

April 2021

NEW JERSEY SHORE BMW RIDERS Inc

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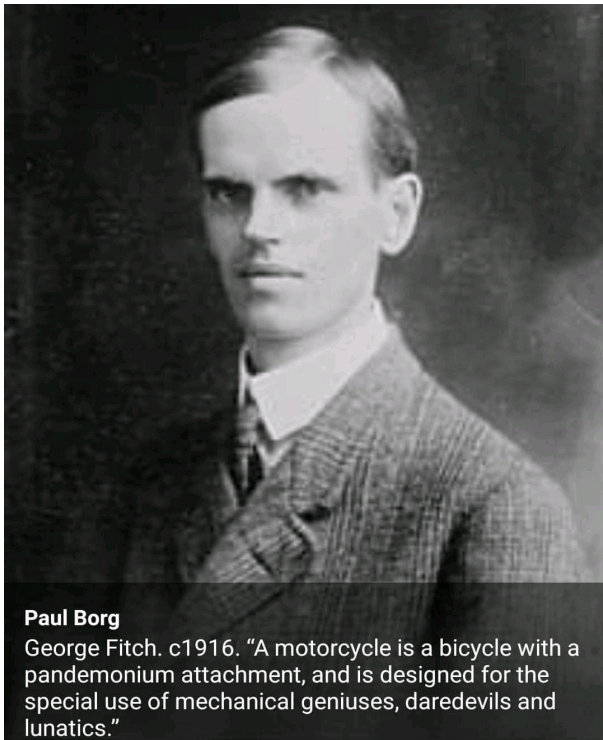
Dan Thompson, Trustee; Joe Karol, Trustee; Ed Ger-

ber, Trustee.

April comes like an idiot, babbling and strewing flowers. *Edna St. Vincent Millay*

As long as the Earth can make a spring every year, I can. As long as the Earth can flower and produce nurturing fruit, I can, because I'm the Earth. I won't give up until the Earth gives up. *Alice Walker*

Unless a tree has borne blossoms in spring, you will vainly look for fruit on it in autumn. *Hare Charles*



Paul Borg

George Fitch. c1916. "A motorcycle is a bicycle with a pandemonium attachment, and is designed for the special use of mechanical geniuses, daredevils and lunatics."

BMW Motorcycle Club
New Jersey Shore



President's Message

I hope everyone had a great Easter and Passover!

"In the spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours.", so said Mark Twain. I have certainly found that to be true during my recent rides. Some will say the riding season is back, but for many of us, it has never left. Except for my avoidance of ice, snow and road salt, I love winter riding and look fondly upon it as I start bitching on those 90-plus degree Jersey summer scorchers.

My weekend winter rides often take me up to North-West NJ and the Delaware Water Gap. BMW ranks number 6 in the US in terms of unit sales with about 3.2% of the US market. Although anecdotal, days where I seem to be the only bike on the road, I often see others on BMW bikes exclusively, most often a GS or RT. I am not sure that is a testament to BMW bikes, the tenacity of BMW riders or perhaps we are just a bunch of loons riding in our space-suits with our electric heated gear cranked to 10 and getting our moneys worth out of our heated seats and grips. Either way, any day on the road is a good day in my book.

Now that spring has arrived. I hope more of you will partake in our events including our weekend rides. Joining the monthly club meeting is a great way to learn about upcoming rides and to share your favorite rides and destinations with others. Although these meetings are still being conducted via Zoom, they have been fun and productive. The meeting occurs the second Wednesday of the month. An announcement with dial-in instructions is provided a few days before the meeting. I hope you can all join us!

Regards, Rick

Schedule of Events – 2021

April

- **April 7**, Moribundi Lunch @ 12:30 AM Cafe, Spring Lake, 4th Ave.
- **April 11, Polar Bear Ride** Cape May VFW Post #386, NJ 419 Congress St. Cape May, NJ 08204
- **April 14**, Club Meeting (Zoom meeting 7:30)
- **April 23-25**, BMW MOA Fontana Getaway, Fontana Village Resort, North Carolina.
- **April 24**, (tentative) Gathering of the Nortons(10 am – 1pm) Washington Crossing State Park PA.

May

- **May 5**, Moribundi Lunch @ 12:30 Place to be determined
- **May 12**, Club Meeting (Tentative) 6 PM Dinner, Meeting 7:30 Place to be determined
- **May 15 & 16**, New Sweden 450

June

- **June 5**, Moribundi Lunch @ 12:30 Place to be determined
- **June 9**, Club Meeting (Tentative) 6 PM Dinner, Meeting 7:30 Place to be determined
- **June 24-27**, National MOA BMW rally Great Falls Montana

July

- **July 7**, Moribundi Lunch @ 12:30 Place to be determined
- **July 14**, Club Meeting (Tentative) 6 PM Dinner, Meeting 7:30 Place to be determined
- **July 30 – August 1**, BMW MOA Pocono Getaway. Skytop Lodge.

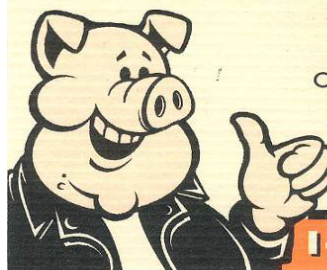
August

- **August 4**, Moribundi Lunch @ 12:30 Place to be determined
- **August 11**, Club Meeting (Tentative) 6 PM Dinner, Meeting 7:30 Place to be determined

September

- **September 1**, Moribundi Lunch @ 12:30 Place to be determined
- **September 3 -6**, Finger Lakes Rally, Watkin Glen, NY
- **September 8**, Club Meeting (Tentative) 6 PM Dinner, Meeting 7:30 Place to be de-

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termined

- **September 17-19**, BMW MOA Warren VT Sugarbush Resort
- **September 24 – 26**, New Sweden's Last Chance Rally
- **September 24 -26**, Oktoberfest Crystal BrookResort Round Top NY

October

- **October 6**, Moribundi Lunch @ 12:30 Place to be determined
- **October 13**, Club Meeting (Tentative) 6 PM Dinner, Meeting 7:30 Place to be determined

November

- **November 3**, Moribundi Lunch @ 12:30 Place to be determined
- **November 10**, Club Meeting (Tentative) 6 PM Dinner, Meeting 7:30 Place to be determined

December

- **December 1**, Moribundi Lunch @ 12:30 Place to be determined
- **December 8**, Club Meeting (Tentative) 6 PM Dinner, Meeting 7:30 Place to be determined
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Keep track of announcements on the club email list to find out what's actually happening in 2021.

Note on the Club Calendar – obviously all items listed on the calendar are subject to change thanks to Covid-19. We're hopeful that Covid will be in our rear-view mirrors by summer of 2021.

Club Meeting – March Minutes

Jim Thomasey, Secretary

On March 10th the NJSBMW Riders held another ZOOM meeting attended by less than a dozen members. We determined we have over \$2,000 in the treasury and the paid membership now stands at 59 and 6 emeritus members..

The Gathering of the Norton's is tentatively scheduled for April 24. This has been the unofficial first ride of the season for our club and hopefully it will take place again this year in Washington Crossing State Park in PA.

The Ice Cream runs held the 3rd Wednesday of each month will soon start again too, so start thinking of suggestions for places and bring your ideas to the next meeting.

The New Sweden 450 is scheduled for the weekend of May 15-16 and our members are encouraged to investigate and participate.

As the hosts of the Three Club Rumble we are seeking ideas for locations for the event to be held late this August or within the first 2 weeks of September. We also need someone to chair the event once a spot is chosen. Keep your eyes open for an ideal spot which should include a covered serving and seating area and a cooking site.

Club Member Mini-Bios

Editor

More Mini-Bios arrived. Some answered the questions directly, some more free form.

Any way you'd like to submit one is fine with us - PLEASE submit one of your own..email to editor@njsbmwr.org

Here are the questions:

- Your name
- Your age
- When did you first notice motorcycles?
- What was your first motorcycle, and were there any objections by relatives? What's the story with how you bought your first motorcycle? How old were you when you got your first motorcycle?
- When and where did you first cross a

state-line on a motorcycle, and what were the circumstances?

- What was your first overnight (multi-day away from home) trip? And why? With whom?
- Have you crashed? Tell more.
- What's the longest ride you've taken? What's the furthest away from home ride you've taken?
- What's the bucket list ride you haven't done? And why not?
- What's the fastest you've gone on 2 wheels - when and where..

Name: Herb Konrad

Age: Not getting any younger.

I've enjoyed motorcycles since first riding a Honda scooter in high school in 1964. My friend was allowed to buy one, but lacked enough money. I had some extra savings but was forbidden by my parents to ride a motorcycle. We formed an informal partnership whereby he was able to buy the Honda and keep it at his house and we shared riding it. I didn't have a license. My parents never found out.

In college my passion turned to muscle cars, therefore motorcycles were not on my radar.

After college, Uncle Sam offered me a free all expense tour of the world flying a fighter aircraft, Phantom F4E or being drafted in the Army. Flew mostly in the US with 2 delivery flights to Europe and a TDY month in Hawaii.

While in the Air Force, my squadron commander frowned on engaging in dangerous activities such as motorcycling, therefore I only participated in safe activities such as bombing, dog fighting, and air refueling in weather at night. Part of my world tour included a stay in Thailand flying bombing and napalm missions in South and North Vietnam.

After I separated from the military, I was ready to live a more quiet life with my wife raising our family, sailing, and flying privately.

That all changed when my sales manager came to work one day with a Honda 750. He was great in sales but poor in cycle maintenance. Tires were rotten, clutch handle broken, brake fluid

dark yellow, oil was low and black. We agreed I could ride his bike for a month and I would bring it back to being safe.

Within 3 weeks of getting the bike back in good condition, I put 500 miles on it. I was hooked. RK BMW was my neighbor next to my office. Rob had a 1996 R850R he wanted to get rid of.

I did mostly local South Jersey rides until the BMWMOA rally in Rhinebeck, NY. Since then, I have bought 6 RT's, 2 in Texas and 4 in New Jersey.

I have ridden in every state except Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Hawaii, and Alaska. Out west in the desert you can see for miles, I have gone as fast as I want, 125 mph for a short distance.

I'm not a racer; I enjoy the scenery. One area I particularly like is the Texas Hill Country, west of hwy 35 between Austin and San Antonio. The FM roads (farm to market) are in good shape, not crowded, hilly, curvy, and scenic. Spent many days there when I had businesses in Austin.

I would like to take a trip to Alaska, probably leaving the US from Washington. I need to do it soon, I'm not getting younger.

Name: Mike Palmer

Age: 69 Crazy Years

When did you first notice motorcycles? I went to a private School in CT. A "Towny" who lived off campus near our football field was riding around the neighborhood on a Honda 90 Trail Bike in 1970. My buddies and I stopped him for a chat. It turned out he was a nice guy and let us try his bike in the neighborhood. I was hooked.

What was your first motorcycle, and were there any objections by relatives? One evening at dinner when I was home at Easter break and my Dad asked what I wanted for graduation. I said I wanted a Honda Trail 90. Skip (Past President of the club) my older brother thought Dad was going to kill me for asking. I think Skip got a set of suitcases when he graduated high school. My Dad said nothing, so I thought that was the end of the subject.

After graduation I was back home again having

dinner with the family when my Dad asked me to get him a screwdriver from the Garage. I thought that was odd. So I got up from the table and went out back to the Garage and there in the shop was a brand new Honda 90 Trail Bike. (See picture below with plastic still on the seat). I couldn't believe it. I thanked him so much. But there was a hitch. He only gave me permission to own the bike but I had to pay for it. I worked for him all that Summer to pay him back the \$450.00 it cost.



When and where did you first cross a state-line on a motorcycle. What was your first overnight (multi-day away from home) trip?

That Honda 90 only lasted 1 year. Tom Mahan (past member of the club) and I would ride our bikes every night after dinner. We would end up at Danny's pizza and bar in Red Bank and close the place down. I burned up the little 90 so the next Summer I got a Honda CL350. I was in the big time now. Tom & I would always take a week off from work in the Summer and take a trip.

The 1st trip I remember was a camping trip to the Adirondacks. We went on many weekend trips throughout the year too, Maine, Virginia, our cabin in the Endless Mountains of Pennsylvania too many to remember.

Have you crashed? Tell more: Have I ever crashed? Ha! When you learn to ride in the woods and sand pits of Allaire all you do is crash.

On the street, I crashed in Marlboro and ended up in the hospital in Freehold with a broken leg.

In PA I crashed on Interstate 80 in the rain doing 70 miles an hour. In PA I went into a ditch near our family cabin, broke out my front tooth on the handlebars and broke my wrist. The clutch broke so I had to move it over to the right hand side. I disconnected the brake lever (who needs that) and had to throttle and shift with the right hand (remember my left hand was broken). I crashed outside my shop and severely sprained my left ankle. I had brand new tires put on my bike by Mike Kowal and the mold release agent was still on the tires. I went through a puddle at high speed and down I went. So yes I've crashed.

What's the longest ride you've taken? I've been in all the lower 48 States almost twice. I was asked to teach a week long course at a training center the Boy Scouts own in New Mexico, Philmont Scout Ranch. Instead of flying or driving I decided to ship all my teaching supplies out west and ride my GoldWing. I did 700 miles a day for 3 days and got there with a day to spare. After the course was over my brother Skip met me in town and we went west to the Grand Canyon, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, the Dakotas. He split and went back to Denver and I continued across the top of the country hitting all the northern States.

Skip and I went with John Welch. (a past President of the club who lived in Middletown on the Navesink) on a trip to Quebec, Labrador and crossed into Newfoundland, where we met up with Tom Mahan and his wife Moe. We came back through Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, Maine and home. Icebergs are very cool to see up close. I bought a GS1200 Adventure for that one. A Honda GoldWing would never handle the slick mud roads in Spring up there. John Welch fell and broke his leg. He had to fly home and ship his bike from Happy Valley Goose Bay.

There was a trip 5 or 6 of us from the club trailered our bikes behind my Chevy van to Denver where we started a Western loop to see as many National Parks as we could. Dennis Swansen kept on saying " If I see one more big F-ing rock I'm going home". Well he hit a big pothole on Mount St. Helen and broke his rim so he limped back to Portland and got it fixed. We agreed to meet in Eastern Oregon, but he was never heard from again. He rode nonstop across the country back to Point Pleasant.

The club went to Kingston Ontario on the way to

a national MOA Rally in Canada, where Carl Cangelosi broke his ankle in a crash, another victim sent home in a bus.

There were many more overnight trips with Grant and Nancy, Dennis, Tom, Skip, Uncle Don and others, I can't remember. We also used to get up at 5:00am and ride to Maine for lunch for lobsters.

What's the bucket list ride you haven't done? I suppose when I retire I might do a trip across Canada and maybe hit Alaska.



What's the fastest you've gone on 2 wheels? 110 or so mph on my GoldWing. The bike I ride now is a C650 GT Super Scooter and it has a governor on the bike set at 111mph. I've had it up to 105mph. Below a picture with my Granddaughter on it:



Solo or Group Rides? I like solo riding and small group rides. When I ride I have a full conversation with all the people in my head. It passes the time and I find them fun.

This year Honda is bringing back my 1st bike, the Trail Bike in Red with a larger engine 125cc.

Sounds like a trip down memory lane.

Your name: Mark Agnello

Age: 64

When did you first notice motorcycles? And why? When my older brother bought a Norton Commando poster for his bedroom circa 1965. I was 8 and thought it was the most beautiful machine in the world.

What was your first motorcycle, and were there any objections by relatives? What's the story with how you bought your first motorcycle? How old were you when you got your first motorcycle? I had a Honda Trail 70 as a kid growing up in Washington Crossing PA back when it was still mostly farm country (late 60's). I bought it with money earned delivering newspapers. My father allowed it with the condition that I would never buy or ride a full size motorcycle. My family in general, was vehemently opposed to motorcycles. My folks thought motorcycle riders were the wrong sort of people and that the machines were death traps. All of the farmer's sons in the area had dirt bikes and we had the run of their property after the crops were harvested. It was heaven to have that much space to legally ride. The only problem I had was getting from my house to the farms. I would ride on the Delaware Canal towpath to get close to the farms and then jump on public roads for a short distance until I was on the farmland.

Needless to say, I couldn't keep up when everyone graduated to full size dirt bikes and I was still riding a CT-70. One of the kids upgraded to a Honda Elsinore the first year they came out and I bought his well used Honda SL-125. I took it apart at his house and brought it home in pieces.

My family owned a tennis club in Washington Crossing and it had a large storage area at one end of the indoor tennis building. I assembled

the bike there and hid it in a boiler room at the back of the building. I think I was 15 at the time. I got away with this for about a year until my dad caught me.

By that time, he relied on me heavily to work at the tennis club and I got him to agree to let me keep it. I licensed the bike and rode it on the street as soon as I was able. I used to ride to high school on nice days. When my old man wanted to bust my chops, he would tell people I was a good kid until he let me buy the mini bike.

He never accepted my love of riding until I was in my 50's and my big brother (who was an MD) bought a Honda ST1100.

When and where did you first cross a state-line on a motorcycle, and what were the circumstances? We lived right near the Delaware River. I crossed the state line to Titusville, NJ all the time to visit friends and ride up Route 29.

What was your first overnight (multi-day away from home) trip? And why? With whom? I was much older (35) when I took my first multi-day trip. I had a Honda V-65 Sabre which was a great long distance machine. I rode to Burlington, VT with a friend and visited a cousin that still lives near there. We spent a week riding the backroads of Vermont. Two highlights stand out. Riding the gravel roads of the Northeast Kingdom and the mountain road that goes from Stowe up through Smuggler's Notch. Since then, my only overnight trips have been dual sport rides in central and north central PA. My favorite is the area around Wellsboro, PA.

Have you crashed? Tell more. I crashed when I was attending college at Penn State Ogontz campus. I had a Suzuki 250 twin street bike and used to ride to school. I was stuck in slow moving traffic near the campus on a beautiful spring day and was watching a very pretty girl instead of paying attention to the traffic. The cars in front stopped suddenly and when I looked up, there was no room to avoid hitting the car in front. I laid the bike down and slid under his bumper. No one was hurt and the damage to my bike was minimal.

I was laying there on the ground and looked up to see a cop in his cruiser looking down at me. He was in the oncoming lane. He just laughed and said, "I saw what you were looking at. Pay atten-

tion to the road next time" and he let me go with a warning.

Since then, I have had many crashes off road but none on pavement. (I love dual sport and trail riding. Most of my off road crashes are on steep uphill tracks strewn with rocks and tree roots. They are low speed crashes and so far only my pride has been hurt.)

What's the longest ride you've taken? What's the furthest away from home ride you've taken? The longest ride was my trip to Vermont.

What's the bucket list ride you haven't done? And why not? Too many to list. I would love to ride to Alaska, ride the Alps and ride in New Zealand. I stopped riding in my late 30's due to family and job issues and did not get another street bike until I was 48. It was a 97 Honda VFR. Got my first BMW a few years later - a used 97 R1100RS. I was raising kids and traveling a lot for my job with NAVAIR during the hiatus from riding. During the last 14 years, I have gone through multiple job changes and a divorce. All have made it difficult to ride as much as I want.

When I get free time, I tend to ride off road in the Pine Barrens and at Famous Reading Outdoors (FRO) with friends. (I have a KTM 350EXCF, Suzuki DR650 and a 2008 R1200GS Adventure.) I feel much safer off road these days with all the distracted drivers. I still work full time as an engineering contractor for NASA and although I work from home, it is difficult to take enough time off for long distance trips. Work has been busier than ever as NASA builds up to the Artemis mission to the Moon. I plan to retire in a couple of years and probably won't take any long trips until then.

What's the fastest you've gone on 2 wheels - when and where? I think I hit 120 on I-95 riding down the stretch between Newtown and Yardley exits late one night. I'm not sure of my exact speed because I was getting buffeted by the wind and freezing my butt off. I was on my V65 Sabre and that frame was not exactly stable at high speed. In general, I do not ride much over 80 mph and on back roads, I ride much slower. I like to enjoy the scenery.

Do you enjoy solo or group riding, and why? I enjoy group riding on and off road. I feel much safer in a group on road because I think we are

much more visible to the drivers around us. I also enjoy sharing the experience and talking about it later.

Your name: Roger Trendowski

Age: 73

When did you first notice motorcycles? And why?

Living in the country in up-state NY, I was exposed to tractors, junk cars and eventually scooters and small motorcycles.



At 14 yrs old my brother and I had fun with a 1929 Model A Doodlebug (cut down Model A truck w/no cab or exhaust). I then picked up a Cushman Scooter (not much for riding through the woods), Jawa 125cc junker (with no seat or throttle cable) and then a 50cc MoPede (licensed and occasionally rode to school 7 miles, if I had enough time).

What was your first motorcycle, and were there any objections by relatives? My family never objected when I brought home old MC or car junk.... probably since they thought I would never get them running. Working on junk was better they thought than smoking, drinking or girls. (They were wrong of course... I could multi-task.)

When and where did you first cross a state line? At 18 I trailered my Bridgestone 60cc bike to Florida for college. I traveled alone with my 62 Chev II and a Bridgestone 60 mounted on a 1953 (yes 1953) Peterson boat trailer. I rode my motorcycles numerous times across state lines while living/working in NC (1969-76) when riding the logging trails in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

A group of us from Western Electric company in Winston Salem thoroughly explored the logging roads and back roads in NC, southwestern VA and eastern TN. I first rode trails on a Bridgestone 175 Dual Twin (road bike with knobbies and big rear sprocket), then Yamaha CT175, Suzuki 250 Savage. (You may notice that my increasing bike investment was tied to my first real job and salary.)



What was your first overnight (multi-day away from home) trip? It wasn't until I started riding again after 20 year hiatus in 1999 on an R60/5. I got the old bike runnable and started to ride locally in upstate NY where I garaged it. Then I heard about the Finger Lakes BMW rally, so I rode from Syracuse (our cottage) to Watkins Glenn for the Labor Day weekend Rally.

I met many super BMW folks at the rally. It was an all new experience with 1,000 people, tenting, cabins, vendors, flea market, lasting over 4 days One group at the rally, the Connecticut River Valley club be-friended me. I drank and ate too much and wound up staying overnight in their rally cabin. It was a great experience with new friends,,, I think... if I could remember it all. To date, they still remind me.

Have you crashed? For me, crashing and going over the handlebars when younger in competitive races and trail riding in the woods in the Blue Ridge mountains was pretty normal... and recovery was fast when younger. My only big one was in 2014 coming back from the Finger Lakes Rally on Labor Day evening. I had a front tire blowout on Interstate 81

near Scranton. I broke a lot of things including my pristine 1992 R100GS (purple bike which Mikey has now fully rebuilt. frame, forks, bags, tank handlebars, etc).

What's the longest ride you've taken? What's the furthest away from home ride you've taken?

Longest ride... as measured by miles or time? I've ridden to the West Coast several times to MOA National Rallies. My longest distance at one time was my third Iron Butt ride from Jersey Shore to (near) Salt Lake City....2100 miles in 48 hours.

What's the bucket list ride you haven't done? And why not? Bucket List Ride... Europe or New Zealand, My nearer goal would be Newfoundland

What's the fastest you've gone on 2 wheels - when and where? I've never had a fast bike.... only single or two cyl trail bikes and mid size road bikes e.g. , 500cc 4 cyl Honda 1972. This bike at 10K rpm felt like you were going 100mph, but not actuality. My current F850GSA and my past R1150GSA were maxed out about 100 mph but I rarely touched that milestone.

Do you enjoy solo or group riding, and why?

Groups - more visible to the drivers around us. I also enjoy sharing the experience and talking about it later.

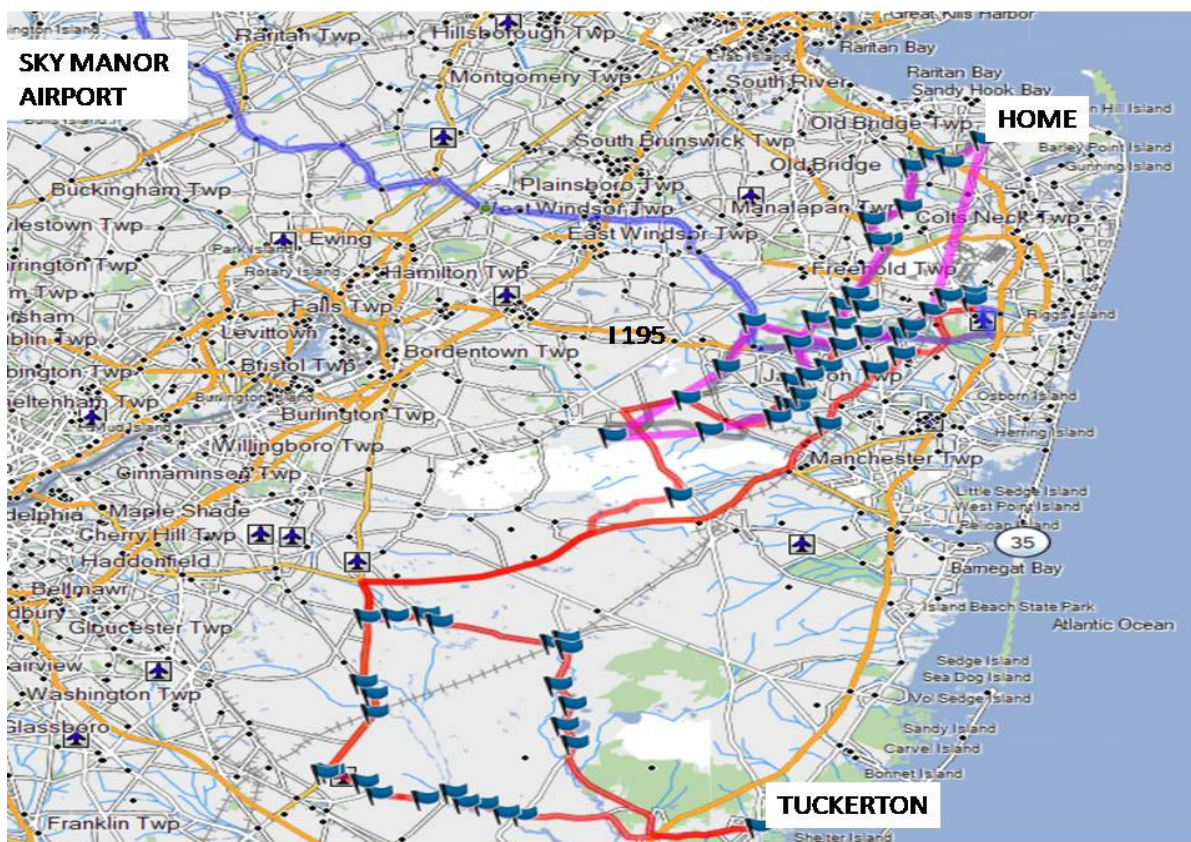
Riding Warm Again... Finally

Roger T.



Roger, Joe, Rick and Greg

Over the last month since it was much warmer than usual, I rode three loops just to get out. With various club members (Greg Burger, Joe Karol, and Rick the Prez) I headed mostly South for two rides and West for the other. Two rides were to the Pinelands.



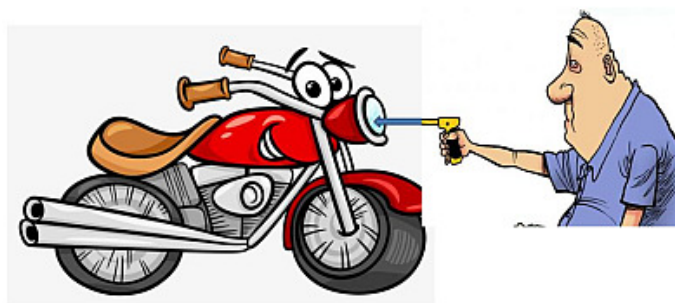
The outstanding one was where Greg led us down a progressively terrible sand laden road. With a big pool of water blocking the way it took three of us to rotate the bikes in the narrow sandy road. This adventure reminded me why I don't like sand... I am terrible at riding in it. The pains in my legs and hips agree.

At this point, I am tired of riding South...visiting the cranberry bogs and Tuckerton area again. For a change, a couple of us rode up to Sky Manor Airport and enjoyed a nice lunch at Sky Café. It was one of those 70 degree days. The creative thing was how we got there. We headed West on I195 and got off near Jackson... then headed north on secondary roads to Princeton and many more back roads to Pittstown. We even ventured onto a 1½ lane (paved) road along the way as a short cut.

Sky Café was pretty full but they offered well spaced outdoor and inside tables; plastic dividers separated their indoors tables. Each of the three loops took 4 -5 hours and were 100 -130 miles. We avoided Interstates most of the way on each trip (except for the I195 leg of Sky Manor trip).

The picture shows an overlay of our 3 routes. With the warmer weather and Covid shots, we need a lot more weekday and weekend excursions.

Who wants to plan one?



Roger made this.. "Covid test on a bike" and has been bugging me to print it..

BMW Recall Announced

BMW Motorrad has announced yet another in their never ending series of fuel pump recalls. This one is for "certain Model Year 2011-2014 BMW R1200, R Nine T, K1300/1600, S1000R/RR and HP4 motorcycles."

What's the recall about? Once again – leaking fuel pumps. The bikes listed had been left out of the last fuel pump recall since the "improved" pumps were factory installed on them. Apparently the improvement wasn't adequate to keep fuel where it belongs, and there have been more leaking fuel pumps. As they

warn “A fuel leak, in the presence of an ignition source, could lead to a fire..” (duh.)

What are they going to do? Replace the fuel pump. It will be for free (their emphasis) and should take about one hour.

The claim is made that parts are in stock and your friendly local dealer has BMW trained mechanics anxious to implement this recall. Just call..

The recall is **Campaign No. 21V-060:Fuel Pump**

They suggest that if you notice a strong odor of fuel, or see actual fuel leaking, you should shut off the engine and park the bike. They don't mention leaving it outside your garage – but that might also be a good idea if you smell fuel. BTDT back around Christmas when my R12R was stinking up my garage. Mr. Mikey made it all better, but I'm going for the new fuel pump anyway (mine was the seal to the tank on the fuel pump wasn't sealing..)

As with any recall – if you had this problem and paid your good money to have it repaired, BMW is **REQUIRED BY FRIGGIN' LAW** to reimburse you reasonable costs including towing, lodging and good stuff like that.

Thoughts on riding safely..

Editor again..

I, as I'm sure most of us are prone to – when I see or hear about a motorcycle accident, especially a fatal one – try to figure out how it might have been avoided, or how injury or death might not be the result.

There was recently a small article in the local paper about a policeman from one of the smaller nearby NJ communities who was out riding his Harley at dusk and died after a left-turner pulled out in front of him.

My thoughts turned to what he might have done which might have resulted in a happier ending. The newspaper mentioned that he'd “laid it down..” as they put it “an often used maneuver motorcyclists use to avoid a crash.” This statement just left me aghast. We have someone who we hope had some training who has been accused of throwing away any chance for a better outcome by throwing his bike at the ground and relinquishing control to fate and inertia.

The article mentioned the bike and he slid into the car that had turned in front of him. Once “laid down” there was nothing else that could happen.

“Laying it down” is the wrong thing to do in ANY situation. It immediately relinquishes any control the rider might have to fate. The rider no longer has anything to do with the outcome except being the victim of it.

What else might have made for a better outcome? Conspicuity. Being seen. There is a famous experiment you've probably seen, involving a man in a gorilla suit walking across a stage where some action is happening, and never being noticed by the observers.

It's true – I watched it once and until I was told about the gorilla man, I simply visually dismissed him as not worth my attention, it was as if he wasn't there. This same thing happens to motorcycles. It's only made worse by the increase in distractions in automobiles (touch screens, phones, multiple entertainment systems, GPS, etc.) As a motorcyclist we need to make ourselves seen.

To that end – I wear a visually bright helmet (right now bright-red, I've also used day-glow yellow), and a headlight modulator.

There are lots of people who've dismissed headlight modulators without ever experiencing the use of one. I'll just say I can determine almost immediately when I've forgotten to turn mine on (it only comes on with the high-beam) by the actions of motorists around me while riding. It is THAT effective – I can immediately tell the difference.

Would a modulator have made the rider in the accident safer? The common excuse is “I didn't see him..” by people who turn left in front of us.

Think on that a bit..

Conspicuity – good word: Wiktionary: *The property of being clearly discernible. The state or quality of being clear or bright; brightness; conspicuousness.*

An interesting read on the subject:

<https://www.outsideonline.com/2411054/hi-viz-clothing-cyclists> – from a bicyclists point of view.

Ride safe.. we'd rather not read about anyone in the club becoming a statistic.