

BLACK GOLD BEEMERS

News

2005 May - June

| | |
|--|---|
| HAPPINESS | 1 |
| NEW AEROSTICH / RIDER WEARHOUSE CATALOG | 2 |
| BMW HISTORY QUIZ..... | 2 |
| 2004 BMW R1150RT – THE OWNERSHIP EXPERIENCE ONE YEAR LATER | 3 |
| LOE 1000 - CONTINUED | 4 |
| JOKES | 5 |
| DUCATI DEATH | 5 |
| BIKER HEAVEN | 5 |
| ALL WET | 6 |
| BARGOONS | 6 |
| BGB NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS..... | 6 |

HAPPINESS

Gerry Golany, 2005 AB2K Rallymaster

Many people go about their lives, juggling the routines of family, holding house and home together, paying down that seemingly omnipotent mortgage, and striving to achieve that often-elusive thing called happiness. Now there's an abstract concept!

What does it really take to be happy? Everyone has asked or been asked that question before. Unfortunately, not everyone is able to express or explain a reasonable definition. Why? It is absolutely a different thing to different people. Often times, a different thing to the same person at different times. Since happiness is important to our well being, and the concept so broad and all encompassing, you would tend to think that in this day of technological brilliance and persistent deep analysis of almost every aspect of human existence, some one would have come up with a simple straight forward and universal guide line for the concept that we could all understand and subscribe to.

Alas, it has not happened! Until now, that is.

Many seek, but few find true and ultimate happiness. But now, brought to you by those same people who have given social joy at club meetings and gatherings all over North America, and indeed around the planet,

(Edmonton Black Gold Beemers) comes what can only be viewed as the ultimate, universal method to achieve that utopian state!

By combining several of the most important aspects of human existence, if you follow this simple formula, even YOU can achieve and enjoy the fruits of happiness. Take a little time, say 24 hours, add one of your most treasured and prized possessions, (your motorcycle) and combine the two with a mental and physical challenge that will truly test your metal and aid you in discovering the limits of what is possible.

You can use and apply this formula at any time, and under almost any circumstance, but for those of you who are novices in the endeavour, it is highly recommended that you first attempt this in the company of other like-minded individuals.

Probably the best, and for at least the past decade, one of the most popular venues for this exercise is the ALBERTA 2000. Here, a small group of individuals find happiness at least once each year at a level that supplies their needs, often for months at a time! Still others are so enamoured and overtaken by the sheer joy of it all, that they continue to seek out other similar events throughout the year, and thus by extension, become much happier than most can ever dream of becoming.

BLACK GOLD BEEMERS

News

2005 May – June

If you too dream of achieving this idyllic state, join with me June 17, 18, and 19 for the Tenth running of the world famous ALBERTA 2000 ENDURANCE RIDE. I can guarantee you a fun filled weekend of riding with great people on great roads, and a test of your mental and physical toughness!

NEW AEROSTICH / RIDER WEARHOUSE CATALOG

Tim Yip

The latest Aerostich / RiderWearhouse catalogue is out, now in a larger, more reader-friendly 7-1/4 X 10-3/4 inch format. Likely one of the best mail-order motorcycle accessory companies in North America, the Duluth, Minn.-based business offers a wide range of 'stuff' that makes our riding a better experience.

Interestingly, prices for the legendary Aerostich one-piece riding suit is unchanged at \$727 U.S. Price for the popular Darien jacket is unchanged as well at \$497 U.S. and the companion Darien pants are \$297. Rider Wearhouse also carries the Nolan N100 flip-up helmet (\$217 U.S.) - it has been popular among BGB members but unavailable in Canada for the past two years.

The 195-page colour catalogue covers luggage, electronics, books and just about anything else you think you might need to ride. It can be ordered free through Rider Wearhouse's website: www.aerostich.com or by telephoning 218.722.1927.

BMW HISTORY QUIZ

Barbara Peter

Try your hand at answering the following questions and then comparing results with your fellow riders.

Q: What was the name of the first BMW motorcycle?

- R23
- M2 B15
- R32
- R100

Q: The BMW Boxer has what kind of engine?

- Single-Cylinder
- V-Twin
- Flat-Twin
- Flat-Four

Q: What does the BMW emblem symbolize?

- Boxer
- Spinning Propeller
- Wheel
- Piston

Q: What was the first thing BMW built?

- Cars
- Motorcycles
- Motorcycle Engines
- Aircraft Engines

BLACK GOLD BEEMERS

News

2005 May – June

Q: What does the R in R100 stand for?

- Radial
- Rad
- Round
- Reliable

Q: In what year was the first BMW introduced?

- 1903
- 1913
- 1923
- 1933

Q: Which of the following is not made by BMW?

- R-Bikes
- K-Bikes
- Funduro
- J-Bikes

Q: What is a term used for a BMW motorcycle?

- Beemer
- Bammer
- Bummer
- Bimmer

Q: Which motorcycle manufacturer first used ABS?

- Honda
- H-D
- Triumph
- BMW

Q: BMW discontinued the old-style boxers in about what year?

- 1985
- 1990
- 1995
- 1997

2004 BMW R1150RT – THE OWNERSHIP EXPERIENCE ONE YEAR LATER

Tim Yip

After five seasons deliriously happy with a Honda ST1100A and one intense season mostly (you know what I mean) aboard an ST1300A, my decision last year to buy a BMW R1150RT was made after much deliberation. Truth be told, it took me most of last year's riding season and almost 17,000 kilometres to conclude I had made the right decision. Apparently, buyer's remorse is common among those who have purchased BMWs for the first time, according to Norm Wells, BMW Canada spokesperson. Chatting with Norm last fall, he said it takes many new BMW owners some months for them to appreciate the capabilities of the motorcycle; that was certainly true in my case.

I found the first few weeks of riding the RT enjoyable, because I was riding a new bike. How much fun is THAT? Lots, of course. But I was frustrated that I could not seem to operate

BLACK GOLD BEEMERS

News

2005 May – June

the bike smoothly at low speeds. One day while washing the bike I noticed the adjustable levers had been set at the maximum distance. And yes, I had read the owner's manual but never thought to check how my bike had been delivered. Stupid me. Once I adjusted the levers for my hand size, low speed operation became a 'doddle' as our Brit friends say.

With 20,000 kilometres on the clock, the 'old' Bee Em is FINALLY able to rev. While it's no Honda V-four, it revs much easier than it did when new and the bike is getting better gas mileage. At the end of the riding season last year, the bike averaged 50.4 mpg (5.6 l/100 km) for the first 17,000 kilometres. For the quick run to Hyder, AK. at the end of May, running at 'elevated' speeds with Harold Beaton and Norma Beck on their K1200RS, the RT averaged a surprisingly good 53.6 mpg. Comfort is a personal thing, but the RT's slightly more upright riding position (compared to both STs) and superior (for me) BMW Comfort Saddle makes the RT a better touring bike for me. BMW's suspension also seems to give a superior ride, and there is no question that the RT's fairing gives better weather protection than either the ST1100 (even with fairing extenders) or the ST1300.

Apart from the expense of maintenance (something I expected when I chose the RT), the Bee Em has turned out to be a remarkably competent touring bike. If I had to choose a bike to ride to Newfoundland tomorrow, I wouldn't hesitate selecting the R1150RT for grand touring. Still, I hear BMW's new R1200RT is even better. Hmmm.....

LOE 1000 - CONTINUED

Wil Wosar, News Rider

As I mentioned in the 2005 May 11th newsletter I had made my way down to Albuquerque New Mexico in October of 2004 to participate in the

Land of Enchantment 1000. I apparently took on some bad fuel in a quaint little shuttle stop named Cuba, about 90 miles northeast of my destination. After about five minutes down the road and a big puff of white smoke I came to an unceremonious halt. I eventually got towed into Albuquerque – but not without greater folly. That story is to be told another time, as it was a completely separate adventure deserving of its own article.

Cell service had been spotty all day and my luck was not about to change until a while down the road. After finally getting back into a zone during the tow trip where cell service was available, I managed to contact Jeffrey Foster, organizer and part Rallymaster for the event. He told me that a "Jerry" was to meet me at the bike shop where I was to have had some work done before the tech inspection that evening – which I was now to going to miss and would have failed anyway – as a running bike is prerequisite to actually participating in the event...!!!

I met Jerry at the shop and after unloading the bike he did what might have been expected but it surprised me nonetheless. After inviting me to stay at his place I decided instead to stay at a hotel that would be close to the motorcycle shop where the mighty (useless) Cavalcade was parked. He understood, was not insulted, and helped me find a clean, affordable place that became my HQ for the next week.

He told me he would pick me up in the morning and help me with the breakdown issue. Saturday A.M. we went down the shop and they immediately told me it would have to be towed to their sister shop that did Suzuki work. The mechanics didn't care what my dilemma was as nothing was going to get done until Monday.

As Jerry and I had discussed the night before we were to go out to the rally site on the south outskirts of the city. Instead we head north and he informs me we need to make a quick stop at

BLACK GOLD BEEMERS

News

2005 May – June

his place, me thinking he needed to pick something up that he had forgotten.

When he arrived at his place I was delighted to find a lovely little country locale complete with many shade trees, penned chickens, peacocks, and the quintessential set of his and hers dogs. A number of garages used as different workshops dotted the property and we walked towards one near the house and opened the overhead door.

“Which one do you want...?”, he asked, ...the Road King or the LT...?”

My brain screamed, “Oh, oh, oh...Mister Kotter, Mister Kotter” and my arm grew five feet as it reached out and touched the K1100LT.

A swell of joy rose in me and I hoped it would take a week to fix my Suzuki. I then proceeded to make that LT proud of me for the next five days as I rode it over a good chunk of New Mexico and pretended to be a tourist – albeit with a big grin on my face.

Electronically configurable windshields should be standard on any bike – after having experienced the difference it is hard to understand why the option doesn’t exist on all brands. There was of course that buzzy feel to the Bee Em that all owners talk about but the handling capabilities and sheer roll up power in most gears made me overlook any misgivings I had about noise or vibrations.

New Mexico is a remarkable state in terms of sheer spectacle from the behind the shield and is truly a ‘land of enchantment’. The average temperatures are akin to Alberta’s despite being at lower latitudes – elevations see to that at all times. Albuquerque sits at 6,000 feet and short trips out of the city for a couple of hours saw me get to close to 10,000 feet.

Not many people would lend you their \$20,000 bike having only met you less than 24 hours

earlier. As I mentioned in a previous article Jerry is now a ‘friend for life’.

JOKES

Ducati Death

This big bad drunk biker with a big H-D tattoo on his arm was at a big rally. He walks up to a dude on a Kawasaki and knocks him over then asks him, "Who makes the best bikes?" ... the Kawasaki dude says, "Harley...sir."

Then he walks up to a guy polishing his Honda, twists his arm and asks, "Who makes the best bikes?"... The Honda guy cries, "Harley of course."

He then staggers up to a rider standing by his Ducati and yells in his face, "Who makes the best bikes?" The Ducati rider flips the drunken biker then kicks him in the gut. After that he knocked his teeth out.

The drunken biker gradually gets to his knees and says to the Ducati rider, "You don't have to get so pissed off just because you don't know the answer!"

Biker Heaven

Recently killed by separate left-turning cages, Trog, Grody, and Animal were waiting for entrance into Heaven. St. Peter walked up to Trog and asked, "How many times did you cheat on your wife, and remember, I will know the truth." Trog thought for a moment and replied, "Well, sir, it must be around 40 times." "Fine," said St. Peter, "you may enter Heaven but you will be riding that little green Suzuki over there."

St. Peter approached Grody and asked the same question. Grody answered, "Sir, I do believe it couldn't have been more than 20 times." "Good," said St. Peter, "you may enter Heaven, also, and you will be riding the red 600 Kawasaki."

BLACK GOLD BEEMERS

News

2005 May – June

St. Peter stepped up to Animal and repeated the question. Without pause, Animal answered, "Never!" St. Peter peered at him quizzically and said, "Never?" "I have never been unfaithful to my wife, sir" he replied. "Excellent," stated St. Peter. "You may enter Heaven and you will be riding that gold-chromed custom Road King over there."

Grinning from ear to ear, Animal approaches the bike, but when he reaches the exquisite showpiece, he suddenly lays his head on the tank and begins to cry. St. Peter rushes over and asks,

"What's the matter? You have never cheated on you wife, you've gained entrance into Heaven, and you will be riding the bike of your dreams, with no breakdowns, for the rest of eternity."

Animal replied between sobs, "See that woman over there on the old beat-up Vespa? That's my wife!"

All Wet

A man is stranded on a desert island, all -alone for ten years. One day, he sees a speck in the horizon. He thinks to himself, "It's not a ship." The speck gets a little closer and he thinks, "It's not a boat." The speck gets even closer and he thinks, "It's not a raft."

Then, out of the surf comes this gorgeous blonde woman, wearing a wet suit and scuba gear. She comes up to the guy and she says, "How long has it been since you've had a cigarette?"

"Ten years!" he says.

She reaches over, unzips a waterproof pocket on her left sleeve and pulls out a pack of fresh cigarettes. He takes one, lights it, takes a long drag and says, "Man, oh man! That is good!"

Then she asks, "How long has it been since you've had a drink of whiskey?"

He replies, "Ten years!"

She reaches over, unzips her waterproof pocket on the right, pulls out a flask and gives it to him. He takes a long swig and says, "Wow, that's fantastic!"

Then she starts unzipping this long zipper that runs down the front of her wet suit and she says to him, "And how long has it been since you've had some REAL fun?"

And the man replies, "My God! Don't tell me you've got a motorcycle in there!"

BARGOONS

- Lu Carbyn wants to sell his 1983 Honda 650, excellent condition. Asking \$1900. Low mileage
Please call 481-2274
 - Brian H. – do you still have your bike trailer for sale?
 - Darrin L. – are those PIAAs still a hot item?
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BGB NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Please submit anything and often to 'waw@ckua.org' or 'waaw@shaw.ca'.