

# The Tarheel Traveler

The monthly Publication of the BMW-NC Tarheel Travelers

BMW MOA No. 57

March 2009

BMW RA No. 34

## AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days 2008

By Marc Krouse

I've never been much attracted to motorcycle events such as Daytona, Myrtle Beach, Sturgis, or the various BMW rallies, but most years I make the trip to Lexington, Ohio for AMA's annual 3 day Vintage Motorcycle Days [VMD]. It's held at the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course where the organizers know how to handle the logistics of large crowds and the venue is big enough to hold simultaneous activities, e.g. road racing, motocross, flat track, trials, stunt riding demos, new bike demos, bike shows, vendor displays, swap meets, auctions, seminars, camping, RV'ing, and eating of foodstuffs under shady trees.



Vintage Motorcycle Days pack them in

The Ohio locals are used to having an influx of race fans (cars and motorcycles), so they are accommodating, friendly and used to seeing large numbers of motorcycles on the surrounding roads. Ohio also has the 4th highest registration of motorcycles in the US (2006 data).

And of course being located in central Ohio, a road trip to VMD from North Carolina can be planned to hit many fine mountain roads in NC, TN, KY, VA, WV and OH. The distance is not too daunting either, even for relatively new riders with a straight line distance of 400 miles from the Triangle area. The roads

between here and central Ohio are a great variation of interstate and rural roads crossing the Appalachians. Trips can be planned with all combinations of road selections, from Road Atlas highways to Delorme Gazetteer goat paths.

This year our trip plan was pretty simple. My son would launch from Asheville and I would launch from Cary on Thursday and we would meet in Boone, NC before we headed up through TN, Va, WV to stay overnight in Athens, OH. Since we are working stiffs, Athens is close enough to get us to the VMD gates by 9:30 AM on Friday, which allows most of Friday and all day Saturday at VMD. Sunday is then reserved for a return trip home via interstate.

(continued on page 3)

# BMW-NC Tarheel Travelers of North Carolina



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## Kick'n Tires and Telling Lies

by Vince Provenzano

March 2009

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By now the edge is off of winter and we can now look forward to spring and, for many of us, a new riding season. That said, let me remind you that it is never too early to start thinking 2010 club calendar photo entries. As us Jersey folks say, "Vote Early and Vote Often." The same distorted logic can be applied to the 2010 club calendar. Start snapping early and often and submit your photos to our esteemed newsletter editor. Who knows, maybe your photo will adorn next year's calendar for all TT members to admire.

Last month, I stated that there is nothing like a good motorcycle adventure read to get me fired up for riding. Well, a serious omission from my favorite books on this subject was Emilio Scotto's "The Longest Ride." The short version is that an Argentine from Buenos Aires decides on riding a "Wing" around the world on a ten-year 500,000 mile hiatus. No Marco Polo by his own admission or the last of the romantics, for that matter, but merely one who believes deeply that whoever does not invest in dreams is not living reality. Wow! Now there's a radical concept.

Speaking of rides, it seems that when the subject turns to group or club rides there is no shortage of heated discussion. Since hardly any of us view a group ride in the same manner, it is little wonder that we often find ourselves less than satisfied with "The Ride." Whether it is too long, too short, too fast, too slow, too straight, too curvy or what have you, there is bound to be a contingent who are disappointed. Interestingly, the March issue of Rider Magazine "Riding Well" article speaks to the subject of group rides. My suggestion is to pick up a copy of Rider and read the article. If a group ride is your thing there are some interesting points that should be considered. For one, you may want to consider it not as a group ride but rather individual motorcyclists out for a ride that happens to be together with other motorcyclists. Know your destination, be responsible for the rider behind you and, most of all, ride your own ride.

I am happy to announce that the club will conduct a club picnic in conjunction with the monthly meeting on Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup> at Cypress Shelter at Harris Lake County Park. Please note that this year's event will be on the Saturday preceding Father's Day. The club officers would like this to become an annual event with the club covering the cost of both the facility rental, as required, as well as food and beverage. For this inaugural picnic, however, Club Treasurer, Philip Meyers will be graciously providing food and beverage. Details on this upcoming event appear in this and future newsletters and on the club website. My personal thank you to Vice President, Larry Boone for his efforts in selecting this location and making the necessary arrangements.

It is with some disappointment that I inform you that our membership has declined approximately 22 percent from year-end 2008. These are very difficult economic times and it is not my place to advise anyone on how to spend their hard earned money, but as I see it, for a mere \$10 you can get a wonderful club newsletter and share the camaraderie of like-minded BMW motorcycle enthusiasts. Let us remember that we are all club ambassadors whether it be while riding or just kicking tires. So I encourage you to put on your best face when out and about and please make the extra effort to be friendly and welcoming.

I would like to remind you all that Bike Week is just around the corner and that means "Coffee Stop" for TT members. This annual event has been a long-standing club tradition dating back to 1976. So if you can help out, please join in on the fun with a lending hand.

Thank you to our February TT meeting hosts, Rev. Willie Nichols and Pam Haines for a job well done.

I leave you this month with the words of Charles Kuralt, "If the traveler expects the highway to be safe and well graded, he might as well stay home. The little roads without numbers are the ones I have liked the best, the bumpy ones that lead over the hills toward vicinities unknown."

Ride safe, it's a jungle out there.





**Typical Vintage Guy**

and 20 yards wide with the crowd protected only by sections of movable fencing. Next time I see a squidly Speed Triple rider blipping his throttle as he cruises through town with his shorts and flip flops, I'll recall what a real rider can make that Speed Triple do.

Ted Simon was there selling books, signing autographs, and presenting seminars. His was the first 'adventure' motorcycle book I read [Jupiter's Travels] and it was very cool to meet him and shake his hand. My son could hardly speak as he shook Ted's hand. He gets that way when awestruck. I remember once when he forgot his name while asking Evelyn Glennie to autograph a set of drum heads. I had to

I've been to Mid-Ohio during an AMA race weekend and the crowds are wholly different. AMA race weekends are populated with young men, young beautiful women, and modern bikes. VMD sees old men, formally beautiful women, old bikes and the blue haze of 2 stroke oil smoke hanging everywhere. It's wonderful! Gray bearded racers in worn out leathers, slumped in lawn chairs next to oil covered Triumphs, smoking cigarettes, and not rebuilding their engines between races. It's a great experience to see 70 year old codgers responding to 'final calls' as they make their way through the crowd towards 'pit out'. Roasting pans may be strapped to their engine cases to prevent oil making it onto the track, but they're out there! And the sound of an unmuffled Honda CBX coming down the front straight is awesome.

This year they had a dude from Ireland [undecipherable over the PA] giving stunt riding shows aboard a new Triumph Speed Triple. It was unmodified except for a wheelie bracket behind the passenger seat and an additional peg on the left side for fancy riding. He kept the rear wheel spinning and sliding all the time. Just amazing! And the space was about 60 yards long



**Not Paid Enough**

intervene and say his name is "Eric". Evelyn smiled and young knees buckled.

It pays to plan ahead for motel accommodations. VMD draws such huge crowds that when I attempted to make reservations in April for the July event, I was almost shut out! We usually stay in Mount Vernon, Ohio which is about 20 miles south of Mid Ohio and it's a pleasant morning ride through the country. It's also great to have a cool evening ride back to the motel after a long, hot day of walking the event. We even did a B&B one year on the Kenyon College campus. Creaky floors, Scones. Not my style.

This year we stayed at a one star motel in Mt. Gilead, OH. Low rate, everything worked, and nothing was stolen from the



**Gray Heads**

room. Ok, the shower drain was slow. Many places appear to raise their rates for the event but if camping is preferred, there are local campgrounds as well as one located at the event [although I hear that the campground at Mid Ohio is very noisy]. But you can get to the demo ride lines earlier than those waiting for the gates to open at 7:00 AM. Bastards!



**Push Right to Die**

Speaking of demo rides, many manufacturers have their demo teams at VMD and they use several of the local rural roads that provide a nice test of the bikes. This year Harley, Triumph, Kawasaki, Moto Guzzi, Vectrex, KTM, Cam-Am, and Hyosung were present. The Cam-Am guys required a breathalyzer test as well as proficiency on a coned mini-course before they let you join the demo ride. They kept warning us not to counter-steer!

Maybe you should consider AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days in 2009?

I'll lead.

**For more information on the 2009 edition of AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days go to this link:**

<http://www.amadirectlink.com/vmd/2008/>

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### **34th Annual TT Coffee Stop 2009** by Steve Brunner

Just what is the Coffee Stop? Depends who you ask and normally somewhere in the response is "fun". What could be more fun, than hanging out at a Rest Stop, passing out FREE coffee and tea to travelers heading down I-95 to various destinations? Granted, our club's Coffee-Safety Break in conjunction with Bike Week is targeted toward the riders however, ride, trailer, cage, truck, no matter what the mode of transportation, travelers receive a fresh cup of hot refreshing liquid while they stretch and ask "how far to...?" and "why are you doing this?" Ask yourself, when was the last time you really received something for FREE?

Here is part of the "formal" application and advertisement of this wonderful event:

On the dates of February 28th and March 1st 2009, The BMW-NC Tarheel Travelers organization will conduct a Coffee-Safety Break at the GPS (N 34° 59.611' W 078° 50.213) . The purpose of this event is to provide a friendly relaxed break for travelers, both motorcyclists and motorists, who are Southbound on I-95, no matter what your destination, Bike Week or someplace else. We will provide coffee and hot tea, and will offer any assistance we can to help travelers. We are not soliciting nor will we accept any contributions for our efforts. We MEAN this, try as you might, your money is no good here. The Tarheel Travelers offer this as a public service to promote traffic awareness and help people have a safe trip.

We have been hosting this event since 1976 and will continue until we give out the last cup. With that said, the club has also arranged 5 Star Lodging at various resorts at great rates that even a BMW rider can enjoy. Contact Steve & Belva for more information.

If you can only make it for one day, just make sure you make time to join in the Pitch In Lunch. Nothing like a Family Reunion Style Lunch to make the day enjoyable and Saturday evening we will gather at local eatery for dinner. Yup, nothing more fun than handing out coffee, meeting travelers...some that stop each year...enjoy a Pitch In Lunch and dinner with friends.

Where is all this fun taking place? Southbound Rest Stop between Mile Marker 48 & 49 on RT95 South.

# From Your Editor

Thanks to Marc Krouse for the story on the AMA Vintage Days. Marc has been a regular and valued contributor to this newsletter and it is appreciated. Are there some articles in your background?

You will notice an ad from ZTechnik in this edition. A few weeks ago, the club was contacted by ZTechnik to see if we would be interested in running some paid advertising for them. The Officers and I developed a rate schedule consistent with our club size and other like clubs and an advertising policy in response to that request. ZTechnik has signed up for a full page ad in the next 10 newsletters for a total of \$600 income to the club. Since we now have a complete policy and rate schedule, I have been soliciting other motorcycle related ads from local dealers and national product brands. So you may see other ads in the upcoming newsletters too. IF you know of anyone that may be interested, please let me know. The Tarheel Traveler will accept paid ads from businesses in areas related to the club's charter and activities. The ads may be for merchandise or services and will run for fixed periods of time.

And check out the article on Page 7 about where all us TT'ers live. I found it interesting. Hope you do to.

You also may have noticed a couple minor changes in the look of the cover of this edition. I have changed the name of the newsletter to "The Tarheel Traveler". It seemed a bit more creative than the Tarheel Traveler Newsletter. And I am using a new font for the title and tag line. I hope you like the changes.

Jim Morrison

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## Calling all Tarheel Travelers --- it's Annual Picnic Time! By Larry Boone

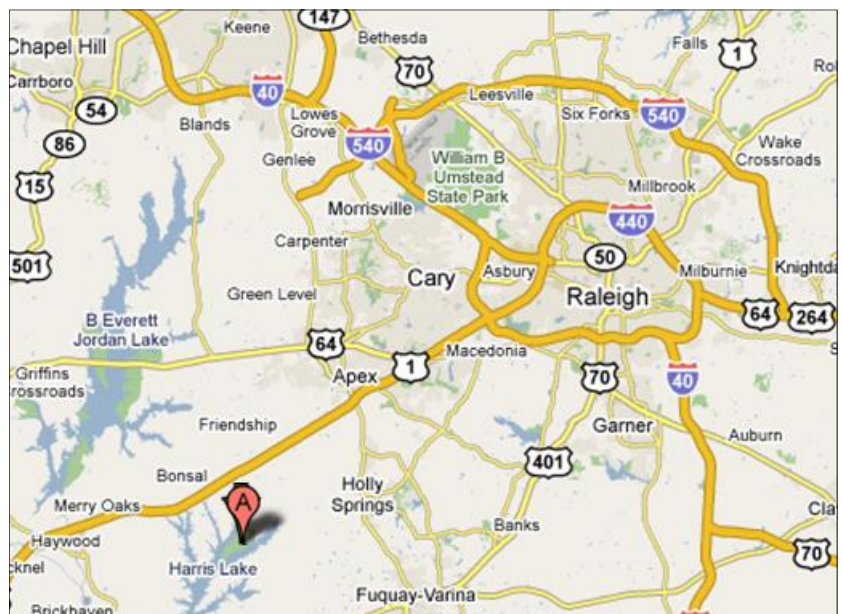
Please mark your calendars now for the Tarheel Travelers' Annual Picnic / monthly meeting on Saturday June 20, 2009 at Harris Lake County Park, New Hill, NC. We hope you noticed "Annual" in the name, as we hope this event brings a good turnout and becomes a new tradition for the TT crowd.

We have reserved the Cypress Shelter for the day. The club will cover the cost of the shelter and Philip Myers, our gracious host, will be providing food and drinks. If you wish to lend a helping hand and/or bring some supplies, treats or outdoor games, please contact Philip. Tire kicking, horseshoe pitching and snacking begin at 11:00. Meeting will be at 1:00 and lunch immediately following. We have the shelter until park closing (near sunset) so please plan to hang out all day. There are plenty of good roads in the area but please, no GS traffic on the park's mountain bike trail!

Please come and enjoy a day in the park--  
-more details to follow in later newsletters.

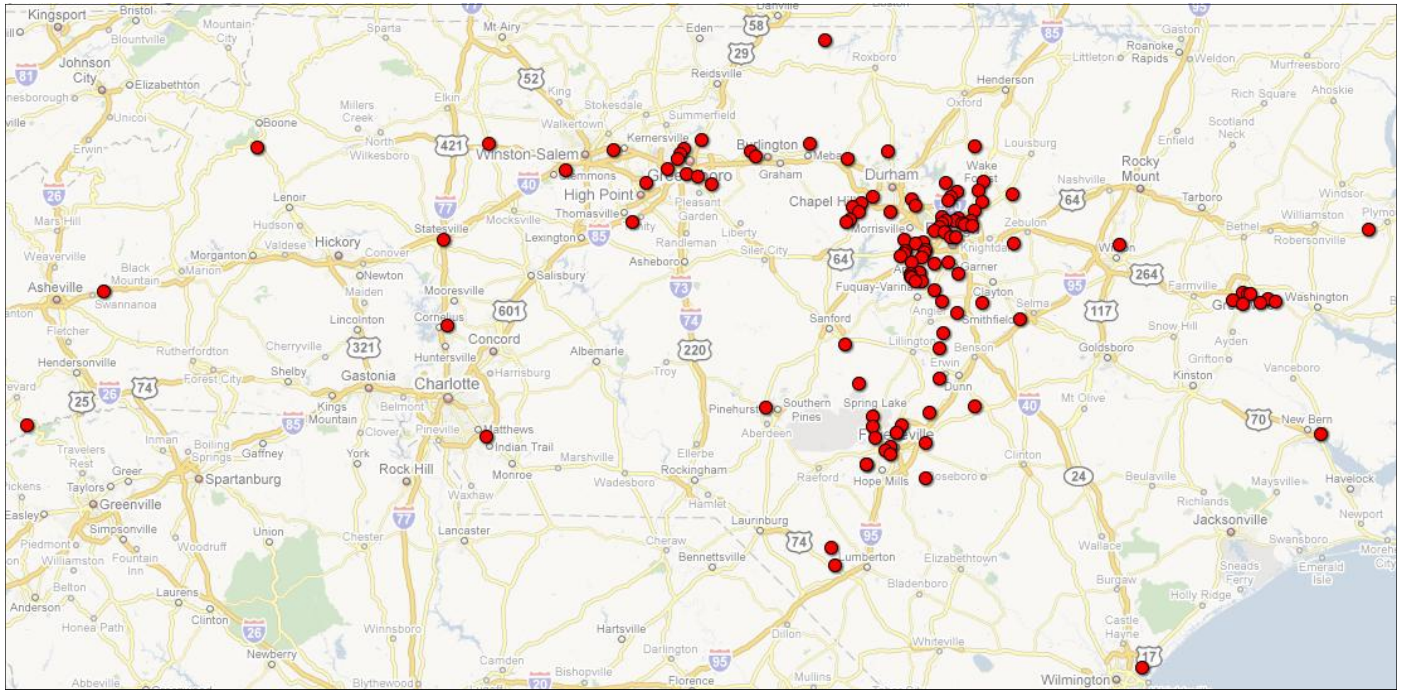
**Harris Lake County Park**  
**2112 County Park Drive**  
**New Hill, NC 27562**  
GPS N35 37.792 W78 55.053

[www.wakegov.com/parks/harrislake/default.htm](http://www.wakegov.com/parks/harrislake/default.htm)





## Where We Live By Jim Morrison



Have you ever wondered where your fellow members of the Tarheel Travelers live? Well wonder no more. President Vince and I were curious about it so I found a free online service <http://www.gpsvisualizer.com/> that allows you to input locations in a wide variety of formats and then create maps, again in a variety of formats, showing the locations of all the inputs.

The above map represents all of our members living in North Carolina at the end of 2008 plus the ones who have joined as new members in 2009. In addition to these members, we have one member in Virginia, one in Alabama, one in Wisconsin and one in New York. Around 125 members in all.

### Some Quotes from Yogi Berra

- "This is like déjà vu all over again."
- "You can observe a lot just by watching."
- "He must have made that before he died." -- Referring to a Steve McQueen movie.
- "Think! How the hell are you gonna think and hit at the same time?"
- "I knew I was going to take the wrong train, so I left early."
- "You better cut the pizza in four pieces because I'm not hungry enough to eat six."
- "Baseball is 90% mental -- the other half is physical."
- "It was impossible to get a conversation going; everybody was talking too much."

## Anniversary Milestone Awards 2009 by Vince Provenzano

As mentioned at my first meeting as club president, I am pleased to announce the reinstatement of the Club Anniversary Milestone Awards honoring members with longstanding membership in BMW-NC Tarheel Travelers. Anniversary milestones will be recognized on an annual basis in The Tarheel Traveler newsletter and pins will be provided acknowledging these milestones. This year's recipients are noted below. These recipients achieved a five year increment milestone at the end of the last membership year, 31 December 2008.

### Five Years

Frank Bartlett  
John Clark  
Janie Deal  
Alexander Holden  
Jody Hudson  
Allen Jones  
Audrey Lowrey  
Pete Lowrey  
Brenda Marcom  
Neal Martin  
Thomas Moss  
James Parks  
Leah Simmons  
Jim Wagner

### Ten Years

Belva Brunner  
Steve Brunner  
Peter McKeon  
Gary Shimizu  
Douglas Williams  
Ellen Williams

### Twenty-five Years

William Hester  
Jonathan Rutschky

### Thirty Years

Bobby Pearson

Congratulations to all!

### Fifteen Years

Shep Brown  
Pinkie Brown

### Twenty Years

Jeffrey Brown  
Kim Green

## Go Way East!! By Bill Piscitello

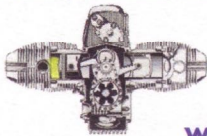
As everybody probably knows the May 17<sup>th</sup>. TT meeting this year is in Greenville at Mike's, almost half way to the Outer Banks. To make the most of this opportunity I am planning to continue on out to the Outer Banks. So I am starting to make plans for after the meeting. I plan to leave Greenville and follow Rt. 264 to New Holland then up to Manteo, camp out on Sunday night, then on Monday start my way back to Chapel Hill via the Ocracoke Island, Cedar Island ferry with a stop in either Beaufort or Morehead City or both. If anybody is interested in joining me please get up with me at [billchrisnc@earthlink.net](mailto:billchrisnc@earthlink.net) I have yet to pick a campground, check out the ferry schedule and check out the condition of Rt. 12.

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## Heroes Ride and Rally by Stephen Durham

July 18, 2009 we are having a rally to raise money for Head Injured Soldiers in NC. The "Official" Escorted rides will begin at Ft Bragg and Camp Lujeune and the USNG center in Charlotte . Club rides can be from anywhere and then arriving at the Coliseum in Greensboro . There will be vendor space inside and out, a variety of judged bike events, music, and some giveaways etc. Command staff at the bases are supporting this and offering to help from their end. Money raised will be split between real life needs and rehab through two 501c groups that have a good record of doing this. We are planning on 4000 or so bikes. There are of course various sponsor levels for this besides the Official and club rides and folks can show up at the gate. This will be "The Heroes Ride". There will be more information in future newsletters

# The Meeting Place – March 15th, 2009

Steve and Belva Brunner  
 306 Kinlaw Road, Fayetteville, NC  
 (910) 822-4369 stevenbelva@embarqmail.com  
 Tire kicking at 11:30 a.m. Meeting at 1:00 p.m.  
**Fayetteville Police Raid at 1:30 p.m. to pick up bears and unruly bikers.**  
 GPS N35 08.255 W78 51.954

## Bearable - Bragg & Barter at Brunner's

Bearable = bring a stuffed bear for the "We Care Bear Program" a link concerning their program can be found at <http://www.bethebadge.com/pressreleases.aspx?do=display&id=923200893606>

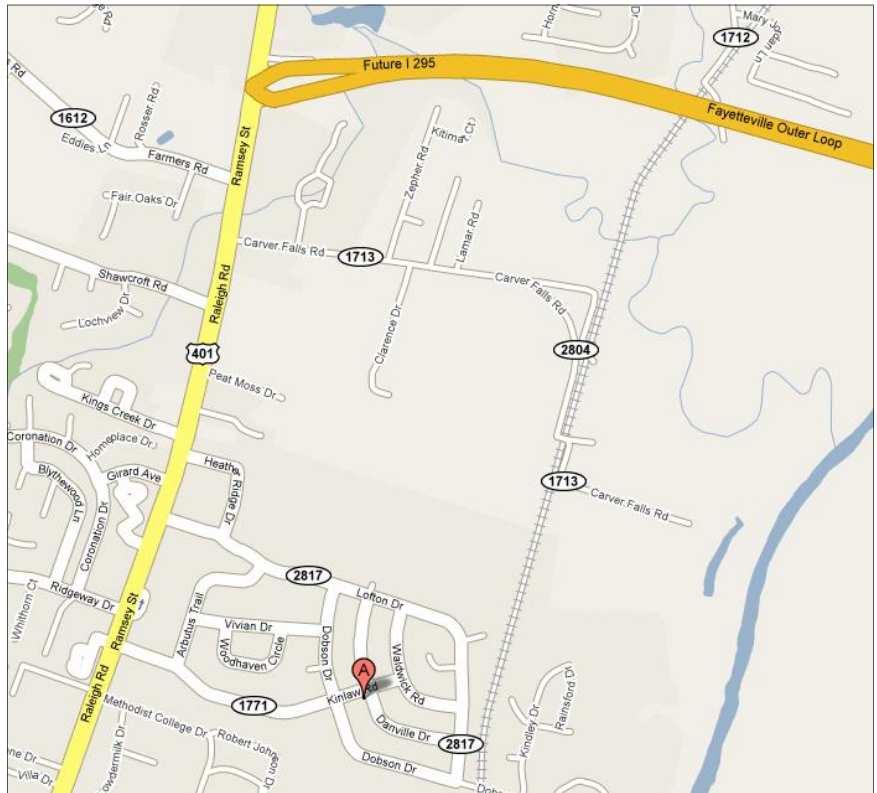
When called to an accident or domestic dispute when children are involved, providing a bear to a child helps lessen the emotional experience.

The Bragg & Barter is the "Pete & Sandy Swap Shop" = two G's on Bragg for Ft. Bragg

### Directions:

**From Raleigh:** 401 South to Lillington. Continue on 401 South to Fayetteville. Goodyear Tire Company will be on the left; approximately two miles past Kelly's, fourth stop light, Kinwood Subdivision on your left. Turn left on Kinlaw Road; go down the big hill, 306 Kinlaw is on the right. Look for motorcycles.

**From Fayetteville:** Ramsey Street/401 North towards Methodist College. Pass the entrance to Methodist; pass the BP Gas station and Day Care Center at the stoplight, Kinwood Subdivision on your right. Turn right on Kinlaw Road; go down the big hill, 306 Kinlaw is on the right. Look for motorcycles.



## 2009 Meeting Hosts

Jan: Al & Karol Jones - Fayetteville	Jul: <b>Open</b>
Feb: Willie Nichols & Pam Haines - Hillsborough	Aug: Boone Rally - Boone
Mar: Steve and Belva Brunner - Fayetteville	Sept: Jim and Pat Morrison - Raleigh
Apr: Larry & Gloria Boone	Oct: Bryan & Quinna Stepowski - Holly Springs
May: Mike Slocum - Greenville	Nov: Vince Provenzano - Wake Forest
Jun: Annual Picnic - Harris Lake County Park	Dec: Joe & Roberta Keithley - Linden

**One 2009 spot is still open! Thank you to all our volunteer hosts!**

## Tarheel Traveler Calendar

**February 28 & March 1 - TT Coffee Stop, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** The 34th annual TT Coffee Stop will be at the southbound I-95 Rest Area (mile marker 48) near Fayetteville, NC (GPS N34 59.611 W78 50.213)

**March 1 - 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)

**March 7 - 1st Saturday Ride, 10:00 a.m.** – Gassed up and ready to ride at 10:00 a.m. Carolina BMW, 2407 Greengate Dr, Greensboro, NC (GPS N36 01.608 W79 48.076)

**March 8 - 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)

**March 11 - 2nd Wednesday Dinner, 7:00 p.m.** Carolina Ale House, 7981 Skyland Ridge Pky, Raleigh, NC 27617, (919) 957-4200 [carolinaalehouse.com](http://carolinaalehouse.com) Located off Glenwood Ave, west of RDU, near Brier Creek Shopping Center, but on north side of Glenwood Ave. (N35 54.892 W78 46.869)

**March 15 - Monthly Meeting - Bragg & Barter at Brunner's** - 11:30 a.m. Steve and Belva Brunner, 306 Kinlaw Road, Fayetteville, NC; (910) 822-4369; [stevenbelva@embarqmail.com](mailto:stevenbelva@embarqmail.com) (GPS N35 08.255 W78 51.954) Bring a stuffed bear for the "We Care Bear Program." The Bragg & Barter is the "Pete & Sandy Swap Shop"

**March 19 - 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)

**March 25 - 4th Wednesday Dinner, 7:00 pm.** Bavarian Brathaus, 6464 Tryon Rd, Cary, NC 27518. In shopping center at corner of SE Cary Pkwy & Tryon Rd. New location for one of the T T's favorite lunch destinations in Carthage (now closed) and Sanford (<http://bavarianbrathaus.info/>). (GPS N35 44.634 W78 45.690)

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

<b>March 2009</b>						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
TT Coffee Stop - Day 2						1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday Ride - Carolina BMW Greensboro
TriadRiders 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Ride Greensboro						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Ride Pittsboro			Dinner - Carolina Ale House Raleigh			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
TT Meeting - The Brunner's Fayetteville				Dinner - El Tucan, Spring Lake		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
			Dinner - Bavarian Brathaus Cary			
29	30	31				

## The Market Place

**MV Agusta 2007 910R** 2000 miles. Throttlemeister, Motorvation sliders, clear brake light and turn signal lenses. Competition exhaust with chip, Beautiful black bike in near perfect condition. Only ridden past Churches on Sundays. New \$17,995; asking \$12,500. Call Al at 910-488-6526 in Fayetteville, NC. (exp 5/09)



**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 12/09)

**K1200RS, 2003** Capri Blue Metallic, 15,200 highway miles, 3,700 mi. on tires. Dealer serviced, records available. Many BMW and aftermarket extras available. Price range: \$9,500 to \$10,500, depending on extras wanted. Call Bill Bunn, 919-469-9501, [joshinkan@aol.com](mailto:joshinkan@aol.com) (exp 3/09)

### New Member Information

Brandon Bennett  
Greensboro, NC

Robin & Ginger Hilburn  
Clayton, NC

Stephen Durham  
Hillsborough, NC

**2002 BMW R1100S Boxer** - "The elegant road racer." Shop-maintained, adult-owned, 98 hp, ABS integral brakes, clean, garaged, never-down, great bike, with bags and minor road wear. One owner, all maintenance records, recently tuned. 28,900 miles, presently very good rubber, rare "Ice Blue" color. \$7,000 obo. Serious inquiries only. 919-321-1169; questions welcome. Chaz Benz (exp 03/09)



**2008 Can-Am Spyder** made by Bombardier. Excellent condition. Approximately 2,500 miles. Extras include passenger back rest, tall sport windshield and tank bag. Asking \$14,000. Negotiable. Must sell. Contact Pat Fryer at (910)988-3815 [PFryer1938@aol.com](mailto:PFryer1938@aol.com) (exp 3/09)

**1995 BMW RT100** \$3,900. Must sell. Dark Gray, 164,000 miles. New rear tire, new Progressive Shock, new windshield and a nearly new front tire. Has a trailer hitch. Saddle bags have the new style locks. Has tail trunk with back rest and the passenger foot pegs have foot boards. Contact Pat Fryer at (910) 988-3815 [PFryer1938@aol.com](mailto:PFryer1938@aol.com) (exp 3/09)

**Breadmen's**

\$3.00 off  
One coupon per table

324 W Rosemary St.  
Chapel Hill, NC



**From Ed Gray - installation of Ohlin's on his GS**

My thanks to Joel Harris, Brian & Elizabeth Young, Dave Smyth (brand new member), Marc Krouse, Philip Myers and MC Steve Brunner for coming over to my place to help install a set of Ohlins on my GS-Adv today. Armed with an install pictorial from ADVRider and an understanding that the "wheels on the bike go round and round" we managed to turn what others have described as less than a 2 hour job (for a regular GS) into 5.5 hours of confusion, scraped knuckles and dirty jokes (good job making us all blush Elizabeth...such language!).

We started with the front shock which is widely understood to be the more difficult of the two. We found plenty of ways to make it harder still... the removal of the old unit wasn't so bad (would've been quicker if I listened to Philip sooner instead of later) but when it came to getting the new, beefier Ohlin in place we ran into all sorts of clearance issues. Our efforts were hampered by the fact that the steel brake lines restricted vertical movement of the telelever. Marc was most helpful when he suggested removal of a racket that kept rigid brake lines from

bending (which we did not remove even though he thought it was a great idea) and when he suggested fully disconnecting the brake lines so that we could spray brake fluid all over the place and inject air into the lines (an idea also discarded)... Marc's final idea was to leave (had to meet his wife) which turned out to do the trick for getting the shock in place.... moments after Marc drove away the shock more or less leapt into position as all clearance issues suddenly disappeared... coincidence?

The rear shock was MUCH easier although an unplanned canisterectomy was required as it refused to occupy the same physical space as the piggy back reservoir on the shock.... what can I say ... sometimes the laws of physics really suck.

Today was chilly so special thanks to Steve for bringing a kerosene heater that took the edge off of the cold and a special apology to Elizabeth as she certainly didn't expect to spend 5.5 hours in a garage with a bunch of knuckle draggers. Oh... and of course thanks to Marc for leaving and taking the bad mojo clearance issues with him... it was like magic.

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