



# THE BEEMER READER

VOLUME 17 No. 1 January 07

## EDITORIAL

Hi, some of you know me & my old bike, "Gretchen" but for those who don't, my name is Brian Radford. In what must have been a moment of utter insanity, I have agreed to be the editor of "The Beemer Reader". I have no previous experience and am assuming this responsibility because no one else seems to want the job. An even greater assumption on my part is that the members of RVI do, in fact, want the newsletters to continue. If a month passes with nothing submitted for printing that will constitute an answer of sorts. Nothing to print equals no newsletter.

Thanks are due to Chris Jones for his time as editor. I believe he started the January 02 issue. Thanks also to Vince Martorino and to Toby Gabriel for contributing to this issue. The rest of you are encouraged to sharpen your pencils.

Meanwhile, you are reminded that annual dues of \$15.00 are payable now to treasurer, Peter Juergenson whose address appears on these pages.

I'll leave you with something else to think about: The International Rally of BMWMOA happens at West Bend Wisconsin, 12-15 July, 2007. I hope to be there. I also hope to see you at Island View Beach on 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 2007.

## **NEW YEAR'S DAY AT ISLAND VIEW BEACH JANUARY 1. 2007 NOON.**

We are told that someone is providing the traditional lunch of chili. Details will be announced at the beach.

**Saturday, January 6, 2007 meeting at Chequered Flag Restaurant 9:30am**

## OREGON COAST

By Toby & Tiana Gabriel

Tiana and I found ourselves with 5 days off at the end of October and no plans, so why not go for a ride?

We left on Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> and caught the 11AM ferry at Sidney for Anacortes. The ferry was virtually empty and arrived Anacortes on time after a stop at Friday Harbour (or Friday Harbor, as it's American). Leaving the ferry, we took highway 525 connecting to the I-5 just North of Seattle. Unfortunately we rode right into rush hour traffic that went on for miles and miles. Now I know why Seattle has some of the worst traffic snarls in America...

A painful two and half hours later we were free and clear and on our way Troutdale, Oregon, just East of Portland off the I-84. Our destination was a place called McMenamins Edgefield, a converted care home of the Order of the Eastern Star. Back in 1985, two Oregonians decided that there weren't many good brew pubs in Oregon and decided to do something about it. In the last 20 years they have opened about 50 pubs and restaurants throughout Oregon and Washington State including 6 hotels. The hotels are almost all on the National Register of Historic Places and they include old schools, care homes and hotels. Each hotel has a brew pub, theater, one or more restaurants, great artwork and friendly staff. Some also have large grounds that include outdoor patios, golf and fresbee golf. McMenamins can be checked out at [www.mcmenamins.com](http://www.mcmenamins.com)  
<http://www.mcmenamins.com>

We spent Thursday night in Edgefield on a deal called the Hammerhead package which included accommodation, 2 pints with dinner, a \$40 dinner voucher, free movie and a \$20 breakfast voucher; all for \$129. I ate so much it felt like Christmas! One of McMenamins' innovations is their theatres. They have taken out ever other row of seats and put in tables so you can take your pint and supper to the show with you!

The next morning we rode into Portland and spent the day wandering amongst the shops on Hawthorne, a district a lot like Granville Island. We also checked the bike shops where we were able to replace our intercom that went on the fritz. We had some lunch at another McMenamins establishment, the Baghdad Theater. The Baghdad is a refurbished 1920's theatre that has some incredible marble columns and ornate metal banisters. That night we rode west on the number 8 highways to a little town called Forest Grove, home of McMenamins Grand Lodge. I realize this sounds like a big promotion for McMenamins but I really think they make great riding destinations - a little off the beaten path down some great country roads!

Once again we ate far too much, caught a movie in the theatre and listened to a live band that was performing that night. We observed, but did not attempt, some Frisbee Golf, and stuck a toe in the Japanese soaking pool – that's a treat at the end of a long ride! The next morning, we took the 6 West out to Tillamook, a 'pungent' little town famous for their cheese, and cut on to the Coastal 101 South for a scenic ride down to Newport, Oregon. The weather was crystal clear, only a little cook, and made for some great fall scenery both in the woods and along the coast. We even saw another BMW amongst a few Harleys! We stayed in Seattle that night, then took the Kingston Washington State Ferry out of Edmonds. WA. It was a great way to cut over to the Olympic Peninsula, and only a 15 minute crossing – from there, it only took us about a half an hour to reach Port Angeles, the Coho home, and lunch. At the dock we met an Australian couple on an 1150 GS on the last leg of a five-month trip up from Chile – now *they* have some stories...

Regards,  
Toby & Tiana Gabriel

## **ROADS I HAVE RIDDEN**

By Vince Martorino

### **Durango**

At Durango, Colorado, you find the start of a narrow gauge railway that goes to Silverton. My cousin, being a train person, seemed as good reason as any, to ride to Durango. The train ride up and back takes the better part of a day, with deep gorges and fast water. The train goes up a different canyon than the road. We were so taken with the ride up when we were in Silverton for the 2 hour layover, we booked a room. This gave us a reason to ride the road. The west side of Colorado is all big Rocky Mountains because of this the roads were made for bikes with mountain passes exceeding 10,000 feet. The town of Silverton is at 9,200 feet. The town was old with its own magic. Worth the trip.

Now, the really really great road was from Silverton to the town of Ouray. This is on Hwy 550. First, you head out of town up to the pass of Red Mountain at 11,000 Ft and you do notice the air is much fresher. At one place on the way down, you come to a batch of switchbacks, were you slow to 10 clicks per. Later on, you are on a road cut into a vertical rock face along a river canyon. The canyon is red, the cliffs are gray and switchbacks were in a heavy leafy tree area. I truly found this road to be one of the most interesting roads with its various types of scenery changes.

4 scenery photos which we no longer have.

The following is submitted Bob Leith for consideration:

### Suggested outline for BRVI New Year's Day Event

#### Beach

Meet at beach about noon  
 Snack food: chips, dip, nuts  
 Socialize  
 Polar Bear swim (if you are so inclined)  
 Toast to TROC (Bring your own beverage)  
 Group photo  
 "Ride" to Chili House  
 Wet weather program -  
 Use four wheels and dress warmly (other ideas)  
 Are there other traditions:

#### Volunteers Needed

Beach/toastmaster  
 . Telephone committee  
 . Follow-up phone calls?  
 Photographer  
 Newsletter Article 10 Jan 07

#### Chili

Chili, buns, salad  
 Snack food: chips, dip nuts  
 Soft drinks  
 Paper plates, glasses & cups  
 Plastic KFS  
 Serviettes  
 Coffee, tea, and fixings  
 Dessert – Any ideas: yes/no/what??

#### Timings

E-mail notice and web site announcement 9 Dec 06  
 Follow-up phone calls?  
 Include maps  
 RSVP date to determine numbers/quantities 27 Dec 06

Need to know if there are vegetarians/allergy implications  
 Meet at Island View Beach Noon 1 Jan 07  
 Arrive at "Chili" House 1300 1 Jan 07  
 Those who wish may proceed directly

#### Odds and ends

Name tags

1. Paper Labels
2. Proper plastic ones with crest (this may be a future effort)

Libations

1. Seeking your views
2. BYOB
3. Moosemilk (an ice cream based "punch" with rum and other flavourings)
4. No host bar – I will stalk beer and wine, those who partake contribute on an honour basis
5. Club provides

Video

1. Upstairs big screen showing bowl games
2. Downstairs TV showing "motorchcle" videos (see if SM Cycle will provide or personal ones)
3. Ideas? Any other input

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR**