



BMW Club of Houston, LTD

BMW MOA #12
BMW RA #287

Vol. 1, No. 1 February, 2005

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Vacant position

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Courtesies of Group Riding

By Beverly Ruffin

The typical BMW rider has never appeared to me to be a group rider. I have my own opinions of why that is, but that is another article. Nothing I have experienced in my seven plus years of riding has done a thing to change my opinion. Mention *ride marshal* or *riding rules* or *hand signals* and you will quickly be informed that, "this is not a group-riding club." However, there are occasions when we find ourselves doing just that—riding in a group.

So it seems appropriate that we remind ourselves from time to time just what group riding is all about. So here is a list of courtesies (common sense, mostly) for group riding. These came from a variety of sources, including the MSF (Motorcycle Safety Foundation) handbook and my own experiences.

If you coordinate a ride, you are entitled to add your own. Just make sure you communicate these before each ride and that each rider knows how the group will ride.

- **Improve your riding skills** by participating in track days or riding specifically to work on your weak points. The club is not a substitute for the MSF basic and advanced-riders courses.
- **Lead the ride consistently** to minimize the "rubber-band" effect.
- **Ride with the group**, if you are going to ride *in* a group. Each rider has a responsibility to the

group. If you decide to take a side trip, tell the leader.

- **Know your limits** and stay within them. It is not the group's responsibility to ride to your weakness.
- **Dance with the one you came with.** If you bring a beginning rider to the group, stay with that rider.
- **Maintain your motorcycle;** check the oil level, the tire pressure and top the fuel tank before arriving at the starting point.
- **Divide many riders into smaller groups,** and make sure each smaller group has a leader that knows the destination. Riding in a group of more than four motorcycles can become confusing for both the group as well as the traffic.
- **Ride in staggered formation.** The first bike rides on the left side of the lane and the second one on the ride side—but not side by side.
- **Keep a two-second distance** between you

Continued on Page two

Events Calendar

February 2005

3, 17, 24 - Club Social Meeting.

Every Sunday - Breakfast with the Beemers

10th: Club business meeting.

13th: Club Ride. CANCELLED due to weather.

Feb 19, Sat: BMW LUNCH RENDEZVOUS, 11:30 AM, the historic Old Store in Westphalia, TX, 12 miles south of Lott on TX 320, and 20 miles east of Temple, TX. Organized as a statewide event by the BMW Club of Houston and BMWDFW club. In case of cancellation, notice will appear on the www.bmwdfw.org website and a recorded phone message on the BMWDFW hotline, (817) 268-1252.

27th, Sun. Tech Day: 10 a.m. at Murphy's Garage in Pearland, Texas. Participants should bring their own fluids (and be prepared to take the used fluid with them), crush washers (often forgotten) and service manuals. The club will provide a lite lunch and soft drinks. Contact Mike Murphy: bmwmike@direcway.com.

March 2005

Every Sunday - Breakfast with the Beemers.

10th: Club Business Meeting.

13th: Club ride. - TBA

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Annual Advertising Rate for Display Ads

Business Card:	\$100.00
1/4 Page:	\$200.00
1/2 Page:	\$300.00
Full Page	\$400.00

Classified Advertising is free to Houston BMW club Members. Non-members may advertise items for 3 months only.

Submit ads to blackbeemer@fastmail.fm

APRIL 2005

Apr 11
MOA Mileage Contest Begins

Apr 14th: Club Business Meeting, 8:00 PM, Hickory Hollow Restaurant, 101 Heights Blvd, Houston. Members gather around 7:00 PM to eat and socialize before the meeting.

Apr 17, Sun
Monthly Club Ride. To be announced.

Apr 22-24, Fri-Sun
TEXAS NATIONAL BMW RALLY, Lake Belton, Cedar Ridge Park, 10 miles west of Temple, Texas, off TX Hwy. 36. A camping, no frills rally organized by the BMW motorcycle clubs of Texas. For more info, contact Mike Moon (817) 237-6508.

Apr 23, Sat
Lone Star BMW/Triumph Open House, Austin, TX

Group Riding

Continued from page one

and the motorcycle directly in front on you—always.

- **Wait in pairs** at a stop light or stop sign.

- **Pass other vehicles individually**, not in groups or pairs.
- **Agree on the time or distance** to the first stop.
- **Communicate a back-up plan** in case riders in the group become separated. Exchange cell phone numbers in case of emergency.
- **Add rain gear** before it starts to rain, and find a safe location in a parking lot to change.
- **Exit the freeway before stopping.** Find a safe location out of the traffic and never pull onto the shoulder of the roadway as long as the bike is movable.
- **Ride your own ride.** You're responsible for your own safety.

BMW Club of Houston, LTD

Treasurer's Reports

By Charlie Storer, Treasurer

December, 2004

Balance on Dec. 1, 2004 **\$5,994.28**

Receipts
Membership Renewal 67.00
50/50 + Gift Drive 50.00

Total Receipts **\$117.00**

Expenses
Name Tags (18.94)
Christmas Party 2004 (1,177.68)
Total Expenses **(\$1,196.92)**

Balance on December 31, 2004 **\$4,914.66**

November, 2004

Balance on November 1, 2004 **\$6,308.39**

Receipts
T-Shirt Sales 34.00
Dues 42.00
Cash? 80.00
Misc 46.00

Total Receipts **202.00**

Expenses
Club Shirts (69.00)
Rally Plaques (77.72)
Heights Self Storage (190.49)
Postage (25.28)
(62.10)
Club Badges (22.73)
Mail Box Rental (38.00)
Newsletters (26.79)
Bank Fee (4.00)

Total Expenses **(\$516.11)**

Balance on November 30, 2004 **\$5,994.28**

October, 2004

Balance on October 1, 2004 **\$3,918.16**

Receipts
Rally Receipts 8,057.00
Misc Deposit 550.00
Revenue Adjustment 65.44

Total Receipts **\$8,672.44**

Expenses
Club Caps (114.00)
Copies & Postage (172.35)
Internet Service (20.51)
Misc. Rally Expenses (300.61)
Pavillion and Camping (1,724.00)
Rally Catering (2,612.00)
Rally Food (644.74)
Rally Grand Prize (300.00)
Bank Charges (47.00)

Total Expenses **(\$5,935.21)**

Balance on October 31, 2004 **\$6,655.39**

Editor's Corner

Tech Day

Tech Day presented in January by Jesse Murphy and hosted by Mike Murphy was a significant contribution to my knowledge about tires and how to fix a flat. Only a couple of months ago, I was on a solo ride and picked up a nail. Not knowing what to do, I limped home with a leaking tire. Next time I pick up pick up a nail in a tire, I'll know how to handle the situation. Thanks to Jesse and Mike for helping shape a more knowledgeable rider.

Newsletter Articles

Greetings from your new editor. As your new editor, I would like to solicit articles, information or simply letters to the editor, which you would like to submit for publication. For an article to appear in any given month's edition, please submit to the editor's email address on, or before the Friday following the business meeting. Thank you. Robert Cline, Editor: blackbeemer@fastmail.fm

New 48 State Record Holder

By Beverly Ruffin



There is one among us who has just achieved a monumental accomplishment. Morris Kruemcke rode his 2001 Honda GoldWing through the 48 contiguous states in May of last year in the record time of 5 days, 8 hours, 52 minutes beating the record by over 4 hours. Morris' record setting 7,146 mile journey started in Vermont and continued through all 48 states, ending in Oregon. The Iron Butt Association has certified the trip and acknowledged him as the new record holder. Simply amazing.

VP Resigns

Jesse Murphy announced his resignation as Vice President at the February meeting. The primary responsibility of the vice president is to coordinate the annual club rally. Long time club member and past rally chairman, Floyd Crow has agreed to chair the committee for this year's rally.

Jesse was also coordinating the monthly club rides. Sergeant of Arms, Nacho Flores has assumed that responsibility. At this time, there are no plans to name an interim vice president.

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BMW MOA High Mileage Honor Roll 300,000 Miles

Congratulations to club member and current Sergeant at Arms, Ignacio (Nacho) Flores for this recent 300,000 mile award from the BMW MOA. Way to go, Nacho

Rider Safety Presentation

By Robert Cline

MSF Coach, James R. Davis and his associate, Cash Arnold, were generous enough to present to our group on rider safety and "motorcycle tips and techniques" at the February business meeting. James R. Davis has been an MSF Instructor/Coach for a half a dozen years. He and Cash are frequent speakers at motorcycle clubs. Among many other talents, Jim and Cash are both actors, playwrights, film producers and authors. Jim interacted with his audience in a dynamic style that demanded attention. The questions Jim posed were constructed to make the listener think. But, the correct answer was often not the obvious. "Wrong..Dead wrong," Jim would admonish his listeners as he explained why the obvious was so misleading.

Citing the Hurt study, one of the most salient points that Jim made was, that 40% of motorcycle accidents are a single rider accident. It is the rider who loses control in a curve, or simply freezes and runs off the road. This being the single most common cause of accidents makes one wonder. The obvious answer often is "the rider was going too fast." As Keith Code would point out, the rider most likely was not going too fast, plenty of riders could have made that curve much faster. The question may be, do we really know how to control our motorcycles?

Jim hosts an excellent webpage and forum dedicated to motorcycle "tips and techniques." Use the advanced search in Google and type in "motorcycle tips" and "James R Davis," or simply: "www.msgroup.org/TIPS.asp."

Treasurer's Report as of January 31, 2005

By Charlie Storer, Treasurer

Balance on December 31, 2004		\$4,914.66
Receipts		
Membership Dues	\$24.00	
Club Promotional Items	\$28.00	
Total Receipts		\$52.00
Expenses		
Newsletter Copies	(\$164.54)	
Name Tags	(\$18.94)	
Misc.	(\$10.00)	
Christmas Party Expenses	(\$25.97)	
Total Expenses		(\$219.45)
Balance as of January 31, 2004		<u>\$4,747.21</u>

Summary of 2004 Rally Tally

By Charlie Storer, Treasurer

Pre-registration		1,845.00
Rally Receipts		7,733.00
Pavillion & Camping	(1,724.00)	
Catering	(2,612.00)	
Other Rally Food	(644.74)	
Rally Shirts/Pins	(2,750.40)	
Rally Grand Prize	(300.00)	
Music Deposit	(100.00)	
Insurance	(305.00)	
Expenses from July 2004	(216.50)	
Expenses from Oct 2004	(256.92)	
Other Misc Expenses	(300.61)	
		(9,210.17)
Net Rally Profit		<u>\$367.83</u>

New Club Members

The Club would like to welcome seven new members to our roster in February.

Linda Waalen, R1150RT,
281-895-4996

Kirk Holman, R80RT, 713-
299-2301

Herbert Turcios, R1200C,
713-819-3784

Bud Carrigan, K1200RS,
713-829-0911

Joe McAdams, K1200GT,
832-326-6682

Kirby Keele, R1100RT, 281-
991-8441

Michael Frederick, bike not
specified, 361-547-1142

Other Rider News

The club wishes long time club member, Hi Bice, a speedy recovery from his recent surgery.

Thanks Howard Harper for your RA Membership Renewal.

Several BMW Club members are attending the California Superbike School (CSS) in College Station, Texas on March 1 and 2, 2005. If interested in joining our riders at the school, please advise CSS that you are a member of the BMW Club of Houston, LTD. Hope to see you there!

BMW Club of Houston, LTD

Meeting Minutes - February

10, 2005

By Guy Pickrel, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm. The secretary recognized the guests for the evening, which included Linda Waalen, Bob Krogman, Thomas Brandt, Joe McAdams, Emery Ruffin, Herbert Turcios, Bud Carrigan, and Kirk Holman. The treasurer reported the bank account balance to be \$4730.42.

Beverly noted that the club website has been updated and there is now a current calendar. It was mentioned that the updated website does not have a member login feature. The login is no longer required to gain access to all the information on the website. If you pull up the club website and see a member login, you need to refresh the site by typing in bmwclub.org in the address window. Beverly announced that a nominating committee has been named and members include Floyd Crow, Mike Murphy, and Paul Yeager. Robert Cline has taken over as new Newsletter Editor. Ignacio Flores was recognized for successfully riding 300,000 BMW motorcycle miles. Club member Hi Bice is partaking of a brief stay in Memorial Hospital and should be up and around soon.

Jesse Murphy provided an events update and noted that the Piney Woods 500, scheduled for February 13, will be postponed to another day due to bad weather. An email notice will be sent to the members. On February 19, we have the BMW Lunch Rendezvous with the DFW BWM Club in Westphalia, TX. Members agreed to meet on the morning of February 19, 2005, at the truck stop at I-10 and 359 in Brookshire at 8:00 am.

Paul Yeager provided a debriefing of the Legislative Day for motorcyclists. He read a letter from Senator John Lindsay, which reflected the Senator's keen ability to take notes and his skills as a politician to vacillate. Paul will provide more details in the club Newsletter.

New members voted in without opposition. [See Article, page 5, in this issue, "New Club Members."]

Jesse Murphy announced his resignation as Vice President of the BMW Club of Houston because of "other things going on".

Robert Cline introduced James R. Davis and Cash Anthony as our presenters for the evening. The presentation began with a game called Assassin, where 1 of 8 volunteers was assigned to be an assassin and could knock off the others with a wink of the eye. After noting that 40% of all motorcycle accidents were single vehicle incidents, most of which occur at curves, Mr. Davis provided some interesting commentary on motorcycle physics relating to speed, acceleration, weight distribution, and their effects on traction. As originally thought, group riding was not a topic of his presentation.

At the conclusion of Mr. Davis' presentation, a few minutes were provided for club members to comment on Group Rides. Topics included the group riding article that was sent out, how well our club promotes group riding, new member impressions, size of the group (no more than 4 with 2-3 minutes between groups), lead rider's speed (courtesy for the followers), and designating a 'sweep' rider to

Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page six)

bring up the rear (shouldn't leave anyone behind). It was a good discussion that should provide ideas for better organized rides, setting ground rules, and group courtesy.

The total donations for the 50/50 drawing were \$64. Charlie Storer won \$32. The meeting was adjourned.

BMW RA

By Robert C. Cline

Club Affiliation with the BMW RA

As our club's newsletter and website advertises, the Houston BMW Club Ltd. maintains an association with the BMW Riders Association International (RA). The RA requires that the member club have at least five members who are members of the RA for the club to maintain its affiliation and receive benefits with the organization. What does our club benefit from belonging to the RA? The RA publishes club events in the featured section "Rally Map" published in its member publication, "On the Level" (OTL). The RA provides its member clubs free advertising space in one or two publications a year depending upon the size of the article.

RA Member Quota

I recently joined the RA to help our club fulfill its membership quota. I haven't received an OTL yet, so I can't testify as to the other advertised benefits offered by the organization, or on the quality and content of its publication. I'm sure to learn about it over the course of the next year. Currently, our club has met the member quota for the year. If you are a member of the RA already, or would like to join, it would be helpful if you would register at the RA's website to insure that our club (RA charter #287) is credited with your membership. Visit the RA's website: www.bmwra.org.

Beuscher State Park Campout



Bike lineup in front of Beuscher Cabin.



Club member Ben Brandt is digging for something. What is it you are after Ben?

The campout at Beuscher State Park was well attended. The weather could not have been better. The club really owes a special thank you to Fai Jow, who created a fantastic feast for a hungry crowd. Thank you Fai for all the hard work. If you missed Fai's meal, you really missed a treat. It was the best food ever.

BMW Club of Houston, Ltd.
P.O. Box 7542
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Website: bmwclub.org

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Business Meeting - every
2nd Thursday o f the
Month - 8 p.m. - Hickory
Hollow - 101 Heights Blvd.

Social Gathering - every
Thurs. 7 p.m. - Hickory
Hollow.

**Breakfast with the
Beemers** every Sunday 8
a.m. - two locations: (1)
Goode Company Taqueria 4902
Kirby Dr. and (2) Denny's - FM
1960 @ Hwy 290.