

may 2024

# NEW JERSEY SHORE BMW RIDERS Inc

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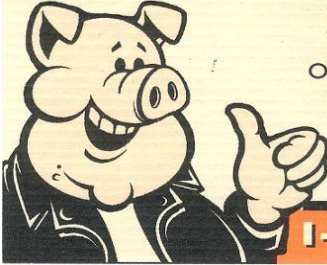
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## President's Message

*Jeff Diorio, President*

Happy official 2024 riding season. If you weren't riding due to cold and snow we are well into prime riding weather.

We had the eclipse last month and some of the club headed north to see full totality. Wishing I was retired and could have ridden out to see it. From NJ it was still kind of impressive.

Seems the group is establishing more Sunday rides locally. This was a meeting discussion 2 meetings ago and Bobby Truex led one a few weekends ago to south Jersey. Bill coordinated the Gathering of the Nortons last weekend. We are looking for more members to suggest fun group rides.

Do let us know if you are not getting your club wide emails from [NJSBMWR@Groups.io](mailto:NJSBMWR@Groups.io). We are doing a lot of notifications on rides etc via that channel.

There are some longer rides the members are doing. Roger and Joe did the Fontana BMW-MOA Getaway recently and Roger is looking for riding buddies to go to National BMW Rally on West Coast in June. I think we are also talking about the other non MOA event in NH later this year as a group ride.

We have a date and a location for "three club rumble" thanks to Don's efforts. Please put it on your calendars and also volunteer to help. Saturday September 28th at Seven Presidents park in Long Branch. There are a few things we need to do:

1. Make sure you block the date and hopefully will attend. As the hosting club we need to have a good showing.

*"Be who you are and say what you feel, for those who mid don't matter and those that matter, don't mind"*

*Bernard Baruch (Financier, Statesman 1870-1965)*

*"Promise me you will not spend so much time treading water trying to keep your head above the waves that you forget, truly forget, how much you have always liked to swim"*

*Tyler Knott Gregson (Poet)*

*"The reason I've had success is that I've never been afraid to fail"*

*David Beckham (Footballer, Intermiami FC Owner)*

*"When mind is weak, situation is a problem. When mind is balanced situation is challenge. When mind is strong, situation is an opportunity"*

*Jack Ma (ex- chairman, Alibaba)*

*"I learn from the mistakes of the people who took my advice"*

*Unknown*

2. We need volunteers to help coordinate the venue preparation, food etc. Let's discuss at this upcoming meeting. If you are out of town please let us know if you can help.

Final note. We are looking to expand the membership to other BMW and non-BMW riding enthusiasts. Please tell a friend. The breakfasts, lunches, weekend rides etc are fantastic opportunities to enjoy our shared passion.

Happy riding and please do contribute to the newsletter any fun riding experience, or your new bike, or cool gear reviews.

Jeff

## **April Meeting Minutes**

*Jim Thomasey, Secretary*

The April meeting was held at Woody's in Farmingdale and began on time. Those in attendance then voted upon and approved the minutes from the last meeting. The treasurer reported just over \$700 in the club's coffers with paid membership at 39.

Discussion then moved to a proposed rule change to the Fluffy Butt contest. This rule will allow points to be awarded for attending meetings, club breakfasts and the monthly Moribundi lunches. You can attend any of these events in a car or on your bike as long as you adhere to the other stipulations of the contest.

The Gathering of the Nortons was held on April 28 at its new location in Frenchtown. There is a more in-depth review of this event elsewhere in this newsletter.

New Jersey Shore BMW Riders club is the host of the Three Club Rumble this year. Progress will begin in earnest once we establish a date which is not in conflict with anything the other clubs are contemplating. Tentative dates as of this writing are September 15, 22 or 29. Keep your schedule free or light for all of those dates until we settle on an agreeable time. Roger reminded all MOA members to sign up and compete in the MOA national mileage contest.

Another worthwhile discussion was about the need for more members to attend the meet-

ings. We have plenty of seats available and wouldn't it be nice (apologies to the Beach Boys) to have a night out with friends while you discuss bikes, where you've been, where you plan to go, all while you have food and drink? Also, you have the chance to buy a 50/50 ticket which may cover all your expenses for the evening. I did say "may". See you at the May 8th meeting.

## **Club Calendar**

Note: Events may be canceled or modified. Check your email for updates.

### **May 2024**

- May 1 Moribundi lunch 12:30PM @ TBD
- May 8 Club meeting 7PM (6PM to eat) Woody's Roadside Tavern, 105 Academy St., Farmingdale
- May 15 ice cream ride 6:30PM location TBD

### **June 2024**

- June 5 Moribundi lunch 12:30PM @ TBD
- June 12 Club meeting 7PM (6PM to eat) Woody's Roadside Tavern, 105 Academy St., Farmingdale
- June 19 ice cream ride 6:30PM location TBD

### **July 2024**

- July 3 Moribundi lunch 12:30PM @ TBD
- July 10 Club meeting 7PM (6PM to eat) Woody's Roadside Tavern, 105 Academy St., Farmingdale
- July 17 ice cream ride 6:30PM loc. TBD

### **August 2024**

- Aug 7 Moribundi lunch 12:30PM @ TBD
- Aug 14 Club meeting 7PM (6PM to eat) Woody's Roadside Tavern, 105 Academy St., Farmingdale
- Aug 21 ice cream ride 6:30PM loc. TBD

### **September 2024**

- Sept 4 Moribundi lunch 12:30PM @ TBD
- Sept 11 Club meeting 7PM (6PM to eat) Woody's Roadside Tavern, 105 Academy St., Farmingdale

### **October 2024**

- Oct 4 Moribundi lunch 12:30PM @ TBD
- Oct 9 Club meeting 7PM (6PM to eat)  
Woody's Roadside Tavern, 105 Academy St., Farmingdale

## The Gathering of the Nortons (1)

*Bill D*

Zhao and I rode to the event on my 1977 R100RS and had an uneventful 70 minute ride to the event, held at the outskirts of Frenchtown.

The day started overcast, but the sun was full strength by the time we got to the Gathering about 10:30 AM. Turnout was huge; there were bikes parked everywhere around the venue. As usual, pretty much every kind of post WWII bike was represented; old British iron, Japanese sport bikes and race replicas, custom (mostly cafe racers), and of course old BMWs. Of course the Norton club showed up in force, with plenty of Nortons on display in the center of the parking lot. The Nortons covered the gamut from beaters to trick cafe customs.

Tragically, the food vendor "forgot the coffee maker", so that was non-optimal for a lot of coffee addicts. He was selling hot dogs and hamburgers, but who the hell wants a burger at 10 AM?

By Noon, people started clearing out, and by 1PM, the place was empty. The Norton club packed up their t-shirt sales operation and we headed off the Artie's for lunch.



## The Gathering of the Nortons (2)

*Bill D, Roget T, Paul C*

A selection of the machines in attendance







miles. Both have excellent curvy riding with the Cherohala having longer, higher speed sweeps.

Our focus of this year's trip was to concentrate on secondary roads. Just after crossing the Delaware Memorial Bridge we turned south on Route 13 and followed Routes 13 and 301 to Interstate-95 just north of Richmond. We took I-95 and bypass interstates around the west side of Richmond, then Route 360 west eventually to Danville, VA. From Danville, we headed toward Winston-Salem, NC on Route 29 and other back roads. Eventually we ended up just east of W-S in front of Ginna's and my first house. (We spent the first 7 years of marriage here. It was good to see our old house again.)

## Good luck and get going....Fontana Rally Trip

Roger T

This year was different from the past few years when Joe Karol and I went to the MOA Get-a-Way Rally at Fontana Village, NC. The Tail of the Dragon and the Cherohala Skyway are both within 15 miles from where we stayed at the Village for 3 ½ days.... but we didn't ride either one of them. The Dragon is, of course, 318 curves in 11 miles and the Cherohala is 31

### Fontana Trip April 15 - 22, 2024 Joe K and Roger T (1,848 Miles, 8 Days)



The Red route shows trip from NJ to Fontana which was mostly secondary roads. Purple was trip home mostly on interstates (I-26 from Asheville north to Rt 81 near Bristol TN and I-81 to Winchester and then Rt 7 etc to Baltimore and I-95 toward home

From here, on many more back roads, we made it to High Point, NC where we visited our first tour stop – Founding Fathers Distillery. This isn't an ordinary distillery: it's very small, located on a private farm, one building, and has two small distilling tanks. The owner Jeff Cooper met us on the main road (a dead end, no centerline paved road), opened his driveway gate, and then led us down a winding dirt driveway (grass between the tire tracks). Jeff spent an hour with Joe and me describing his operation, the market and the five types of liquor he makes. He distills three whiskeys, one type of rum and one vodka. All whiskeys he produces are sold direct to customers (no distributor) and are completely sold out after each batch even with the high-end prices of \$72 and \$250 per bottle (for whiskey).



Jeff Cooper, owner, spent over an hour with Joe and me on private tour of his distillery.



"Sample" bottles of Founding Fathers Distillery's products. All are high-end.



Dozens of historical race cars are lined up in two rows around tapered track.



Example of NASCAR racecar seats.... Couldn't easily get out of it.

From the distillery, we rode a short distance to Charlotte to stay overnight and go to the NASCAR Museum. For race car enthusiasts, this is a great museum displaying and describing many cars, engines, technologies, drivers & race tracks. We spent a few hours touring the multi-floor building. Joe took the lead to get us out of downtown Charlotte and back to I-85 toward Greenville SC. (My GPS froze as we left the covered car garage and remained that way for an hour until rebooting it.) The leg to Greenville was only 100 miles to the next overnight stop. Our next big tour on Thursday morning was at



In front of BMW ZENTRUM Visitors Center. We had to arrive ½ hour before tour. Tours were limited to about 2 dozen individuals... then broke up into two smaller groups.

the BMW Zentrum car manufacturing plant , Spartanburg/Greenville, SC. So the next morning (4th day of our trip) we did a 50 minute factory tour. (Last year they were booked up so we couldn't make reservations anytime during April.) This year was different because I made our reservations two months ahead to insure we could get in.(It was either make early reservations or purchase a new Xbody BMW car and take delivery of it at the factory.) To say the tour is "outstanding" is an understatement. We actually walked up and down the aisles along side the assembly lines, paint lines, and finish/inspection areas. A BMW employee guide spoke to the group using a microphone and we all had earphones to clearly hear her. The BMW plant has 16,000 employees and is the largest in North America. They produce 1600 cars per day (BMW X3, X4, X5, X6, X7, and XM Sports Activity

Vehicles and Coupes) with 60% shipped overseas. They have a restriction from taking cameras on tour however at the end of the tour, they played a video showing many of the areas we visited. I videoed their video and added it to my "trip video." Their use of robots is incredible on the multiple car production lines. By the end of the tour, counting "early arriving time" we spent about two hours at the facility.



*BMW Assembly with several robots inserting a hood. Over 6000 welds are required on car assembly.*

From Greenville, SC to Fontana Village (Dragon area) it's 150 miles by interstate and main roads. In keeping with our "secondary road focus", we took the shorter route 130 miles but spent an hour longer zig zaging our way. By the time we zigged for 50-60 miles and finally arrived at Fontana Village, we were zagged-out. Our curvy route was tighter and more tiring than the Dragon and several times/miles longer too. We arrived on Thursday afternoon, had plenty of time to rest up before dinner with MOA and other friends at the village restaurant /bar.

I forgot to mention two other stops along the way.

1) In Charlotte before going to the NASCAR museum we went to the Sullenberger Airplane Museum. We knew it was closed until June, however we wanted to see the museum that houses the Airplane #106 which was the one that landed in the Hudson River. The museum was renamed to "Sullenberger Museum" after acquiring the actual plane.



*Section of a secondary road we took from Greenville SC to Fontana.... Still 107 miles to go. A nuclear electric generation plant is located on this lake.*

2) MOA Headquarters – the evening before going on the BMW Factory Tour, we stopped by HQs to see if they needed any help for the Fontana Rally. They didn't but Tonya (key staff person when you call MOA HQs for anything) gave Joe a bunch of MOA Towels for club give-a-ways. We also received an advanced MOA ON magazine (June issue)...Chad Warner (staff) described the newest MOA Foundation raffle.... three M-bikes, and an incredible Bike, Bike-live-in trailer, and BMW tow car (or \$150K in cash). Wait until you see the advertisements for this.... Incredible !!!

I will continue a description of our trip in the next newsletter. You can see my 20 minute trip video on Youtube at <https://youtu.be/HEUY20YG2iE>

## Highly Classifieds

**For sale, 1999 BMW K1200LT.** A great bike. 65,788 miles and counting. It's drivable now as it is, however it needs a fair bit of work. This is probably best for someone that's mechanically inclined or is willing to spend a bit. I was still riding it until very recently when I got another GS. In fact, I took it on a multi-state, two-week tour through the northeast this past October and it had no issues. I just don't have the time or funds to invest in it right now to bring it to where it needs to be.

The major repair it needs is a new clutch. It slips when accelerating hard, mostly when on the highway in a higher gear. This is a big job on the LT.

Contact **Jonathan** [simplyabsurd@Gmail.com](mailto:simplyabsurd@Gmail.com) if you

have any questions. I can also provide a Google sheet with my service history.

**For Sale: 2015 BMW GS** with about 22K miles. Serviced annually at Cross Country BMW. Looking for \$10K o.b.o. Call Elio Vecchiarelli at 914 573 9707.



The bike is in Sea Bright, NJ

## World Exclusive!!

The recent opening of Trader Joes Supermarket in Middletown my have slipped past club members.

Fear not! Our dedicated staff of overpaid paparazzi where on the case and caught the club president heading home after taking advantage of the opening day offers.

We keenly await the dinner invitation. Be wary though of anything described as, or resembling, "Vegan Roadkill"



## And Finally..

