

# THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

BMWMOA Chapter #5/ BMWRA Chapter #107



Volume XXXVI Issue 2

February 2007

## BOB STEBER PRESENTED WITH EXCEPTIONAL SERVICEAWARD

Jamie Jackson

BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama President, Connie Reaves, presented Bob Steber with the President's Exceptional Service Award for 2006. Bob served as Director of Travel for 2005, 2006 and continues for 2007. He created the ABEES program and travel guide to promote more riding by the membership.

In addition to planning routes and rides for the club during the year, Bob was able to attend every meeting to assist with the activities and promote safe and enjoyable motorcycling.



His monthly newsletter article, *Alabama Backroads*, is entertaining and enlightening and points out some of the more scenic and interesting roads in Alabama.

The Alabama Beemers' Exploring & Epicurean Society or, ABEES for short, at first seemed somewhat unwieldy to some until Bob designed the ABEES Touring Guide. The guide provides a very organized and systematic way to

plan and document your motorcycle travels. Also the guide lists a couple of hundred of the best restaurants, cafes, and, Bar-B-Que joints that can be found anywhere in the South.

Bob says that as he gathered information for the ABEES guide he came to realize that there are

some of the best motorcycle roads and some of the most beautiful scenery in the country right here in the back roads of Alabama.

Bob already has plans to enhance the riding challenge for 2007 with the "Extremely Alabama" adventures and the "Great '07 Q-Quest", a barbecue lovers delight.

So for 2007, as one of the cruise lines says in its commercial, "Just Get Out There!"

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ELECTED FOR 2007

The officers and directors that were listed on the ballot included in the January newsletter were unopposed and the ballot was voted on and passed during the January meeting.

Serving you for 2007 are:

### Officers

- President ..... Connie Reaves
- Vice President ..... Vance Harrelson
- Secretary ..... Mari Harrelson
- CFO ..... Marty Simpson /  
Bruce Farr
- Newsletter Editor .. Jamie Jackson
- Rally Chairperson ..... Lori Dendy

### Directors

- Travel ..... Bob Steber
- Technology ..... Rick Jones
- Photography ..... Malvene Jackson
- Membership ..... Jeannine Arnold
- Safety ..... Jim Baker

Don't hesitate to call upon these people to assist you with any club related issues. And in turn these are just club members like you that have agreed to serve in these positions, so be sure to support them as they carry out their duties.

## MEETING MINUTES

January 28, 2007  
Montevallo Motor Vehicle Safety Center  
President Connie Reaves Presiding  
Mary Harrelson - Secretary

Connie opened the meeting with a special plaque presentation to Bob Steber as Most Valuable Member of the Year. His ABEES program required an incredible amount of work on his part and it is not over yet. Bob described how best to use your ABEES book to get the most benefit from it. We will have 2 challenges this year that are described elsewhere in this publication...they are:

### 07 Great Q-Quest-----and-----Extremely Alabama

Bob will also be posting Saturday rides on the forum.

Awards were given out to those that completed the challenge of 2006:

**Single riders**-Terry Ware, Connie Reaves, Gary Ne-smith, Jamie Jackson, Jim Dubick, Barry Clay, Barry Clay, Vance Harrelson and Bob Steber.

**Two up 2<sup>nd</sup> riders**-Susan Clay, Joan Ware, Malvene Jackson and Susan Dubick

The only 2 people that completed the ABEES Bogart's Big 50 Challenge were Bob Steber and Vance Harrelson. Both received plaques and were entered into the drawing for the Olympia Touring Jacket donated by Bryson at Bogart's. Bob Steber was the lucky winner of the jacket.

Connie announced that it is time to pay your club dues if you want to be in the "Blue Book". We currently have 462 members according to Connie. Don't get left out.

Raffle tickets are in and we need to start selling them. Connie stated that about 5 people have sold the majority of the tickets to date. You now have 4 months to sell your tickets to get you in to the rally. You will not receive tickets unless you request them so for tickets contact Mari Harrelson at [werridebmw@bellsouth.net](mailto:werridebmw@bellsouth.net) or call 205-621-1682.

Connie gave the treasurer's report and offered a peek to any one interested in looking at the details. Connie still has lots of decals, pins and ABEES books available. I have club t-shirts too.

Vance and James discussed the improvements they are about to make to the website and the forums. Watch for upcoming announcements and improvements to this integral yet under used tool.

First time members welcomed were David and Emy Woodburn and Guy Caffey (who found us from our website). Guests were Harry Bonner's friend Celina and Rickie Bonner's wife Lila. We hope to see all of you back as regulars in the future.

All officers and directors listed on the ballot provided earlier were voted in as listed with no contested positions. Also, the schedule of meeting locations for the coming year was established and voted in, with the exception of the Christmas party for December. Several people will research possible locations to be proposed at a later date. A suitable location will then be selected. The meeting places voted in can be found elsewhere in this newsletter

\$137.00 50/50 split this month is \$68.50 and was pulled by Terese Stephens and won by Vernon Headrick



Mari Harrelson takes minutes as presentations are made during the planning meeting.



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 John Pearson
- 2 Larry Byrd
- 2 J. P. Thomas
- 4 Rob Harrelson
- 4 Ray McAlevy
- 4 Jeffrey Fikes
- 7 Walls Aaron
- 12 John Gregory
- 13 Gerald McCuistion
- 13 Greg Wright
- 14 Lucinda Bollinger
- 14 Jared Pond
- 15 Rickie Bonner
- 16 Don Drasheff
- 18 Randy Myers
- 19 Rhonda Allred
- 20 David Aiken
- 20 James Taylor
- 21 Tony Allison
- 27 Paul Thorne
- 29 John Cockrell
- 29 Bill Stevens
- 30 Shep Brown
- 31 Stephen Gilbert



## OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Mark Rowse                      Mobile, AL  
R1150RT, '94 R1100RS  
Sponsor: MOA link to Club's  
Web Site



## THOUGHTS / PRAYERS AND TIDBITS

Connie Reaves

Rhonda Allred – pray for her peace in the loss of her husband Robert Allred. Rob passed on Jan, 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007, losing his fight with cancer. Rob was much loved in this club, by all who met him, and had a personality like a warm huggable Teddy Bear. He was entertaining, sincere, kind and just made anyone who met him feel as if they were important to him. Rob will be missed.

Tim Flynn's mother passed on during the holidays and we did not find out about it in time to wish him peace in the last newsletter.

Paul & Rhonda Wharton – for their son Joey, suffering from Lupus which caused a shut down of his lungs, kidney's and heart and was on life support for a long while. He will now have dialysis 3 days a week and chemo once a month. Let's pray for a good outcome for them all.

Pray for Norman Heath as he continues his battle with cancer. His latest CT scan shows an aggregate reduction in his tumors, with some smaller and others slightly larger. Norman reports that for the first time in fifteen months he is cautiously optimistic

Don Hamblin is experiencing a nice steady recovery from his neck surgery. After many years of pain he is now pain free and just did not realize how bad it had actually gotten and what he had learned to tolerate. Don is expecting to slowly get back to riding and may try to make the Dogwood Trail rally his first "big" trip. We hope to see Don and Paul both at rallies and meetings too if they can make it.

Bogart's has gained a nice coup in selling another 10 motorcycles to the Montgomery Police Dept. this year. This will make 15 BMW's they will have on their force. Congrats to Bryson Stephens of Bogarts on this extra nice deal.

Bill & Beverly Bedgood's new house is nearly built now, on their property we camped at last year. Unfortunately, it's right on the spot where Paul Thorne's personal shower/porta-potty was, but we will relocate Paul's facility and make sure he is comfortable at this year's campout there.

Steve & Bonnie Sanders had a photo album of the last six months of places they had been with their exchange student from Russia, Irina. (GEEZ I hope I spelled that right) They have brought her to several of our functions and she's a delightful lil' lady to talk to. I think they are all really enjoying this experience.

Bob Steber was this winner of 2006's President's Exceptional Service Award, for the club. Bob put in months devising the ABEES travel book. Please get your copy of the Alabama Beemers Exploration and Epicurean Society booklet and start on your '07 Q challenge. (details in this issue).

## 2007 Off TO a Great Start !

By Connie Reaves

The January meeting weekend was a blast. We all shared in the pizza for dinner and watched 2006's Year in Pictures Photo show. Time was spent afterward with libations and stories and meeting the new folks that were there.

Guy Caffey made his first meeting weekend and it was nice to meet him, although I personally didn't get much chance to talk with him while collecting dinner money and signing folks in. I sure hope he makes it to another meeting soon and I get to remedy that.

David & Emy Woodburn were also attending their first meeting weekend and I did get to chat with them at length later on in the evening. David is from Australia (I sure hope I remember this right) and Emy is originally from the Phillipines. Both were amusing and charming and had great stories to tell of their travels. If you ask David where he's from he will tell you "Georgia". They previously lived in Florida and their experiences with "Americans" there left a lot to be desired. They are more than happy with the friendliness of folks in the "south" meaning Georgia where they live now, and Alabama folk. David is setting up business in Ephesus, GA., where he will be working on BMW's. This is not something new. He's very skilled and specializes in /5, /6, & /7's and BMW's with sidecars. He also has experience in /2's and Urals. For the time being, if you want to find out about David and his work, they will be listed in your membership "blue" book that will be coming out this month. Meantime you can call 770-854-9136 for info and/or directions. Or you can e-mail me for now if you want directions. They are constructing their shop and plan to be open by mid-February. It will be called Barnsley Motor Werks. I'd like to welcome them to the club and look forward to some possible tech days at his place in the future.

Sunday morning brought our meeting and it was a really productive one. We have some of our favorite spots voted in for the year's meeting weekends, and we didn't lack for volunteers to host them.

For February at Ft. Toulouse , Dan Thompson has since offered to host a fish fry. Since we will be camped by the river and eating fish, I figure we can

rock on our picnic benches and sway our beers back and forth and pretend we are with the group on the cruise since it's that same weekend. Maybe we'll sing a few pirate songs and think about the poor folks out there in that big ol' ocean maybe swaying a little more than us.

The rest of the meetings places and dates you will see listed elsewhere in this newsletter. I'll be sending out the E-news for reservations for the February Fish Fry in about a week.

All of the officers and directors that were on the ballot as printed last month were the ones that were elected as it stood. Since there were no more nominations it was voted that we take it as is. We have

a good group of folks this year. I expect you will be hearing about more of the new members that join this year as Ms. Jeannine Arnold is going to be handling that job. At least as soon as I can get her the info she needs to get started.

Now here is where I want to thank Bryson Stephens of BOGART'S Motorsports for his donation of the riding jacket that was won in the BOGART'S-ABEES BIG 50

Challenge for 2006. Bob Steber and Vance Harrelson were the only two to complete that complicated challenge and a drawing of names at the meeting gave Bob the winning draw and he got the jacket. Now we all know that Bob is our travel director and he put this whole thing together and there were jeers and shouts of "cheating", amidst all the

laughter. Congratulations Bob, we ALL know you really did win that challenge and we are looking forward to the new 2007 challenge you have designed for us. (See Bob's article for details) I'd like to see a whole bunch of you get out there as much as you can and try to unseat this guy from his lofty position. Being the great travel director he his, and retired with way too much riding time available, it will be hard. But there's the CHALLENGE !!!

As many of you know, we lost our Dear member, Robert Allred two days before the meeting after his two year battle with cancer, and several of us went to Huntsville after the meeting on Sunday to see Rhonda at the visitation and let her know that we are all with her in her sorrow.

Look for the website to change dramatically in the next few weeks. We are moving the server and buying a new forums package and it will be totally re-



designed. Hopefully we will not have any more problems with it afterwards and it will be able to be more up to date. James Taylor and Robbie Atchison will be co-webmasters and between those two extraordinary brains all should be well. We want to thank Phillip and Leslie Johnson of the Blueridge Motorcycle Campground for starting and paying for our website for the last two or three years. It was a wonderful and most appreciated gift and we are going to show our appreciation by making it make the most of what the club has to offer.

Don't forget to call or e-mail Mari and Vance Harrelson and get some bike raffle tickets to sell. It sure goes easier if more people sell a few, and remember, if you sell 4 books you get in the rally for free.

All the money made after paying for the bike goes to the Head Injury Foundation and the Motorcycle Safety Foundation in equal amounts. So tell folks where the money goes and it's much easier to sell them a ticket. It's actually not that hard to do anyway. DON'T BE SO SHY !!

Before I stop, I just want to say THANKS for your faith in me as I start my 6<sup>th</sup> year as your President. That's still kind of amazing to me, and I hope that as long as I have this position, I will always be able to do the job you expect me to do. I'm sure to mess up plenty, but you seem to be a forgiving bunch ! I'm sure one of these days someone will come along and want to take this over , but until then I thank you for the appreciation you all never fail to convey to me.



## **NON-MEETING GET-TOGETHERS AROUND THE STATE**

### **Birmingham**

Diplomat Deli - Each Thursday evening the Birmingham folks are meeting at a new location called the Diplomat Deli which is located at 1413 Montgomery Highway, Vestavia Hills which is in the same shopping center as Pier 1 near the Bruster's Ice Cream. The food is excellent, the service is unsurpassed and they have the largest selection of beer of any place in the state. They also boast of over 500 different wines.

Arrivals begin from about 5 to 5:30 PM and stay till about 7:30 to 8 PM.

Members or someone just interested in BMW's in the area are encouraged to come. Plan a ride, share a story, have some dinner and a tea or a brew. CONTACT [BAMABMW@aol.com](mailto:BAMABMW@aol.com)

### **Huntsville**

The Huntsville crowd is temporarily meeting each Friday night at the Holiday Inn at Madison Square Mall due to the closing of their 15 year meeting location. They are currently scouting a new place to meet and eat, so until they find a new place please join them at the Holiday Inn.

### **Montgomery**

Flip's Uptown Grill

The monthly Montgomery, Alabama area breakfast (and possible ride) is the second Saturday of each month, at Flip's Uptown Grill in the Sturbridge Shopping Center at the corner of Vaughn Road and Taylor Road. We will meet for breakfast at 8am and those who choose to ride afterwards can plan to do so at that time. All brands of motorcycles and cars welcome. drive whatcha got. Flip's has a complete made-to-order breakfast menu. Bring bucks and come hungry!

### **Robertsdale (South Alabama)**

The Oasis Truck Stop

Saturday mornings at the Oasis Truck Stop at Wilcox Rd Exit I-10 about half way between Mobile and Pensacola, every Sat. morning. Riders are usually there from about 7:30am until 9- 9:30. Rides are concocted for afterwards. Contact John at

[johnart1@aol.com](mailto:johnart1@aol.com) for details

## CLASSIC/VINTAGE CORNER

Tim McGee

### The Beginning of a Legend

This month we will explore the early origins of the company we all care so passionately about.

The earliest historical evidence of a company called Bayerische Motorenwerke (BMW) was in July 21, 1917. It was actually the formation of one company from two. One was Rapp Motorenwerken and the other the Otto Werke.

The company had a brilliant engineer called Max Friz whose specialty was aero engines. The first product was an inline six cylinder airplane engine called the "Type III A". This engine had a specially designed altitude carburetor that allowed the pilot to adjust the air fuel mixture at different altitudes, which enhanced the performance of the airplane. The BMW logo is a stylized airplane propeller. The blue part of the emblem is supposed to represent the sky against the propeller. The primary customer was the German air force, and the maximum production achieved was in October of 1918 when they reached 150 airplane engine units per month with 3,400 employees. A record altitude of 9760 meters was set in June of 1919 with a Type IV airplane engine, which was an upgraded Type III A, by Pilot Franz Zeno Diemer. Sadly the Treaty of Versailles was signed only seven days later requiring the Germans to dismantle their air force. The fate of the new company seemed sealed.

In order to fend off bankruptcy BMW took a crack at building boat and truck engines. The head machinist was a fellow named Martin Stolle who was an avid motorcyclist and wanted to make motorcycle engines. He was given approval to start working on the project, so in the spring of 1920 he started building 6 different engine designs. He rode a Douglas Motorcycle at the time and he used a Douglas engine as a yardstick. The engine was a 500 cc-opposed twin, but had been mounted inline with the motorcycle frame in the Douglas. He started by totally dismantling one and taking measurements. What resulted was two basic engines, one designated the M2B15 (BMW's first motorcycle engine) and a M4A1, which was a four cylinder version of the same engine. BMW hoped to market this to boat and truck manufacturers. The M2B15 turned out to be 494 cc with an equal bore and stroke of 68 mm. The side valve engine delivered a whopping 6.5 hp

at 3,000 rpm. The M4A1 never really took off like they had hoped. The first order was from Victoria-Werke in Nuremberg, for the M2B15 engine to be used in their Victoria motorcycle. BMW was noted for their engineering and machine work, and the M2B15 was a drastic improvement over the old Douglas motorcycle engine design.

This was not enough to keep the company afloat during these turbulent post war years so BMW took on an order for building compressed air brakes for the Bavarian State Railway Company. This went on for several years and during that time BMW forged an alliance with BFW (Bayerische Flugengwerke). BFW made several different motorcycles one called a Flink and the other called a Helios. Both were to use the M2B15 motorcycle engine from BMW. BMW was very proud of its quality product and reliability. They were unhappy with the performance of the Flink and Helios since their frame a suspension was not up to the superior performance of the M2B15 motorcycle engine. For this reason they would only take credit for the engine.

Because of the Flink and Helios quality issue, BMW decided to make their own motorcycle, and assigned Max Friz to head the project. Max was a very proud aero engineer and took awhile to warm to this project. He was himself an avid motorcyclist, so it was just a matter of time before he came around. Martin Stolle, the machinist had since left BMW to go to Douglas. In October of 1923 BMW showed its first motorcycle at the Paris motorcycle show. It was called the R32, and was equipped with an M2B33 engine, and upgraded M2B15, which put out 8.5 hp. The motorcycle had a shaft drive (image that) and the engine was mounted transversely for the first time, to aid in the cooling of the cylinders. The public reaction was mixed. It was ugly to some with those cylinders protruding out, but the engineers in the crowd knew they were looking at a motorcycle which would have extraordinary reliability.

So there you have it. BMW went from an aero engine company to a motorcycle company in 6 years. They wouldn't make their first car until 1928, which was called the Dixie. So now you know why all "real motorcycles" have shaft drive and two cylinders. (Sorry Just Had to Say It).

[However, Craig Vechorik has been heard to say "All 'real motorcycles' have a round tail light." Ed.]

## FEBRUARY MEETING DETAILS

Connie Reaves

Place: Ft. Toulouse, in Wetumpka, AL.

Dates: Feb 24/25<sup>th</sup>

Dinner Sat. night will be a fish fry, cooked by Dan Thompson.

Due to the equipment available and logistics of this, we will be able to cook for only 25 folks. This should not be a problem since many of the regulars will be off on the cruise. So if you want the fish dinner, don't delay in sending me your reservations.

The rest of you, if there are more, we will have some good suggestions for places to ride to eat. Several of you expressed a wish to do that at the February meeting anyway, so you can take advantage of that if you want.

For the ride to eat folks we will still be collecting \$2.00 each ABOVE your camping fees for the pavilion rental for the club's use that weekend. That \$2.00 will be added in to the Fish Fry folks dinner price as it always is.

PLEASE SEND me your reservations for the dinner as soon as possible. Dan needs to know about a

week in advance to be able to make the trip to get the fish and other supplies at a discount.

Camping at Ft. Toulouse.... We have the group camp area which does not have hookups but is just as close to the bathrooms as the full camping pad sites are.

Tent camping in the group area is \$6.00 per tent.

Renting your own regular site is \$11.00 for a tent and \$14.00 for a pop-up or wheeled type set up. If you want to reserve your own site, please call Ft. Toulouse and do so ahead of time. 334-567-3002. Tell them you are coming with the BMW club and would like a site close to site #39 where Dan Thompson has already reserved his, next to the group camping area.

Fish Fry dinner price will have to be determined when we see what the ingredients total is divided by how many actually show up for dinner as always. Generally it's been about \$6.00 to \$8.00 per person with the \$2.00 pavilion fee additional. It could be cheaper depending on the price Dan can get for the fish mis-cuts he always buys.

The meeting will be at 9AM Sunday morning as usual.

See ya there !

Watch for the new BMW Owners of Alabama web site -

Coming soon!

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

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2006

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

# ALABAMA BACK ROADS

Bob Steber

Hello Alabeemers

For 2007, our fun challenge event is to ride to the extreme geographical locations of Alabama by visiting the highest point, the lowest point, the middle of the state, towns in the four corners, and to seek out and judge the best BBQ "joints" along the way.

There are twenty seven BBQ restaurants listed in your ABEES Touring Guide (easily identified by the \*# mark) which are considered to be the best in Alabama. They are located in each of the five regions of the state and all have their own distinctive brand of BBQ. Your mission is to seek out as many of these BBQ establishments as you wish and to judge your favorite top three. If you know of another BBQ restaurant that is not on the ABEES list, and consider it to be worthy of addition to the Guide, include it in your judging. We will ask for your collective number one, two, and three rankings at the end of the year to determine the best of the best. Also, while exploring the state on your motorcycle, please keep a tally of the total number of ABEES check offs, one for each place visited. We will ask for your totals at the end of the year also.

Now, for you "Iron Butt" enthusiasts. I'll lay odds that you can't do the extremes of Alabama in under 24 hours; maybe not even thirty six. But, if any of you think you can do it in less than 24 or 36 hours, and are successful, send me your photos and time schedule and I, and the rest of your fellow club members will be in a great state of awe. Note: You must return to your point of origination for completion.

## Extremely Alabama & The Great '07 Q-Quest

The extreme geographical locations are:

Highest Point .....Mt.Cheaha, Elevation Sign at the Rock Tower  
Lowest Point.....Pony Pub, Gulf Shores  
Middle of the State .....Montevallo University, Marker on the steps of Main Hall  
Northwest Corner .....Waterloo  
Northeast Corner .....Long Island  
Southwest Corner.....Bayou La Batre  
Southeast Corner .....Crosby

The Extremely Alabama & The Great '07 Q- Quest challenge starts January 28 and ends December 31, 2007. As you check off the extreme geographical locations and BBQ restaurants through out the year, please email photos of yourself and or your bike with a town road sign or a building with the name of the location in the background along with some comments about your visit to me, [bsteberbtr@gmail.com](mailto:bsteberbtr@gmail.com). For photo prints and memos, mail to Bob Steber, 2448 Chuchura Road, Birmingham Al, 35244. As your photos and comments come in, I will post them to the newsletter for all of us to enjoy.

Awards for those of us going to all seven extreme geographic locations and the three highest total number of BBQ restaurants visited will be presented at the January '08 meeting. Additionally, awards will continue be given for total numbers of ABEES check offs over 20. We will tally your votes for the best BBQ in Alabama and announce the top three at the meeting and in the newsletter. As a suggestion, plan to ride to the locations while attending a Club meeting in the area. For example, while in Gulf Shores go to the Pink Pony and Bayou La Batre.

The point is to get out and ride, enjoy exploring our state and have fun. Each area has its own special roads, restaurants, and points of interest to enjoy. We encourage you to take advantage of your ABEES Touring Guide, which was developed to make it more pleasurable for you to explore the very wonderful and surprising sites that the great state of Alabama has to offer. So, the next time you think to yourself; it's a great day for a ride, but where shall I go, just pick out some of the places, eateries and Favorite Roads and Rides from your ABEES Touring Guide, string them together, and go exploring.

I am looking forward to seeing you down the road in 2007.

## **BOB STEBER WINS THE “ABEES BOGART’S MOTORSPORTS BIG 50 CHALLENGE”**

Jamie Jackson

Bogart’s BMW sponsored a challenge described in the March 2006 newsletter. To qualify for the almost impossible challenge a participant had to ride a BMW motorcycle to five restaurants and five points of interest in each of the five regions of Alabama as illustrated in the ABEES guide. The five restaurants in the “Ride to Eat, Eat to Ride Tour” had to be included. Furthermore, the locations had to be documented with photos. This was a seriously difficult competition.

Two of our members completed the all the requirements. The other finisher was Vance Harrelson. In order to have a single winner, the two finishers names were put in a hat and one name was drawn at the January meeting. Bob’s name was drawn and he was declared the Grand Prize winner.

Bob stated that he rode almost 18,000 miles this year, in part to fulfill the requirements for the “Big 50” challenge. He also said that was the easy part...the hard part was not gaining too much weight from eating at all the restaurants.



Bryson Stephens of Bogart’s Motorsports presents the Olympian riding jacket to Bob at the shop.

We would certainly be amiss if we did not recognize the accomplishment of Vance Harrelson for finishing all the requirements. Congratulations, Vance.

The Club wishes to thank Bogart’s Motorsports for supporting this activity by donating the Olympia Riding Jacket. Be sure to express your appreciation when you visit the shop.

### **ITEMS FOR SALE**

1980 BMW AIRHEAD - 1,000cc - 48,195 miles. 2nd Owner- Has been in storage. Green with Cream Pin-stripe - Full Race Faring - Clip Ons Mikuni Carburetors - New Tires, Battery, Steering Bearings , Swing arm Bearings, Rear Main Seal, Oil Pump Seal, Air Filter, Clutch - Gearbox rebuilt. \$4,000.00 David Woodburn 770-854-9136

[boxwood567@yahoo.com](mailto:boxwood567@yahoo.com)

01

1993 K1100 LT - Charcoal Grey - New tires, battery. 111K mi.- \$3000 obo. Larry Camp 205-655-7165 or 286-478-0367

01

1992 R100GS, red with 44K miles, bags, throttle lock, heated grips/hand guards, trailer hitch/electric connection, Olin shock, Time Out camping trailer. Opens to 14ft. Package \$7,000. Rhonda Allred 256-776-3778

02

2004 R1150RS, Blue on blue, 5K miles, ABS, bags, heated grips, Uni-go trailer hitch/electrical connection. Like new \$11,500 Rhonda Allred 256-776-3778

02

2006 Yamaha FJR1300 touring bike, ABS, metallic blue, 1K miles, like new \$10,900 Rhonda Allred 256-776-3778

02

1994 HD FLHTC Classic, white & blue. 28K miles, trailer hitch, 2 windshields. \$9,900 Rhonda Allred 256-776-3778

02

## RACING NEWS

For our racing fans and Nate Kern followers, here is Nate's schedule through October:

Feb. 9-10 CCS, Homestead, FL

Feb. 17 Morton's BMW Open House, Fredericksburg, VA

Mar. 2-3 MOTO-ST 3 Hr. at Daytona Int'l Speed, FL

April 13-14 MOTO-ST 500K at Homestead, FL

April 27-28 MOTO-ST 500K at VIR (Mini Rally\*), VA

May 26-28 ASRA Thunderbike at Summit Point (3-days), WVA

June 9-10 CCS/Team Challenge 3 Hr. Solo at Roebing Road, GA

June 22-23 ASRA Thunderbike at VIR (Mini Rally\*), VA

July 6-7 ASRA Thunderbike at RoadAmerica, WI

July 12-14 MOTO-ST 3 Hr. at Newton, IA

July 12-15 BMW MOA National, West Bend, WI

August 10-11 ASRA Thunderbike at Barber Motorsports, AL

Sept. 8-9 ASRA Thunderbike at Summit Point, WV

Oct. 19-20 MOTO-ST 8 Hr. at Daytona Int'l Speed, FL

## SELECTED PHOTOS FROM THE JANUARY PLANNING MEETING AT MONTEVALLO



WOW! This thing takes good pictures!



...and others just clowned around.



Some found the campground selections for 2007 to be a very serious matter...



...while others just relaxed...



...some knitted away...



# Alabama Beemers' Exploring & Epicurean Society

## NEWS AND EVENTS

Bob Steber

Congratulations to the following Alabeemers for riding to twenty or more ABEES points during 2006: Terry Ware - 58, Connie Reaves - 44, Gary Nesmith - 43, Jamie Jackson - 41, Martin Benson - 39, Jim Dubick - 35, Barry Clay - 29, Susan Dubick - 8 pilot, 17 pillion, Malvene Jackson - 27 pillion, Susan Clay - 29 Pillion, Joan Ware - 30 pillion, Vance Harrelson - 98, plus Bogart's - ABEES Big 50 Challenge finisher and Bob Steber 129, plus Bogart's - ABEES Big 50 Challenge finisher and winner of the Olympia Jacket.

Our 2007 fun challenge, Extremely Alabama & Great '07 Q- Quest, is off to a rousing start. Ron Riggins, Vance and Mari Harrelson, Bill and Beverly Bedgood, Tom and Jan Barnett, Ron Shea, Larry Camp and I took advantage of the excellent tour of



the Montevallo Campus that "Master" Tom Barnett conducted Sunday after the Club Meeting. Tom, a graduate of the University, pointed out many interesting features at the campus like the largest holly tree in the state of Alabama and the plaque on the steps of Main Hall designating that spot as being the geographical center of the state.

We also saw a sculpture of two hands, on which two of our lovely clowns, Beverly and Mari, played like they had been captured by King Kong. While there, we were able to check off two ABEES points: attending the Club Meeting, and the trek through the Montevallo Campus to Main Hall to stand at the geographical center of the state.

Get ready to do more riding in 2007. My plan is to promote more ABEES group rides to fun places throughout Alabama. One of them will be to visit The Berman Museum in Anniston via Mt. Cheaha. That will be an all day Saturday back roads ride and will start and finish at 29 Dreams Motorcycle

Resort. Additional rides will be to other interesting places



and to really good Sunday lunch eateries, many leaving from our monthly Club meeting locations. This month, February, Dan Thompson will lead us from Fort Toulouse near Wetumpka to the Hotel Talisi in Tallassee, Alabama for their spectacular Sunday lunch buffet. We will tour the historic town of Wetumpka and stop at the arched bridge made famous by the film "Big Fish" for a photo op. As they are developed, details for our future group rides will be placed on the new Website, so when the site is up and going, lets all make sure we do what is necessary to get on line.



I am looking forward to selecting from our ABEES Touring Guide more wonderful and exciting places that Alabama has to offer, stringing them together with the "Favorite Roads and Rides" and going exploring in our beautiful state. I hope you will also.

# BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

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**Dedicated to safe and enjoyable motorcycling**



## Club Sponsored Events With Meetings

Feb.24/25 Ft. Toulouse Park.....Wetumpka, AL  
Mar.24/25 Blue Springs State Park .....Clio, AL  
Apr 28/29 SouthPort Campgrnd· Gulf Shores, AL  
May 24/27 Great Chicken Rally in Rocket City  
.....Huntsville, AL  
Jun 23/24 Sloppy Floyd Park..... Summerville, GA  
July 28/29 BlueRidge M/C camp..... Cruso,NC  
Aug 25/26 Bedgood's Farm..... Grant,AL  
Sep 29/30 Shell Mound Campground  
.....Nickajack Dam, Jasper, TN.  
Oct. 27/28 Little River St. Forest .....Atmore, AL  
Dec.1/2 Christmas party (To be announced)  
Jan.26/27 2008 Montevallo Traffic Safety Center  
Montevallo, AL.

## Other Events of Interest

Mar 2 - 11 Daytona Bike Week  
Apr 20 - 22 Barber's Track - Honda Superbike  
Classic  
Apr 6 - 8 2007 Vintage Motorcycle Rally at  
Bench Mark Works  
April 13-15 15<sup>th</sup> Dogwood Trail Rally  
BMW Miss - decoles@bellsouth.net  
May 4-6 GA Mtn. Rally  
BMW GA club - www.bmwoga.info  
May 18-20 European Riders Rally  
Burkesville, KY - Nashville club  
June 7-10 BMW RA rally  
Biltmore Estate, NC  
Jul 12 - 15 35th BMW MOA International Rally  
West Bend, WS  
Aug 28 - 31 Curve Cowboy Reunion  
Osage Beach, Mo