

THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

BMWMOA Chapter #5/ BMWRA Chapter #107



Volume XXXV Issue 1

January 2011

Look Out 2011...Here We Come!

Vance Harrelson

Wow, it is hard to believe another year has come and gone! Isn't it true that the older you get, the faster it goes...time that is. For me it seems the older I get...the slower I go!

2010 was a great year in many respects for our club. However, we have experienced a drop in membership as have so many other clubs and organizations. I suppose that would be easy to attribute to the tough economic times we find ourselves in, and while I think that may be a part of it, there are certainly other reasons for the decline. We all lead very busy lives these days and as a result may find ourselves "overcommitted" for the available waking hours we have each day. Managing our time and prioritizing is a big deal indeed.

Having said that, 2011 lies squarely in front of us; a new opportunity to do things better than we have before. A fresh chance to prioritize and manage our lives. What will you do with your time this year?

Now I suppose you think that I am about to tell you that you should devote the majority if not all of your available free time to support the BMWMOAL. Wait a minute...that is not at all what I

am advocating! I believe the right mix of family, friends and motorcycles is very important. At the same time however, we need the support of the talented people we have in this club to help carry it forward!

Motorcycling is a social sport and this club is proof of what that social aspect is all about. The club has important functions that must be managed just like our daily lives. And that management takes the time and the devotion of the membership to thrive. (You knew it was coming...right? Just hold on a minute, stay with me.) I hope that as you are prioritizing and setting your goals for the new year you will consider the club and what you can do to support it...with your time and talents.

Make a meeting or two you haven't been able to do this year. Host a monthly meeting. Host an off meeting weekend event...on road or off road...at your favorite spot. Or put together an informal RTE (ride to eat) event. It doesn't have to be all fancy and require a lot of preparation. But hey, if you want to push it over the top and go all out...have at it! The point is to do something you want to do and invite others to do it along with you! I would like to see multiple opportunities available every

weekend all over our state to encourage our members to get out and ride. Some events will draw many and some will draw a few, but this will provide all types of rides and opportunities to fellowship with fellow club members. It IS a social sport...remember? This social aspect is how I believe we will sustain our growth into the future. YOU have to make the club what you want it to be.

Several of you have expressed interest in organizing these type events. Now is the time to plan it! Remember how fast time is flying? Next Christmas will be here before we know it. So get that calendar out now and present your ideas for some great events at the planning meeting later this month!

I repeat, this is a social sport... I truly believe it is. It can be a great respite from the "normal" schedule we all keep. Make it fun...for you and others! Don't have any ideas in mind? The ABEES program we have is a fantastic tool to get things started, log on and I bet it won't take long to find an interesting destination to work around!

Mari and I are doing exactly what I have mentioned above. We must prioritize our lives just like you. I have greatly enjoyed serving as your President this year and I ap-

preciate your support. Today, I find myself involved in many different things motorcycle from the MOAL to the MOA board and the MAC program now underway in Alabama which I believe in very strongly. We have two grandchildren growing like weeds and another one on the way in February...and they deserve our time and attention as well. So understand we are not quitting the MOAL we are merely re-prioritizing. We are not going away...you couldn't run us off anyway...but we feel strongly that it is time for others to lead the club forward. I hope you will consider what you can do! A little bit from many instead of a lot from a few will provide new and fresh ideas and the help needed to make it all happen!

To that end, we still have some slots open on the election ballot. And remember there is nothing wrong with two or more names for each position...that is called an election. I remind everyone you can review the "officer" job descriptions on the website at www.bmwmoal.org . Check it out and consider what you can contribute to this great club. Nominations are open now and will be up until the voting takes place at the meeting later this month.

I am looking forward with you to a great 2011 for our club! I hope to see each of you along the way, and as always if Mari or I can help you in anyway, please do not hesitate to call on us! I look forward to seeing you all at the January meeting! Ride Safe!!

ALABAMA BACKROADS

Martin Benson

The start of a new year is a time to reflect on the past year and look forward to the future. 2010 had a lot of good memories for the club as well some sad moments.

Our hearts were saddened with the passing of former member James Adams, Trey Steber (Bob's son), David Bollinger and Bill Stevens. Bill Venable and Phillip Colquett had accidents but are now on the mend.

We, Alabama Beemer's, rode and explored the back roads of Alabama and beyond.

It started with the club meeting in February with red beans & rice at Terry Two Wheels. March found

us in Nauvoo enjoying BBQ, some good back roads and a BMW bike parade. We followed this up with storms, rain, wind, soaked tents, a pot belly pig and good food in Gulf Shores.

The Chicken rally offered the opportunity to show the great north Alabama roads to several out of state attendees on a couple of rides.

While ride the mountains around Cruso in June, we learned how to flip a bike and not get hurt.

Jim & Shelia did a great job hosting our meeting in Enterprise. As always, the food is worth the ride.

We ended our club meetings for the year with our meeting in Blue Springs hosted by Don and Barbara and the Christmas party in Leeds.

There were several rides and trips by our members that got us out of Alabama.

You can find Vance and Company exploits at the National Rally in July in the BMW ON magazine.

Gary Dubois kept us up to date on his ride to the bottom of South America. You can read his day by day adventure on his blog at <http://attencionadetalles.blogspot.com/>.

The RTE at Apalachicola was such a success that there will be more of these in the coming year.

Looking forward to next year, I hope that some of our members will step up and suggest and/or lead rides. These can be lunch rides, all day rides or over-nighters.

We have on our web site GPS files of favorite rides of several of our members. These are great for just getting our and enjoying a day. You can find these at <http://www.bmwmoal.org/routes.php>.

For you epicureans out there, the 100 Dishes You Need to Eat Before You Die list has been updated. It now has just over 200 listings. The updated list is now on our web site at

http://www.bmwmoal.org/gps_route_planning.php.

Our beautiful state is best viewed from a BMW motorcycle. See you down the road and ride safe.

**BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama
2011 Election Ballot**

Select one nominee for each position or write in your choice (with nominee’s permission) on a blank line.

Circle your choices

Officers

President: _____

Vice President: Rodger Williamson

Secretary: Barbara Little

Chief Financial Officer: Connie Reaves

Newsletter Editor: _____

Rally Chairperson: _____

Directors

Director of Travel: Martin Benson

Director of Technology: Terry Ware

Director of Photography: Jimmy Lowe

Director of Membership: Martha Warren

Director of Safety: Tom Barnett

There will be ballots at the meeting, or you can e-mail your vote to president@bmwmoal.org Also, you may mail it to: **Vance Harrelson, 1803 Kentucky Cir., Helena, AL 35080.**

All ballots mailed or e-mailed will be printed and/or saved for accounting purposes.

Membership must be paid up to vote and you must be a BMW Owner. “Friends of Beemers” members do not vote.

Nominations will still be taken from the floor, up until voting time so please be aware that additional names may be added.

POINTS SOUTH ON THE "STEEL RAT"

Gary DuBois

As most of you know by now, I have completed my 15,000 mile ride from Elkmont Alabama to the southern end of Argentina and back to Ushuaia. I left on October 8th and flew back into Huntsville on December 22nd.

This story is not so much about riding motorcycles, but certainly is part of the adventure in getting to my destination.

Die Stahlratte cruise excursion. Many of us have participated in one or more of the Alabeemers' sponsored cruises. Put this out of your mind if you are thinking of a similar type cruise.

Die Stahlratte - German for The Steel Rat - is a sailing vessel that was originally built in 1904 as a fishing vessel and commissioned as "The Holland." In the 1980's and 90's it was purchased by Greenpeace and used in their various protests against the first world shipping, whaling and military exercises. Later the ship was bought by non-profit German foundation and is used as a vacation cruise vessel plowing the seas of the Caribbean. It routinely sails between Panama and Cartagena Colombia on a four day cruise and twice a year on a eight day cruise. It occasionally makes an extended cruise that includes a couple of stops in Cuba, the Caymans and Jamaica.



The crew of the Stahlratte is a volunteer crew that works without compensation - only living expenses. On our cruise this crew consisted of Ludwig, the German captain; Roland, the Austrian first mate; and Tania, the Italian second mate.

We were in contact with the Stahlratte before we left home as a possible option on getting around the Darien Gap. The Darien Gap is stretch on land between southern Panama and northern Colombia. This is a lawless region with no roads and has only been traversed by vehicles a couple of times. Presently both governments prevent anyone from hiking or transporting a vehicle through the Darien. I am

told that if one attempts such foolishness that they will be turned back by the border guards and told to return the way they came.

Anyway, going by boat was one of our options to get around the Darien Gap. The other was to fly the motorcycles from Panama to Bogota Colombia.

As we got closer to Panama, we got more serious on sorting our options to get to Colombia. Through communicating with a guy who had already ridden to South America, on a Harley no less, we discovered there was a second sailing vessel that transported bikes to Colombia. This one was "Fritz the Cat" which is a catamaran captained by an Austrian. Other choices were to ride to Colon Panama and try to find a cargo vessel that would transport both the motorcycles and ourselves. One generally has to work part of the passage off as part compensation on the cargo ships and the timing of sailing/arrival dates can really be sketchy.

We knew the Stahlratte was scheduled to depart Panama for Colombia on October 26th which was about the time we would be arriving in Panama, but we also knew this cruise was one of the two eight day cruises. We did not really want to take eight days to get to Colombia, and certainly did not want to bobble around on the Caribbean for eight days during hurricane season. We also knew the price for the eight day sail was \$950.00 each for bike and rider versus the \$670.00 charged for the standard four day cruise.

We arrived in Panama City on a Saturday evening and on Sunday morning we found a McDonalds with free WiFi. We spent about two hours on-line trying to sort the issue. We determined Fritz the Cat was in Cartagena and would not be back in Panama until November 4th, so that option was off the table. We made contact with Ludwig via email and confirmed the Stahlratte was scheduled to depart Panama on October 26 - two days later.

We then went straight to the airport to check out possible flights. Although expensive at \$900.00 dollars for each motorcycle and another \$300 plus for each of us it seemed like our best option to save time - we were on a tight schedule. The airline informed us that there was a flight leaving the next day, but that it was already full. The next sched-

uled flight for cargo was to be Wednesday, but there were no guarantees that we could get on that flight either. We were also told that once we dropped the bikes off for shipment it would be four days before we could pick the bikes up in Bogota. Since we certainly would not make the Monday flight, it looked like it would be at least eight days before we could get our bikes in Bogota and possibly longer. We also knew that the hotel charge for the airport hotel in Panama was going to be a little over \$100.00 a night and would probably be about the same in Bogota. This was beginning to be budget busting.

We booked into the Tocumen Airport Hotel (Panama) and reviewed our options. We decided to email the Stahlratte and book passage. Received a quick email back from Ludwig telling us that if we wanted to sail the Stahlratte then we needed to be at the dock at Carti by 1300 hours the next day - the 25th - for loading. I attempted a Skype call to Ludwig and actually got through. I confirmed that we would be there the next day for loading.

NOTE: If you travel a good bit and don't know about Skype, you need to start using Skype. It will save you a ton on money with their free computer-to-computer calls and a little over two cents a minute to call phones anywhere in the world.

The next day we rode the hundred miles south of Panama City to Carti on the Caribbean coast of Panama. Carti is actually in the self-governing region of Kuna Yala. The Kunis are a group of Indian tribes that populate much of the Darien and many of 365 islands that are scattered in this region of Caribbean. The region is also known as the San Blas.

The road to Carti was once one of the most challenging roads in Central America. Until last year the road was an unpaved series of hills and switch backs that were mired in mud and with a river crossing that challenged the 4X4's which carry backpackers out to Kuni Yala. Fortunately for us the pavement was decent and the unfinished bridge was passable.

Arriving in Carti, I thought we had made a mistake in navigation since there were only three buildings at the port and they were all small and run down. After getting off the motorcycles we could see the Stahlratte anchored about one half of a mile off the

coast.

At this point we did not know if we would be loading from the small concrete pier or if we would be putting the bikes in a canoe and going out to the Stahlratte for loading. There were two KLR's already on the dock with British Colombia plates. Shortly after we arrived three more motorcycles rode in behind us. Two were piloted by Mexican riders and the other by a Colombian. This was going to be an interesting mix of passengers. Sure hoped the Stahlratte can handle seven motorcycles.

At this point we did not know where we would be spending the night or eating since Ludwig had been plain that he would load the bikes on the 25th and we knew we were not scheduled to sail until the 26th. Also having lived in Germany for six plus years, I knew the German reputation of being one for a stickler of rules without much flexibility. But



that is alright - if I'm going to be on a 100 plus year old steel sailing vessel, I wanted it to be German and to be run by Germans.

Within thirty minutes, the Stahlratte's tender came to shore piloted by a gentleman who was over six foot six inches tall. He introduced himself as Roland and one could tell he was a no-nonsense

kind of guy. He immediately instructed for us to unload all of our gear including saddlebags and to put the gear into the tender. Then he told the five of us on the dock to get into the tender - we still did not know where the two riders from British Colombia were.

At the Stahlratte, we unloaded the tender and started handing all the gear down into the belly of the Stahlratte. We then started making introductions. The two from British Columbia were actually a Turkish boyfriend/girlfriend couple who ran a DJ business in Vancouver. The Mexicans were a lawyer and a businessman. The Colombian was a motorcycle mechanic who split his time between his homes in Colombia and Colorado. We met the crew. Ludwig was a short stocky smiling German who one could tell immediately that was full of fun and obviously had been away from Germany too long. Where was his "alles in ordnung" attitude? Roland

we had already met and we would later discover to be both a human dynamo at both working and eat-



ing. Tania the second mate was a busty young Italian girl who had a way of keeping everyone's eyes focused with her low neck lines and bikini tops - honest Angie, I hardly noticed - okay I'm lying, I am an American male.

We also met Ludwig's nephew who had been aboard for six days as an adventure for just finishing his degree. He was scheduled to leave the next day and could not wait to depart. He was a very nice young man who told us that life of the Stahlratte was like camping for six days. I think Onkel Ludwig no longer held the high esteem this young man had once had for his uncle years earlier.

We were told to pick a bunk and to unpack and then come up for lunch. It was obvious we would be staying and eating on the Stahlratte an extra day at no extra expense - good deal. The food was good and would continue to be so during our entire stay on the Stahlratte.

Story to be continued and here is a teaser photo of loading the bikes onto the Stahlratte.



[I really look forward to hearing ,and reading, more of Gary's tales of adventure of Mexico, South America, etc. ED]

BMW MOTORCYCLE OWNERS OF ALABAMA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Date: ____/____/2011

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: Connie Reaves, 108 Cape Cod Circle, Alabaster, AL. 35007

MAC IS UNDERWAY IN ALABAMA!

Vance Harrelson

What is MAC? MAC is the Motorcycle Awareness Campaign. This is a movement of concerned riders, individuals and companies interested in raising the awareness, safety and training aspects of motorcycles on our roadways.

MAC was formed in Louisiana in 2005 to educate the motoring public how to operate with motorcycles and enhance rider training and licensing. The idea was to spread this message nationwide with the hope of making a positive impact on crashes, injuries and fatalities. It is working! Statistical data in Louisiana proves this campaign is working.

The first chapter in Alabama has now been chartered here in Birmingham! Individual memberships are \$15 per person per year and corporate memberships are available as well. All monies raised will be used to purchase all forms of advertising and the use of media resources to take our mission to the public. You will soon begin to see yard signs, banners, bumper stickers and billboards with the MAC logo and message *"Please Watch Out For Motorcycles"* appearing everywhere!

Our hope is to establish other chapters in AL as membership and interest in the campaign grows. We are looking for opportunities at civic events, charitable organizations and others where we can spread the safety message. If you have an interest to start a chapter in your area, let us know!

You are invited to join the movement! Again, MAC is for everyone. It is not brand specific or even rider specific. If you care about motorcycle safety...join us! Contact us at MACAlabama@yahoo.com with any questions. Also, please visit the national website www.macorg.com for more information on MAC and how the program works!

We are looking for members and volunteers from all areas of expertise. If you have local media contacts or special contacts at the state or local levels that could benefit this cause, please let us know!

...ALWAYS...RIDE SAFE!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|---------------|----|----------------|
| 2 | Bill Shanks | 10 | Lisa Gilbert | 12 | Leslie Johnson |
| 2 | Paul Wharton | 10 | Pam McCurley | 13 | Betsy Barber |
| 4 | Larry Camp | 11 | Connie Reaves | 14 | Judy Converse |
| 4 | John Lide | 11 | Anna White | 15 | Peggy Guffy |
| 5 | Sharon Hogg | 12 | Terri Falkner | 16 | John Penn |
| 7 | Steve Johns | | | 16 | Donna Rowe |
| 8 | Douglas Dyar | | | 18 | Elaine Willey |
| 8 | Jim Holley | | | 19 | Tony Arthier |
| 8 | Susan Reese | | | 19 | Dan Thompson |
| 9 | Mike Pavelec | | | 20 | Joan Ware |
| 9 | Bob Sweeney | | | 24 | Joel Dabbs |
| 9 | David Wergowske | | | 24 | Lenny Gribben |
| 10 | Steve Odom | | | 27 | Lou Church |



TERRY'S TWO WHEEL WANTS TO WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Now that all the packages and gifts have been put away or put to use we want to give you a peak at what we have planned for 2011.

SALE-- Summer in December, all summer textile and leather jackets, pants, gloves and boots. All in store clothes, boots and helmets are marked 25% to 50% off. Great deals. All sales final.

January 26th the 2nd meeting of Motorcycles Awareness Campaign, MAC, will be held at Terry's Two Wheel at 7pm. Come and let Vance tell you how you can get involved.

The most important thing is that we can now help you with BMW warranty claims. We have partnered with Pandora's Motorsports of Chattanooga to have warranty work done. Just drop your bike off with us, pay a small, \$30.00 processing fee and Pandora's will pick your bike up at our door and do any necessary repairs, return it to our door. We are both shooting for a week turn around time depending on repair.

In **February** we are planning a Romantic Valentines Mystery Weekend February 12th. We will leave Terry's Two Wheel at noon for a surprise destination and then on to a wonderful overnight filled with mystery and intrigue. Lunch and dinner will be provided, you may choose to bring a beverage for dinner, but that too will be taken care of. We can accommodate 3 couples. More information at January meeting.

In **March** we will have our 2nd Annual Red Beans and Rice weekend. March 12th. Hunt around for you Mardi Gras beads and join us for a day of good food, fun and prizes.

April 16th, LADIES lets go for a ride. Any lady rider is invited to a Saturday ride. I will get Terry to lay out a route for us and we will leave those guys behind. If you are interested email me at terrystwowheel@gmail.com. More information soon.

May we will see you at the Chicken Rally. We will be there to change tires and have some goodies to sell.
RIDE SAFE.

CHRISTMAS AT THE LIVERY

Jamie Jackson

On December 4th, 2009 fifty some odd members gathered at an old building in Leeds, Alabama called the "Livery". The building was constructed early last century to house a livery, which served the Leeds residents and travelers. It seemed somewhat appropriate and in keeping with the Bible story of the Nativity. Although there were no live animals in this stable but there was enough food to supply a small army, or a hungry motorcycle club.



The fun never seems to stop!

It is always a good time to meet together and share with our club family. After eating a lot more than we should we got an unexpected surprise visit from non other than Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus. Santa and Mrs. Claus were a little disappointed that we played a gift swapping game called "Dirty Santa". The real Santa said we should never "steal" gifts from another but should give in the very best spirit. Well let me tell you, there seemed to be some pretty *mean* spirited folks there and some members were almost left with tears in their eyes after having their gift taken away. It was brutal!



Santa observes as Darlene "steals"

Thanks to all the folks such as Sheila Kalahan, Darlene Massey, the other "enes" and everyone else that made the party the delightful event that it was. I have no idea where the 2011 Christmas Party will take place but I do know this; it will be well done and will be fun!



The girls party hard back at the Hampton Inn!

ABEES POINTS FOR 2010

| 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 | 328 | 31 | 359 | 18.0 | 18 | 36.0 |
| Rodger Williamson | 249 | 27 | 276 | 13.8 | 25 | 38.8 |
| Bob Steber | 137 | 20 | 157 | 7.9 | 11 | 18.9 |
| Jamie Jackson | 115 | 9 | 124 | 6.2 | 14 | 20.2 |
| Malvene Jackson | 115 | 9 | 124 | 6.2 | 14 | 20.2 |
| Vance Harrelson | 113 | 3 | 116 | 5.8 | 15 | 20.8 |
| Steve (Santa) Whitley | 78 | 13 | 91 | 4.55 | 9 | 13.55 |
| Lenace Whitley | 78 | 13 | 91 | 4.55 | 9 | 13.55 |
| Bob Daigle | 55 | 6 | 61 | 3.1 | 11 | 14.1 |
| Tim Flynn | 54 | 2 | 56 | 2.8 | 9 | 11.8 |
| Paul McBrayer | 37 | 12 | 49 | 2.5 | 11 | 13.5 |
| Brenda McBrayer | 37 | 12 | 49 | 2.5 | 11 | 13.5 |
| Wanda Daigle | 44 | 5 | 49 | 2.5 | 7 | 9.5 |
| Gary Nesmith | 43 | | 43 | 2.15 | 8 | 10.15 |
| Mari Harrelson | 39 | 2 | 41 | 2.1 | 10 | 12.05 |
| Jim Dubick | 35 | 5 | 40 | 2 | 13 | 15 |
| Gary Dubois | 21 | 7 | 28 | 1.4 | 2 | 3.4 |
| Terry Ware | 24 | 3 | 27 | 1.4 | 7 | 8.4 |
| Joan Ware | 15 | 1 | 16 | 0.8 | 0 | 0.8 |
| Rhea Converse | 15 | | 15 | 0.8 | 0 | 0.8 |
| Leroy Sloan | 13 | 1 | 14 | 0.7 | 0 | 0.7 |
| John Harper | 8 | 3 | 11 | 0.6 | 0 | 0.6 |
| Darlene Massey | 10 | | 10 | 0.5 | 1 | 1.5 |

ITEMS FOR SALE

Titan Silver 2002 BMW K1200LTC for sale. 16,310 miles. Meticulously kept, Motolights , Factory Stereo with a Single Disc Player in the Console and a 6-Disc changer in the Saddlebag , ABS integrated brakes, Heated Grips, Heated Seats, BMW Alarm System. Always garaged. Selling due to health reasons. If you have Any Questions please do not hesitate to ask. Call Michael Langley Sr at 256-693-4162. Asking \$10,995 or Best Offer. 3

The 1994 metallic red K75 "Rally Bike" won by Brian Hatley, plus a complete package of equipment and ride-on 4'x8' trailer, custom built by Tony Autier, is offered for minimum of \$6,350, or better offer for 30 days following newsletter publication. Photos and itemized list of inventory to all inquiries by mail. 13,856 mi. Contact Fred Merrill at 251-923-6271 or 923-6255 or by mail at 16260 East Indigo Loop, Summerdale, AL 36580. 2

2004 Kawasaki KLR 650. Cherry condition, 5000 miles, loaded with extras. Contact Jim Pippin at jimpippin@live.com 256-782-0564, 256-689-1209 1

JANUARY MEETING DETAILS

Connie Reaves

Where: Montevallo Traffic Safety Center, Montevallo, AL. Phone 205-665-6740

At The University of Montevallo on Shelby Street

When: Saturday Jan 29th, Sunday Jan 30th.

Dinner: Sat. night we will be ordering in pizza and have a pizza party. Soft Drinks will be available also and included in the cost. Dinner will be approximately \$8.00 per person and **I DO NEED A HEAD COUNT BY WEDNESDAY THAT WEEK (26th)** so we can know how many pizzas to order. Please call, or e-mail me to let me know you will be there. BAMABMW@aol.com or 205-663-5376 and leave a message. Also, let me ask you again to please bring cash, and change (PLEASE break those \$20 bills before you come). Also included in the cost will be pastries, fruit and coffee before the meeting on Sunday morning.

Meeting Sun. Morning: Vance will hold the business meeting Sunday morning at 9:00 AM at the Montevallo Traffic Safety Center. This is the longest meeting of the year. Plan to be there a couple of hours for this one. We will hold the elections and plan the entire year's meeting sites. Please bring your ideas of places you would like to see us go, and get details ahead of time from those places if we have not yet been there. Also please be thinking about whether you would be willing to host one of the meetings if it's near your area and cook something for the Saturday night dinner or scout out a place for us to ride to eat.

Swap Meet: If you have bikes, parts, gear, or camp-

ing items you would like to sell please bring those items and set them out in the Safety Center's garage for our annual "Yard Sale". You may start arriving by noon on Saturday and setting out your things.

Where to stay: You may bring your bedrolls and spend the night in the Traffic Safety Center, slumber party style. There are male and female shower facilities available there. Or there are dorm rooms available at the Ramsey Hall just up the street from the Safety Center. It's within walking distance.

Details on rooms: Hotel like rooms, with TV, 2 twin beds, air and heat, bathroom, but no phones in rooms. PLEASE check with them on price as they were closed for the holidays and I could not get an update before this newsletter went out) Call 205-665-6280 for reservations. The "office" is open from 8AM to 5PM so you should arrive and get checked in by 5PM or CALL THEM AND TELL THEM YOU WILL BE LATE AND MAKE SOME KIND OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR GETTING YOUR ROOM KEY.

January Meeting Directions

University of Montevallo, Alabama Traffic Safety Center, Phone (205) 665-6740

Sat. Jan 29th - Sun. Jan. 30th 9:00 am Meeting.

Arrive anytime after noon on Saturday. *Please keep any ADULT beverages HIGHLY concealed during the day when the folks are there.*

Directions: From I-65 take exit of choice to Montevallo. The main street through town is Hwy 119. Off 119 take Shelby Street. It's just two blocks (north) down Shelby Street on the left. Call number above if you need more directions.

ABEES NEWS YOU CAN USE

Bob Steber

Happy New Year Alabeemers.

2010 was a fantastic year for exploring and enjoying the many wonderful sites and great eateries that Alabama and the surrounding area have to offer. Twenty three club members sent their ABEES counts to me totaling 1,765 check-offs which earned 286 tickets for a chance to win one of the five great prizes that will be awarded at this month's club meeting in Montevallo. Thank you for your participation in our club's riding challenges. Thanks also to Terry and Joan Ware with Terry's

Two Wheel Tire and Tune, Maurice Green with Catooma Outdoor, Kermit Easterling with Kermit's Camping Products, and Justin Prann with Pandora's European Motor Sports for their sponsorship of your club's riding challenges by providing the great prizes.

During the year other club members told me that they are enjoying going to places in our ABEES Touring guide but didn't want to do the accounting. That's OK. The most important reason for our club offering the ABEES riding challenge is to encourage club members to explore the wonderful and some times very surprising sites that our great state of Alabama has to offer.

BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

c/o Jamie Jackson - Editor
1308 Stonecrest Drive
Birmingham, Al 35235

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To submit your article for the newsletter, please e-mail it to newsletter@bmwmoal.org



We are very fortunate that Santa Claus and Mrs. Clause are BMW Owners and are part of our club. Santa (Stephen Whitley) and Mrs. Clause (Laneace Whitley) ride a very nice K1200LT with pop-up camper.