

2002-01

BMWRSM

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PRESIDENTS CORNER

December 1, 2001

We had a great meeting at the Pat's Pizza in Augusta... Who'd have

thought they'd do such a great job with breakfast? Thanks to Paul Emerson for securing that location for us on such short notice. The parking lot was full of bikes (over a dozen I believe) on an unseasonably warm day! (I actually left that last line in from last month's meeting notes, but it was true for December as well). A little foggy on the ride up from Portland area (about 6-7 riders joined me for the ride which was posted on the rideboard).

We talked a lot about the Holiday Party. We also discussed the Hermit Island rally. 2002 Rally Chair Bob Collin is already well into the planning stages. We need a few more volunteers for some tasks. Please email Bob if you are interested in helping out! After the meeting the weather, bikes scattered in several directions, but a few of us headed to Street Cycles to drool over the 2002 line and get ideas to give Santa! "I think I'll take that black K1200RS Santa!" Those who put their bikes up early must be crying over this spell of weather! I've been riding mine to work and had to open vents on my jacket! Today (12/6) was a record setter with the big Portland bank clock heralding a whopping 67F as I left work at 3PM today... Yowza! Hard to think of

a white Christmas with this weather! I'm sure we'll be snapped back into reality soon! Mike & I want to thank those who have helped "bench test" the new website. We're hoping you're all finding your way around. I notice on my cable modem the speed difference from the old site. Please email either of us with any problems or suggestions.

January 5, 2002

We had a great meeting at the DownEast Restaurant in Yarmouth... Attendance was excellent with over 45 people packing the dining room! We had a very full agenda of topics and I was very pleased to see so many people at the meeting! After opening the meeting, Don thanked Steve Garrett for his years of leadership to the club, as well as retiring VP Bob Collin and Sandy Bliss our Treasurer for her continued efforts. All received a big round of applause from the membership present for their efforts. Please see Steve and Don's comments further down. Here are some of the highlights from the meeting in bullet form:

Membership:

- Vice President Steve Garrett in charge of new/renewal memberships.
- We are looking into starting an awards type program for years of membership in the club.
- We will be issuing 2002 membership cards to everyone paid up this year, probably at Feb meeting.
- We will work with Street Cycles to enhance the 1-yr free membership with new Beemer purchase.
- We will confirm by email or letter new or renewal memberships with members.

Club History:

- Steve Garrett heading committee to dig up and document past club history. If you have info on things in the club's past, please contact Steve Garrett.

- Committee will also set standards for documentation of history from here on.
- If you have pictures you can document in writing from past years, see Steve or Don.

Monthly Meetings:

- **IMPORTANT:** We voted for February 2, 2002 to try Cole Farms in Gray, See the reminders section.
- We want to note our Bylaws. Fred Burgess was sure we already had some. Folks will be searching their archives to see if these can be located.
- Sandy will be checking into the possibility of club insurance through the MOA.
- We will have a monthly 50/50 raffle at the meetings... Joe "Wheeler dealer" Saunders in charge.
- Looking for ideas for people to speak or present at a monthly meeting.
- We'd like to advance plan some post meetings rides this year so folks can plan on them. If you have ideas, send to Jim "Ride Boss" Salisbury. Ride Calendar:
- Looking for ideas for rides to get onto the calendar early. With advance planning, people might be more likely to attend. Got ideas? Send to Jim Salisbury.
- John Reimann, grill chef extraordinaire, offered a cookout after the spring mileage kickoff for MOA.
- We may attempt a ride to Dave Percival's during the rally if we can get it ok'ed with Dave. Jim looking into it.
- Looking into the possibility of a fall foliage ride, a possible mini-rally with the Northern Maine club and others.
- Step up to the plate and plan a ride and volunteer to lead it!
- John Reimann offered to start tracking who's going to the MOA National (international ?) this year. We'll post some departure times etc perhaps on the ride board as time gets closer.

Website:

- Don announced that Mike Cocks had assumed his former position of Webmaster. Don will remain Mike's assistant, but wanted to devote full time to the Prez position. We doubled Mike's pay for this new role, but we tripled his workload!
- Mike is pursuing online membership registration via Paypal so folks could register

online. This would NOT include the rally, just regular membership for now and possibly selling rally extras in an online store. Mike expected to have the online membership available very soon.

- We wanted to encourage more members to submit photos for the website. There is a link on the website to send them to Mike. Please include written documentation (brief) of what they are about.
- We have kicked around the possibility of a new club logo at a couple meetings. A couple of ideas have been submitted and received favorable comments from those who saw them at the meeting. I meant to circulate them around, but there was too much on the plate and I forgot
- Mike mentioned there is a new feature on the BMWRSM navigation bar on the left side of the screen as you navigate the website... look for the "NEW" symbol which will immediately show you things that have been updated in the last two weeks on the website. Good idea Mike!!! Thanks. All in all, a very busy meeting as you can see!

A reminder that 2002 dues are due and payable. The form is online under membership. Please check the form as you will see the dues now mail directly to Steve Garrett. His mailing address is on the form. Also, 2002 DownEast Rally registration is open now for BMWRSM members only (Non-members after 3/1/01). That form is also online and includes Bob Collin's mailing address.

We had two new members join at the January meeting! Welcome to Dan De Sena and Brian Skoczenski !

February 2, 2002

We had a great meeting at Cole Farms in Gray, which was voted as our new meeting place by the 37 people in attendance. They put on a nice buffet for \$6.50 including gratuity, and it was ready at 9AM. We actually had someone ride their bike to the meeting. I can't remember his name, but he and his wife have been rally attendees in the past. He was riding his wife's Silver Wing Honda with sidecar and studded tires! His riding pants were almost solid white (from salt) from the knee down!! Now that's HARD CORE!

History Committee

We heard from Steve Garrett on the History Committee, which has made some good progress this past month. Steve had with him an old album of club photos, which was really interesting! He also reported on membership, which has been going very well with several new members. Sandy Bliss reported on the club's treasury, which is in good shape to soon begin purchasing for this year's rally.

Rally Report

Bob Collin gave a report on the rally, which was close to half full after being open 1 month to members only. We have had some folks "from away" joining the club as members and signing up for the rally. This was kicked around a while and deemed to be OK for now with a note that it could become problematic in future years, and if so we'd have to examine ways to ensure our local club members got a good shot at being able to register "early".

Website Report

Mike Cocks talked about the club website, reporting that a few days after the January meeting, our online registration process was complete, and that members and perspective members may now join online with a MasterCard or Visa via PayPal, a secure online payment system. I personally tried it and renewed for 2003 online in less than 60 seconds. For those skeptics among us, I have been in the Information Technology field for almost 15 years, and this online payment via a secure link (look for a padlock in the lower right hand corner of your browser) is extremely safe compared to giving your card to a 6.50/hour gas station attendant which many do willingly several times a week! Enough on that. Members were also asked to provide any dates for interesting events for the coming year so we can compile a list for the website and hopefully start filling the ride board too. If you know of an event, send it to Mike (our Webmaster) at webmaster@bmwrsm.org please include any email addresses or website links if applicable. If you have an interesting photograph that could serve as the "Photo of the Month" please contact Mike.

Other

We discussed the possibility of holding a Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) Experienced Rider's Course (ERC). Several people raised their hands as being interested. If you are interested, please write me at prez@bmwrsm.org as I will create a mailing list of those interested and try to nail down a date. The class would likely be all day on a Sunday, most likely in Old Orchard Beach, and cost is \$75 up front (Read: back out at the last minute and you lose \$75).

Bob Griffin announced that after the meeting he was going to Street Cycles to pick up a brand new R1150RT... A giant round of applause ensued! Congrats Bob!

After the business meeting was over, we showed a video of the 2002 MOA rally site in Trenton, Ontario. It was a "chamber of commerce" type video but was specific to the MOA rally. It looks like there will be lots of fun roads to explore and some very interesting sites to see. I'm sure we'll be having many folks ride up there this year. Please let us know your plans, as we may be able to list a few different riding groups to the rally on the ride board. Fred Parker also showed his very professional video of his trip to Redmond last summer with his father Bill, his Uncle, and Dave Stone (when they could find him!). Fred had done some more editing since we saw this at the Christmas party and it looks excellent Fred. Thanks for bringing it in again and sharing with us! Outstanding job!

New Logo

And last, but not least... Mike has posted a "survey" type poll for selecting a club logo, which is on our website now. Please take a minute and go through the choices and make your selections. I'd like to close the voting by 2/25 and make the selection final so I can have your membership cards and name badges for meetings ready for the March meeting.

As always, my electronic door is open by writing me at prez@bmwrsm.org

Hopefully we'll have an early spring and we can ride next month!

March 2, 2002

We started our meeting by observing a moment of silence in remembrance of our friend and fellow club member Tom Hazzard, who passed away on 2/21/02. We will miss you Tom.

We had 37 people at our meeting again this month and many rode their bikes! My wife gave me a major scowl when I suggested riding mine since I was trying to recover from near bronchitis and was on anti-biotics... so I drove the cage. Next month for sure! The facility at Cole Farms worked out very nicely again and we also now have an agreement with them for those who may not want a full breakfast, you may have muffin/bagel and coffee and juice for \$3.00 (gratuity included).

Joe "Swapshop" Saunders held a 50/50 raffle for the club and Cindy Esklund split a \$42 pot with the club. Those current members present were presented with 2002 membership cards, which displayed our new club logo. We'll be mailing membership cards to those not at the meeting soon. Steve Garrett reported that 2002 paid membership was at about 85 as of the March meeting. I think that's probably a record.

New Logo! Our new club logo was picked via a pole on the website and won by a minimum 2:1 margin over the other choices. Thanks to Karen Cocks (who was present and celebrating her birthday!) for her efforts in designing it, and to Webmaster Mike for coordinating and tallying the pole results!

Speaking of celebrating, congrats to Mike and April Kearney on the birth of their son John Edward in early February. Mike has been furiously searching the web for car seats that will fit on his R1100R and was considering wallpapering the baby's room with a collage of BMW bike posters to help instill brand loyalty at an early age.

2002 Hermit Island Rally: Bob Collin advised that registration for the rally closed on 3/1/02 due to being sold out. He had a large stack of applications on 3/1 and with the BMWRSM member registrations already on hand, the rally was full! Bob is still

looking for any volunteers... email him at rally@bmwrsm.org if interested. He also mentioned that the shirt for this years rally will be a steel gray, mock-T with a special logo for the rally on it. Cost was not exact yet, but around \$20-22. If you are interest and will want to purchase one, you can let Bob know quantity and size (especially if in the XL+ sizes). Buck Avant will be the overall ride coordinator for the rally this year. If you'd like to lead a ride for our rally guests, contact Buck at Earl9@aol.com

BMWRSM Web: Have a good look around and checkout the new "facelift" Mike has given it using the new logo and other improvements. We have added an Events page which will give you an "at a glance" idea of what's coming up regionally in the world of motorcycling, touring, and other events worthy of a good ride. Many thanks to Mike for all his efforts on our website. I think we have a website to be very proud of! Don't be afraid to shoot Mike a note at webmaster@bmwrsm.org and let him know if you have suggestions or comments.

If you know of an upcoming event this year that might be of interest to other members, please write me at prez@bmwrsm.org with info such as phone numbers and website links and we'll get them posted. Speaking of events and rides, Jim Salisbury our resident "RideBoss" has posted a ride to Americade in June on the ride board. If you're going to Americade you may want to check his itinerary and drop him and email. Also mentioned was the 3rd annual European Motorcycle meet at Sunday River in Bethel will be August 3rd and 4th this year. Mark you calendar as this event also coincides with open house both days at Dave Percival's private BMW museum (almost 100 BMW's!)... If you haven't seen this yet, this is ABSOLUTELY a DO NOT MISS tour! More details in early summer on this, but hold the date NOW.

ERC Class Update: As of 3/3/02, 17 riders have expressed an interest in taking an ERC course this spring. I DO NOT have a definite date yet from the course manager, but she has sent me 3 potential dates, which

are; 4/21, 4/28, and 5/12. I told her we'd prefer the April dates, as the 5/12 is the weekend before our rally. If you are interested, please send me a note at prez@bmwrsm.org. The class can only take 12, but I'm sure once we have a firm date, some people may have prior obligations. Names will be submitted in the order they were received, but if we can't fit everyone, we'll have some alternate dates from other classes the MSF staff will be teaching this spring.

History Committee: Steve Garrett reported good progress on the History Committee. He has received materials from Ed Perry, Margaret Rancourt, and other early club members which is helping put the puzzle pieces together. Next year will be the 15th anniversary of the club, and it will be great to have the previous history well documented as we celebrate that milestone. A reminder that if you have info that may be of use to this effort, please write Steve at viceprez@bmwrsm.org Thanks Steve for all your hard work on this!

Board of Directors nominees wanted: After looking over the bylaws that Steve was able to dig up, it brought to light that we have not had a "working" Board of Directors for some time. While Board sounds very formal, I think we should think of this as a "Steering committee" which will meet periodically with the club officers and help shape the clubs future events and standing in the local community. We would like people who are sincerely interested in actively participating (read: not just a title on paper). It would be great to get 1-2 of our longer standing members as well as some newer ones. If you would be interested in a position, please contact me via prez@bmwrsm.org or give me a call any evening before 9PM. We'll bring up the names at the April meeting and decide collectively as a group how to proceed.

That's about it for now... please write me with any errors, omissions, or corrections. Our next meeting is April 6th at Cole Farms, 9AM officially, but you can arrive anytime after 8:30.

Regards,

Don Lockhart
BMWRSM President

EDITORS CORNER

As you can see, the 'NEWZ' is not dead. It had been laid up for a while, but is hopefully back again in full swing.

This issue will get everyone up to date with all the latest. There is a lot of info available on our web site. Many thanks are due to Mike for a great job. We have had a change of officers in the club and their parting and incoming words are here for you to peruse. The latest monthly meeting info is here too. Please take the time to read it all very carefully.

I am still looking for more stories; product testing, good rides to take to be included in future issues. Take the time to put it down on paper or email and send it along.

Eric

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What a year this has been. We have had a great year of riding. Weather has been great all summer long. All that can be said is WOW!

THE YEAR IN SUMMARY:

First there was our very successful DownEast Rally 2001. Thank you all who helped make the event such a success. And especially thank you Sharon & Bob for getting all those little details accomplished. All summer long I met riders who said either (1) Thanks for a great rally. We always have such a good time at the DownEast Rally, or (2) I missed the rally this year; "... How can I get in next year?" We are definitely doing it right.

Secondly, we have had a group ride after every club meeting this riding season. Our rides were all great. A couple months we had two separate groups going in differing

directions. Thank you to the ride leaders and planners. We all had a great time shooting the notches, following Eric in western Maine, drooling over Dave Perceval's collection of classic and vintage beemers, or proving to Tom Hazzard that a new R1150 will get better than fifty miles to gallon. With the great weather this year many of us rode to work often. I drove to work (cage) only two or three days. It helps having college age drivers wanting your car.

We had a meeting every month this year including meeting at Bill Parker's home, drooling over his garage and workshop while enjoying his hospitality, and meeting at the Garrett's for the August meeting. It was fun moving the meeting around to different locations. Fran enjoyed having everyone for breakfast and we will do this again. Maybe a May meeting for a pool opening?

Many of you have ridden some serious miles this year. Dave Stone took the award for most miles ridden. This was quite an accomplishment when we realize the mileage ridden by Bob Collin, Fred Burgess, Irene Boetcher, Assunta Kent, Bill & Fritz Parker, et al. Congratulations to Dave. What has impressed me is that this year must not be considered a lot of miles as Dave has the Airhawk Air Cushion bottom pillow for sale. See our web site.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the great work by Don Lockhart, Karen & Mike Cocks on our club website. These club members have created a very professional web site that represents our club very, very well. It is going to be difficult to live up to the professional impression a mere visitor could get. What are our Harley riding friends going to think?

Lastly as I step down as President, I want to thank all of you for your support and efforts to make the club more inclusive and better. Many of you continue to perform tasks for the club year in and year out and for that I thank you for myself and for the club. For those of you that are relatively new to the club and

have jumped in to help and support club events and tasks thank you.

I believe we are entering an exciting time for this club. Our web site, close working relationship with Street Cycles and our attentive members continue to bring new members. We are growing. This simple fact will present challenges, but I'm confident that our new leadership is up to the challenges. I am confident that Don Lockhart will provide great leadership. I will support him and will focus my efforts on gaining new members for the future. We have a great new year and riding season just beginning. Let's all do our part to make this year the best year yet for the "BMW Riders of Southern Maine."

To all members. Any ideas you have that would (1) improve the club, (2) improve or add to club events, (3) make the club serve you better or (4) attract new members please send your ideas and thoughts to Don and myself. You can reach me by email at rsixfive@nqi.net.

Again, thank you for letting me be part of your club
Steven Garrett

INCOMING SALUTATIONS

Greetings to all BMWERSM members and friends!

As I look ahead to the coming year, I am very pleased to have the opportunity to serve as President of the BMW Riders of Southern Maine for 2002. We have a great club, which has enjoyed steady growth for the past few years under the leadership of Steve Garrett, President, and Bob Collin, Vice President, as well as the efforts of Sandy Bliss, our treasurer. These folks, along with many of you who help throughout the year in many various ways, are what make our organization great. We had a fantastic rally in 2001, which sold out in 7 days after opening to the public. Bob Collin, our rally chair in 2001 and 2002, is already well under way for the coming rally. Registration will open for nonmembers on 3/1/02. I want to formally recognize the efforts of our club leadership in 2001 and hope other members will take a minute to thank them via email or your next meeting for

all their efforts. A lot of behind the scene coordination goes on and it's often a thankless job. We have realized a steady growth of membership the past few years and also have some very active new members. So thank you Steve, Bob, Sandy and all of you who pitched in for various events through the year! 2001 was a very good year for the club!

I'm sending this to everyone on our email list, which includes other clubs and friends of BMWRSM. I would encourage those of you "from away" to keep in touch! Let us know what your clubs are up to. Maybe we can setup some rides to meet "halfway" for lunch, or if any of you are planning rides to Southern Maine, please let us know. Our events are always posted on our website at WWW.BMWRSM.ORG. We invite anyone reading this and any of your friends to join us for any of our meetings should you be in the area on the 1st Saturday of a month. And we hope to see many of you at our rally in May! For BMWRSM members, I want to highlight some of the things we'll be discussing Saturday at our monthly meeting at DownEast Restaurant at 9AM. I met last Friday for breakfast with Steve Garrett, Bob & Sharon Collin, Mike Cocks, and John Reimann to discuss plans for the coming year. Here are some of the items we discussed:

Membership (new and renewal) will be handled by the Vice President (Steve Garrett for 2002)

New and renewal membership will create notification email to all officers and webmaster.

We're looking into online (WWW) registration and renewal process with VISA/MC (not for rally).

I will be emailing or postal mailing all new members with a welcome letter.

We hope to start a membership recognition program with awards for various years of membership.

We will try to tighten up the "new BMW owner" free 1 yr membership at Street Cycles program.

Club History

The history of club is important! Last year Steve Garrett started a process of gathering info on past membership in events etc. I'd like to have a committee of people assist

Steve in pushing this forward, and also establishing criteria for record keeping from hereon in. We're thinking about collecting old photos and scanning them in to create a digital scrapbook CD to be made available to those interested. Monthly Meetings Develop Charter/Bylaws (very basic) to denote club office positions, club mission statement.

Potential location change to Cole Farms in February 2002 (vote at Jan meeting).

Try to get some guest speakers for a few of our meetings.

Develop a post meeting ride schedule further in advance so members can plan on rides.

Possibility of monthly raffle or door prize drawing for attendees.

Ride Calendar

More advance planning of rides. (e.g. after work rides, dinner rides, couples rides etc)

Fall foliage tour (possibly with neighboring clubs?).

Advance planning of annual rides such as Dave Percival's, Larz Anderson, Owls Head.

Try to get more members to post rides on the ride board.

Get together with Northern Maine group? (Steve looking into this)

Ride/cookout for MOA mileage signups?

Club Website

How's the new site working for everyone?

Discussed online store to sell rally leftovers etc.

Encourage more members to submit photos for web, but also for saving in electronic scrapbook CD.

Miscellaneous

Create/take comprehensive survey of members. Post anonymous statistics on Web, but perhaps create a member's only non-anonymous book for emergency assistance etc similar to MOA anonymous book.

In order to give my role as President more time, I have asked Mike Cocks, my assistant Webmaster to assume the role of Webmaster and he has accepted. I will now be Mike's assistant. Thanks Mike!

If you would like to assist in any of the committees or tasks motioned above, please see me or any of the officers. There's plenty listed here, so the more the merrier! I look forward to fun times ahead in the coming year and promise to work hard to help grow the

club and move forward on many of the projects mentioned above. I appreciate the opportunity to serve in this capacity and want to make sure you all know you can contact me at any time to discuss any ideas, comments, problems, or concerns. Thanks for taking the time to read this. Here's wishing you and all your families health, happiness, and lots of quality riding time in 2002!

Regards,

Don Lockhart

BMWRSM President 2002