

Three weeks later, unbeknownst to her, I find a 1994 R1100RS (whatever that is) with low mileage, ride it, agree on a price, give the guy a deposit and make arrangements to come back when I have a ride and more time. Louise and I go back in a few days, and the owner sees my wife and gives her a big kiss/hug. I'm thinking, "What the hell is this?" Turns out the owner is one of her old boyfriends. So I end up with my same wife and another bike. Good choice. Now I have my first bike, after 40 years of riding, with an electric starter. Boy is life easy or what? That is as long as the thing doesn't backfire when starting and blow my thumb into the next county. Remember the Victor.

We have been putting miles on the RS after making a few modifications for comfort. Barbacks, lowered footpegs, rear footboards, Rick Mayer saddle (after a long hard ride to the Vermont rally on another kind of seat to go unnamed), RT topcase, tank bag, larger windshield, hand deflectors, clock, thermometer, headlight protector, larger windshield,

Autocom system, iPod, remote iPod control, cruise control, headlight modulator, Belstaff pants and jackets (yep can't get away from some old habits) and various other "required" things. Also can't forget those car horns I installed according to a Rob Lentini article. So now I see what the BMW business plan is – sell good enough bikes that people want to change and improve, then sell them more than double what they pay for the bike in "stuff." Pretty soon you have your perfect bike, and they have a lot more profit. Excellent!

Once you have the bike ready, weddings are great excuses to forget flying and ride there. After our son's wedding which got me the RS, I decided to go a nephew's Iowa wedding. I finished a 1,050 mile day and a half out to Kolona, Iowa from West Chester, Pennsylvania and a 1,070 mile one day back on this wedding. The difference in mileage is that I just had to cross the Mississippi again, so I doubled back – it was a quiet Sunday morning with great weather. After an 18-hour ride, in the wee hours of a not quite dawn, I half wake Louise, who had been leaving me messages throughout the day to stay

overnight at some motel. I was greeted with a half asleep comment: "I told you not to go. Now you're dead and you're just visiting. All you're doing is just visiting."

This summer's riding will include a solo run from West Chester to Aspen for a niece's wedding then to Santa Fe with Louise back to Denver to drop her at the airport then a straight line home to PA. Louise wants to do half the trip, but at least she will be in better mood with the Mayer seat, the intercom/IPOD, the back rest and the lowered pegs which have morphed into footboards. Yep, the BMW MOA strikes again with a great cobbled up recipe for added comfort for your bike: thanks to Sandy Koeckritz, #35410, we have a new set of Custom Chrome footboards. They work great.

This past month, I was going to ride to Hartford for our oldest daughter's wedding, but became a taxi driver for local family to get there. Can't hit them all. So if anyone needs wedding attendees, let me know – great rides for great celebrations.

This story is to be continued as I am sure there are more bikes coming. Anybody want a slightly used 1992 Dodge Stealth in trade for an interesting bike? ☹



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