



# THE CENTERLINE

BMW Motorcycle Owners of Georgia, Inc.

December 2004

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**President**

Ian Schmeisser  
770-995-9003  
president@bmwmoga.org

**Secretary**

Bill Moore  
770-761-1939  
secretary@bellsouth.net

**Treasurer**

Tommy Pilgrim  
770-428-0931  
treasurer@bmwmoga.org

**Ride Captains**

Don Montgomery  
404-255-6866  
demonty@aol.com  
Theresa Danbert  
770-388-9991  
Damian Finch  
770-498-6559  
damian@sprintmail.com

**Director**

Walt Sweatt  
828-628-4769  
sweattl@bellsouth.net

**Director**

Karen McEnheimer  
770-979-3871  
kmcenheimer@aol.com

**RallyMaster**

Jane Moore  
770-761-1939  
rallymeister@bmwmoga.org

**Newsletter Editor**

Claudia Griffiths  
404-241-6069 Home  
404-241-6098 Fax  
editor@bmwmoga.org

## The View From Where I Sit...

By Jacqueline Flood

Remember when your Mother told you to make sure you were wearing underwear without holes when you went out? Sage advice that still makes sense.

This is for all ladies who ride a motorcycle as a passenger or driver and any men still reading that would like insight to the inner workings of women's minds. This is not about how you ride, but more along the lines of how you look...and you must look "mahvellous" at all times!

My daughter had been waxing eloquent about thongs one time, so I gave it a shot. Feeling very "girlish," I jumped on my mighty steed and went for a short ride. Two miles down the road the error of my ways was realized and gave a whole new meaning to "riding on the edge."

You may think there's enough to worry about dodging cars at 75 mph and staying focused on the job at hand without worrying about how "sexy" you look or feel. So why bother with pretty things? Heaven forbid you become the "filler" in a car sandwich, but should this happen, you don't want them cutting off your figure enhancing leathers only to uncover Granny drawers! It's also a good idea to make sure our legs are always clean-shaven when we venture out on our bikes.

Say you break a leg and you've let the shaving thing slide because you've man-



The author and her daughter.

aged to get out of wearing pantyhose for 2 or 3 weeks. If they put your leg in a cast for 6 weeks, can you imagine just how badly it's going to hurt when they pull that thing off your hairy leg? We're talking more than 6 o'clock shadow here.

Let me expand on my line of reasoning. I had entered the 22nd Annual True Grits Fun Run dressed as a Triple X Rated Super Bunny. This clever disguise was created for a hundred pound individual to psyche out the competition and look like a 150-pounder. Besides, it was pink and furry and coordinated with the dirty bunny ears already suction-cupped to my helmet. My little Honda NS50 was capable of 65 mph with me on it and going uphill we passed many bikes visibly groaning under their manly riders.

These same people had the potential to whiz past me like freight trains on the downhill sections. I put the chin of my helmet on the handlebars and seldom sat up, thereby keeping the wind resistance low and my speed up. I managed to keep enough distance between us that none of them caught me.

Now you're getting the picture. Super Bunny's on a roll and let me tell you, she's 20 years old again and feeling indestructible. These little bikes are so compact you could easily get 3 abreast in a lane and she's passing on the left and passing on the



At the starting line. Photo courtesy of Steve Smith.

continued on page 6



## Club Events...

*The calendar is current as of the day of publication, but new events are being scheduled all the time. Please check the website at [www.bmwmoa.org](http://www.bmwmoa.org) to see the latest information.*

### **Sunday, December 12th – Antebellum Georgia Club Ride**

Led by Vince Eugenio. Bill Haycock has put a tremendous amount of effort into planning this club ride and it would be a shame to cancel this event, especially with all the interest shown in the ride. We will follow his plan exactly and depart from Granny's Family Restaurant in Pine Mountain Village at 10:00. I expect to be there at 9:00 or so for breakfast.

I know that there has been a lot of discussion lately regarding how we will run rides. For this one, we will be riding as a group at a moderate touring pace, following the no passing rules, and watching for the rider behind you, etc. guideline which I will review again with folks on Sunday. I would suggest that for those that want to ride more briskly, then let's enjoy breakfast together, and then feel free take off at 9:50 or so to ride at a pace more comfortable to you. We will then plan to meet for lunch.

Following is the plan for the ride, as Bill Haycock arranged it:

This ride will focus on West Central Georgia through much of the old south Antebellum region. The roads are very good with little traffic. The location of the ride also gives many club members who live in the eastern and central part of the state a chance to easily get to the departure point. The ride covers about 180 miles of mostly County roads.

The ride will depart from Granny's Family Restaurant, a great little "Mom and Pop" restaurant located on North Main Street on US Highway 27 – near the intersection of CR 18 and US 27 (northwest side of the village). The restaurant opens at 6:00 a.m. ET. The GPS coordinates are: N32 51.989 W84 51.322. Pine Mountain Village can be easily accessed coming off I-185S (Exit 42) and traveling east for nine miles on US 27.

We will depart Pine Mountain and travel south on US 27 a few miles to pick up the great twisty road GA 190. Then, travel east to Manchester, south to Talbotton, Geneva, Buena Vista with a rest stop in Americas, Georgia at a great newly renovated Victorian, turn of the century hotel. The Windsor Hotel is well known for great food and ambiance. This is their web site: <http://www.windsor-amicus.com/>. Jimmy Carter often eats Sunday brunch here!

Departing Americas we will travel a short distance to Andersonville National Historical Site for a lunch stop at the Andersonville Restaurant located on Church Street in Andersonville Village. This restaurant serves fantastic country cooking buffet style!

From Andersonville we will travel to Barnesville to visit the The Old Jail Museum. It is located in the Old Lamar County Courthouse Jail Building. The name Old Jail Museum conjures up images of leg irons and prison uniforms dawning the jail house strips. However, the museum's name can be somewhat misleading. The museum, which contains artifacts dating from the 1800's, operates in the former Lamar County Jail, thus the name Old Jail Museum. Historical documents dating to the early 1800's are also housed at the Old Jail Museum.

At this point the official ride is over. There are many good county roads home for each person to pick from. Have a safe ride home and hope to see you all again on the next "Mid Georgia" ride.

### **Sunday, December 19th – Our Traditionally Disorganized Toy Run**

Make your list. Check it twice. We're heading to Hiwassee whether it's naughty or nice. Tommy Pilgrim's taking us to town!

At 9 a.m. on Sunday, December 19th we'll be taking the toys to fill Sheriff Rudy's Empty Stocking. Right now there's a box at Woolie's & Lynda's, a.k.a. BMW Motorcycles of Atlanta in Marietta and another box at Blue Moon Cycle in Norcross. Please bring unwrapped gifts for kids of all ages to these fine dealers, who have very generously donated space in their showrooms on really short notice.

Most of these gifts will go to children who are at a battered woman's shelter with their mom, and other disadvantaged children around Towns County at Sheriff Eller's discretion. Cash donations are O.K., but nice, safe toys are best for this effort. If the sight of a toy store makes you break out in hives, drop off some cash and we'll do the shopping for you. Christmas wrapping paper and nice bows are also a nice touch if you can spare some. (But do not wrap the gifts, Sheriff Eller's Elves will do that for us).

We will depart from BMW Motorcycles of Atlanta at around 9:00 a.m. or thereabouts (hey...this is disorganized, remember?). If the weather is nice, we're riding...and hauling the toys by truck. If the weather is naughty, you can still ride (hey, we're Beemer pilots!) but we're more than likely going to be driving.

We hope you can come, but even if you can't, please stop by either of the two locations available and drop off a toy or two for some needy children in Towns County, home of the Georgia Mountain Rally. Thanks go out to Tommy Pilgrim for pulling this together at the traditional last minute.

I mean, what are we...organized Harley owners or something? We've been out \*riding\*!!!

## Club Events, continued...

### Saturday, January 8th – Annual Club Banquet

Held this year at the Culinary Institute Banquet Hall at Chattahoochee Technical College, 2680 Gordy Parkway, Marietta, GA 30066. 7:00 p.m. \$15.00 per person – **no paying at the door, please!** BYOB, beer and wine only, please. **All checks must be received no later than December 27th.** Make checks payable to BMW-MOGA, send RSVP with names of those attending & checks to: Kathy Glisson, 2744 Princeton Lane NE, Marietta, GA 30062. **See page 4 for directions, menu, and more details.**

## Other Motorcycle Events...

### Saturday, December 11th – BMW Motorcycles of Atlanta Open House

BMW Motorcycles of Atlanta will have an Open House on Saturday, December 11th from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. There will be plenty of the usual free food and drinks (brats, Wooly chili – mild & killer, burgers, beans, etc.) We will have several factory reps here to discuss Held Gloves, Schuberth helmets, tires, and custom ear plugs. Door prizes and some great Christmas gift ideas along with plenty of discount items. Zach, Hendo, and Travis will be conducting some tech sessions, and a tire plugging contest will be held. Come in for some Holiday fun!! Happy ChristHannaKwanzamas :-). For more details call BMW Motorcycles of Atlanta at 770-984-9844 or 866-984-9844.

## Virtual Vintage Restoration – Once in a Blue Moon

John Landstrom, Blue Moon Cycles proprietor, tells us that there is something rather interesting going on at his website. Point your browser to <http://www.bluemooncycle.com/restoration.htm> and check it out! There's an R60 /2 undergoing restoration and, week-by-week, you can watch it happen.

They're going to start with the teardown and assessment, go through the power train rebuild, wheel relacing, electrical, paint, plating, assembly and so on. John tells us that this is not meant to be a "how to" article, as it would require way too many details for that. Instead he hopes you get some idea of what goes into the restoration process and we hope some of you will be encouraged to undertake a restoration yourself. Or at least understand why it costs so much to do! A pretty cool idea, eh?

## The Totally Random Mileage Contest

By Ian Schmeisser

The BMWMOGA Annual Mileage Contest is coming to a close. It sorta started about January 1st and it will sorta end on Sunday, December 19th...which gives you time to rack up some last-minute miles on the Club Toy Run. Why the 19th? Well...I'm going to be out of town until after the New Year, and I'd like to have some time to get some plaques made for the winner before the Banquet. Hey, if you haven't gotten your miles piled up by now, the best you can do is some laps around 285 anyway!

This year we have a staggering 10 riders in the contest, and while the number may be small, the names include some legendary mileage makers. You know who you are, so get please get your numbers to me (that would be Ian, the mileage wimp) by midnight, 12/19. Hey, you need that plaque to keep your dining room table from wobbling at Christmas dinner.



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# Annual Club Banquet Promises a Gourmet Dinner and Fun!

Come and join the group on Saturday, January 8th at 7:00 p.m. – a luscious, tantalizing menu is planned. The money collected will not only buy your fabulous dinner, but the profits will be donated to the Culinary Institute to benefit the students. BYOB, beer and wine only, please.

### Location

Culinary Institute Banquet Hall  
@ Chattahoochee Technical College  
2680 Gordy Parkway  
Marietta, GA 30066

### Cost

\$15.00 per person. **No paying at the door, please!**  
**All checks must be received no later than December 27th.** Make checks payable to BMWMOGA.  
Send RSVP with names of those attending & checks to:  
Kathy Glisson  
2744 Princeton Lane NE  
Marietta, GA 30062  
For questions, call Kathy at 770-971-2385.

### Directions

Take I-75 to Exit 267A, Canton Road.  
Bear right onto Sandy Plains Rd and drive Northeast for 4.8 miles.  
Turn left onto Gordy Parkway NE and drive North for 0.4 miles  
to 2680 Gordy Pkwy. - Campus is second driveway on the right, past the Aquatic Center.

### To tempt your tastebuds, here is the tentative menu we've got planned...

#### Appetizers

Warm Savory Cheese Cake Torte  
Low Country Cheese Grits with BBQ Shrimp  
Beef Tartar with Mushroom Cream  
Home cured Gravlox on toast points

#### Carving Station

Herb crusted pork roast with rhubarb chutney

#### Salad Station

Mixed baby greens with assorted homemade dressings

#### Chafing Dishes

Mini Elk loafs with sweet onion with red wine jus  
Chicken Prosciutto w/artichokes hearts in white wine sauce  
Roasted winter root vegetables  
Sauté of spinach with garlic, ginger and grape tomatoes  
Gratin of butternut squash

#### Dessert

Spiced Chocolate Molten Cake with raspberry coulis and whipped cream

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- 2004 R1150RS's - \$13,400
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- 2005 F650CSA - 3.9% and \$250 discount
- 2005 F650 GSA and Dakar - 3.9% and \$250 Discount

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# The View From Where I Sit...

*continued from page 1*

right. After about 60 miles, she encountered another NS with a rider not much bigger than herself. He kept backing off in corners, which was annoying because she didn't have enough power to get around him. She waited for the right moment and as he was setting up for a right hand corner, she went on the inside. Unfortunately for Super Bunny, he came over on her and she didn't have the power to scoot forward.

As I was sitting in the road some-



*Off in a cloud of blue smoke!*

what winded another thought occurred to me. If you own a motorcycle equipped with ABS brakes and one with non-ABS brakes, make sure you get it firmly planted in your head ahead of time which bike you're on if you have to brake hard.

When it happens, it happens so fast you would think your thoughts would be a blur, but it's not that way at all. I locked it up; fishtailed and almost got it under control before I hit the wet, muddy grass. That changed the whole complexion of this experience. The bike low-sided and unceremoniously ejected Super Bunny over the handlebars and left me sliding up the hill on my face shield. My alter ego had vanished and left me to deal with consequences. The first of which was seeing the road right under my nose and thinking to myself, "That just messed up a perfectly good face shield!" Followed with a second, more rational thought, "Don't turn your head or you'll lose your chin!"

A fellow I had passed several



*Little bike line up. Photo courtesy of Steve Smith.*

miles back caught up with me and helped me out of the road and onto my feet. He cranked my bike, made sure I was OK and watched a somewhat chagrined Super Bunny lurch off towards the finish, 2 miles down the road.

Luckily I just got banged up and didn't break anything. A trip to the emergency room might have created the need to cut off my armored riding pants thereby exposing formerly white, now beige, ragged cutoff thermal underwear and 2 somewhat furry legs. From where I sit, this all makes a lot of sense. Mother was right!

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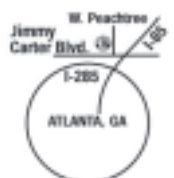
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## Club Election Results Are In!

By Ian Schmeisser

OK...the poll observers have returned, the lawsuits have all been settled, the chads have all been hung. Here are the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Georgia 2005 Board of Directors election results you've been breathlessly awaiting:

President:	Jackie Flood
Vice President:	Jeff Anderson
Road Captain:	Vince Eugenio
Secretary:	Keith Anderson
Treasurer:	Norma Wiles
Director:	Ian Schmeisser
2nd Director:	to be chosen by President Flood

Here is how our club prioritized our charitable giving:

- #1 Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation
- #2 Townes County Sheriff's Empty Stocking Fund
- #3 Susan G. Komen Foundation
- #4 Georgia Council on Child Abuse
- #5 BMWMOA Foundation
- #6 AMA Legislative Support fund
- #7 Rider to Rider

We will be having a transitional Board Meeting soon to make decisions on charitable giving and other matters of import.

Thank you everyone for your participation in the election and congratulations to the winners!



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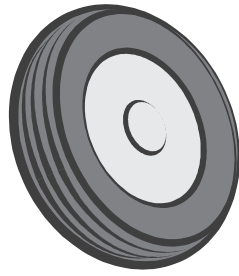
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# SmarTire Tire Tips – Article Three

By John Bolegoh, Technical Services Manager, SmarTire Systems Inc.

*In this third installment, we'll look at air pressure and how it relates to load.*



## The Importance of Tire Pressure on Load

The amount of air pressure that a particular tire requires is based on a combination of factors including the weight of the bike, the type of riding the bike was designed for, the weight of the rider/passenger and any additional gear. All of these factors contribute to load, either in terms of weight or to other load forces such as acceleration, braking or cornering.

It is critical to understand that it is the air pressure inside a tire that enables the tire carcass to support a load. Although the tire carcass and overall structure of the tire has a significant effect on performance, it really is the air pressure inside the tire that provides the tire structure with the ability to support the weight of the bike and rider as well as the cargo, additional passengers, etc.

## Touring Bikes – On the Edge!

Since most touring motorcycles operate at or near their rated load maximums, it is easy to see why maintaining air pressure at proper levels is so important with respect to achieving a tire's rated load carrying capacity.

On a typical touring motorcycle, 4 psi (.275 bar) of air pressure loss is approximately equivalent to losing 60 or 70 pounds (30 kg) of load carrying capacity. This means if a tire's pressure is 36 psi instead of 40 psi, you should take 60 or 70 pounds of load off the motorcycle. This example illustrates how under-inflation by just a few psi can have a huge effect on a bike's load carry capabilities.

## Additional Load Requires More Air

When carrying a passenger or gear, it may be necessary to increase both your front and rear tire pressures to compensate for the additional weight. Motorcycle manufacturers will specify different cold inflation pressures depending on whether the bike is loaded or not. Check the owner's manual or vehicle placard for more information on recommended cold inflation pressures for your particular bike and load.

## Different Tires for Different Loads

Most tire companies offer tires with different load-carrying capacities. Consider carefully the weight of the motorcycle, the weight of any optional equipment and whether it will carry passengers when choosing a tire. Remember, it is possible to overload a tire even though it is the size specified by the motorcycle manufacturer. Maximum load ratings at the specified inflation pressure are marked on the tire and should never be exceeded. Consult with your local dealer for recommendations on the correct tire to suit your riding and load requirements.

## Under-Inflation + Too Much Load = Trouble!

Considering that [surveys indicate that] almost half of all motorcycle tires are under-inflated and many touring bikes are overloaded, this combination can have serious consequences. Riding on under-inflated and overloaded tires will cause steering, handling and braking problems as well as greatly increased tire wear. Also, the heat buildup of riding on under-inflated tires is greatly increased when the tires are also overloaded, causing internal damage that can quickly lead to a complete tire failure.

## Send Us Your Flat Tire Stories!

If you have an interesting story related to a tire problem while riding, we'd love to hear it. Send us your best flat tire story, and I'll compile them into document for future distribution. If we publish it, we'll send you a SmarTire gift and we'll put your name in a draw for a free SmarTire for Motorcycles, Active Tire Pressure Monitoring System. Send your stories to: [tiretips@smartire.com](mailto:tiretips@smartire.com).

In next month's installment, we'll look at some general tire maintenance tips and talk about electronic tire pressure monitoring systems for motorcycles.

John Bolegoh is SmarTire's Technical Services Manager with over 30 years experience in the tire and tire monitoring industries. To contact John with a question, email [tiretips@smartire.com](mailto:tiretips@smartire.com). SmarTire offers the world's first active tire pressure monitoring system for motorcycles. [www.smartire.com](http://www.smartire.com)

## Happy Holidays!

The editor of *The Centerline* and the board of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Georgia would like to wish you and yours a happy and safe holiday season. We hope to see you at the club banquet and other events next year!



## Good Stuff to Buy and Sell...

### **FOR SALE: BMW Motorcycles**

**2002 BMW K1200LTE (Elite)** Champagne 16,900 mi. EXCELLENT CONDITION. BMW warranty until Oct. 12, 2005, heated seats for driver and passenger, heated backrest for passenger, heated grips, BMW intercom system, one headset for open face helmet, cassette player, six disc CD player with two extra CD cartridges, AM/FM stereo radio, Midland CB radio, FRS connection (I will provide the cord for a Kenwood frs), Passenger radio controls, BMW cruise control, electric windshield, bag liners for the saddlebags & top case, cell phone connection (I will provide the cord for Nokia connection), Garmin Navigator GPS connected to the comm system and speaks to the driver, GPS sunvisor, Piai 1100X driving lights mounted underneath the cowling, Thompson 115 air compressor mounted under the seat, Z-Technic passenger arm rest, headlight protector, JPEG's (highway pegs), BMW tank bag made for the LT, sheepskin seat covers (driver, passenger, passenger backrest), BMW K1200LT shop manual on CD and hardcopy, security system, all original bike manuals, Paul Sayegh's LT service DVD parts 1, 2, and 3. All service done per BMW guidelines. \$16,800.00 Contact: Jeff Anderson 770-205-1213 or motojeff@bellsouth.net (12/04)

**1994 K75**, deep red , 42k, just serviced at Atlanta BMW, new battery, soft saddle bags, tank bag and windshield. Excellent looking and running condition. \$3900 OBO. Contact Greg at 404-307-4147. (11/04)

### **FOR SALE: Merchandise**

**2003 Kendon Stand-Up Big Bike Transport.** Dual rail trailer with utility box. Less than 1000 miles! Lists new for \$2,199.00. Utility box \$249.95. East coast freight charge \$200 to \$350. Will sell for \$2,200.00. Serious inquiries please e-mail Andrew for pictures at akfisher@comcast.net. (11/04)

**RT Cee Bailey windshield**, Euro cut #2 ,plus 4 inches, light gray tint, like new \$100, **RT comfort seat**, like new, \$75. Contact Doug at 706/754-1629 or dlongerbone@alltel.net. (11/04)

### **WANTED**

I'm looking to add the following **BestRest products** to my R1100GS. First, I'd like to pickup a Solo or Dual ToolPlate. I need to carry more junk, I mean stuff. I would also like to add a CargoRest, allowing for more rear luggage area. Name your price. Contact Jim Gurney: jgurney1@yahoo.com or 678.557.8765. (10/04)

**Used Clymer Manual** for K75 Bike and a used **windshield and mounts** for a 1994 K75. Contact Greg: 404-307-4147. (9/04)

### ***Classified Ads***

Advertising for motorcycles and related equipment is accepted from BMWMOGA members free of charge. Ads run for four months unless cancelled earlier, and may be repeated. Please send your ad copy to editor@bmwmoga.org.

## **From The Line**

*From the BMWMOGA's online message board, The Line, earlier this year.*

Well, for you folks that missed it I offer my sincere sympathy. Britt & GT opened TWO a couple of weeks early last weekend for a sneak-preview of this year's riding season, and the "happening" was another spectacular success in true TWO fashion.

If you were a manufacturer of sport bikes and wanted a place to show off your line of corner-carvers, what would your first choice of venues be? Mine would be the North Georgia mountains, with TWO as the base camp for the activities. Somehow Buell and Stone Mountain Harley Davidson came to that conclusion and last weekend's event at Suches came to life with the roar of a powerful American V-Twin powerplant.

Now, I'm not one of the HOGs and, in fact, have never ridden a Harley before last weekend. I had all the pre-conceived notions about the "loud pipes guys" that many of us



have but decided that an objective look at the Buells probably couldn't do me any permanent damage. Neither am I a sport bike rider but I thought I'd give that a try too – just for the sake of "diversity" - which seems to be the rage these days. To throw in an extra dose of variety for the mix, Stone Mountain Harley brought a V-Rod and a Sportster to add to the demo line-up.

Between the Buells and the Harleys there were almost 20 bikes available for demo rides and no one had to wait very long to throw a leg over the machine of their choice. The folks from Stone Mountain Harley staffed the demo activities with a little help and guidance from the Buell factory representatives and did a great job of keeping everything moving along in a very professional, safe and enjoyable manner. Those big V-Twins just kept coming and going from the TWO parking lot all day on Saturday and again on Sunday. If/when I ever decide to plunk down some of my

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greenbacks for some of that Milwaukee iron the Stone Mountain boys will surely be on my short list of folks to talk to.

I didn't get to ride the Sportster but I can tell you – especially all you “died in the wool” Harley bashers – that the V-Rod is definitely NOT your father's Harley. It does have the exaggerated, foot-forward cruiser ergonomics but it handles very precisely and the drive-train is “turbine smooth” with a capital T! I rode both the 900 and 1200 Buells and the Blast, which is a really neat little thumper. I rode the “S” models, which provide a more relaxed riding position than the full-on sport bike ergonomics of the “R” models and found them more than comfortable for my riding style. I ain't saying I'd try any IronButt ride on one of these little guys but I believe I could spend a day thrashing around in the twisties without a contiguous appointment at the chiropractor. A “get out of jail free” card, however, might be a handy thing to have in my wallet.

I don't remember the specs on any of the models and I'm certainly not an expert rider but I can assure you, gentle reader, that both the Buells (900 & 1200) and the V-Rod have more than enough power for all but the most aggressive and expert momo pilot. The Buells flick back and forth between the curves effortlessly and provide neck-snapping torque over an extremely wide rpm range. Ditto on the V-Rod for the power and it handles the curves really well as far as I could tell but remember; it's a cruiser.

Anyway, the Buell – Stone Mountain Harley demo weekend at TWO was a really great event. Lots of my pre-conceived notions about the Milwaukee Heavy Iron have disappeared but I still don't like loud pipes. If you hear of something like this happening again I'd recommend that you clear your calendar and do yourself a big favor by checking it out. AND, for all that are already fans of TWO, I'm proud to announce that Britt and GT are back again this year with everything that puts Suches, GA at the very heart of the motorcycle universe.

Thanks again, everyone, for a great weekend.

Buster Moldenhauer

Blue Ridge Parkway speeders are in for steeper fines - now \$500 up from \$150 – if park rangers deem the drivers were causing a serious risk to themselves or others.

Tim Francis, district ranger for the southern portion of the Blue Ridge Parkway, said the new fine is a much-needed deterrent. “Sport bikes are too frequently clocked going ‘triple digit speeds’ on curvy stretches,” Francis said. The top speed Francis recalls is 120 mph.

Last year, rangers were battling a group of professional riders who had a standing challenge to fellow bikers: take the Parkway from Asheville to Swain County, ride the notorious Dragon's Tail in Graham County, and return via the Parkway as quickly as possible.

Francis continued “Some of these guys are good riders and could do it, but it was ruining other people's experience. Visitors come from all over the country for nice leisurely rides, not to watch the races.”

When the \$150 fine seemed too lenient given the speed, rangers required the speeder to appear in court, where a steeper fine could be levied where federal judges were consistently handing down \$500 tickets for aggravated speeding. However this month, US Chief District Court Judge Graham Mullen changed the law, allowing rangers to write speeders up a \$500 ticket per offense on the spot.

The amount of the ticket will be based on the ranger's discretion of the circumstances. Extremely risky driving could earn a \$1,000 fine, as rangers can levy \$500 for speeding and another \$500 for the separate offense of reckless driving. In cases where \$1,000 still doesn't seem like enough, rangers can continue to require the speeder to come to court, were a judge recently handed down a \$1,500 fine. Offenses on the Parkway are heard in federal court, as the Parkway is federal property.

*(Smoky Mountain News)*

**BMW Motorcycle Owners of Georgia**

P. O. Box 1089  
Smyrna, GA 30081-1089

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