

March 2006 NEW JERSEY SHORE BMW RIDERS Inc

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The future is an opaque mirror. Anyone who tries to look into it sees nothing but the dim outlines of an old and worried face.
Jim Bishop, New York Journal-American, March 14, 1959

What can be more palpably absurd than the prospect held out of locomotives traveling twice as fast as stagecoaches?
The Quarterly Review (England), March 1825

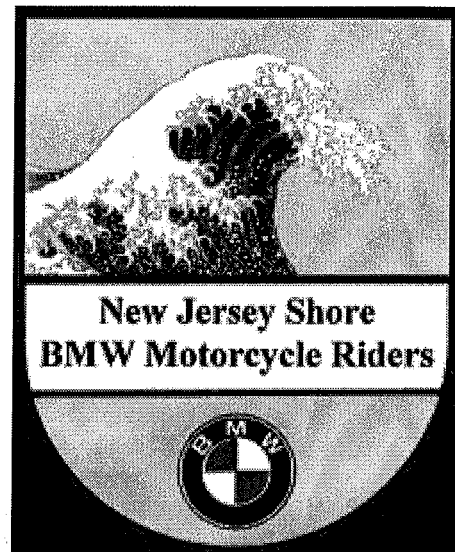
President's Message

Well winter has finally arrived, but that doesn't have to end our riding season. There are plenty of opportunities to enjoy this fabulous sport. It seems we have several groups from our club and those other Beemer clubs in the state going to some far off place. Lands where the sun is warm, the bars are full, the scooters are adorned with shiny chrome, tassels of the finest leather and scantily clad pillions. It has also been rumored that the sound the behemoths make would rattle your eye teeth from your gums. I wish these travelers the best of luck and wait with anticipation for their tales to be told.

This is also an excellent time to gather together at those establishments, which hope to sell you a motorcycle of your choosing, and kick the tires. I had this chance over the past weekend when RDS, George H, Al P, Wayne, Pete and myself took a ride to Faracci's to watch Dennis debate, mostly with himself, the merits of coming home with a new Ducati, of all things. Fun was had by all, mostly those watching the debate. Then it was off to Otto's. This fine German eatery had a vast choice of delectable items; a fine lunch was had by all.

I will see you all if not on the road, at our own fine German eatery for the next meeting.

Ride safe
Prez. Dan



Cross Country Open House

Don Eilenberger, filling in this month due to lack of contributions. Hey – if you don't want to read me – get busy writing!

Thanks much to Scott and all the gang at Cross Country for hosting a tech-session/open-house evening last month for the club. Scott gave an informative talk on what's new on the BMW horizon and on some new gear and equipment that Cross Country is carrying. There were also some killer closeout deals on AutoComm equipment and boots and clothing. A discount was also given for anything bought at the even – and there was FREE pizza.

Thanks again to Scott, Dan and all the guys at CC for supporting our club!



"What!?!?" Carl said, **"I put the kickstand down this time."** (Seen at the ferry terminal when people were going to the NYC motorcycle show..)

Strange but True.. Found on the Web..

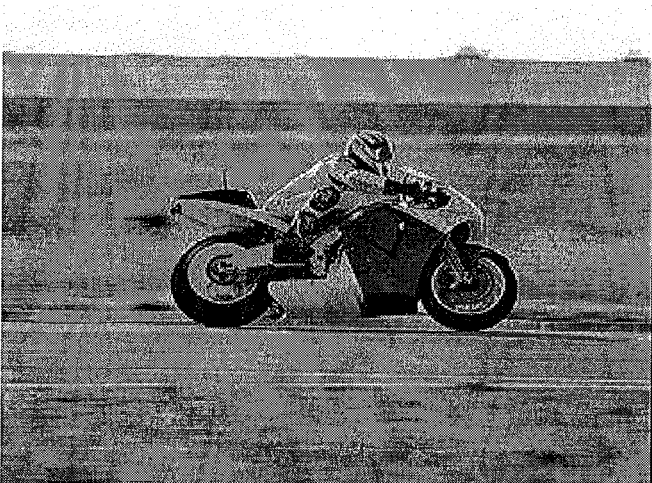
Glenn Martin

<http://www.motorcyclenews.com>

BMW's development bike

BMW has unveiled a new bike that it says is purely for testing and developing new systems for future production.

The bike has been designed with a 'high power output and lightweight construction' in order to test the firm's new technologies under as extreme conditions as possible.



It will be used as a test bed for aerodynamic experiments as well as safety improvements such as 'drive-slip control' that will be phased in to production bikes soon.

Although BMW has said the bike itself is not destined for production, the technology used to build it could be seen on future BMW road bikes.

from <http://www.motorcycledaily.com>

Will the Bike of the Future Run on Ethanol?

In the last few months, it seems that the simple acronym 'E85' has been on everyone's lips. A year ago, few people outside the automobile, farming and fuel industries knew what E85 was - but all that changed when President Bush made 'Alternative Fuels' a center point of his State of the Union address.

What is E85? It's a fuel consisting of 85% ethanol and 15% regular gasoline. Since ethanol can be (and is) produced from domestically grown grain and other domestic products (wood waste, brewery waste, and more), many are touting it as the solution to America's dependence on foreign oil.

Although America is years away from producing

enough ethanol to convert entirely to E85 (according to an article in USA Today, Americans used 140 billion gallons of gasoline last year, while we produced only 4 billion gallons of ethanol), the recent public attention brought to the subject makes it an opportune time to discuss the application of E85 as a motorcycle fuel.

The first question that came to my mind was 'how much power can it make?'. This doesn't seem to be that important to most ethanol proponents, judging from the difficulty I had digging up the info, but the news turns out to be good. Most vehicles currently running on E85 are 'Flexible Fuel Vehicles' (FFVs), which are tuned specifically for gasoline but capable of running on E85 at a lower power level. BUT, according to a GM engineer (quoted in the same USA Today article I linked previously), an engine designed to run strictly on E85 could make around 2% more power than it's gasoline-powered equivalent (probably because E85 has an Octane rating of 105, allowing higher compression ratios). Not much, but at least it's not going to take power away.

E85 also produces remarkably lower emissions, and is produced by a much more energy-efficient process than gasoline.

The bad news? Ethanol contains about a third less energy than an equivalent amount of gasoline, meaning an E85-powered vehicle has to fill up about 1.4 times more frequently than a gasoline-powered vehicle. This isn't that big of a deal for cars - it would be easy to design a 1.4x larger fuel tank into a vehicle as large as an automobile. Motorcycles, however, are a different story - especially size- and weight-conscious segments like sportbikes. This could be a big sticking point for motorcycle use - do you want to fill up 1.4x more often (most modern bikes already have relatively poor range), or carry around 1.4x more weight when your tank is full? I know I don't.

The future of E85 use in the U.S. remains to be seen, but at this point it is probably much farther along than any other alternative-fuel solutions (many gas stations in the American Midwest already sell E85, and most major auto manufacturers are already producing FFVs). I think it is entirely possible that in 20 years, we will all be filling up with E85 when we head out for a long ride.

Useless Filler

