

May 2022

# NEW JERSEY SHORE BMW RIDERS Inc

Mike Palmer, President ([president@njsbmwr.org](mailto:president@njsbmwr.org))

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Joe Karol, Treasurer & Trustee

Jim Thomasey, Secretary, Newsletter Publisher

Editors: Bill Dudley, Paul Cooke; Don Eilenberger, Trustee; Dennis Swanson, Trustee; Roger Trendowski, Trustee; Bill Dudley, Trustee; Dave Rosen, Trustee; Dan Thompson, Trustee; Joe Karol, Trustee; Ed Gerber, Trustee.



## President's Message

Mike Palmer, President

Well, April sure went by fast. Just as well, we only had a few good riding days. Let's hope May brings warmer a sunnier weather.

Greg Berger put together a nice ride through Somerset and Hunterdon Counties this past Sunday. Five members started out from Cheesequake (now Jon Bon Jovi) rest area. We rode to Somerville area on 287 and then hit county roads the rest of the trip. We ended up in Milford for lunch which was nice but service was slow. They must still be experiencing Covid help shortage. Larry E. met us there. We must have left to soon for him to start with us. Sorry Larry. After lunch we split up and headed home our own ways. Thanks Greg.

I was riding last week on a nice day and decided to go up the river towards Frenchtown and cross into Pa and ride back down 32 toward New Hope. DON'T DO IT! The road was a disaster. There were not just pot holes, but whole sections of road missing. You would need a GS or trail bike to make it through. I was going 10 miles an hour through some sections. In some area you had to wait for oncoming traffic to pass so you could move over and use their side of the road.

I'm planning a trip to Florida and back through the Smokies this month, so my desk is filled once again with maps. I hope the weather cooperates.

We have a meeting on the 11th at Woody's in Farmingdale. Hope to see you then.

## Last Month's Club Meeting Minutes

By Mike Palmer for Jim Thomasey

The meeting was called to order @ 7:00pm

May, queen of blossoms, And fulfilling flowers, With what pretty music Shall we charm the hours? Wilt thou have pipe and reed, Blown in the open mead? Or to the lute give heed In the green bowers.  
*Lord Edward Thurlow*

But winter lingering chills the lap of May.  
*Oliver Goldsmith*

Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May, And summer's lease hath all too short a date.  
*William Shakespeare*

Every year, back comes Spring, with nasty little birds yapping their fool heads off and the ground all mucked up with plants.  
*Dorothy Parker*

We know the past but cannot control it. We control the future but cannot know it.  
*Claude Shannon*

Lots of people go mad in January. Not as many as in May, of course. Nor June. But January is your third most common month for madness.  
*Karen Joy Fowler*

A little knowledge may or may not be a dangerous thing, but it certainly going to be more expensive.  
*Vikrant Parsai*

The only way to spend New Month's Eve is either quietly with friends or in a brothel. Otherwise when the evening ends and people pair off, someone is bound to be left in tears.  
*W.H.Auden*

by President Palmer (because it was determined that Mike Kowal wasn't coming that evening)

President Mike P. asked all to identify themselves one by one with information about themselves and their bikes.

A motion of the minutes from last month's meeting were made by Bill Dudley and seconded by Henning.

President Mike P. gave an update from other clubs and the events they were planning to attend, such as a track day in Mass by Skylands and a trip to Eagles Mere by Lehigh Valley. He also mentioned a book written by a German woman who traveled around the U.S. and wanted to sell it to those who were interested, if they understood German.

There was a discussion on the Gathering of Nortons on the 24th of April at Washington's Crossing, Pa.

Near the close of the meeting, Don E. mentioned that because of the age of the club members and the fact that they have been riding for many years, the loud wind has done serious damage to the hearing of the group. He suggested that we have an audiologist address our club at a future meeting on the benefits of hearing aids. Jerry S. said he would ask his contact at Costco to come to a future meeting.

## **Club Calendar**

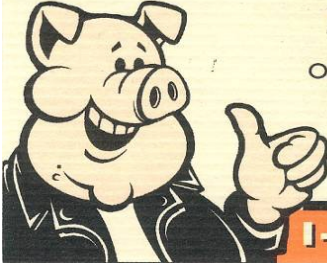
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Note: Due to the pandemic, events may be canceled or modified. Check your email or the club website for updates.

### **May**

- May 4 Moribundi lunch 12:30PM Four Winds Restaurant, Manasquan
- May 6-8 MOA Getaway all day Coeur D'Alene, ID
- May 11 Club meeting 7:30PM (6PM to eat) Woody's Roadside Tavern, 105 Academy St., Farmingdale

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**JERRY FRIEDMAN**  
The Motorcycle Attorney  
One Greentree Center, Suite 201  
P.O. Box 649  
Marlton, New Jersey 08053  
www.law4hogs.com  
e-mail: law4hogs@aol.com

**1-800-LAW-4-HOGS**

- May 13-15 MOA Getaway all day Los Osos, CA
- May 20-22 MOA Getaway, Santa Fe, NM
- May 20-22 MOA Getaway, Dillard, GA

### **June**

- June 1 Moribundi lunch 12:30PM TBD
- June 8 Club meeting 7:30PM (6PM to eat) Woody's Roadside Tavern, 105 Academy St., Farmingdale
- June 16-18 BMW MOA National Rally, Springfield, MO

### **July**

- July 6 Moribundi lunch 12:30PM TBD
- July 13 Club meeting 7:30PM (6PM to eat) Woody's Roadside Tavern, 105 Academy St., Farmingdale
- July 20 Ice cream ride 6:30PM TBD

### **August**

- August 3 Moribundi lunch 12:30PM
- August 5-7 MOA Getaway all day Guelph, Ontario, Canada
- August 10 Club meeting 7:30PM (6PM to eat) Woody's Roadside Tavern, 105 Academy St., Farmingdale
- August 17 Ice cream ride 6:30PM TBD

### **September**

- September 7 Moribundi lunch 12:30PM
- September 9-11 MOA Getaway all day Sugarbush, VT
- September 14 Club meeting 7:30PM (6PM to eat) Woody's Roadside Tavern, 105 Academy St., Farmingdale
- September 16-18 MOA Getaway all day Cedar City, UT
- September 21 Ice cream ride 6:30PM TBD

### **October**

- October 5 Moribundi lunch 12:30PM
- October 12 Club meeting 7:30PM



(6PM to eat) Woody's Roadside Tavern, 105 Academy St., Farmingdale

- October 19 Ice cream ride (summer only) 6:30PM TBD

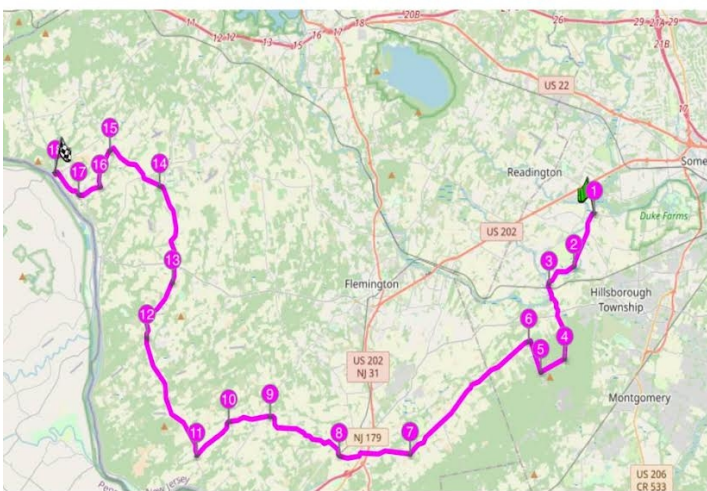
### November

- November 2 Moribundi lunch 12:30PM
- November 9 Club meeting 7:30PM (6PM to eat) Woody's Roadside Tavern, 105 Academy St., Farmingdale

### December

- December 7 Moribundi lunch 12:30PM
- December 14 Club meeting 7:30PM (6PM to eat) Woody's Roadside Tavern, 105 Academy St., Farmingdale

## May 1 Ride Photos



*Route of the May 1 ride*



*The lunch stop*

## Trip to Fontana / Tail of the Dragon

*Roger T.*

There is always something special to celebrate on a great trip. This year our 2000+ mile 7 day trip had "NO RAIN." In almost all of my five years going to MOA Get-a-Way Rallies at Fontana Village, it has rained. Last year it poured on Saturday the main day of the Rally. (Of course a couple of our group had to go out anyway and put on 100 miles in drenching downpour... Henning and Herb.) In other years it rained on the way down or back which makes the ride miserable because of the distance....but no problem this year. Joe Karol and I left NJ (Breakfast Club) at 7:30am on April 19<sup>th</sup> after a brief hydration and chow-down. Our first night goal was Lewisburg WV, 480 miles. Herb Konrad and Jim Nanfeldt left from Maryland which made their route a couple hours and a hundred miles shorter. Because it was easier, we decided to meet at the hotel in Lewisburg. Joe and I traveled by Interstate to minimize the time on the road. We headed due west on I-195 to Trenton, crossed over the old Warren Steet truss bridge (to avoid tolls), hit route 1 south then I-76 West to Carlisle PA, I-81. There we took a light lunch break at my favorite Middlesex Dinner (on Rt 11 about ½ mile north of I-81). The 4-lane I-81 to Lexington VA was uneventful as was the westerly I-64 to Lewisburg... 480 miles in about 9 hours. Surpris-

ingly Herb and Jim were checking in as we arrived. They started the day a few hours later than we did, traveling from Herb's home in MD to Hagerstown MD then west to Rt 220 (mostly 2 laners) and followed that into WV toward the hotel.

With a good night's rest, the next morning we got up early to eat and travel 12 miles to the Greenbrier Resorts and Bunker Tour by 9am. However my F850GSA wouldn't start. With a little frost on the bike, it made no sounds when I hit the starter. The TFT Display screen booted up as usual but after hitting the starter switch, the display went blank then rebooted again. No engine starter sounds, nor clicks or wheezes or groans. With the help and guidance of Joe, we flicked all the switches, put the kickstand up and down, shifted gears in and out of neutral. Still nothing! Finally I pulled out my emergency Lithium jump starter that I carry to help "other bikes" ... hooked it up, tightened the battery leads, and hit the starter switch again. Still nothing... only a boot and reboot of the TFT display. After removing the Lithium battery booster I was ready to call Cross Country BMW for help. Joe hit the starter switch one more time and as if the bike felt our frustration, it briskly started. No sign of low battery or anything. Since then, it has started without incident. (I called CCBMW later in the day and they suggested maybe a bad battery cell or one that was going bad. When I take it in for 30K service next week they will read the error codes to possibly identify the problem.)

The four of us made it to Greenbrier Resorts and the "Bunker" a few minutes late but in time for the 90 minutes tour. I'll do an article on the Bunker next month but it is an excellent place to visit with a great history. I had not heard of the Bunker until last year while researching West Virginia roads and places. Greenbrier is a very upscale resort with rooms at \$450 per night. Back in the 50's with the emerging cold war with Russia, President Eisenhower contracted with the resort to secretly build an underground protection bunker for the U.S. House of Representatives

and Senate. It was fully self contained with water, food and power....112,544 sq ft with 5 ft diameter reinforced walls and ceiling. Even though the government declassified and transferred the ownership of the bunker in the early 1990's, portions of it are used today for document/data storage, large group meetings, and tours of course.

From Greenbrier we headed 20 miles east to Covington VA and then caught a portion of the Mid-Atlantic Back-country Discovery Routes (MA-BDR) route south to New Castle VA. Imagine: three R1200RTs and a GS on the BDR. It's not as challenging as it sounds. The route consists of several narrow "paved" roads going southwest. I traveled this back in 2019 as well as another mountainous fire road so I knew this leg was easy and scenic. This BDR leg is part of their overall long Mid-Atlantic route. <https://ridebdr.com/mabdr/> MABDR is a scenic ride for dual-sport and adventure motorcycles that uses dirt, gravel and paved roads to wind through remote parts of Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Starting in Damascus Virginia, and ending in Lawrenceville, Tioga County, PA, this 1,080-mile route, primarily uses forest roads and rural country lanes to lead riders through the Appalachian mountains. After getting off the BDR leg at New Castle VA, we hit Rt 42 for 60 miles. Rt 42 parallels I-81 toward Bristol TN. When we crossed I-77, rather than continuing to Bristol on Rt 42, we decided to interstate-it down to I-81 to Bristol, Johnson City, and south on I-26 to Asheville. Because we did the 90 minute Bunker tour and left Greenbrier about 11:30am, we only had a half day to ride to our next hotel in Asheville. This still required a 300 mile ride and that's why we didn't try to make it all the way to Fontana (another 100 miles).





*Greenbrier Resorts BUNKER entrance. Door is 2 feet thick. Entire bunker is encased in 5 feet reinforced concrete. Huge 112K sq ft. 2 story bunker. It was built to withstand an atomic hit. Check out the door knob and door hinges. It was capable of holding 1100 Congressional occupants for several months.*

From Asheville we rode a southerly loop (down I-26) and around and up to Fontana village on Rt 28 and others. We made a lunch stop at another of our group's favorite spots in Cherokee NC called "Granny's". This is an excellent buffet at a Cherokee-owned restaurant located very close to the Harrah's Casino... excellent food, shared tables, and a new sign that says "they reserve the right to charge for uneaten food." I guess this deters people from taking more than they eat. On Friday (Day 4) we rode a 6 hr loop out the back door of Fontana Village to Cherohala Skyway, up Rt 611 and back through the Dragon. Herb and Jim didn't do the Dragon but instead took a longer northerly loop into the Smokey's and down to Cherokee and back to Fontana... about 3 hours longer than Joe and I did. On Saturday (Day 5) I didn't ride (due to not feeling well). Joe, Herb and Jim rode a southerly loop down Rt 129 from Deals Gap to Robbinsville and eventually around to Rt 28 that we had not traveled before, and back to Fontana. About a 5 hour ride. Sunday morning early, we decided not to eat at the hotel but instead headed toward Asheville and home. We stopped at Huddle House Restaurant in Waynesville and then on

to Asheville, up I-26 to Johnson City and Bristol TN and north on I-81.



*Cherohala Skyway route... high incident corridor. I wonder why? Just like the Tail of the Dragon however Cherohala does not have a "tree of shame."*

The MOA provided two dinner meals and many door prizes and a cash bar/greeting. The main door prize was a Cardo communication system. A goody bag for everyone included an MOA pouch with flashlight, tire pressure gauge and other miscellaneous tools. The dinners were excellent.

Traveling on Interstate 81 is a bear. We hit two spots of slow and stopped traffic along the way between Tenn and Harrisonburg VA (last night stopover). Leader Jim N. took us off the interstate in the second slowdown and we meandered through the Virginia countryside. (Moving is always better than dealing with stopped traffic.) Even though Harrisonburg is a stretch for one day ( 433 miles ), it shortened the remainder of the trip to home the next day.... definitely worth it. A lunch stop at Middlesex Diner again in Carlisle PA freshened us for the final three hour run to home. Overall I put on 2027 miles and Joe perhaps a hundred more due to his Saturday ride which I did not do. Other than the one incidence of "my bike obstinate refusal" to start on Day 2, none of us had engine/bike problems or flats. I did lose my glasses when stopped at a rest area after setting them on

my tank bag to put on my helmet. Jim dropped his jacket liner after leaving it on trunk at a rest stop. Luckily I was third bike behind him and was able to retrieve it from the middle of the interstate entrance ramp. GREAT TRIP!



*Trip to Fontana from my home in Middletown.*

From Greenbrier Bunker, we took short portion of BDR route then followed Rt 42 which parallels I-81 for a ways. Overnights in Lewisburg WV and Asheville NC on the way down. Then 3 nights at Fontana Village, near the Dragon. Home was virtually the same route with no variations. We stayed in Harrisonburg VA on way home.

## **How not to go to the Gathering**

*Bill Dudley*

I managed to not go the Gathering of the Nortons, despite the best intentions and heroic efforts, all undone by my own ineptness.

Sunday morning we (Zhao and I) met Richard Lehman. Zhao elected to ride on the much better passenger seat on Richard's R1200GS, and I rode my fake Norton F1 (really, a recently re-conditioned Honda CBR600.)

We got on I-195, and it never occurred to me to check the fuel level on my bike. We got all the way to exit 2 on I-195, when my bike ran

out of gas, and of course, I was already on the reserve tap, so no more go-juice.

I'll leave out the part about Richard and Zhao going to find gas and a small can, which turned into an odyssey all it's own, because gas stations don't have gas cans any longer.

I managed to push the bike off the exit ramp and to the nearby gas station, and filled it up – and it still wouldn't run. It turns out that the fuel pump took this opportunity to die. (Why does a carbureted bike have a fuel pump?)

I re-plumbed the bike to bypass the fuel pump (i.e. gravity feed), and we headed west again – only to have the bike die again approaching the "tunnel" by the Trenton ball park. Gravity feed doesn't feed enough fuel to the carbs to keep the bike running "at speed", or "up hill". At this point I gave up on the idea of going to the Gathering. The new goal was simply to get home.

I got the bike running again, and managed to return about a mile or so, before the bike died again. This time, I really gave up, and started looking for a tow.

So that you don't have to suffer the hours I did waiting to see how this ended, I'll cut to the answer: A friend with a trailer picked me up and I got home about 4PM. Richard and Zhao had returned home quite a bit earlier.

A new fuel pump is on order, and I expect the fake Norton to ride again soon. And next April, I'll try this again – with more attention to detail, I expect.

## **Argentina (without motorcycles)**

*Larry Edelman*

My wife passed away three years ago and I'm finally mentally ready to venture out into the world again, starting with this trip with a friend. His name is David and his wife and my wife were best friends for over 20 years, we were just acquaintances. It just so happened that both our wives passed away within a couple months of each other. After 2



½ years on our own, we realized we have a lot in common, we both enjoy nature and like to hike and travel. One day last July while we were hiking at Hartshorn Park in Atlantic Highlands with the 50+ singles MeetUp Group, we both happened to mention we wanted to visit Argentina. He had skied there in the winter and wanted to go back in the summer and I have a second cousin there only met once in my life when she was in NY doing a book signing or something like that (she is a renowned author in Buenos Aires), and I wanted to visit her.

So Davis and I booked the flights in January and my cousins suggested we do internal flights to various tourist areas. We ended up looking a round-trip flight from Newark to Buenos Aires, and then local flights from Buenos Aires to El Calafate, then 3 days later to Bariloche, then 5 days later to Mendoza and 6 days later back Buenos Aires, where I spent a few more days visiting with my cousins before flying back to the United States.



*Larry and David*

It turns out the area from south of El Calafate to Mendoza and possible another 800 km beyond is the famous Patagonia region, the part of Argentina that runs north-south along the

Andes mountains and its border with Chile. The landscape changes from penguins, frozen lakes and glaciers to arid deserts, it changes from looking like Antarctica in the south to areas that look like our Adirondacks or possibly our Great Lakes (they call the Bariloche area the Siete Lagos, 7-Lakes, region (it also reminded me a lot of Banff). In the northern area from Mendoza up it was a lot like the Arizona and Utah, except for the AMAZING wine. They even have a grand canyon that looks like our grand canyon but possibly one 5<sup>th</sup> the size. However there is a little government control over the natural resource/tourist areas, so you can drive around in the canyon and hike to your heart's content. But if you slip and fall, it can easily be fatal.



*somewhere in Patagonia*

We saw lots of motorcycles traveling along the famous “Ruta 40” which has been likened to our Route 66, only running north-south through Patagonia. Because my friend David was not a motorcyclist, we had to travel by rental car, but it was still lots of fun, and every chance I got I stopped to talk to the motorcyclists we met a lunch stops. They were almost always motorcyclists from Buenos Aires. I did meet one professionally guided group however, which I will contact if go back for a motorcycle adventure. They seemed nice and are located in a really lovely mountain area that reminded me of our Little Switzerland just north of Asheville, NC They are <https://www.letsridepatagonia.com.ar/>





*Looks like good ridin'*

A big surprise I learned about Argentina was that half the population lives in Buenos Aires and they comprise 95% of the tourists that visit the remainder of the country. In 16 days of traveling, I meet one group of Americans, a family of the avid fishermen from Colorado that had come to fish in Bariloche. The most common non-Argentinian tourists that we met, typically at least two every day, were young Israelis who had recently finished serving their tour in the army and were spending six months traveling to see the world.



*The author with a random local, who just wanted a picture with the stranger.*

Because almost all of the “tourists” were **from** Argentina, very few people in the “tourist” areas spoke English. However, I had 3 years of Spanish 55 years ago in High School, and used the mobile app DuoLingo for 3 months to “brush up”. As it turned out my “Spanish” was enough to get along, but the real lifesaver was “google translate”. As long as there was cell service or WiFi, we were fine, and when neither were available, sign language worked just as well. To say “no onions in my salad please”, I just said “Por Favor, no .. and then I used my hands to pretend to chop some food, and then I immediately put my hands to my eyes and pretended to cry, they got it immediately! 😊



*got enough meat, Larry?*

I would love to have arranged to rent a motorcycle to traverse the 3000 miles of Patagonian that we visited instead of flying to various destinations and then renting a car, but it was a second best alternative. If you rent a



car and turn it to a different location there is a USD \$1000 surcharge.

Another great experience during my adventures in Patagonia was finding out that American \$100 bills are highly valued by the locals, and it was relatively easy to get an exchange rate of 200 to 1 where the government rate exchange rate was 120 to 1. Thus, a filet mignon dinner for two, with appetizers, salad, dessert and cappuccino, along with a bottle of wine that costs as much as the entire dinner, ends up costing, with tip, about \$15 each. A nice Finca (rural wine lodge/hotel) was easy to find each day during our lunch stop, as long as we had either WiFi or cell service, of our travel by using TripAdvisor. I would read the most recent Reviews to make my decision. Once I didn't check the review date, and it turned out it had been in 2017 and the place had been closed for years. Once a good 4 star place was found, I used Booking.com to secure the reservation, and then a few hours later we would drive up to the location using Waze or Google Maps, and we were IN. Great hotels had rates that were only about \$75-\$120, and if using the favorable "non-government" conversion rate", half that. We never felt unsafe in the rural areas. We were warned that there are many people who are poor and would not hesitate to break into a parked car if they saw something of value in it, or even steal the car completely if they had the chance. So, we were careful to keep our suitcase hidden in the trunk and used a pack for our daily needs, money, passports and a waterproof jacket if it rained or got too cold.

Speaking of weather, when we rented the car I got a corporate rate that included liability, property and theft insurance, but it did not cover hail damage. I had never really seen hail cause a problem, but my Argentinean cousin had major damage on her car, but it was only once in over 25 years. Needless to say our, on our third day driving north of Mendoza suddenly huge balls of ice started to drop, the size of golf balls. The first one hit the roof and David immediately sprang

into action. We were in an area that looked like the Arizona Desert, but there was a statue of the Virgin Mary on the left hand side of the road and a large tree over it that gave shade to those that stopped to pray. He immediately swerved to cross the road and when I noticed the statue I said Hail Mary Mother of God please protect us from the hail. Needless to say we were protected, the leaves of the tree reduced the speed of the hail and the car rental company never noticed the one dimple on the roof that we got before we received "protection".



*hail storm ahead!*



*down South, near Antarctica*





# Super-Fun Joke Corner

Various contributors



Roger's bike prepped for the trip



## Highly Classifieds

**For sale: Triumph Bonneville 65 w 12 up-date; has orange 66 tank, professionally reconditioned. \$5000, call Jerry at 908-472-8585**

**For Sale: 1995 BMW R100RT – call Jerry at 908-472-8585**



I think this is a Photoshop brand motorcycle.

## Gathering Photos

Delaware Valley Norton Riders

[https://www.dvnr.org/gallery/2022\\_Gathering](https://www.dvnr.org/gallery/2022_Gathering)