

THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle
Owners of Alabama

BMWMOA Chapter5/
BMWRA Chapter #107



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THE CAMPGROUND BECKONED

Jamie Jackson

We had almost a week to rest following the 6th BMWMOAL Bluewater Cruise and it was time to travel again. We watched the weather closely as the forecast was revised several times, and finally we decided to take the bike and Kwik Kamp. Since we were pulling the pop-up and were anxious to beat the impending storms we took I-65 from Birmingham to Stockton, Alabama. Lunch at the Stagecoach Restaurant in Stockton brought back memories of the cruise of the prior week, with more food on the buffet than one could possibly try a sample of each. Fried catfish, southern fried chicken, steak and gravy, potato salad, turnip greens, peas and okra, hushpuppies, cole slaw, cobbles, ice cream etc., etc. Since I had just come off of a week of competitive dining I was in good condition to represent the club well.

As we left the Stagecoach with bloated stomachs and headed due south on Highway 225 toward Ft. Blakeley the sky appeared very dark directly ahead. Malvene's voice came over the intercom, "Pay no attention to it and maybe it will blow away before we get there." Now stopping to put on raingear would have indeed violated her confidence, so on we flew; right into possibly the worst thunderstorm of the season! "Keep going", she called out, "it shouldn't last long". Hahahaha, it did too last long and we were really wet, but no problem we were arriving at Ft. Blakeley and we could get out of our wet gear. Checking in with Crazy Jim, the Park Ranger, was another story all in itself. By now Don and Barbara Little had showed up while we were checking in and said they would follow us to the campground. We left the gate and proceeded to the campground, equipped with a not to scale map that I quickly misread, and took a wrong turn up a dirt road (trail?) that made for some really exciting riding on the LT and pulling the pop-up. Do I need to mention that Don and Barbara were not all that impressed with my navigational skills?

After a couple more attempts we found the campground. Park Rangers were already assembled at our campsite to check on us. As it turns out Richard and Stacey were two very witty and knowledgeable guys that had us quickly laughing and asking questions. They suggested that we be careful with food items since there was a 450 pound wild boar that lived in the heavy woods that abutted our campsite. I asked them, since alcohol was not allowed in the park as well as firearms, what should I do if the hog showed up. They both offered to loan me a knife. I swallowed hard and they laughed and the conversation turned to the campground. It seems that our campsite was right on the Civil War line of battle that had taken place there. They told me it was not at all unusual for campers to see the spirits of Civil War soldiers roaming through the campsites. Bruce Cain had spent Thursday night there alone and said he even went into the cemetery during the night and didn't see anything.

Rickie and Lila Bonner suggested that we join them for dinner Friday night at the Bass Pro Shop. Sure enough, the Bass Pro Shop in Spanish Fort features a 13,000 square foot restaurant called the Islamorada Fish Company. Be sure to try it if you are nearby.

Saturday morning we took the Delta Explorer boat tour through the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, one of Alabama's Ten Natural Wonders. It was very informative and extremely interesting to travel through the delta and realize it's importance during the War between the States (the great struggle). Lunch at the Blue Gill Restaurant was excellent.

We had a wonderful weekend camping with our fellow friends and club members and are appreciative to Michael Johnston and his wife for hosting the event.

MEETING MINUTES

Barbara Little - Secretary

March 31, 2012

Ft. Blakeley Historic State Park

President Don Little presiding

Since there were 23 folks present and no one else was expected, we decided to hold the meeting on Saturday night.

Don opened the meeting with a big THANK YOU to Michael Johnston and his wife, Lee, for a great bar-b-que dinner Saturday night and rolls Saturday and Sunday morning. Michael also had door prizes available for us.

Next up was recognition of our two visitors: Charles Bennett, who rode down from North Carolina and Butch Turner, a member of the R. A. M. S. motorcycle club.

There were no officer's reports to be given. We did get a rally report, of sorts, from our Cajun friends who told us that breakfast would be taken care of by them.

Amelia Bauman gave us an update on Cajun Chaos and it sounds like another good one. She is starting the weekend with a light lunch on Friday. Friday night we will be treated to Jambalaya prepared by the 2011 Louisiana Jambalaya Champion. Saturday night will be a repeat of last year's crawfish and fix-in's as well as frog legs.

They are also planning a Saturday ride to Ascension Parish. And if that isn't enough excitement and entertainment, there is the local juke joint that Mike says has some great entertainment. For those who enjoyed the place last year, Mike says there have been some repairs made to the restrooms (something about no more cracks?).

It sounds like another fantastic weekend. **Amelia says that she must have a good head count by April 20th** in order to prepare. Please email her at amelia.bauman@yahoo.com to RSVP. Mike and Amelia do have plenty of space if you want to camp there, or there are two motels nearby if you would rather have air conditioned sleeping quarters.

Eric Gilmore was the winner of the \$54.00 50-50 pot after which the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Little, Secretary

MAY BIRTHDAYS

2	Debbie Donnels	13	Carlos Calero	16	Pam Flynn
3	Kimberly Bonner	13	Laura Morris	17	Jimmy Morgan
3	Russel Kruse	15	Joyce Dabbs	17	Tony Ridgeway
3	Terese Stevens			19	Gail Thorn
5	Don Norwood			20	Malvene Jackson
8	Justin Prann			21	Christopher Patterson
10	Bob Caswell			21	Frances Perret
10	Eddie Lindsey			22	Beverly Hughston
10	Andrea Pedigo			24	Linda Cain
10	Clinton Pittman			27	Steve Hebert
11	Woods McRoy			30	Pinkie Brown
11	Gail Reynolds			30	Sarah Pesnell
12	Jenny McRoy			30	Janice Seaman



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Terry and Mary Walker	Hixson, TN	BMW 2012 1200 GS	Sponsor: Vance Harrelson
Jeff Howard	Pell City, AL	2001 F650GS Dakar	Sponsor: Tommy Arnold
John Lindberg	Hampton Cove, AL	2001 R1100 RT	Sponsor: Tommy Arnold

BMW MOTORCYCLE OWNERS OF ALABAMA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Date: ____/____/2012

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 \$25.00 per year for primary and \$5.00 per year for secondary members. Make check payable to:

BMW M/C Owners of Alabama. Mail application with check to: Tommy Arnold, 471 Plantation Pt. Rd., Scottsboro, AL 35768

ABEES UPDATE

Rodger Williamson

Three months down, and nine months left to go. Here are the current rankings for the ABEES/ Mileage challenge. I'd like to thank those who are sending their info in, and then encourage everyone else to please participate. The contest this year is to both visit as many ABEES points as possible, and then also rack up as many miles as possible on a BMW motorcycle. Each ABEES place visited counts for one point, and every group of ten points will translate into a raffle ticket for a prize drawing at the end of the year. In addition, several persons expressed an interest in continuing tracking mileage, so we're doing this as well, and every 1,000 miles will also translate into an addition raffle ticket. At the end of each month, you will need to forward your odometer reading, and a list of places visited to me as the Travel Director, so that I can crunch the numbers and figure out which spots are the most popular, and which are the spots that nobody goes to.

Also, by sending in your list monthly, your current count will be figured into the standings so that the Rankings can be published in our Clubs newsletter. At the end of the year, I can make up awards for the highest ABEES and highest Mileage participants, and I will also be able to recognize the most visited ABEES locations. So far, nobody has sent in a single ABEES list, - so everybody is still at a Zero for the year in that category. I am going to have to ask that any Club Members who intend to participate, PLEASE contact me at Travel@BMWMOAL.org prior to (or at) our Chicken Rally in Huntsville on 25-27 May 2012, and let me know your desire to be added to the competition, - because I plan to close entry on 01 June 2012. Good Luck to everyone, - and Ride Safe!, - and I hope to see y'all in Louisiana at the end of this month !!

NAME	YTD PER BIKE	YTD PER RIDER
Tommy Zeringue	6307	6307
Greg Turp	4233	4133
Mike Bauman	3040	3040
Albert White (R1100RT)	1429	1822
Albert White (R1200C)	393	1822
Vance Harrelson (G650)	1060	1612
Vance Harrelson (R1200GSA)	552	1612
Rodger Williamson (R1150GSA)	1299	1341
Rodger Williamson (R1150R)	42	1341
Bill Bryan	1320	1320
Shep Brown (RS)	313	734
Shep Brown (RT)	421	734
Bill Shanks	150	150

How Do You Ride Like That?

Jeff Sparks

After leaving my home base in northwestern Alabama for a short ride over into Mississippi with a few friends, one of my Harley riding buddies asked me how I could stand to ride with my feet in the position that they were in. He seemed to think that it was unusual for me to have my feet underneath my torso as opposed to stretched out in front in the proper cruiser position. We had ridden a little more than one hundred miles and I was not uncomfortable at all, but the stop was welcomed for I have a fifty something year old prostate. I didn't really have a good answer other than to say it was very comfortable to me to have them beneath me like that.

His comments though, caused me to give some thought about the issue. I have a R1150R, which is just a standard bike. To me the foot peg location looks to be similar in location to that of the RT (Touring) and GS (Adventure Touring), while the LT (Luxury Touring or Light Truck) models have a slightly more forward position. Most of the time when I ride my instep is on the foot peg, although sometimes I place the ball of my foot on the peg to put little more bend in the knee. Sometimes when I feel a little discomfort I straighten my legs out by hanging them down off the pegs for a while, with my soles just brushing the pavement. I do not believe that I would feel comfortable with my feet resting on the cylinders, not to mention the melting of my boots which would be sure to occur, nor have I felt a need to place foot pegs on the cylinder heads or any other forward locations to get my feet out there in front of me.

My reasoning is simple. I want to be prepared to avoid accidents. With my feet directly beneath me, much as General Lee rode Traveller, when I straighten my knees there is a shift in the center of gravity of about 200 pounds, less the amount bearing on the handle bars, from an area well above the axle height to an area much lower, closer to the axles. And with this lower center of gravity, this 750 pound projectile which is me and my motorcycle is easier to aim. Also from this position, if my path to safety involves grabbing the binders, I can shift my weight forward to assist the front tire in gripping by leaning more onto the handlebars as I rapidly put the pads in touch with the disks on the front. If my feet were out extremely far in front of my body mass and my knees were not completely straight already, the straightening of my legs would push my rear toward the back, and that may cause excessive grip onto the handlebars to maintain balance. If that is one's chosen riding position, the thought process may be that in an emergency you would relocate your feet from the forward position to the middle (assuming you were using "highway pegs") but that is a time gap in emergency avoidance that I do not wish to have to factor in.

I saw the most beautiful display of the shifting of one's motorcycle center of gravity recently at the AMA race at Barbers. The riders would enter the turn with their bodies toward the inside of the turn, weight on the inside foot peg, then as the track switched back, Barbers has a few of them you know, the rider in a fluid motion, would slightly lift off the inside peg, reposition his body on the other side and the bike would fly through the turn with seemingly no other input from the rider.

To see how much your knees are bent and how much forward lean you have on your current bike, or on your next one, you can go to <http://cycle-ergo.com/>. You type in your height and inseam and then select the motorcycle. It will give you a reading of your knee bend and forward lean in degrees. In my case, on a R1150R, I had a knee bend of 97 degrees and a forward lean of 22 degrees. Going to the extremes in the "cruiser" position, a Harley Night Rod, put my knees at 22 degrees and forward lean at 20 degrees. Sport bikes generally have the foot pegs further back to help the rear tire hook up and have lower bars to cause the rider to lean forward to keep the front wheel on the ground. My reading on a BMW S1000RR would be a knee bend of 101 degrees and a forward lean of 44 degrees.

These comments are not to demean or criticize those who chose to ride in the style popularized by the cruiser. I am very much a person who says "Let those who ride decide" but for me, I prefer to ride like General Lee.

2012 European Rider's Rally May 18th - 20th

Connie Reaves

The registration is open for the European Rider's Rally. We have a great rally planned this year with a class on slow maneuvering and throttle/clutch control with drag rear braking.

If you have ever wondered how motorcycle policemen turn around in the space of a single lane, let this 20 year veteran instructor teach you how. The steak dinner, Bicho Brother's Band and the campground are ready. Go to <http://www.bmwcon.org/rally.php> to sign up.

The first two hundred online signups are assured a long sleeved Rally shirt and pin. Once the shirts are gone, only pins will be available--so sign up soon!

2012 CHICKEN RALLY

Jamie Jackson

Tommy Arnold reports that pre-registrations are still pouring in for our annual "Chicken Rally" in Huntsville Alabama and it is looking like we will have a record crowd this year.

If you as a club member have never attended the annual rally, why not make this year the time to try it. Find out what all your club does to promote motorcycling and motorcycle camping. The rally brings international interest to Alabama and showcases our many motorcycle attractions such as Barbers Motorsports, Little River Canyon, Cheaha State Park, Monte Sano State Park, and thousands of miles of beautiful twisting back roads throughout the state.

If camping is not your game then there are many motels nearby. Also, day passes are available for Saturday.

BMW MOTORCYCLE OWNERS OF ALABAMA - Dedicated to safe and enjoyable motorcycling.

HELP WANTED

Sheila Kalahan

Volunteers for the 2012 Chicken Rally are needed. **NO FORMAL SKILLS REQUIRED** other than knowing that you are supporting the club. All on-the-job training will be performed by our highly qualified personnel. Great benefits (lots of chicken) For more information or to volunteer, call from blue members book or e-mail to:

rally@bmwmoal.org

RAFFLE TICKET SALES

Raffle ticket sales is going well but many more need to be sold to pay for the motorcycle that will be given away at the Huntsville Rally. Word is that Steve Hebert has already sold 10 books in Afghanistan. If you need tickets contact Connie Reaves for books of tickets. Her telephone number and e-mail address is in the blue Members Directory.

Cajun Chaos

Please let us know if you plan to attend by April 20. Also, in order to make sure we have enough food, please indicate which meals you plan to eat with us.

Please respond to amelia.bauman@yahoo.com

WHEN: Friday, April 27 - Starts at noon

Sunday, April 29 - Ends after meeting

WHERE: Home of Mike & Amelia Bauman

21115 MacHost Road

Zachary, LA 70791

Phone: 225-654-9186

His cell: 225-933-5666

Her cell: 225-936-3540

Camping available in the yard. A couple of campers could have electricity. May have a couple of indoor sleeping spots still available. There are 2 hotels approximately 3 miles from the house. (Holiday Inn Express 225-654-1402 and Best Western 225-658-2550.)

Cost: \$25 per person

Friday night - A trip to Teddy's Juke Joint can be arranged if anyone is interested. We ask that you make this event by automobile with a designated driver.

Saturday - Ride through Ascension Parish, south of Baton Rouge.

Saturday evening - Bonfire, weather permitting. Lots of tall tales.

Meals: Friday Light lunch and for dinner,
 Jambalaya prepared by Kyle Frederic

Saturday Breakfast, light lunch, and dinner is
 CRAWFISH!!!!!!

Sunday Light breakfast



Kyle Frederic was named "Champion of Champions" at the 2011 Jambalaya Festival

A BRIEF EDITORIAL

Jamie Jackson, Vice-President

If you read the minutes of the March meeting at Ft. Blakeley, you saw that we had twenty-three folks present at the campout. Two of those were guests so we had twenty-one members. Of those twenty-one members, eight (38%) were from Louisiana. I know other events were going on such as MotorMadness in Tennessee that some of our members attended, and I also realize that the meeting/campout was re-scheduled from the last full weekend of the month to accommodate the folks that went on the cruise; however, I am disappointed that we had such a small turnout. It seems that the members from Louisiana take the club's activities a little more seriously than the folks right here in Alabama.

I am concerned that member participation is minimal for any activity including meetings/campouts, the Huntsville Rally, the annual Christmas party, week night café get-togethers, and special events. When I look over the names in the blue membership book I realize that there are people listed that I have never met and I doubt that have ever been to a club function of any kind. What would it take to get more members involved in club activities? I also wonder why a person wants to be associated with the BMWMOAL if they never intend to participate.

I do know that our president, Don Little, has started a program of personally telephoning members that are inactive and encouraging them to share in the club calendar of events. I hope his efforts will be rewarded. Also, I want to ask each one reading this to personally invite an inactive member to a meeting in the coming weeks. We can leave it all to Don or we can pull our load through personal involvement.

Notice that I am not campaigning to grow the club, just to get more interest from our existing members. If you have ideas on how to accomplish this please e-mail me at vicepresident@bmwmoal.org. Your suggestions of course will be held in confidence.

I do hope that members from Alabama reciprocate and show up in numbers at the April meeting hosted by Mike and Amelia Bauman in Zachary, Louisiana. The entire "Cajun Contention" works hard to put this together so please try to attend. You, and your appetite, will not be sorry. The details of the meeting are described elsewhere in this newsletter.

Replies to this editorial will be published in future issues of the newsletter if the responders wish. I invite your response.

Club Sponsored Events With Meetings

Apr 28/29 Cajun Chaos - Zachary, LA
May 24 - 26 Great Chicken Rally - Huntsville, AL
Jun 23/24 Courtyard 25 - Vandiver, AL
Jul 28/29 Blue Ridge MC Campground - Cruso, NC
Aug 25/26 Kinderfest - Enterprise, AL
Sep 29/30 Harbin Hotel - Nauvoo, AL
Oct 27/28 Laurel Trails Campgnd - Monteagle, TN
Dec 8 Christmas Party - Hampton Inn, Eagle Point

Other Events of Interest

Apr 28 Barnsley Tech Weekend - Ephesus, GA
Jun 14 -17 RA Rally - Copper Mtn, CO
Jun 22 - 24 Barber Superbike - Birmingham, AL
Jul 19 - 22 BMWMOA - Sedalia, MO
Oct 12 - 14 Barber Vintage Days - B'ham, AL
Oct 5 - 7 Return to Shiloh - Pickwick Dam, TN
Nov 12-14 SwampScooters Rally - Carencro, LA