

# The Skylander

The monthly publication of the SKYLANDS BMW RIDERS

Established in 1991

BMWMOA # 215 BMWRA # 87

Volume 9, Issue 1

January 1999

## 1999 Club Officers Take Posts

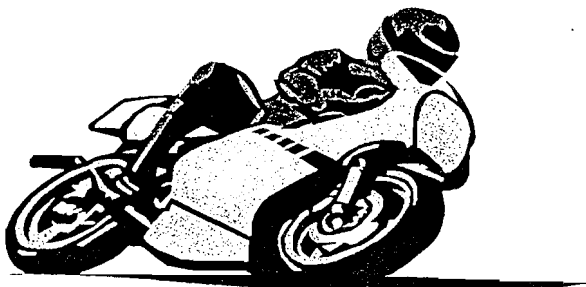
Effective January 1, 1999, the new club officers are:

President: Karl Kretschmer  
Vice President: Ed Jankowsky  
Secretary: **Ivan Sobel**  
Treasurer: **Ellen Cushing**

## New Editor with this Issue

A new year begins with Dave Cushing as your newsletter editor. First of all, I want to thank Tom Coradeschi for being the editor during the past two years. His partner, Nora Coradeschi also provided us with some mind teasers that kept me thinking & scratching my head. Thanks again for providing the information over the years. Now you can relax and enjoy the family & motorcycling again.

As your new editor, I need your assistance. If you have some information you would like to get out to the club members, let me have it in any configuration and I will try to get it into this newsletter. Please remember that this is your voice to the other club members and is a very good way to keep everyone informed. I cannot do this alone, your input is important and desired, whether it is items to put into the newsletter or just some of your ideas that you would like to see worked into an article, etc. I welcome them all. This will continue to be a forum of information from the monthly meetings, future events of interest to all and educational tips to maintain and/or improve one's riding knowledge. With your feedback, we can continue this publication for all members to enjoy.



## Reorganization Meeting Results

The December 16th meeting at the Chester Diner saw a nice turnout to enjoy the good food and assist the club in its quest to be a better member group. The various committee chairpersons are:

Adopt-a-Highway: Jeff Roberts  
Good & Welfare: Cindy Chapkovich  
Membership: Ed Jankowsky  
Newsletter: Dave Cushing  
Ride Coordinator: Dennis Dauria  
Programs: Drew Gibbon & Don Gordon  
Annual Events: **Ed Jankowsky**  
Mileage & Awards: Skip Metz  
Club Apparel: **Michael Kimm**  
Spring Overnight: Max Monaco  
Club Archives: Tony & Sue Loria  
Sergeant at Arms: Karen Cushing

Take a look at these committees and let the chairperson know on which one you would like to assist. It not only will help make their job easier, but you can be an active participant in club affairs without giving a lot of time. We would like to see all members assist in some way. It helps to make the club more like family.

Some of the additional decisions made were:

1. The 1999 club rides will be listed on Karl Kretschmer's answering machine so anyone can call and get an immediate update of an impending ride.
2. Flowers or fruit baskets will only be sent to sick or injured club members. A card from the club will be sent to the family of club members.
3. Deceased members will be listed on the club roster with an E next to their name to denote Emeritus.
4. The club roster will be printed each quarter and included in the newsletter. Monthly updates will be listed in the monthly newsletter with the complete roster in the January, April, July and October newsletter.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

- 5. March to October will feature two club rides a month.
- 6. Individuals with e-mail capabilities will have their newsletter sent via the internet if possible in order to keep mailing costs down.
- 7. The club roster will list a member's e-mail address so members can have additional methods to contact one another.

Those were the main points brought out at the gathering. Everyone present thought that 1999 will be an enjoyable year for motorcycling. There are two national rallies scheduled within a day's ride of this area as well as the many other events that will appear.

*HAPPY NEW YEAR*



**Skylands BMW Riders Annual Dinner**

The Annual Dinner is set for Saturday, January 9, 1999 at the **Asbury Willows**, 288 Anderson Road, Asbury, NJ (909) 537-7289 from 6:30 to 11:00 PM. There will be people attending this annual function - the largest group yet. We hope you can join us next year. Directions: head east from Touch of Class on Route 57 to the next stoplight. Turn right onto Asbury Road and follow it over two hills into Asbury - turn left and the Asbury Willows is on the left corner with the parking lot just east of it. From Route 31 south of Washington, turn west at the A&P Shopping Center and follow the road to the Asbury Willows - on right about 2 miles.

**Skylands Membership Renewal Time**

Be sure to complete the membership renewal form elsewhere in this newsletter & give it to Ellen. The renewal needs to be accomplished soon, otherwise your membership will end March 31, 1999. Help the club help you and renew early. Thank you for your assistance.

**BMWMOA 1999 National Website**

The BMW Motorcycle Owners Association (BMWMOA) National Rally will be held at Rheinbeck, NY this year. To help get information out to everyone, a website has been created and will be updated on a regular basis. The address is: <http://bmwmoa.org/rally99/rally99.htm> They will be looking for help in all areas for this rally.

**Bill Koptis Moves to Vermont**

Bill Koptis and his wife Barbara retired from Merck this past December and moved to their place in Vermont. They are now free to really enjoy life and I am sure that Bill will be getting out on his bike more often now and enjoying the roads around his home. He will be staying as a club member and has invited any club member who is in upstate Vermont to give him a call. He is located about 6 miles from exit 26 of 1-91 or about 10 miles east of Route 100.

William & Barbara Koptis  
579 Route 14  
Irasburg, VT 05845  
802-754-2872

**1999 Skylands BMW Mileage Start Record**

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

Bike #1 Start Miles: \_\_\_\_\_

Bike #2 Start Miles: \_\_\_\_\_

Return form to Skip Metz so he knows you want to be part of the record keeping. Keep a copy for your records. A final form will be in the December newsletter. Record keeping goes from 1/1/99 through 12/31/99.

**Member Items For Sale**

Items will be posted for two months in a row unless sold earlier.

Call Doug Ochwat - 9081850-9643

- K1100RS: Stock Seat - \$75
- Front Fender - Rear Section in Mystic Red - \$25
- Stock Handlebars - \$50
- 75 Items: Turn Signal Handlebar Control - \$35
- Stock Muffler - \$100
- Stock Handlebars - \$50

Miscellaneous: VDO Clock \$50

## January 1999 Meeting Highlights

The first meeting of the new year was held at Touch of Class M/C on January 4th. About 27 members attended along with 2 prospective members and a guest from Germany.

### Current Business:

Ed Jankowsky will be maintaining the attendance rosters from all club events. This will provide the records needed for future awards.

Secretary's Report - none available as Secretary was not present.

Treasurer's Report - Ellen Cushing reported a bank balance of \$2739.83 with \$19.00 in petty cash for a total of \$2758.83.

ERC Report - Jonathan Hanbicki will be arranging a date, most likely on a May weekend day for the club to take the Experienced Rider Course taught by MSF Instructors. At least 10 members want to do it again this year. More information to come later.

Ride Report - No special rides planned other than those listed on the cover of this newsletter. A Spring overnight ride is being arranged by Max Monaco.

ToC Bus Trip - to the New York M/C Show scheduled to leave the Laneco Plaza at 9:30 on 1/16. Seats are filling fast, so get your tickets as soon as possible.

Adopt-a-Highway - No report given. This community project will begin again in April and members are asked to assist for about 2 hours on a Saturday to clean the highway east and west of Touch of Class.

Good & Welfare - Nothing to report. All members healthy

Annual Dinner - 67 people will enjoy the annual event.

Technical Sessions - Steve Chapkovich has scheduled carburetor service/adjustment for Jan 28 at 7PM and M/C service procedures on Feb 18th at 7PM. Mark your calendars.

Club Clothing - Michael Kimm queried the members as to new items they would like to have. The consensus was for a long sleeve t-shirt with the club emblem, etc. Michael will follow-up on this and see what can be developed

Mileage Contest - The total miles for 1998 need to be turned in to Max Monaco as soon as possible so the results can be tallied. The 1999 mileage start form is in this newsletter. One can make a copy of this form and use it to state the ending miles as well as report the mileage start for 1999.

### Ride Reports since the last meeting:

12/6/98 - Polar Bear ride to Schock's H-D. Seven riders rode more than 65 miles on a round-about route over back roads and had lunch at the Portland Diner.

12/13/98 - Polar Bear ride to Montgomeryville Cycle Center saw a half dozen riders travel Route 309 and other main roads in order to continue their quest for points.

12/20/98 - This Polar Bear ride was also the Toys for Tots event to the Cabin in Freehold. Three vans were filled with toys for the children at Newark's Children's Hospital. Eight Skylands BMW riders enjoyed backroads on a 165 mile round trip ride. This was the largest toy drive yet for the Polar Bear riders - it really made the holidays brighter for these sick children.

12/27/98 - Bobby & Mary's in Piscataway was the destination of this Polar Bear ride. Five Skylands members rode their last ride of 1998 on this day.

January 1, 1999 - This New Year's Day ride was the annual Chilly Chilli Ride. Four Skylands riders braved the cold along with 133 other riders to enjoy this event. A cool, but happy group.

Toronto Motorcycle Show - 4 members drove up to Toronto, Canada where they got to see many motorcycles - some of which are not available in the US, and others that we are waiting to see. It snowed while there, so they were thankful for the dry comfort of 4 wheels to come home in.

### Future Events being planned:

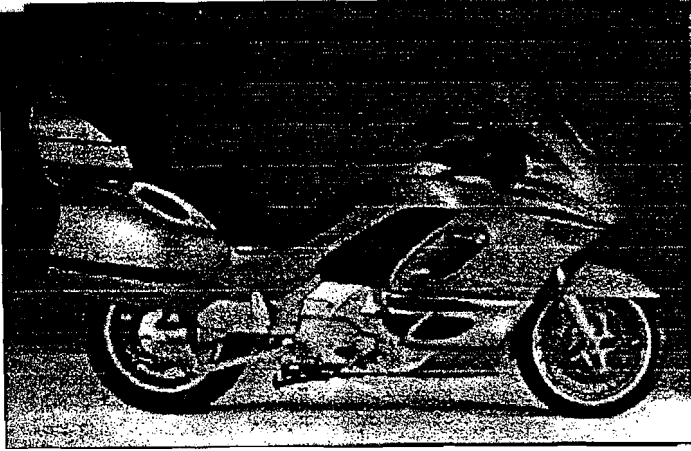
The spring overnight trip and the ERC were mentioned before. More information to come next month.

Vermont getaway: Scheduled for Wednesday 6/1 through Sunday 6/6 is a chance to share a ski lodge with other cyclists. The cost is \$92 for two nights. More information is available from Fred Larcombe. 107 Mill Pond Rd. Belle Mead, NJ 08502 or call (201)804-3012 or via e-mail [flarcombe@rcn.com](mailto:flarcombe@rcn.com). Chip Maxwell has done this before and can add his perspective. This would be a good opportunity to get together with our Vermont member, Bill Koptis.

BMWMOA needs Volunteers: Help is needed for the national rally 7/13 to 7/16 at Rheinbeck, NY. A few hours of your time can make it a great rally for everyone.

Keith Code Riding School: Watkins Glen, NY on September 27 using your own bike & given by Keith Code. The training will be oriented toward performance riding and will be a whole day at the track. If ten members attend, then the normal \$345 cost will be less than \$300, if more attend, then the cost will be even less. Jody Villa is coordinating this event and can answer any questions you may have.

## BMW K1200LT Initial Ride



The BMW K1200LT is a model that has a lot of interest. The official release date has been March 15th, but there are indications that it may arrive in the dealer's showrooms sometime in February. Those who have gone to the Cycle Shows have seen it in person, but very few people have had a chance to ride it yet. The following first ride account appeared on the IBMWR web site and was written by Steve Anderson, the Sales Manager at Morton's BMW where one was displayed during their Open House in December. This is a condensed version made to fit these pages, but with the main points left intact. The model he wrote about was the mid-level version with heated grips, CD changer, and on board computer. The first impression was a big smiley face for the passenger accommodations. Hannah Massey said that it was the most comfortable bike she'd ever ridden as passenger. Overall, it is more comfortable, smoother and better handling than any K tourer made previously.

**ON THE ROAD** - The LT's weight disappears once you are underway - handling is superb. The power is seamless and a quick turn on the throttle will yank you back in the saddle. At 60 mph, the engine is only turning 2700 rpms, at 80 mph it is up to 4000 rpms. No more searching for another gear. With only a few miles on it, the on board computer showed 44-46 mpg. Tight turns could be taken at sport bike speeds without scrapping things. The exhaust note has a rich throaty sound missing from other models.

**RIDING POSITION** - The saddle is very comfortable and the handlebars seem to be in the right position. After awhile he realized there was not any discomfort at all, no pressure on the hands, no noticeable vibration and no wind blast with the windshield up.

**RADIO** - an AM/FM/Cassette that works. It even has a speed sensitive volume control & very good sound quality. The CD changer takes 1/3 of the right bag room and there is a small compartment on top of the tank for tapes, etc.

**LUGGAGE** - The non-removal saddlebags will hold a helmet each and the trunk will hold two. The top case has a light & mirror inside.

**SEAT** - is adjustable by a simple & very effective device.

**DETAILS** - Easier to push around than a K1100LT, seems like a lower center of gravity. The fuel filler is offset on right so bike can be filled on the sidestand. The bike is very easy to put on the centerstand, easier than a K1100LT. The rear lights are trick looking. The whole assembly is red, taillight in the center and flanked by a pair of brake lights. The turn signals are outside the brake lights and flash orange. The on board computer has a handlebar control that lets you cycle through ambient temperature, average mpg, average mph and miles to empty on the current tank. Small clear plastic wings at lower edge of the fairing let you direct air away or towards your leg area. The reverse is activated with a switch and then pressing the starter button. The side bumpers really work and will protect the fairing, mirrors and bags from scuffs.

**SUMMARY** - a big bike that can carry two in comfort and style with power, handling and ABS. A real value for the money.

### POLAR BEAR RIDE CHANGE

The January 31st ride that was scheduled to be Farcher's Grove has been replaced by Sir John's. Farcher's Grove has been sold and closed to make way for other development. In its place will be Sir John's at 230 Washington Place, North Brunswick Township, NJ. Sir John's is located about 1-112 miles south of the Route 1 & Route 130 circle at New Brunswick. From Route 1 take Route 130 south to the 82 mile marker & get in the left lane. At the next traffic light (Washington Place Rd.) turn left and go about 2 blocks & Sir John's is on the right. If traveling north on Route 130, go past the 81 mile marker to the traffic light at Washington Place Rd. & turn right - go two blocks.

### THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

Yes, this was a movie, but most recently it was a magazine cover which featured our own Chuck DeSantis as "The Bad" that got our attention. Check out the cover of the December 1998 issue of the BMW Owner's News and see what we mean. Another way of having fun via motorcycling.

### BMW to be in the Dakar Rally Again

Check your cable listings and/or get on to the internet at [www.dakar.com](http://www.dakar.com) and see what's happening. This annual race started in Paris on January 1 and will end in Dakar, Africa 17 days later. BMW will field four specially prepared F650's to be ridden by Oscar Gallardo of Spain, Jean Brucy of France, Andrea Mayer of Germany and Edi Orioli of Italy. This race is considered the most grueling of any off-road competition. Last year, only one of the F650's finished, but with the experience gained since, the team is confident they will do well this time. In the early 80's, BMW scored multiple wins, but they pulled the factory support after the 1984 win. (I followed the race via the internet last year and found it to be quite enjoyable. Check Speedvision for play time.)