

Council News

3/07

Newsletter of the International Council of BMW Clubs



The BMW Riders Association at the Biltmore Estate

Autumn-Highlights:

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- **Current Events:** 35th BMW MOA International Rally
- **Report:** Avto klub BMW Slovenija visits BMW in Munich
- **Report:** BMW Art Cars in New Zealand
- **Diary:** Key international events for the BMW Club scene and BMW Mobile Tradition

BMW Riders Association at the Biltmore Estate June 8–10, 2007

The BMW Riders Association (US, etc.) held its annual rally in an unusual venue this year – to say the least. Over 3,000 riders converged on the location in Asheville, North Carolina at the legendary Biltmore Estate. The campground was close upon the sprawling chateau of Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt, the largest home in the US. The grounds were so vast that riders did not need to

leave the rally grounds to take an obligatory tour of the area. There were vineyards, stables, bike paths, rivers and whitewater, plus an elegant hotel on the Estate. Indeed, even the rally closing ceremony and traditional bike line-up was held along the huge mall in front of the main mansion.

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Visit us on our website:
<http://www.bmw-clubs-international.com>

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Dear BMW Club Friends,

Recently I had the privilege to attend the BMW Motorcycle Owner's of America (BMW MOA) 35th Annual Rally in West Bend, Wisconsin, USA, which is the heart of Harley-Davidson country – about 50 kilometers north of Milwaukee. With 7,438 attendees from the America's, Africa, Australia and Europe it is the biggest Club Rally organised by a BMW Club, by making use of their Club Office and volunteers. A report about the MOA Rally 2007 you will find on the following pages.



For me from the Southern tip of Africa it was a true eye-opener. Allow me to explain.

Arriving at West Bend – one of the first motorcycles that caught my eye was a R1200GS with a sidecar. This was a true indicator that I am not at home – and in a different culture. In South Africa – the most popular model is the GS and it is used for commuting, touring and more specifically to explore, including a unique event/rally – called the Great African GS Challenge, – where in 2006 700 GS riders got together to ride in the “bush”. A GS with a sidecar – an alien vehicle!

Rethinking the experience afterwards, I had to acknowledge the importance of the variances and its influence on our different countries and Club “traditions”. This had me look a bit further into the word “tradition”.

According to my Encarta dictionary “tradition” is a custom, an institution, a ritual, a habit, a convention, a practice, a belief or folklore. Asking it to explain Custom or Belief: the definition states that it is a long-established custom or belief, often one that has been handed down from generation to generation, and it is the handing down of customs, practices, and beliefs that are valued by a particular culture. It also defines it as Repetitive behaviour and in psychology terms – an inflexible, stylized, and often repetitive sequence of actions, for example repeated hand-washing that may indicate an obsession.

In our clubs tradition is a core pillar that we have to cultivate in order to hand over to the next generation. We have to ensure that we are able to modernise it and not allow it to be inflexible as per the definition.

This then is a repeated call for your contributions – for the two initiatives from the International Council that will influence our traditions and culture for ourselves and future generations – the new BMW Club identity and the BMW Club survey – and it is critical that you make your contribution by sharing your beliefs, customs and practice with the Council via your delegates and via the survey when it is published.

David de Bruyn
Vice Chairman Motorcycles
International Council of BMW Clubs

Continued from page 01: BMW Riders Association at the Biltmore Estate

BMW Riders Association at the Biltmore Estate June 8–10, 2007

By the staff of "On the Level"

There were BMW bikes as far as the eye could see, with the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains in the neat distance. For the entire four days the famed Blue Ridge Parkway was swarming with our favorite motorcycles. A lone (but much-admired) MZ4



New helmet look

Coupe from BMW of North America held up the car end. The club officers sprung a surprise 20-year tribute to "On the Level" editor Robert Hellman, with contributions from many-year bike press boss Hans Sautter and Motorcycle Chief Designer David Robb. Nearly all the US bike press sent along barbed tributes to the "Chefredakteur", and BMW NA gave him its first "BMW Icon" award.



On the campground

Many former Council participants were at the rally, including Gil Wozniak, Bill Wood, plus former Council Motorcycle Vice-Chairmen Ed Jorgensen and Robert Hellman. But with the weather mostly sunny club politics were secondary. There were antique bike judgings to do, area tours to complete and wine to taste.

Holding the RA Rally at the Biltmore was a new departure for a national BMW club, whose venues usually include fairgrounds or large campgrounds. This was altogether fancier, but no one was heard to complain. This was a hoity-toity event to remember.

Further information

BMW Riders Association International
www.bmwra.org

Annual International Rally in West Bend, Wisconsin

35th BMW MOA International Rally

By Ray Zimmerman, Executive Director of BMW Motorcycle Owners of America

The BMW Motorcycle Owners of America held its annual International Rally in West Bend, Wisconsin from July 12–15, 2007. The Rally had a Bavarian theme replete with German bands, lots of German food and even a living Glockenspiel. Nearly 8,000 BMW riders made the journey from all across the United States, Canada, Mexico and many other locations to include Germany, Japan, Australia, China, Spain and the United Kingdom.



Area of the International Rally

Continued on next page

Continued from page 03: 35th BMW MOA International Rally

The West Bend area was nearly perfect to enjoy one's BMW motorcycle to the fullest. Many of the roads in the area include lots of "twisties". Many of the great roads are in an area known as the Kettle Moraine which was formed by glaciers during the Ice Age. This year's rally is counted among the three largest ever. West Bend attracted 7,875 BMW riders, family and friends. Only Burlington and Lima were larger. Of the registered attendees, 6,186 were male, while 1,689 were female. Of the 5,700+ motorcycles ridden to the rally, 4,960 were BMWs.

The Rally, a favorite venue for BMW motorcyclists, allows riders to get together for camaraderie and friendship. The entertainment at the West Bend Rally was virtually non-stop. A variety of German bands played during the Rally to include both large and small acts. The "Living" Glockenspiel was a big hit.



"Living" Glockenspiel

The group came on stage several times a day and mimicked the movements and sounds of a real glockenspiel. The antics of the group were a real crowd pleaser. This year well over 100 vendors supplied a range of merchandise from helmets to sound systems to boots and everything imaginable for the serious rider. The West Bend Rally also featured dozens of seminars designed to educate rally attendees on a variety of topics. "To foster communication and a sense of family among BMW motorcycle enthusiasts" is the goal of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of America and the 2007 Rally delivered big-time!



BMW Motorrad

BMW Motorrad USA was at the Rally complete with their large "demo bike" trucks. The two semi-truck pack BMW motorcycles for Rally attendees to take a test ride on. The BMW MOA always appreciates the complete participation of BMW Motorrad.



Demo rides

The BMW MOA, Foundation, a non-profit arm of the BMW MOA offered a variety of educational courses to include the Experienced Rider Course, the Seasoned Rider Course and the Accident Scene Management Course. Once again, the Foundation conducted Camp G.E.A.R.S. which is aimed at cultivating younger riders to become the association's leaders of tomorrow. The BMW MOA, headquartered just outside of St. Louis / Missouri is a thirty-five year old association of BMW Motorcycle owners and enthusiasts. The association, officially chartered in 1972, currently has nearly 39,000 members in over 40 countries to include the United States, Canada, Mexico, Europe, Asia, Australia, South America, Great Britain and South Africa. Each year the BMW MOA holds its International Rally in various locations throughout North America. Recent sites include Burlington, VT; Lima, OH; Spokane, WA; Charleston, WV, and Trenton, Ontario, Canada.



BMW Motorcycles

The 2008 Rally will be held at the Cam-Plex in Gillette, Wyoming from July 17th to July 20th. It's not too early to start planning. The BMW MOA officers and staff invite all BMW owners and their quests to attend 2008 event. See you in Wyoming!

Further information

BMW Motorcycles Owners of America
www.bmwmoa.org

BMW Classic and Type Clubs Section at the 35th AvD Oldtimer Grand Prix

BMW Classic and Type Club Meeting at the Nürburgring, August 10–12, 2007

By the OGP Organization Team of the International BMW Classic and Type Clubs Section



Famous Ring weather – fog all around

At the Ring together

There are at least two highlights in each season for the community of the International BMW Classic and Type Clubs Section: the Techno Classica in Essen, where the Clubs start the season in close collaboration and coordination with BMW Mobile Tradition, and the traditional major club meeting – organized independently – which takes place as part of the AvD Oldtimer Grand Prix as an open air highlight at the Nürburgring.

Once again, the 35th AvD Oldtimer Grand-Prix provided an opportunity for the annual BMW Club Driving Safety Training with the subsequent meeting “on the Ring”.

The clubs splashed out and rented a large area in the parking zone A7 where a spacious tent was set up with furniture and its own beer garden. Incidentally, at club events of this kind the catering is always excellent.



Enjoying the sunny weather in the beer garden

False start on Friday

On Friday, the famous Ring weather set in – cold, damp, thick fog. There was standstill on the Ring – for the first time in the history of the OGP, all planned runs and races had to be cancelled. Even the shining yellow and white tent of the BMW Classic and Type Clubs community (blue and white didn't happen to be available)

– at the centre of BMW Club activities for three days – could only be seen in outline. However, the mood of visitors, including BMW Club Driving Safety Training participants, was not affected in the least. There were already a large number of BMW classics to be seen (you just had to get up very close), whose owners had not been put off by the adverse weather conditions.



Many BMW enthusiasts came together

Saturday was sunny

On Saturday and Sunday the weather showed its better side. Over 400 members came from a total of 13 BMW Classic and Type Clubs: they watched training runs and races on the Ring and admired as many as 200 older and more recent club classics of the brands BMW, Glas and Alpina. People talked cars, met with friends and generally had a good time. There were two premieres on Saturday: a staff member of the International BMW Club Office visited our club meeting for the first time – Ms. Dorothee Grau. After the barbecue with music of the seventies, the tent was quickly converted into a garage so as to provide help for a Dutch club colleague whose journey home had been hindered after a few kilometers by a breakdown.

Right in the middle of the action

It should also be mentioned that three drivers who are very involved in Classic and Type Club circles took part in races: Dr. Bernhard Knöchlein (BMW Veteran Club Germany e. V.) successfully participated in the World Sports Car Masters in a Chevron B8, and Dieter Tögel (BMW CSL Drivers Club e. V.) and Axel Hagemann (BMW M1 Club e. V.) entered the Revival of the German Motor Racing Championship 1972–1981 in a BMW 3.0 CSL and a BMW M1 Procar.

Further information

International Council of BMW Clubs –
Classic and Typeclub Section
www.bmw-ctcs.org

“It’s nice to see each other again”

Rally BMW Z1, Z3, Z4, Z8 – 2007

By René Michel, President of the BMW Z3 Club Vierwaldstättersee



BMW Z8 in the side mirror

This year’s BMW Z Rally took Z fans to Andermatt on Sunday, August 19th, 2007. From eight different starting points, Club members guided participants along predetermined routes towards Gotthard. A few BMW dealers started with their customers directly from dealership premises also. It is always possible to travel individually too, of course, and about 25% of participants generally take this option. Once again all BMW Z models (BMW Z1, Z3, Z4 and Z8) were officially invited. As in 2004 and 2005, a back-up program was offered for those who had come a long way. Friends from Germany, Belgium and France made the most of this.



Z parade in Andermatt

Motto

Since the BMW Z3 Club Vierwaldstättersee did not organize a meeting in 2006, the motto of the day was simply “It’s nice to see each other again”. At the destination the vehicles were set up for free inspection according to Z types. Once again, three

attractive entry prizes were awarded. Unfortunately, we were not able to hold the award ceremony as planned and expressing thank to all the club helpers, fans at home and abroad and the BMW dealers actively involved. A storm gathering over the blue and white Z community forced us to speed things up. After the draw and with the storm imminent, we were forced to take our leave hurriedly and embark on the home journey. According to later reports, the various groups experienced different weather conditions. The Z3 Club was certainly able to enjoy several kilometers of open-top driving.



BMW Z4 M Coupé

Conclusion

With 291 BMW Z vehicles in attendance, the expectations of the organizer were not quite fulfilled. A number over 300 would have been preferable. Nonetheless, there were many positive faces so the event will be held again.

BMW Z Convoy 2008

Sunday, August 31st at the 46th BMW Club Europe Meeting in Engelberg (Switzerland).

Further information

BMW Z3 Club Vierwaldstättersee
www.bmwz3club.ch

BMW Club tour to Munich

Avto klub BMW Slovenija visits BMW in Munich

By Tomaž Koštial, Avto klub BMW Slovenija

Avto klub BMW Slovenija was founded in April 2003. Currently there are more than 150 active members. The club started organizing trips to BMW factories in 2004 when the first trip to Dingolfing took place. Since then 6 trips have been organized (including two in 2007) and more than 20 club events altogether. Picnics, panoramic drives, trips, track meetings, etc., just to name a few. This year we decided to head to Munich once again. With the help from Ms. Kati Hockner of the International BMW Club Office, we made arrangements to visit the Munich factory and BMW Mobile Tradition. BMW factory Munich produces the 3 series (limousine and touring) as well as BMW engines (standard and ///M engines). BMW Mobile Tradition is BMW's special division which takes care of the classic BMW models. Their collection consists over 400 BMW cars and motorcycles.

Our trip started on August 3rd at 2 a.m. in Ljubljana. Being the high tourist season we set off a bit earlier in case we got stuck in the infamous "Stau". Fortunately the roads were surprisingly empty so we were in Munich by 8 a.m. This left us a bit of free time since our tour didn't start until 9.30. the time soon passed and we headed towards the factory. We were greeted by the factory guide and were shown a short promotional BMW video. Afterwards we were given headphones and special protective glasses and started our tour. We were shown how the body parts are made from sheets of metal and welded together to form the body of the car. Next the car is taken to the paint shop where it is first cleaned and prepared for painting. BMW uses ostrich feathers to clean the bodies of dust since ostrich feathers attract dust particles due to their negative charge.

After the body is painted, it is sent to the storage. Doors, hood and trunk are removed and returned to the same car at the exactly needed moment later in the production process. When it is time for the car to be assembled, the body is joined with the engine, transmission and complete suspension. This union is called "marriage".

This only leaves for the interior and other finishing parts to be installed. Workers stand on a conveyer belt which moves along with the cars enabling them to do their work while keeping the cars moving. The cars are tilted so workers can fit certain parts (for example exhaust) without having to bend or strain.

After the car is finished, it is put on rollers so they can test that all the systems are working properly. The car is accelerated up to 150 km/h following a predetermined test process. After 2 hours our factory tour was over and we said good-bye to our guide. In our free time after the factory tour we headed to the BMW Museum and the Olympia tower. I highly recommend the eleva-



"4 cylinders" – BMW Headquarters in Munich

tor ride to the top of the tower. The elevator takes the visitors to an altitude of 185,60 m with a speed of 7m/s. The acceleration of the elevator always makes people feel a bit funny in the stomach. But the day was not yet over. At 3 p.m. we started our tour through the BMW Mobile Tradition building. This is only a part of the whole collection but it is incredible nonetheless. There you can see anything from the BMW Dixi model to the cars of today. You can have a close look at the BMW X5 Le Mans (V12, 750 HP), McLaren F1, BMW F1 cars, BMW touring cars as well as all the BMW road cars from the very beginning.

It is not often that you see three BMW 507 roadsters standing next to each other or 9 BMW Art cars. It is like stepping into a time machine. There are cars which are 30 or 40 years old and look brand new as if they only left the factory. The BMW Z1 art car only had 35 km on the dial and it is not much different with the other cars. It would take a lot of pages to list everything we saw.

Perhaps some of them will be put on display in the new BMW Welt building which is being built across the street from the BMW 4 cylinder tower. We will make another trip in October when it is finished to see what it will have to offer and take the opportunity to visit the Dingolfing factory as well.

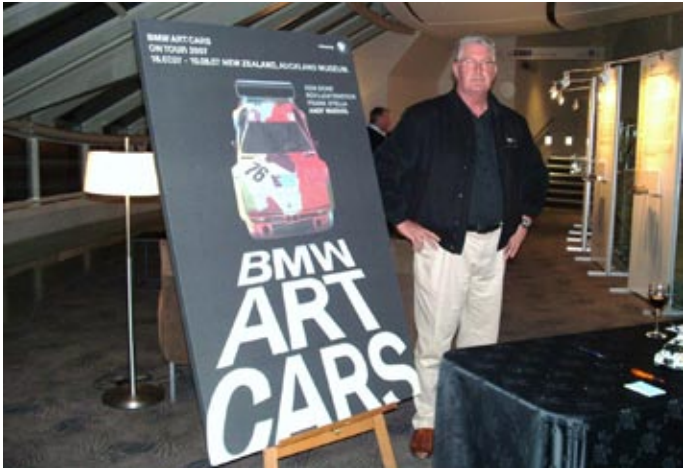
Further information

Avto klub BMW Slovenija
www.bmw-klub.si

BMW Car Club of New Zealand visits the BMW Art Cars exhibition

BMW Art Cars in New Zealand, August 2007

By Zachary Lawrence, BMW Car Club of New Zealand



Gerry Hodges – Delegate in the International Council of BMW Clubs

With much anticipation and fanfare the BMW Art Cars evening attracted one of the largest gatherings ever to a New Zealand BMW Club event. For weeks ahead titillating banners had decorated the streets of Auckland with pictures promoting the Bavarian automotive road show that the Auckland Museum was to display. The venue, the museum's domed events center was a fitting location for such a blend of artistic and engineering flare. The selection of vehicles chosen was equally appropriate as a sample of BMW's greatest competition machinery from an era when novel technical solutions produced gorgeous aesthetic forms to meet stiff competition from other marques. The creative additions of some of the twentieth century's finest artists further added to the dramatic shapes created by the factory.



Ken Done 1989 – BMW M3

The evening was convivially opened with drinks and food provided by BMW New Zealand. The cars themselves sat hunkered close to the floor, accompanied by brief narratives of car and artist. The four cars, an E9 CSL, E21 320, E26 M1 and E30 M3, reflected their artist's styles, influences and even countries of origin with forms as diverse as those of the cars themselves. One could not help but be impressed by the artists work as well as BMW's willingness to commission them and indeed race

a number of them in the artistic liveries, having left them unadorned by the usual and highly lucrative representations of cigarette packets, oil companies and alcoholic beverages.

Not many articles are written that would suggest a race E30 M3 with a vivid depiction of the Australian wilderness could be overwhelmed by other vehicles, however, in this company this most surely was the case. The M1, while not a particularly successful road or race car, at least not in this lofty company, is surely one of the finest automotive forms created, particularly when without racing appendages, a beautiful compromise of Italian flare and Germanic engineering producing a timeless silhouette. With Warhol's asymmetrical brush strokes and organic paint globs this car represents the most unconventional of the art cars present and produced the most challenging artistic comments from the BMW faithful gathered.



Frank Stella 1976 – BMW 3.0 CSL

Perhaps the racing pedigree of the remaining two vehicles resulted in most people present leaning to either the CSL or E21 as their car of choice. Both cars born of aerodynamic engineering venturing to harness brute power represent an era many lament the loss of. Both would cause a stir drably painted in matt black so with costumes of vivid colour and geometric lines these two vehicles certainly stole the show, and how could they not with rear wheels like lawn rollers, huge ducts and spoilers you could land a Cessna on.

While arguments will no doubt be ceaseless the underpinning beauty of the CSL form would be, in the humble opinion of the writer, the star of the show, although as a caveat to this, possibly its uniform was less dramatic. Undoubtedly these vehicles alone would have attracted an automotive crowd regardless of the prowess of the artists that so vividly cloaked them. However the history and well-travelled nature of the "Art Cars" and the collective reputations of the artists made for a very special evening for the BMW Car Club of New Zealand and the enthusiasts it contains.

Further information

BMW Car Club of New Zealand
<http://www.bmwclub.org.nz>

Portrait: BMW Motorcycle Club Hong Kong

BMW Motorcycle Club Hong Kong

By Wilson Cheng, BMW International Clubs Liaison Officer



The BMW Motorcycle Club Hong Kong is a social and recreational club formed in June of 2003. The club consists of a group of BMW Motorrad enthusiasts in Hong Kong and we are proud to be a member of the International Council of BMW Clubs.

The club was formed with the main purpose of promoting rider safety, road awareness and enhancement of riding skills, promoting the enjoyment, sharing of goodwill and fellowship derived from owning a BMW motorcycle and engaging in social, community and other events, which are in harmony with the Club purpose as mentioned above.



AGM ride group photo

The club conducts regularly scheduled group rides around Hong Kong. Our monthly club social evenings allow our members to meet and enjoy the company of fellow riders off the bike. Social awareness is strongly emphasized, and the club has participated in charity and fund-raising events over the past years. Seeing the faces of children's faces light up when they take a short ride on the back of our BMW's during the last two charity rides organized jointly by the Club and the Rotary Club Causeway Bay is priceless! The club also organizes Rider Training days where participants are trained in motorcycle handling at low and high speeds, rider safety and situational awareness. We are very grateful to have the help of the BMW Motorcycle Club (Singapore) to help

us organizing a Trans-Malaysia tour for the past two years and we are in the process of planning another for 2007.



Rider training in Zhuhai International Circuit 2006

The club is constantly working towards establishing a strong bond with the Hong Kong community to promote motorcycling, road safety and the BMW Motorrad brand. Membership is open to all BMW motorcycle owners and BMW motorcycle enthusiasts who share a common interest in the BMW marque, and in promoting fun and safe riding in Hong Kong.

Upcoming Events

October 21–28, 2007 – Trans Malaysia Motorcycle Tour

Please visit our web site: www.bmwridershk.com to see our gallery of images of our events, and our online forum for useful information.

BMW Motorcycle Club Hong Kong

Founded:	2003
Membership:	50
Type of club:	Motorcycle club
Website:	www.bmwridershk.com

Diary

There is still a number of promising events coming up this year which you should definitely not miss. Your event isn't listed yet? Then simply send us the respective information.

You will also find a current calendar of events on our website at www.bmw-clubs-international.com



BMW M Cars on the Bimmerfest 2007 of the BMW Car Club of Indonesia

September	September 01 – 09	BMW Classic – Der Großglockner ruft (A) http://www.grossglocknertreffen.bmwklassiker.com
	September 06 – 09	45 th BMW Club Europa Meeting, Leersum (NL) http://www.bmwclubnederland.nl
	September 07 – 16	RALLYE DE FRANCE (F) http://www.bmw-veteranenclub.de
	September 08 – 09	International BMW 02 Meeting – 40 th anniversary BMW 02 Convertible (D) http://www.bmw-02-club.de/kalender.htm
	September 13 – 23	62 nd International Motor Show Cars (D) http://www.iaa.de
	September 15 – 20	International Council Meeting (A) http://www.bmw-clubs-international.com
	September 28 – 30	Ardennes BMW Biker Meeting (B) http://www.bmw-mc-vl.be
October	September 30 – October 05	BMW CCA Oktoberfest (USA) http://www.bmwcca.org/oktoberfest
	October 13 – 14	Veterama, Mannheim (D) http://www.veterama.de

Further information

All websites given in this newsletter are listed here for quick reference

Clubs:

- www.bmwra.org
- www.bmwmoa.org
- www.bmw-ctcs.org
- www.bmwz3club.ch
- www.bmw-klub.si
- www.bmwclub.org.nz
- www.bmwridershk.com

Events:

- www.grossglocknertreffen.bmwklassiker.com
- www.bmwclubnederland.nl
- www.bmw-veteranenclub.de
- www.bmw-02-club.de/kalender.htm
- www.iaa.de
- www.bmw-mc-vl.be
- www.bmwcca.org/oktoberfest
- www.veterama.de



Winner picture of the "Dynamic Diva" Contest in Indonesia. Photo: Irvien Vedria