



The *SKYLANDER*

Skylands BMW Riders (Est 1991)

BMW MOA #215 - BMW RA #87

December 1998

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: Matt Fretague

Info Line: 908.852.2482

EDITOR'S CORNER

Well, this is it! It's been a fun two years (actually, this is the 13th issue of The Skylander I've published), but, as with all good things, it must come to an end. I hope that you have all enjoyed reading what I've been able to put together each month. I have enjoyed doing it for you, rest assured - well, aside the occasional computer glitch. Oh, and writer's block. And all the other things which get in the way.

I'd like to take a moment to thank those who have provided material for The Skylander over the past 24 months. I've enjoyed having your input and I'm sure the rest of the club members do too!

I'd specifically like to thank my wife Nora, who put up with my disappearing into our home office every month for a couple of evenings while I put this all together. She has also been my proofreader, mailing label creator and, whether you realize it or not, the source of the puzzles which have been appearing for the past several months. Thanks, Nora!

Beginning in January, as you know, Dave Cushing will be editing The Skylander. Remember that the newsletter editor is the editor, not necessarily the author! If you've taken a fun ride, done some neat mods to your bike, or just written some flowing prose (I'm disqualified from that last), send it on in to Dave. Way back when, I stated that my motto was "All the news that fits, we print!" I'm sure Dave shares that philosophy.

Best wishes to you all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year!

Tom Coradeschi

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - DECEMBER 1998

Membership (Karl Kretschmer): One new member this month: Art Hance, from Stanton NJ. Art rides a '98 R1100GS. Welcome, Art! 1999 dues are DUE!

Secretary (Ivan Sobel): No report.

Treasury (Jody Villa): Account balance is \$184.78. Income \$72, outlays \$356.55.

Rides: 14 bikes came out for the Polar Bear run to Port Jervis and then on to lunch in Narrowsburg. A nice warm day for November and not too many cages out there to foul things up. One minor note to remember: if you're in a group on a club ride, you need to STAY in the group, or let the leader know you'll be breaking off. And always ride at the pace of the group!

The Polar Bear toy run will be on December 20th. This annual event meets at The Cabin Restaurant, on Rt 33 in Howell, NJ. Bring a wrapped gift for a child, labeled with the age and gender of the intended recipient. Departure will be from The Cottage Restaurant on Main St Hackettstown at 10:30 AM and the group will swing by Touch of Class on the way to pick up any riders who wish to meet there at about 11 AM. Contact Max Monaco for more details.

Adopt-A-Highway (Jeff Roberts): Our fourth (and final) cleanup of the year was held on November 14th. A complete listing of your fellow club members who participated in cleanups this year is in this issue.

Good & Welfare (Ellen Cushing): Nobody sick. Nobody hurt. A good month!

Club Gear: The following is what we have left:

3 license plate frames. Contact Jody Villa.

3 short sleeve T-shirts. Contact Michael Kimm.

Annual Dinner (Dave Cushing): Karl and Dave Cushing have finalized arrangements for our dinner, to be held on January 9th, 1999. Cost will be \$30 per person. Reservation forms are in this month's Skylander - the deadline for your reservation is December 23rd. So far, 30 people are confirmed for the dinner!

Awards (Skip Metz): Max Monaco is coordinating the mileage contest. You need to get the total miles you've ridden this year (on any bike, whether you own it or not) to Max by Jan 2nd. Miles ridden to and from the Chili Chilly on New Year's Day count double (ie, for both 1998 and 1999). Let's all get our miles in this year!

Programs (Drew Gibbon): Jody Villa spoke on his

experiences in riding the LA-Barstow-to-Vegas rally this year. Quite a different type of riding from what we're used to here in the northeast. Thanks, Jody!

Tech Sessions (Steve Chapkovich): We have two tech sessions schedules for Touch of Class: Jan 28th and Feb 18th. Topics suggested so far are: airhead carburetors and fluid changes/general maintenance.

Touch of Class will be running a bus trip to the NYC bike show on Saturday, Jan 16th. The bus will depart Laneco Plaza on Rt 22. Contact Ellen Cushing for more info.

Meetings: Our next meeting will be on January 4th at Touch of Class, 7:30 PM. Our annual Organization Meeting will be held on December 16th at the Chester Diner, Rt 206, Chester, 6:30 PM.

BIKE CLEANING - #7 IN A SERIES

How To Keep Your Beemer Clean
a step-by-step guide for the anal retentive
by Bill Shaw (bmwbobs2@aol.com)

I have dedicated the majority of my adult life and all my waking hours for the past 22 years in pursuit of keeping motorcycles looking new. I have a doctorate in Automotive Detailing, and I am the founder and President/CEO of a nondenominational group of BMW motorcycle cleaning enthusiasts. We do not discriminate based on make, model or displacement, and are incorporated as the Anal Retentive Internet BMW Riders (ARIBMWR). It is our goal to proselytize the fundamental principals by which we live our life: Keep It Clean, or Park It!

If you have any additional input, comments, suggestions or recommendations (you'll be wrong...but let me know anyway, I'm always up for a good laugh), please let me know. Toodles.

[For those who believe that a clean bike is a sign of one not ridden, Bill Shaw has ridden an immaculate bike through more states in the last few years than I have visited in my entire life ... ed.]

Cleaning Tips, Part 8...Cleaning Wheels

Hello again everyone,

I love all motorcycles: Ducati's, Honda's, Yamaha's, Moto Guzzi's, Bimota's, and yes, even Harley's and Ural's. My totally objective and unbiased personal belief, however, is that BMW makes some of the most aesthetically appealing bikes in the world…including the wheels. From the laced versions, to the aluminum three-spoked wheel, to the five-spoke rims which adorn the newest K bikes, they are some of the most beautiful found on any production motorcycle.

When viewing/appreciating any motorcycle, one of the first things I notice are the wheels, since they often reflect the owner's attention to detail. It takes time and patience to really do it correctly and clean every spoke or get into every nook and cranny. Let's face it, this is probably everyone's least favorite part on the motorcycle to clean. But I have heard it said many, many times by master detailers like Diaz and Traversa (actually too many times to count) that the wheels reflect the sole of the

bike. Fact of the matter is, they are right.

The approach to cleaning a laced wheel or an unpainted aluminum rim is almost the same (I will cover painted wheels separately), but some of the tools are different. For laced wheels, I use a soft-bristled, double-sided brush, rag and/or sponge to clean the spokes, hub and rim. If the grunge is too heavily caked on, a tooth brush used in conjunction with Simple Green (100% solution), S-100 Wheel Cleaner or one of the after market automotive cleaners such as Eagle One is very effective. A thorough washing with warm soap and water (using a separate bucket and sponge) should immediately follow the cleaner. Again, keep the water directed away from the wheel bearings.

Frankly, the best way to keep laced wheels looking good is to just keep on top of them -- meaning every time you wash the bike, spend the extra 10 minutes on the wheels. And if you are very ambitious, Tim Bond

<<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/WireWheels>> recommends a window cleaner like Windex that can be used to remove all the water spots and put a further shine on the chrome. I suggest avoid using a chrome polish unless it's your intention to really make the bike shine prior to selling it, or you plan on entering it in a show, or it's your last attempt to remove a really stubborn mark. Remember that polish is an abrasive, and the wheels have to be absolutely spotless before using it, or you will risk scratching the finish.

Aluminum rims are a little easier since they do not have as many "spokes." Again, any of the wheel cleaners mentioned above will quickly remove the heavy grime, and I prefer a narrow paintbrush/toothbrush when cleaning the recesses and cavities on the wheel. I have also found, and I hope this doesn't come as a shock to anyone, that WD-40 (or the CRC equivalent - thanks to Bud Proven at Bob's BMW) works on removing whatever tar, grease or dirt is left over after the wheel cleaner. A word of caution - only used these products by spraying them on a rag first, and then rubbing them on with your hand. Any over-spray onto the tires could make them slippery, and therefore, potentially dangerous.

Painted wheels, like those found on the K1, require a little more care. Because of the harsh detergents, I NEVER use a wheel cleaner (even those designed to be safe with clear coats) since the color will fade over time. I have found the best way to clean painted wheels is to simply use soap and warm water, and WD-40.

CLASSIFIED ADS

(Ads will run for 2 months)

1997 Toyota Tacoma Pickup. 14,000 mi, V6, auto, loaded. \$17k OBO. Call Jody @ 908.439.9193 (1st month)

**Next meeting 1/4/98
Touch of Class: 7:30 PM**

**Organizational meeting 12/16/98
Chester Diner: 6:30 PM**

Polar Bear Club Schedule

Dec 20	THE CABIN	Howell NJ	Feb 7	AL MARTIS' INN	Whiting NJ
Dec 27	BOBBY & MARY'S	Piscataway NJ	Feb 14	LANDSLIDE SALOON	Pattensburg NJ
Jan 3	RED APPLE REST	Southfields NY	Feb 21	FUDDRUCKER'S	Wayne NJ
Jan 10	IAMA	Long Branch NJ	Feb 28	THE CABIN	Howell NJ
Jan 17	MILLSTONE PUB	Clarksburg NJ	Mar 7	MT LAKE CASINO	Buttsville NJ
Jan 24	MIGNELLA'S	Hopewell NJ	Mar 14	BAHRS LANDING	Highlands NJ
Jan 31	FARCHER'S GROVE	Union NJ	Mar 21	FORT DIX CLUB	Fort Dix, NJ
			Mar 28	CAPE MAY VFW	Cape May NJ

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