

THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle
Owners of Alabama

BMWMOA Chapter5/
BMWRA Chapter #107



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BLUE RIDGE M/C CAMPGROUND

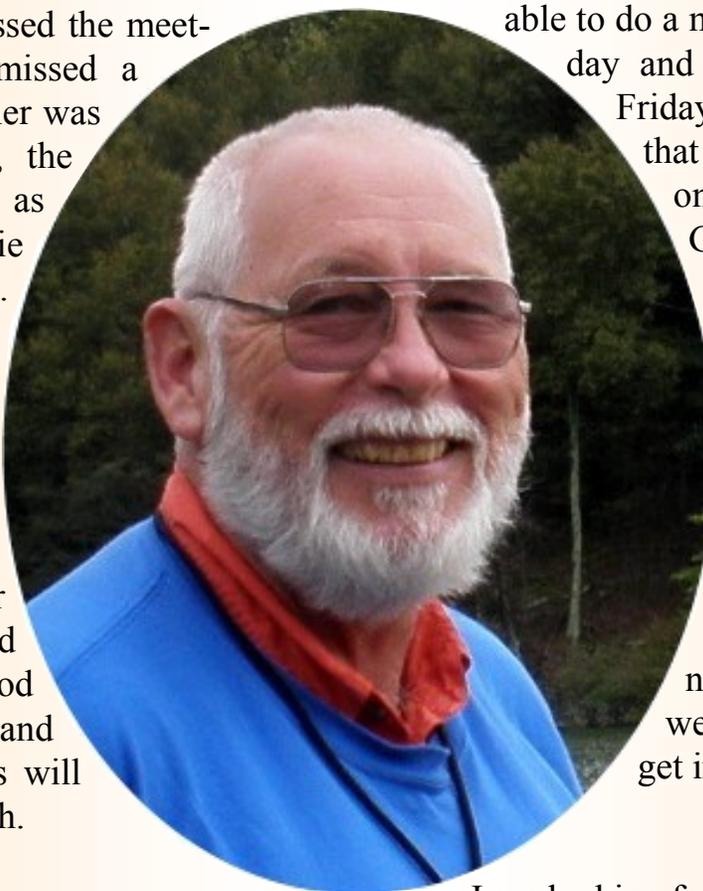
Don Little, President

Those of you who missed the meeting last week sure missed a good time. The weather was cool and mostly dry, the riding was great and as always Philip and Leslie were wonderful hosts. Leslie's delightful meals make a great get-away even better.

It seems that things are coming together for the rally. Vern and John have tentative food vendors lined up and hopefully more details will be firmed up this month.

The person Vern is talking to may be able to do bar-b-que chicken Friday and Saturday night so we can keep the chicken theme.

The one vendor that John is talking to may be



able to do a meal Thursday, lunch Friday and Saturday and breakfast Friday through Sunday. So if that all that works out we are on the way to another Great Chicken Rally.

If anyone else has any ideas or suggestions, please let me or Sheila know.

Since this will be all new territory for the Club, we need all the help we can get in getting it all together.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Raccoon Mountain the end of the month. This is a new meeting place for us, and I hope a lot of our members will be able to attend. And we still have a lot of decisions to be made about the rally and everyone's input is important,

JULY MEETING MINUTES

July 27, 2013

Blue Ridge Motorcycle Camp, Cruso, NC
President, Don Little presiding
Barbara Little, Secretary

Don called the meeting to order with thanks to everyone who attended and a special Thank You to Phillip and Leslie for hosting us.

He followed by saying that the Club has sent flowers to the funeral of long-time member, Tony Allison who passed away last week. A lot of our present members remember Tony for the red beans and rice he always made for our Gulf Shores cook outs.

Don reminded members that we need to be thinking about elections coming up in January. He said at the beginning of this year that he would not run again in 2014. Your vice-president, secretary, and newsletter editor have indicated same.

Next up was the subject of the 2014 rally. (As discussed in the July newsletter, the rally will be held at Ditto Landing and the site has already been secured.) John Zibell has spoken with several food vendors and has found one who can do breakfast and perhaps lunch.

Vern, while he was involved in the committee's look into future rally venues, found a caterer in Warrior who would be willing to come to Ditto Memorial Day weekend to prepare a bar-b-q chicken dinner for rally goers. This caterer can also do lunch with several menu options. Vern spoke very highly of the bar-b-q.

There are still some questions to be answered and details to be worked out, such as how many meals the Club will provide, but we are getting closer to finalizing our plans. Jamie reminded us that we must get details worked out in time to get our ad in the MOA ON by October.

The discussion then turned to the sale or the retention of our equipment: smokers, griddle, deep fryers, etc. It was finally decided that John Zibell will talk with the restaurant supply dealer in Huntsville to get some idea of the value of the equipment and then we will hold further discussions next month.

Bob Steber asked about pre-registrations. The idea of a higher price at the gate seemed to be favorable to all.

Jamie then asked for the floor to speak for Malvene on behalf of the newsletter.

He asked if we had seen all the wonderful articles that filled the last newsletter...the ones that members had submitted. He went on to ask if we really need a newsletter. Does anyone read our newsletter??? Is it time to drop the newsletter and put everything on the forum??

That led to a discussion of non-members having access to our forum. If we do away with the newsletter, some information such as treasurer's reports and other information that is not included now can be put in an encrypted forum or section of the forum for members only.

Don is going to get with Steve Schuckman about the possibility of encryption.

About this time someone announced that Leslie would only be serving dinner for another 20 minutes and the place cleared out faster than you could say "adjourned".

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

Date: ____/____/2013

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

Club Sponsored Events With Meetings

- Aug 24 Raccoon Mtn. Campgnd - Chattanooga, TN
- Sep 28 Old Harbin Hotel & Campgnd - Nauvoo, AL
- Oct 26 Little River State Park - Atmore, AL
- Dec 14 Christmas Party - Hampton Inn, Eagle Point

Other Events of Interest

- Oct 4-6 2013 RAMS Rally - Parker's Crossroads, TN
(Formerly Return to Shiloh Rally)
- Oct 11-13 Barber Vintage Days - B'ham, AL

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Sabrina Summers	19	Stan Zangel
4	Steve Irwin	21	John Stanley Bonner
5	Bill Bedgood	21	Pat Huey
5	Ian Schmeisser	22	Nancy Keen
5	Sabrena Zangel	23	Lisa Irwin
7	Marty Simpson	24	Carmen Sparks
8	Barbara Little	26	James Tucker
11	Marvin B. "Jack" Cox	26	Linda Bates
15	Ricky Huey	27	Rhea Converse
15	Jennifer Rusak	28	Sheri Nesmith
17	Becky Ghostley	29	Brady Rogers
18	Monica Blum	29	Darlene Massey
18	Wanda Daigle		



EDITORIAL

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERSHIP

by Jamie Jackson, Vice President

As noted in the minutes of the July meeting, I asked the question “Did everyone enjoy all the articles in the July newsletter”? I asked the question sarcastically because there were no articles submitted for the July newsletter with the exception of the President’s Report and the Secretary’s minutes. In fact there have been only two articles submitted for the entire year; Susi Dubick in March and Erik Bahl in April. It is extremely difficult to publish a quality newsletter without support from the membership.

The club newsletter was originally developed to provide a means for the club officers to communicate with the membership consistently without dealing with individual letters and phone calls. Birthdays were recognized, new members announced, and items for sale were listed. As time past the newsletter was enhanced with motorcycle related stories, with pictures, submitted by club members.

All this of course, was before the introduction of electronic communication by means of personal computers and the ubiquitous internet.

It follows then, that it may be time to take a look at our internal communication structure and re-evaluate the effectiveness of the newsletter. I know to propose a change in our method of operation may cause considerable alarm with many of our members. I am suggesting, however, that we begin discussions now on alternatives to continuing with a formal newsletter.

The forum on the club website is filled with ride reports, trip details, and supporting photographs that were never submitted to the newsletter editor, so that may indeed be the best place for that type of information.

Our by-laws state that a newsletter will be published monthly and mailed to each member of the club. We voted at the January 2012 meeting in Montevallo that an electronic newsletter with an electronic message announcing its availability would satisfy the by-laws. To eliminate the newsletter altogether and provide a different means of communication will require a re-write of one of our by-laws. Any change to our by-laws must be proposed to the secretary by October, so that it may be entered into the agenda for the January meeting, and put up for vote by those present at that meeting.

Please continue to discuss the feasibility of discontinuing the formal newsletter so that a minimum of discussion will be required if it goes to vote in January. Questions and comments may be directed to me by e-mail (my address is in blue members book).

What: **August BMWMOAL Meeting and Campout**

Where: **Raccoon Mountain Caverns and RV Campground**

When: **August 23 / 24**

Questions: **Direct questions to Tommy or Jeannine Arnold** (see blue member book)

Directions: If coming from Birmingham: Take I-59 north until it merges into I-24 in Northwest Georgia. After merging stay on I-24 eastbound towards Chattanooga. After several miles you will enter Tennessee and exit, #174, will be the first Tennessee exit. Turn left at the bottom of the ramp and go 1.3 miles. The entrance will be on your left.

Full Service RV Sites - \$32.04 - \$35.69 + tax per night

Water & Electric Sites - \$27.46 - 30.21 + tax per night

Primitive tent Sites - \$18.31 + tax per night

The campground has clean showers and a pool for guests.

Raccoon Mountain Caverns and RV Campground is located just outside of Chattanooga, Tennessee in the Black Creek area of Lookout Valley. At the far edge of the property, but still within walking distance to both the cave entrance and campground is Raccoon Mountain Fun Park. The park consists of Chattanooga's newest go-kart track and a batting cage complex. Choose from single or twin seat NASKarts powered by the quietest engines in their class. Drivers must be 54' tall but shorter individuals may ride as a passenger in a twin seat kart.

Raccoon Mountain is just seven minutes from historical downtown Chattanooga, the Chattanooga Choo-Choo, the Tennessee Aquarium, and less than five minutes away from Lookout Mountain.

The cave system consists of over 5 1/2 miles of explored and mapped passageways with new discoveries still being made. Visitors can choose from either a 45-minute, come-as-you-are walking tour known as the Crystal Palace Tour or from one of our famous wild cave expeditions. The cave is open every day, rain or shine, except Thanksgiving and Christmas, and is naturally maintained at a comfortable sixty degrees by Mother Nature