

## Rally wrap up 2001

### We did it again!!!!

We put on one of our finest rallies. Our food and the rally site are among the best in the country and I believe the major draw to the rally.

I still am waiting for a final financial statement, but it appears that we broke even or picked up a few dollars. Much of this is the result of very careful purchasing by Sandy and Sharon. Registration was wild. We have open registration for club members during January and February. Howard was the first to get his check in. On March first we had about 25 club members registered. By March 7<sup>th</sup> we had 155 people registered and we closed registration on the next day. There were some cancellations; so about a dozen people were able to get in off the “waiting list”. I saw some rally regulars not get in because of time and space. This is our largest registration ever. The increase to 175 was an experiment that worked, but I don’t believe we can increase the rally beyond that point. We have max-ed out.

I have a lot of workers to acknowledge, but I have been talking to them individually. We are very fortunate to have such an established cadre of experienced rally workers. Individual experienced members such as Paul, Jim, Jeff and Eric were augmented by newer enthusiastic members such as Clarence, Howard, John, Dave and Don etc. The success of this rally depends on everyone pitching in – no complaints on this – super job!

The weather threatened rain all weekend, but the only riders who got wet were in the guided ride up to Camden. (Thanks Buck) The other two rides, which went south, were clear and dry. Both nights were cool, but we had a very clear and starry sky. Without the distraction of city lights the multitude of visible stars was magnificent.

The rally site was in excellent condition. We can all remember prior years when there was a lot of standing water on the shoreline roads. Usually most of the lower campsites are mushy, but this year every thing looked pretty dry and usable. I think the New Sweden club set up in an area that was underwater last year. Even the sand around the front of the kelp shed was pretty solid.

The usual folks showed up on Thursday to start the chowders and chili. Joe Saunders opened up our first rally swap meet and it was a great success. This is something that we should continue. Bill Parker made the first purchase.

Jimmy was there with his trailer full of our supplies and cooking equipment. On a personal note, I think it’s outstanding that Jim Salisbury comes up with his jeep and trailer, because we need his equipment. I know that he would rather be riding.

Fred, and his team of coffee brewers and sausage flippers extraordinaire, did a great job of feeding the hungry campers on Saturday morning.

The coffee mug and shirt sale went well. Paul, Clarence and Steve were able to reduce the number of coffee mugs, sold all of the remaining 2000 shirts and a lot of 2001 shirts. Additionally we sold some left over rally pins from previous years. This should be called the “*1 for \$2 or 2 for \$5 sale*”. We had a good variety of door prizes. Dave Bliss

took home the Bottle of BMW Moodus wine and Mike Andrews took home the heated vest. As usual I won nothing.

### **The Numbers:**

- 176 people were registered (170 adults and 6 children [it just seemed like more]) with only four no-shows. I believe that is the DownEast Rally record.
- We served Saturday evening dinner to 163 people including 275 lobsters. Another rally record.
- We had no injuries, one hospital call (one of our Canadian friends had a painful kidney stone flare-up), and just two bikes that went over. One of those two bikes fell three times.
- 165 people camped.
- 15 States and 3 Canadian Provinces were represented.
- Other than Maine, the largest state represented was New Jersey with 20 and the largest province was Nova Scotia with 10 participants.
- BMWRSM was the largest club and the Yankee Beemers was largest visiting club.
- K1100LT's and Oil head GS's were the most popular bike - tied at 16 each in attendance.

### **Awards:**

- Oldest two up; Jim & Janice Gorman of New Jersey, 120 Years
- Oldest Rider; Gene Walker of Virginia age 79.
- Youngest Rider; Jeanna Jenson, Age 19.
- Youngest Passenger; Mindy Finn of Charleston, Maine, Age 4
- BMW Riders of Southern Maine 2000 High Mileage Award; Dave Stone.
- Long Distance Rider; David Fellmet of Cedar Rapids Iowa 1395 miles.
- People's Choice Award; Jeff Finn and the Finn Family sidecar chariot.
- Rally Chair Award to past Rally Chair and Rally Dude Ed Perry.

### **Lessons Learned:**

- Please forward thoughts and observations. Think about what worked and what we can do better.
- Do we need to revise our policy on vendors? At present there is a no vendor rule. Is this something we should change? How strictly should this be enforced? This year, I turned down two vendors.
- Signage? Anyone miss it?

Thank you  
Bob Collin  
Rally Chair