



# The *SKYLANDER*

Skylands BMW Riders (Est 1991)

Host Club for BMW's Miracle Ride East  
BMW MOA #215 - BMW RA #87

February 1998

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## Club Officers

President: Max Monaco  
Vice-President: Karl Kretschmer  
Secretary: Ivan Sobel  
Treasurer: Jody Villa  
Past President: Doug Ochwat

WWW: <http://skylands.ibmwr.org/sbr/>

## Committees

Adopt-A-Highway: Jeff Roberts  
Good & Welfare: Ellen Cushing  
Membership: Karl Kretschmer  
Newsletter: Tom Coradeschi  
Ride Coordinator: Bill Jasinski

Info Line: 908.852.2482

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## *FROM THE EDITOR*

Winter? Is it really? OK, so it's sleeting outside right now, but El Niño (or whatever you want to blame) seems to be giving us a pretty easy ride this year. So who's to complain?

Given that, it looks like we'll be able to get a good turnout of bikes for Don Gordon's Fly-n-Ride gathering on the 15th (by the way, I made up that silly name, so don't go blaming him for it!). Daytona is just around the corner, which means spring is on the way, too! So far, we've got our April, May and June club rides laid out: mark that 3rd Sunday (April & June) or 3rd Saturday (May) on your calendar now. By next month we'll have a date for our Experienced Rider Course (ERC) set, as well - look for a Saturday in May for that event.

If I might take a moment or two of your time to talk about the ERC, I'll do that right now. This year's class will be the fifth that we've run since the club's founding. It's this writer's opinion that there is just about nothing you can do, particularly for the money, which will better enable you to enjoy a safer, more relaxed riding experience. Seventy-five bucks buys you three hours or so of classroom instruction and about five hours of riding time on a range. This is a controlled environment (typically a large parking lot) where the instructors work you through drills of increasing complexity, building upon skills learned or polished earlier in the day with each exercise. Emphasis is on the basic mechanics (mental and physical) of riding, with no pressure to go fast, drag pegs or any of that silliness (for that we have CLASS school!).

Whether you want to get the cobwebs out of your riding skills, extend your abilities to another level or knock two points off your license (yep, you can do that, too!), the ERC is a good place to do it!

Ride safe!

Tom Coradeschi

## *MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - FEBRUARY 1998*

Our February meeting began with a presentation by Roy Oliemuller, a dealer rep from BMW North America.

Roy spent some time discussing NA's strategy regarding dealerships, particularly in light of the news coming out of Canada, where there has been a drastic reduction in the number of motorcycle-only dealerships, and announced plans to create combined auto/motorcycle franchises. NA's stance, in a nutshell, is that they believe that the motorcycle business can and should stand on its own where ever possible. In those areas where there is no motorcycle dealership and efforts to establish a franchise fail, NA will consider asking one of its auto dealers to take on the motorcycle arm of the business.

Locally, we have seen two examples of how this can work, or this can fail. Most of us are familiar with the failure which was Prestige Motors in Ramsey. The other side of the coin is Westchester BMW in White Plains, which has been very well received by Beemer pilots in that area.

Roy also provided some info on a design effort to add a sidecar to the R1200C; record motorcycle sales for the US of 6,103 in 1997; the opening of the flagship factory dealership (one of the joint auto/motorcycle shops) in Manhattan; the possibility of the System IV helmets becoming available in the US; the 75th anniversary model R1100R; and the timetable for introduction of the K1200LT (likely sometime next spring).

Thanks to Roy for taking time out of his evening to speak with us and answer our questions!

Membership (Karl Kretschmer): We have 2 new members this month: Bob Hoffman (really an old member we haven't seen in a while) and Bob Stickel. Welcome! There are currently 42 members paid for 1998. Your renewal form is in the *Skylander*.

Secretary (Ivan Sobel): Our BMW RA charter will be renewed this month.

Treasurer (Karl Kretschmer/Jody Villa): Our account balance for the month ending January 1998 is \$660.56. Since Jody is still recovering from his accident in Baja, Karl will carry the financials for another month or so.

Club Rides (Bill Jasinski): Currently scheduled for this year:

April 19: Max Monaco, leader - joint ride with Internet BMW Riders, Cream Ridge NJ

May 16: Jim Brown, leader - destination TBA.

June: Karl Kretschmer, leader - Rhinebeck Aerodrome..

Good & Welfare (Ellen Cushing): Jody Villa crunched his dirt bike in Baja. He's fairly banged up still. Dave Cushing reports that Ellen had knee surgery recently to correct an injury suffered during their tour of the Alps last spring. Best wishes to both for a speedy and complete recovery.

Adopt-A-Highway (Jeff Roberts): No report. [Editor's note: A recent issue of *Forbes* notes that you can now hire people do your Adopt-A-Highway cleanup for you. Three such companies have sprung up in California alone. Only in America!]

National Rallies: Bob Moore is continuing to work on plans for the MOA National in Missoula MT, which will be presented in a future *Skylander*. Len Parkin has gathered a great deal of information for those planning to attend the RA National in Greenfield MA, some of which was in last month's issue. The rest will follow as we get closer to the date of the event.

Rider Education: Bob Wrublewski is looking into booking a group for CLASS at Pocono Raceway in early August. Tom Coradeschi is looking into setting up a group Experienced Rider Course in May. Contact Bob or Tom for more details.

Annual Dinner: A number of comments were presented on the most enjoyable time all had at the dinner January 10th. A strong recommendation was made to return to the Asbury Willows for next year's dinner!

Mileage (Skip Metz): This year, given the realization that Betty Christie rode more miles than a bunch of the guys in the club, we'll be recognizing the person who logs the most "passenger" miles for 1998. It'll be up to each of us to keep track of passenger riding mileage and to report it to Skip at the end of the year. Also, let's all turn in our mileage for the year, regardless of how large or small your totals might be!

Programs (Drew Gibbon/Don Gordon): Our "Fly-n-Ride" session will be hosted by Don Gordon on Feb 15th, meeting at Sky Manor Airport. Details elsewhere in this issue. In March, we will have Ed Gilroy, from Tucker-Rocky, speak at our meeting and in April a rep from Metzeler tires will speak.

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## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

With the annual NY motorcycle show here and gone, our annual dinner history, and some of us our leaving for Daytona in two weeks, you ask "What does all this indicate?" Spring and the beginning of another riding season are only two months away. Of course, for many, the riding season never stopped because of what the calendar said. Just ask Karl. Since January first he has put on close to 1000 miles.

On behalf of the Skylands BMW Riders I would like to thank Steve for inviting Roy Oliemuller from BMWNA to our meeting. I think we all have a better understanding, despite what we hear on the internet and the various magazines, as to the direction of BMW's motorcycle group. Roy was straight forward with the answers to your questions and hopefully the changes will be positive and increase the enjoyment of owning a BMW. In my opinion BMW has a lot on their plate this year with all the new models coming and their 75th anniversary celebration. In my twenty-three years of owning a BMW I cannot remember a

more exciting BMW year to look forward to.

I would like to welcome our two new members. Well, really one new member. Bob Hoffman, who some of remember from a few years back, has rejoined us. Bob was active in the club in the past and I hope he jumps right back in. Bob, we haven't lost another rider, at least not accidentally, on a ride since you disappeared up in New York State. As for Doc Stickel, there is a lot I can say but I am going to leave it as Doc has a great sense of humor. He is a welcomed addition to our club because he has a "passion for riding" and motorcycles.. Matt Fretague and Bob Wrublewski are to be congratulated for getting Doc to join. Doc also broke the code on how to get your dues paid by your fellow members. He pulled his own ticket for the 50/50. Good job Doc, and we welcome you and Bob to the Skylands BMW Riders.

As you can see by the work the committees are doing it should be a very active and fun year. They can plan the events but only your support can make it happen. As I have said before "get involved" in planning a ride, highway cleanup or maybe the picnic. It is your club!

Based on Eddie's suggestion I have asked the social committee to make arrangements at the Asbury Willows for next year's annual dinner. Karl and I are pleased that you all enjoyed it enough to return. This should make things easier from a planning purpose and give Karl and his new sidekick Bill "Pops" Penschow time to plan the entertainment

As I have said "if it ain't broke - don't fix it". I also think Mayor Riggs will appreciate us returning to her town.

The year's first ride, April 19th, should be a fun day. We are going to join the BMW internet group for lunch outside Trenton. Based on what I heard about last years session it should be an enjoyable time so highlight that date on your calendar now. Jim Brown is going to do his Saturday ride in May to be followed up by Karl with a ride planned to the Rhinebeck Aerodrome in Rhinebeck, NY. This again is a fun place but, as important, this is the MOA rally site for 1999. Please see either Billy or Matt, ride coordinators, on leading or the suggestions for a ride.

Skip, who will handle mileage and awards, brought up something at the meeting that we have been remiss in. That is the recognition of our copilots. We sometimes forget the person riding with us is sharing our love for motorcycling and should be recognized for their time in the saddle too. Last year we had a significant number of copilots put on more mileage then some of our members. Interesting!

Tom is working on a MSF course for the club while Bob is investigating the possibility of a group attending a CLASS session at Pocono Raceway.

I can assure you that if you miss the February 15th program being organized by Don and Drew you will have missed one of the highlights of the year. Just call Drew and he can give you some insight to his experience with Don. March we will have Ed Gilroy from Tucker Rocky. Tucker Rocky is one of TOC's major suppliers of motorcycle accessories. If you want Ed to bring something special tell Steve. April we will have Cory Jonson from Metzeler Tire as our program. Drew is hard at work booking programs for the year and needs your suggestions and help. Give him a call.

We all wish both Jody and Ellen a speedy recovery and hope we see them on the April ride.

"Shoot for the moon...even if you miss you'll be among the stars"

## **1997 MILEAGE CONTEST - CORRECTED**

*(Bob Moore's info was missing)*

Max Monaco	22,750
Bob Wrublewski	22,500
Bill Jasinski	21,936
Tony Loria	17,790
Karl Kretschmer	16,145
Chuck DeSantis	16,145
Doug Ochwat	14,066
Joe Christie*	14,000
Dave Unangst	11,716
Len Parkin	11,304
Skip Metz	9,106
Dave Cushing	7,220
Bob Moore	5,745
Tom Coradeschi	4,460
Frank Kildren	4,245
Chris Monaco	2,600
* Betty rode 9500 of those miles with Joe	
Total Mileage Ridden:	201,728
Average Mileage:	12,608
“Average” Rider:	Dave Unangst

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## **FLY-N-RIDE**

Don Gordon has arranged a get-together for us on Sunday, Feb 15th, starting at Sky Manor Airport in Pittstown. Meet at the airport at 9AM for breakfast and some aeronautical tire kicking, then head on over to Don's house for more machines - motorcycles this time!

Directions to Sky Manor Airport:

- I-78 east or west to Exit 15 (Clinton Pittstown)
- At bottom of ramp, turn left onto Pittstown Clinton Rd
- Go through Pittstown
- Turn right at sign for Sky Manor

Directions to Don's house - from I-78:

- Take Exit 15 as before and turn left
- In Pittstown, turn left onto Kingtown Rd (red barn & stone house landmarks)
- After crossing bridge, turn right onto Upper Kingtown Rd
- House is 1st PAVED drive on the left

Directions to Don's house - from Sky Manor:

- Head back into Pittstown
- Turn right onto Kingtown Rd and follow above route.

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## **TECH TIP**

Been having intermittent problems getting your K-bike to start? You hit the starter button but nothing happens. If you put the bike in gear and rock it back and forth, it'll fire up OK. Or maybe you bump start it and it starts OK the next time. Your battery is fully charged, so that's not a problem.

It could be something as simple as dust. That's right, the brushes in the starter, as they wear, will leave a coating of dust

inside. This CAN cause the problem described above.

Fortunately, it's a simple matter (2 bolts, not counting the battery cable) to remove the starter, disassemble it (2 screws) and clean the rotor and interior. Carefully note the number of shims, if any, at the drive end bearing and make sure they go back in when you reassemble.

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## **STREET STRATEGIES**

### **Detour Dumping**

You've had a great road trip so far when you see brake lights in the distance, and then suddenly a big orange sign: PAVEMENT ENDS. You can't believe it. You're on a paved state highway and apparently the whole road has been torn up for construction! You've got no choice but to struggle through the detour on your heavyweight touring machine. As you bounce off the pavement, you realize the detour surface is rutted dirt, slippery mud and loose gravel.

You begin to panic when the front tire sinks in the ruts and makes it difficult to balance. You slow down and drag your feet to help stabilize the bike, but it wobbles even more, and when the front tire plows into some deep gravel, you can't keep it upright. The machine topples over. You aren't hurt, but there are now gravel scratches on your shiny roadburner, and you are both angry at the construction and embarrassed at not being able to get through without a fall.

Sooner or later, all of us will encounter road detours or repaving operations where we have no choice but to ride on slick or loose surfaces. We must expect the bike to shift around under us as the tires plow through loose material, a feeling which can be alarming to those who have ridden only on tractable pavement.

The riding tactics for such situations are basic "dirt bike" skills. Rather than slowing to a crawl and extending your feet, you should have placed most of your weight on the footpegs and kept your speed up. Standing on the pegs places your weight down low on the machine and allows the bike to shift under you without losing balance. Rolling on more throttle helps push the front tire through loose dirt and gravel and helps steer the bike. Faced with a patch of deep gravel, you should have increased speed to build inertia. Keeping your head up will allow you to select a path which will place your street tires on hard-packed dirt between the ruts, or take you around the deep gravel.

Rather than living in fear of having to ride on an unpaved surface, why not borrow a dual-sport bike and spend a weekend gaining some off-pavement skills?

*REPRINTED COURTESY MOTORCYCLE CONSUMER NEWS*

**POLAR BEAR SCHEDULE 97-98**

- Feb 15 Landslide Saloon, Pattenburg, NJ
- Feb 22 Fuddruckers, Wayne, NJ
- Mar 1 Mt. Lake Casino, Buttsville, NJ
- Mar 8 The Cabin, Howell, NJ
- Mar 15 Bahr's Landing Seafood Restaurant, Highlands, NJ
- Mar 22 Fort Dix Club
- Mar 29 Cape May V.F.W., Cape May, NJ
- Apr 18 Polar Bear Dinner, Knights of Columbus, Old Bridge

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

(Ads will run for 2 months)

Parting out 1995 K1100LT; Hein Gericke Cordura jacket, 3/4 length, medium, worn 6 times; \$125. Call Bill Jasinski @ 973.726.8321 (1st month)

Custom Sidestand for monoshock boxers: \$35; Custom Mustang double bucket seat w/ rain cover for monoshock boxers: \$225; US Light Switch (New): \$35. Call Ed Jankowsky @ 908.806.6940 (2nd month)

GATEWAY Personal Computer model 486DX2-50, 50 MHz with 8 MB of ram, 225 MB hard disk, 3.5" & 5.25" floppy disk. Includes 15" color monitor, 28800 baud modem, Windows 95 and Microsoft Office. Excellent condition. \$395. Call Chris Monaco @ 908-850-4048 (2nd month)

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**SKYLANDS BMW RIDERS  
1998 DUES RENEWAL FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Members:	_____	X \$24/year/member =	_____
Associate Members:	_____	X \$12/year/member =	_____

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Return to our treasurer, Jody Villa, PO Box 534, Oldwick, NJ 08858

***Next meeting 3/9/98  
Touch of Class: 7:30***

*Meet for some pizza at Enzo's  
Pizza, Rt 57, Washington  
6 miles east of T.O.C., 1 mile west  
of Rt 31.  
Any time after 6:00*

***COMING EVENTS!***

*"Fly-n-Ride" at Sky Manor Airport  
Sunday 2/15/98  
Contact: Don Gordon*

Skylands BMW Riders  
22 Highland Rd  
Hackettstown NJ 07840