



BMW

Club of Houston, Ltd.

Vol. 1, No. 8 September 2005

BMW MOA #12 BMW RA #287

Two Weeks - 3200 Miles

By Rally Report by Ben Muller

Club members Mike Murphy and Ben Muller started their 3200 mile journey at I-HOP at Kirby and Hwy 59 in Houston. From Houston, Ben writes, he and Mike made it all the way to Mike's mother's house in Memphis, Tennessee for their first night. We then stopped in Jackson TN, Ben says, to visit Union University where my mother and father met and were married. She was sent there by her parents from France and my father was sent there from Mexico. Next day, we rode to Jeffersonville IN to spend two days with Roger Fisher whose showplace house is on the high bank of the Ohio River. We celebrated with a BIG party that first night with Roger. We left on the second day, four of us, joined by Doug Wink, Roger's old school buddy from Evansville IN. No interstate travel for us in Indiana. Roger lead us along the Ohio river in Indiana for miles and miles. We traveled a beautiful road and NO TRUCKS. Had lunch on the bank of Ohio. Old Civil War place. The waitress told us a story. During the war a couple were to be married where we were and the groom was waiting for his bride to come up river to meet him. Across the river is rebel country:, Kentucky, We are in Indiana, Union territory she said. The bride to be was approaching the bank when a rebel on the other side shot her and killed her. The groom was so distraught that he went up to the second floor of the red brick building next door and hung himself. His ghost still wanders around there. That afternoon, in Dayton Ohio, I gave the guys a history lesson at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Museum. I sat on stone bench dedicated to my WWII squadron, the 500th Of the 345th Bomb Group 5th Air Force. I clued them in about WWII. The AFB is must see for every one.

Lima, Ohio: 33rd International BMW MOA Rally. Special

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Breaking in the ST

By Robert Stallones

My wife, Gay, and I rode up to Lone Star BMW in Austin, two-up, on the GS-Adventure to pick up our black 1995 R100GSPD. I had dropped it off the weekend before for a carburetor rebuild and the plan was for Gay to ride the PD back to Houston. After I paid for the service, we were walking towards the exit when Gay spotted a silver R1200ST. She said, "Hey, this one looks nice. Look how low the seat is. I think I'll sit on it." I stood there thinking that it would be a brief look at the bike. The next thing I heard was Gay asking Robert Krull if she could take it for a test ride. "Huh? What?" Sure enough, Robert handed her the keys. He must have seen the terror in my eyes, so he calmly said to me, "Why don't you ride behind her on the PD, just to make sure the carbs are adjusted properly?" Yeah, good idea. I wasn't worried about Gay's riding skills, but I was worried about her getting out in traffic on the new 110 horsepower ST instead of the ten year old 60 horsepower airhead she was used to riding.

When there was a break in the traffic, Gay let the clutch out and pointed the ST north on Lamar Blvd. I was right behind her on the PD. Since I was concentrating on her having a safe test ride, I probably wouldn't have even noticed if the PD was running on just one cylinder. We rode several miles, and Gay then pulled into a gas station. "Do you want to ride it?" she asked. I didn't have to think about it for long. We switched bikes, and even though we were in traffic, and I had to keep the rpm's below 4K, I could tell that the bike would be a lot of fun. "Hmmm... I could get used to this," I told myself.

We have been riding GS's for over eleven years and the ST

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Events Calendar

Every Sunday - Breakfast with the Beemers.

BMW Club of Houston Business Meeting 7:00 p.m. 2nd Thursday of the month. October 2005 meeting will be the 3rd. Thursday to accomodate the 35th Annual Gathering of Frinds Rally in Fredericksberg, TX.

Oct, 2005

Oct. 9, Sun.
BMW MOA Mileage Contest ends.

Oct 14-16, Fri-Sun 35th Annual South Central BMW Owners Renunion; A Gathering of Friends and Family, Fredericksburg, TX. Join us for superb fall riding weather in the Texas Hill Country. Home of great motorcycling roads. Located at Lady Bird Johnson Park, 4 mi. south of Fredericksburg, TX on Hwy 16. Camping Fri & Sat night, dinner on the town Fri., catered dinner Sat. Street and GS rides, bike show and vendors. Pre-registration \$20 for 10/1, \$25 at the gate. Call Floyd Crow 409.866.2920 or Beverly Ruffin 713.942.9901.

Oct 20, Thu. BMW Club of Houston Business Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 21-23 Fri.-Sun. Harvest Classic European & Vintage Mortorcycle Rally, Luckenbach, Texas. See www.harvestclassic.org.

Oct. 28-30 Fri.-Sun. Arkansas Fall Colors Ride - Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

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Nov., 2005

Nov. 10 Thu. BMW Club of Housotn Busi-ness Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Nov. 11-13 Fri.-Sun. Cycle World's 25th Annual International Motorcycle Show, Reliant Park, Houston, held in conjunction with Arenacross Championship Series.

Annual Advertising Rate for Display Ads

Business Card:	\$100.00
1/4 Page:	\$200.00
1/2 Page:	\$300.00
Full Page	\$400.00

Classified Advertising:

Classified advertising is free to Houston BMW club Members. Non-members may advertise BMW motorcycle items only. All classified ads run for 3 issues unless renewed.

Monthly rates for Display ads available upon request



35th Annual
Gathering of
Friends and
Neighbors in
Fredericksberg
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16, 2005. Call:
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BMW Club of Houston, LTD Treasurer's Report

By Charlie Storer, Treasurer

September, 2005

Balance on Aug. 31, 2005	\$5,837.72
Receipts	
Advertising	0.00
Membership Dues	\$252.00
50/50 Drawing	0.00
Rally Income	\$1,337.00
Total Receipts	\$1,589.00
Expenses	
Rally Expenses	(\$111.07)
Postage	(\$19.88)
Club Insurance	(0.00)
Newsletters	(0.00)
Total Expenses	(\$111.07)
Balance Sept, 2005	7,315.65

TWO WEEKS - 3200 Miles

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parking for motorcycles was overflowing. We had to park way off! Everybody must be going to the rally. Nice Red Roof Inn with mexican rest. next door. 24 oz margaritas, \$4.50!

Rally was great with 8,000+ attending. I learned to like music I wasn't used to. Music by bluesman Stacy Mitchart. was unbelievable; that following G Thorogood(?).

After the rally, Mike and I split up. I headed back solo through Dayton solo on to Burr Oak Kansas and spent two nights on a wheat farm. See Log Cabin. I learned about wheat and combines, but there were no signs of Dorothy or the red shoes. Neat place.

Left Burr Oak, KS for Yukon OK. Spent two days at Marek and Bo Kociacuba (?)'s house. Marek could not stand to see my 'dirty' bike. He washed it with his pressure washer.

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Breakin in the ST

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would be a big change, so when we got back to Lone Star Gay and I walked next door to Chuy's for lunch to discuss the bike over a chicken burrito and baja tacos. I had never seen Gay so excited about a motorcycle before, and I always have new bike fever, so we walked back to Lone Star and told Robert Krull that we would take it. He paused for a few seconds. He may have been checking to make sure we were serious, or worried that we were making a mistake by getting a bike much different than our GS's.

After convincing him that we were serious, we got down to business. The bike was pushed into the shop for its final preparation and to install the tank bag and side luggage. When it was ready to roll, Robert thoroughly went over the features and controls of the bike with us. The only thing left to do was to head back to Houston. I told them that I would be back the next weekend for the 600 mile service, and to pick up the PD.

Gay lead the way on the ST, and it wasn't long before she was cruising at 80 mph. As we approached a car I noticed that she looked over her left shoulder. "She is going to pass, and she is already going 80," I said to myself. As she accelerated and went around the car I was smiling because I could tell she was really enjoying the bike. She never went 80 mph on the R100GSPD, but the ST did it with ease.

We stopped at the Sonic in Giddings to get some drinks, and then rode non-stop back home. I asked Gay how the riding position felt and she said that she was very comfortable, and it didn't bother her at all. This was a relief, since the riding position is so much different than the GS.

A few weeks later my friend, Wes, in Dallas called to tell me that he scheduled the 12K mile service on his bike at Lone Star for Friday, August 12. Since I hadn't seen Wes since our Colorado ride in July 2004, I decided to take the day off and ride round-trip to Austin to visit with him. Also, it would be my first chance to take the ST out on the open road.

On the morning of the 12th, I drank two cups of coffee, ate a muffin, and headed out. Once I got out of Houston the first thing I realized is that it was very hard to ride the speed limit. Especially in 6th gear. Therefore, I kept the bike in 5th most

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Tall Seats and other Oddities

By Barb Smith

I am a relatively new motorcycle rider and a brand new rider of a BMW R1150R, so when I went from the flat-footed security of cruiser-style riding to the somewhat precarious perch atop a 30" tall BMW, I knew that I'd just slid backwards down the learning curve. Now I would need to start worrying about all sorts of new hazards that mostly boil down to "Can I get a foot on the ground if I stop here?" and "Can I get a foot SECURELY on the ground if I stop here?"

The first outing on the new Beemer was a ride down Highway 35 to Rockport to meet Mike Murphy and his Bay City friends for lunch and then up to Goliad State Park for the night. When I got to the restaurant the parking lot was full. My initial parking attempt snugged the bike up against some sort of utility shed. I got off the bike, removed my gear, and started to walk away but then thought better of that location. The bike would be invisible to cars coming in one of the entrances, and it could get sideswiped. I got back on the bike, started it up and proceeded to do a U-turn in the parking lot, or rather, attempted to do a U-turn. Next thing I knew, we were both on the ground. That BMW salesman's last words to me as I departed the dealership were still ringing in my head, "Remember: always trust the bike." Apparently I didn't heed his

Founded in 1967, The BMW Club of Houston, Ltd. connects the BMW motorcycle community in the Greater Houston Area and throughout the state.



Barb Smith and the Houston Skyline. Photo by Barb Smith.

advice. Okay, so I got that first "drop" over with early, albeit at just 230 miles on the clock. But now I won't have to worry about the "when" part any more.

The motorcycle was about three months old when I first heard the classic "cage" driver exclamation. You know the one. The reply, of course, is "Yes, BMW also makes motorcycles." Even among rider groups, my pretty red bike is always the object of curiosity, and I find myself hovering like a nervous mama when others want to sit on it. Everyone wants to sit on this bike. Maybe it's that bulbous gas tank, or the odd quirky front fender, or the fact that absolutely nothing about this motorcycle remotely resembles a cruiser. I was recently asked by a well-meaning cruiser rider why I'd removed the air filter housing.

Once the gas station stops on this bike ceased to be an adrenalin-laden adventure for me, I could relax a little more, not worry so much about the height, and realize that over all, this motorcycle is significantly easier to handle than a cruiser. It's lighter, that boxer twin gives it a low CG, and it has a tighter turning radius. Hmm. Maybe I don't have so far to travel back up that learning curve, after all.



BMW Club of Houston, LTD. Meeting Minutes - September 8, 2005

By Guy Pickrel, Club Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by the Sergeant at Arms, Ignacio Flores with Beverly Ruffin, the Club President, presiding. Five guests were recognized: David & Jessica McConnachie, Dave Wilson, Tom & Michelle Parker. No changes to the August meeting minutes were offered and the minutes will stand approved as published. Beverly gave the treasurer's report, details will be posted in the monthly Newsletter. An update for our annual club rally, scheduled for October 14 -16, was provided by Floyd Crow. An event schedule, to be posted on the website, will be forthcoming in a couple of weeks. Floyd urged members to check the web site for the details. Paul Yeager gave an update from the Nominating Committee. The current club officer nominees are Ken Webb for Club President, Guy Pickrel for Vice President, Charlie Storer for Treasurer, Barbara Smith for Sergeant at Arms and Jim Green for Club Secretary. Dealer Liaison will be a new elected position, and Ignacio Flores is the current nominee. The nominating committee has no volunteers for the Newsletter Editor which is a non-elected supporting role. Anyone wishing to be Newsletter Editor should contact a club officer or a member of the Nominating Committee: Paul Yeager, Mike Murphy, or Floyd Crow. The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for officer position until the elections in October. The new officers will take over in November.

The Annual Club Rally will start on the day after our next business meeting and many of the officers will be gone to Fredericksburg and unable to attend the business meeting. Since all club officers should be present the night of the officer elections, a motion was made to postpone the regularly scheduled Club meeting to Thursday, October 20. The motion was put to vote and carried by the attending majority. The next BMW Club Business Meeting will be on October 20, the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Kyle Moody, parts manager from Wild West BMW was recognized and reminded our members that they can get a 10% discount on parts and accessories at Wild West. He also presented Beverly Ruffin with a 100,000 Mile plaque from BMW MOA and an engraved pocket knife from Wild West.

Club Meeting Minutes (continued)

Morris Kruemcke reluctantly gave an update on his participation in the 2005 Iron Butte Rally. Morris rode a little over 12,000 miles in 11 days. Beverly Ruffin also participated in the event that started 90 riders, of which 71 finished. For their efforts, Morris received a gold metal award and Beverly a silver metal.

The monthly ride for September is a 2-day event and will be held on September 17 & 18. A full day of riding will begin at 7:00 am in Sealy, with lunch in Abilene, dinner and overnight stay in Hamilton. Members can refer to the club website for details.

Four BMW riders were voted in as new members. They were David McConnachie, Doug Wilson, Emilio Saenz, and Nere Mabile. Keith Anderson won \$50 dollars from the 50/50 drawing and returned the money to club coffers, suggesting it be donated to the Katrina Relief fund. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.



Motorcycles

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Breaking in the ST

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of the time. After a quick stop in Brenham for a cup of coffee (one of my food groups), I went straight to Lone Star. By the time I made it to the Austin city limits, the bike's bent over riding position made my palms hurt, and I became aware of just how little padding the grips had. Later, while wandering around Lone Star, I spotted some neoprene grip covers that simply wrap around the stock grips, and attach with Velcro. I bought a pair and put them on the bike.

Wes and I walked next door to Chuy's, and I once again had baja tacos. It wasn't long after lunch that his bike was ready, so we rode out of Austin together until he split off to head back to Dallas. I found out that the neoprene grips alleviated the pressure on my palms and I was happy to be riding pain free.

On one of the wide-open stretches of 290, I passed a car and noticed that the next group of cars was a good distance away. Even though I was already going about 80 mph in 5th gear, I decided to take off and catch up to the cars ahead of me. The bike easily revved to 7,000 rpm and when I noticed the front end feeling light, I looked down at the speedometer. Oops, I was going 115 mph. I couldn't shift into 6th because I was quickly approaching the group of cars, and I soon found out that this was a good thing. The car in the back of the group was a sheriff. Mr. Sheriff was looking in his rear view mirror and giving me the evil eye, so I stayed behind him and nervously crept along at 70 mph for several miles until he finally exited.

By the time I got home, I was completely hooked on the bike. My worries of not liking the riding position were gone, and I now find myself wanting to ride more. The only drawback to the bike, at least for me, is that when Gay and I ride together she will be on the ST and I will have to worry about keeping up with her.

TWO WEEKS - 3200 Miles

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took him 1-1/2 hours. Marek said that it sounded like my valves needed adjustment. So he loaded bike on his trailer, took it to OK City BMW dealer. He knows those folks! Got the job done and some other stuff and we were out of there in 2-3 hours. Local dealers make note: They even had cold beer in their fridge for customers. Bo and Marek promise to be at the Fredericksburg rally in October. My bike has new layer of dirt, maybe Marek will give her another scrubbing.

I left Oklahoma and headed for my sister's house in Temple Texas. On the way, I discovered a neat, not-to-miss restaurant in Belton: Chuck's Pea Ridge Bar-B-Q & Steakhouse. 254 913 0889. Good fish too.

Two weeks, 3,200 miles. Whew, I'm pooped. But what a great adventure

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BMW MOA President Resigns

BMW MOA club President, Larry, "Hawk" Hawthorne announced his retirement on September 1, 2005 due to a battle with melanoma. We thank Larry for his service to the BMW MOA and to the motorcycling community. Read the President's goodbye letter on the BMW MOA website: www.bmwmoa.org.

Iron Butt Celebrities Celebrate

An impromptu meeting was held at Noah's Ark in Bacliff, next to Galveston Bay on Monday September 5th to welcome and celebrate with club President Beverly Ruffin and club member Morris Kruehmcke on their completion of the 2005 Iron Butt Rally. Morris finished 34th place and Beverly finished 46th. Congratulations!

Business Meeting - every 2nd Thursday of the Month - 7 p.m. - Hickory Hollow - 101 Heights Blvd. Because of our rally, the October club business meeting will be held the 3rd Thurs., October 20, 2005.

Social Gathering - every Thurs. 7 p.m. - Hickory Hollow.

Breakfast with the Beemers every Sunday 8 a.m. - two locations: (1) Goode Company Taqueria 4902 Kirby Dr. and (2) Denny's - FM 1960 @ Hwy 290.