

Paul Glaves



Almost any BMW rider will recognize Paul Glaves as the long-running Technical Editor for the "BMW Owners News." Not counting the Sears Allstate moped he bought when he was 14, Paul's motorcycle riding experience began with a string of several Japanese bikes in the early 1970s. The first BMW he bought was a 1973 R60/5 he gave to his wife Voni in 1977. Since then he and Voni have owned 23 BMW motorcycles and have ridden them a combined 1,500,000 miles. The bikes have included Vintage, Airhead, K-Bike and Oil-head BMWs. They currently own an assortment of nine of them.

By profession a City Planner and Public Administrator until he retired a few years ago, Paul was a "gear-head" in high school and college, so maintaining their BMWs for all those miles came naturally. Since 1996 Paul has been the Technical Editor and a regular columnist for the BMW Owners News, the monthly magazine of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of America. In readership surveys, his Benchwrenching column always ranks near the top for reader interest. In addition to writing his columns, Paul regularly answers technical questions he receives by way of telephone calls, letters, e-mail messages, and Internet mailing lists. Paul has an loyal following of BMW owners eager for reliable technical advice about their motorcycles. Paul's motorcycling interests go far beyond the technical, although some folks do accuse him of preferring to wrench rather than ride. He has competed in long distance endurance riding events and completed the Iron Butt Rally - "11 Days & 11,000 miles" - in 1999 and 2003. He and Voni are avid motorcycle travelers and campers and regularly attend rallies and events, including many BMW rallies and Bike Weeks at Sturgis and Daytona. He has ridden his BMW motorcycles in all of the 49 North American states, and most of the Canadian provinces and territories. He has also ridden in five countries in southern Africa and in Spain. Paul and Voni live in the Chihuahuan Desert south of Alpine, Texas and spend most of each summer touring the continent on their BMWs.

The Beginning...

It is my pleasure to join "Fred & Friends." Fred has gathered some truly notable motorcyclists together in this adventure, and I am honored to be here among them. Life has become interesting in the BMW corner of the motorcycling world. I can remember BMWs back to even before we had two choices. I was once asked, "Do you want the little fairing and short handle bars, or the big fairing and tall handlebars?" But recent model introductions of the new K1200 series a few years ago, then the F800 vertical twins, and now the arrival of the F800GS and F650GS models, makes life much more interesting than it was back then. Meanwhile, the 1200 Boxers keep on coming on

strong, too. Everything I hear leads me to conclude that the non-predictability of BMW and it's offerings is likely to continue.

Here at Fred and Friends we'll try to keep up with new models as they arrive, or as solid information about their arrival becomes available. We'll talk about the most recent models. We'll do some "tech talk." We'll look at recent problems, too. BMW has had some of late, including final drive failures, EWS antenna ring failures, and other issues. We'll provide the facts as we find them, but won't jump on every hysterical rumor we hear.

Stay tuned to read my detailed thoughts and findings regarding the all-too-common final drive problems.

I am most noted for writing technical articles, but here at Fred and Friends we'll broaden that focus to include all things BMW, technical materials, events, new model information, and anything else we find that may be of particular interest to BMW owners and riders. That will include stuff we use and like and stuff we tried and didn't like.

Folks keep inventing new events to attend. Well go to some of them and report back. Don't be surprised to hear some from my wife Voni, too. Anybody who has ridden their 12 different BMW motorcycles almost 900,000 miles has things to say that are worth listening to.

So, if you are a long-time BMW rider, a used-to-be BMW rider, a new BMW rider, or even a maybe-BMW rider stay tuned. We'll certainly have information to interest you.

Welcome aboard.

Paul Graves



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