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October 2011 Newsletter

BMW Motorcycle Club
Greater Cincinnati



Special Vehicles

By Jim Smith

Have you ever had some special vehicle, and didn't know it at the time? You know, the ones that we took for granted when we owned them, but now that we're older and looking back, they really were something a little out of the ordinary.

My first car immediately springs to mind. When I got it at about age 18, it was just an old car. Something that I could afford to buy and would be basic transportation until I could afford something better.

What I got, was a 1951 Chevrolet Bel Air, two door hardtop, with a standard 6 cylinder engine and a Powerglide transmission. It had a dark metallic brown top with a light yellowish colored bottom, which was the original paint job. This would have been in 1963. And to me, it was an "Old Mans Car", which I almost didn't want to be seen in. I paid \$175 for it, and it ran great. But it wasn't something that a fellow wanted to go showing to his classmates. I wanted a car with a V8, stick shift and a spiffy paint job. And of course, I wanted those new "Mag Wheels" that had just appeared.

But my job at the local Arvin plant was paying just above minimum wage. I think I started at \$1.15 per hour. Not exactly big money. They gave us raises about every couple of months, a nickel at a time. It didn't take me long to figure out that this job was going nowhere fast.

But soon, I managed to save up enough money to purchase a used 3 speed tranny, a Hurst Mystery Shifter, and the clutch and bellhousing assembly that I needed to make my car a stick shift. My Dad, being a professional Chevy mechanic, helped me to change it over. Boy was I a happy kid. I soon rounded up the parts to make up a nice set of dual exhausts, and I had the exhaust manifold split, and with glass-pak mufflers, it sounded great.

Next, I got the body shop man at the garage to agree to paint it for me after hours, for free. I did all the sanding and taping and priming, and he shot the metallic gold paint for me. Now that was more like it. Beginning to look like a hot rod. I also managed to save up enough to buy two mag wheels from Sears for the front of it. It was complete, and something that I was really proud of.

Then, a few years ago, I was reading about those early 50's Chevy's, and Au-



tomobile Quarterly magazine was explaining about how special the BelAir was, with certain extra's that the other models in that years lineup didn't have.

And just recently, reading an article or two about the new 6 cylinder BMW motorcycle engines, they explained about how superb the inline 6 cylinder design is, with it's crank throws spaced evenly at 120 degrees, which gives a good balance to the engine. Earlier, 4 cylinder designs were not as smooth, having only 2 throws on the crank, two pistons up and two pistons down. Not a bad engine, just not as sophisticated as the 6 cylinder design.

When I owned the car, I never really thought about how smooth the engine was, and how easy it was to work on and how reliable it was. But now, fifty years later, it suddenly dawned on me about just what I had and didn't know it. Man, I had a BelAir !! A car that a lot of people couldn't afford when they first appeared in the showrooms. And oh boy, today, would I love to have that car back, exactly like it was the day I bought it, with it's brown and cream paint job, and stock hub caps and a perfectly working Powerglide Transimission.

Turning now to two wheels, I've owned a few motorcycles that were sort of offbeat, and again, some that a lot of people aspire to, but never have.

When I got my first Honda, a 61 model, 250 Dream, probably in 1965, there was no dealer in my town, so they were really unique at the time. But I DID realize this at the time.

Several years went by, as well as a few mundane motorcycles. I never realized I could afford more than one bike at a time, but then one day, while talking to my better half, she said I could just go buy a second motorcycle. Wow, what a revelation ! Two bikes at one time ! Why not three or five.? And soon, I did have that many. Not new ones of course, but just something I always wanted to try.

And keeping up with current events in the motorcycling world, I knew I wanted to own a Honda GB500, which was taking on "Cult Status". I found one and bought it, probably paying as much or more than it cost new. But I saw the desire for it after owning it a while. What a neat little bike. Squint your eyes and you could almost see a Velocette sitting there.

My SR500 Yamaha was another bike that was "different", and is just now attaining that "Cult Status". Another in the same box is the Kawasaki W650. No one seemed to want these bikes when they were being imported, but now, they sell for as much as when new, provided you can find one.

And the MuZ Skorpion Traveller was a beautiful little bike that I had shipped to me from a New York dealer who had it sitting on his showroom floor for three years. It probably handled better and had better brakes than any bike I've ever owned.

And of course I had 2 BMW R100RT's, which at the time they were new, were the top of the line bike for BMW in the airhead series. I couldn't believe that I could actually own a top of the line bike. They were superb machines.

My first BMW was a 1956 R50/2 I bought for \$200. If I had it back now, it would probably bring \$5000.

Deana's R1150R was a fairly low volume bike too, but was really a nice mount.

And I just sold an 88 Honda GT650 Hawk, which is also attaining "Cult Status". They're not bringing big money yet, but are somewhat hard to find. Some guys want them for racing, as they have a few features that were sort of ahead of their time such as a perimeter frame, single sided swingarm and a water cooled V-twin engine.

I'm sure most of you have had some pretty special machines in your lives, and probably some you wish you had back. But the bike I miss most and wish I had back was my 1975 R75/6. A clean, simple, easy to work on bike, that was about as reliable as they come and one that I enjoyed riding. Maybe most guys wouldn't think of this bike as anything special, but to me, it was.

September in New York

By Mike LaBar

Kim finished her last chemo treatment at the end of August, so we packed up the rv, and the dogs, and set off to upstate New York in the Adirondacks to Minerva. This is where my great great grandfather, Rev. Frank LaBar came to settle when his doctor told him to go north from the city to the Adirondacks for healing from his ailments. Frank later gave most of the land to the town so that they could build a dam and create a manmade lake about 100 acres. His sons and their sons have built a vacation spot capturing the ADK experience with 16 rustic log cabins around the lake. Most folks that visit have been coming since childhood. My brother liked it so much he moved up there. My Aunt also has a cabin on the lake and that's where we stayed for 2 weeks before staying at John's cabin for a week. The rv performed flawlessly except for sucky gas mileage but a nice way to bring the 3 dogs. We spent the night at a service area on I-90 with the truckers, but other than that, it mostly sat after we reached our destination. I see a trailer for a bike in my future.



About the second week I started fishing in the mornings. It's so peaceful and quiet. The only noises are the birds and nature. The cool mornings and warm water made smoke drift on the water. This was my alone time before Kim and the dogs got up. With a dozen night crawlers I started fishing. The artificial bait had not been working, but the worms did. I caught a few bluegills and threw them back. My light weight fishing gear makes these small fish feel big. I watch a beaver work the shoreline and actually swam under the dock I am standing on. Damn. No camera. After he passes the dock he gives a big slap on the water with his tail. There were ducks, geese, eagles, and a couple of great blue herons.

I caught a perch and as I was taking the hook out, I noticed this great blue heron just behind me in the marsh. So I throw it his way and he just stands there in the water and watches it swim away. I continue fishing and this bird is not moving. I catch a bluegill and this time I throw it up on the bank. That bird went right to the fish and ate it up. I worm up and throw out my line and after a few minutes another bluegill. This time I throw it up on the dock and I'll be damned if he didn't jump up on to the dock and eat that fish. He's now on the dock with me waiting for my next catch. He was being very patient while the fish were eating my worms. Finally, I caught another perch. This time I throw the fish in the row boat and he jumps in the boat after it. The next fish was the coolest. By now, I am talking to him, apologizing what a bad fisherman I was. He was standing on the gunnel of the boat watching my bobber while I'm watching him. I see him lift his head as the bobber goes under the water. He definitely sees the fish in the clear water. I hook into a bluegill right next to the boat and before I could get the fish out of the water, he went in after it and stabbed it with his 6 inch beak, while jarring the hook from the fish's mouth. What a spectacle! I'll never see anything like that ever again. I had to get my camera. With the worm still on the hook I cast out and put the pole down to go up to the cabin. When I return, he is standing on the dock. I approach and he flies off to a stump in the lake and watches me fish. I catch a bluegill and yell out for "Blue" as I have already named him. I toss a whopper into the boat and got my camera ready. Sure enough he flies over lands by the boat, hops in and chows down. He stayed in the boat and waited patiently for the next fish to be handed to him. I fished until I had no more worms and old Blue stayed right with me. All together he ate a dozen fish in 4 hours. He had to be

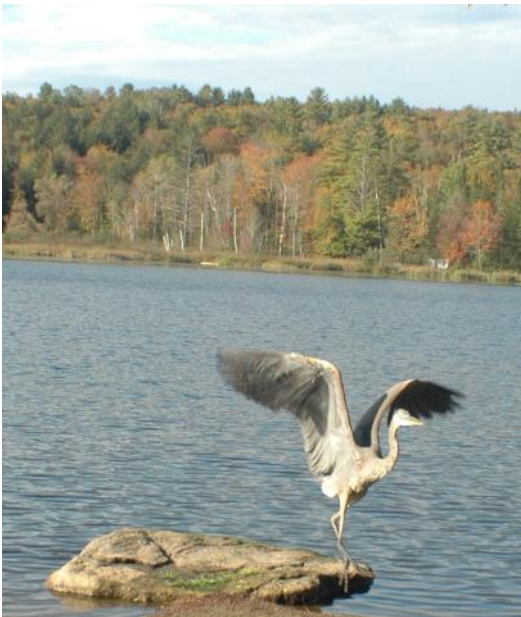


ready for a nap. I couldn't wait to tell Kim & John about my new fishing buddy. I told John about it and he didn't believe me until I showed him pictures. Normally, Great Blue Herons are very skittish of humans. This one has obviously trained another human before.

Or maybe I was his first... Nah.

On my beer run to the general store, I make sure I get another dozen night crawlers for the next morning. That next morning I throw out my line and within five minutes, Blue has landed close by. I hook into something and yell, "Fish on". I throw it up on the bank and the day's meals commence. Three hours later, his belly is full with a dozen more fish. I caught and fed him Bluegill, Perch, Bass, Bullheads, and even a baby Pike. The lake is in great shape as far as the fishing and wild life. Mostly because there are no motor boats allowed on this small spring fed lake. This was my nature time with Blue, spoiling him rotten.

At one point after leaving my line out there for an hour or so, I came to find Blue tangled in my line along the shoreline. I got into the boat and slowly approach him hoping he hadn't got hooked. I get to him and there is no line coming from his mouth so I know he hasn't eaten the hook, but he was tangled and squawking and in distress. I grab his head and untangle his wing and foot, turning him over to finally free him. He seemed grateful to be freed and I felt bad that I may have harmed him. No more fish that day and no leaving my line. I was relieved to see him down at the dock the next day ready to eat fish. My morning fishing buddy found me every morning for the next ten days and ate very well. The last few days I slowed the feeding pace as Blue was taking a risk by getting so close to us humans. Now John is feeding him. Blue will have to fly south sometime as it gets colder. If he's still around for Thanksgiving, John may drive him down south.



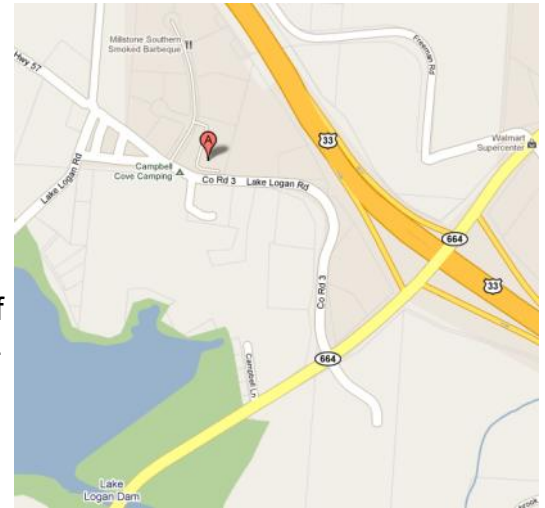
It was a great vacation, but it's always good to be home. Kim is feeling much better, the dogs want to take another rv trip and I did see a BMW motorcycle up there in the ADK.



GCBMWC 2011 Autumn Weekend Club Ride/ Gathering

We will be viewing autumn colors while exploring the back roads in the Hocking Hills Ohio area the weekend of **October 21-23**.

Located very near the Wayne National Forest, with hundreds of miles of curvy roads, great scenery all around, and a large variety of non-riding activities, this location should be fun. Since this year's event is about a month later than years past, with the possibility of some cool nights, we thought the best option would be to stay warm and dry. So, base camp for this year's gathering will be the **Holiday Inn Express Hotel in Logan, Ohio** (<http://www.hiexpress.com/hotels/us/en/logan/loah/hoteldetail>).



The HIE has set aside a block of twenty rooms for us, with a rate of approximately \$100 per night plus taxes. **Call 740-385-7700**. The HIE is located at **12916 Grey Street, Logan, Ohio, 43138**. A full breakfast is included in the room rate. And, Millstone BBQ (<http://www.millstonebbq.com/>) is within walking distance from the hotel.

These are the finest most challenging roads in Ohio. If you like curves and colors, this weekend will not disappoint.



Curvy roads, Good friends

Is the rider in the accompanying picture jumping for joy at the sight of a curvy road? Or, is he warning his riding friends of a decreasing radius curve. You decide.



Regardless, we hope you decide to join your riding friends at the GCBMWC 2011 Autumn Weekend Club Ride & Gathering. Come join; Tom & Cheryl, Neil & Marsha, John & Barbara, John S, George & Mary, Bob & Gail, Larry & Gail, Scot & Lisa, and hopefully many others the weekend of October 21-23, 2011 in the Hocking Hills area southeast of Columbus, Ohio.

Most of the above have made their reservations at the Holiday Inn Express Hotel in Logan, Ohio (<http://www.hiexpress.com/hotels/us/en/logan/loaoh/hoteldetail>). One couple found a lake side cabin.

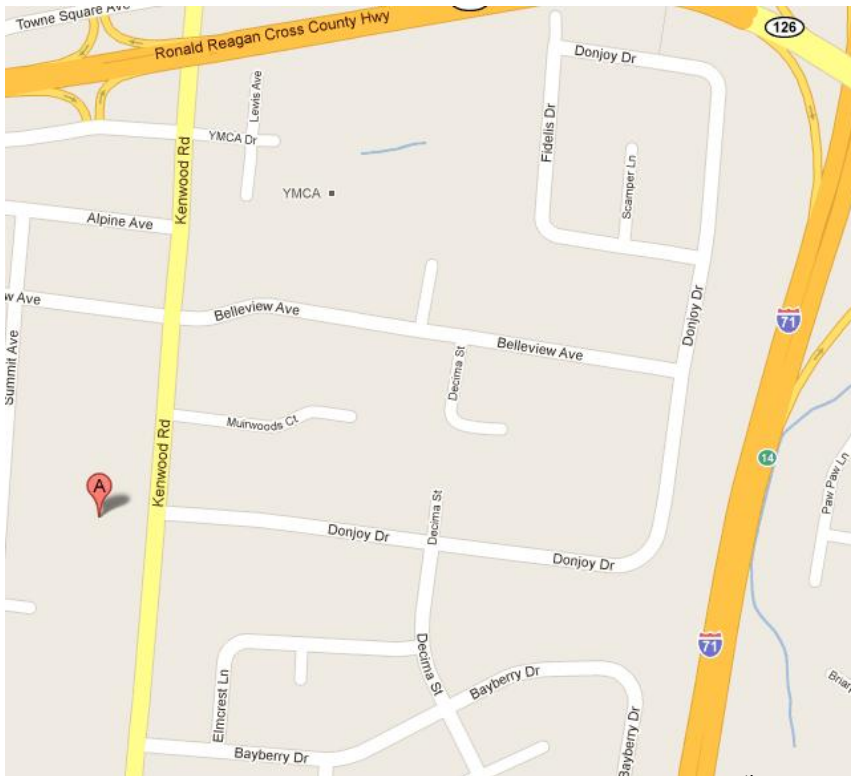
The deadline for group reservations was September 15th. Call 740-385-7700, to see if they have rooms available. Be sure to mention that you're part of the Greater Cincinnati BMW Motorcycle Club group when making your reservation. The HIE is located at 12916 Grey Street, Logan, Ohio, 43138. A full breakfast is included in the room rate.

Fall colors, curvy roads, and fun conversation with good friends, we hope to enjoy it all in Hocking Hills. So plan your riding routes and check those tires. We looking forward to seeing you there!

A Web site for finding riding routes in the area; www.sundaymorningrides.com/road/147041/

A Web site for viewing non-riding activities in the area; www.hockinghills.com/activities.html





The October meeting will be held on Saturday the 8th at the home of Merrill & Diane Glos at **8901 Kenwood Road in Blue Ash.**

The grill will be hot at 6:30pm. This will be the last meeting before the club's October ride/gathering in Hocking Hills, Ohio the weekend of the 21st thru 23rd. Perhaps some of the meeting attendees will bring some maps with riding routes in the Hocking Hills area.

Meeting Schedule for 2011



Sunday Ride
October 2 9:00 am
 Breakfast at

Colonial Cottage
 3140 Dixie Highway, Erlanger KY
 41018

- 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..... Scot & Lisa Friedman
- July 9th..... Joe & Chris Berry (BBQ Contest)
- August 20th..... Jesse & Eric
- September 10th..... George Nyktas & Mary Tholking
- October 8th..... Merrill & Diane Glos
- November 12th..... Tom & Joni Raybuck
- December 3rd..... Holiday Party Germania

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

A Snapshot Back

Who is this guy?
 Last year he was a member.
 Where was this taken?
 What date was this photo taken?



Minutes of the GCBMWC Meeting

September 10, 2011

Meeting held at the home of George Nyktas and Mary Tholking in Clarksville, Ohio - called to order at 7:40 PM by President Tom Ritter.

Board Members Present: Tom Ritter, Debbie Smith, and Tom Raybuck. Mike LaBar was traveling in the RV with spouse Kim. **Guest(s) Present:** RA President Debbi Harbour and her husband Mel.

Minutes of the prior meeting were read by the President and accepted as presented.

Treasurer Debbie Smith reported that the club treasury held \$1,341.58 at the beginning of the period. Income was received from the 50-50 (Split-the-Pot)(STP) drawing (\$28) and membership dues (\$15) from new member Ron Gorman. Debbie reported that the club now has 66 members. The treasury had a balance of \$1,384.58 at the end of the period. Debbie's report was accepted by voice vote.

Old Business – President Ritter thanked those who had contributed to the September newsletter. The September club ride from Another Great Scott in Amelia through Felicity to Higginsport was mentioned. Mr. Ritter also reminded members of the Christmas Party on December 3rd at Germania – cost this year is \$35.00 per person – discussed possibly collecting money in advance this year. Need to check with Barry G at Germania on a projector and if we simply bring our own media or a computer. Our previous bartenders Carl & Millie are very glad to hear that we are coming back to Germania this year. President Ritter offered club business cards to any members who may need some. Attendees were reminded of the need for officer nominations, in particular VP. Tom Raybuck's term ends this year.

New Business: Mr. Ritter reminded the members of the deadline for reservations at the Holiday Inn Express in Hocking Hills Ohio for the weekend of October 21-23. There was discussion regarding a dual-sport or adventure ride during the Hocking Hills weekend. Members discussed checking into whether Burr Oak State Park would be a good location for future club visits to this area.

The October meeting will be held at the home of Merrill & Diane Glos. Merrill had asked Tom Ritter to relay that Merrill & Diane will have brats, metts, and burgers and the grill will be hot around 6:30.

The Donauschwaben Oktoberfest on the weekend of Oct 1st & 2nd was mentioned, including the car and bike show on Sunday the 2nd (10:00 AM to 3:00 PM).

October ride needs a leader (Tom Raybuck will be on vacation). (Steve Thoerner has since volunteered.)

Samples of new club name badges were circulated for the members to see. Scot & Lisa Friedman will be working on a source and pricing for new name badges.

Members in attendance; 1) voted in favor of offering Eric Ratermann and Jessie Baublitz \$30.00 to offset a small part of their expense for the August meeting, 2) were advised that credit for our new logo design has been added to the club's web site. Contact information is now listed on our site for Dohn Roush and Doro Design, and 3) learned that Jim Wilson passed away on September 9th. Jim was a friend of riding and was frequently seen taking pictures at Autobahn Craftwerks.

Thanks were expressed to George & Mary for hosting and for the three tasty varieties of chili. After adjournment, the STP drawing was held - Allan Smith won (again). The RA (Debbi Harbour) brought doors prizes (jacket, shirt, and hat). Winners were chosen by drawing from the remaining STP tickets.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM. Minutes recorded by Cheryl Ritter.

October 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					

Rallies & Events



November 2011

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	1
13	14	15	16	17	18	1
20	21	22	23	24	25	2
27	28	29	30			

Tuesdays—Bike night at the Comet

Wednesdays-Bike night at Quaker Steak & Lube Milford

To see a full listing from the MOA Calendar click [HERE](#)

Website of the Month

<http://www.gizmag.com/>

December 2011

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	1
11	12	13	14	15	16	1
18	19	20	21	22	23	2
25	26	27	28	29	30	3

Missouri
October 7 - 9, 2011
36th Falling Leaf Rally
Gateway Riders BMW Club #22

Virginia
October 7 - 9, 2011
Beemers and Biplanes Rally
BMW Motorcycle Club of Hampton Roads #73

Florida
October 13 - 16, 2011
BikeToberfest 2011

Texas
October 14 - 16, 2011
41st South Central BMW Owners Reunion
BMW Club of Houston #12

Who is this guy?
Jerry Cummins—Past President

Last year he was a member.
2006

What event was this?
Test riding Jerry's next bike at MCW

What date was this photo taken?
1/21/2007

STORE HOURS

Monday	Out Riding
Tuesday	9:00AM - 6:00PM
Wednesday	9:00AM - 6:00PM
Thursday	9:00AM - 8:00PM
Friday	9:00AM - 5:00PM
Saturday	9:00AM - 4:00PM
Sunday	Out Riding

MOTOHIO
european motorbikes