

THE CRAB POT

August 2004



The Occasional Publication of the Mid-Atlantic's Most Informal Motorcycle Organization

Notes from the Benevolent Crabby Despot

It's been a pretty neat month motor-wise. After Ride to Work Day, Steve Whetstone and I got to work with some outstanding motorcyclists refereeing and marshaling the "International" Bicycle Race in Altoona, still known by some as the "Tour de Toona." It was great to chase around central PA with police escort and watch bicycle racing. The apres-ride banter with two-wheeled friends from Mississippi to Texas to New York to Ohio was entertaining too. More later.

Randy Black, Dave Black, Buz Brinig, Frank Dawson, Red Sciarra, and Marty Kitner went to the AMA's Vintage Motorcycle Days at Mid-Ohio in July. Randy came away with a win in the trials in his class, riding a BSA 441 Victor! His brother Dave tied for first in his division, riding Randy's vintage TY250, but was edged in the tie breaker. Still an awesome showing. Randy said BMW outdid themselves as the featured marque. Congrats to Randy and Dave! One has to wonder at the BMWMOA's wisdom in holding their rally in Spokane at the same time... More on THAT later too.

Word has it that our Ironcrab, Scott Davis, had another "adventure" during one of his long-distance forays. Maybe he'll write about it for an upcoming issue. Here's the teaser: it has to do with his wallet...again.

I am sorry for not holding some sort of "Ride and Feed" during the months of June and July. Anyone can jump right in there and speak up with a time and location and we'll try to be there. I'm calling Saturday 21 August the next "Ride and Feed" evening at Tims 2 in Fairview Beach, VA. More later.

I get emails: here's one from our erudite, loquacious friend Red Sciarra responding to my writeup on the Brit/Euro Day at Butler's Orchard: " Dear Mr. Despot, Thanks for mentioning our visit to the Anglo Affair. The tag-along with Harold and I was James Allan Sciarra {Red's Grandson}. As I recall , all the brit bikes in the infield could not make more noise than 5 or 6 hot dogs with the customary shotgun exhausts. The Euro bikes could barely be heard. The elusive (retired) Frank Dawson and I plan to leave early on the 15Th for Mansfield OH and the VMD. I plan to see the Museum on the way back. I am waiting for the long promised MOA bashing, as you have indicated a desire to remain impartial. Barbarosa(Red)" Not to disappoint Red and to spread the derision around equally, look for a little something on our MOA friends later in this issue.

Your Benevolent Despot,
Idi "Crab Dada" Amin

Brit/Euro Motorcycle Day, Butler's Orchard, MD

I covered this subject in last month's issue, but something happened July 27th that bears noting: Corbin's Ride-On shown on the Speed Channel featured a story on the Brit/Euro Day at Butler's Orchard that starred none other than Randy Black on his BSA 441 Victor! Randy got lots of on-camera time riding the Beezer all over this really slippery dirtpile the Mid-Atlantic Vintage Trials guys arranged (MAVT: see them at www.mavt.org). Speaking of MAVT, Buz Brinig also appeared in the show, riding a Yamaha as I recall. Finally, fellow CRAB Mark Murphy had a cameo, appearing briefly in a shot with his Snortin' Norton Commando!! What a great showing!

BMWMOA Rally Got the CRABS!

Oh yeah, did they: remember Steve Coburn and Kandy Dunn setting off for Spokane on 5 July on their Oilheads "Rolling Rally"? Well they got there and they, along with some friends, wore their CRABS shirts around the MOA National in Spokane, WA! Thanks guys. Steve and Kandy and all the Rolling Rally folks are back home safely after nearly a month on the road. Lucky bahstids!

Riding in Central Pennsylvania

For around a week in late July and early August, I sometimes have the privilege of chasing cyclists around Altoona during the International Tour de 'Toona. If you're looking for a destination with neat roads and great folks, look no further. Want some genuine Americana? Try the Slinky factory in Hollidaysburg. There's an outlet store in the visitor center on the main street featuring the product that made a simple piece of spring steel famous and you can also get a factory tour. Into candy? I'm told the Boyer Candy Company in Altoona is the maker of Mallomars! Yup, there's an outlet store. The Cove Shoe Company in Martinsburg makes the most comfortable boots you could possibly wear: they're called "Matterhorns" and they're more frequently seen on the feet of law enforcement, EMS, and military folks the world over. Their 8-inch, cambrelle-lined, Gore-tex Matterhorn is USMC standard issue and comes in black or desert tan/green. The outlet store is at the back of the factory and it's worth a visit! Do a web search for "Matterhorn Boots" or the "Cove Shoe Company." If you're a railroad fan, then see Horseshoe Curve and the RR Museum in Altoona, along with the tunnels. Ride the incline in Johnstown and learn about "the flood." American manufacturing, hospitality, and pride are hanging on in central PA and the folks are glad to see you!

CRABS RIDE AND FEED: 21 AUGUST!!

21 August will be our next thing. It's at Tims II in Fairview Beach, on the way back from Morton's BMW off Rte 218. www.tims2.com
Let's plan on dinner at 5 PM so we can get home in daylight. I'm thinking of a ride to Morton's and then dinner on the way back. Stay tuned.

SHERANDO LAKE RALLY, LABOR DAY

Betsy and I joined Red Sciarra at this small rally last year and had a great time. If you have never been to a rally before, this is the one to attend. If you have a spouse who needs to drive because of children, etc., then this is the one. There's quite a few 4-wheeled vehicle spaces near the group camping area that sits atop the hill at Sherando Lake Park. They have barbecue and a breast cancer support group cooks pancakes every day for donations. It's right off the Blue Ridge Parkway and not too far from the Blue Ridge Pig (excellent Barbecue). Waynesboro is not far away either and it's only about a 3 hour drive. There were lots of kids there last year and the lake with swimming beach is a short walk away. Email me if interested.

BMWRA RALLY IN CANAAN VALLEY, WV

Betsy and I would once again like to invite you to enjoy the beauty of our home state at the BMW Rider's Association (RA) National Rally, 16-19 September. We'll be going over and will probably be camping, since all of the rooms in the county have been booked. We'd love to have you join us. Steve "Oilhead" Coburn is trying to convince me to go over early to help set up and if you're interested in that, you can snag a better camping spot. I'd definitely like to see a few CRABS over there. Email me if you are interested.

BACKROADS RALLY, ROCKY GAP STATE PARK

(Crap, this is starting to look like my parody of BMW ON...)

Seriously, Brian Rathjen and Shira Kamil of Backroads Magazine have a reputation for finding great places to stay and then holding a helluva rally around them. This year their fall rally is in our region, at Rocky Gap State Park off I-68 over Columbus Day weekend in October. The only accommodations I know of are at the luxurious lodge and it's a little spendy, but the riding around that area is awesome. You can reach the Eastern Highlands of WV, Central Highlands of PA, and Western MD easily from Rocky Gap and it's only about 3 hours away. www.backroadsusa.com is the web site, I believe, or pick up their excellent mag at Morton's or other bike shops in your area. Betsy and I have reservations already. This is a good one for the ladies who don't ride their own bikes too: no camping and many amenities.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

THIS IS NOT FOR THE FAINT-HEARTED...

When I was at Beech Aircraft in Wichita, a gent named John Whittington used to keep a jar of dry-roasted peanuts on his desk in the telemetry room. I can't resist peanuts, so I asked for a few. He simply smiled and said "Sure!" I should have known... John's peanuts were doctored with the product of this recipe and I came to love them once the initial shock wore off. John was kind enough to share a bag of his best with me until I could start my own. I wish the security guys at the airport had opened it and used their finger to taste it like the cops do on TV...

Grow a good variety of high value peppers: habanero, serrano, cayenne, etc.
Grow at least 3 varieties of GOOD garlic.

Harvest peppers and garlic when ripe.

Dehydrate peppers until less than 1% moisture.

Process peppers into a fine powder.

Dehydrate at least 3 POUNDS (!) garlic to 1% moisture.

Process garlic into fine powder.

Thoroughly blend 8 parts garlic powder to 1 part pepper powder.

Blend this mixture with salted peanuts to taste.

John also recommends using this mixture to "add character" to other foods. It'll sure as hell add a little character to your breath...

T-SHIRTS, WE NEED MORE T-SHIRTS!!

As soon as your dictator gets off his duff and talks to the gracious Jen Seidel, we'll get some more T-shirts. Betsy and I were having dinner at Frank Morris Point one night and some lady from Gaithersburg started raving about the design. She wanted about half a dozen for herself and the family! Anyway, I know there's a few CRABS out there who didn't get one before, so stand by for another order. They'll be available at cost, of course, as we have no treasury and therefore no need to make money on the deal. Last time was around \$11 each. Send me an email with your size/quantity requests.

WHITE TERROR UPDATE

Our new critter, a West Highland White Terrier, now tips the scales at a whopping 7.5 lb (6.5 lb of which is apparently liquid he can use to christen the house at the slightest provocation). No toe, sock, shoe, or finger is safe from his jaws and unless this trend turns around, by December he'll eat our Christmas tree in its entirety, ornaments and all.

CRAB POT SPECIAL: BMW NO (News for Owners) OFFICIAL ORGAN OF BMW MOTORCYCLE OWNER'S ASS. (MOA)

headlight by Spammy Chosen, #1

Oh wow! Can you believe it? It's time for the RALLY! It's in Spokane, you know, and all the MOA Senior Executive Vice Presidents for Rally Affairs are working hard to get ready. Don't forget the RALLY! See the rest of this expensive, glossy, ad-chocked magazine to get information on the RALLY! Don't forget to get an MOA membership, so for six months prior you can read all about the next RALLY and for the next six months can read all about the LAST RALLY!! OK, gotta go get ready for the RALLY! Did I mention the RALLY??!

productreviews by Kitten Vermicelli, #ILUVBMW

The other day I sat around and pondered what sort of really expensive riding gear or widget I could review for this month's magazine and VOILA! what should appear at my doorstep than a BMW Savannah Rallye Airflow TFL Cool-System MCMLXII Riding Suit with Sooper-Dooper Temp-Control Dynatec Therma Fibers! Isn't it such a wonderful coincidence that the Motor Companie should provide such a tremendously expensive, high-tech suit to someone who frequently reviews products for ON? Complete with a press kit chock full of color photos?! I just squealed with delight when I put on this suit. It has lots of little pockets with zippers where you can store your BMW Pocket Knife, BMW Cigar Cutter, BMW Lighter, BMW Golf Spike Cleaner, BMW Key Fob, BMW Cuff Links, etc. (all items I previously reviewed) and it has these cool stripes that make you look "racy" like you just left Paris heading for Dakar! It's got this plastic number holder on the back so you hard-core "Rallye" types can wear a number on the way to Starbucks for a double mocha. It even has a windowed sleeve pocket ~~just like Aerostich has had for years!~~ {Kit, we CAN'T say that. Spammy} How functional! So if you want to look like a real hard-core "Rallye" guy while hanging out at the latte shop, you just HAVE to get one of these suits! I am not going to mention any icky prices because that would just be tacky. Next month I'll review the Gore-Tex liner (sold separately, of course). I'm sure it will show up just in time and I can wear it to the RALLY!

rallyupdate, by Pool Gloves, #IH8KS

Don't forget the RALLY! We'll be having one this year, you know. It'll have camping and vendors and it'll all be in one place (not like that icky one in Charleston, where people actually had to RIDE their motorcycles to get to the vendors and stuff). If you want to volunteer to do some...work, contact the BMW Third Senior Executive Vice President for Rally Underlings.

moaelections, by Dal Frownie, #007

Soon it will be time to cast your ballot to fill the approximately 632 elected positions available in this organization! Ballots will be inserted in next month's BMWNO and must be postmarked by the end of this month. The Senior Executive Vice Secretary of State for Ballot and Elective Affairs will announce the results after he finishes running the Florida primary.

rallyupdate, by Boni Gloves, #PR1NC355

We just got word that the AMA had the unmitigated balls to hold Vintage Motorcycle Days on the exact same weekend as THE RALLY! Then, they had the stones to make BMW the FEATURED MARQUE! Don't they know about the RALLY? REALLY!

president'smessage, by Leroy "Sparrow" Sparrowhawk, #819A55

CHARTERED CLUBS: THE GRASSROOTS OF BMWMOA!

Can you imagine BMWMOA without it's chartered clubs? Without them and all the fine people who work for them to hold their ~~iddy-biddy~~ rallies, our magazine would be two or three pages thinner in the "When and Where" section ~~and we could save a boatload of money or use those pages to sell advertising and make some.~~ {Sparrow, this is supposed to be a pep talk. Spammy} Chapter 3 of our bylaws says you have to get 10 MOA members together and PAY US MONEY (determined by the Board of Directors) if you want to be a chartered club. So get out there and recruit some members ~~and PAY UP!~~ We love our chartered clubs ~~and if I could think of any at the moment, I'd put their names in and maybe even quote some stuff from their newsletters.~~ {Sparrow, I think you're confusing us with...those OTHER people. Spammy} Without our chartered clubs, our rally circuit would pretty much cease to exist, except for THE RALLY of course. Have I mentioned we're having one?

rallyupdate, by Sue Bin-Cranke, #77

Wow! I'm really psyched for the RALLY! Have you heard? It's going to be in Spokane and the theme is "Insane in Spokane." Cute, huh? That's "in-sahn in spo-kahn" for all the Ambassadors. I'll be there with all the MOA Ambassadors who see fit to miss VBD in Ohio and come to the RALLY! Maybe you'll have the distinct pleasure of meeting us! See you at the RALLY! We're having one, you know.

mileagecontest, by Karl Putzer, #71077345

I decided it was such a pain in the ass that I would quit tallying all the scores and just award the winners stuff to Stan "Laurel" Arthur and Boni Gloves for the rest of their natural lives. That way I will have more time to pack for, plan for, and go to the RALLY!