



New Sweden BMW Riders, INC. JANUARY 2009

Web Site: newswedenbmwridders.org

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

BMWMOA #113

BMWRA #143

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Wanted!

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NOVEMBER MEETING

It was a short, fairly uneventful meeting. The 2008 officers were re-elected for a second term with a unanimous vote. Everyone else was careful not to be in the restroom during the nominations!

We agreed to make El Azteca our "permanent" home. Can anyone remember all of our previous homes?

Carl Kappeler won the 50/50 and generously donated it back to the club.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Over 30 members and guests attended our annual holiday party at the Buena Tavern. We had a much cozier room this time, which perhaps contributed to the unusually civilized white elephant gift exchange. The food was good and the company even better.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED

Bill Alford has resigned as our treasurer and I volunteered to replace him. Now I need somebody else to step up and volunteer to write the newsletter. I say "write" rather than "edit" because that's basically what I've been doing for many years. For whatever reason, there are very few submissions from members and I suck at gathering information from other sources. This results, as you've no doubt noticed, in a very boring newsletter. The Jersey Shore club has a great newsletter and I believe that's due in large part to Don Eilenberger's hard work and use of pictures. We must have *someone* (other than Don, whose loyalties lie firmly with the Jersey Shore club even though he's a member of both clubs) who could take over this duty. I'll gladly continue to handle the copying and mailing. The club just needs someone who can inject some new life into our monthly publication.

SAD NEWS

We've recently lost two good friends of the club.

Joe Moffa's brother, Tom, died on December 15th after a long illness. Tom rode a BMW R65 for many years, and he was a real live wire when our rally was held at Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park. He put my son's pyromaniac tendencies to shame at the Saturday night campfires. I'll never forget him drinking out of a 5-gallon tin can he rescued from the recycling pile in the kitchen and using the same tin as an ashtray.

Wayne Reiss reminded us that "Tom jokingly called himself 'Bizarro Joe,' in reference to how he and Joe were such opposites. A notable exception would be around a campfire, where Joe or Tom could entertain with gut splitting jokes and stories for hours. I laugh just thinking about it."

Doug Evans added: "Tom was the most fun when someone with questionable "authority" was trying to act like a cop. He put them right where they belonged. We will miss his wit. He will be fondly remembered by all who knew him and our sympathies go out to Joe."

Keith Cramer, former manager of DeSimone MotorSport, died suddenly on Jan. 7th. I only knew him from the dealership but he was a great big teddy bear of a guy who always made me feel like I was his best customer. In my opinion, DeSimone was never

the same after he left. According to his obitu-

ary, Keith had “a big heart, a big laugh and a big smile.” Here’s a sampling of what was posted to our Yahoo site:

From Herb Dyer: “I am still wearing his mesh jacket, which he sold me from his trunk at an open house, when nothing in the store fit me. We were brothers in roundness, and Keith always had the “skinny” (pardon the pun) on what clothing makers actually made clothing for us.

“When I had my crash, and was in the ICU at Cooper for 16 days, it was Keith who took care of everything. He sprang into action, after one phone call from my sister. Getting my bike from the West Deptford Police, handling all the issues with the insurance, the repairs, etc. I did not get my bike until 2 months later, and it was my choice, and Keith did not mind, as my injuries, and healing, was the most important thing to him. He knew it was my first crash, and his instincts about the mental exercises I was going through, to ‘get back on the horse’ were dead on, without a word spoken.

“I still remember him on the phone while I was in the hospital, 3 days after my crash, and I was too doped up to deal with the logistics of the aftermath. ‘Don’t worry about anything, except getting well, I got everything taken care of here,’ he said.

Although I had not seen him in a while, I am saddened and shocked at the loss of a real friend. My heart goes out to his family. This is just too sad for me.”

A THOUGHTFUL NOTE

All this sad news elicited a response from someone who I believe captured the spirit of our club:

“This note may seem odd to some of you, because I have never actually met any of you. I have been a part of the group for some time and hope to ride with you in 2009, but a series of mechanical problems, for both me and my bike have kept me on the sidelines.

“I’m posting this just to say that as an outsider reading the ‘sad news’ thread, I have been moved to read your messages of pain and sorrow. The sincere sadness that has been expressed, the stories of good times together, and of shared tough times speak volumes about the real affection you have for the recently departed and for each other.

“In a time of great violence in the world, both near and far, too often the value of brotherhood is lost. We are reminded of it in stories of our men in uniform and among first responders, firefighters and police officers, but less so among “regular” guys. Amid your shared sadness I hope you all can find the energy and strength to recognize and appreciate the bond that can be heard so clearly in your messages.

“Thank you all for reminding me during a difficult time in my life that real friendship can be found nearby. I hope I’ll have the opportunity to meet you all on the road this spring, keeping the rubber side down.

My condolences to all, Abram”

Thank you, Abram, for reminding us all that where we meet or what we ride matters little in the overall scheme of things.

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

COMING EVENTS

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

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

Sept. 25-27 – 27th Annual Last Chance Rally!

NEXT MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28
6:30 pm – KICK TIRES & EAT
MEETING STARTS AT 7:30
PM
EL AZTECA
1155 NORTH ROUTE 73
MOUNT LAUREL, NJ