



# New Sweden BMW Riders, INC.

## JANUARY 2008

Web Site: [newswedenbmwridders.org](http://newswedenbmwridders.org)  
<http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/groups/nsbmwr>

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### **EX-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

The title of this column says it all. Herb Konrad was elected at our November meeting to lead the club in 2008. Congratulations to Herb (sucker)!

For those of you who missed the November meeting, you missed a lot. We actually had two elections for president. Originally, Don Eilenberger was elected to lead the club. "Hail to the Chief" was hummed as Don returned from "seeing a man about a horse." His term lasted less than three minutes due to a technicality. In my rush to hold the election, I forgot to officially start the meeting. So, the vote did not count. Although we were willing to overlook it, Herb actually volunteered for the position. The meeting was started and Herb was unanimously voted in before he changed his mind.

Chris Alberto resigned as club treasurer and Bill Alford agreed to take over the role. Again, it was a unanimous vote.

Both Joe Molinaro and Nancy Glindmyer retain their roles as vice president and newsletter editor respectfully. Harold Gantz resigned as dealer liaison (but remains as rally co-chairman) and the duties were assigned to the vice president. This is a great role for Joe because of his long-term relationship with DeSimone Motorsports.

A la Hillary Clinton, there have been rumors that my wife will be running for club president in 2009. Martha has asked me to state for the record that she has no club political aspirations.

### ***BMW MOA Helping Hands Recognition***

Speaking of Herb Konrad, I am pleased to announce that he received the BMW MOA Helping Hands award. This award is conveyed by the *BMW MOA* to people "who have gone out of their way to aid a BMW MOA member." You may recall that several months ago some of my column was devoted to Herb's willingness to come to the aid of a rider in need. Those words were taken from the letter I wrote to the BMW MOA to nominate Herb for the award. Pursuing the award was Harold Gantz's and Beemer Al's idea.

### ***Holiday Party Was a Success***

The Buena Tavern in Buena, New Jersey was selected to host our annual Holiday Party and gift grab. Nancy selected this place due to its convenient location and because the food meets Grant's discriminating tastes. The restaurant was just over 50 miles from Cherry Hill, but less than ten miles from Nancy's hometown of Milmay. Needless to say, this limited the alcohol consumed by most of us.

*Zagat's* would describe the place (if there was a *Zagat's* rating) as combining home style food with the ambiance of a VFW hall. While the first two courses made us question not holding the event at Casa Corolla, the main courses and desert were very, very good. Also, the service was attentive.

It was noticed that the new officers did not attend the event and the NFL football remote (the fruitcake of the gift grab) made its ominous reappearance after being absent last year.

Everyone had a great time. Thank you, Nancy for arranging the party!

### ***New Meeting Place***

Due to the lackluster food and the fall off in the quality of service since Camilla (aka “Squeaky”) decided to pursue an education rather than cater to the food and drink needs of dirty old men, the club has decided to move to tastier grazing pastures. Yes, Don, we knew the food was underwhelming. But, we thought that this would be a deterrent to keep more New Jersey Shore Riders from infiltrating our meetings!

Harold Gantz found the Casanova Grill in the Crispin Shopping Center. More information and better directions can be found on the club website (*and in the newsletter*). Harold swears the food is good. The owners are excited to have us. Depending upon how you look at it, BYOB can be good or bad. There is a liquor store next door for those of you who refuse to discuss club matters sober. The January meeting will be a test, so be on your best behavior and come hungry!

### ***Sunday Rides Still Strong***

The Sunday breakfast and Polar Bear rides continue to be popular. However, the two meeting locations and times have created confusion. Therefore, we agreed that both groups will meet at the same place and time. In some cases, we will ride to breakfast together (the Lulu’s riders have agreed to try destinations other than New Hope) and split up afterwards. In other cases, we will go split at the start. Join the *Yahoo!* group to keep abreast of the Sunday news.

### ***NYC Motorcycle Show***

Although the club canceled its Saturday bus trip to the Cycle World International Motorcycle Show due to a lack of interest, there were quite a few NSBMWR who took the opportunity to attend on Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. Joe Molinaro, Cliff the P.I., Alan Murray and Harold Gantz were in attendance. The NJSBMWR club was heavily represented by Don E., Skip Palmer and Dennis Swanson and others. (*It’s not nice to insult members of our sister club, Cole. I don’t think they’re THAT heavy! – ed.*) Several Skylands members were also in attendance.

BMW displayed its new F800GS and the HP2 boxer sports. Leather, tassels, sunglasses and stunt videos were everywhere. Triumph was absent again. The Chinese are making some bikes that look roadworthy and almost lead-free. Ural has kicked it up a notch with brighter new colors and disk brakes. For more information about the show and what you missed, read this month’s NJSBMWR’s newsletter.

See you on the road!

## **RETURNING FROM THE DARK SIDE**

*-- by Bill Alford*

I started riding BMWs in 1984 when I bought a 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary R100RT which, as coincidence would have it, I rode to the very first “Last Chance Rally.” We, my girl friend, I and our traveling companion Steve on his R100 left the Vince Lombardy rest stop after work. Near exit 7 on the Turnpike Steve’s front tire went flat and although Steve was a mechanic in a BMS shop, neither of us had a tube. We called the shop owner and 2 hours later with a new tube in place we were on our way at nearly 9 pm. I don’t recall where the rally was that year, but we didn’t arrive until nearly 10. The chili was still hot and never tasted so good.

In the intervening twenty plus years I’ve had three RTs, two LTs an R80 and a GS that many will remember as “Big Bird.” Before Beemers I’d owned a Cushman, several Vespas, an assortment of Hondas starting with the venerable 305 dream, a Yamaha, even a Puch purchased from Sears, but never a Harley. In fact, I thought the whole mystique that would cause grown men and women to tattoo the name of a Milwaukee vehicle manufacturer on their bodies weird.

But as we get older we sometimes get to thinking about what it might be like to do the things we never got around to – at least the ones we can afford. For me, for some inexplicable reason, I wanted to understand what it was like to own a Harley. I had ridden once between September 2006 and October 2007 – more than a year and I found it harder than I expected to lift my LT from the side stand. Harley’s had lower centers of gravity, right? Should be easier to lift, right? So why not?

The Electra Glide Ultra Classic is one of a group of four “touring” motorcycles that includes the BMW LT, Honda Gold Wing and the Victory Vision. It comes with radio, CB, CD, available guidance (GPS), available XM, intercom, spot lights, a huge tail trunk – lots of stuff, just what I want. On October 22 I traded my LT for the Ultra. I was a happy rider. With a smile I piloted my new Hog home only to discover it was all but impossible to back the bike over the threshold of my garage. “It needs reverse,” said I. I’d already scheduled a return to the dealer to get a shorter windshield so I could see the road ahead, the XM module, a GPS, a heated seat and back rest, so reverse gear would be included. Two days later all was completed. Now I’m really happy. Ready for my first Polar Bear ride to Lewes Delaware.

The next day, on my way down Rt. One I noticed that I had trouble staying in my lane. The bike seemed to wan-

der from side to side. Must be that I'm rusty after a year of not riding. The buffeting over 70 miles an hour must have been caused by the cross wind, so I thought nothing of it. Tuesday, on my way to work on 295 with no wind at all the bike wandered. Wednesday it was a trip to Cape May on 55 that convinced me that wandering back and forth across the lane was genetic. It seems the handle bar faring and somewhat antiquated suspension would always make the bike difficult to handle over 70 miles an hour.

Now as I've said in other writings, I'm a slab rider used to putting a lot of mileage on bikes. Ninety miles round trip to work, fifty miles to Cape May once a week, and fifty miles round trip to Cross Keys airport – all on 295/55/42. I need a bike that can travel comfortably at speeds in excess of 70 mph, and the Ultra wasn't going to do it.

If I had a frame mounted faring it might correct the problem, and Harley does make a frame mounted faring bike called the Road Glide. I was pretty sure that that would solve the buffeting and wandering, but the Road Glide doesn't come with CB which can't be added easily. The bike doesn't come with a tail trunk large enough to hold a laptop or Roadcrafter (a handy place to put your suit when you get to work). I realized it was going to take lots of money to get what I wanted.

Suddenly I had an epiphany. For the short time I had owned the Harley I'd spent a lot of effort and, I don't mind saying, a lot of money, to get a Harley that would work like my old K1200LT. By now, I realized it wasn't going to happen.

So I worked out a deal with DeSimone Motorcycles to trade my Harley for a brand new, 2006\*, K1200LT. I won't, probably can't tell you what this exercise cost me, but it cost a lot, no, more than a lot. And it contributed to making DeSimone Motorsports the largest non-Harley dealer specializing in used Harley's in southern New Jersey.

In the end I will appreciate the LT as I did when it took me to Nova Scotia and North Carolina. The LT is smooth, powerful and fully loaded – the perfect bike for my type of riding. But...it doesn't sound like a Harley.

\*When Main Line BMW closed down, the people clearing out the basement found a brand new, 2006 K1200LT in a crate. This isn't quite as good as finding a 1942 Jeep packed in Cosmoline, but it's close. DeSimone got it, and now it's mine.

#### **NEW MEETING LOCATION (thanks to Harold)**

The next club meeting will be held on Wednesday January 23 at Casanova Grill. Casanova Grill is located on the border of Evesham and Mt. Laurel townships in the Crispin Square Shopping Center. This is at the intersec-

tion of Church Road and Church Street across from Traino's Liquor store. (Casanova Grill is BYOB.) The January 23 meeting is a "test meeting". If those in attendance like the new venue, we will move future club meetings to the Casanova Grill. The business portion of the meeting will start at 7:30 pm. Dinner and socializing start at 6:30 pm. You can check out their web site at [www.casanovagrill.net](http://www.casanovagrill.net). We will be able to order from their dinner menu as well as the lunchtime sandwich menu. I've been told by the Casanova Grill management that they are open to menu suggestions from us if we think their menu is too restrictive or too expensive for our group. Anyway, it's certainly worth a shot to work with these people to establish the Casanova Grill as a future meeting location. Also, the owner is motorcycle friendly and rides when he can get his twenty-five year old Sportster started.

#### ***Directions to Casanova Grill if heading north on Route 73 (from Atco/Berlin):***

Bear right onto Maple Avenue as you approach Marlton. Continue on Maple Avenue just past Greentree Road where the CVS and Rite Aid pharmacies are located. Just after the pharmacies turn left into the Crispin Square Shopping Center and then go right to the short strip of store fronts. Casanova Grill is at the end of the short strip closest to the traffic light.

#### ***Directions to Casanova Grill if heading south on Route 73 (from NJTPK/I-295):***

Turn left onto Church Road across from DeSimone Motorsport. Just after the intersection of Church Road and Academy Drive, turn right into the Crispin Square Shopping Center. If you miss the entrance then turn right at the traffic light in front of the Lukoil gas station (onto Church Street/Maple Ave) and then turn right into Crispin Square Shopping Center. Casanova Grill is at the end of the short strip closest to the traffic light.

#### **CLUB MEMBER NOMINATED AS RA TRUSTEE**

Long-time club member Julia Shirley has been nominated to a position of trustee of the BMW Riders Association. Although Julia is originally from North Jersey and moved to North Carolina several years ago, she's a long-time member of New Sweden and has always been a staunch supporter of our club events. If you belong to the RA you'll receive a ballot in your January magazine. You can also vote on line at [www.bmwra.org/election](http://www.bmwra.org/election). There are seven candidates vying for five positions.

*Our hearts go out to Pete and Sue Stone on the recent death of their son, Bob.*

**COMING EVENTS**

**Sept. 19-21 – 26<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LAST CHANCE RALLY!**

*"Four wheels move the body.  
Two wheels move the soul."*

**NEXT MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 23  
6:30 pm – KICK TIRES & EAT  
MEETING STARTS AT 7:30  
PM**

**CASANOVA GRILL  
230 N. MAPLE AVE.  
MARLTON**