

THE NEW JERSEY SHORE BMW RIDERS

June 2000

Register NOW for the
June 23-25th

NJS 1st Chance Rally
Mail a \$30. Check to
Don Eilenberger

1213 Pond Road
Spring Lake Hts, NJ 07762-1962

Notes from President: Dennis

Here it is June and the month of our First Chance Rally. We really need to have a good show from our membership, so I hope you plan to attend. It's really a good chance to ride, to eat and drink with your friends, and to see some nice country. It's a rural area with lots of twisties and sweepers and not much in the way of cars and people. Even if you don't camp there are plenty of places to stay in the area and you can still take part on all the non-events. So send your check to Don at your first opportunity or bring it to the next meeting at Schneider's Restaurant. Don't delay. We could be facing financial ruin if we don't get a good response. And speaking of the next meeting, why not be there? The food is great, the conversation is provocative, and it gets you out of the house. Many of our members have been riding and will have lots of stories to tell or perhaps tales to spin. See you there!

WV Debrief - Dennis Swanson

Left on Weds. last with Muncie and John Welch, returned yesterday. Muncie had made all arrangements. He mapped the routes and booked the motels. All we had to do was follow. Excepting Friday, the weather was pretty good and Sunday doesn't count. First night we stayed in Petersburg where the food was good and the beds comfy. On Thurs. we followed a circuitous route to Bartow. From there a twisty ride to Lewisburg on Friday. The rain was heavy at times. After changing hotels we found one with a bar and a real cute bartender and settled in for a rainy night. Next day a roundabout and lengthy ride back to Petersburg. The roads were wet in spots, but although cloudy, there was no rain.

This is beautiful country, particularly the national and state parks. The people, except being buzzed by some apes on Hardy Ablesons, were very friendly. The restaurants were inexpensive and generally good. The roads, if you kept a close watch for loose gravel, were great and offered many challenges. The cops were rarely seen and triple digits could be reached at will. The man to see for details is Muncie. He did a great job with the arrangements. [see also, WV Redux]

Area 3 is not to be messed with...Don Eilenberger

The first longish ride of the year is always one that gets my nerves on edge.. especially when the weather guessers are talking 90F+ temps and thunderstorms for the ride. Every other year I manage to convince myself that I *have* to go to the Square Root Rally put on by BMW-BMW (Baltimore-Metro-Washington BMW Riders). If you haven't been - you're missing some of the finest riding within a fairly easy days ride, and the ride TO and FROM the rally can be a joy also. Friday June 1st dawned at about 70F in NJ, I awoke early - having the pre-rally (think Christmas as a kid) jitters - tossed and turned in bed until 8AM, then finally decided it was TIME TO GET GOIN'.. I called Glenn Martin - he and Janet Muller were going to be my riding partners on a partly new scenic route to way-west Maryland. I made coffee, took a shower, drank coffee, refused to go anywhere NEAR the computer to check the weather, went and



checked and rechecked the bike a few times (bolt check, tire pressure, fiddly stuff). Janet and Glenn arrived a bit after 9AM, we took final pit-stops and hit the road about 9:30AM. I was leader for the high-speed portion of the ride (hey! We DID the speed limit and actually passed a few cars and trucks!) as we headed out I-

195 to the NJ Turnpike onto the PA Turnpike and west to Exit 22.. we covered about 120 miles in a bit less than 3 hours (with a stop for gas - about 25 minutes) and met a friend, Brian Curry, just off the PA TP exit.

Brian led us on a spirited (for me) ride through parts of the PA Dutch area, down into Maryland, taking me over one of those bridge/dams which I absolutely hate - the PECO power dam on Rt 372 in PA where it crosses the Susquehanna River. Think of a bridge/dam - 2 lanes wide (trucks coming at you high speed) about 500-600 feet above the water, with 18" high guard rails and narrow shoulders. I started across it at 60.. I was down to 35 by the time I crossed the 1/2 mile of hell. But, I digress..

The temperature continued to rise throughout the day - I observed 97F as the peak someplace around Columbia PA..

The ride continued into the top of Maryland around Whiteford and continued through all back roads westerly - wonderful twisty good pavement back roads for about 80 miles to Thurmont MD. (We'll leave out the slight scenic detour we took around/through/under/past Westminster MD due to the temporary trip leader -me- and some road construction.. the Stone Church we passed was very nice).

We finally arrived in Thurmont itself - where Janet and Glenn took off for supplies at the brew-store and Brian and I continued up mountain to Camp Del-Mar, home of the Square Root Rally. As we went up the mountain toward the rally site - the temperature did what it always does on that mountain - dropped 15 degrees to

starting to set (the rain is passing) behind them. Opening the door finds a room that is spacious and spotlessly clean. The essence of customer satisfaction: when reality exceeds your expectations. I decide to make this "home base" and do a backroad loop on Saturday.

Saturday is bridge day. I'm finally going to bag the New River Gorge Bridge, the highest single-span bridge in the world. The bridge spans the New River Gorge, itself home to world-class whitewater rafting, if that's your pleasure. If not, you can attend Bridge Day, the third Saturday in October, and watch folks bungee jump and hang glide off the bridge. And they say us bikers are nuts.

My first stop though is the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, part of the global large area array of radio telescopes scanning the heavens for extraterrestrials. In fact, the largest radio telescope in the world is due to come on line there later this year. It is over 30 stories tall and weighs over 16 million tons. It also has over 2,000 panels that can be moved independently to keep the telescope in focus as it tracks ET on his bicycle across the sky. The dish is surrounded by a series of laser beams which keep the panels in perfect alignment. It has a collecting area of 2.3 acres and cost us taxpayers \$75 million.

I also learn why my cell phone won't work here. It seems that Pocahontas County, where the NRAO and the motel are, has been declared a "quiet zone" by the federal government. That means no cell towers anywhere in the whole county, lest they interfere with the NRAO's ability to find ET. This limitation aside, you've gotta like Pocahontas County; they are actually promoting their location as "biker friendly." In one of their vacation brochures, under the caption of "motorcycle touring," is a picture of your stereotypical bearded bad-ass biker dude astride his Harley panhead, complete with upswept straight pipes and beanie helmet. When is the last time you saw a government agency actually promote motorcycling? Stick this in your North Carolina/Deal's Gap/Fontana approach to motorcycle tourism. Somehow though, I don't fit the stereotype on the K and in my 'stitch; maybe I should grow that goatee.

One must-do road is the Highland Scenic Highway, Route 150, just west of the Snowshoe Ski Resort and off Route 219. This is a 23 mile stretch of the BRP that's been transplanted into WV. Over 60 percent of the road is above 4,000 feet, making it the highest major roadway in WV. It is sweeper after sweeper and is "recreational only," meaning that there is nothing on it but scenic overlooks. Running the route at 10 a.m. on a Saturday I encountered 2 other vehicles, and one of them was stopped at an overlook.

From the bridge I've woven together a route suggested by Extreme Twisties, a book published recently that reports on the

good roads in the Southeast. I found this little gift on my doorstep last Christmas, delivered by our own extremely twisted Santa, a.k.a. Glenn. All I can say is that the book doesn't lie. That said, virtually any road you take in WV is an extreme twistie; you just can't go wrong. 380 miles and about a million rights and lefts later, I'm back at home base.

Here's another little WV road tidbit. The road engineers have thoughtfully created numerous passing zones, making passing the little traffic there is easy, safe and legal. What's even better is that very often the dotted line passing zones start about 60 percent of the way around a turn. This way you know two things: 1) the road is about to open up, so you can do the same with your right wrist; and 2) if you need to pass, you're forewarned of the opportunity. If only other states would learn this lesson.

The route home is a compromise, about 50/50 backroads/highway. This time I head north on the backroads and eventually intersect with the Pa Turnpike west of Harrisburg. I'm still undecided which is uglier, the Pa Tpk or 95. I think I'm leaning toward the Tpk because of the destruction zones with their "tunnels of death," you know, where it funnels down to one lane with concrete barriers on both sides and no shoulders whatsoever. I guess these are designed to keep the carnage all in one place. Thankfully, these pass by without incident and I'm home at 4 p.m., clocking a total of 1230 miles for the 3 day trip. My WV Jones is satisfied for now, but I predict it'll be back with a vengeance come September. Wanna go?

Classified

The guy who bought Russell's blue 1994 K75S (Paul Glassman) is trying to sell it. Last time he listed it for \$7k and got no takers. Now he wants \$6400 with the bags. The bike still has about 4000 miles on it w/ABS. For info call Mike Logalbo 609-395-8991

Our New Web Site: <http://www.njsbmwr.org>

Calendar

- June 14 NJ Shore BMW Riders Monthly Meeting, 7pm, Schneider's, 801 Main, Avon, NJ 732-775-1265
- June 11-18 Laconia, NH, NH Int'l Speedway Superbike Racing/ Bike Week 603-366-2000
- June 16-18 Rally du Quebec, Shawinigan, PQ 819-538-0404
- June 20-24 Honda Hoot, Asheville NC 310-783-3703
- June 23-25 NJS-BMW-R Rally/Campout, Cedar Rapids Campground, Rte.97, Narrowsburg, NY
- June 24-25 Triumph Day, Sturbridge, MA 508-347-3389

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