



# New Sweden BMW Riders

## FEBRUARY 2009

**Web Site:** <http://www.newswedenbmwridders.org>

**Yahoo Group:** <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/groups/nsbmwr>

### **BMWMOA #113**

### **BMWRA #143**

#### **PRESIDENT**

Herb Konrad  
(856) 428-6349  
(856) 816-1346 (work)  
HK6428@aol.com

#### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

Joe Molinaro  
(856) 482-0222  
Jrm97@comcast.net

#### **SECRETARY, TREASURER, NEWSLETTER, PUBLISHER**

Nancy Glindmyer  
(856) 691-6549 (home)  
(609) 364-0122 (cell)  
bmwpixie@aol.com

#### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Harold Gantz  
(856) 234-4240  
hgantz@verizon.net

#### **Rally Co-Chairmen**

Harold Gantz  
(856) 234-4240  
hgantz@verizon.net

Pete Lisko  
(856) 589-6761 (home)  
(215) 266-2587 (work)  
pjlikojr@verizon.net

Herb Dyer  
(856) 269-9638 (home)  
(609) 254-1090 (work)  
hdyer@comcast.net

Pete Stone  
80 Farnwood Ave.  
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054  
(856) 912-1218 (cell)  
Stoneman0@verizon.net

### **JANUARY MEETING** - Nancy Glindmyer

Our esteemed president conducted the meeting from notes carefully prepared on a napkin.

It was announced that Bill Alford has resigned his position as club treasurer. Evidently word was leaked of this, as two members of the Jersey Shore club (Skip Palmer and Don Eilenberger) attended our meeting in an apparent bid at a hostile takeover. This attempt was thwarted by Nancy Glindmyer, who volunteered to replace Bill as treasurer. There was a big caveat, however: Nancy would only do this if someone else took over the newsletter editing position. Caught up in the excitement of the moment, Harold Gantz stepped up and agreed to save our treasury from the ruthless Jersey Shore gang by agreeing to become newsletter editor. Nancy was ecstatic, while Harold was heard mumbling, "What have I gotten myself into?" over and over again.

Gracious even in defeat, Skip gave Harold a two-page list of upcoming Jersey Shore rides and other events which will be posted in our new and improved newsletter.

Rick DiPalo reported that we had an almost full bus for the International Motorcycle Show at the Javitz Center. With a capacity of 49, we had 47 paid seats and 45 people actually went on the trip. The general consensus was that the show itself, although crowded, was not as good as in previous years, with someone describing it as "lackluster." The bus itself was the highlight of the day, with Al Peirson supplying coffee and donuts in the morning and President Herb once again providing liquid refreshments and snacks for the ride home.

Harold won the 50/50.

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### **International Motorcycle Show Club Trip** - V.P. Joe Molinaro

Over On Saturday, 17 Jan, 09, the randomly annual (no trip last year due to the inconvenient show dates) NSBMW sponsored bus trip to New York City's Javits Center bike show went off without a hitch. The morning started for some at the DeSimone dealership with coffee and doughnuts brought in by Al Pearson. Other small groups are rumored to have assembled for an early breakfast at various South Jersey eateries. Herb Conrad and Joe Molinaro were able to make a quick run for chips and snacks for consumption on the ride home.

The bus was scheduled for an 8:30AM meet with an 8:45AM departure. Due to the somewhat casual atmosphere usually prevailing (a good thing here), the bus departed for Javits at a "prompt" 9:15AM, allowing ample time for any late comer boarding. Rick DiPalo preformed his usual exemplary job of making sure all who could go were on board both to and from the show. With 45 of the 47 pre-paid participants showing, there was nearly a full 50-seat bus.

The ride up was pleasantly uneventful with excellent weather and no traffic problems. Fortified with plenty of coffee, food and anticipation everyone was lively and excited on the outgoing ride. The ride home, however, was a somewhat different story. It seems the exertion of taking in the show coupled with “adult” beverages, donated by Herb Konrad, subdued most return riders into a state of deep slumber [*more like stupor – HG*]. Claims of comical sleep postures were supposedly backed up with random photos. Watch out for those camera phone wielding associates.

The show itself was well worth the trip for the day, that is of course if you enjoy looking at and touching all the new hardware available in the upcoming year. Additionally, there was a plethora of support cottage business in various booths hawking their products for all to see and purchase, if so moved.

If you have yet to participate in one of these trips, you may want to consider such an event next year and experience a great day of entertainment.



Bus ride home after being drugged with beer. Photo courtesy of Howad P.Lewis. Beer courtesy of Herb Konrad.

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### **Crotona Midnight Run** - Skip Palmer

The 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Crotona Midnight Run is the longest continuing motorcycle event in the United States. The “Run” is rarely cancelled; however severe ice or snow storms have stopped a very few over the years. The event is currently sponsored by the Ramapo Motorcycle Club of New York. Each year the run is scheduled on the Saturday night closest to the full moon. The route starts in Yonkers, passes through West Chester, Putnam, and (sometimes) Fairfield Counties to Carmel Lake, NY

and then returns to the initial starting point in Yonkers. A course sheet is provided at the start with approximately sixty-five to seventy-five different roads covering the two roughly sixty mile legs of the course. Every year, the course is designed to follow a different set of roads. Each rider leaves the starting point one minute apart. They must maintain an exact average of thirty miles per hour. There are eight roving check points as well as the final check-in time at the two destination points. These check points verify that you are on the right route and have maintained the thirty mile per hour speed. Any difference in speed or time costs the rider points.



Reflector Man Skip Palmer

Grant Duncan and I left Monmouth County about nine-thirty and arrived in Yonkers for the eleven o'clock check-in. Doug Evans was also there. [*See Doug's account below – HG.*] The weather this year was unusually warm with the starting temperature close to forty degrees. As a result, there were well over one hundred riders. With a foot or more of snow on the sides of the roads, the water that melted during the day kept the roads wet and sometimes flooded. The course winds between large stone walled estates and numerous reservoirs on great winding roads. With the combination of the snow and a full moon, it was a beautiful ride. Somewhere around two in the morning, the temperature dropped into the low thirties and the water on the roads started to shine; however, the traction was still pretty good. We each felt our tires slip slightly several times, but never enough to lose the feeling of control.



Skip's Crotona Run Cohorts Doug Evans and Grant Duncan – Photo courtesy of Skip Palmer

We were able to follow the course without any trouble on both the ride north and the return ride. Our time and speed were very close to the specified requirements. Our only problem during the event occurred when I missed one of the check points on the initial ride to Carmel. This is an automatic disqualification! It appeared that several riders also had the same problem seeing the check point. We will have to wait for the results to see how the judges handle this one.

A little after six in the morning, the sun started to brighten the sky just as we were finishing. Moonlit riding in early February is a unique visual pleasure. With the above normal temperatures, this was the perfect opportunity for riders to step out of the traditional comfort zone and experience a very rewarding adventure. Try some of these challenging events and enjoy something different!

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### THE CAT AND MOUSE GAME - Doug Evans

Most of you know of my interest in winter sports, due to the fact that I'm chained to my business in the summer when most folks are out riding. It's a reality that I've come to accept, reluctantly, over the past 30 years. Winter riding is a passion I've enjoyed, too, having participated in the Polar Bear Grand Tour in the past.

When I was at the Dead Horse Bean Run in October, I was talking to Lauren Secular from New York about enduros and timed events. She suggested that I try The Crotona, since it predates every event in the country and is held in February. A challenge for most, but I don't get cold much and I wasn't going skiing that weekend.

The Crotona was started by The Crotona M/C in 1911 and was taken over by The Ramapo M/C around 1996. <http://www.ramapomc.org/> and <http://www.ramapomc.org/TimedRun.pdf>

Since I have friends and relatives in North Jersey, the ride would be a good excuse to touch base with some folks I had been unable to see for *way* too long.

I left Dennisville at noon on Saturday. The temperature was a balmy 42° and getting warmer. The day was a good opportunity to ride some backroads and shake the cobwebs out of my riding skills. After a visit with Jose' DelaCruz and dinner with my cousin, I was ready to cross the Hudson River and begin this new experience in riding.

One hundred twenty miles through Westchester and Putnam counties, with a speed average of 30 mph, didn't seem too daunting. Still, I was a nOOB to this run and didn't know what to expect. As I arrived at Nathans Famous Hot Dog stand in Yonkers, NY around 10pm, I was unimpressed. Only one bike in the lot! Am I at the right place? A quick look inside doesn't reassure me, but a few minutes later two guys on Harleys show up and inform me that I was, indeed, at the correct start point.

After grabbing some coffee and BS'ing for a bit an average looking guy dressed head to toe in reflectorized gear approaches us and says: "If you guys are riding the Crotona go over to the Kohls lot for the start." (Apparently the folks at Nathans want to close at 11pm and don't care to remain open for 30 or 40 crazy bike riders.)

The fellow in the reflective gear identifies himself as Dick Roberts, the road captain of Ramapo M/C and the main instigator for this Crotona thing. He seems to be sizing up the Harley guys and me. We're all n00bs. I can sense his amusement. It's like when a cat has a mouse. The cat knows the final result, but wants the mouse to think that it might survive. More fun for the cat. We're "fresh meat" ready to be thrown into the Crotona grinder.

As I was at the "acceptable" end of the Nathans lot, it was a short hop over to the Kohls lot, where a group of bikes and riders were assembling. The first person I recognize is Lauren. She's in her pajamas. WTF! Me, "What? You're not riding?!" She, "I get too sleepy. Don't want to take a chance of crashing". Me, "Oh, great, buddy, feed me to the cats, alone". She, "You'll

be fine, it's a warm night". OK, I feel better now. Yeah, sure. Just like a mouse. It was 37°.

After a few more minutes pass the lot is starting to fill with all manor of motorized 2 and 3 wheeled machines. I hear someone say "Hi, Doug!" It's none other than Grant Duncan with Skip Palmer in tow. OK, *now* I feel as though I'm amongst friends.

Since the registration people are late, around 11pm Dick Roberts and crew start to pass out info sheets for all to sign in on. When they finally arrive around 11:15 there is a mad dash for the sign-up table. I get #17. Grant and Skip get #19 and #20, I think.

At precisely 12:17 am on February 8th, 2009 "Mud Puppy" (my 1150 GSA) and I begin the quest for Crotona glory. The first turn out of the lot is onto Central Park Avenue, which is a well lit urban boulevard. 3.2 (3.6 according to my VDO "estimator odometer") miles later we make a left turn into a black as coal side road. The only way to stay on the road was to aim for the black strip between the banks of snow piled up on both sides of the tarmac. Even though it's a full moon, there is enough cloud cover to make for a rather "interesting" trip on the narrow, shoulderless back roads of southern Westchester county. The Cat is playing with me.....

About six miles into the ride I see an apparition standing at the side of the road, all lit up from my headlight. I have arrived at the first "secret" check. The red/white check flag identifies this as a standard check. Only minutes are taken here, no seconds. I "zero" the check, WOO HOO!

We continue at 30mph through the night carefully trying to maintain a schedule and not missing any turns on the dark roads. Occasionally, an icy patch would let the bike get a bit loose in the corners, but for the most part the road was clear. Three more checks and 54 miles later the town of Carmel comes into view. It's 2:20 am and 34°. I need a break. The Carmel Diner is the half-way point and the site of a mandatory 1 hour 57 minute layover.

I find my new Harley friends and we sit down to hot chocolate and warm soup. Everything starts to get warm and fuzzy. I nod out for a moment. Vets of this run say that more folks DNF (did not finish) the Crotona because of the sleepiness one experiences during the layover. They must just fall asleep and get eaten by "The

Cat". I pay my bill and quickly go back out in the cold night air. I wake up immediately. That's good. Only 23 minutes until my start time for the second half. I sense a cat sniffing at my collar.....

At 4:17 I'm back on the road, leaving Carmel, glad to be back on the bike. From what I'm told, a bunch of drunk locals stumbled into the diner 20 minutes after I left and began to bust up the joint. Cops called, etc. etc. Glad I missed it :-)

The second half had us running past the reservoirs and watershed areas of Putnam County. I know this because the moon had emerged from its cloak of clouds and the road ahead was bathed in some seriously brilliant moon-glow.

My speedo and odo were still malfunctioning to the best of their ability, but I was having fun, having passed my "wall" of sleepiness around 4:30am. The cat had let me get away, this time. I returned to the Kohls parking lot at 6:18am, having completed the run without any incidents. Didn't get disqualified, either. It was fun. Don't really know what my final score was, since only the top three in each class have been posted at the time of this report.

Would I do it again? Maybe. I'll have to see how I feel about it next year. The hardcore folks say it's better when it's: 1) REALLY cold under 20° or 2) snowing hard. Hmmm.....studded tires, anyone?

Anyone got any catnip?

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### **Riding the Hill Country, Texas** - Herb Konrad

The Hill Country includes some of the best roads for motorcycling in Texas. The Edwards plateau encompasses fantastic hills with roads snaking through valleys. In many small towns, it is as if time stood still. Most of the roads I ride are classified as farm-to-market which has its unique hazards. Most of the ranches are free range. The fences are between properties, not along roads. Where there are fences to the road, there usually is cattle grates across the road. Free-range cattle have right of way. It is not wise to argue with a bull or cow with a calf. Other hazards include feather fauna. Large buzzards, some with wingspans of 4 feet or more are extremely dangerous. They don't want to leave their "fresh jerky" dinners on the road. This also applies to hawks and eagles that are doing a little tarmac dining. I have seen snakes, roadrunners, and armadillos. One

habit the 4wheel drivers have is to pull over on the shoulder to let faster bikes get around them. I rarely see this here in NJ.

Last Saturday I left Austin for an afternoon ride of 200 miles. I took FM1431 to Marble Falls, one of the better winding roads out of Austin. After Marble Falls, I stayed on back roads to Luckenbach, of Waylon Jennings fame, passing both cattle and goat ranches. You can smell the goat ranches a mile away. Stopped at Luckenbach to stretch my legs and drink some ice tea; it was 78 degrees. While there, a cowboy rode up on a Texas longhorn bull. Everyone gave him plenty of room. Those horns were over 4 ft wide. It was the first time I actually saw spurs being used – not a happy animal. Leaving town, I headed for Blanco following the Blanco River, ending up at Wimberley for fuel. I must have crossed a dozen low water crossing and too many road dips to count. Only taking back roads, I headed back toward Austin riding through Driftwood, a great way to spend an afternoon. Speed ranged from 35 to 75, depending on the road. Four wheelers are rarely a problem – very little traffic.

*[Thanks Herb for sharing your ride while the rest of us shivered or washed road salt off our bikes. – HG]*

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### **SAD NEWS**

Nancy Glindmyer's mother, Dorothy Cunningham-Maxwell, 82, of Milmay, passed away Sunday, Feb. 8, 2009.

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### **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES NEEDED**

This issue of the club newsletter contains articles from four club members and represents the kind of involvement that's needed to keep the newsletter fresh and viable. If you go someplace on your BMW or uncover information of interest, please type it up and/or take a digital photo. Send them to me and I'll put them in the newsletter. You don't have to be a literary genius to submit an article. Just email me whatever you can type on your computer in almost any format (word, notepad, etc). In college I majored in plagiarism so I will take you input and edit it to fix spelling errors and fit the tone of the newsletter if you want me to. Also, email me interesting photos and I'll squeeze them in. All submissions will be accredited. Thanks.

Also, I would be remiss if I did not profusely thank Nancy Glindmyer for her hard work and decades of de-

ducation for being the previous newsletter editor for her entire adult life. I hope I can measure up to her high standards.



Notice Nancy's smile after ditching her role as newsletter editor. Photo courtesy of Nancy's Facebook page.

### **SPRING FLEA MARKET**

The New Jersey Shore BMW Riders will be hosting a Spring Flea Market to be held in conjunction with DeSimone Motorsport's spring Open House. Start cleaning out the basement and the garage and gather up all your treasures you don't want anymore. More info will be available soon so watch this space next month and watch your email.

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### **NEW MEMBERS**

Steve Bentzley, South Harrison Township, NJ

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### **SATURDAY WINTER INFORMAL CLUB LUNCHES**

There is usually a contingent of club members loitering at DeSimone Motorsport around 11:45 am most every Saturday. After sitting on all the new bikes we can't afford to purchase we head out for a group lunch in the Mt. Laurel area. Recent lunches have been held at F&M Deli, Bertucce's, and local Asian restaurants. Show up and join us.

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### **LAST CHANDE RALLY THEME AND LOGO NEEDED**

As you all know by now, our 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Last Chance Rally will be held again at Appel Farm. We need a rally theme and logo. Please bring you thoughts and ideas to club meetings. Thanks.

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**REGISTRATION AT THE MOA  
INTERNATIOANL RALLY**

Once again the New Jersey Shore BMW Riders have volunteered to work the registration tent at the MOA rally in Johnson City. Their scheduled shift is Friday, July 17 from approximately 11:30 am until 4:30 pm. If you would like to help with registration that afternoon and make it a New Jersey club effort, your time would be greatly appreciated. Contact Registration Co-chair Roger Trendowski via email: [rtrendowski@att.net](mailto:rtrendowski@att.net)

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**FOR SALE**

2000 Caviga Gran Canyon. Red and silver with matching side and top cases. Just serviced at Fast by Ferracci's. All new belts, etc. \$6000. Call Jed Simpson at 302-998-7976

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**COMING EVENTS**

February 25 – February New Sweden BMW Riders club meeting, El Azteca, Mt. Laurel. 6:30 for dinner. 7:30 for business meeting.

May 2, 3 – Saturday and Sunday overnight ride to Maryland countryside and Lancaster Counter Pa for First

Sunday in Ephrata. Contact Skip Palmer at [EnglishHil-IRestorations@Hotmail.com](mailto:EnglishHil-IRestorations@Hotmail.com) for more info.

May 17 – British Euro Classic Motorcycle Show, Germantown, MD.

July 16-19 – BMWMOA International Rally, Johnson City, TN

July 23-26 – BMWRA Rally, Canaan Valley, V

Sept. 25-27 – 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Last Chance Rally!

**NEXT MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25  
6:30 pm – KICK TIRES &  
EAT. MEETING STARTS AT  
7:30 PM  
EL AZTECA  
1155 NORTH ROUTE 73  
MOUNT LAUREL, NJ**