

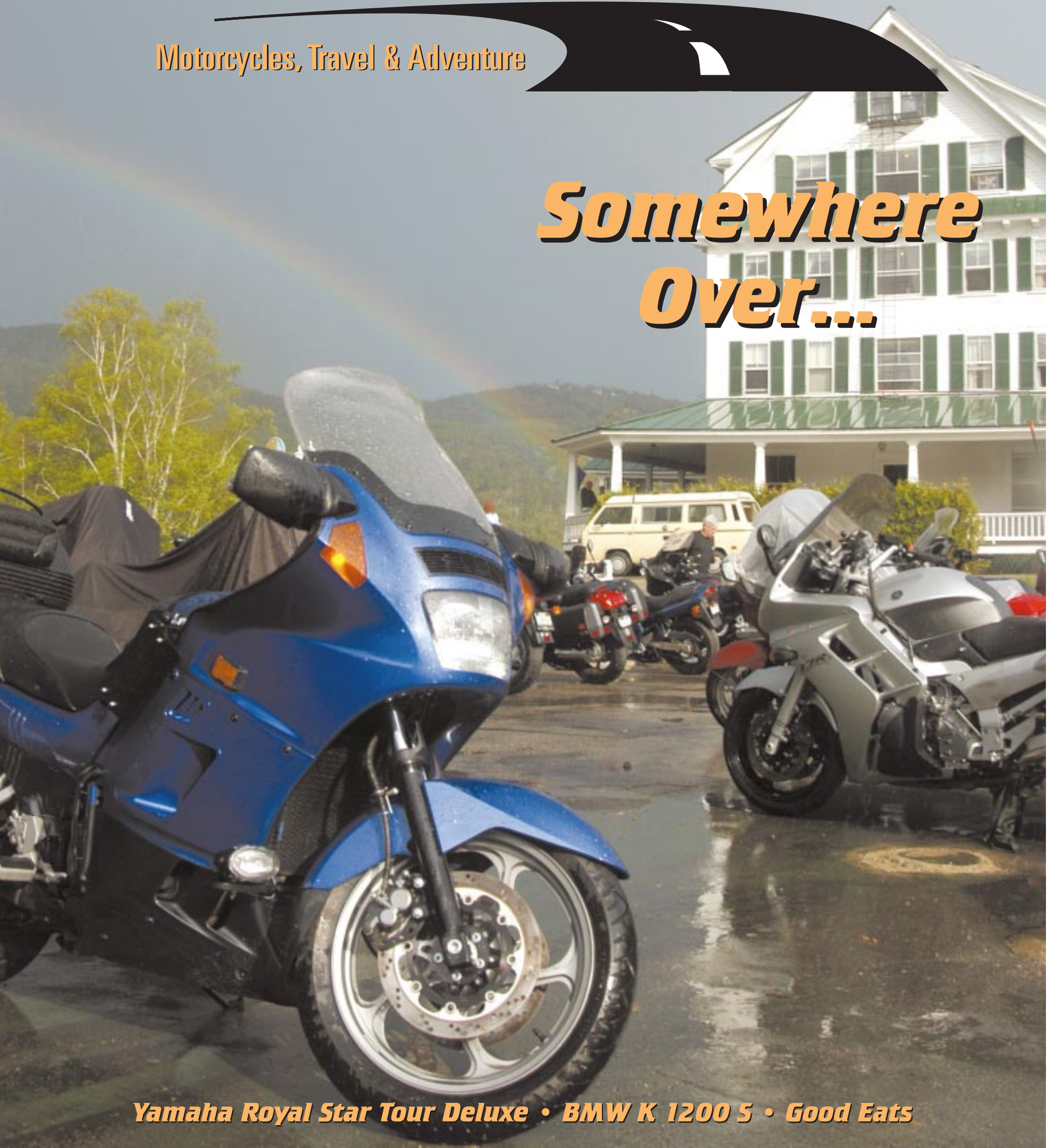


JULY 2004

Backroads

Motorcycles, Travel & Adventure

*Somewhere
Over...*



Yamaha Royal Star Tour Deluxe • BMW K 1200 S • Good Eats

Brian Rathjen

Have you ever made long term plans, schedule things months in advance, down to the supposed last detail, only to have fate step in and dash your schemes?

Well, it seems I am no stranger to this.

Last season I had decided to redo my Kawasaki Concours, from stem to stern, to honor it turning 100,000 miles sometime this season.

Mechanical parts were rebuilt, new communication systems installed, wheels powder coated and new snazzy silver paint job sprayed.

Everything was right on schedule for the Concours Owners Group Rally to be held in Jackson, New Hampshire in mid May.

Then fate stepped in and played with my desires. It seems a small pin hole had



developed atop the tank and the paint simply bubbled off the metal surface. It would never be finished in time for the rally.

Bummer. Oh well, time for plan B - or should I say plan BMW. Thank the riding gods for back up!

We left New Jersey mid morning on a Thursday and did most of the journey via the interstates before hopping off and into New Hampshire. The original plan was to leave a day early, but a sudden onset of middleagedom brought on by a really painful back episode held us home for an extra day. We had to make time and miles.

By early evening both Shira, me and two BMWs were scooting along the Kancamagus Highway and then north to Jackson and the beautiful Eagle Mountain House, home base for this year's COG Spring Fling. The area around Jackson is visually stunning and the road leading up to the Eagle Mountain House was no slouch either.

LASER
ENGINEERING EXHAUST SYSTEMS
"The Choice of Champions"

BRED FROM OVER 29
YEARS OF RACING HERITAGE
LASER FEATURES TOP
QUALITY HANDMADE
SYSTEMS & MUFFLERS USING
THE FINEST MATERIALS
LASER "WORKS" SYSTEMS
ARE CREATED BY LASER'S
STATE-OF-THE-ART R&D
DEPARTMENT AND ARE USED
BY MANY WINNING
FACTORY AND PRIVATE
RACING TEAMS INCLUDING
THE WORLD SUPER SPORT
TWO-TIME BACK TO BACK
2002 & 2003
CHAMPION TEN KATE
CBR600RR HONDA TEAM

**NEW 2004 LASER SYSTEMS**

APRILIA RSV1000 LASER Titanium DuoTech Slip-On System

BMW NEW R1200GS Full "WORKS" System

and Titanium & "INOX" Stainless Steel Slip-On Systems

HONDA CBR600RR Full "WORKS" System, Titanium RCV GP Kit,
Titanium DuoTech and the LASER X-Treme Systems

HONDA CBR1000RR LASER X-Treme and Titanium DuoTech Systems

KAWASAKI Z750 & ZX 10R LASER X-Treme "QUAD", DuoTech & HotCam Systems

SUZUKI GSXR600/750/1000 LASER Titanium DuoTech, Titanium,
"INOX" Stainless Steel and Carbon Fiber HotCam Systems

SUZUKI SV1000 LASER Titanium DuoTech System

YAMAHA FZ6 FAZER LASER X-Treme "QUAD" and X-Treme Titanium "S" Systems

YAMAHA YZF R1 LASER X-Treme "QUAD" & Titanium DuoTech Systems

****LASER'S "Dual Sound Technology"****

Allows You To Adjust Your Sound Level From Mild To A ROBUST Super Sport Bike in Minutes

LASER Offers Over 1600 Applications For Both The Enthusiast And Racer Alike

From LASER'S Exciting New 2004 Systems To The Cherished RETROS

FOSTER RAD
LASER ENGINEERING EXHAUST SYSTEMS
WWW.FOSTERRAD.COM SALES@FosterRAD.com
718.468.4680
Dealer Inquires Invited


There was one small pink house, built next to a wide cascading waterfall that simply jumped out at me. I could see Shira and me growing old in this place. What a location.





Up at the Eagle Mountain we immediately ran into the regulars from the Coglodite gatherings. This group of riders are always fun and it's not a Kawi-only show by any means. As history has shown, the lot was full of not just Connies, but any other marque as well. With this group it is more about the people, than the bikes.

Tony Shelver, a relocated South African, had done a magnificent job of arranging this little soiree. Not only was the Eagle Mountain House a keeper, but he had several routes pre-planned for our riding enjoyment. As we have said this region of the United States is loaded with incredible riding, and it seemed as if Tony had just about all of it covered. The decision to figure where to ride over

restaurant and then continued to meander around the big lake. The route brought us east and then around Wiers Beach. The place was nearly empty this day. One month from now thousands of bikers would be here for the annual Laconia Rally, but today we had the roads to ourselves.

Being the lovely wife and all around caring buddy, Shira had made massage appointments at a little place called Ahh Moondance Massage, so by mid-afternoon we were winging north on a little piece of pavement called 113A. The road twisted and followed along through the pine forests of the White Mountains, generally following the flow of a wide brook found just feet from the pavement.



the following days would be a tough one. Thankfully we had an excellent meal and a few hours at the bar that night to mull it all over.

The next morning brought picture perfect riding weather. Looking through the number of route sheets we decided to follow the "Lake Winnepesaukee Meander." Meandering is always a good thing. This brought us around Conway and then continued south along scenic backroads before getting to the shores of Winnepesaukee in Wolfeboro. Wolfeboro wears the crown as America's First Resort Community. The shores of the beautiful lake have enticed travelers to spend time here for years.

We grabbed lunch at a dockside

Along for the ride this day was our good friend Roy and two new folks Glen and Janine. About half way along 113A, I got a radio message from Shira who was riding tail, that Janine, who had just picked up riding again after a many year lay off, had low-sided in one of the left-handers.

Returning to the scene of the crime we found Janine dazed and scraped but okay and her old Kawi in somewhat terminal condition on its side. The bike remained there until it was picked up by a local dealer for parts and Janine found out how comfortable the pillion of a Concours can be. We see a new machine in this gal's future, perhaps an SV650?

RAMP Motorcycles

WE NOW HAVE
*More Bikes...
More Brands!*

Cruisers • Touring • Classics • Sport Bikes • Custom Choppers

TRIUMPH
Indian
BMC CHOPPERS
Vengeance

www.rampmotorcycles.com
VISIT OUR GEAR SHOP ON-LINE!

Service Center

We Service all Makes and Models

- Dyno Tuning
- Custom Fabrication
- Full line of Accessories
- Scheduled Maintenance

CALL FOR DETAILS!

587 East Jericho Turnpike, St. James, NY
1-866-580-5874 • www.rampmotorcycles.com

Shana, my massage Goddess, made things much better back-wise and we were already looking forward to the next day's sojourn, this time north and along some of the mountain passes. One particular roadway, Hurricane Mountain Road, sounded particularly interesting. But, before the first day of the COG Rally ended, we were treated to an open house from our friends at WhiteHorse Press.

For those of you who are not familiar with this company, well shame on you. If it's published and motorcycle related, WhiteHorse Press most likely has it. They are the world's leader in motorcycle books and other things, and walking



rode onto this piece of pavement with a little trepidation. After finishing it, we couldn't understand what all the hub bub was about.

Hurricane Mountain was a real charmer. A very tight one laner that was really a two laner, it was nicely paved and reminded us of just about every road in Costa Rica, except Hurricane Mountain was smooth and had asphalt on it. What a great road!

From here we shot north and into the state of Maine on Route 113 towards Gilead, then east looking for Mexico. Yes, just like a rally a few years back in Canada where we found Mexico, here in Maine they have their own.

Bahila con nos amigos!

Heading further north the road tight-



around their warehouse was like unleashing hungry kids in a candy store. What fun. I even found a new riding belt which would prove very beneficial during this time of back duress.

That night we grabbed dinner with Dan, Judy and Company at Horsefeathers, a neat restaurant in Conway made famous by a certain detective from Boston who goes by the name Spenser, with an "S."

The following day

found brilliant sunshine spilling across the White Mountains. This could not be a Backroads Rally. Thank God for COG.

Shira and I chose to ride by ourselves this day, but as fate would have it we kept running into groups of rally-goers during the long miles that day.

First up was the infamous Hurricane Mountain Road.

After all the doom and gloom we had heard from other COG members we



Harley-Davidson/Buell of Long Branch

Exceeding Expectations Since 1972



**June 26th
Motorcycle ONLY!**

**Cruise Night
Broadway in LongBranch**

**June 17th
Bike Night
at The Cabin
Rt. 33 Freehold, NJ**

**671 Broadway
Long Branch, NJ
732-229-8519
hdlongbranch.com**

9am-10pm: 15% OFF in-stock & special orders
 9am-10pm: Pinstriper Kerry Buckley
 9am-10pm: Etcher Steve Schlosberg
 9am-10pm: FREE enter to win H-D Merchandise
 5:30pm-8pm: "Ride-in" Harley/Buell Bike Show
(\$5 entry donation to benefit 9-11 memorial)
 6pm-10pm: 6 Blocks of Broadway closed to cars
Bikes ONLY!!!
 6pm-10pm: Live Music featuring the Mango Bros
 & Rory Daniels Band
 6pm-10pm: FREE Balloons & "Tattoos" for the kids
 8:30: Bike Show Trophies Awarded

**8pm: 2004 Fat Boy
Raffle Drawing
Benefits
Ronald McDonald
House
Ticket Available:
Only 300 to be
SOLD!**



ened down through a magnificent Birch tree forest. Once again we were on "Moose Watch," but like always they know it's us and hide.

Running around one pass we came upon a superb view of a lake with one of the toughest names on the globe - Mooselookmeguntic Lake. Now say that just one time fast! It was here that some guys in a jeep told us that there were plenty of moose right up the road. Sure. They even showed us some digital pictures. Fabricators! We saw no moose, nor squirrel for that matter. We were starting to believe that the legendary moose was created by the PR Departments of Maine and New Hampshire.

Heading back into New Hampshire we took Dixville Notch to have lunch at the Balsams. Like the elusive moose, they too were gone for the season and the big place was closed. Oh, well - at least we got to ride the Notch twice.

Heading back to the hotel we rode past the mighty Mount Washington. Snow up high along with high winds had kept bikes off its lofty peaks for most of the weekend, but it is still an impressive sight, as are all the peaks in this Presidential Range.

But, it was time to get back to the Eagle Mountain House, 'cause we had a plan. Stopping by one store we scored a bottle of Red and, parking the bikes, we spent a few hours along the Jackson Falls, just a stone's throw from the hotel. What a great way to spend the late afternoon, simply sitting on the big rocks with your toes in the icy water. Okay, I admit it, I did prove gravity once again while trying to cross the falls, but luckily did not break my glass or ass.

Suddenly the clouds darkened and the winds picked up. It seems the Weather Gods had found Shira and me.

Hightailing it back to the Eagle Mountain we made it just in time before the skies opened and a downpour of Biblical proportions fell upon us.

It lasted just about twenty minutes, but was followed by the most magnificent occurrence. As the sun returned it brought with it not one, but two rainbows. Stretching from stem to stern across the mountains and valley it was a truly grand treat from Mother Nature and one that all will remember for the rest of their lives.

How did Tony arrange this one?

That evening COG had provided a really well done banquet dinner for the entire group in the carriage house next to the hotel. Speeches were given, door prizes awarded - there was much merriment.

Afterwards all involved migrated to the veranda for the now traditional cigars and adult beverages. Good times kids, good times.

As the evening progressed the weather worsened a bit and that night a steady downpour swept through the White Mountains.

By day break many riders were simply packing up, saying their good byes and making the soggy journey home.

Shira and I too simply had a light

breakfast, gave a few hugs goodbye and quietly rode down past the Jackson Falls and in the general direction of New Jersey. Interestingly enough, once out of New Hampshire the skies brightened and the rest of the journey home was fast, sunny and dry. Excellent!

Once again the folks at COG have shown us just how much fun a well planned get together can be. These folks have no airs about them and seem to welcome all comers. They seem to embody what riding and riders are all about.



COG NATIONAL RALLY -
JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
JULY 13 THRU 17TH.
SEE THEIR WEB SITE AT
WWW.COUNCOURS.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION.

WE WOULD CHARGE JUST AS MUCH AS THEY DO IF WE HAD THEIR OVERHEAD



F 650 CS

As Low As

\$159⁰⁰/month

No Down Payment

2.9% + 5 FREE

Payments

made by BMW

on select 2003 models*

FOR FULL DETAILS, DIRECTIONS OR SPECIALS VISIT

www.bmwny.com

BMW NY

Greenwich Village

401 West Street
NYC
212-242-1600

THE RIDE IS ON.

BMW NY
www.bmwny.com
401 West Street
Greenwich Village NYC
212.242.1600
508 New York Avenue
Huntington NY
631.427.4045



BMW NY

Long Island

508 New York Ave
Huntington NY
631-427-4045

*Price shown is MSRP. Price subject to change. MSRP includes destination and handling charges but excludes license, registration, taxes, title, insurance and options. Actual price is determined by retailer. 2.9% APR financing with first 5 payments made by BMW on 48-60 month contracts only and limited to 2003 models: F 650 CS, F 650 GS, F 650 GS Dakar, K 1200 LT, K 1200 RS, K 1200 GT and R 1200 CL. 3.9% APR financing with first 3 payments made by BMW on 48-60 month contracts only and limited to 2004 models: R 1100 S, R 1150 GS, R 1150 GS Adventure, K 1200 LT and K 1200 RS. Customer payment program applies only to models with sales support rates and may not be used in conjunction with 90-day deferred payment option. Offers available only at participating BMW Retailers on contracts assigned to BMW Financial Services NA, LLC from May 1, 2004 through July 31, 2004. Example: at 2.9% APR with \$0.00 down, 60 months at \$17.92 per month per \$1,000 financed; at 3.9% APR with \$0.00 down, 60 months at \$18.37 per month per \$1,000 financed. Financing subject to credit approval. Retailer contribution may affect terms. See participating BMW Retailers for details and motorcycle availability. ©2004 BMW Motorrad USA a division of BMW of North America, LLC. The BMW name and logo are registered trademarks.