

The Tarheel Traveler

The monthly Publication of the BMW-NC Tarheel Travelers

BMW MOA No. 57

March 2012

BMW RA No. 34

63 Cent Garmin GPSmap 276C Floppy Antenna "Fix" - Brian Young

My aging GPS has recently been suffering from FAS (floppy antenna syndrome). That is, the BNC-mounted external antenna needs a little Viagra to stand straight up and continue pointing to the sky like it should while rolling down the road. Over time, the plastic that provides a little friction between the GPS case and the antenna itself tends to wear due to vibration, allowing tolerances to get a little sloppy. You'll know if your GPS has this problem if the antenna falls over to the right and looks like the photo below.

I've seen this problem solved with a rubber band (you know who you are), but I had a better idea. I figured a properly



sized O-ring placed over the business end of the BNC connector on the GPS itself would cause enough extra friction with antenna to keep things pointing north. The BNC connector on the GPS is shown below.



I found an O-ring that fit the approximately 5/16" diameter of the BNC connector at the local hardware store. I slipped it over the BNC and tamped it down to

the base as shown in this photo.

[Thinking this would do the trick, I aligned the antenna and popped it back in place. My thinking wasn't right - never really is. The antenna was still as loose as when I started. OK, maybe two O-rings would do the trick if they're stacked on top

of each other. After a convenient stop back at the hardware store later in the day (they love me), I procured yet another identical O-ring and immediate stacked it on the other. STILL no success. What?!?

It was then I realized that the antenna's connector slips inside the BNC on the GPS and not over it. It would take quite a few O-rings stacked to provide enough friction to get the job done. It was at this point that I fished the 2nd one back off the BNC and tried something different.

Take Two: I placed the O-ring loosely over the end of the antenna's connector and lined things back up to reattach the antenna to the GPS. As I pressed the antenna into place, the O-ring was forced up and onto the BNC in a manner that doesn't align perfectly, but provides just enough resistance to make things a whole lot tighter. Success!!

No more floppy antenna! So, for 63 Cents (just the price for one O-ring if you try it), I managed a cheap, effective solution. Because I bought two, I ended up with a spare that I can fish off the BNC connector in case I ever wear this one out. Try it! This and other farkle-related trials can be followed over on my blog at Moto-Farkle.com. My latest project? Turning my KLX250S play-bike into a mini adventurer.



Bones

There are **4 Main Bones** in every organization.

The **Wishbones** wish someone would do something.

The **Jawbones** do all the talking but very little else.

The **Knucklebones** sit back and knock everything.

The **Backbones** carry the brunt of the load & do most of the work.

Which Bone are you?

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Coffee Stop

**Normal Hours of Operation**

7:30am - arrive and set-up

8:00am - ready to serve first cup

LUNCH TIME - Pitch In Pot

Luck - good eats & **Meeting**

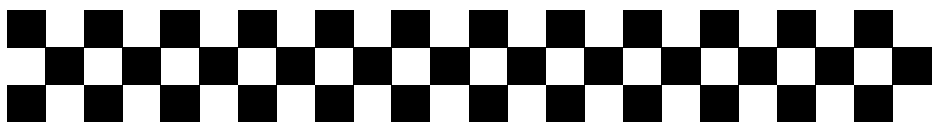
4 or 4:30 pm - breakdown and depart

Saturday Dinner—local

Sunday - repeat all but Saturday Dinner

On the dates of March 10 & 11th, The BMW-NC Tarheel Travelers organization will conduct a Coffee-Safety Break at the southbound I-95 Rest Area (mile marker 48)(GPS N 34° 59.611' W 078° 50.213) in Cumberland County near Fayetteville, NC from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The purpose of this event is to provide a friendly relaxed break for travelers, both motorcyclists and motorists, who are southbound on I-95, no matter their destination...Bike Week or someplace else.

We will provide coffee and hot tea, and will offer any assistance we can to help travelers. For more information Contact Steve & Belva at StevenBelva@Embarqmail.com. If you can only make it for one day, just make sure you make time to join in the Pitch In Lunch/March Meeting. Nothing like a Family Reunion Style Lunch to make the day enjoyable and Saturday evening we will gather at a local eatery for dinner.

**2nd Sunday Ride—The gathering location for the 2nd**

Sunday Ride has moved. Join other riders of all kinds for the Biker Breakfast at Carolina Brewery. Good food and great coffee. Plenty of motorcyclists will be in attendance.

Carolina Brewery, 120 Lowes Drive, Pittsboro
(N35 44.676 W79 09.962)

Carolina Brewery is located at the intersection of 15-501 and Highway 64 by-pass(in the Southeast quadrant), just north of downtown Pittsboro. It is Exit 383 off Highway 64 and is directly across from Lowes Home Improvement in the Bellemont Station Development.

What Happened & What Might Happen



Elections:

Unfortunately, no one was willing to step up to the Prez position and that office will be vacant until someone expresses an interest.

Benefits of the position:

FREE membership

Prez@tarheelbmw.org e-mail address

And other fun things during your term as President.

Articles Articles Articles
need your words or lots of scratch
paper next month.

Blank pages do not a newsletter
make.



STOLEN MOTORCYCLE ALERT

BMW R60/2 1969 STOLEN from barn in Chapel Hill - Pittsboro area.

Stored bike - needs work, but dear to my heart.

Gummed-up tank, rusty mufflers and rims.

All original except for lower handlebars and a small, black RIFLE fairing.

Contact: Chatham Co. Sheriffs office

or:

Rick Barnett

434-979-1366 or - barnstorm@centurylink.net

BACK ROW: George Fryer, Larry Green,
Pat Fryer, Bill Bunn, Donna Warner,
William Warner, Jody Keye, Gene Keye
MIDDLE ROW: Willie Nichols, Robert
Peterson, Becky Gradus, Steve Brunner,
Amy Glimpse, Jim Glimpse
FRONT ROW: George Leczniak, Belva
Brunner, Bob Warren, Don Spiker

Taken during a TT Meeting—April 2002, @
Amy & Jim's, sporting high-viz dudes,
cause that is how we roll.



The Meeting Place – Saturday March 10th

Interstate 95 Rest Area
Cumberland County I95, Southbound Location: Milepost 47/48
Coffee Stop – Rest Stop

From the North:

From I-95 head south—below Fayetteville 24/210 exit 49. One more mile and your there.

From the South:

There is no access to the southbound Cumberland County rest stop while riding northbound. The closest entrance onto southbound I95, is at NC 210 exit 49.

Tire Kicking all day

Meeting before or after lunch. Guess you'll have to be there around lunch time, might as well bring a dish to pass and enjoy. Good eats.



2010 Meeting Hosts

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mar: Coffee Stop—Saturday | Jul: Open |
| Apr: Open | Aug: Daniel Boone Rally |
| May: Jimmy & Cherrie, Willow Springs | Sep: Open |
| Jun: Harris Park Picnic | Oct: No Brainer, Zooland |

New Members

Keith Dial
Maxton NC

Welcome to the family.

Forum Chatter

Where do you maintain your boxer?:

Fellow BMW riders:

For those that ride beemers with boxer engines I was hoping to get some input. Do most of you get all services (i.e. 6/12k) at the dealership or only the 12k and if some of you perform the 6k yourselves do you follow the book to the letter ex. Valves, oil etc., or just an oil change?

Thanks in advance

Geoff

One thing really nice about a boxer is you can do a lot of the maintenance yourself that you now spend \$\$\$ for the dealer to do. I recommend strongly that you buy yourself a Clymer manual and start to familiarize yourself with your bike. At the least if you have a torque wrench and some other simple tools you can change your fluids, filter, and brakes. Some repairs you might not be comfortable with tackling yourself so they when you call in your buddies or take it to a pro. Heck, come on over and you can help me put on my new Toaster Tan top brace on the triple tree! LOL! One thing I would suggest to anyone on this list that rides a Airhead is to look into joining Airheads Beemer Club which can be found on the web at <http://www.airheads.org/> great group of guys and gals who are always willing to go out of their way to help.

David—81 100RS

I'll chime in with my experience. I got my first BMW, a '99 RT, two years ago and have only put new brakes on it when needed. I've been too busy/lazy to do other things as I have for my past Japanese bikes and relied on Capitol BMW.

I put about 10K miles on it a year, so I really should start at least changing my oil. I'm not sure how much I would save on the 6K maintenance, but it would probably help. Now that my bike has about 27K on it, it's really starting to run a lot smoother. The last maintenance done at Capitol seemed to make a difference.

Let us know what maintenance you decide to do to yours. Maybe it will spur me on too.

Kelly

I do all work myself because I have mine and Sandys bike to maintain. It doesn't hurt to have the time. Get the service cd if you want to do the work yourself.

Pete

Since you asked... After about 175,00 miles on BMW boxers (both airheads and oilheads)

I do all the scheduled services myself both the 6k and the 12k intervals.

Sometimes when time is short I'll do half the service one day and finish it later, usually within the week. I follow the book to the letter. What's the point of riding a BMW with less than BMW performance. When it comes to repairs and diagnostics of a problem, if I am the least bit in doubt I consult a professional.

I figure you would have to be very clever indeed to second guess the people who engineered these sophisticated machines.

If you only did some of the recommended service and omitted others, how would you determine what the important maintenance items were, and which you could leave out?

I'm interested to hear what other members have to say.

-Lee Kazanas

2nd Sunday Ride—Location Change

This is not a very well attended TT Ride. We've changed the location from **The General Store**, to the **Hardee's**, to the **McDonalds** and the attendance continues to fall. Maybe we're getting older or more religious.

Anyway, I'm suggesting that we again change the meeting location, this time to the nearby **Carolina Brewery**. It is where the Sunday Biker Breakfast crowd gathers weekly, clutching their coffee cups and oggling the various bikes and riders.

The drawback as a meeting place for a ride is that the riding part of the 2nd Sunday Ride could get lost in the bike browsing. Sort of hard to herd the Cats from chatting to riding.

Tech Daze ??

Many years ago, we hosted a mini-tech day at our place. Oil change, tire repair and other small things were discussed and tinkered on.

Were a Tech Day—Educational Gathering—to be conducted, what topics would you be interested to discover or cover??

Contact me if you have an interest.

910.822.4369 stevenbelva@embarqmail.com

Steve

Tarheel Traveler Calendar

3/3— 1st Saturday Ride, 10:00 a.m. Gassed up and ready to ride at 10:00 a.m. at **Capitol BMW**, 4209 Atlantic Avenue, Raleigh, NC, (919) 834-5111, (GPS N35 84.075 W78 60.148) and at **Carolina Euro**, 2407 Greengate Drive, Greensboro, NC (GPS N36 01.592 W79 48.083)

3/10 - Monthly Meeting - Coffee Stop— tire kicking all day and meeting around lunchtime, I95 Rest Stop, Mile Marker 48

3/10-11— Coffee Stop— Annual Event in conjunction with Bike Week.

3/14 - 2nd Wednesday TT Dinner, 7:00 pm. Fat Daddy's, 6201 Glenwood Ave, Raleigh NC 27511 919-787-3773

3/11 - 2nd Sunday Ride - 10:00 a.m. Breakfast at 9:00 a.m., gassed up and ready to ride at 10:00 a.m. **Carolina Brewery**, 120 Lowes Drive, Pittsboro, NC 27312 (N35 44.676 W79 09.962)

3/17 - Destination Ride - 9:00 a.m. Gassed up and ready to ride at 9:00 at the BP Station, 5016 Spring Forest Road, Raleigh, NC (GPS N35 51.359 W78 33.399) The ride is cancelled if it is raining. More information on the Destination Ride, check the Yahoo Group

3/21 - 3rd Wednesday Dinner - 6:30 p.m. Elizabeth's Pizza 2468 Hope Mills Road, Hope Mills NC

For additional event/rally dates be sure to check the TT website www.tarheelbmw.org

| March 2012 | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|------|-------------------------|-------|-----|------------------------------|
| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 1st Sat Ride |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 Coffee Stop Meeting |
| 11 Coffee Stop 2nd Sunday Ride | 12 | 13 | 14 Fat Daddy's | 15 | 16 | 17 Destination Ride |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 Elizabeth's Pizza | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |



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