

# Tarheel Traveler Newsletter

The monthly Publication of BMW Tarheel Travelers of North Carolina

BMW MOA No. 57

August 2008

BMW RA No. 34

## Endurance Ride to Texas By Ed Gray

Many memorable trips start with the statement "work sucks, I need to get away" and this one was no exception. In October 2006, my job had been burning me up for months with long days, unreasonable expectations and travel with lots and lots of time stuck in a steel metal tube ripping through the atmosphere at 30 thousand feet. I needed a break and fate was kind enough to offer up an opportunity.

My best friend's (Brian Young) parents had recently relocated from South Central Wisconsin to North East Texas. It was time for him to visit his folks in their new home and he decided that riding from Raleigh, NC to Tyler, TX would make a good SS1000 trip..... the opportunist that I am, I asked if he would mind if I tagged along. Brian didn't resist the idea so I guess I'm still in good standing with him and more importantly his wife (I try to be a bad influence..I guess I need to try harder).

Brian and I departed Raleigh, NC at about 2:30 am on a Thursday morning. We rode South to Atlanta and then cut West into Texas. During our 1100 miles we managed to ride through night time fog, 3 states of gusty rain and then as it cleared (at the TX border) directly into the sun (pah! who needs retina's anyway). After 17.5 hours we arrived in Tyler. A quick check into a hotel followed by burrito's and some margarita's made out of paint thinner and we were ready to call it a day.

Friday morning Brian went to his folk's place while I made some final plans for Friday through Sunday. I decided that riding the Texas Hill Country would be the best use of my time. The basic plan was to ride from Tyler (Northeast TX) down to Kerrville (South Central Texas) on Friday, enjoy the area on Saturday and then ride back up to Tyler on Sunday to meet up with Brian and join his family for dinner.

I spend a great deal of time hanging out at BMWsportTouring.com. When I started a thread looking for input on the Hill Country I not only received some

suggestions of things to do BUT Limecreek (Greg Clark) even supplied a series of MapSource files and indicated



GPS Stats



Brian and Ed at the final gas stop to get that final receipt for the IBA submissions.

that he might be in the area....he even invited me to call him Friday night to see what he was planning to do.

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# BMW Tarheel Travelers Of North Carolina



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## Road Debris by "Rev. Willie" Nichols

The July meeting at Gary and Tina Shimizu lovely home in Fayetteville was a good time. The guards at the gate were friendly and our GPS systems actually found the right home strung along the golf course. Gary was a Barbeque Master on the porch and Tina kept the operation going. A count of 30 folks wandered over for a delicious lunch and a short and simple meeting. Since this is the middle of the simmer-summer, people are riding their bikes more but they have to find the right time to enjoy the ride. Since the National Rallies were a fair distance away this year, there were not as many Long Rides for most of the members this year. All-in-all, it has been a "quiet" motorcycle year so far for most of us. The meeting was representative of the year: a couple of minor reports, no contacts with any of the few folks headed to the Gillette National, no new business was brought up, and the meeting was over. We spoke of the "new" form of the October campout; how it will be a "No-Brainer" operation with each camper being responsible for their reservations and feeding, and will be held at the regular campground at the beach at the end of Oct. More information will come down later about October. Now it is the time to ride between the showers, keeping yourself cool however you can, and putting on some "sMiles" on our bikes.

Hope we see a lot of TT's at the Boone Campout. We will have the August meeting sometime on Saturday, Aug 16, so that we do not conflict with driving time on Sunday. Make sure you come by the club area and check out when & where we will meet. If you are a member that has not made many BMW rallies, the Boone Rally is a good one to start with. The program is not such a busy one as some rallies end up to be, so you have a chance to have some good quiet time in the mountains. It is not a rowdy gathering, so just ride on up in August and enjoy yourself.

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**Election Reminder From Jeff Brown** - We have started August. There are only 4 months before the elections and 5 months before the new officers will take their seats in club history. Please think about holding one of the offices – President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer.

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### **Some Interesting BMW activities coming up in the area:**

- August 15-17 AMA Superbike/Formula Xtream VIR (near Danville,VA)  
Nate Kern will be racing his HP-2 in the biggest AMA races in the area (40K there last year) and he wants the BMW folks to be there to support his chances at his favorite track.
- Aug. 14-17 Boone Rally
- Aug. 22-24 Very Boring Rally II  
*Aerostich's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary party in Duluth MN*
- Aug. 29-31 Sherando Lake Rally, VA  
*Extreme Laid-Back Rallying and Lots of Peanuts*
- Sept. 27-29 N8! @ VIR CCS and ASRA Racing Milton, VA  
*Rumors of BMW funding cuts could make this the last one.*

The 2008 BMW MOA National Rally in Gillette, WY had **5,103** attendees. A report from Steve and Belva and Ossifer Bob will be arranged soon, we hope.

Next Year's MOA National Rally will be held in Gray, TN ( just north of Johnson City,TN) on July 16-19, 2009. It will be about 250 miles from our homes, so there will be no good reason to miss this rally. If you have never seen a BMWMOA National Rally, then you have really missed something! Hope you will start planning on coming to Gray in July of '09!

## The Meeting Place – August 16, 2008

The August meeting will be at the 31st Annual Daniel Boone Rally & Vintage/Classic Ride in Boone, NC around Rally Central at the KOA campground on Saturday, August 16 at 1:00 p.m.. Look for the club flag and signs and members! (GPS N36 15.54, W81 39.87)

### 31st Annual Daniel Boone Rally & Vintage/Classic Ride-In August 14-17, 2008 Boone, NC

Three states, one rally! Come join us at the KOA Campground in Boone, NC for the best riding anywhere. Rain or shine ride NC's Blue Ridge Parkway and High Country, Southwestern Virginia and Northeastern Tennessee. Welcome all Vintage and Classic riders. We have plenty of room for everyone and all brands!  
GPS: N36 15.54, W81 39.87

Pre-Registration Closes August 1st

On-site Rally Fee:  
\$40 per person

On-site Early Arrival:  
Thursday night camping: \$8.00

Fee Includes:  
Camping for Friday and Saturday night · Rally Pin for first 200 · 5 tickets for Door Prizes  
Saturday - Catered BBQ dinner · Donuts & Coffee  
Sun. Morning · Endless: coffee, tea, hot chocolate.

Extras:  
Self-Guided Route Sheets - Buy & Sell Bulletin Board  
Hot Showers; Wireless Internet; Swimming Pool; Newspapers

Have attendee or vendor questions? Contact...  
John Olsakovsky - Rally Coordinator  
email: rally@carolinasbmwmoa.org  
phone: 704-307-2395

#### 2008 Meeting Hosts

Jan: Al & Karol Jones	Jul: Gary & Tina Shimizu
Feb: Willie Nichols & Pam Haines	Aug: Boone Rally
Mar: Pete & Sandy Osta	Sept: Joel & Julie Harris
Apr: Larry & Gloria Boone	Oct: Ray Ussery and Dorothy Bennett-Ussery and Larry and Kim Green
May: Mike Slocum	Nov: Bryan & Quinna Stempowski
Jun: Jim & Pat Morrison	Dec: Joe & Roberta Keithley

Thank you to all our volunteer hosts!

## Tarheel Traveler Calendar

**Aug 2 - 1st Saturday Ride, 10:00 a.m.** Gassed up and ready to ride at 10:00 a.m. Capitol BMW, 5200 Atlantic Avenue, Raleigh, NC. (GPS N35 51.338 W78 35.916)

**Aug 3 - TriadRiders 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday ride, 9:00 a.m.** Gassed up and ready to ride at 9:00. Cheesecake by Alex, 315 South Elm Street, Greensboro, NC (GPS N36 04.195 W79 47.422)

**Aug 10 - 2nd Sunday Ride, 10:00 a.m.** Breakfast at 9:00 a.m., gassed up and ready to ride at 10:00 a.m. Hardees, 38 East Rd, Pittsboro, NC (GPS N35 43.212 W79 10.603)

**Aug 13 - 2nd Wednesday Dinner, 7:00 p.m.** General Store Café, 39 W Street. (center of town near the traffic circle around the courthouse), Pittsboro 919-542-2432 (GPS N35 43.217 W79 10.687)

**Aug 14-17 The 31st Annual Daniel Boone Rally, Boone NC.** Rain or shine, ride NC's Blue Ridge Parkway and High Country, Southwestern VA and Northeastern TN (GPS N36 15.54, W81 39.87)

**Aug 16 - Monthly Meeting - 1:00 p.m.** The meeting will be at the 31st Annual Daniel Boone Rally & Vintage/Classic Ride in Boone, NC around Rally Central at the KOA campground. (GPS N36 15.54, W81 39.87)

**Aug 21 - 3rd Thursday Dinner, 6:30 p.m.** El Tucan, 250 S Bragg Blvd, Spring Lake, NC 910-495-1400 (GPS N35 09.812 W78 58.330)

**Aug 27 - 4th Wednesday Dinner, 7:00 p.m.** Jason's Deli, 909 Spring Forest Rd, Raleigh 919-855-9898 (GPS N35 52.022 W78 37.356)

For additional event/rally dates be sure to check the TT website [www.tarheelbmw.org](http://www.tarheelbmw.org)

<b>August 2008</b>						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday Ride - Capitol BMW, Raleigh
3 TriadRiders 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Ride Greensboro	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Ride Pittsboro	11	12	13 Dinner - General Store Cafe - Pittsboro	14 Boone Rally	15 Boone Rally	16 TT Meeting - Boone Rally
17 Boone Rally	18	19	20	21 Dinner - El Tucan, Spring Lake	22	23
24	25	26	27 Dinner - Jason's Deli - Raleigh	28	29	30/31

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Friday Night: "Hi Greg, This is Ed. Thanks for the files..are you going to be around Saturday?" Limecreek says "Yes and I'm going to meet a friend (Steve McKinley aka SWMcKinley) for breakfast" Ed says "Mind if I join you two" Limecreek says "Sure... there's a straight line from where you are to where we're eating breakfast..I'll send you another route file to make it a more enjoyable ride over". Man oh man... You gotta love it when someone local is willing to help you out like this...why waste time looking for great roads when someone who knows the area is willing to help you make the best of your time.

So... I met Limecreek and SWMcKinley for breakfast in Blanco at the Sunset Restaurant & Bar. BTW.... the breakfast portions are "generous" and one should never listen to Steve when he says "order the stack of three pancakes".



**A single pancake....glad I didn't listen to Steve and order three!**

After breakfast we went to the Harvest Classic bike show and rally in Luckenbach. This is a great local event and well worth catching if you're ever in the area.



**Sunset Restaurant**



**Harvest Classic logo**



**The three of us**



**Luckenbach Post Office**

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**Some nice bikes!**

While in Luckenbach, Limecreek ran into some folks...two of which were Philby (Phil Coppin the Ex-pat Limey) and his lovely Wife. "Mr. and Mrs. Philby" relocated from the Chicago area in the recent past.

After Luckenbach I chased Limecreek and SWMcKinley

(both riding R12RTs while I was on my 1150GSA) on some great roads. This is where I learned the true value of looking ahead and anticipating.... when you're the guy chasing two guys on quicker bikes it helps to anticipate when they're going to roll on the throttle... let's just say that the 'ole GS doesn't have the pickup on those 12RT's and that rolling the gas on several seconds before they did helped me keep pace. BTW.... These guys can ride.

After a bit we stopped in Medina for some Apple Pie. This is another "must do" in the Hill Country.



**"Must Do" Hill Country Pie**



**Cider Mill sign in Medina**

By late afternoon... It was time for Limecreek and SWMcKinley to head home but not before aiming me towards some more good roads. I spent the remainder of the day following their suggestions and made a point of getting back to my hotel well before dark to decrease the likelihood of running into Bambi.

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Since I got back to my room early I decided to wash up and explore downtown Kerrville. I found a few things to do, chatted with some folks and then rode around downtown a little in the dark.... the big 'ole fluffy PIAA's on my GS came in handy on some of the darker streets...using the PIAA's however was a mistake. A combination of the PIAA's and low speed riding did a fine job of running down my battery....unfortunately I did not realize this until the following morning when there wasn't enough juice to start the bike and the low amperage had the starter making some very nasty noises. I did have a charger with me but it didn't seem to be making enough of a difference and that nasty starter noise had me very worried. All breakdowns happen on a Sunday morning.... Here I was 1400+ miles from home and no support was available from the dealerships in San Antonio or Austin. So.... I pulled out my laptop (gotta love WiFi) and posted a "Help Message" on BMWsportTouring.com . Within 45 minutes Philby (my thanks to Whip for seeing my post and calling Philby) was already at my hotel. After multiple attempts to bump start the bike and more time on the charger we got the bike going.



Here's Philby next to my bike. Thanks again Phil!

After that I beat it back up to Tyler for dinner and spent the next couple days riding back to Raleigh. My total trip was 3400+ miles and while I didn't want to go back to work, I can honestly testify that many miles over 6 days is a great way to clear your head and that travel with the support of a great online community is an experience that I will forever treasure.

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## From Your Editor

My column is a bit short this month as I am hurrying to get this edition out before the First Saturday ride of August. I have been gone for 9 days riding my Aprilia Tuono in the mountains of NC with 10 of my friends from New England, California and here in Raleigh. It was a blast. We stayed in a huge rental house and cooked in each night. We did the Cherohala three times, Deals Gap twice, War Woman Road, Wayah Road, 64, 28, 143, TN32 and found many other great roads in Tennessee, Georgia and North Carolina. I will put a more in-depth article together on the trip and where we stayed in a future edition.

This month's special thanks goes to Ed Gray for the cover article on his and Brian's trip to Texas. Thanks Ed.

**Jim Morrison**

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## From the Forum

**From Michael Stock's post to the TT Forum:** "I have seen a lot of email traffic concerning a new download of Garmin's MapSource; version 6.14.1. It appears that this version has some problems with some routing tools that no longer work and some people had corrupted files and had to remove the program and reload it from backups. So, I would caution anyone using MapSource to wait before downloading the newest version of the program."

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### Member Information Updates

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#### NEW MEMBERS

Richard Lee  
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Fayetteville, NC 28312  
910-485-4985  
rglee@nc.rr.com

#### DIRECTORY UPDATES

Darrell & Mary Fran O. Spencer  
(Deleted email as old one is no longer active)

John Beamer  
jbeamer@gmail.com

## The Market Place

**Anderson Powerpole connectors** for DC power interconnection/distribution for your motorcycles. Several members are already using these rugged connectors with great success. See Brian Young's website at [www.alt-moto.com](http://www.alt-moto.com) for more information. You can also call Brian at 919-954-2178 or email him at [brianyoung@alt-moto.com](mailto:brianyoung@alt-moto.com). (exp 12/08)

### From a post by David Parker on the TT Forum:

I haven't sprung for a GPS....yet. Main reason I want one is you guys make me feel left out. Just made a trip to Chicago on business, one day up on the slab. Coming back I had a weekend ahead of me. Put my map away and headed home. I had two rules

1. Don't use a map
2. Stay off the slab

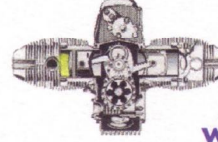
I seem to recall that Winston Salem is South-East of Chicago. I simply headed south on the first two lane I could find leaving Chicago. When I came to a T intersection, I either headed south or east. Repeat (no slabs) until I got home. I call it pinball touring. Took 2 1/2 long days to get back. Found some great roads, little towns and lots of scenery. The only problem with not having GPS is I could not repeat my journey if my life depended on it. Remember you ain't lost if you still have gas and you ain't late if you have no particular time to get there.

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