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January 1983 Newsletter

Happy New Year Everyone! May I extend to each and every one of you the traditional wishes for the new year, including good health, good luck and prosperity. For club members such as Frank Shirey and Bob & Cindy Peck, good health and good luck are more than time worn messages. For the unemployed members of the club, prosperity is no longer just an empty word. May 1983 be an improvement over 1982 for all of us in every way

CHRISTMAS BANQUET and DECEMBER MEETING: The 1982 Christmas banquet and December meeting were held on December 10th at Billye Super Club. The banquet-meeting was attended by 28 people, including 23 members and 5 guests. In my opinion, the drinks, service and atmosphere (including the music) were above average and the food was superb. (Next time there, I am definitely taking a Ziploc bag to bring home more shrimp. Not that I cheated myself that night by any stretch of the imagination (and my imagination was not the only thing being stretched), but the following day, my taste buds almost cried for more shrimp, roast beef with mashed potatoes and gravy plus red snapper.) At any rate, if anyone left hungry, it was by their own doing. Perhaps that was one of the reasons the meeting was so short - everyone was too bloated to speak. Aside from that fact, the music had started and it was a bit difficult to hear and/or concentrate. I did miss the privacy of the room at the "Harley Motel". What I noticed the most was the emptiness created by not hearing certain voices and not seeing certain faces that I have become accustomed to over the past few years. We received 38 confirmed reservations, yet there were 28 chairs filled. Illness, business, lack of money, bad weather conditions and company arriving accounted for 7 empty chairs. The remaining 3 - who knows? However, having the smaller than expected number of folks there, did have its' compensations. One example was "much more elbow room" per Jim Brower, who did seem to be enjoying his meal (as was everyone else, to the best of my knowledge). The nicest compensation however was the greater odds of winning a door prize. Ed Cook did himself proud by bringing 36 prizes, making it possible for each club member to win at least one, with some members raking in 2 or 3. I was thrilled by mine - diamond earrings could not have made me happier (well, almost). You know at every rally how you have to watch out for the dark-haired grandma hiding behind the trees waiting for you to get out of your hammock so she can grab it for awhile? Relax folks. I won my very own. Thanks Ed. I am so grateful for an item which I think about buying all the time until it is time to pack for the first rally - then I forget about it until I see the first one just hanging between the trees and I instantly realize that the only thing I did not bring was the one thing I wanted the most.

The "grand prize" - The BMW Club Mascot - left the hands of Norm Radtke, the 1981 winner, and now is more than likely being proudly displayed in the home of the 1982 recipient, Jan Smith. Jan actually seemed pleased to have won it! Actually, all of the Smiths did okay prize-wise. Those of us without the name of Smith were beginning to feel like a minority group. Thanks again, Ed!

The 1982 Mileage and States Contest 1st prize winner was Marge Dietz with 19, 012 miles and 19 states. Congratulations Marge! We are sure you enjoyed every mile of every ride. 2nd place in the States Contest went to Huntz Gregory with 13 states and 3rd place was awarded to Ralph St. John with 12 states. Congratulations to both of you! I understand you won no prizes for your efforts, but you already had the biggest prize--getting to see the 13 and 12 states respectively. Keep in mind, the 1983 Mileage and States Contest will begin on April 15th.

To the best of my recollection and/or hearing, there were 3 topics discussed at the meeting.

1. Nomination for Technical Advisor. Ed Sutton, the newest member of our club, was nominated for the office of Technical Advisor. The vote will be taken at the January 11th meeting.

2. 1983 Freeze-out. Don Smith is planning his annual freeze-out, scheduled for February 26th, to be held tentatively at East Harbor State Park, pending facilities available (mainly unavailable). An extremely generous Judy Restelli offered Gayle Snively's backyard for the camping and the house for nature calls, card playing and whatever. Regardless of the site chosen, it would take something drastic to keep me away. It is one of my favorite club events and Don does such a great job each year, you cannot help but enjoy it, or at least get a few laughs (or the flu, whichever comes first). If you have never attended this winter extravaganza, PLEASE give it a shot. (You may want to bring along a few shots for yourself, by the way.) How can you possibly pass up good food, good people and a good time in the great outdoors at such a small price? (Do I hear "very easily" in the background?)

P.S. Don, I really have missed having a couple of beers by the space heater in the little old store in Van Buren. For some reason, that is pure nostalgia for me. I realize I can go there any day of the week and do the same thing, but it would never be the same thing as it is at freeze-out time. And yes, the small motorcycles are coming along!

3. Installation of Officers. President Jim Brower introduced the 1983 officers and wished them all good luck. In case you have forgotten, they are:

<u>President, Jim Merzki</u>	<u>Vice President, Dan Braun</u>
<u>Secretary, Lois Merzki</u>	<u>Treasurer, Gayle Snively</u>
<u>Road Captain, Don Smith</u>	<u>Rally Chairperson, John Annesser</u>
<u>Technical Advisor, ?</u>	<u>Newsletter Editor, Carolyn Fisher</u>

To our 1982 officers, thank you for all your time and efforts.

President, Jim Brower - So relaxed! You could make anyone feel comfortable and yet could really get down to business when it was time to do so. A nice combination of strength and warmth. Vice-President, Ed Cook - You were always ready to provide anything one might need or want and sometimes things one did not even know they needed or wanted. Secretary, Cathy Burmeister - You were extremely efficient, which in my book is the highest compliment one secretary can give another. Treasurer, Gayle Snively - You did such a good job watching the club's monies, you get to do it again. No good-bye to you! Technical Advisor, Dale Foster - You never seem to run out of technical advice and seem to be always trying to better the motorcycle world. I cannot remember a club meeting, whether you were an officer or not, when you did not contribute some thought or message to the members. Newsletter Editor, Dan Braun - You wrote short and sweet letters Dan, but they were always in our mailboxes on time. I hope I can say the same for myself at the end of the year, or for that matter this first month of the year. Rally Chairperson, Frank Shirey - With a lot of odds against you, you still put on one great rally! The sun did shine at really the only time we needed it - the field events. A rally is for seeing old friends and meeting new ones, checking out all the bikes and accessories, telling tales and listening to even more tales, providing everyone with as much comfort and convenience as possible, having some fun and a few laughs, and being able to do all this preferably without hurting the club treasury. You had a rally, Frank. No minor feat, my friend. Road Captain, Norm Radtke Thanks for your assistance at the rally field events and thanks also for the Christmas banquet, which contrary to public opinion, you did indeed arrange. Thanks again to all of you. You gave us another good club year.

So ended the Christmas banquet-meeting. It ended earlier than I had anticipated. Either everyone goes to bed earlier than I do, had someplace else to go, or ? I guess it is me ? that bothers me. Thanks to everyone who did attend. To those who were not there, it is your loss.

Two weeks following the banquet, along came Christmas. Hope everyone had a happy and memorable December 25th. Santa brought me a round-trip plane ticket to Phoenix (actually one of the gifts from my children - and actually I had only asked for a one way ticket), so sometime in the next 2 to 3 months, I will be heading west for a week or so. For what? To see my granddaughter of course!

SUNDAY BREAKFAST: For the remaining Sundays in January, the club breakfast will continue to be held at Max's Restaurant, located on I 280 and Woodville Road at 10:00 A.M. We are always open to suggestions for new places to hold the breakfasts and the locations are changed to accommodate all members in their respective residential areas. Sunday breakfast is a pleasant gathering - you get to know your fellow club members better and bikers from outside our club seem to find their way, by word of mouth from someone or another. Oft times, there is more club business discussed at breakfast than at the club meetings. Right or wrong, it is true! People seem much more relaxed and open. It must be the early morning hour, the coffee, the food -- something! Please try to join in once in awhile if you cannot or do not want to join in regularly. January 2nd, there were 12 folks present for breakfast. On December 26th, there were 14. However, December 26th felt like the "Last Breakfast", as I said good-bye to Merle and Nancy Cunningham and Bob Klear, 3 very special people, 3 very special club members and 3 bikers to the core.

Merle left Toledo just after Thanksgiving to scout around Florida for work, housing etc. He found both, returning to Toledo for Christmas and heading south again on Dec. 27th with more household goods etc. Nancy left Dec. 29th with yet more belongings. She almost got out of town without any problems, but of course that never seems possible. Ray Williams came to her rescue however, replacing a second new starter and repairing the clutch linkage on her van, and away she went.

Merle will be working as General Manager-Owner of a Yamaha-Kawasaki Dealership - Naples Cycles on Davis Blvd., Rt. #84 (Alligator Alley), Naples, Florida, 33942. Merle and Nancy's home address (for the next 6 months at least) is 5245 Caldwell St., Naples, Florida 33942.

Bob Klear left Toledo in October ?, for the same objectives as Merle had. He also returned to Toledo for the holidays and then drove south with Nancy, taking Gina with him for a 2 week vacation and a chance for her to look things over. Nancy was going to leave them in Jacksonville and continue on alone for her new home in Naples.

Bob is employed at the National Synfuel Inc. in Jacksonville, Florida. He gave me an address of 239 Chambliss, Jacksonville, Florida, but I am not positive if that is the address of his employer or his residential address, as he said he was living in temporary quarters. I will clarify that point as soon as possible.

To Merle and Nancy, both very active members in our club, and Bob, not only an active member in our club but one of the founders of our club, we send our love and very best wishes with you. May you all find success and happiness in your new ventures.

It is sad to see such fine people leave us - BUT - they all extended the invitation to "come on down" and "be sure to stop in". So, we all have two more places to visit. By the way Bob, you will be back to stuff the rally packets - right? And Merle and Nancy, my potato chips, pretzels, oatmeal cookies etc. are gone! What do I do now? I know, I'll have some liver and onions! So there! (Private joke, folks!)

CLUB DUES: Now is the time for all good members to pay their club dues. Monies are to be mailed to Gayle Snively, Treasurer, at 3343 Hazelton Drive, Oregon, Ohio 43616. They can also be hand delivered to her at the club meeting, preferably the January 11th meeting. Remember--you voted for an increase in the club dues - \$15.00 per person and \$5.00 for spouse. The absolute deadline for payment is the March 8th meeting. Why not pay early and avoid the rush?

CLUB ROSTER: Please submit any change in name, address or telephone number to me, at any time there is one, so the mailing list is up to date. It is especially important at this time of year because the revised club roster will be distributed as soon as possible following the March meeting. Of course, if you want your name in print, your dues must be paid by that time, as mentioned before.

MISSING PERSONS: Would Darrell and/or Montie Fultz please contact any member of the club immediately in regard to your status in the club. We have neither seen nor heard from either of you since July 1982 in Shreve, Ohio.

MISSING PERSON FOUND: Everyone has been wondering what happened to Conrad Pritscher. According to Dan Braun, he spoke with Conrad a few days ago and Conrad's absence has been due to hospitalization and spine surgery. Dan said Conrad's absence had nothing to do with "the tape"? We are sorry to hear of your illness Conrad, but relieved that we have found you. We wish you a speedy recovery and hope to see you soon. Thanks Dan. Now, if you would tell me about "the tape" sometime?

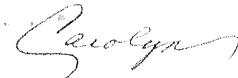
NEWSLETTER: According to my dictionary, the word editor means "one who edits manuscript, copy, etc., for publication". 2. "One in charge of a publication or of one of its' departments" etc. etc. I was elected to be Newsletter Editor for 1983 and by now, you should have figured out what I am about to say. If I edit something or am responsible for the publication of something, I do not necessarily have to compose the something that I am editing. In other words folks -- I want some reporters! I need some reporters! This is not my newsletter - it is our newsletter! With all of the interesting people we have in our club, with all of the different occupations the members of our club have, with all of the trips taken by the members of our club, with all of the hobbies of the members of our club, with all of the accumulated knowledge of the members of our club, with all of the opinions and feelings of the members of our club, I find it impossible to believe that each and every member cannot contribute the something for me to edit and publish. Maybe at the club meetings, there are no officers' reports -- but I feel it should be mandatory in our newsletter. When there is no input put into a newsletter, it turns into "the minutes of the last meeting" and one or two lines of "what's happening in our club". If that is what you want, that is what you will get. I would prefer to do things differently. Send me your articles and I'll let you know if there is a career in writing in your future. Send me a drawing and I'll tell you if you have an art career in your future. (We can always use good cartoons, you know.) Send me a joke! Just send me something! Any comments you wish to have remain anonymous -- so be it! There has to be something you want to say or share. Everyone complained that Dan's newsletters were too short. By now, you are probably complaining that mine is too long. Well, at least you have something different to complain about this month. In all seriousness folks, help give me something to write about or you will be getting my favorite hamburger recipe of the month, tips on tidy needlepoint, instructions on how to redo your kitchen for under \$39.00, a list of the 10 best books I read this month, AND, if worse comes to worse, you will be hearing what new things by granddaughter said and did this month. (That ought to make John Burmeister submit something!)

Gayle Snively came up with an excellent idea. When Ralph St. John was Newsletter Editor, he did profiles on members of the club, which were informative, humorous and good reading material. Gayle suggested we each do profiles on ourselves. These profiles are not strictly for use in the newsletter. I may sneak one or two items of interest out of them to be sure. (Your birthdays for instance -- I do not need the year -- I do not care how old you are. If you want to include the year - fine.) We are interested in your backgrounds, your education, your experiences, your families, your occupations, your hobbies and your knowledge. We are interested in knowing what office you might be qualified to hold and if there is an office you would be interested in holding sometime, by all means speak up! We do not know unless you tell us. Please do not tell us you do not have the time. You do! Please do not tell us you have too many other commitments. Some of us have so many commitments we would not mind being committed -- just for the rest. (English is certainly a strange language.) What are you in this club for if you do not want to participate in it?

Besides not having Merle, Nancy and Bob around this year, it is alleged that we are losing 6 other long time active members in the club. Perhaps we should try to find out why and perhaps even try to get them to stay. We need them! We want them! Connie Williams suggested forming a recruitment committee and I would gladly give her the job, but she is one of the 6 who is not going to join. C'mon Connie, it's your year -- don't leave us now!

I have heard phrases in the wind such as "it's an inactive club", "It's a divided club", "there's too much apathy", "there are too many personality conflicts", "certain people always want their own way" and the great big "I'm tired of doing everything - let somebody else do it". Okay, it is a brand new year with brand new officers and indeed somebody else is going to do it! We are already supporting half the world. Can we not give support to our own club officers and members?

NEXT MEETING: Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 11, 1983 at 8:00 P.M. at the Woodland Estates Mobile Home Park Party House, 28180 Oregon Road. Maps are available upon request. Start the new year right and be there! Please?



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P.S. Rita--I promised you when you voted me into the club that I would never wear green lipstick again. I have kept my promise. Is there anything else I can do that would help?



Carolyn