

'Twas the night before Christmas... sort of.

By: *Clement Clarke Moore*

Tweaked by: *G.A.W.*

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the garage not a tool was stirring, not even a battery tender. The Gortex boots were hung by the chimney with care, in hopes that Max Friz soon would be there.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds, while visions of Belstaf & FirstGear danced in their heads. And Mama in her 'Shoei, and I in my Schuberth, had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap.

When out on the roof there arose such a clatter, I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a K12GT, tore open the shutter, and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow gave the lustre of midday to objects below, when, what to my wondering eyes should appear, but a miniature sidecar and eight tiny BMW's.

With a little old rider, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be Max Friz. More rapid than a Harley, his courses they came, and he Beeped and shouted and called them by name:

“Now R32! Now R69!
Now, R90/6 and R80GS!
On, K100! On, K75!
On, R11RS and 1150RT!
To the top of the porch!
To the top of the wall!
Now Accelerate away! Accelerate away!
Accelerate away all!”

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, when they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky so up to the house-top the courses they flew, with the sidecar full of accesories, and Max Friz too.

Night before... Continued on page 5

Editor: Art Wheeler
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Cover: Santa? 60% left, 10% right, & 30% on the line.

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Submission's

Please send all submission's to the Editor's email address at left. For snail mail please call for instructions. MS Word, Apple Works, & text files are the best. Photos, send the originals and I will scan it, or .jpg, .gif, or .tiff. If you are unsure about file type or photos give the Editor a call or email first. ***You can't blame me for any mistakes, if I have to type it.*** **Deadlines** are Feb 1st, Apr 1st, Jun 1st, Aug 1st, and Oct 1st.

Events Calendar:

Events Director: Jeff Ackerman

Phone: (314) 838-2161

Winter 2003/2004

email: Mary.Ackerman@worldnet.att.net

Note: The Motorcycle Show isn't coming to St. Louis this year. The closest location will be in Chicago on Feb. 6-8. Let your events director know if you are interested in making a group trip to see it.

* **December 5: Christmas Party from 7 to 11 PM at Catering to You (same place as the last several years) 12775 New Halls Ferry Rd.; 314-839-3244, Check the last newsletter for more info. RSVP with Jim Shaw (314-521-0341) by Nov. 19, so he can get an accurate head count. \$10 for members/\$20 for guests this year.**

Dec. 13: BMW of St. Louis Customer Appreciation Open House and Christmas Party; 10 am to 4 pm; Goodies plus discounts on parts and accessories 314-531-4010

* **Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Party – Celebrate 2004 with Pete and Sally; 832 Garonne, off of La Bonne Pkwy. See map on right below. 636-256-3306 - Show up at 8 pm (or later) and bring your favorite snacks; beer and soda provided plus champagne at Midnight**



**Valentines Day
at the Small's**



**New Year Eve
at Pete & Sally's
House**

* **January 21: Wednesday General Meeting at Culpeppers, located at 312 S. Kirkwood (Lindbergh) in Kirkwood. Arrive no later than 6:30 if you plan on eating. Meeting starts at 7:30 sharp. 821-7322**

* **Jan. 24/25: Blue Nose Campout at Pierre Marquette park (get reservations early if you want a cabin or to stay in the Lodge; 618-786-3323); Jim Shaw (314-521-0341) Feb 21/22 is the alternate if the weather is really bad (not just a little cold).**

* **Feb. 1: Super Bowl Party at Bill & Judy Graham's; watch the game on their big screen TV. Bring snacks and your favorite beverage. The game starts in the late afternoon again, show up 1 hr. before game time for pre-game festivities. 12334 Trearcy Ln. (off Ballas, north of Manchester), 314- 821-7287**

* **Feb. 14: Valentine's Day party at the Small's, Show up after 3 pm. Bring a snack plus your favorite photos. Beer and soda to be provided. 24 Wydown Terrace (see map on left above) 314-727-1466**

* **Feb. 18: Wednesday General Meeting at the NEW LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED
Arrive no later than 6:30 if you plan on eating. Meeting starts at 7:30 sharp.**

* **Feb. 22: "Woo's Folly" ride to Diamond Mineral Springs. Meet on the east side of the Home Depot between New Halls Ferry & Old Halls Ferry on the south side of I270 in North County at 9:00 AM/Leave 9:30 (weather permitting) Jeff Ackerman 314-838-2161**

* Events that are starred are point events. BMW rallies greater than 500 miles away are point rides, even if not listed. Note: See the MOA magazine or website: www.bmwmoa.org for more Rally information.

Musings from Marilyn

The 2003 Falling Leaf Rally

Story & Photos By: Marilyn Roberts

All was hunky-dory once I convinced the overzealous gate crew that I really would pay my way into the rally



The Author enjoying the fruits of the rally. The caramel coated fruit.

if I were allowed to pass by them without an armband and enter the Lion's Den via the back door. I must have looked like a dishonest rally worker hell-bent on slipping past registration even though I was going to spend some time working there.

On my way to the back of the Lions Den I noticed more vendors than usual. Larry can correct me but I'd say there were in the neighborhood of 16 or 17 vendors selling everything from bullet holes to jackets. We must be doing something right to attract this number of vendors. Perhaps it has something to do with our growing attendance numbers, which this year was 809. It didn't seem like there were that many people on the grounds because there was quite a bit of empty space up on the hill.

Russian rider Vladimir, from Belarus, arrived early Friday evening. Vladimir is panhandling his way around the world staying with those who will have him and soliciting gas money wherever he stops. This sounds like a shameful situation but it really isn't. Folks like Helge Pedersen and Benka Pulko travel the world with sophisticated sponsorship; Vladimir gets money elsewhere and his travels are no less amazing than Pedersen's or Pulko's, especially considering that Vladimir is deaf and he doesn't ride a fancy BMW. Vladimir stuck photos and a map of his trip to the Lions Den wall and began interacting with rally-goers via hand gestures and pre-printed written

notes. Even though he is Russian, I think he reads English. I saw him sound asleep in the Lions Den with an ON in front of him.

Outside, Vladimir's bike attracted a crowd of its own. It was a 350 Jawa covered in decals and dirt from all over the world. Only a small portion of the windscreen was free of decals and that was at the very top where he looked through it. I am writing this paragraph in past tense because a week after the rally Vladimir was struck by a truck in Illinois and found himself in the hospital



Rally Master Larry.



Vladimir's Jawa 350.

with two broken legs and a broken hip. His bike is toast and I understand that there is a movement afoot to secure a BMW for him to use when he leaves the hospital. To keep tabs on this, talk to Honz at Prestige (now known as BMW Motorcycles of St. Louis).

Near 10 p.m. when the gate crew was about to hand over duties to the auxiliary police, a pickup truck that was inside the gate backed over one of our signs and then stopped crosswise in the drive, all but blocking the ingress and egress of bikes. It seems the driver had been inside the gate without a wristband for about 2 hours because she was going to meet someone (maybe I'll



Pete playing with fire.

up, but also the gate. Knowing that there were several girl riders available I thought it would be cool if we worked the gate together. Saturday afternoon, four of us girls manned the "All Girl Gate." Beth Foristall, Mary Ackerman, Sally Fisher and I donned orange vests and threatened to do strip searches. Next year we want to do this job right and have matching girlie outfits and wear our wristbands around our ankles. Well, maybe matching outfits, and not necessarily girlie outfits... it might be cold. We noticed a phenomenon. Cars would pull into the drive, look at us and turn around and leave. Sometimes the cars would stop on the side of the road to snap pictures, and then go on. There were too many of these incidents to be coincidence. Maybe if we wore those girlie outfits....



just seconds after Pete was playing with the fire.

try that excuse next year). Haugen went to the driver's window to check out the young lady wearing a cowboy hat. Eventually most of the males hanging around the gate were over there, too, and there was a lot of giggling going on. Turns out that the lady, who was somewhat pickled to say the least, was looking for "a decent man." She had "been looking for a decent man for 43 years" and had not found one yet. I informed her that she was in the wrong place to find one of those (ha ha, just kidding, I think). Haugen pointed out that Mitch Baker is

a banker and the cowgirl's eyes lit up. The mere mention of a bank made her forget everyone else and she made a date to meet Mitch at the gate at 10 a.m. the next morning. Do you think Mitch kept that date?

Saturday I wandered up the hill and found Paul Glaves coming down the hill. Both of us own a K75 and an R1150R and I was glad to hear that Paul feels very ergonomically comfortable on his K but is still trying to get his R comfy using aftermarket products. I learned that we both love our R1150Rs but we haven't yet gotten them to fit us like our Ks do. Paul's K75, which he rode to the rally, has 343,000 miles on it. Voni's R1100RS, sitting right next to Paul's K75, had over 300,000 miles on the clock. Gosh, at 62,000 miles my K75 is just a baby.

This year I decided to expand volunteer duties, and work not only the hot dog roast, registration and clean-

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Sunday was a beautiful fall day and a wonderful day to take the long way home, but by the time I neared home I was ready to put away the bike for the day.



Billy Graham, aka Buzz Aldrin from NASA.

The three accidents during the rally were unnerving enough but I witnessed the aftermath of another on the way home. A Harley rider with a female passenger attempted to pass a car on a Hwy. 94 curve a couple miles west of Hwy. D and hit a Jeep Cherokee head on. And if that wasn't enough, the Harley rider was also run over by the car he was passing. I came upon the grizzly scene not 2 minutes after it happened, when the victims were still lying in the road and ditch and emergency vehicles had yet to arrive. As I sat one car back in a short line of traffic my eyes were drawn to the driver in the road who was sprawled facing me. His beanie helmet allowed a good look at his face, a human being, a rider like we all are, who made a bad decision. All four accidents were rider error and the fourth one was almost overload for me in that I was not unnerved anymore, just more thoughtful. It's really too bad that a great rally weekend had to end that way. Y'all be careful out there.

The Gateway Riders showing there Wild side...



The Annual Club Photo at the Falling Leaf Rally. October 11th, 2003.

Photo by: A.W.

Night before... Continued from page 1.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof the screeching and braking of each little tire. As I drew in my head and was turning around, down the chimney Max Friz came with a bound.

He was dressed all in Hi-Viz yellow, from his head to his foot, and his Stich was all tarnished with road grime and salt. A bundle of accesories he had flung on his back, and he looked like a vendor just opening his tent.

His eyes--how they twinkled! His dimples, how merry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a Piaan! His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow, and the beard on his chin was as white as the snow. The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, and the smoke it encircled his head like a metzeler. He had a broad face and a little round belly, hat shook when he laughed, like a battery full of jell.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old biker, and I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself. A wink of his eye and a twist of his head soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, and filled all the Gortex boots, then turned with a jerk. And laying his finger aside of his Arai, and giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.

He sprang to his sidecar, to his bike's gave a beep, And away they all flew like a Boxer Cup S. But I heard him exclaim, 'ere he rode out of sight,

“Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good Ride!”




The Falling Leaf Rally had a record number of vendors this year. So when you are making out your motorcycle related holiday wish list keep them in mind.

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For and About
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Ballot for 2004 Club Officers.

If you will NOT be attending the Christmas Party on December 5th, please mail this ballot to the Club P.O. Box listed at the bottom of this ballot. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the Christmas Party. A blank space has been provided if you wish to run a Write-in campaign...

President: Marilyn Roberts _____

President of Vice: Sue Anderson _____

Secretary: Gene Kautz _____

Treasurer: Ed Fusco _____

Mail to: Gateway Riders
P.O. Box 11563
Clayton, MO 63105

All memberships are due for renewal with the New Year.

Gateway Riders BMW Club - Membership Renewal

\$14.00 primary & \$7.00 spouse/child

Name and any **NEW** information - Please complete typewritten or printed.

Name _____, Spouse _____

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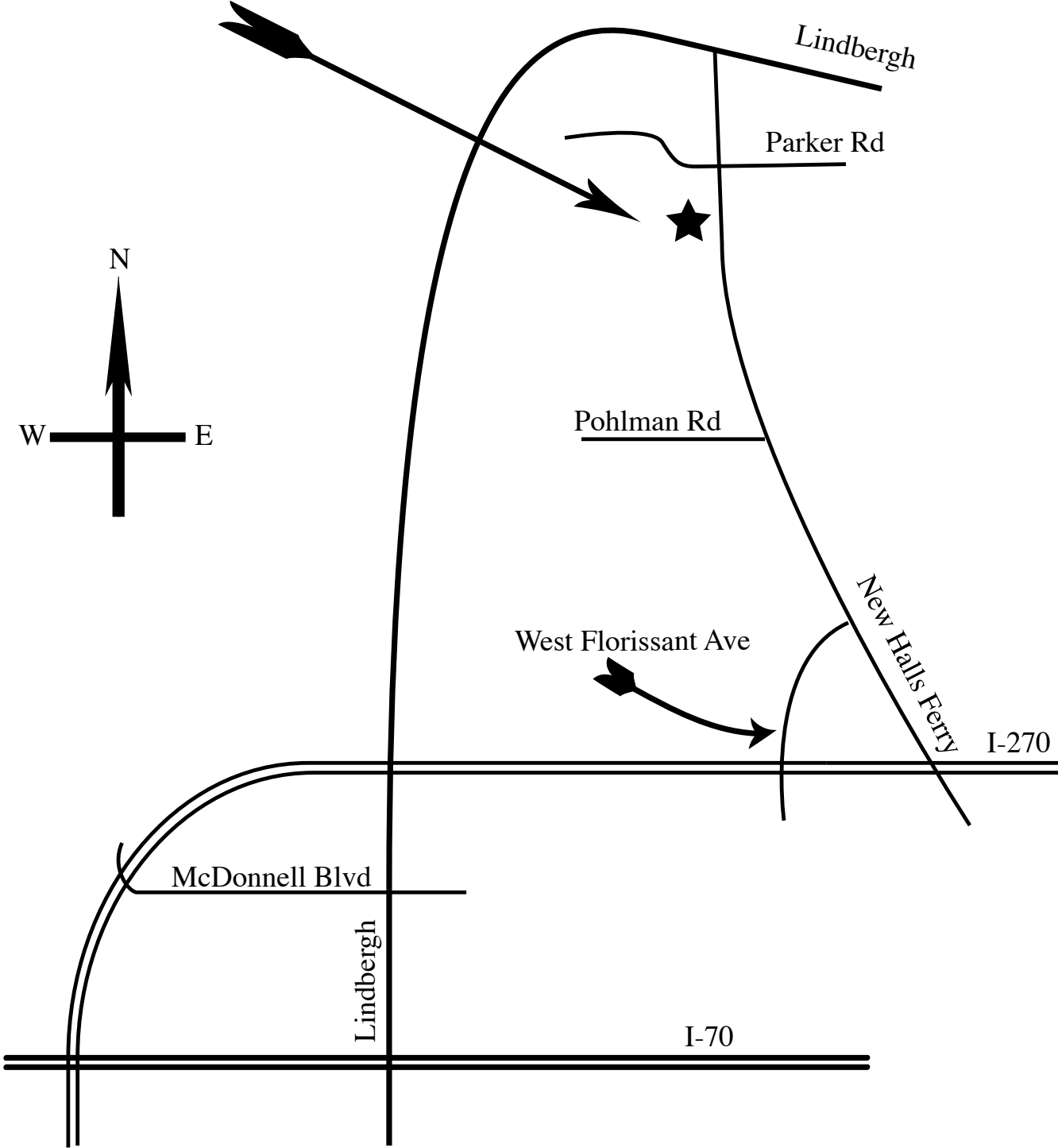
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Gateway Gazette

Vol. 2003 Number 6

Holiday Supplement 2003



Gateway Riders BMW Club

www.gatewayriders.com

Legendary Riders of the Midwest



To:



Where in the World am I? The Contest!

If you think you know see page 5 of your Christmas Gazette for complete rules. Dead-line: February 1st 2004.

From: Gateway Riders BMW Club
 P.O. Box 11563
 Clayton, MO 63105

