



**"Carpe Viam" - - - "Seize the Road"**

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

September 1, 2008

**September!**  
It just doesn't get any  
sweeter than this!  
Let's go for a ride!



GCBMWC  
on the Web  
[www.GCBMWC.org](http://www.GCBMWC.org)

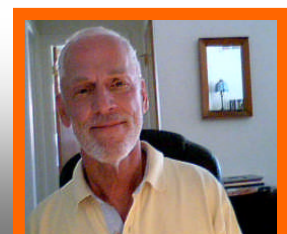
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***Tenth Issue by New Editor!***

Blah, blah, blah.

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, Sept. 7

**John Fischer, VP of Rides sez: Meet at the Harrison, Ohio, Perkins Restaurant on New Haven Rd. Perkins is just south of I-74 exit #1. We meet at 9 am for breakfast and we go for a ride at 10.**

**I plan to ride out to Metamora, IN and through a few “international towns” in hopes of increasing my chances of winning the annual contest. Of course Messrs. LaBar and/or Smith will have to certify the towns as qualified or not. I’m thinking of Hamburg, Kingston, and St. Maurice-all in Indiana near Oldenburg. The total ride length is about 80 miles and will end at I-74 near Batesville, IN.**

**I hope to see you there.**

**John F. (513) 385-1497**

## Next Club Meeting Saturday Sept. 6!

At the home of John & Barbara Fischer!  
Cincinnati, Ohio



World travelers Barbara (left) and John Fischer, hosts of September 6 meeting.

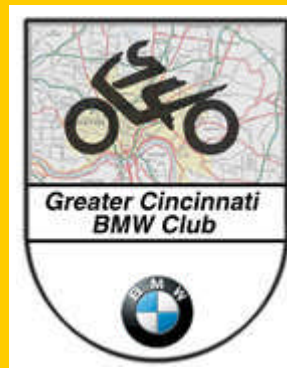
5109 Pebblevalley Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45252

September 6, @ 7PM

Mark your calendar now for this slight change to our typical schedule. This month the meeting takes place on the 6th and the Sunday ride is on the 7th.

Bring a dish of veggies, a dessert, or just show up empty-handed and mooch. All of the above are acceptable behaviors at the Fischer home.

For directions check the club web site for a map or call John F. @ (513) 385-1497



# Guests Page



Dan & Lauria Finazzo, looking fit in a photo taken when they were guests at the club's August 3 breakfast & ride. Just 2 weeks later Dan suffered a heart attack (no bike accident) while en route to the Curve Cowboy Reunion with his BMW K1200LT. [www.curvecowboyreunion.com/](http://www.curvecowboyreunion.com/)

The latest news is that Dan is doing quite well.  
Doctors said his heart was not affected by the IHOP pancakes.



Eric Ratermann and Jesse Baublitz were guests at the GCBMWC meeting at Smith's house in Ross. Jessie rides a BMW K75 and is active in Women On Wheels.

Eric rides a BMW R90S and has been helping to prep a 1955 BMW R50 for top speed runs at Bonneville Salt Flats. The goal is to hit 126 mph at Bonneville, which would set a new record for 500 cc Vintage bikes in the "altered frame" class.

# Rallies & Events

## September, 2008

- **September 5-7**
- **Beemers in the Bluegrass**
- **Near Frankfort, KY**
- [www.bluegrassbeemers.org/evente.htm](http://www.bluegrassbeemers.org/evente.htm)
  
- **September 5-7**
- **Wisconsin Dells Rally**
- **Wisconsin, Dummy**
- [www.wiscbmwclub.dom](http://www.wiscbmwclub.dom)
  
- **September 20**
- **What Happens in West Chester**
- **Stays in West Chester**
- **West Chester, OH**
- [Bucksinohio@aol.com](mailto:Bucksinohio@aol.com)
- 
  
- **September 26-28**
- **Hoosier Beemer Rally**
- **N. Vernon, IN**
- [www.hoosierbeemers.org](http://www.hoosierbeemers.org)
- 
  
- **September 26-28**
- **Whitecap Fall Color Ride**
- **Montreal, WI (near da UP)**
- [www.skiwhitecap.com](http://www.skiwhitecap.com)
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### **Beemers in the Bluegrass** Rally.

This is the 15th annual rally here. Two nights camping and three days riding in the beautiful Bluegrass State. Saturday Breakfast and Supper, Door prizes and a poker run. For more details call Roy 859-223-5459

Not an official rally, but on September 20th the Battle Creek BMW Motorcycle Club ventures to the Raybuck home for **“What Happens In West Chester Stays in West Chester.”**

All riders are welcome. Call or write Tom Raybuck for details (Bucksinohio@aol.com)

22nd Annual **Hoosier Beemer Rally**, Sept. 26 at Muscatatuck County Park, one mile south of US 50 on Indiana Rt. 7. Hot showers, swap meet, bike show with awards, door prizes. The rally fee is only \$15.00  
Such a deal these Hoosiers!





**Minutes from the August 9, 2008  
Meeting of the GCBMWC  
at the Ross, Ohio home of  
Debbie and Allen Smith**

*(Prior to the meeting, attendees were treated to some nice barbecue sandwiches, cole slaw, chips & dips, veggies, beverages and angel food cake with strawberries and whipped topping.)*

*Vice President John Fischer called the meeting to order at 7:52 PM.*

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

**Members present:** *Debbie & Allen Smith, Tom Raybuck, Mary & Henry Pierce, George Nyktas, Mary Tholking, Jeff Lemkuhl, Tom & Cheryl Ritter, Joe & Chris Berry, Jim & Deana Smith, John & Barbara Fischer, Neil Jones.*

**Guests present:** *Jessie Baublitz, Eric Ratermann, Marsha O'Conner.*

*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 \$2,228 and that the club had income of \$62 and one expenditure of \$200 (deposit for Germania Park Holiday party) making the August 9 balance \$2,090. The club has 40 paid members for 2008. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.*

**Old Business**

*Tom Ritter noted that several club members are riding to Indianapolis for MOTO GP in early September. Steve Thoerner has a friend living there with camping space and a creek available to our club.*

*The October 3-4 club event at Iron Horse M/C Campground is pretty well set up, with several members tent camping and several others in rooms. If you would like to go, notify the campground at [info@ironhorseNC.com](mailto:info@ironhorseNC.com) to see what accommodations are available.*

*A \$200 deposit has been paid for the December 13 Holiday Party to be held at the Hall and Biergarten at Germania Park. The Hall will provide a selection of 7 beers, plus wine. All club members are encouraged to save this date and to bring guests. Check their web site at [www.germaniasociety.com/rentals/klubhaus.html](http://www.germaniasociety.com/rentals/klubhaus.html)*

## **New Business**

*No new business was presented.*

## **Announcements**

*Members were encouraged to hold kind thoughts about John Fischer as he goes into surgery on August 12 for pacemaker installation.*

*Announcement was made of the Octoberfest at Germania Park, to be held Aug. 22-24, 2008*

*Debbie Smith introduced guest Eric Ratermann who described his project with Lenny, owner of Autobahn Craftworks, preparing a 1955 R50 for a September trip to Bonneville Salt Flats for speed trials, much like the World's Fastest Indian. The bike needs to go 126 mph to set a record for the fastest 500cc Vintage bike in the "altered frame" class.*

*Tom Raybuck announced that riders of the Battle Creek BMW Club are coming to Raybuck's home Sept. 20th for a Las Vegas themed meeting called "What Happens in West Chester Stays in West Chester." Tom and Joni are going all out with plans and preparations. GCBMWC members are invited, even encouraged to participate.*

*George Nyktas announced that the 2009 RA National Rally will be held in the Adirondacks town of Flux, NY. Putting an end to the mystery surrounding this issue, George stated emphatically, "The exact location for this rally is in Flux."*

*A motion to adjourn was made at 8:30. Motion passed by substantial margin.*

*[After adjournment the 50-50 drawing was held wherein host Allen Smith drew his own ticket and won. The Rules Committee is looking into this and other irregularities recently associated with the 50-50 drawing.]*

*Next meeting, Sept. 6 at the home of Barbara & John Fischer.*

*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  
Merrill & Diane Glos  
Bill Hanna  
Neil Jones  
J. Chris Katzer  
Mike & Kim LaBar  
Allen Leach  
Jeffrey E. Lemkuhl  
Chris & Anne Long  
Larry Lovejoy & Gail Deatherage*

*Curt Nichols  
Ken & Helen Norris  
George Nyktas & Mary Tholking  
Karl Perry  
Henry & 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](mailto:Tritter5@cinci.rr.com)**



## Schedule of 2008 Club Meetings

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

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.



# Very Boring Rally II

## Aerostich Rally in Duluth, MN

### “Ted Simon, Clement Salvadori & Mechanical Problems”

By Chris Katzer

Aerostich, which manufactures high quality riding gear, hosted its 25th anniversary in Duluth, MN- dubbed "The Very Boring Rally II." Hands down, it was the best rally I've ever attended. Although there were some technical difficulties.

I tried to recruit people to go, but Duluth is about 850 miles away. It's a long way to go for a long weekend. Finally, I decided I would buy my rally ticket online and go by myself if need be.

I had three motorcycles to choose from:

1995 BMW R1100 GS - it was running kind of funny  
1994 Honda VFR 750F - semi-sportbike that might get a little uncomfortable  
1993 Kawasaki KLR 650 - dual purpose bike set up for touring

The KLR seemed to be the best choice. I had put about 2500 miles on it since bringing it back from an eight year coma. I rode the bike virtually everyday to work and loved it. In the weeks preceding the rally, I prepped the bike changing the oil and tires, lubing the chain and so forth.

The Saturday before leaving, I decided to change the \$1 fuel filter. The tank was a little rusty; it was cheap insurance. While pulling on the old filter, I managed to snap the plastic fuel line carb fitting, effectively grounding the bike.

After much cursing, I had the local dealer overnight the part to arrive on Tuesday. That's the only way I could leave directly from work on Wednesday, as planned. The premium price paid off; I got the part and got the bike running. I loaded up the saddlebags, camping gear and misc parts.

As I left work, I noticed much more vibration than usual. By the time I had gone 70 miles to Greensburg, my hands were numb and I couldn't make a fist. Now I had three options:

1. Give up and go home
2. Keep going and hope it would get better over the next 780 miles
3. Go home and ride another bike

I really wanted to attend the rally to meet Ted Simon, the author of "Jupiter's Travels." In 1973, the 43 year old Englishman decided to ride a Triumph 500 around the world, even though he had no real riding experience. The book details his journey and in part, inspired me for my own travels. At the age of 70, he repeated the trip. If I wanted to meet him, there would be no time like the present.

So back home it was. The Honda was next in line. I wouldn't need a lot of the gear I brought for the KLR. No tire irons, tubes or slime for tubed tires- the Honda had tubeless tires. I said goodbye to my wife (again) and hit the road. By the time I had gotten to Greensburg a second time, I had ridden 210 miles. I made it west of Indianapolis and caught a hotel.



Chris Katzer, traveler, motorcyclist, GCBMWC member

Even though the route was a little longer than going through Chicago, I figured the headaches missed would be worth it. I took I-74 to I-39 North to I-94/90. From there, I jumped off on State Route 53 to get into Duluth.



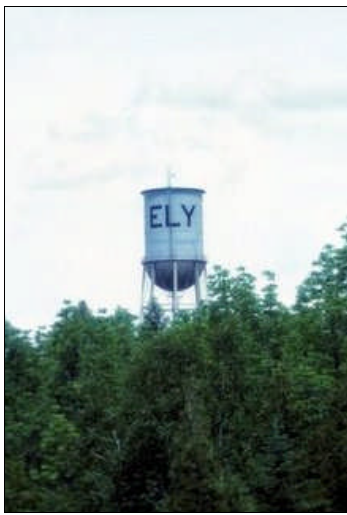
Chris Katzer at the "Welcome to Wisconsin" Center

Along the way, I met two women bikers from Northern KY who were going the same way. It's a small world. Turns out that we were the only people representing KY at the rally.

Getting in Thursday afternoon gave me a chance to get settled before the real activities started on Friday and Saturday. Already there were a hundred or so people. Some had taken off the previous week to slowly make their way there. Lots of different brands represented.

The rally guide listed about a half dozen or so rides around the Duluth area. I picked one the longer rides- a 250 mile loop up to Ely, MN. I had spent two summers there with my family as a kid. I wanted to go back up and check it out.

Then:



Now:



Ely sits on the "border waters" - a series of lakes between the United States and Canada. I picked up a newspaper so my dad could look into summer cabin rentals.

I made my way back to Spirit Mountain and saw Clement Salvadori, who is a long time writer for "Rider" magazine. Somebody I had read for years and years. He's a real person!



Clement Salvadori, author, adventurer, motorcyclist, wearing his trademark beret.

From there, I went into the chalet (Spirit Mountain is a ski resort in the winter) to catch a seminar on long distance riding. The original speaker was not on time, so two Iron Butt finishers improvised. Shown here are the backs of their heads. Paul and his wife.



And John.



John rode from Prudhoe Bay Alaska to Key West Florida in about 102 hours. His time was stretched a bit because of bad weather. If not for that, he felt that he could have beaten the standing 96 hour record. He had a heavily modified FJR- perfect for that kind of riding, according to him. He was very interesting and I talked with him for a while.



It was a tough journey, but a fantastic time. I got to hear, see and meet some of the motorcycling giants in the world. I enjoyed the cross section of bikers at the rally. All serious about riding, but not all stuck to one brand of bike. Would I do it again? Absolutely. But I'd put a new battery in my Honda first!

*This article has been edited (seriously shortened) to fit our newsletter. To read Chris Katzer's complete story, including the fascinating parts about Ted Simon, the Aerostich company and the second bike failure, log on to*

**<http://2008aerostichrally.blogspot.com/>**

*Ed.*



# BMW K1200S

## Is There Such a Thing As "Too Fast?"

By Joe Brown

Lifted From Wired magazine    [www.wired.com](http://www.wired.com)

I'm lucky enough to have driven some very fast cars. Like Ferrari. I've taken one of their vehicles well into the triple digits. Same goes for pretty much any other exotic—Porsche, Bentley, BMW, the list goes on. And I've NEVER even contemplated thinking that one of them was too fast. Until today. I just stepped off BMW's K1200R, one of the most powerful motorcycles in the world. I picked it up last night and almost died. Like, a thousand times. I can't pin down an exact 0-60 time—the number I see a lot is 2.8 seconds, but I think that's the figure for it's even more powerful, fully-faired brother, the K1200S, which, thanks to a more efficient air intake that's integrated into its fairing, has a 4-hp advantage over the R's 163. Yeah, that's right, I said 1-6-3. Horsepower. In a 529-lb bike. The Suzuki GSX1300R Hyabusa, unofficially touted as a 200-mph machine, has 175 ponies.



K1200S in Night Black

After about 20 minutes in traffic, I was astonished at the K-bike's violent acceleration—I drive an old Moto Guzzi, you know, when it runs. It was a pretty fast bike in its day. The BMW, however, pulled so hard my spine felt like it was about 2-inches shorter. But a figure kept popping into my head: 10,250. Where had I seen that number before? As I pulled into my driveway it hit me: that was the number of rpms where the bike achieved maximum horsepower. I hadn't cleared 5k on my ride home, which meant that I hadn't even begun to experience the bike's true

power. I backed out of my driveway and headed for the Golden Gate Bridge, then the Marin Headlands, and eventually one of my favorite roads (sorry, but I'm not revealing its location).

The bike is definitely at home on the highway, a Bahnstormer in the truest BMW fashion. Each gear, each twist of the throttle brings to mind a new clichéd comparison with a winged vehicle. I didn't spend a lot of time looking at the speedometer, because, well, you really have to pay attention when you can hit 60 in less than three seconds and 100 in about five. Once, when passing a semi that was choking up the two-lane road at 60mph, I did hazard a look down to see the needle touching 130. Yikes! BMW claims the K1200R can do 155, but the bike had plenty more to give at 130. I'll leave it to someone else to test this motorcycle's actual top speed. I'm happy piloting something slower... you know, like a Ferrari.

