



# BMW Club of Houston, Ltd

## April 2004 Newsletter

P. O. Box 7542  
Houston, TX  
77270  
website  
bmwclub.org

BMW MOA #12  
BMW RA # 287

### Officers:

- **President**  
Carl Chapman  
281-343-0412  
cchapma@ev1.net
- **Vice President**  
Dan Greenlee  
713-864-4513  
dangreenlee@ev1.net
- **Treasurer**  
Robert Stallones  
713-263-1899  
rstallones@houston.rr.com
- **Secretary**  
Bill Corrow  
281-440-9126  
bill@corrow.com
- **Sergeant at Arms**  
Beverly Ruffin  
713-942-9901  
bwruffin@swbell.net
- **Historian**  
Diane Cox  
713-688-1711  
dianec@swbell.net
- **Editor**  
Colette Chapman  
281-343-0412  
scc1@nstci.com

### Inside this issue:

Pres. Message	1
Minutes	2
Treas. Report	2
Calendar	7
Classifieds	6

## President's Message

by Carl Chapman

### Rules for the Road

At the Wild West BMW Open House last December while I was manning our club's booth, a rider came up to find out more about our club since he rode a K12LT. He mentioned that he was a member of another local bike club and asked what were our rules for group riding? My first reaction was to laugh, but I kept my composure and replied that we really don't have a set of rules. If I had to summarize our club's road rules it would be: #1 show up for breakfast, #2 go for a nice ride, #3 stop to eat again, #4 ride home. This "set of rules" have worked well for many years with little need to change. Later, I actually found the other local club's website and sure enough, they had a very formal set of rules for group riding. After reading it, their group riding reminded me more of a funeral procession instead of a fun bike ride. Recently, I have heard from several sources regarding the topic of road rules. The March 2004 BMWDFW newsletter wrote about it, one of our club members on a recent club ride related a situation where he had a bike problem and pulled off the road to check it out and was promptly left by everyone else on the ride. Fortunately, the problem was minor and the rider was back on the road, but by himself. He could have had a major breakdown, a minor breakdown and needing a little help, or a wreck and needing a lot of help. It has been said that BMW riders are very independent and don't do a lot of group riding, but with our "Breakfast with the Beemers" and our monthly Sunday ride, that has changed to some degree. There has always been a set of informal or understood rules for these rides, but what about the new rider who joins a club ride? They may not have an understanding of group riding rules that many of us take for granted. I recently went on a Dual Sport ride in Arkansas with a group of guys I had

never met. It was imperative that we have a set of rules not only for our safety, but to make sure we all made it out of the woods together. We had a short discussion before the ride and agreed on a few simple rules. Ride a safe distance apart and the main rule that worked well was to keep an eye out for the rider behind you. If the group made a turn, make sure the rider behind you noticed it and makes the turn before you proceed very far. If you don't see the rider behind you, wait a few minutes or even turn around and look for them. They may have had that major or minor breakdown or wreck and need help. This action would progress up the column of riders until the lead rider would also notice a problem and wait or turn around to regroup. This regrouping was played out several times over the next 2 days. It does not make for a fast ride, but it does help build comradery among the riders, a buddy system. The few rules worked, by the end of this ride we were all still together and had become good friends. I'm not about to suggest we adopt a hard set of rules for group riding, but a few simple ones should be practiced: #1 Ride a safe distance apart. Distance varies depending on current conditions. #2 Ride in a staggered formation. This gives everyone a clearer view in front and behind and full use of the width of the lane. #3 Keep an eye on the rider behind you. Make sure they notice any change in direction and make sure you notice if they fall behind. These are the basic "understood" rules of the road for group riding and we all need reminding from time to time just in case there are any new riders joining us. After all, the purpose of a group ride is an enjoyable ride together and the only way that can happen is to look out for each other from start to finish.

Lets have fun!  
Take care!  
Carl Chapman



## HOUSTON MOTORSPORTS

11941 S. W. Freeway, Stafford, TX 77477

Between W. Airport & Murphy Road

281-530-8600



### Sales, Parts, Service

BMW Certified Technician

*We've Got Something For Everyone!*

10% Off Parts and Accessories  
to all BMW Club of Houston Members

## Minute by Minute

by Bill Corrow

### APRIL BUSINESS MEETING

April 8, 2004

Beverly Ruffin called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM, President Carl Chapman presiding. Carl called for a motion to accept the minutes of the March meeting as printed in the newsletter. Motion made, seconded and approved by voice vote. The Treasurer's and Vice President's reports were made by Robert Stallones and Dan Greenlee, respectively. Under Unfinished Business, a review took place regarding the following items: (1) The Texas National Rally, April 23-25, Lake Belton; (2) The third annual "Ride the 3's", May 7-9, Leakey, TX; (3) Ron Scrivner's "Riding The Backroads", leaving May 13<sup>th</sup> from Brookshire to Big Bend; (4) Our annual "Summer Solstice Ride Across Texas", June 19<sup>th</sup>, contact Beverly Ruffin. Under New Business, Ignacio Flores introduced his guest, Jose Alvarez Tostado from Monterrey, Mexico. Jose is a past President of the BMW club in Monterrey. In addition, two new members were voted into the club: Joseph A. Diaz and Gerald Ruediger. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectively submitted,  
Bill Corrow, Secretary

## Treasurer's Report

by Robert Stallones

## WILD WEST BMW

22515 KATY FREEWAY KATY 77450  
TAKE GRAND PARKWAY EXIT OFF I-10



The Ultimate Riding Machine

**SALES, PARTS, ACCESSORIES**

281-392-8850

**SERVICE: 281-392-8940**

**FAX: 281-392-6162**

WWW.WILDWESTHONDA.COM

Wild West BMW is committed to becoming the finest BMW dealer in the Houston area.

Give us a chance and experience the Wild West Difference

10% off parts and accessories to Club Members



## April 2004

BMW Club of Houston, Ltd.

Treasurer's Report as of March 31, 2004

Balance on February 29, 2004 \$ 5,584.64

### Receipts

Dues 48.00

Club Promotional Items 40.00

Total Receipts \$ 88.00

### Expenses

Postage ( 45.10)

Club Shirt ( 23.82)

Newsletter Copies ( 51.53)

Rally Music Deposit (100.00)

Buescher '05 Reservation (125.00)

Maintenance Day Lunch ( 76.71)

Total Expenses (\$ 422.16)

Balance as of March 31, 2004 \$ 5,250.48



## **Book Report**

submitted by Floyd Crow

### **Sport Riding Techniques**

*By Nick Inatsch*

My friend Richard Gaull gave me Nick Inatsch's book, Sport Riding Techniques for Christmas. I guess Richard thought I needed to study this instructional handbook after following me for some twenty-five hundred miles last September across Colorado, Utah, and Arizona. He was right of course. If you are a serious motorcycle rider as I am you will try to improve your skills and techniques no matter how long you have been riding.

Nick's book has ten chapters on how to improve your skills and techniques. There is something for all riders of experience from the beginners to the highly skilled. Chapter one is titled: The Chain's Weak Link. Yes sports fans, he's talking about us, the nut behind the handlebar. Our attitude, both physical and mental, in using good judgment about the way we ride is most important. In chapters two through six he covers, breaking, steering, seeing: "The Eyes Have It", and throttle control: "On The Gas". Besides the brakes that right hand twist grip is the most important control you have. Learn to use it properly. He has drawings on how to get into and out of corners with instruction on the do's and don'ts which include braking and when to get on the gas. Have you ever heard of "The Rear Tire and 100 Points of Traction?" I thought not. Well, here is where to learn all about that, and more. How about trail braking? I'll bet not, especially if you have never been to a riding school on a real race-track. The book is filled with beautiful photographs of people on motorcycles of all types, using the proper and not so proper riding skills.

Chapters seven through nine deal with the environment and getting on the track. Nick is a believer in track time and rider improvement schools. If you have never been you should sign up and go. I guarantee you will learn something and come away a better rider.

How to survive in urban traffic. Those of us who ride in big cities need all the tips we can get. Nick rides to work every day in Los Angeles, he has some great tips. He knows of what he speaks.

Chapter ten deals with Group Riding and the "Pace". I get the feeling Nick does not support large groups of riders. There are obvious reasons. A half dozen or so is OK but more than that begins to get out of hand. He does, however, have some excellent guidelines with rules to follow for large or small groups. Communication is key with successful group rides. With our Sunday rides we could all learn something from this chapter.

The "Pace", a riding technique developed by Nick Inatsch. Neil Reno wrote about his method of riding a couple of years ago. Basically, it is a controlled pace for group riders to enjoy the scenery by not speeding in the straights of the roads while using the cornering skills you have learned in Sport Riding Techniques to relax and have fun. It is an excellent way to enjoy group riding. Group riding is not a race; if the group rides with pace techniques all will enjoy and will be much safer.

About the author. Nick Inatsch began racing in 1982, and in the mid nineties won two AMA National Championships. Nick has been a top motorcycle journalist since 1984 and wrote the popular articles as a series in *Motorcyclist* called "The Pace". He is now a contributing editor to *Cycle World*. Nick is also the lead instructor at Freddie Spencer's High Performance Riding School.

Get this book. Read it. Ride it. Live by it.  
David Bull Publishing  
[www.bullpublishing.com](http://www.bullpublishing.com)  
\$24.95

Floyd Crow



## TEXAS NATIONAL BMW RALLY at Lake Belton

Bring your tent, bag, mattress, camp chair, snacks and favorite beverages (BYOB). We provide Corps of Engineers campground, on-site showers and facilities, coffee all day, community charcoal grill (plus charcoal), community campfire, and community ice chest. No meals are provided but you can pool your talents and resources with others to prepare a dinner using the charcoal grills.

**When:** Friday afternoon, April 23th to Sunday morning, April 25th, 2003

**Where:** Cedar Ridge Park, the Turkey Roost Group Camping Area on Lake Belton, 10 miles west of Temple, Texas (I-35) on the northeast edge of the Texas Hill Country. 70 miles north of Austin, 135 miles south of Dallas-Fort Worth.

**Cost:** No cost for the rally unless you camp. The camping fee is \$10 per tent for the weekend. This fee will be collected at the rally.  
**NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED!**

**Directions:** From I-35 in Temple Texas, take State Hwy 36 west towards Gatesville for about 10 miles. Turn left on Cedar Ridge Drive and follow into the park. Rally site coordinates are N31 10.128 / W97 27.189. Tell the gate attendant that you're with the Texas BMW Rally for admittance to the park.

**Park Rules:** Observe the speed limits  
ALL vehicles must stay on paved surfaces,  
NO EXCEPTIONS  
Gate hours are 6 AM to 10 PM, an access code is required after hours (we will have the code)  
Camping inside the fenced area only  
Police your trash and cigarette butts; we plan to leave it cleaner than we got it!

**Rally features:** No frills rally, fellowship offered but NO meals, organized rides, contests, field events, or door prizes provided  
\$10 Camping fee per tent, covers 2 nights camping, hot showers  
Secure, gated US Army Corps of Engineers Park  
Showers and toilets within the camping area  
Covered pavilion with cooking grills, picnic ta

bles, water, electricity  
Hard surface parking (no vehicles on grass please)  
Grass camping area, shaded with live oak trees  
For non-campers, motels in nearby Temple, TX (10 miles)

### Listing of local motels in Temple:

**Name (# rooms), phone, room access inside (In) or outside (Out), location:**  
\* denotes recommend by Ron & Dorothy Goodall

- \***Best Western** (60) 254.742.1122 In I-35 exit 301 / 302
- \***Comfort Suites** (58) 254.770.0300/800.424.6423 In I-35 exit 301 / 302
- \***Days Inn** (58) 254.774.9223 Out I-35 exit 301 / 302
- Econo Lodge** (60) 254.771.1688/866.597.9330 Out I-35 exit 301 / 302
- \***Fairfield Inn** (70) 254.771.3030 In 1402 SW HK Dodgen Loop
- Hampton Inn** (62) 254.778.6700 In 1414 SW KK Dodgen Loop
- Holiday Inn Express** (61) 254.770.1100 In 1610 West Nugent Ave
- Hw'd Johnson Exp Inn** (50) 254.778.5521 Out 1912 S 31st Street
- Inn at Scott & White** (129) 254.778.5511/800.749.0318 In/Out 2625 West Barton Ave
- LaQuinta** (106) 254.771.2980/800.531.5900 Out 1604 West Barton Ave
- Motel 6** 254.778.0272/800.466.8356 Out I-35 exit 302
- Stratford House Inn** (40) 254.771.1495/ Out I-35 exit 301 / 302
- \***Super 8** 254.778.0962 I-35 exit 297
- Travelodge** (132) 254.778.4411 Out I-35 exit 301 / 302

**Activities, attractions, local events, points of interest, etc:** (items added as rally date approaches!)  
Self Guided Tours, springtime wildflower display between Temple, Llano, Hamilton, Waco  
BMW Dealer Visit, Lone Star BMW, 10600 N. Lamar, Austin Texas ([www.lonestarcycle.com](http://www.lonestarcycle.com))  
Highland Lakes Arts and Crafts Show, Buchanan Dam  
BBQ and Goat Cookoff, Goldthwaite, April 24  
Gun and Knife Show, Goldthwaite, TX, April 24

Any updated information to be posted at [www.bmwdfw.org](http://www.bmwdfw.org).



## Beemer Bulletin Board

Please keep these people in your thoughts and prayers...

- **Gregg Crow is recovering at home from a motorcycle accident last month.**

*Please submit any requests for this posting to editor*

**March 25, 2004**

### To the Members of the BMW Club of Houston

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers that were sent for Neil Reno's funeral service. It was such a touching service and I was completely blown away by the outpouring of love and compassion shared by everyone there. It was such a magnificent tribute to Neil. I rewind it in my mind over and over and I am still overwhelmed by the feeling that I get when thinking about it. I am still receiving notes and items paying tribute to Neil's life and accomplishments. Neil's first love was motorcycles and riding. He truly lived to ride. He had so many great memories of past rides with friends and places that he had gone. In the last couple of months of Neil's life, he watched a video that his friend, Robert Abbott, taped for him. Robert rode from Texas to California and stopped at the BMW rally on the way. Robert taped scenes and sites on the ride that were awesome and taped many of you sending well wishes and words of encouragement his way. He had such mixed feelings about the video. On one hand, it was painful for him to watch because he missed riding so very much and wanted to be right there, experiencing every minute. On the other hand, he felt so blessed to have so many wonderful friends. This is a very difficult note to write because it is the closing chapter on a life that ended much too soon, here on earth. It has been one month today since Neil's passing, it is still so hard to believe. Thank you for being his friend and sharing the love of riding with him. What a wonderful life he had.

*Nina Holland (Neil's sister)*

# Gulf Coast BMW



## Motorcycles

### 10% Discount

On BMW  
Parts & Accessories  
To all BMW  
Club of Houston  
Members

Houston's Exclusive  
European Dealership  
Since 1983

# GULF COAST BMW

1210 College Ave.  
So. Houston, TX 77567  
Phone 713-944-7951 Fax 713-946-4829



## Golf Shirts Available



with Club Logo Short Sleeve  
Various Colors with black and white collar.  
These are really nice 100% Cotton Shirts.

**\$30.00**

See Carl Chapman at meetings  
or 281-343-0412 or [cchapma@ev1.net](mailto:cchapma@ev1.net)



## Baseball Caps Available



with Club Logo on Crown  
Dark Grey with Black Bill

**\$12.00**

See Carl Chapman at meetings  
or 281-343-0412 or [cchapma@ev1.net](mailto:cchapma@ev1.net)



## Classifieds



**For Sale:** 2001 K1200 RS, '01, with special checkerboard factory paint, excellent condition with 19,926 miles, BMW comfort windshield plus two additional heights of Aeroflow, leather Corbin, Remus Titanium exhaust, stock hard bags, and Givi rear bag mount, SS braided brake lines, bar backs, Throttlemeister, complete maintenance records and remaining factory warranty. \$9.500 OBO (04/04)

**David Beverly wk- 281-483-0250  
or hm-281-339-3559  
dbeverly@ghg.net**



**For Sale:** 1999 BMW F650 Black All stock, 7,200 all-street mile, garaged, gently ridden and cared-for by original owner, excellent condition, original tires, so plan to replace them, all BMW service records available, clear title in hand, \$4,900 OBO. (04/04)

**Craig 281-870-9555  
johnson4@ix.netcom.com**



**For Sale:** Roadcrafter One-Piece Suit, 44 long, gray with gray ballistics, worn once, will fit a ridge +/- 6"0" tall and +/- 175-200 lbs, with 33" in-seem. (04/04)

**Bob Mitchell 281-859-7909  
rmitchell@outdrs.net**



**For Sale:** 98 BMW R1100RS ABS, 10K miles, \$8,700, exc condition, dolphin blue (04/04)

**713-783-7101  
sellngoods@yahoo.com**

Participate in the  
BMW Club  
of Houston's  
Mileage Contest  
Contact  
Jeff Washburn @  
jeff@washburnfamily.net



*Gästehaus Schmidt* Gästehaus Schmidt  
Fredericksburg Lodging Company  
Put Yourself in Our Place! Make Your Visit to  
Call 1-866-427-8374 Toll Free Texas Hill Country Truly Memorable  
Put Yourself in Our Place!

231 West Main Street ~ Fredericksburg, Texas (TX) 78624  
Telephone: 830-997-5612 ~ or ~ Fax: 830-997-8282  
Toll Free: 866-427-8374  
Email: [gasthaus@ktc.com](mailto:gasthaus@ktc.com) ~ Website: [www.fbqlodging.com](http://www.fbqlodging.com)





**Events Calendar**

**ANNUAL  
ADVERTISING RATED  
FOR DISPLAY ADS**

Business Card: \$100.00  
1/4 Page: \$200.00  
1/2 Page: \$300.00  
Full Page: \$500.00

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING  
IS FREE**

To Houston BMW Club Members  
Non-Members may advertise BMW items only  
Ads run for 3 months  
Submit ads to Colette via email:  
scc1@nstci.com

Please refer to the website for  
more details on the events below

**April 2004**

- 8 Business Meeting—Hickory Hollow
- 18 Sunday Ride
- 23-25 Texas National Rally

**May 2004**

- 13 Business Meeting—Hickory Hollow
- 13 Ron Scrivner's—Big Bend Ride
- 15 Saturday Ride

**June 2004**

- 10 Business Meeting—Hickory Hollow
- 13 Sunday Ride
- 19 Summer Solstice Ride

**July 2004**

- 8 Business Meeting—Hickory Hollow
- 11 Sunday Ride
- 15-17 BMW MOA National Rally



**BUSINESS MEETING**

2nd Thursday—8:00 pm  
Hickory Hollow  
101 Heights Blvd.  
2 Blocks South of I-10



**SOCIAL GATHERING**

Every Thursday about 7:00 pm  
Hickory Hollow



**BREAKFAST WITH THE  
BEEMERS—Now 2 Choices!**

Every Sunday—8:00 am  
Denny's—FM1960 @ Highway 290  
Goode Company Taqueria—4902  
Kirby @ Westpark



**DAY RIDES**

Every Sunday following the Business  
Meeting  
Details on website



## *About our organization:*



We're on the Web!

*See us at:*

[www.bmwclub.org](http://www.bmwclub.org)

The BMW Club of Houston, Ltd. has existed since 1966 for the purpose of connecting the BMW Motorcycle community in the Greater Houston area. Our membership strives to assist those new to the community as well as those new to the marque. Our membership can assist you with motorcycling advice for those things mechanical, for old and new bikes, as well as for all of those diverse riding styles to fit the many models BMW offers the enthusiast.



## **BMW Club of Houston, Ltd.**

P. O. Box 7542  
Houston, TX 77270

