

# New Jersey Shore BMW Riders

CLUB NEWS - back from rallying - October 1997

## Jose Benefit Run

*Don Eilenberger*

As you probably know, our benefit poker run for Jose DeLa Cruz was a GREAT success!

Our club made over \$3,700, which when matched dollar for dollar made a sizable contribution to the Jose Accident Fund.

We also learned a lot. We learned we CAN run a large event successfully. We learned that it's actually a lot of FUN to run this sort of event. We learned that everyone can find a job to help with - and by lots of hands working - the jobs become fun!

Some special thanks to some people who operated 'behind the scenes':

Harold Gantz - who check-rode the route several times, made great suggestions helping to make the route sheet a success, and arrowed the entire route, so it was next to impossible for people to get lost (a few did - but it took an effort on their part).

Dennis Swanson - who helped in getting the great prizes that made the poker run a major draw.

Frank Stevens of BMW-NA - who donated the Kalihari



Starting sign-in

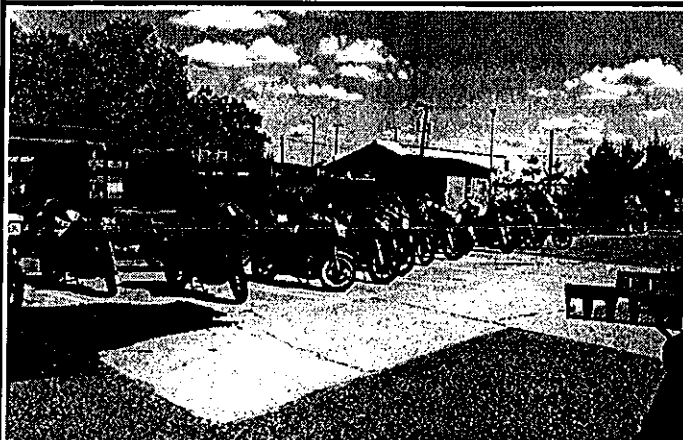
jacket - another major draw.

Bird (first name or last - your guess!) who helped setup all the AMA stuff needed so we could insure the run.

Your President, Glenn Martin - who spent countless hours running around setting things up with Fort Dix - and by sheer charm managed to bail out what could have been a show stopper caused by rampant government bureaucracy.

Frank Kirkleski - who took hold of the start activities, organized them and ran them with his usual efficiency. There was nothing for Glenn or myself to do - which was GREAT!

**Well - the question is - whadda we do next?**



**Bike lineup at Dix!**

**How about a spring rally at Fort Dix?** There's this recreation area I found (totally by accident - one of those 'where does that road go?') - with ample camping, a lake, trees, and a rec-hall with cooking, meeting and sanitary facilities. **The PERFECT rally site!**

We've committed to doing 'something' like a rally in May or very early June (we'll be checking calendars to avoid conflicts).

We'll once again need your help - but it WILL be fun. If we can work together like we did for the Jose Poker Run - it can't help but be lots of fun and a great success!

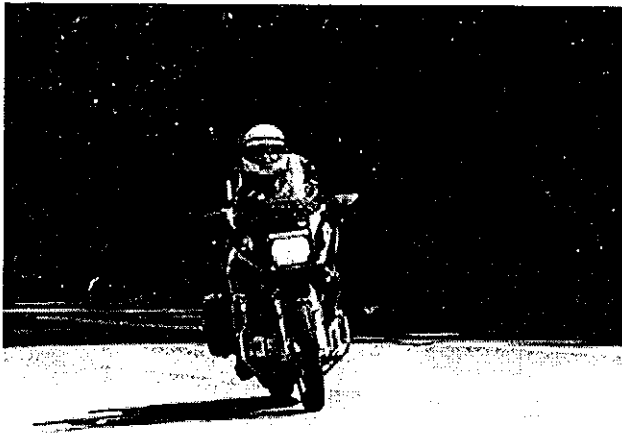
**THANKS to EVERYONE** who helped out, contributed, publicized what was a great event!

**PS:** A very nice article on the Poker Run appeared in BackRoads this month (well, I did write it, so maybe I'm biased). If you have a chance - grab a copy or two. We'd like a few for the archives!

**PPS:** If you took pics at the Poker Run, and can spare some for the club scrapbook, **please** bring them to the next meeting!

## Fontana! by Glenn Martin

Your esteemed Prez and Don\* came to our senses, scuttled the trailer idea, and left NJ for the BMW RA National Rally in Fontana Dám, NC on Tuesday am, 9/16, K bikes lightly packed (we were motelin' it). We were flying low, headed toward the Blue Ridge Mountains. The idea was to do a semi-scenic/semi-super slab run to meet up with a gaggle of riders from the Washington DC area, who were gathering in Roanoke, VA for a run to the National called the "Blue Ridge Blitz". (\* Editor's note - actually, Don got a bit looped Sunday night and called Glenn and offered to ditch the trailer. By Monday wasn't sure it was a GOOD IDEA, but by Tuesday night had decided it probably was!)



Don on the BRP

Our Tuesday ride duplicated my run to the Thurmont, MD SquareRoute Rally site. Highways west to King-of Prussia, PA, then south&west to the Mason-Dixon line, mostly on county and farm roads. Avoiding the occasional horse & buggy, and their pollution. The Maryland Scenic Roads signs guided us for a while, then we struck out on a swifter route to Front Royal, VA, where we bunked in an "All American Owned" joint. This put us at the top of "Skyline Drive", perfectly positioned for spin down the spine of Virginia the next morning.

Except, they get \$10 each, for the privilege of doin' the Drive. Since that money could be better spent in Fontana for liquid refreshments, we scooted down I-81 until we could hook-up with the toll-free Blue Ridge Parkway.

In my experience, this is God's Gift to all street riding motorcyclists. If you've been on this righteous ribbon you know why, if not, do it at least once in your life. The BRP official speed limit is 45 mph and can be enjoyed at that speed. However, at +20 mph over, it is pure ecstasy. Yeah, there is some law enforcement to be alert for, and a few dawdlers, but the mid-September time frame minimized the 4wheel tourists. When you take it easy, you are treated to spectacular vistas on both side of the road, as you travel on top of the ridges. The elevation change and gentle sweepers let you stay off the brakes all day, just run it in 3rd gear.

Fortunately, our stop for the night, a motel in Roanoke VA was less than a mile off the BRP. The pungent smell of curry in the lobby foretold, non-All-American ownership. A pleasant and inquisitive family operation, curious about riders on BMWs.

They, of course, knew the sure way to integrate into our culture was to get a Hog, and asked me & Don why we rode Beemers. Guess we had nothin' to prove.

Within a couple of hours, more than a dozen motorrad riders appeared, schmoozed, and attacked the Outback Steak place down the street. There was lively discussion of bikes, riders, and routes for Thursday. As it turned out, the Blue Ridge lead from there to within 50 miles if the rally site.

But, if you grabbed it at both ends and straightened it out, there was over 400 miles of blissful boulevard. The Jersey duo decided that we needed to "get there", so we slabbed it into Fontana Dam, saving the ridge running for later in the weekend.

Brother Bob Berto had a well-timed (for us) family commitment. This caused his cabin reservation, made in January!!, to become available. When we rolled in Thu afternoon we checked into what amounted to a two bedroom efficiency apartment, complete with a kitchen & a.c. Whadda way to go. It was transformed into a mini YMCA by nighttime, with the arrival of Dennis Swanson, George Hickman & friend Jim Gorman.

Attendance totaled 2,155. Attitudes very good. Even without a beer tent (in a dry county). A beer run to the next town solved that little problem. By Friday am, it was time for more riding, including a shot or two at Deals Gap, 300+ turns in 11 miles.

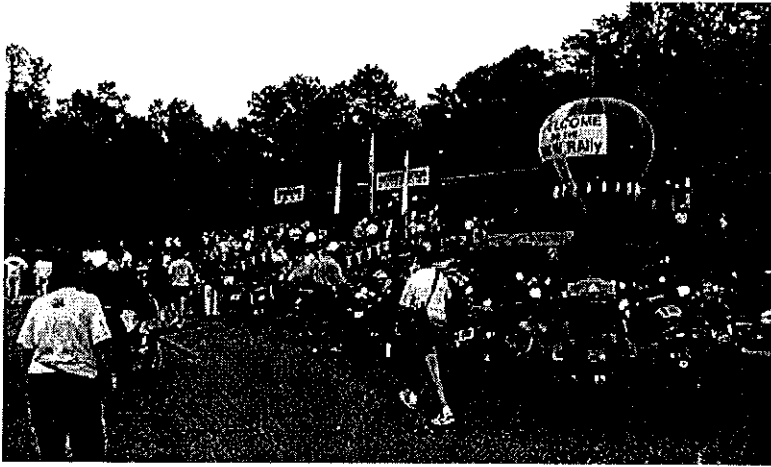


Dennis and Glenn at the Dragon!

Dennis, Jim, and I set out for the Gap, and only wanted to do "50 to 75" miles. We were all in a mood to motor, however. More than three hundred miles later, the three of us managed to circumnavigate the entire Cherokee Indian Reservation, run the Cherokee Highway from NC to TN (60 mph going up the mountain & faster goin' down), and do Deals Gap twice (once each way). On our only long straight, Jim aired out his K100 Standard. Pity though, we ran out of room, & came up 20 mph short of the rated top speed of the the three Flyin' Bricks.

A note: the BMW Internet list is now abuzz with tales of a Police Horror Show, complete with chase helicopters,

narc dogs, and slow decoy vehicles. Honestly, that Friday we passed (slowly) 2 or 3 cop cars. Just lucky I guess.



**A few people in front of the registration area**

Saturday, I waited while my new front tire was installed (by a Rally vendor, sorry Frank). Since my start was delayed till noon, I started out solo, and headed for the Blue Ridge Parkway. Now I've done its first 120 miles, and its last 100 miles. Someday I'll get to the rest. It was time to get back to Fontana for the festivities. Forcing myself to get off the BRP, I swept down through some other recommended roads, and ended in a local joint for a gen-u-ine bar-b-que pork meal. \$3.99 including greens, yams, and blueberry cobbler.

Back at the Dam, the crowd was restless. The locals decided to pull the beer permit just prior to the event. BMW-RA countered with free beer for all. It ran out early (duh). But the crowd stayed in good spirits. The big door prize, an F650, was won by some dude in Ohio. The highlight of the evening was a charity auction for the Jose DeLa Cruz Accident Fund. Boss Phil Capposella, BMW M/C NA, emptied his goody closet and donated close to \$12,000 worth of official ridin' duds, Roundels & all. If you were the right size, you could pick up primo Goretex & leather clothes for 1/2 price, and help Jose, too.

The trip back is never as interesting as the one going. Or so I thought. Starting the interesting stuff was a breakfast at the same place I had the bar-b-que pork. A local diner off the beaten track. As we sat down, another BMW rider walked in the door.. Don recognized Bob Henig of Bob's BMW and invited him to join us for breakfast. Interesting discussion on the role of the cruiser in BMWs lineup.

Don & I started to slab it back, in order to save time. We just got to the intersection of I-77 & 81 in Virginia. Coffee was required. As we re-entered the highway, nothing was moving.

Go with the flow, we diverted to 77 south and got off at the first exit. The Virginia map showed a Route 11 which paralleled 81. Why not, we did it. This started as a nice county road with mild twisties. Then it narrowed to a single lane. Then it became unpaved. We were now on K100 GelandeSports. Not my idea of makin' time, but it beat sittin' in dead stopped traffic on 81, listening to our cooling fans. In fact, in 2nd gear, with great views on either side, it was fun. *Life is what happens, while you make other plans.*

The trip ended safely on Monday nite, after 1/2 hour of am fog in the Shennendoah Valley, & some sphincter tighteners on the Baltimore Beltway. We all made it back, and would probably go again. **Definitely on the Blue Ridge Parkway.**



**Last stop on the way home - Roanoke VA**

**Fontana Attendies from NJS-BMW-R:**

John Aubin and Michelle  
Joe Christy and Betty Bergman  
Don Eilenberger  
George Hickman  
Glenn Martin  
Dennis Swanson  
Glenn Larson and wife  
George Szatmari

**MEETING - Weds, October 8th!**  
*New location!*  
**See back cover!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 12th** - The **BMW Miracle Ride**, benefit for the Chronhn & Colitis Foundation, sponsored by BMW-NA. Scenic motorcycle ride, picnic at BMW-NA headquarters, entertainment, ride-in bike show, raffle. Chance of winning a BMW F650!

Cost is \$25 per rider, \$10 for a passenger. There will be brochures with all the details at our October meeting.

**October 10-13th** - **Das Treffen**. Gummikuh Farher. The Gathering, Columbus Day weekend near the site of their Udder Nonsense rally. Camping fee is \$10, food by communal pot (bring a donation for the pot!). No pins, patches or prizes - the way rallies used to be. Daytime foliage rides with evening get-togethers. Held at the Bavarian Manor in Cairo/Purling New York. Nice riding area - trees should be in full color! If interested, contact Don Eilenberger (732-449-1533).

**November 12th** - **November Meeting** - Annual officer election and dues are DUE! Please make plans to attend this meeting as we will also plan our annual holiday party for December!

## EDITORS NOTES

Well - yes we didn't have a September issue. I was out riding (given the choice between riding and working on a newsletter - there is NO choice.)

I need help to continue with the newsletter.

With over 60 members - copying, stamping, labeling and mailing an issue is a major undertaking, and requires too much time when I could be out riding.

SO - please help out - the club is only as good as it's newsletter - and to continue to produce it on a regular basis more than one person is going to be required.

Contact ME if you can help!

We also need YOUR contributions to the newsletter - make it a CLUB newsletter and let people know where you've been, what you're doing and interesting places/rides you've taken.

**Don Eilenberger (732-449-1533)**

## NEW MEETING PLACE!

### Meeting, Wednesday October 8th, 7PM

We've decided again to try a new meeting place. The new location is Bedrock Cafe, 10 Main Street (Rt 71) in Bradley Beach.

To get there:

**From the West:** Take I-195 to State 138 to the end. Get off heading NORTH on Rt 71. Look for the sign for Rt. 71. Head NORTH on Rt. 71. Bedrock Cafe is the first building north of the Bradley Beach border, just north of a lake dividing Bradley from Avon.

**From the South:** Take either Rt. 71 or Rt. 35 and follow directions above.

**From the North:** Take Rt. 35 to Route 33. Turn EAST (left) on Rt 33 follow it until it ends at Rt 71 (just past railroad tracks). Take Rt 71 SOUTH (right) though Bradley Beach. Look for Bedrock Cafe on left (just before Avon border).

Menu is lunch/dinner. We have a private room. No alcohol - BYOB is welcome. Dress is casual bike clothes.

**See'ya there! We have LOTS to discuss (upcoming elections!)**



NJS-BMW Riders  
C/O Don Eilenberger  
1213 Pond Rd  
Spring Lk Hts, NJ 07762

Klaus Huenecke  
POB 40

Tennent, NJ 07763



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