

# Tarheel Traveler Newsletter

The monthly Publication of BMW Tarheel Travelers of North Carolina

**BMW MOA No. 57**

**September 2008**

**BMW RA No. 34**

## **James Bay Road Trip - August 17-27, 2006 - Part 1** by Dennis Clark

The trip began with my driving to Morton's BMW for an oil change. Remember that Morton's is 375 miles from my home in North Carolina. Loyalty to your original dealer is earned by your dealer. I drove from Morton's to my son's home in Bristow, VA. He would be riding my R110GS ('95). We packed the bikes and relaxed. We arose the next morning and once again checked the bikes and what we were carrying with us. Everything was in order and we began the journey. We met Raphael Jones, Steve Klotz, Mike Kramer and Don Williams at the NOVA campus of Route 7 in VA.

The weather was hot, hot, hot! The six of us began the initial leg of the trip which was to Frackville, PA. We were to meet up with the other five riders at Granny's Motel and Restaurant in Frackville, PA. On the ride up we passed the 9/11 Memorial Motorcycle Run of approximately 400 bikes on Route #15. Construction was being held on Route #15 and traffic, and lots of it, was really slow. We finally arrived after a short trip of 180 miles and met the other riders. We felt that the trip could finally begin.



The riders and their bikes were:

Don Williams - R1150GS, Raphael Jones - K1200GT,  
Dennis Clark - R1200RT, Dennis Clark II - R1100GS,  
Ron Jones - R1150RT, Laura Jones - R1150R, Ken  
Dyer - R1200RT, Linda Dyer - R1150R, Mike Kramer -  
R1200GS (Adventure), Steve Klotz - ST1300, Dusty  
Collins - Goldwing (Known as the KC135 Tanker)

We left Granny's and began the trip to Canada at 0700. We rode in the rain for 100 miles and all the bikes handled very well. Other than the rain, the trip was uneventful. We arrived at Webb's Motel in Ottawa, ON

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# BMW Tarheel Travelers Of North Carolina



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## Road Debris by "Rev. Willie" Nichols

I have a feeling that a lot of East Coast Beemer riders must be suffering from some sort of "riding/cabin fever", because the Boone Rally had record-setting crowd attendance. I figured that we had at least 175 attendees, and you could tell it was creeping near the 200 level. The Charlotte club had good door prizes, plenty of coffee and lemonade, and some wonderful loops containing some excellent twisties. Peter Bombar and I went on a 177 mile loop that wound out of Boone, down US 421 into the "Snake" near Mountain City, TN. I know everybody wants to ride the "Dragon" (US 129) but this section of 421 has some sections of tight, banked turns that will amaze you. Also, no squids, RV's, or Law Enforcement. We split off of 421 at Shady Valley and headed over the hills to US 58 and the Parkway, and down NC 16 to Deep Gap and 421 and NC 194 back to camp. Lots of grins after that little ride! The really good news is that some of these great roads will be the route to the MOA National in Gray, TN in July, '09. It will be a nice ride to that rally.

About 5 PM Saturday, we called the TT meeting to order. We had about 16 members and 3 guests, but I think we will be gaining some members from this rally. We won the "Biggest Attendance by a Club" award again this year. Veep Jeff and ex-Prez Pete were a bit put out that the meeting time was pushed back and they missed some road time, but considering that the BMW's they were riding have too many wheels (4...they are proud owners of new 1-Series cars), I did not give them much sympathy. We have a nominee for President: Vince Provenzano, but we still need another person for Vice-President, and we need some more candidates if this will be a "true election". Fortunately, our Secretary/Treasurer and Editor will stay on another year so that gives the club a good bit of continuity. Please consider running for office - your club needs you and you can be real surprised to find out that you actually can run this association of rifferaff and road buddies.

OK folks, here is how the Halloween weekend will work out this year: A lot of folks are headed down NC 50 to Surf City for a No-Brainer at the regular campground. Some of the folks around Fayetteville will go back to Pine Lake in Wagram, NC for a little campout. No rally registration or organization for either of these two gatherings, you need to get reservations if needed, and pay-your-way. Additional information will be coming out soon.

Hope to see everybody at the Harris home in Cary for the Sept. meeting.



**TT'ers at the Boone Rally**

(from page 1)

after a total of 404 miles driven. We had a wonderful meal and conversation. During the conversation we learned what MARINE really meant. It means:

M uscles  
A re  
R equired  
I ntelligence  
N ot  
E ssential

We had two retired Marines with us and they are the ones who explained the true meaning to us

The third day began in the rain in with a temperature of 60 degrees that eventually went down to 55 degrees. We traveled two lane roads after leaving Interstate 81 at the border. We could not help but notice that the landscape was beginning to contain less and less trees. Linda Dyer lost her furry seat pad, but everyone who passed it later considered it a dead animal and indicated such to the rider behind them. Needless to say no one stopped to pick it up. We don't do Road Kill!! The sunshine came out when we went through Amos, Quebec

We arrived in Matagami, Quebec after riding 444 miles. The third day is critical in determining whether the group will gel or split. We gelled! We had a wonderful, noisy, and loud meal across the street from the motel on the third night and retired for the evening as our adventure tour was about to begin.

On day four we checked in at kilometer post 0 with James Bay Road Security.



One must register with the security personnel as this is a private road and they require registration. The registration lets them know who began the road journey and who makes it back. The first sign on the road is a warning that there is no gas for 385 km. The sign speaks the truth! Our gas strategy was to carry a 2 ½ gallon tank of extra fuel on the R1100GS and the two R1150R's and the K1200GT would receive fuel from the Goldwing (KC-135) tanker ridden by Dusty Collins.



Dusty had on board a total of 16 gallons of fuel. We put him at the rear of the pack and kept a constant eye out for smoke and flames.

This road is not heavily traveled. We saw only one car going north as we were during the first 385 km. We saw a hawk and an eagle as we began. The landscape began to change at kilometer 140. This area had been burnt and the trees began to get sparse and thin. At kilometer 250 we notice that the trees were disappearing. We heard what was located at kilometer 257 before we saw it.



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This was the main objective of the trip. We had arrived at the Rupert River Rapids! The Rapids will disappear next year with a new dam is completed by Hydro Quebec. Loud, wide, high, beautiful, one of kind, awesome, impassable, and a sight to behold are just some of the terms that can be applied to this display of nature's grandeur. As the group arrived one by one they got off their bikes and just stared at the magnificent sight. We began to take pictures realizing that no photograph could do this site justice. You had to be there!



We gassed up the bikes needing gas and proceeded to THE GAS STATION!



**The James Bay Road Trip will be concluded in the October edition..stay tuned.**

## From Your Editor

I have been very fortunate in my first few months as Editor to have great articles to publish. And great pictures to go with them. For those of you getting the online edition of this newsletter, you get to enjoy all these pictures in color....another added benefit of the online choice. Of our 119 members, 62...over half...get the online edition.

But my inventory of articles is running out. I do have one left and a couple of members have told me they are working on articles for me. But how about you? Any trips that you have made? Any opinions of products or motorcycles? Any technical information to share? As you will always hear an editor say, the newsletter is only as good as the inputs from the members. So please give it some thought and see if there is anything that you can contribute.

This month's special thanks goes to Dennis Clark for the cover article and to Vince Provenzano for his article on The Boone Rally experience. Thanks Dennis and Vince. And, as always, to Willie and Jeff for their monthly inputs. Always on time and always an interesting read. And to Pete Osta for some Boone Rally pictures.

**Jim Morrison**

### Member Information

#### DIRECTORY UPDATES

John & Rebecca Murray  
Zip code update: 28307-1500

Jody Hudson  
Zip code update: 28560-4973

#### NEW MEMBER

Jeffery Dodd  
506 Highland Trail  
Chapel Hill  
(919) 370-9597

## Tarheel Traveler Calendar

**Sept 6 - 1st Saturday Ride, 10:00 a.m.** – Gassed up and ready to ride at 10:00 a.m. Carolina BMW, 2649 Randleman Rd, Greensboro, NC (GPS N36 01.536 W79 48.144)

**Sept 7 - TriadRiders 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday ride, 9:00 a.m.** Gassed up and ready to ride at 9:00. Cheesecake by Alex, 315 South Elm Street, Greensboro, NC (GPS N36 04.195 W79 47.422)

**Sept 10 - 2nd Wednesday Dinner, 7:00 p.m.** McCall's Barbecue and Seafood, 10365 US Highway 70, Clayton, NC 919-550-3877 (GPS N35 38.536 W78 27.123)

**Sept 14 - 2nd Sunday Ride, 10:00 a.m.** Breakfast at 9:00 a.m., gassed up and ready to ride at 10:00 a.m. Hardees, 38 East Rd, Pittsboro, NC (GPS N35 43.212 W79 10.603)

**Sept 18 - 3rd Thursday Dinner, 6:30 p.m.** El Tucan, 250 S Bragg Blvd, Spring Lake, NC 910-495-1400 (GPS N35 09.812 W78 58.330)

**Sept 21 - Monthly Meeting, 1 p.m.** - Joel and Julie Harris, 3045 Cinder Bluff Drive, Raleigh, NC 919- 661-2241 The Harris's neighborhood is too new to show up on the maps yet. GPS of a point slightly into Cinder Bluff : N35 38.494 W78 41.333 11:30 a.m. tire-kicking, 1 p.m. meeting, with lunch being served after the meeting.

**Sept 24 - 4th Wednesday Dinner, 7:00 p.m.** Breadman's, 324 W. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill, NC 919-967-7110 (GPS N35 54.747 W79 03.636)

For additional event/rally dates be sure to check the TT website [www.tarheelbmw.org](http://www.tarheelbmw.org)

<b>September 2008</b>						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday Ride - Carolina BMW
7 TriadRiders 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Ride Greensboro	8	9	10 Dinner - McCall's Barbecue, Clayton	11	12	13
14 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Ride Pittsboro	15	16	17	18 Dinner - El Tucan, Spring Lake	19	20
21 TT Meeting - Joel & Julie Harris Raleigh	22	23	24 Dinner - Breadman's, Chapel Hill	25	26	27
28	29	30				

# The Meeting Place – September 21, 2008

Joel and Julie Harris  
 3045 Cinder Bluff Drive  
 Raleigh, NC (919) 661-2241

The Harris's neighborhood is too new to show up on the maps yet

GPS of a point slightly into Cinder Bluff : N35 38.494 W78 41.333

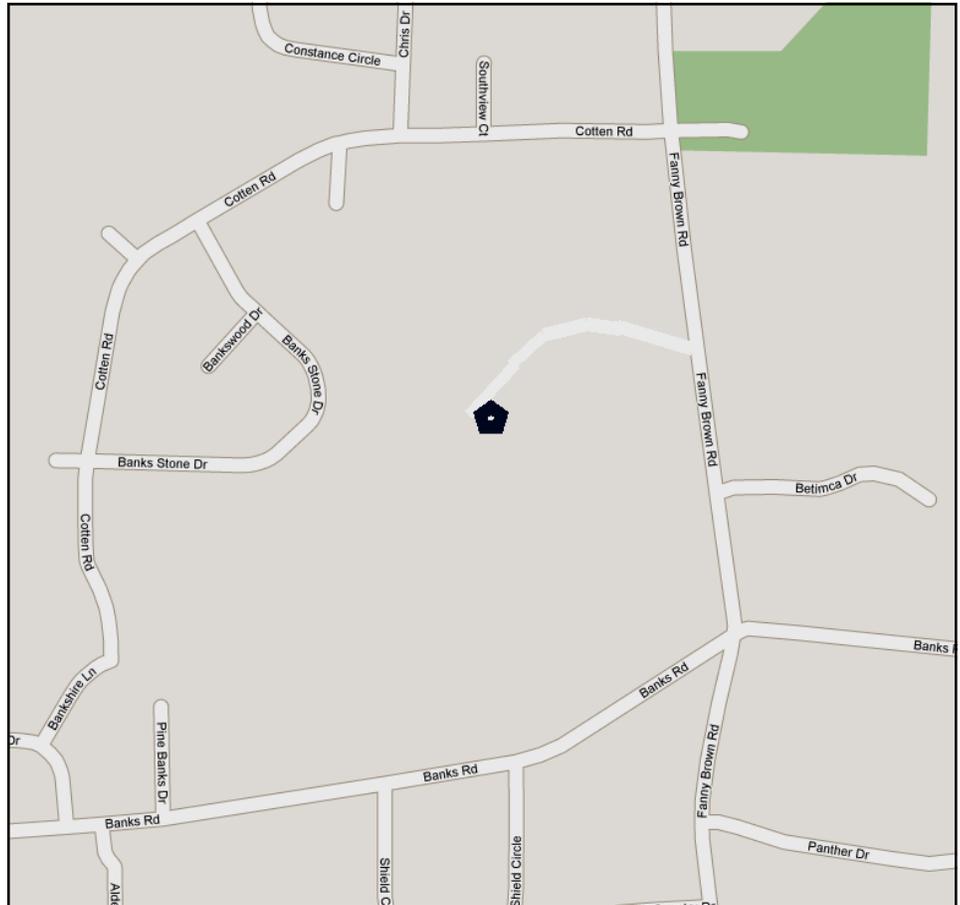
**11:30 a.m. tire-kicking, 1 p.m. meeting, with lunch being served after the meeting**

## From Raleigh:

Take 401 South (exit 298 off I-40). Turn left on Ten Ten Road. Go East about a mile and turn right on Fanny Brown Road. Go South about 1.1 miles and turn right on Cinder Bluff Drive. Go to the end.

## From the South (i.e. Fuquay Varina):

Take 401 North and turn right on Banks Road. Go East about 1.5 miles and turn left on Fanny Brown Road. Go North about 0.2 of a mile and turn left on Cinder Bluff Drive. Go to the end.



## 2008 Meeting Hosts

Jan: Al & Karol Jones	Jul: Gary & Tina Shimizu
Feb: Willie Nichols & Pam Haines	Aug: Boone Rally
Mar: Pete & Sandy Osta	Sept: Joel & Julie Harris
Apr: Larry & Gloria Boone	Oct: Ray Ussery and Dorothy Bennett-Ussery and Larry and Kim Green
May: Mike Slocum	Nov: Bryan & Quinna Stempowski
Jun: Jim & Pat Morrison	Dec: Joe & Roberta Keithley

Thank you to all our volunteer hosts!

## Boone Rally and August Meeting Update

By Jeff Brown

First and foremost let me say I had a blast even though I only was there for a day.

Next let me give you a quick run down of my Boone Rally weekend. Knowing I had to do some work on Sunday, I decided I would not stay for the whole rally. Willie asked I run the club meeting at 2:00 p.m., as Deacon Jake was home for the weekend before leaving to go back to Cornell and would not be available. So with the above in mind I decided I would leave around 9:30 from Durham and take the run up in the convertible and enjoy the sunshine and a couple of good cigars.

Mid-evening Friday, Pete called me and wanted to know if I was still planning on going up on Saturday and if I would mind some company. Now, while this normally would not be a shocking request, I was deeply puzzled, since Pete and Sandy had told me Thursday night they would be going up on Friday as soon as Pete got off work. I assured him that company was welcome and later learned they had started out on time Friday as planned, but ran into a major thunderstorm about the time they got to Chapel Hill, so they turned around. We planned on meeting at my house around 9:15 with the planned departure of 9:30, three hours of slabbing, an hour off for lunch, a few more minutes of rolling up the mountain and an arrival at the KOA in time to run the meeting.

So with me in the lead I headed West on I85/I40 with Pete and Sandy cruising along behind me (if you want proof I have a picture of the back of my ball cap from Pete's camera just before we made the I85/I40 bypass split near Greensboro. After making the split and making our way towards Winston-Salem my cell phone rings, it's Pete, he wants to know if I want to have some fun while we are on our way to Boone, of course I said yes, so he took over the lead. With the exception of a Lowe's delivery semi carrying a load of concrete blocks for

somebody's home/garage and a Toyota Corolla that felt 25 in a 55 zone was going really, really fast the fun was A LOT OF FUN. Pete led us through the suburbs of Greensboro - i.e. Kernersville, Walkertown, etc. - and led us merrily north on NC 66 towards past Hanging Rock State Park. From NC 66 we went west on NC 268 to Wilkesboro, from there we jumped on US 421 and made the final 20ish miles to the campground. I tell you now, I forgot how much fun NC 66 is. The tire company is happy with me, BMW traction control is not. If you get a chance and have around 5 hours to kill, try it YOU WILL LIKE IT.

Upon arriving at the campground with 10 minutes to spare, Pete, Sandy, and I started our walk around to track down all the TT's that had made it to organize the meeting location. During our search, we found out 2 things - 1) Willie was there; 2) he had moved the meeting to 5:00, so Pete, Sandy, and I were cheated ;- ) out of 3 hours of play time.

With all the above said and done, the meeting went on with no hitches with the exception of the quorum of members moved the location from in front of Willie's tent to the front of Steve and Belva's tent. Event awards were presented, the youngest rider - a 14 year old on his permit from SC, oldest rider Bud Blume from Charlotte, and TTs were largest club in attendance. The Boone Coon was awarded to Jake Currin - son of Mike and Jody Currin. And last but not least, to assist in the funding of a retirement move from Charlotte to Oaxaca, MX Bud Blume auctioned off his rally pin collection - I was the high bidder, though it was close to eating all of my available cash (as the bidding was going on I was making loan deals with fellow TTs, just in case).

A quick 3 hour superslab run with the top down and the stereo blasting and another cigar in hand put me home just after midnight.

See you at the September meeting at Joel and Julie Harris'.



More Boone Rally Pictures

## Daniel Boone Rally - 2008

By Vince Provenzano

I arose early to get a jump on local Triangle traffic only to be greeted by early morning fog. Oh well, time to just chill and have a leisurely breakfast instead. By 8:30 A.M. it looked like a go and off I went for points north and west. Why I chose Route 98 (Durham Road) from Wake Forest beats me. I'll learn one of these times, promise. No more westbound trips through Durham. Got it.

The ride, once past Durham, was pleasant despite a persistent head wind. Mind you, nothing like what you can expect when riding out west, but annoying just the same. The temperature was a very pleasant mid to upper 60s and upwards into the 70s later in the trip. Shortly after noon, I had arrived at the KOA campground just northeast of downtown Boone with only a handful of rally-goers present and virtually the entire camping area to choose from to set up my tent. What pressure!

It took little time to set up my tent and scout the area for friends as more rally goers arrived. (There would be a record number of Thursday arrivals this year as we would later find out.) In no time I ran into the legendary Bud Blume and his lovely wife Sandy. How nice to see them again as it was expected that they would be settled in Mexico some time this past winter. No sign of Bud's BMW R69 (bought new in 1964) that took him around the world in the ensuing years, though. Seems that it was sold on e-Bay earlier this spring. Bud is still riding, however, and had his Suzuki AN650 scooter posed in front of his usual campsite. Just keep on riding Bud and may the wind be always to your back and rubber-side down.

After a fabulous lunch at Hunan's Chinese Restaurant in Boone and a brief ride around town, it was back to the campsite. Enough riding for today. Tomorrow would be another day and fellow Tarheel Traveler riding pal Phil and I would surely be out and about exploring the many fine roads this part of the state has to offer. It doesn't get much better than this, at least not in my book. Later at the campsite I ran into numerous friends past and present. The real highlight was to encounter a long lost friend, Joe Grant, who was instrumental in my joining the BMW Bikers of Metropolitan Washington (DC) way back around 1985. There was much to catch up on and a pleasant evening was had. We talked of many common friends and, sadly, of the passing of few. (There isn't a day that goes by that I don't regret not having purchased his old pristine /2 so many years ago. What was I thinking?)

Sleep was elusive as is customary for my first night in a tent and sleeping bag. Awaking at 5:50 A.M., at least I would have the showers all to myself and no shortage of hot water. There were several other early risers around the hospitality tent for coffee fixes in search of anyone willing to listen to a tale or two. Back by the tent, I was



looking forward to writing some notes about the previous day, but my neighbor Carl had other plans. Carl, the proud owner of an immaculate /5 toaster model BMW (I'll never know how he didn't win the nicest bike award), was intent on regaling me of past trips abroad on BMW motorcycles as well as overseas bicycle trips. You do tend to meet some very interesting characters at rallies and Carl was no exception. Did I neglect to mention that Carl had indicated that his mother was a schoolmate and friend of Truman Capote?



It was finally time to run into town for breakfast at Melanie's. Nothing like dining alfresco on a beautiful morning and observing a bit of local flavor of which there seemed to be no shortage. One local character was seated at a neighboring table and it was interesting to observe his banter with the waitress, clearly someone he knew well. It wasn't long before we were engaged in conversation and he, upon seeing my GS parked on the street in front of us, was pleased to inform me of the many wonderful dirt roads in the area. A word of caution, though, since they could be treacherous, especially after the heavy thunderstorms of the night before. It seems that while we were perfectly dry last night, there were severe thunderstorms around Grandfather Mountain and up through Blowing Rock.

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I'd inform Phil later in the morning and leave it up to him whether to ride dirt or paved roads later in the day.

Wiser minds would prevail and we opted for a beautiful 160 plus mile loop around the area that included a romp over Roan Mountain State Park and a peak of 5,512 feet above sea level and ultimately to SR 80. What a beautiful road that is and Phil informed me later that we had cut off the best stretch leading up to the Blue Ridge Parkway. We meandered our way back up through 194, through Banner Elk before stopping at the Mast General Store in Valle Cruis and finally back to Boone. What a pleasant ride.



Rather than head back out of the campground, I chose to have a light fare at the campsite and sat around kicking tires and telling lies with Joe Grant, Elwood Miles (one of my riding buddies from our Costa Rica trip earlier this year) and a few others. Later the conversation started to become somewhat heated in discussing such favorite topics as politics, the Iraq war, healthcare and you name it. (What no discussion on immigration and illegal aliens?) I did my best to remain neutral (not an easy

task for me) and enjoyed listening to the discussion heat up. Who knew that some forty years after the Vietnam era we could become more polarized than we were in the 60's. Things finally simmered down and soon we were back to discussing more important matters relating to motorcycles, rallies and old friends.

Saturday morning came all too quickly after another restless night in the tent. There was little doubt that this would be yet another beautiful day in the western North Carolina mountains. It was just nice to hang around the campground and search out old friends and fellow Tarheel Travelers. The Saturday night festivities were rather nicely done, consisting of the customary Saturday night dinner followed by the awards presentation ceremonies. (Oh yeah, we did conduct our club meeting shortly before dinner and surprise, surprise, I was advised that I was in consideration for the club president position. My, my.) There were no shortage of prizes, especially considering the size of this rally. The very best was saved for last, though, with the presentation of the host club's stuffed raccoon which was presented to a handicapped youngster. The sheer expression of joy on this kid's face said it all as he reached out to hug his new companion. Wow! Hard to top that if you ask me.

This was yet another fine rally put on by the Charlotte club. It doesn't hurt that the rally location is fabulous, the roads are wonderful, the size of the rally is small and intermit, the weather is superb, and there are no shortage of great folks in attendance. Our Tarheel club could learn a thing or two from this, no doubt.

A few light showers would pass during the night, just enough to make packing a little less pleasant. No problem though since the sun was already bright in a clear blue sky. I got to pack leisurely before joining my dear friend Elwood on our pleasant ride down to his house in Asheville for Sunday dinner.

## **New Head at BMW NA**

Pieter de Waal, former Head of BMW Motorrad South Africa has become the new Head of BMW North America.



## The Market Place

**Anderson Powerpole connectors** for DC power interconnection/distribution for your motorcycles. Several members are already using these rugged connectors with great success. See Brian Young's website at [www.alt-moto.com](http://www.alt-moto.com) for more information. You can also call Brian at 919-954-2178 or email him at [brianyoung@alt-moto.com](mailto:brianyoung@alt-moto.com). (exp 12/08)

**MV Agusta 2007 910R** – Gentleman's Hooligan bike – less than 2000 miles. Competition exhaust with chip, Throttlemeister, Motorvation sliders, clear brake light. Beautiful black bike in near perfect condition. Only ridden past Churches on Sundays. New \$18K; asking \$13,000. Call Al at 910-488-6526 in Fayetteville. (exp 12/08)

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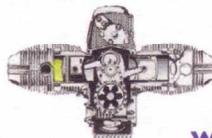


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