



# The *SKYLANDER*

Skylands BMW Riders (Est 1991)

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

April 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*

Quick and dirty this month: Spring is sprung! I've been riding to work (when it's not raining) lately. Taking the back roads and working the kinks and rust out of my reflexes - getting ready for our first club ride of the season, our ERC and everything else another riding season brings with it (although nothing can prepare you for sweating your way through the Holland Tunnel while surrounded by 3000 straight-pipe Harley-Davidsons).

I'm running a bit late on getting this month's newsletter to you - hopefully you won't miss out on anything as a result. All the better to come to meetings, I guess!

Also, if you're not sure what's going on when, our Info Line is back in action, so you can call 908.852.2482 and check on dates and places for club activities.

See you on the road!

Tom Coradeschi

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## *MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - APRIL 1998*

Membership (Karl Kretschmer): As of the April 6th meeting, we have 61 paid members and 12 who have not paid their 1998 dues. Karl will be contacting those who have not paid. If no dues are forthcoming, they will be dropped from our roster.

Secretary (Ivan Sobel): Our BMW RA charter renewal has been received.

Treasury (Jody Villa): Our current assets, as of March 31st are \$798.23.

Rides: Our first ride of the season will be a joint gathering with the Internet BMW Riders and the NJ Shore BMW Riders. We will depart Candy's Country Kitchen (Rt 57, about 3 miles east of Touch of Class) on Sunday March 19th, at 9AM SHARP! Our destination is The Millstone Pub - Route 537,

Cream Ridge, NJ (just east of Trenton - 1/2 mile south of the I-195 - 537 intersection) for lunch. Contact Max or Tom if you're going, by April 17th, so an accurate headcount can be provided for lunch (currently, there are about 80 Beemer pilots planning on attending).

Jim Brown will lead our May Ride on the 23rd. This will also depart from Candy's and will tour Bucks County PA. More details will follow.

Karl Kretschmer will lead our June ride on the 14th. We'll be riding up to Rhinebeck Aerodrome that day. Again, more details will follow.

Rider Education (Tom Coradeschi): Our Experienced Rider Course will be held at Middlesex Vo-Tech School on May 3rd. Pops will take the slot vacated by Ivan Sobel, who has a family commitment that day. Several other members are on the standby list, should any other vacancies arise.

Adopt-A-Highway (Jeff Roberts): Our first cleanup of the year will be on April 11th. Meet at 9 AM at Touch of Class.

Good & Welfare (Ellen Cushing): Fruit baskets were sent to Vince DiBiasse and Joe Christie. Joe's been laid up for over a month with back problems.

Club Gear: We have Skylands BMW Riders license plate frames in stock! Contact Jody Villa if you want one. Price is a cool 10 bucks each. After some discussion of style, graphics, and so forth, Michael Kimm will be looking into having club T-Shirts made.

Social: Some possibilities for a site for our club picnic are being explored. More info should be available by the May meeting.

National Rallies: Max Monaco has a couple of hotel rooms reserved for the MOA national. If you're interested in taking one of them, contact him.

Miracle Ride (Tom Coradeschi): The status of the Miracle Ride, with respect to BMW's sponsorship of the event, is still up in the air and being negotiated. Hopefully we will have definitive word on this by the May meeting.

Our meeting closed with a presentation by Cory Johnson of Metzeler Tire. Cory covered the history of tires, showing us the differences between bias, bias belted, radial and belted radial tires.

He also discussed issues which impact tire life, such as choice of compound, riding style, tire pressure and type of motorcycle. It looks (yes, I know his opinion is bit biased, but then he's an ST1100 rider, so...) that the new MEZ4 will be a good choice for the sport-touring rider who needs radial tires.

Thanks to Cory for taking the time to come talk with us (and I'm NOT just saying that because of the free hat!) and to Steve Chapkovich and Max Monaco for arranging for him to be there!

Our May meeting will feature Ed Kollin, from Exxon Research and Engineering Co. Ed will cover fuels and lubricants during his talk.

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## ***FROM THE PRESIDENT***

April 10, 1998

All indications are that Spring has arrived, not that winter really appeared. In case you missed it you should have advanced your clocks last weekend. Hopefully by the time you read this our 1st "98" cleanup is in the "bag". The club's 1st ride for "98" is scheduled for April 19th and looks to be an exciting one (see newsletter). Also remember the MOA Mileage Contest starts April 11th. Submit your forms now and remember everyone is a winner. Sorry Dennis, only BMW's.

It appears, thanks to Cory Johnson of Metzler Tire, we all are a little smarter when it comes to the technology of motorcycle tires and their related costs. In my opinion Cory presented a complex subject in a manner we all could follow. I believe the most important aspect of tires, other than a tire that meets the specs. of your bike, is the maintenance of tire pressure. We have heard it for years and now we understand the reasons for proper air pressure. How many of us check our tires on a regular basis?

Club programs are scheduled through June. We need your input and assistance in securing future programs that are of interest to the members. Please take time to suggest and/or find a program and let me know. I will follow up to get the speaker to the meeting. I believe many of our members with their wide range of knowledge could handle a program that would interest the membership. Give it a thought!

In this newsletter Tom has included an article on "group riding". Input to this article was supplied by PoPs, Jody and other riders with real world experience. This document is an excellent guideline and I am confident if we adhere to the basics we will have safe and fun rides.

The monthly rides, like programs, are scheduled through June. We need volunteers to suggest and plan rides through October. Please see Matt or Billy with your input.

FYI:

- May 3rd I will plan a ride to a "Bike Event" at the Stroudsburg-Pocono Airport. Call me if interested. This is also the date of the scheduled ERC.

- Motel rooms are available for both the MOA & RA rally. Call me.

- Toys R Us has a neat BMW R60 motorcycle model for \$20. Excellent detail and is available in black or white. This is an inexpensive way to add another BMW motorcycle to your collection. Great gift. I have a black one.

- Bob W., Matt, Doc and myself are in the process a planning a ride to Jefferson, PA June 13-14. Jefferson is near Hanover, PA and this motorcycle event will be focused on Triumph motorcycles with numerous motorcycle activities planned. Let us know if you are interested.

- Tom is reviewing plans for a club picnic and the BMW event at the Guggenheim Museum. Tom would appreciate any input and assistance.

- Steve has provided us with information on the planned "Cruise Aid 98" event to be held at the Mount Airy Lodge September 11-13. Details will be presented at the May meeting.

If you are going to attend the April 19th ride/lunch please call Tom or me so that we can confirm lunch reservations.

Thanks for your support.

Max Monaco

"The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain". Dolly Parton

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## ***ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY***

By Jeff Roberts

This past Saturday, eight members of Skylands (plus Tanya (make that nine), whom I drafted into service due to the imminent doom of only having four people show up); cleaned up 21 bags of garbage from lovely Rt 57.

Participating members were: John Flaherty, Lukas Frank, Drew Gibbon, Don Gordon, Karl Kretschmer, Fred Neilsen, Jeff Roberts, Tanya Roberts, Dave Unangst.

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## ***DEALER NEWS***

Touch of Class has a new employee: Art Wilson, formerly with Burger's Cycles, has come on board. Welcome, Art!

Sleger's Cycles (now owned by our own Bob Kurzweil, in case you didn't know) will be having an open house on April 25th from 9AM to 4 PM. Biker Billy will be there, along with the usual open house shenanigans.

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## ***ON THE ROAD...***

Woke up this morning to a beautiful sunrise through the trees. Had the windows open last night due to the mild weather. Nice breeze flowing through the house all night. Got out early on the bike on the way to work.

I am usually in the office early and this morning was going to be no exception. I glanced at the clock to see I had 45 minutes before I \*had\* to be there. Why do I want to be so early this morning I asked myself? I don't - I want to ride! I took the next exit and headed towards the local state parks.

I cruised the curving road through the woods. The temperature was just around 65. It's been a long time since I

rode without the vest, and the polartec, and the long underwear, and the heated grips, and the face mask, and the heavy gloves, and... I opened all the vents in my jacket and helmet and let it rip, the cool air flowed freely through my shirt. The brick whined and I could hear the echo against the hills. I could imagine sitting on the side of the road up ahead in the coolness of the morning, the sun peering through the trees and hearing the faint sound of the engine a quarter mile away... listening as the rider moved through the gears... approaching the curve... downshifting... entering the curve and rolling on the throttle... looking down the road toward the rider... around the curve the bike and rider appear...bike hunkered down on its side, planted on the edge of the tires and rider leaning forward and left over the tank and into the turn...as if suspended in the air...eyes level and focused through the turn... two fingers poised on the clutch and boots high on the pegs and tucked in close to the bike... glance left at myself... eyes meet for a split second of recognition... then back forward... the bike and rider pass... eeeeeeeEEEEEEEOOOOOOoooooo... disappearing over the rise the sound quickly fades... soon the only evidence of the appearance is the few leaves left swirling on the berm.

I pull into the parking lot at work with 3 minutes to spare - right on time, walk into the office and drop my gear at my desk. I watch the stragglers race in looking very agitated and pressured - just another morning for them. We arrive at the same time yet our experience is very different. They are probably wondering why I look so refreshed. A co-worker comments, "You look like a happy camper."

I look back and respond, simply, "70 mile detour." She looks at my gear, smiles, and walks away. This is why I ride.

Jeff Harth  
Philly  
1986 K100RS  
AMA, MOA, RAR

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## **GROUP RIDING GUIDELINES**

By Pops Penschow

1. Leaders try to provide some route sheets, or at least be sure everyone has a reasonable idea of the route.
2. Leaders need a designated "Sweep" for each group. The Sweeps should be one of the better riders in the group or be in radio contact with the leader.
3. Maximum of 6-8 bikes per group. If you have more than that on your ride split them into two or more distinct groups.
4. Leader of each group waits at all major turns until he gets a signal from his "Sweep" that the flock is all there.
5. Ride "Staggered" formation on major highways and in congested areas, single file when hammering twisties. Leave a minimum of two seconds between yourself and the bike in front of you.
6. Each rider is responsible for the rider behind him. If you don't have a headlight in your mirror, find out why.
7. There should be minimum passing within the group. Each rider should essentially stay in line between stops.
8. If you are going to leave the ride at some point let both

the leader and the sweep know your intentions.

9. Ride your own ride. Never feel that you have to keep up if it means riding beyond your capabilities.

10. Honestly evaluate your capabilities and those of the group. If you have just removed the training wheels from your 1970 Honda CB250 and show up for a ride where all the other riders are wearing full race leathers and mounted on big bore pure sports bikes, maybe you shouldn't go. If you are unsure, try the first leg and if you are uncomfortable bail out. One word of caution here. If the ride splits into "Fast", "Moderate" and "Doddering Old Farts" groups, be very wary of joining the DOF group. In my experience they usually blow by the "Moderate" group like they are standing still and wind up hammering on the tail of the "Fast" group shortly thereafter.

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## **STREET STRATEGIES**

YOU'RE OUT FOR a Sunday ride in the country. You've owned this same bike for a number of years, and most of its parts are original. You understand the importance of good tires, so you buy the best, and check tire pressures before every ride. This curving road through farmland is one of your favorites, because it is usually free of other vehicles, and you can ride it at an energetic pace, carving down through shady river bottoms and snaking back up the bluffs again.

Like most secondary back roads, the pavement receives little attention from the road maintenance crews, so you are careful to skirt chuckholes and frost heaves where the asphalt paving is crumbling, and watch for wet leaves.

But the surface appears good approaching a sweeping turn under the flickering canopy of tall trees, so you roll on more throttle and lean the bike over to a more aggressive angle. But suddenly the wheels begin to hammer into a series of pavement ridges hidden by the shadows, and the bike seems to bounce off the surface and chatter sideways. You instinctively roll off the gas, but can't avoid drifting wide and plowing into the muddy roadside ditch. You aren't hurt, but the bike is a mess.

You were wise to pay attention to your tires, but you should also have maintained your suspension. You can't expect those factory original shock absorbers to last forever. And tired shocks and sagging springs can't keep the bike up in the middle of its suspension travel where the tires could maintain traction over pavement ripples.



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**CLASSIFIED ADS**

(Ads will run for 2 months)

1994 R1100RSL: Pearl, 19k, bags, RKA tank bag, new tires, 3 windshields, Ohlins shocks; \$8500. Call Tony Loria @ 908-735-4937 (2nd month)

1995 BMW R1100R: Mystic Red Metallic, 10k miles. Windshield, San Jose Exhaust, BMW bags, PIAA lights and more. Warranty until 12/98. \$8495 OBO. Call Max Monaco @ 908-852-9321, cmmonaco@worldnet.att.net (1st month)

**Fly-n-Ride - February 16th**



**Daytona '98...**



Next meeting May 4 '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*

*April Club Ride  
April 19th 1998  
Candy's Country Kitchen  
9:00 AM  
or  
Millstone Pub  
11:00 AM*

***MOTORCYCLE RACING on TV***

Apr 19	2 PM	Speedvis	Malaysian 500 GP
Apr 19	5 PM	Speedvis	Laguna Seca AMA SB
Apr 20	10 PM	Speedvis	Donington World SS
Apr 21	8 PM	Speedvis	Laguna Seca Formula X
Apr 21	10 PM	Speedvis	Japanese 250 GP
Apr 24	9 PM	Speedvis	Laguna Seca 750SS
Apr 24	10 PM	Speedvis	Japanese 125 GP
Apr 28	8 PM	Speedvis	Willow Springs Formula X
May 1	10 PM	Speedvis	Willow Springs 750SS
Apr 26	5 PM	Speedvis	Willow Springs AMA SB
May 3	5 PM	Speedvis	Sears Point AMA SB
May 5	8 PM	Speedvis	Sears Point Formula X
May 5	10 PM	Speedvis	Spanish 500 GP
May 8	9 PM	Speedvis	Sears Point 750SS
May 10	10 PM	Speedvis	Monza World SS
May 12	8 PM	Speedvis	Malaysian 250 GP
May 12	9 PM	Speedvis	Malaysian 125 GP

Skylands BMW Riders  
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