

THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

BMWMOA Chapter #5/ BMWRA Chapter #107



Volume XXXVIII Issue 2

April 2010

The Town Was Ours For The Takin'!

Vance Harrelson

The annual Woo Hoo in Nauvoo was another big success. Our members blew into town starting Friday and began to stake their claims for the weekend. Once the takeover began waves of additional riders appeared throughout the day Saturday. Many would come and go through the day, some chasing ABEES points and some chasing after refreshments as they had forgotten just how dry it is in Walker County. Gary the lone sheriff's deputy assigned to that end of the county passed through several times to plead for peace among the riders...for the most part we complied.

Just before sunset, the riders mounted and rode through the streets recklessly honking, waving and raising cane (some even rode without helmets!) completing the takeover as planned. The town folk were obviously really scared as no one, not even the kids were seen outside as we passed by. I suppose everyone locked themselves safely inside their homes once they saw us arriving in town the day before. They had apparently learned from previous years that you never know when the takeover will actually begin...because you can't hear us coming!

After our romp through town and upon our return to the hotel, shots were fired by the local photographer and I understand coverage was big in the local paper. As the sunset a BBQ feast was spread after which we all relaxed in the hotel to the showing of the classic film Easy Rider which was remembered all too well by the group....those that stayed awake through the show anyway!

Sunday morning the meeting was held and then just like we came in, we slipped out of town and gave the town back to the residents...until next year! Thanks to Gary and Darlene for all their hard work in planning and executing this event. If you didn't get one, be sure to look for club members sporting the commemorative t-shirts from this event. Very cool!

Our next meeting will be in Gulf Shores at Southport Campground. Jim & Sheila Kalahan along with Russ & Roxanne Kruse will be our hosts for the famous shrimp boil accompanied by Tony Allison's famous Red Beans & Rice...you will not want to miss this trip to the beach!

The countdown to the Chicken Rally has begun! We are again planning a big time in Huntsville on Memorial Day weekend. Make plans now to attend and to volunteer! Many jobs and slots are available. You can email Connie at rally@bmwmoal.org or me at president@bmwmoal.org and we will be glad to put you on the schedule.

Also, please concentrate on selling those raffle tickets! We are way behind where we should be at this point with only two months to go! We are raffling a 2010 G650GS this year. You can order tickets to sell from Mari at weridebmw@bellsouth.net Ten tickets per book and sales of four books earns a free rally pass...a \$40 value! Anyone wishing to purchase tickets directly for the bike can order them at \$5 each. Send a check payable to BMWMOAL for the amount to us and we will return the stubs to you by mail. You do not need to present to win! Order yours today!

The weather appears to have finally broken. It has been a long winter but spring is here and it is time to get out and ride! This year's ABEES program is in full swing and Alabama is awaiting exploration. Rally season is here too with the Dogwood Trail and Georgia Mountain rallies as well as many others just around the bend...be safe and get out and ride!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the beach!

Before You Ride, Please Take Five...

or, however long it takes to do a "pre-flight" inspection of your BMW. Being a safe rider doesn't start on the road, it starts before you ride. You have purchased a BMW motorcycle, one of the finest engineered motorcycles available (at least that is what those of us who ride them believe). You've bought the expensive riding suit, paid way too much for a helmet, gloves and boots. You've acquired every electronic gadget made that will mount on a motorcycle, but many times the motorcycle itself, which is the most important component, is neglected. Our beloved BMW's deserve more, but often they don't receive the proper attention until something breaks. If neglected on a regular basis, the bike becomes unsafe. Aside from regular preventive maintenance, which many like to have a dealer or knowledgeable service facility perform, it is a very good idea to make a routine inspection of the bike each time we ride.

The MSF (Motorcycle Safety Foundation) has an inspection checklist which they refer to as T-CLOCS, which is short for T-tires & wheels, C-controls, L-lights, O-oil, C-chassis, and S-stands. This list is VERY detailed, and too long to include word for word. I have attempted a scaled down version, to give you a general idea.

T-tires & wheels: check the general condition for wear, bulges, tread depth. You can check the tire mfgs. requirements for the tread depth allowed safe. Check the tire pressures. These should be checked when the tire is cold and adjust to your load. You can refer to your owners manual or call your dealer. This varies with tire types. As a rule, tube type tires will carry less pressure than tubeless. I recommend investing in a good gauge that is easy to use on a motorcycle (the valve stem on the rear tire can be difficult to reach if you have saddlebags). Check all aspects of your wheels for anything that looks unusual (rims, spokes, leaky seals, etc.). Glance at the sight glass on the master cylinder for adequate brake fluid. Be sure the brake pedal & lever is working freely and returning to normal position.

C-controls: As above, be sure all levers & pedal are adjusted & in good condition. Cables should be lubricated to work smoothly & unfrayed. Check hoses for leaks or deterioration. Your throttle should work freely and snap closed. There should be no revving of the engine when you turn the handle bars. Note: if you use a tank bag that installs with straps, be sure your cables & steering are not obstructed by the straps.

L-lights: Battery terminals need to be clean & make good connection. Check the battery fluid. Check the headlight for cracks, and be sure both hi & low beams work. Be sure your taillight is clean & working properly. (This is often overlooked, especially on bikes ridden off-road). Make sure your turn signals work properly. Check your mirrors for looseness.

O-oil: Engine oil should be checked warm with the bike on the center stand on level ground. Check your coolant reservoir (when bike is cool).

C-chassis: Check for obvious defects, such as cracks. Some late model BMW 650's & 800's have chain drive... refer to your owners manual for adjustment. If possible, get someone to sit on the bike and then check the tension to make sure the chain isn't too tight. An over tight chain can cause real wheel bearing failure & counter shaft sprocket seals to leak. If too loose, it can run off the sprocket. If applicable, check your automatic oiler to be sure it is working properly & you have adequate lubricant in the reservoir. (My BMW has an oiler & the mfg. suggest using synthetic oil).

S-stands: Check the general condition of the side stand & the center stand to be sure they work properly, and spring securely back into place.

I personally believe that washing your BMW regularly helps you spot & prevent potential problems before they happen. Things like loose or missing screws & bolts, lubricant leaks, etc., are found easily while hand washing. I don't like using pressure washers, or even too much water pressure from a garden hose, as you can damage seals & get water in where it doesn't need to be.

At first glance, this may seem like a lot to do before you take a ride, but actually, when you make a habit of doing this, it only takes a few minutes. Isn't your safety or your passengers safety worth that? Even if you are not mechanically inclined, everyone should know the basics about their BMW. This is just part of being a responsible motorcyclist, and not just another "goober" on a bike. Your owners manual was written for a reason, so use it. Aside from being a safety issue, there is nothing more annoying than going on a ride with friends and having one of the bikes break down due to the owner neglecting simple preventive maintenance.

A final note: Riding can be very therapeutic, however now that you've taken the time to inspect your BMW, YOU should also be in a good state of mind as well. NEVER ride when you are angry, or your mind is on anything larger than safely controlling your motorcycle.

Ride Often to Ride Well
Gail Thorne

BANGUI TO ZONGO

We didn't bring much when we arrived here from Africa, some four and a half years ago. We surely hadn't expected to stay so long.

So, in the course of time, the few possessions we did bring became forgotten. Awhile back, we came across five small journals written on our journey from North Cape in Norway, to South Africa. These then became forgotten again. America takes a lot of energy. So much needs doing, or seemingly so, just to stay alive. The journals were the least of our focus. This has been a bloody wretched week. Now is Wednesday. I am tired. What's the point of trying any harder to meet this week's needs? Apparently, God owns the cattle on a thousand hills. Can't I stop for a change and let Him make up my shortfall?

"Mattea go and find those journals ... and please bring me a glass of wine." The dog senses that for once I am relaxed. She comes to look for her comfort. We've worked so hard here. It seems like four years of an endurance race. I used to like to write... "And Mattea bring me a pad and a pen!"

I am sure, that as kids we all had dreams. What shocks me about life now is how bland I have become. The hardships seem to have bred and then bred again. Even this is an exotic, land but the callousness caused by hardships have killed all but the last vestiges of romance I have towards this.

"Wake up man... you are in America ... America mate... you are living out a dream. Are you really so stupid. David?"

What dreams did you have as a little one? Did you pursue them... or did you take other advice?"

I am sorry to talk about myself. My experiences and myself are often most of what I can relate back too. Forgive my selfishness, but let me tell you about some of my dreams.

Where I come from in Australia, and especially up until my time, lots of houses were built on stumps up to eight or ten feet in the air. It was in such a breezy, wooden school house, perched upon stumps, that I was introduced to what became my favorite subject.... Social Studies.

We learnt about many things and some of us learnt quickly. Two classes shared a room. Rapidly you digested your lessons so you could feast upon the lesson of the class above you. India- the Taj Mahal... Africa-the Sahara Desert - The Congo... were you excited by the likes of this? I surely was.

Well, I'd make three journeys across India by motorcycle. Europe, the Danube, the Rhine, the Rhone... this was like the back of my hand. I'd been twice to Morocco, a gateway to the Sahara... but what about the Sahara proper....and what about the jungles and the Congo basin that lay beyond? One winter's day we crossed the straits from Spain to North Africa and headed south.... and south again. Mattea must have been ten ("Dad, I had just turned nine"). That would have made me low forties and my wife mid-thirties. What a lifetime ago it seems. The journals miss sections but they start in earnest again one Wednesday, 27th May 1998... "CROSSED FROM BANGUI TO ZONGO!"

We'd been at least a fortnight in Bangui. This is the capital of the Republic Central Afrique. It had seemed a tremendous ordeal to have arrived there. How innocent we still were! The city was shot to pieces. Razor wire was strung up and U.N. troops were holding together what infrastructure still existed. Whole buildings had been looted down to their footing. Walls of others were covered in a confetti of bullet pocks. You'd reckon, these would be around the orifices, the windows and doors, but they were randomly scattered everywhere.... still bearing witness to the orgy of gunfire and madness that had possessed this town.

The border was the Ubangui River which flowed on one side of this dump. Our initial desire was to cross over into Zaire and move out of this wretched place. The border, we were informed, was closed. There were rumors of fighting that had caused this situation.

In due course we found the Zairian Consulate. The man was rude before I even opened my mouth. "S'il vous plait monsieur, quand est ce que le frontier du Zaire est ouvre encore?"

"Do you have a visa?"

"Yes"

"Where did you purchase it?"

"Yaouonde, Cameroon."

"Then go back there to make your inquiry."

The interview was apparently over.

We moved out of the cheap hotel we'd found and pitched a tent in the spacious grounds of a couple of Canadian ex-pats, some of the few ex-pats who stayed on.

Daily we checked the border. One afternoon I began to feel poorly. The weather was sultry. Mattea and I were in a thatched roofed, unwalled hut in the garden. It started to blow. I was debating, whether or not to take some malaria tablets.

It blew harder, became dark and rain began pelting down. At that moment the first onset of shivers hit. I fumbled with the tablets. The wind scattered them.

One enormous gust hit. A very tall, very large rain forest tree took out the side fence. Another snapped halfway off and crashed beside our tent. A third crashed through the roof of our host's bedroom.

"

continues on page 4

Daddy, lets get out of here!" and a little palm squeezed into my shivering hand. The storm lasted twenty minutes. The malaria didn't. We tried the first cure, Nivaquine. It only made one feel sicker. The big guns were Larium. I took the first three tablets. This doubled the intensity of the sickness. Eight hours later I took two. I was crook like a dog. Taking the last tablet of the course another eight hours after that was akin to jumping off a cliff.

It hadn't worked. The fever seemed to be rising. I crawled into the tent that night and gave all the papers to my wife and explained what they were to do. I apologized for not being a better husband or a better father and lay there fully expecting that morning would not dawn on me.

Emy sent Mattea for water. Apparently, she ran backwards and forwards fetching this. They kept applying wet towels as though to soak up the fever. They prayed, Emy massaged. At some point I forgot the pain and feel asleep. They didn't. The sun rose. The fever had broken.

Some days later we heard, that the border was again open. We loaded up.

DIARY 27th May (Wednesday)..... **CROSSED FROM BANGUI TO ZONGO.** Bangui police demanded 6000 CFA plus 3000CFA. After a polite stand off for about an hour, paid 3000 CFA. Fuel shortage in Bangui so the pontoon wasn't running (12000 CFA). Arranged two pirogues side by side lashed together with planks across. Used two other planks to drive bike up and on, sideways across the pirogues. Trouble with porters who demanded money for doing nothing. I did all the arranging and loading myself...."

We were finally leaving that wretched country with its wretched capital. The noses of the dugout canoes headed for the other shore.... Zaire..... newly renamed the Democratic Republic of Congo.... the same Congo of a little boy's dreams.

DIARY A bit rough driving into the beach at Zongo. One plank started breaking. One flipped up nearly hitting me.

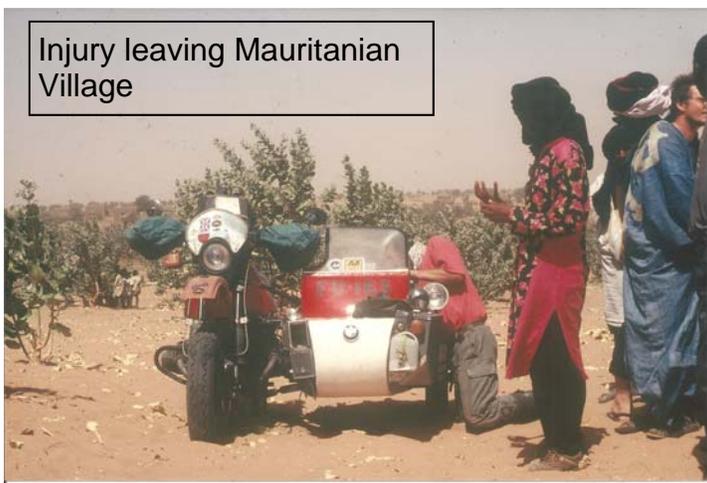
Life can seem like a string of anti climaxes, don't you sometimes find?
David Woodburn Florida Camp



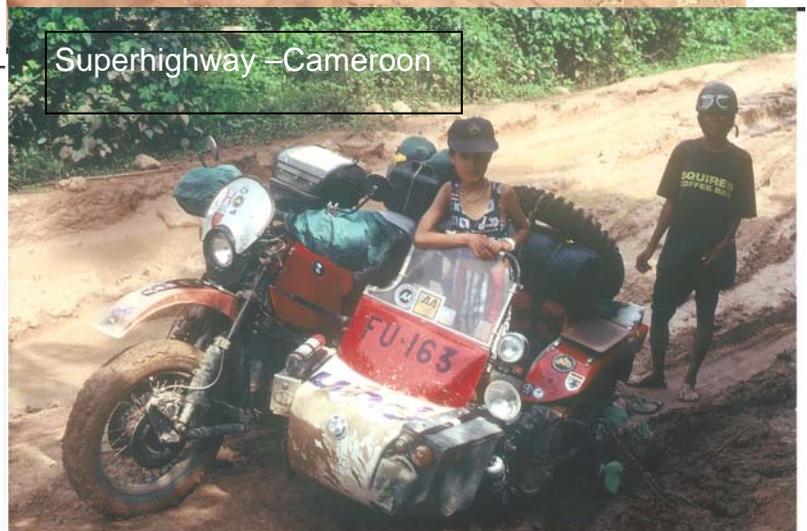
South to Morocco



Fesh-Fesh-Mali-sub Sahara



Injury leaving Mauritanian Village



Superhighway -Cameroon

OTHER MOTORCYCLE EVENTS ...

Decatur, MS - BMWrofMS Dogwood Trail Rally
~ 9-11 Apr. '10

Braselton, GA - AMA Superbike Championship
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Decatur, MS - BMWrofMS Dogwood Trail Rally
~ 9-11 Apr. '10

Braselton, GA - AMA Superbike Championship
~ 16-18 Apr. '10

Bybee, TN - AMA BMW National Adventure Ride
~ 17 Apr. '10

Hiwasee, GA - BMWMOofGA Mountain Rally
~ 30 Apr. - 02 May '10

Birmingham, AL (Barbers) - WERA Regionals
~ 1-2 May '10

Talladega, AL - Motorcycle Grand Prix Races
~ 12-13 June '10

Birmingham, AL - Vulcan Bike Week
~ 30 June - 03 July '10

Forkland, AL - Bama Bike Fest Summer Rally
~ 10 July '10

Redmond, OR - BMWMOA National Rally
~ 15-18 July '10

Pownal, VT - BMWRA National Rally
~ 29 July - 01 Aug. '10

Talladega, AL - Motorcycle Grand Prix Races
~ 21-22 Aug. '10

Birmingham, AL (Barbers) - WERA Nationals
~ 10-12 Sep. '10

Birmingham, AL (Barbers) - AMA Superbike Championship
~ 24-26 Sep. '10

Birmingham, AL (Barbers) - 6th Vintage Bike Festival
~ 08-10 Oct. '10

Centerville, TN - Wagoners Rib Fest & Dual-Sport Ride
~ 23-24 Oct. '10

Forkland, AL - Bama Bike Fest Fall Rally
~ 30 Oct. - 01 Nov. '10

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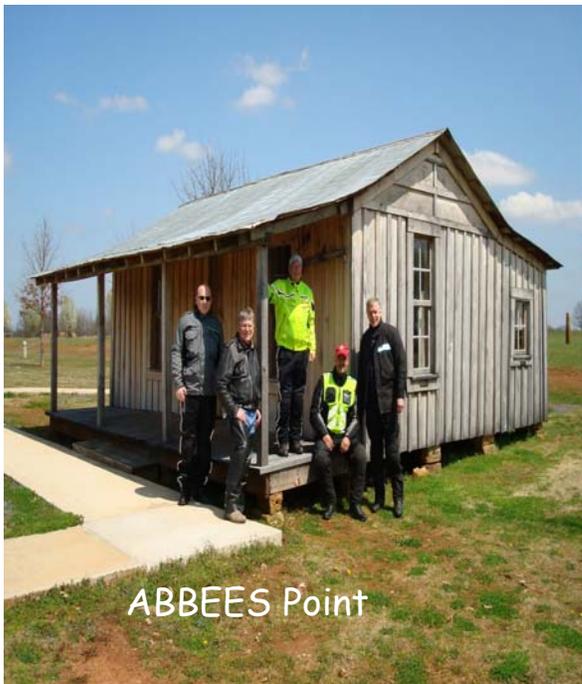
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Rodger

Kimberly Bonner	5/3	Gail Reynolds	5/11	Malvene Jackson	5/20	Steve Hebert	5/27
Russ Kruse	5/3	Woods McRoy	5/11	Chris Patterson	5/21	Pinkie Brown	5/30
Terese Stevens	5/3	Jenny McRoy	5/12	Frances Perret	5/21	Sarah Pesnell	5/30
Don Norwood	5/5	Holle Johnson	5/13	Beverly Hughston	5/22	Janice Seaman	5/30
Steve Damron	5/6	Joyce Dabbs	5/15	William O. Barnes	5/22		
Andrea Pedigo	5/10	Jimmy Morgan	5/17	Linda Cain	5/24	Happy Birthday to our May members	
Clint Pittman	5/10	Tony Ridgeway	5/17	Tom Kimbrell	5/26		
Eddie Lindsey	5/10	Mike Harvill	5/18				
Sam Monte	5/10	Gail Thorne	5/19				



ABBEES Point



Woo Hoo in Nauvoo

2010 TOURING WEEKEND: BEGUILING BACKROADS (Check out this article in Road Runner Magazine)

Nestled in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, Bristol, VA offers ready access to some of the best motorcycle touring that America has to offer. To the west are the Blue Ridge Mountains and the iconic Blue Ridge Parkway, winding its way majestically high above hill and dale. Heading north, riders will experience the verdant rolling farmland of the splendid Shenandoah Valley. Going west, you soon find yourself riding up on the Appalachian Plateau, through the ruggedly beautiful environs of southwestern Virginia and eastern Kentucky. And to the south is some of the most challenging two-lane tarmac available in Tennessee and North Carolina.

If you're intrigued by these beguiling byways and haven't yet registered for RoadRUNNER's 2010 Touring Weekend, do so today. You'll find everything you need to know on our website (www.roadrunner.travel) in the "Events" section. Sign up online, or call us at (866) 343-7623. See you there.

**BMW MOTORCYCLE OWNERS OF ALABAMA
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM**

Date: _____/_____/2010

NEW _____ RENEW _____ UPDATE _____

Sponsored by _____

Primary Member: _____ DOB: _____

Secondary Member: _____ DOB: _____

Address: _____ Apt# _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ FAX: _____

Year / Model BMW(s) : _____

Circle those that apply: MOA Member RA Member Airheads Member Oilheads Member AMA Member

Dues are \$20.00 per year for primary and \$3.00 per year for secondary members. Make check payable to:

BMW M/C Owners of Alabama. Mail application with check to: Marty Simpson, 10010 Torino Drive, Huntsville, AL 35803

Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2010 8:30 AM

Nauvoo, Alabama (Old Harbin Hotel)

President Vance Harrelson presiding

Vance opened the meeting by thanking Gene and Earlene McDaniel for their hospitality and a special thanks to Earlene for putting up with Gene during our visit. Also thanks to Gary Nesmith and Darlene Massey plus many others that helped with the coordination of this club meeting. This is a great place for a club meeting and the parade on Saturday went well with even the rain holding off until later that night.

Welcome to Leroy Sloan attending his first club meeting and also Neville Reese and his wife Susan who once were members but have now returned.

Thanks to Sheila Kalahan for her coordination of the unique "Easter egg" door prize container that held the ticket plus additional goodies inside. Darlene Massey provided a table full of door prizes which many of the members enjoyed winning.

Connie Reaves gave the Treasury Report and indicated she and Marty Simpson are getting things together for the Chicken Rally. The pins have been ordered and the Rally T-shirt is in the works. Steve Sanders has also sent out 400 letters for door prize donations. The Raffle Fund is very low and members need to get to work on this. We only have two months to go before the Chicken Rally. Call Mari Harrelson at 205-621-1682 or email her at weridebmw@bellsouth.net and she will mail them to you.

After several weeks of discussions by the FOB Committee comprised of Don Little, Martha Warren and Steve Whitley, Don presented these guidelines to the members. Last week a vote on these guidelines was taken by the Officers and Directors with a majority vote approving these as an addendum to the Membership Section of the By-Laws. These guidelines are set out below and will be included with the Welcome Letter mailing when FOB Members join.

FRIENDS OF BEEMERS (FOB) MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES

PURPOSE: The specific and primary purpose of the Friends of Beemers (FOB) membership is to promote interest in and education about BMW motorcycles for the non-BMW rider/passenger and non-riding BMW enthusiast. This is to include supporting the BMW Club while participating in motorcycle safety, motorcycle touring, camping and other recreational and social activities and to foster a positive image of the Club and its BMW motorcycle members.

A prospective FOB member must meet the following requirements before becoming an FOB member of BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama:

Applicants for Friends of Beemers (FOB) must be sponsored by an active BMW Club member in good standing.

Existing BMW owner members in good standing who no longer own a BMW motorcycle in their household do not require additional sponsorship.

A prospective FOB should attend a minimum of three Club meetings/functions as a guest before being sponsored as an FOB. Non-riding support FOB members may waive the meeting attendance requirements.

After payment of yearly dues, FOB's will have privileges accorded any member, except may not (a) hold office, (b) participate in voting issues, (c) sponsor other BMW owners or FOB's for membership in the Club, and (d) invite guests other than a passenger on the FOB's motorcycle.

An FOB member may have secondary members within the same household like all other active BMW Club members.

The rules and dues will be the same as dictated by the By-Laws with the exceptions noted in #4 above.

Vance stressed the importance of maintaining accurate e-mail addresses in the database. The Club has over 270 e-mail addresses in the database and if there are any e-mail address changes, please let him know as soon as possible.

Bob Steber reported Martin Benson has had neck surgery and has not been able to ride or lead rides lately. The ABEES booklet supply is very low and since it is \$7.00 per copy, additional copies will be slow coming since it takes a minimum order of 25 each time. See Bob or Vance if a copy is needed.

Vance mentioned our next club meeting is weekend of April 24-25 at Gulf Shores, Southport Campground. Jim Kalahan and Russ Kruse have volunteered to host this club meeting cooking up some shrimp boil with sides along with Tony Allison's delicious red beans and rice. There will also be a vintage bike show on Dauphin Island during that weekend and is included in the ABEES booklet as a point for those who are counting.

50/50 split this month is \$55.00 and was won by Don Little.

Until next time.....RIDE SAFEMartha Warren for Mari Harrelson

Fun At Nauvoo



Welcome to New Members:

Charles "Nevill" and Susan J. Reese

Sponsored by David Ghostly

Items for Sale



1994 K-75 Low. ABS, Heated Gripes, Lowered Works Shock, New Tires, Battery, Brakes. Two Seats, Three Shields. 40000 miles. One owner. Lots of extras.

Call Keith Sherrill 615-347-2517

1994 K75 (Rocket City Rally Bike). Metallic Red, 13,300 miles.

Lots of Stuff: Custom made trailer that Tony Authier made, tools, books, leather riding suit, helmets, tank bag and more. Will send photos and details.

1995 R1100GS ABS, one owner, properly sorted. Records. **\$4,800 in accessories alone.**

H-B lower and upper crash bars with headlight grill. BMW tank bag (electrified) 3 windshields, front & rear Corbin seats with interchangeable back rest. S.S. Speigler brake lines, TT reinforcement pts, OEM un-blistered plastic tank (holds 1 gal. more). Front & rear Ohlins shocks! Staintune low pipe allowing full size 41L Touratech al. panniers, included. Top Of The Line rear rack. Bar backs. OEM heated grips and hand guards. Throttle Meister lock. Hyper lites brake lights. Odyssey battery. Only Mobil 1 through out since proper break-in. Only serious repair was the final drive which has just been professionally rebuilt and then installed by a factory tech. Zero miles on new FD due to house building project. Always garaged. 90,000 miles which is nothing on an oilhead.

The club members that know me know this has been a great trouble free bike.

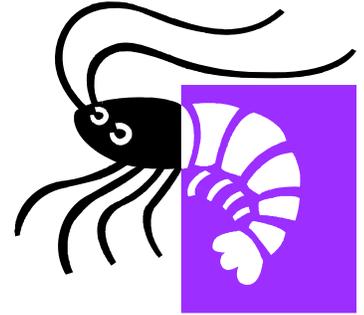
\$6,500 Again:\$4,800 in top shelf accessories.

Now located near Asheville, NC Photos upon request at big-branch08@cbvnl.com

It's Gulf Shores Time!!

Dates are April 23rd-25th

Please tell Sandy you are with the BMW club. They have reserved that pavilion/party room for us for the entire weekend for our use only.



Camping for tents in the primitive area will be \$15.00 per night

Camping for tent at a site with water and electric will be \$17.00 per night

RV's with full hooks ups will be \$25.00 per night

Dinner price will be determined based on attendance so you need to get your reservations in as soon as Vance sends out his E-news



Editors Note:

Please have a little patience with the new Editor. It takes a bit to get back in the rhythm. Folks don't always know what is happening in each others lives. Our son got married April 3rd so I had a lot of extra responsibilities the first months of the year. If anyone is interested in taking this over I may have to let it go anyway with our shop getting busier, so keep that in you minds.

Joan

2010 ABEES COUNTS						
Name	Restaurants, Points of Interest and Monthly Club Gatherings	Favorite Roads & Rides	Total ABEES Check Offs	Total ABEES Tickets	Total Bonus Tickets	Total Tickets
Martin Benson	90	7	97	4.9	5	9.9
Bob Steber	81	10	91	4.6	7	11.6
Rodger Williamson	74	10	84	4.2	5	9.2
Vance Harrelson	27	2	29	1.5	6	7.5
Tim Flynn	18	4	22	1.1	2	3.1
Terry Ware	17	1	18	0.9		
Rhea Converse	15		15	0.8		
Leroy Sloan	13	1	14	0.7		
Joan Ware	11		11	0.6		
John Harper	7	3	10	0.5	0	0.0

IT'S CHICKEN RALLY TIME !!



As your rally chair, I would like to encourage you all to please go to our website and take a look at the rally volunteer page. It shows the schedule of jobs and times we need to fill in some workers. Our website is www.bmwmoal.org

Please choose your job and times you can work and e-mail me at BAMABMW@aol.com or rally@bmwmoal.org and let me know your times. I will go in to the site and fill you in with your chosen times and you will see it the next time you look (within a day usually).

MORE OF WHAT I NEED FOR CHAIRPERSONS !

1. I am looking for someone who can head up the Vintage bike show. It would entail checking in the old bikes when they arrive and putting the info signs on them and then handling the vote and the count of votes on them on Saturday. You do not have to know much about the vintage bikes to do this. Each owner can tell you the year and details of the bikes for the signs, and then I will have a good Vintage person to do the professional judging but they are not available for the whole weekend. The Vintage show will be provided a couple of the large tents so you will have a nice shaded area to sit.

2. I also need someone to head up the kids games on Saturday. We have a toss game and water balloon game and a large darts (non-pointed) game. This would last about 2 hours on Saturday afternoon.

3. I need someone to head up the 50/50 sales. You will have a table set up, and will need to walk around the rally site (there will be other volunteers too but I need someone to head them up) and sell 50/50 tickets.

4. I need someone to be in charge of the t-shirt sales table.

5. We need someone who is really dedicated and can take the heat, to train with Larry and Paul, to learn how to smoke the chicken.....how to load it on the smoker, how long it needs to smoke, when it needs turning, and how to tell if and when its' done. Those two guys really need to get someone trained so we can split the days into three shifts and take a bit of a load off them. this is hot, hard work and I'd like to see someone step up that can be as dedicated to this as Larry and Paul are. We need you !!

I would also like to remind you to sell some of those raffle tickets so we can give some money to our preferred organizations this year. It's not hard to sell them and goes to a good cause. We only have about seven weeks for you to sell and get your ticket stubs and money in to Mari before the rally. All tickets sold or unsold must be returned to her.

Thanks for selling and for volunteering in advance ! I'm looking forward to our 22nd year !

Connie



Gasoline, according to Wikipedia, “consists mostly of [aliphatic hydrocarbons](#) obtained by the [fractional distillation](#) of [petroleum](#), enhanced with [iso-octane](#) or the [aromatic hydrocarbons toluene](#) and [benzene](#) to increase its [octane rating](#). Small quantities of various additives are common, for purposes such as tuning engine performance or reducing harmful exhaust [emissions](#). Some mixtures also contain significant quantities of [ethanol](#) as a partial [alternative fuel](#).”

It is undeniably stuff that enables us to enjoy our common sport. Gasoline has changed over the years for many reasons. The addition of MTBE added oxygen but caused ground water contamination and has now been replaced by ETHANOL. Ethanol aids in more complete combustion and consequently reduces pollution.

Ethanol also has only 70% of the energy of the same volume of gas. I believe it also affects the storage life of the product in a significant way. Gasoline with ethanol spoils much more quickly. I have seen a large increase in bikes this Spring with fuel related problems caused by gas that is 3 to 6 months old (according to the owner, and they always have the birth certificate for the fuel).

If, over the winter months or other period of storage, you start your bike once a week and let it run for a few minutes, you're not helping it. The same old gas that is in the tank is running through the injectors / carbs. Much agony could be saved by riding a tank of gas out of it once a month. Your bike's battery would thank you for it, too.

T. Ware Tech Director

The Yellow Line

Daffodils are the first golden miracle to rise up amid lifeless branches, weeds and the dead grass of winter. When we first moved here, their long rows and large clumps in the middle of nowhere were as mysterious to me as crop circles. However, after closer examination, most of the time I discovered the scattered remains of a home's foundation or evidence of a broken down fence row. Driving around further, I began to notice how some people use this gold-crowned flower as a way to mark their property lines and enhance the view in their yards. Having come through many gray winters since, I can understand why folks would want to see large patches of bright color as soon as the weather cooperates. Speaking of which, I'm sure that Jim and I are not the only ones who have been on our bikes enjoying the glorious sunshine and explosion of color that always accompanies springtime; but we are probably among the minority when it comes to those who stop to do pictures. That said, I will confess there are very few scenes which cause me to pull a bike over; but when it happens, Jim is always so patient and without complaint (just one more reason to love the man). We hope you will enjoy the fruit of some of our stops.

Riding bikes in such beauty also makes my brain go wild in the helmet time. It is interesting all the similarities that came to my mind between Daffodils and Christians. OK, maybe it goes a little too wild, but considers this; Daffodils are the first heralds of spring, signaling new life to come. Isn't that what Christians are supposed to be? Aren't we God's messengers, spreading the Good News of new life? Don't we, as the followers of Christ, bring beauty and hope? And shouldn't we be a visible line of demarcation from the dead things of the world; a tangible display of the vibrancy brought about through new life in Christ? Just like the strange yellow lines and golden clumps of blooms that appear in the middle of nowhere; aren't those who have chosen to pick up their cross and follow Jesus just a little out of place in the world? How about the few who do stop and consider the outrageous claims of Christ...wouldn't those out of place rows and clumps be a welcome sight to them? We should be. We should also remember that when things appear to be falling apart around us; God's shining light makes the sharp contrast between life and death even more compelling.

I think Isaiah 60:1-3 was not only written for Israel, but to the Christian Daffodils of this world, “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD shines over you. For look, darkness covers the earth, and total darkness the peoples; but the LORD will shine over you, and His glory will appear over you. Nations will come to your light and kings to the brightness of your radiance.” Isn't that why we are here; so the LORD will shine over us in order to bring the nations of the world to Him...for His glory?

So, to all the Christian Daffodils which are in a purposeful place, being lovingly looked after and nourished, continue to bring hope and joy to your corner of the world. For those who feel they are in the middle of nowhere, with no purpose; know this...even when you think no one is looking or cares, your LORD sees and His glory shines over you! Faith and trust are what it takes to flourish where you have been planted, even when you can't feel the warmth of His light. God knows, and He is trustworthy beyond all others. And one day, looking back, you will see that He was there all along. So in the meantime, arise and shine, for your Light has come!

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Dedicated to safe and enjoyable motorcycling



Please visit the BMWMOAL web site at www.bmwmoal.org and register. Log on and see what members are saying about club activities. The site is user friendly and the newsletter is in color.

Club Sponsored Events With Meetings

April 24-25 Gulf Shores-Southport

May 27-30 Chicken Rally

June- 26-27 Cruso

July 24-25 FDR State Park, Columbus, Ga

Aug. 27-29 Kinderfest @ Kalahan's

Sept. 25-26 Shellmound, Jasper, Tenn.

Oct 30-31 Blue Springs

December Christmas Party plans were tabled for now

Other Events of Interest

April 9-11 Barnsley Motor Werks Tech Days

April 30—May 2 GA Mtn. Rally
www.bmwmoal.org

MOA Rally Redmond, OR July 15th—18th

RA Rally July 29th—Aug 1

October 23—24 Rib Fest

December 4th, Eldridge Children's' Home