



**“Carpe Viam” - - - “Seize the Road”**

**GCBMWC e-letter — [neiljones@aol.com](mailto:neiljones@aol.com)**

May 1, 2008



Trivia question....

What day is this?

Answer on page 2

**In this Issue:**

**May meeting details page 3**

**Rally listings on page 4**

**Mini Rally - Hurry! Pack up fast! page 5**

**Membership List - page 9**

**Jimmy Smith writes— page 13**

**Sixth Issue by New Editor!**

Riding opportunities are gushing forth as the last cold weather departs the area. Start the month right with a John Fischer ride next Sunday. John never fails to find the most interesting places and ways to get there. See page 2.

Ride to Merrill & Diane Glos’s house for the May meeting. There will be plenty of parking, good stuff to nibble on and a treasure house of maps and history. Details on page 3.

Whether you head for Sturgis or Georgia, May 2 starts the rally season around here. Take time to plan your ride to one of the national BMW events in Michigan and Wyoming this summer.

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, May 4

**John Fischer, Vice President of Rides** says: "I want to try something a little different for the May 4<sup>th</sup> breakfast ride. Let's meet at the Grand Victoria Casino for the breakfast buffet at 10:15 AM. (The breakfast buffet stops selling at 11AM). The Grand Victoria is located in Rising Sun, IN."

John F. (513) 385-1497

Answer to trivia question on page 1 Day. What is a day? Is a day more than just a 24 hour block of time in the spectrum of human existence? Is a day merely the part of that 24 hour period when the sun is shining? What if it's cloudy? Is that still a day? Today? Does the word "today" come from the base word "toady?" What do toads have to do with a day? And what about frogs? Don't they count for anything? When your throat is sore don't they say you have a frog in your throat? Why don't toads get some of the recognition? After all, they are just as important as frogs.

# Next Club Meeting Saturday May 10!

At the home of Merrill and Diane Gloss!  
In beautiful downtown Blue Ash!



Merrill Glos (rhymes with close).

Welcome to the "Compound" for the May 10 club meeting. Bring an open mind. Merrill lives like nobody else in Blue Ash. Expect to meet Wilbur and Orville. Tour the fabulous wood shop, and try to count the GS tanks. Check out the world maps and trace the travels of Merrill and Diane.

The address is 8901 Kenwood Rd. Watch for house numbers on the mail boxes.

Bring a snack or dessert if you can. Let's try to get more than one person to arrive on a bike this month. After all, it's May.

# Rallies & Events

**2008**

- **May 2-4**
- **35th Original Mini Rally**
- **BMW MC Club of Battle Creek**
- *Green Valley Campground, Sturgis, MI*
  
- **May 2-4**
- **Georgia Mountain Rally**,
- *Bald Mountain Park, Hiawassee, GA*
  
- **May 22-25**
- **The Great 'Chicken Rally' in Rocket City**
- *Huntsville, AL [www.BMWMOAL.org](http://www.BMWMOAL.org)*
  
- **June 19-22**
- **BMW RA International Rally**
- *"RA in da U.P., You Betcha"*
- *Houghton, Michigan*
- *[www.BMWRA.org](http://www.BMWRA.org)*
  
- **July 17-20**
- **BMW-MOA 2008 International Rally**
- *Gillette, WY*
- *[www.bmwmoa.org](http://www.bmwmoa.org)*

## *Georgia Mountain Rally*

*May 2-4-2008*

*Traditionally popular with Ohio motorcyclists, this rally is sponsored by the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Georgia. The GMR takes place in Hiawassee, Georgia, in the North Georgia Mountains just south of the NC state line, and smack dab in the middle of thousands of miles of wonderful, woodsy, twisty mountain roads.*

*This rally is well-endowed with sponsors and vendors and features a magnificent giveaway of prizes. The rally site includes a variety of camping environments, from creekside to pine trees to open fields. Motels are also available.*

*Georgia Mountain Rally tradition includes a Saturday night cookout featuring T-bone steak, cooked to perfection.*

*If you have never ridden to a big BMW rally, this is a great place to begin. Plan on a full day's ride to get there, or take the back roads for a more leisurely approach.*

*"Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm."  
Sir Winston Churchill*



**RA in the U.P., you betcha!**  
**June 19-22, 2008**

**35th RA National Rally**  
**Houghton, Michigan**

• \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

Here comes the 2008 RA National Rally, in Houghton, Michigan.

Lake Superior is the body of water that separates Michigan into Upper and Lower Peninsulas. It is a gorgeous, huge, cold lake, surrounded with wonderful vistas. The camera doesn't do justice to the scenery. The photo above shows one of the highways that follow the Superior shoreline. As you are surely aware and eagerly anticipating, the 2008 RA 'n da UP is just around the corner. Great riding and a great time at this superb campus site is guaranteed. Preregistration is now on line, as is sign up for the engine that makes the rally go; the **VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**.

This year we have a whole new program to offer you with new and diverse gifts for every worker. In addition, we also will have two daily raffles of some very nice door prizes exclusively for our volunteers. This is how it works. The more shifts you work, the more chances you have to win. Pretty simple, ah ha. We aren't talking about a hat or tee shirt (although those are fine gifts), but rather C-note (more or less) valued items for the twice daily drawings. So, sign up and identify your RA Chartered Club number when you do, because the club with the most volunteers will be recognized this year and given an award.

Now lets "fill the volunteer schedule" on the RA web page before the rally begins. The more people that volunteer the easier it will be to ensure everyone will have a fun and enjoyable rally. See you 'n da UP,

## Meeting Minutes

*Date: April 12, 2008      Location: Home of Karen & Steve Thoerner*

### **Officers Present:**

Bob Ulrich, President; Tom Ritter, Treasurer; John Fischer, Vice-President; Neil Jones, Secretary

***Next meeting:      May 10 at home of Merrill & Diane Glos at 7:00 PM***

- I.      Minutes of Prior Meeting:** Meeting called to order at 7:50 by Pres. Bob Ulrich  
Reading of the Minutes of the prior meeting by Secretary Neil Jones. A motion to accept the Minutes as presented carried.
- II.     GCBMW members present:** George Nyktas, Mary Tholking, Tom & Cheryl Ritter, Bob & Gail Ulrich, John Fischer, Larry Lovejoy, Gail Deatherage, Merrill & Diane Glos, Jim & Deana Smith, Joe & Chris Berry, Bill & Shelia Wright, Bill Berry, Steve & Karen Thoerner, Tom Collins, Mike LaBar, Allen Leach, Neil Jones.
- III.    Guests:** Mickey Kemper, riding buddy of host Steve Thoerner, plus neighbors Mike and his brother Dave.
- IV.    Treasurer's Report:** Tom Ritter presented the Treasurer's report. The balance in the checking account as of the prior meeting was \$ 1931. Income from dues and split the pot added \$173. The balance as of this April 12, 2008 meeting is \$2104.00.

Tom reported 36 paid memberships for 2008. A copy of the treasurer's report is available by contacting Tom Ritter.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented by voice vote.

- V. Old Business:      Logo Redesign:** A new proposed club logo submitted by Mike LaBar was reviewed. No action was taken.

**Club Rally in North Carolina:** The Iron Horse Motorcycle Campground is booked for October 3 & 4, 2008. Tom Ritter announced that a block of rooms has been set aside for our members.

**Club Outing in Hocking Hills** No action was taken on this issue.

**2008 Riding Contest.** International sounding cities will be the focus...finding towns with names such as Paris, London and Vevey in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky. Take a photo showing your bike with the town name in the background. Jim Smith and Mike LaBar are making up the rules.

## **Minutes of the Feb. 9 meeting...continued**

### **VI. New Business:**

A general discussion of **group riding rules** was held. Since Karl Perry did not show up for the scheduled lashing, John Fischer, Vice President of Rides, was taken to the Thoerner garage for a thorough flogging.

### **VII. Announcements:**

- 1.** Bob Ulrich reminded members that the MOA mileage contest starts April 12. Forms must be postmarked by May 11.
- 2.** Tom Raybuck announced that the 35th annual Mini Rally will include both a pig roast AND hot dogs, not to mention free entertainment. Fair weather is promised for the May 2-4 event. Bring your tent and \$20 to Sturgis, MI.
- 3.** John Fischer announced Trials Riding event in Saquitchae, TN on April 25 & 26. Even if you could find this place, by the time you read it here the event is over.
- 4.** George Nyktas announced that the RA Rally is June 19-22 in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. George noted that he was officially elected Treasurer of the RA, that the RA board is complete, the organization is healthy and financially strong.

### **VIII. Adjournment** by unanimous consent at 8:55 PM

(Following adjournment, Shelia Wright won the \$35 Split the Pot drawing, and members and guests were entertained by Karen Thoerner and a group of 4 musicians, including Karen's 2 brothers. A delightful mixture of songs was offered, including patriotic, country, gospel and bluegrass, many of which were original compositions.)

In 2007 my first ride of the season was the GCBMW club breakfast and ride in April (around April fools day I believe). That ride turned into a mishap as I ran off the road trying to catch up to my fellow club members. I hadn't ridden in quite a few months and apparently was a little rusty. After breakfast at Pearl's, Jim and I decided to go on the ride since it was going through Oxford and not too far from home. I fell behind the group for some reason and when I realized that everyone in front of me was out of sight I accelerated to catch up and went hot into an ugly curve and right off the road (I didn't want to run over Jim who had slowed down for the curves). Everyone came back to help retrieve my bike from the muddy field below the road. John Fischer is still amazed that I didn't have a "meltdown". I rode home and Jim spent the next few weeks working with the insurance and MCW trying to determine the extent of damage.

Once it was determined that the bike was totaled (how did that happen?) we were on a search for a replacement. The insurance check wasn't enough to buy another 2003 R1150R even if one had been available in this state or any of the surrounding states and we had plans for the RA rally in Ashville, NC so we bought a brand X motorcycle. My new bike worked out great. It has enough power to keep up with the traffic (if I choose to) and I can actually get both feet down when I stop. The hard part was the slight case of nerves that occurred when going into a curve and when my ride partner got out of sight. I did manage to ride a few thousand miles last year.

Today was my first motorcycle ride of the 2008 season. I know it's almost the end of April but I have legitimate reasons for not riding before; I was tired from working all day, it looked like rain, it was too cold, I was out of town, we had out of town guests or I wasn't in the mood.

I can't remember when my last ride was but it has been at least five months. That means I needed a little time to get reacquainted with the bike and my skill level. We took a nice short ride to Yellow Springs for lunch at Young's Dairy. The promise of food always helps. The weather was nice but a jacket felt good, the traffic was light and the roads were uncomplicated.

My first ride of 2008 was only ninety-five miles but it was nice to be out. You probably won't see me on many (if any) club rides this year but I will be riding. See you at breakfast (sometimes), meetings and rallies.

Deana (ed. Pronounced "Deena")

## Schedule of 2008 Club Meetings

Date	Location/Hosted By
<b>May 10</b>	<b>Merrill &amp; Diane Glos</b>
<b>June 7</b>	<b>Shelia &amp; Bill Wright</b>
<b>July 12</b>	<b>Gail Deatherage &amp; Larry Lovejoy</b>
<b>August 9</b>	<b>Allen &amp; Debby Smith</b>
<b>September 13</b>	<b>Moto GP in Indianapolis</b>
<b>October 11</b>	<b>Tom &amp; Joni Raybuck</b>
<b>November 8</b>	
<b>December 13</b>	

If you are willing to host one of the remaining available meetings, please advise Club President Bob Ulrich, or make your interest known at a club meeting.

*"When you step on the brakes, your life is in your foot's hands."*

**George Carlin**

# 2008 GCBMW Membership List

*Allen Leach  
Jeffrey E. Lemkuhl  
Chris & Anne Long  
Larry Lovejoy & Gail Deathridge  
Thomas T. Masson  
Walt & Judy Mills  
Ken Norris*

*Geore Nyktas & Mary Tholking  
Karl Perry  
Heny & Mary Pierce  
Doug Porter  
Gary R. Price  
Eric & Robin Puleo  
John Rapp  
Tom & Joni Raybuck  
Dale & Mary Reckman  
Tom & Cheryl Ritter  
Peter C. Roberts  
Tia Robertson  
John Sires  
Jim & Deana Smith  
Allan & Debbie Smith  
Steve & Karen Thoerner  
Ralph & Terri Todd  
Bob & Gail Ulrich  
Robert Utz  
Charles Van Skaik  
Chuck Waldemayer  
Mabel Wessendarp  
John Wharton  
Shawn Wilson  
Bill & Sheila Wright*

**Thanks to all who have renewed their club membership for 2008.**

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

## Proposal for new Club Shield



If you stand back about 15 feet and squint you can see the image of a bike and rider in the upper portion of this shield proposed by Mike LaBar. It is carefully calculated to comply with BMW regulations on the use of the sacred corporate Roundel. Behind the image of bike & rider is a map which Mike says we can use to find the way home after a few cold ones.

# A Mix of Bikes

article by Jim smith

Several of us in our club have more than one brand of bike. There are probably many reasons for this, and every owner will have their own, unique reason.

Few of us started out on a BMW, although a couple of us did. Most, like myself, started with a much smaller bike, especially if you began riding like I did, way back in the late 50's, or early 60's. Back then, it was very common for dealers of every brand to have bikes ranging from 50cc to the big bikes, which in those days was considered to be a 650. And the smaller bikes were very common on the street in nearly every community. They were available, and we bought em.

There's something to be said for light weight and maneuverability. It makes for a very confidence inspiring ride. Plus the added bonus of great gas mileage. Many of those little bikes gave 70-80 mpg, sometimes as much as 125 mpg, ridden moderately. Of course most of us youngsters didn't ride that way, but we still got decent gas mileage. But at around .30 cents to the gallon, who cared ?

As the years went by, the smaller bikes disappeared from the showrooms, until we get to where we're at today. You can still find 250's, but you have to hunt long and hard to find anything smaller. Maybe just as well, as today's traffic moves faster than it used to and anything smaller just can't keep up.

With us losing our BMW dealer, many of us went looking for some other brand in order to have a local dealer to service our bikes. And I think rightly so. Some people simply don't have the time or expertise to work on their own bikes, and even if you did, the computerized nature of today's bikes makes it hard to do even minor work on them. I still do my own valve adjustments and fluid changes, and I have the ability to do a few other minor things, but if a real problem crops up, I too must resort to a dealer. My Guzzi has to be taken a minimum of over a hundred miles to get any work done, just like our BMW's do.

Luckily, today's bikes don't require a great deal of work to be done. So it's easier to do without a dealer. That's why I'm not reluctant to purchase a brand that we have no local dealer for. And that's why I have more than one bike. If one has to be in the shop, I still have a bike to ride.

And BMW is NOT the only good bike out there. Today, they are all much better than they were fifty years ago, or even twenty years ago.

So don't feel too bad about jumping brands. There are good reasons to do so.