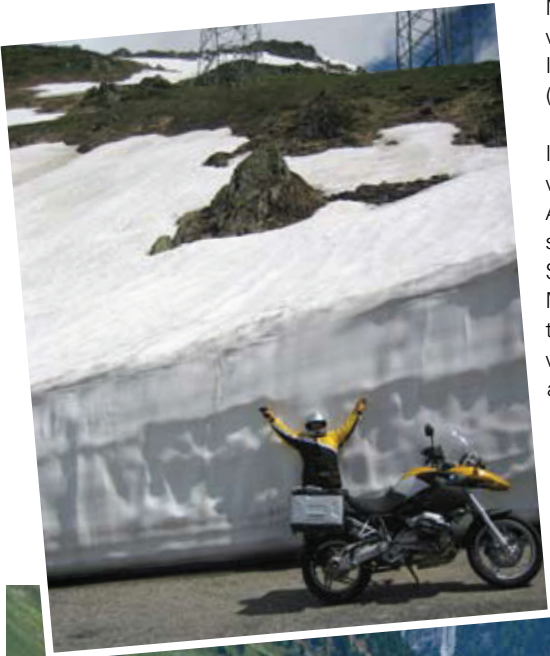




AUGUST 2009 THE CENTERLINE

Monthly newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Georgia, Inc.
CHARTERED BY THE BMW MOTORCYCLE OWNERS OF AMERICA, THE BMW RIDERS ASSOCIATION AND THE AMERICAN MOTORCYCLIST ASSOCIATION

WHAT I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATION *by Bill Carrier*



My brother Ed died unexpectedly last year, he was 58 years old, 2 years older than me. Life IS short. Sometimes you just have to go for it (whatever your IT may be).

I got chatting with my buddy from Boston last winter and we were discussing riding in the Alps. The thought made me a bit giddy. All of the stars were in perfect alignment and it was a GO. Since my wife and I had toured Italy with Beach Motorcycle Adventure (BMCA.com) in 2007, they were the tour group we decided to go with. We abbreviated the tour slightly and had arranged to meet the tour four days in progress in Interlaken, Switzerland. The first day we recovered from jet lag and we rode a gondola to the top of Niederhorn and we were awestruck by the views.

Beach has very open arrangements with their tours; you can ride with a tour leader (usually Rob Beach and all riders can learn something from this guy) or you can ride with someone else or solo. A minimum of three routes per day, all leading to the next hotel are set up in the GPS units with a description of each in the hand out booklet. The only requirement is that you show up for dinner. They have a support van for your luggage and a spare motorcycle.

My everyday ride is a BMW LT; for this trip I requested a 650 GS on Bob Wooldridge's (the owner of BMW of Atlanta) recommendation.

The majority of the group was riding the 1200 GS. The 650 could keep up with the 1200's in the twisties all day long — a very flickable motorcycle.

We began riding on Thursday. We went exploring the area on our bikes. Along the way we visited a BMW shop / café in Thun. The tables & chairs were constructed from motorcycle parts. The apparel shop was quite extensive. Waterfalls were the next attraction. We stopped for lunch by the lake and had an incredible meat and cheese arrangement served on a slice of tree! After that we looped back to stay at

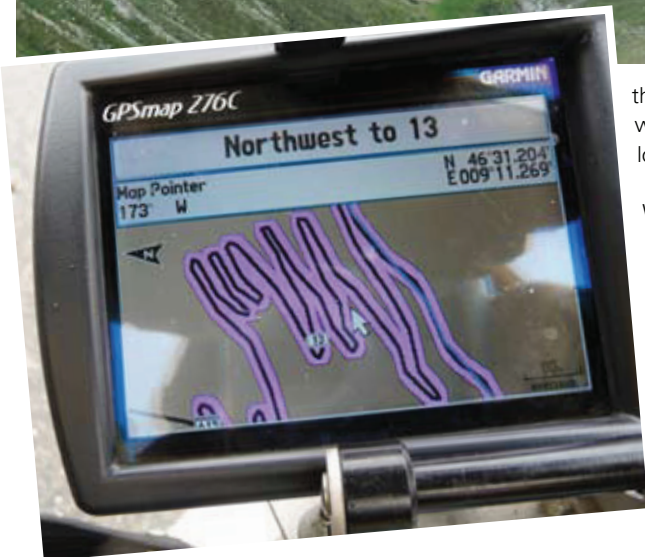
the same hotel again that evening (only happens twice on the trip).

The next day we got into the higher altitudes and played around the snow that we could see in the valley. The giddiness was on overload; I kept hearing laughter in my helmet! I got off of my bike one time and I forgot how to speak English — only laughter came out. I made a vertical snow angel against a 10 foot high snow bank. We rode several passes that day and toured inside a glacier (someone actually took the time to chisel out a tunnel and chamber, very wild). We rode over four passes that day bringing us to Andermatt, Switzerland.

The next day we rode the San Bernardino Pass and then left Switzerland for a while and dipped in Italy. Splügen Pass was the most technically challenging road that I have ever ridden — great fun! (Glad I wasn't on the LT!)

Day four we left Switzerland for good and into Italy. We rode at least six passes that day. At the top of Stelvio Pass, while we were having cappuccino, it started snowing. The temperature indicator on my bike indicated -3.5° C. It was snowing at Gavia Pass also — it was the first day of summer (more laughter in the helmet).

The following day we were off to Arabba, Italy, in the middle of the Dolomites in Northern Italy and we got to play there for two days — very beautiful scenery and challenging passes. A gondola ride at Pordoi Pass was the first thing most of us did that morning. The photos can never do it justice! *continued on page 2*



what's INSIDE

FROM THE PRESIDENT	2
LUCKY OR SCREWED	5
TECH DAY	5
ELECTIONS SUPPLEMENT	5
MOTO DESIGNS, INC	6
DICE RUN FOR ANGEL FLIGHT	7
MO'SKEETER RUN.	8
BARROW CTY POKER RUN	9
MARK YOUR CALENDAR	9

from the PRESIDENT



Dear Club Members,

We have two very important riding opportunities to get behind. Links on the *Forum* will outline the details.

The first ride is SUNDAY, AUGUST 16 to support Angel Flight on behalf of a young child they have been providing services for. This ride is presented by one of our newest members; and, I encourage everyone able, to participate. See: <http://blueknightsgavi.org/Documents/Angel%20Flight%20Ride.pdf> and <http://bmwmoga.info/forum/showthread.php?t=1688> for the details. No pre-registration.

The second ride is the marshaling opportunity at the MS-150 Bicycle Ride. The club was so encouraged by the chance to help out that we rescheduled the September meeting. The ride is SEPTEMBER 12 & 13. There are many details to consider and you MUST make arrangements with the organizer in advance. Please see: <http://bmwmoga.info/forum/showthread.php?t=1685&page=2> This is in MY post on page 2. Make sure that you are willing to comply with their needs and then contact Tom Van Horn to register.

On September 26 another organization, the Motorcycle Tourers Foundation (www.mctourer.com) is hosting a couple of Iron Butt SS1K ride opportunities based here in Georgia (Newnan). This ride has a registration deadline of September 20 and must be handled via their web site and following their rules. See: <http://bmwmoga.info/forum/showthread.php?t=1679> and follow the links to the MTF.

The time and place for the August 30 meeting will come along in a couple of days. Due to the timeliness of the charity rides I wanted to go ahead and get this information out to everyone.

Remember to always ride within your comfort level and ability.

Ride Safely!

Charles Barnard



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continued from page 1

On our way to Austria, we got to do some riding in Slovenia.

There we got to ride some off road (really saturated roads under reconstruction). We rode to the peak of a mountain and the weather broke long enough for us to get off some great photos and then we were in the clouds again. The next few days were spent in Austria and more great roads. On one day, we left the hotel and I immediately remembered that I forgot to check out. I signaled my buddy, he saw me turn around, but I didn't see him again until dinner. We rode the same route, probably 10 minutes apart, but...



On our way to the airport in Munich, we visited the BMW museum. We saw the history of the cars and motorcycles and sat on some of the new bike models.

Sometimes you just have to go for it, and I did. □