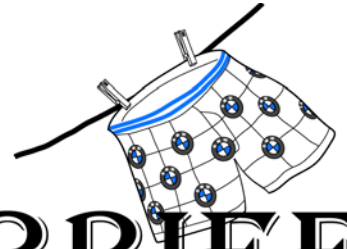




The Blackhawk

RIDERS' BRIEF



October 2008

October Meeting

In October we will have our Annual Meeting and Steak Fry, in place of our regular monthly meeting. It will be held at the Wooden Nickel in Stillman Valley, on Sunday, October 19th. For those of you who haven't attended one before, you broil your own steak over a charcoal fire, out back. There's a buffet of salads, desserts, potatoes, etc. It's quite a feast, and free to you if you pay your membership dues that day (or before). Be there before 4:00 p.m., when the coals will be ready!

This is also the meeting at which we elect our officers, so think about taking your turn in office, or be prepared to nominate others.

Scott Whitman Update

Gary Pasch, who is Scott Whitman's uncle, stopped by briefly at the September meeting. He said "Scott's doing great. The Kid's alright. Gotta love him. Our thanks to everyone for their thoughts and encouragement." You may recall that Scott was forced to run into the side of a van with his motorcycle, while in Madison this August. Fortunately his injuries were limited to a fractured ankle, thanks to protective equipment. Scott is now in college, at Illinois State, and doing well.

Rustic Roads Ride

Joe Misik's Rustic Roads Ride, on September 27, went well. On the ride were seven members (Joe Misik, Jerry Sandin, Ron Tippie, Paul Misik, Mike Schoelkopf, Bill Hedgspeth, and Chuck Piper) and two guests (Mike and Marlisa Gunderson). The weather couldn't have been nicer, and the roads were fantastic. Kudos to Joe for stringing together 10 of the best Rustic Roads, and the connecting roads were pretty scenic and challenging, too. See the photo from the ride, on the back page of this issue.

What is Our Club About?

—Paul Misik

At one of our recent monthly meetings, one of our members asked a very interesting question, "What is our club about?" Good one! Some of us have been members for many years and have taken for granted that newer members already know, and seek the same things in our club.

The "Official" Word

Our club brochure starts out this way:

Do you take your riding seriously? Do you own a BMW motorcycle?

Are you interested in getting together on a monthly basis with other serious motorcycle enthusiasts of all ages and riding experience? Although our club's brand of interest is BMW, serious riders of all brands are welcome! If this describes you, read on!

Inside the brochure, we go into a little more detail:

The Blackhawk Region BMW Association, Inc. was formed by ten BMW Motorcycle owners in 1974 to support the sport and safety of motorcycle touring. The Association is Chartered Club #35 with the BMW Motorcycle Owners Association; we also hold Charter #204 with the BMW Riders of America. Our Club is incorporated as a not-for-profit organization with the State of Illinois. Our group currently has over 70 members, both men and women, and our cycling skills range from novice to the highly experienced.

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Next Month's Meeting: Sun, October 19

Blackhawk Region BMW Association, Inc.
BMWMOA #35 BMWRA #204

Club Officers

President	Jeff Sluiter	815-877-4728 killjeff@sbcglobal.net
Vice President	Rolf Schoelkopf	815-943-5650 flierrof@cs.com
Secretary	Shirley Schoelkopf	(See Rolf, above)
Treasurer	Gloria Misik	815-885-3197 g.misik@comcast.net
Flea Market Chmn	Earve and Becky Brauer	815-962-8911 RockBMW2000@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor	Paul Misik	815-885-3197 p.misik@comcast.net
Tour Directors	Gary Akerman	815-623-6447 Gaker73920@aol.com
	Thierry Leonard	815-873-8086 thierry662@yahoo.com
	Joe Misik	262-442-1217 (cell) superhawkpilot@yahoo.com
	Paul Misik	(See above)



they liked to trade “war stories” of rides they’d taken, but they also talked about their families, their summers up north, plans for retirement, and a whole lot more. In the winter, when most of us give our bikes a much-deserved rest, we got together for club breakfasts nearly every month.

Why We Do What We Do

It’s this sense of “family,” and caring, that’s been behind everything we do, whether that’s to pull together for our annual Flea Market/MotoExpo, or send a card to a member who’s taken ill. Time to time, when our funds allow it, we have even awarded college “scholarships” to our youngest members who have helped out over the years, approved a loan to a member at a time of need so that he can buy a special tool for his work, buy a couple of tents for a member’s Boy Scout troop, or set aside a donation to local charities. Each of these expenses was made only with our members’ approval, and they were approved because we trust our fellow members, our friends.

Where’s This Leading To?

Like I said earlier, this little editorial is only my view. However, I’ve written it with the hope that it will help us remember who we are, as a club, and that once rediscovered, these thoughts can help guide us, going forward.

Okay, I’ll get off my soapbox now. Thanks for listening!

Meeting Minutes

These are the Minutes for the business meeting of September 18. The meeting was at Aunt Mary’s Restaurant in Rockford and 15 members and guests attended.

We were happy to see Marlisa and Michael Gunderson again. This was their second club meeting.

Treasurer’s Report

Gloria reports our current bank balance stands at \$xxx.xx.

OLD BUSINESS:

Flea Market Meeting

The Flea Market meeting was held in August and several new ideas were discussed, such as whether we could advertise the Flea Market as a two-day event - Saturday 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We could do this without adding to our expenses or our workload since we’re out there during that time

—Continued from pg 1

We have varying interests: some enjoy sport touring; some like to really lean it over in the corners; some like adventure riding, on whatever the road brings them; and still others can’t think of anything better than a leisurely ride down the highway.

Why Do We Stay?

Once we join, what keeps us in the club? I can only speak from personal experience, but I think many of you may agree.

Gloria and I renew our membership every year because we like the people. When we joined the club in 2000, it didn’t take us long to realize that these people enjoyed doing things together, and looked after one another. Sure,

anyway. Earve said he needed a decision on this question now so the information could go out to the magazines who advertise our Flea Market event. Paul made a motion that the Flea Market will be advertised as a two-day event and Jeff Fink seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Earve said they found a way to identify campers and vendors who have paid for their registration. Zip-ties! They're waterproof and they're visible when hung on the tents and campers. Vendors who have pre-registered will receive a \$5.00 coupon for food that can be used during the two days of the Flea Market. Should we send letters to the vendors who have pre-registered in the past, asking if they have ideas for changes they'd like to see to make the Flea Market run more smoothly?

We also discussed whether we should drop the cash prize drawing. There hasn't been much interest in hanging around after 2:00 p.m. for the cash or merchandise prizes. One idea was to have just one single drawing for a larger amount of cash. Another idea was to sell tickets for a 50/50 drawing, which would not cost the club anything.

Annual Meeting and Steak Fry

The Annual Meeting and Steak Fry will be held at the Wooden Nickel in Stillman Valley on October 19th. The coals will be ready by 4:00 p.m. This is the Election Meeting too, so start thinking about whether you would like to fill one of the Board positions. We need someone to serve as Secretary. And, if you're wondering what the Secretary does, read on...Take notes at the meetings and e-mail this information to Paul to be included in the newsletter. The Secretary also sends appropriate cards to members when necessary (such as get-well, etc.).

Our 2008 - 2009 Dues are due by the Annual Meeting. The members who attended the September meeting decided that, as we have done in the past, the steak fry is free to all members who have paid their dues by the start of the October meeting.

CLUB RIDE UPDATE

Dragon-Ball Ride

On September 1st 17 bikes left on the "Dragon - Ball Ride" led by Jeff Sluiter. Jeff reports that they had a great day. There were no incidents except for losing 3 riders in Dubuque, but it all worked out fine.

4S Ride

The SSSS Ride, which was led by Thierry Leonard, was also a great ride. Rolf and Mike Schoelkopf joined Thierry on the ride to Lake Como.

OLD BUSINESS

Newsletters by Email or Snailmail

Some of the members have requested that their monthly newsletter be sent via e-mail. There are also some members who prefer to receive their newsletter via the "Snail Mail". Jeff Fink said he feels that we should offer either option to our members. Contact Paul with your request on how you'd like to receive your newsletter each month. If Paul doesn't hear from you on this you will continue to receive your newsletter via the Post Office.

Christmas Party

Christmas is coming! We have decided to have our Christmas Party on the first Sunday, December 7th. Rolf and I offered to find a restaurant and handle the arrangements. Are there any restaurants you would like to recommend? We need a private room that can easily handle 40 to 45 guests.

Accident Scene Management Class

Paul said another Accident Scene Management Class is being offered. Members and the Club will share the cost, as we did before. Level One and Level Two (Advanced) classes will be offered on a Saturday and Sunday. Who is interested? See Paul or Joe Misik for more information.

Sewing Supplies for Education

LeeAnn Sluiter has asked our members if they have sewing supplies such as fabric scraps, bits and pieces of laces, ribbons, rick-rack, buttons, anything with texture and sparkles would be great. LeeAnn could pick it up at your home or you can bring it to any meeting. She will use these items in her classes.

Next Month's Meeting

The next business meeting will be Sunday, October 19th at the Wooden Nickel in Stillman Valley. This is our Annual Business, Election, and Steak Fry Meeting. As mentioned before, the coals will be hot at 4:00 p.m.

Adjourned!

LeeAnn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Dick. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Schoelkopf
Secretary



Wisconsin Rustic Roads Ride—September 27, 2008

Left to right, back row: Bill Hedgspeth, Jerry Sandin, Marlisa and Mike Gunderson, Chuck Piper, Ron Tippie, and Mike Schoelkopf. In front: Paul and Joe Misik (ride leader).

Blackhawk Region BMW Association
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