



The Beemer Reader

Newsletter of the BMW Riders of Vancouver Island
BMWMOA # 237 **BMWRA #290**

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Here's an interesting way to get those groceries home !!

A man appears before St. Peter at the Pearly Gates.

"Have you ever done anything of particular merit?" St Peter asks.

"Well, I can think of one thing," the man offers. "Once, on a trip to the Black Hills, out in South Dakota, I came upon a gang of bikers who were threatening a young woman. I directed them to leave her alone, but they wouldn't listen. So I approached the largest and most heavily tattooed biker. I smacked him on the head, kicked his bike over, ripped out his nose ring and threw it on the ground, and told him, "Leave her alone now or you'll answer to me."

St. Peter was impressed. "When did you do this?"

"Just a couple of minutes ago."

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December

I look through all sorts of catalogues and magazines but still can't find the perfect gift. Some day someone should put together the definitive suggestion list for bikers. Then I could whip through the pages, make a list, and have all my Christmas shopping done in one fell swoop!

I hope you are all planning a Christmas full of laughter and love. And are all planning the next season's ride routes.

Don't forget: **NEW YEARS DAY** at **ISLAND BEACH** at noon. We have been invited back to **Geoff Stevenson's** for the usual chili and buns etc. He is hoping for a good turnout, and I have ensured him of good weather and great numbers...don't disappoint me.

As we leave the old year and look forward to the new, let us give thanks for rides past, remember friends and family fondly, and wait in anticipation for the season yet to come.

May this Christmas be your best ever, and have a

Happy New Year.

Happy motorcycling ...

Chris Jones

Sunday, December 5, 2004

Meeting is at 9:30 am

At The Chequered Flag

A DREAM-TRIP by Victor A. Buck

In 1995 my wife and I spent five months in New Zealand and Australia, with the M5 Vincent Owners Club International Rally being the catalyst to go!

Having sold my Black Shadow the year before, I was planning to ship my 1984 R100RT over, but the Canadian shipping container plan fell through, due to lack of participants.

Making enquiries through Beach's Motorcycle Tours, I finally made contact with the Te Waipounamy Tours (N.Z.) John Rains, and arranged a purchase—buy-back deal for a BMW K75S, that they normally use on their guided tours of New Zealand. This arrangement was more economical than shipping my own bike over, and also saved from any chance of shipping damage.

As you may have heard, New Zealand is a motorcyclist's dream. Once out of the few larger cities, there are many winding narrow roads with little traffic, Magnificent ocean scenery, beautiful pastoral settings, populated with more sheep one would suppose ever existed. There are also snow-clad mountains with palm trees at the feet of the glaciers, and some of the friendliest people, many of whom are fellow motorcyclists.



view of Mt Cook through Victor's rear mirror

We spent three of our nine weeks in New Zealand with the VOC rally, and the local Vintage M/C Club putting on a special race day for us. What a treat that was! New Zealand is like Canada and the U.S. were 50 years ago. Manx Nortons, AJS 7Rs, Velocette Mk.8s, etc. all being raced with verve, pits open to all spectators, just like the old days of club racing at Saint Eugene, Gananoque, and

Three Rivers.

In all, we had quite a few BMW mounted riders participating in the rally. Our K75 ran marvelously. I would not mind having one of my own, and this is from a old dyed-in-wool-twin rider.

The weather was very pleasant in general. Our worst day was leaving Dunedin. The wind and rain were so bad at one point, I pulled out to pass a slow moving car and could not get back in the lane, due to the wind, until I almost had come to a stop! Two hours of this weather was all we could endure, so we pulled in at the first caravan park for a nice warm berth.

It was quite easy getting used to driving on the opposite side; some of the fellows had "KEEP LEFT" or "LEFT IS RIGHT" taped on their windshield or tank bag.

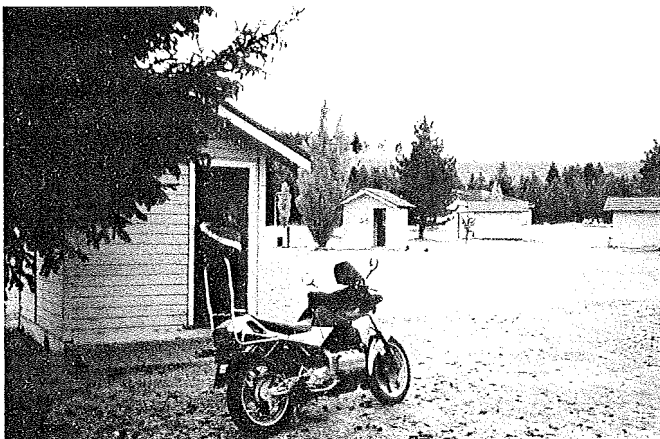
We rode from Auckland to Cape Rienga, the top of the North Island, to Bluff, the bottom of the South Island, and crossed from the east to the west coast several times, finishing up at Auckland, having driven a total of 9,000 km. Highlights were Lake Taupo, Rotarua, the catamaran ferry from Wellington to Picton, the Canterbury Plain, beautiful coastlines and inland passes. We also enjoyed mountains and glaciers, Queensland, the fabulous fjords, Doubtful and Milford Sounds, the Bay of Islands, the site of the Treaty of Waitangi, rare, primeval Kauri forest, and the Banks Peninsula with the town of Akaroa, a town in which I would gladly settle.



Victor & Francine Buck at Bluff NZ

Some of the most scenic drives in New Zealand are on "metalled" roads, or gravel roads, as we would call them, well maintained, but narrow.

Travelling by motorcycle was cost efficient: although "petrol" price seemed high to Canadian riders. We decided to stay in caravan parks and hostels. The caravan park experience is quite unique, as you get a small stationary trailer that has beds, stove, fridge, and cooking utensils, but no pillows or bedclothes. Toilets, showers and laundry facilities were located in the nearby amenities building. The prices of the caravans ran from \$20NZ to \$25NZ per night for two people versus the charge of \$8.00 and up per person to pitch a tent. We found the convenience of a warm, dry shelter for so little extra cost very worthwhile. We had our sleeping bags with us, which I would recommend, if you travel as we did.



caravans in New Zealand

There are some very good restaurants in New Zealand, but they are quite expensive. By staying in the caravans, we were able to eat breakfast and supper in, and usually ate at a "take-out" for lunch (or tea). The take-out usually had good fish and chips, or pies (not dessert pies, but meat pies) a staple among the people of New Zealand.

To anyone planning to take a motorcycle tour of New Zealand, I would recommend to use either the scheme we used, or to take a guided tour with a reputable operator.

My particular deal ran me about \$50NZ per day, with full insurance coverage, which I had through the VOC. Also, something to note is that the NZ government levies a \$7.00 charge which covers any costs arising from any roadway (motor vehicle) accident. One of our friends was in a severe accident with another motorcycle, but all costs associated with the accident were covered.

We did not motorcycle during our ten weeks spent in Australia, but toured in a rental car instead. We would gladly return to motorcycle that country at the soonest opportunity.

I hope this story will encourage others to venture abroad, as there are so many wonderful people to meet, especially among our motorcycling brethren.

SAFE RIDING. ☺

Roads I Have Ridden by Vince Martorino

South Western Alberta

I always like riding a road that rolls and sways as it meanders, a road that does this is highway 22 in SW Alberta. I find it interesting to see mountains on one side, rolling prairies on the other side with scattered ranches here and there as you drive by. I rode this road from the new town of Okotoks just south of Calgary to Lundbreck on highway 3. An alternate route to the highway in the north would be to turn on highway 40 at Seebe from highway 1, just before you get to Calgary. This road is a high mountain route that is only open the mid part of the year with Highwood Pass of 2253 meters (7391 ft). From Lundbreck on Highway 3, I turned left to Pincher Creek and Highway 6 to the US. As you approach Glacier National Park the road rises with some great views of the open range, where cows on the road are common. Sometimes when I look out over rolling plains, I wonder what it was like before cars and roads. I can imagine a man at the door of his house saying "I see dust in the distance get ready for house guests in about 3 days."

This would make a full day of riding that puts you just north of the east entrance to The Hwy to the Sun Drive in **Glacier National Park**.



Buy, Sell, or Trade

For Sale: 1982 Suzuki GS650G. 7,800 original miles. One owner. \$3,500 or best offer. Backrest & luggage rack, soft bags & tank bag. Showroom condition. Stephen Desilva at sdesilva@shaw.ca
1-250-746-0754

For Sale: Tires for a GS. See Barry Salter or call 1-250-658-1843.

For Sale:

* Joe Rocket Ballistic men's pants - XL - \$20
* Joe Rocket Leather Jeans - 38W - \$40
* Teknic two piece rain suit, red/black XL - \$25
All items have seen little use and are in good shape. Call 658 3477 or agilligan@shaw.ca.

Special Sale: K75RT 'R.I.P. Estate Sale'
BRAND NEW TIRES, never used, never fitted... bought in March 2004.

Bridgestone Battlax. Rear: BT45R 130/90-17
Front: BT45F 100/18-18

NEW OEM BMW K-RT/LT windshield screen with winglets.

BMW K75/K100 Corbin Dual Canyon seat.

BMW "Mystic Red" Paint. Tired of your colour and fancy new paint? .75 litres (which is tons!) of Deltron 2000 Basecoat computer camera-colour-matched to BMW Colour #323 Mystic Red metallic. Included is a OEM Mystic Red #323 Touch up paint kit (basecoat and clear laquer). BMW K-bike OEM tank bag, with tank base, expansion insert, and rain cover.

BMW K75/100 NEW flip-a-lever throttle lock ('cruise control').

1995 BMW K75RT side covers 'Mystic Red'
1995 BMW K75RT stock seat, NEW clutch cable, tool kit, tail cone lid, right side glove compartment lid with key, right side hard bag with key, owner manual, Wudo BMW 'Arizona' Windscreen, 'RT' emblem for front fairing, oil filter removal tool, fuel filter (lightly used)
K75/100 electrical accessory plug.

BMW K75 Haynes hardcover shop manual.

1986 BMW K100 sparkplug wires (4).

Contact: Terry 'Crash' Sowden for prices and details, at 250-474-7433 or email: tkowden@shaw.ca

Notice: Any ads placed in the newsletter will run for two issues unless otherwise requested.

Calendar of Events

Sun. December 5, 2004

2005

Sat. January 8
Sun. February 6
Sat. March 5
Sun. April 3
Sat. May 7
Sun. June 5
Sat. July 9
Sun. August 7
Sat. September 10
Sun. October 2
Sat. November 5
Sun. December 4

Meeting at 9:30 am
The Chequered Flag

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