through Lynch, which for me, exudes the history of the old mining camps more than any other place. Large overgrown relics of a time past. Mine entrances, tipples, power plants, offices and barracks built to withstand the rigors of a rough and tough industry, now dying a slow death. I wanted to stop and explore, but I forgot the Vaseline.

After Lynch, 160 climbs up and over Black Mountain into Virginia. We jumped on US23, I-26 and slabbed to Johnson City where we headed east to Grandfather Mt. and jumped on the BRP. We camped Wednesday night at Linville Falls campground, only about a third full on a beautiful riding day.

Thursday, we rode the BRP to the Mineral Museum, where I queried the girl attendant about the best place for breakfast. This entailed a 15 mile detour to Sallie's where we were reminded that we were in tobacco country. A smoke filled greasy spoon that affronted our lungs and arteries. Damn it was good. We back tracked to the BRP for a short ride to NC 80 north because of construction on the BRP between there and Ashville.

Back on the BRP before Ashville, enjoying a cool ride all the way to Cherokee, and then on to the Iron Horse arriving about 5pm with 710 miles on my new rear ME880 tire.

Attendance was up this year, maybe 150-160 folks. Lots of R100GS's and PD's, lot's of R1150 GSs, KTM's, KLR's and V-Strom's. Slide presentations included trips to Mexico, Belize, and Guatemala, a trip to South Africa, the America Trail from NC to Oregon, with the White Rim Trail, a father and son's trip from Peru to Brazil and Bolivia, and my trip to Ushuaia. Lot's of yawning.

Friday day, Dave and I rode some rural routes. Dave rode the Dragon while I downed two Starbucks mochas at Deal's Gap. Love to hear the multicylinder Jap bikes wail out of the parking lot and up the hill. Love it.

Saturday, we headed back to the BRP and off on 19 to Maggie Valley for the Wheels Through Time Museum. WTT is closing this coming November. Totally different from the Barber Museum, the WTT is more about the early American motorcycle experience. I love all the related artifacts as much as the old iron. I'll see it again, for the last time in October. Don't miss it.

On Friday morning, a guy with hair to the middle of his back and a pot helmet, rode into the Iron Horse on an early 60's Harley hardtail chopper, which I would have classified as a rat bike, but not to his face. I'm thinking, this guy is NOT here for the HU meeting. WRONG. What got my attention was his white tee shirt with a map of Bulgaria stenciled on it. Bulgaria is not exactly a Hard Rock Café destination, so I inquired about it.

Doug, rode a 1948 Indian Chief on a RTW trip several years ago. He met a lovely lady in Sophia, capital of Bulgaria, and after riding through Russia and Siberia and shipping the Indian to Korea, he returned to Alabama to divorce his wife and returned to Bulgaria, his girlfriend, and bought an old farm and is now converting the farm house into a lodge, the barn into a meeting hall for a motorcycle campground. His Bulgarian girlfriend's name is Polina. She's cute.

His web site is: www.motosapiens.org very interesting and another reason not to judge a book by it's cover. Doug said he was going to Vintage Days to buy a container load of used bikes to take to Bulgaria. I ran into him fifteen minutes after setting up my tent at Mid-Ohio. Cool guy, small world.

Bonus edition: Vintage Days was great with mild temperatures for a change. It's great to see old guys wearing old leathers that still fit, straddling old BSA's and Honda's, revving their engines on the paddock leading to the starting line. Good memories.

I think all will enjoy the Iron Horse for the club rally in October. It's a fine moto venue.

Total trip mileage, 1520 miles. 10 minutes of rain on the return.

merrill

