

# THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama  
BMWMOA Chapter #5/ BMWRA Chapter #107



Volume XXXVI Issue 5

May 2007

## IT WAS HOT HOT HOT !

Connie Reaves

It was a really Hot time in Gulf Shores. A hot ride down on Friday, meaning we had some really wonderful point of interest stops and enjoyed all the history we learned about and had some really great grub in Camden. Kudos to Bob Steber and Jim Duffy on their joint-effort at our route for this trip.

Saturday some of us had a really hot lunch at LuLu's with the "Gulls" & Boyz. Beer was consumed, pictures were taken, and seafood was abundant.

Saturday evening brought the Shrimp Boil and it was complimented by Tony Allison's Red beans and rice. You know when you have RED corn, that dinner is likely to be HOT !! It was Thursday before Jamie Jackson said his mouth had just about healed up. Maybe we need two pots boiling next year. One for some of us that want to keep our original stomach liners, and one for those of us who have Nikasil liners. Maybe only you Airheads will "get" that last statement. For those of you who don't, replace Nikasil with cast iron and you get the joke. Many thanks to the Cockrell's, the Harrellson's, The Ware's, Mike Harvill, and whomever I may have missed that had a hand in that wonderful dinner.

Later on Saturday night, many entertained us with their own HOT personal rendition of a sort of Saturday Night Live comedy act. Jokes were tossed out in a rapid fire, random manner from nearly everyone

around the HOT bonfire. I think Tim Langley of 29 Dreams is right. He says BMW means Burn More Wood. This crowd will light a bonfire and keep feeding it higher and higher even if it's 110 degrees out. But hey, maybe that's why Beemers are so HOT.

Sunday, the ride home for me was just plain HOT. Meaning the temperature was hot enough I had to stop twice and take my jacket off and pour water all

over my shirt just to be able to continue the trip in relative comfort. That worked very well and the trip was nice even though I blasted back home on the interstate to be able to have time to wash clothes and get all that "get ready for the workweek" jazz.

Now it's down to crunch time for the BMW World's BEST RALLY OF ALL... The GREAT CHICKEN RALLY in Rocket City. I'm getting all excited. I personally have the best time at our rally getting to

see folks from around the country that I generally don't get to see any other time of the year. Folks I've made friends with in the last 20 years from MOA and RA National Rally's or just from going to other rallies that other clubs put on. I know we all work our tails off for four days nearly non-stop and it's seems a little grueling at times while we're doing it, but there seems to be more than just me that loves it or you wouldn't be coming back year after year putting your hearts and souls into it to make it the BMW rally that no one else can duplicate. I feel really proud when folks come up to me and say what a great rally it is, and the inevitable question, "How do you do all this



Some of the folks at Lulu's for lunch.

( cont. next page )

for just \$40 bucks?" (Well \$35 till this year).

Sometimes I'm not even sure how we do it, but we seem to pull it off without much trouble. And even if I had it all in an explainable form, I don't think I'd want to give away our secrets. I want ours to continue to be the one folks tell others about as being the best deal going.

Again, Jamie, (club funny man) says his plan to get ready for The Chicken Rally is to "sleep in his backyard for the next couple of weeks while burning old tires" (to replicate the heat and smoke from the smokers I guess), "and hit himself in the head with a hammer every couple of hours to get used to the cheap beer headaches". DANG !! Sounds like a plan to me. So what are your plans to get ready for the Chicken Rally? I think I may try Jamie's plan and additionally wrap myself in plastic (to replicate the airless heat) and walk 100 miles non stop.

Let me give a big shout out of Thanks in advance, to all the folks who have responded with the "I'll be there's, and put me wherever you need to's" I appreciate all that support and it will go off so much smoother and easier for everyone with extra help. And may I say to you WORKAHOLICS. Take a break when someone asks if they can spell you for a while. You all know who you are that do that. You send them away and just keep working yourselves to death. I love you all for your dedication, but I hate to see you work yourselves so hard. We should have plenty of folks this year to take shifts. So let 'em do it and make sure you have some fun too.

For now, got to go. My rally to-do list is still three legal sheets long and I need to get on these little last minute details. Thanks to Lori Dendy and Vance Harrelson, Bill Bedgood, and Jim and Shelia Baker, the big stuff like groceries, fridge truck, entertainment, and Door prizes, are all under the belts and good to go. The smaller details are being handled by a good number of you individually and I'm playing mop up now with the really tiny stuff.



Next to riding the BMWMOAL is best at eating.

## ALABAMA BACKROADS

Bob Steber

So far this year we have enjoyed joining fellow Club members for three guided tours and rides.

Thank you John Harper for your fantastic March 17 ride and tour from Mt. Cheaha to the Berman Museum thru Ft. McClellan with side trips to the Church of St. Michael and All Angles and to Ohatchee to see the Janney Furnace and the Calhoun County Confederate Memorial.

Thank you Dan Thompson for setting up the incredible March 24 tours of the Capital complex including the State Capital, Civil Rights Memorial and the first White House of the Confederacy and leading us on great backroads to our meeting at Blue Springs.

Thank you Jim Duffy for your great April 28 ride and tour showing us the backroads to Gulf Shores and taking the group to the very historically significant William Weatherford's Grave site and Ft. Mimms. You are correct; the water at Red Hill Spring is the "wettest most refreshing water ever". It was wonderful not have to ride on the slab and Hwy 59 "cept" for a few miles. John's and Jim's routes are shown in the new ABEES Touring Guide.

This month, Ron Riggins will lead our Club ABEES ride and tour on Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup> to Horseshoe Bend Military Park and then over great back roads to Ft. Toulouse/Ft. Jackson with a lunch break at one of Alabama's best BBQ joints. Ron was a reenactor at Horseshoe Bend and has a great knowledge of Alabama's history. We will depart 29 Dreams promptly at 8:30 am, so be ready to ride with a full tank of fuel and an empty bladder. Out of towners wishing to go can make camping reservations at 29 Dreams. The outcome of the 1814 battle at Horseshoe Bend and the subsequent U.S. - Creek Indian treaty signed at Ft. Jackson five months later ceded 3/5 of the land that is now the state of Alabama.

Ron's tour will be lots of fun and very informative. I hope to see many Alabeemers there.

See you down the backroads.

Visit the exciting new club web site at  
[www.bmwmoal.org](http://www.bmwmoal.org)

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 William Landahl
- 1 Jimmy Lowe
- 2 Susan Dubick
- 2 Bonnie Sanders
- 6 W. Patrick Reaves
- 6 Mark Wall
- 6 Sally Williams
- 7 Erich Erker
- 9 David Dodd
- 9 Deborah Parsons
- 10 Jerry Lusk
- 10 Sean Scarcliff
- 11 Erik Bahl
- 11 Ramona Merrill
- 12 Troy Gordon
- 16 Paul Buckholdt
- 16 Randy Camp
- 16 Victor Howell
- 16 Glenn West
- 17 Harry Bonner
- 18 Charles Keller
- 19 Jane Boren
- 19 John Reymann
- 19 Erika Smitherman
- 21 Diane Langley
- 23 Bruce Farr
- 25 Faye Dyer
- 25 Rick Jones
- 25 Ray Zimmerman
- 27 Joe Ehl
- 27 Mari Harrelson
- 28 Michael Fallon
- 29 Paula Hamblin
- 29 Ellen Morgan
- 29 John Swafford
- 30 Polly Wright



## THOUGHTS / PRAYERS AND TIDBITS

The BMWMOAL members wish to express their sympathy to Lisa Messamore and other family of our deceased member, Ken Messamore. Ken passed away on Tuesday, April 10 from a sudden illness.

### 35+ - 30 - 15 - 10 YEAR MEMBER RECOGNITION

35+ Years (PIONEERS) - Marty Simpson, John Swafford

30 Years - Larry Camp

25 Years - Tom Binford

20 Years - David Bollinger, Lucina Bollinger, Harold Fearing, Donna Fearing, Ivory Hampton, John Harper, Margaret Hoffman, Ray Zimmerman

15 Years - Randy Blair, Joe Ehl, Mike Ford, Kay Headrick, Vern Headrick, Phillip Johnson, Nancy Merrill, Clinton Pittman, Jeff Stanfield, David Yokley, Jeanne Zibell

10 Years - Larry Byrd, Bruce Cain, Linda Cain, Walter Daniel, Susan Dubick, Mark Foreman, Art Goddard, Terry Harris, Tim McGee, Kathy Steber, Bill Stevens, Eddie Williams, Sally Williams

### 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.

#### Huntsville

The Huntsville crowd currently meets at 6:00 pm each Friday night at The Green Hills Grill on Wynn Drive near the intersection with University Drive. If you are in the area stop in and join the fun.

#### 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 [joh-nart1@aol.com](mailto:joh-nart1@aol.com) for details

# Alabama Beemers' Exploring and Epicurean Society

## News and Events

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### **Paul and Gail Thorne complete the "Extremely Alabama Challenge" in 27 Hours and 23 minutes riding 1, 428 miles**

Hey Bob,

As you requested, I'm sending you a summary of our recent club contest attempt. Gail & I left Columbus, MS Monday night at 9:00 PM. As we headed south into the night, I knew we had a tough task ahead. I had planned the ride & estimated the gas stops and Gail kept up with gas receipts & took the required photos.

We headed to Bayou La Batre & then east along the coast. We were on schedule but I discovered that due to the small gas tank on my R1100R, we were having to make some unscheduled fuel stops. Gail's F650 gets 65-70 MPG and had no fuel problems. Leaving Alabama, traveling across the Florida panhandle, we began to fall behind schedule. As we turned north thru southeast AL, we picked up the pace and began to make up time. The traffic in Dothan & Montgomery was heavy, but we were still within 20 minutes of where I thought we should be. As we left Montgomery toward Montevallo, we experienced a major problem. Interstate 65 going north was momentarily closed. We sat in traffic A LONG TIME! When it did move, only one lane was open. This time lost would prove impossible to make up.

As we went northeast and then west across the state, fatigue made it difficult to make up time. As we came down the northeast side of Mississippi late at night, I almost ran out of gas. I carried a one liter bottle of fuel and if not for that, I would have been on the side of the road. As we made it back into Columbus, we were disappointed that we hadn't done the ride in 24 hours. I was proud that we made all seven required stops and in 27 hours and 23 minutes had covered 1,426 miles.

After it was over, I told Gail that it would be foolish to attempt this again just to shave off 3 hours and 23 minutes. With that said, I wonder what a bigger gas tank would cost!!

Ride often and ride far,  
Paul & Gail Thorne

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### **Ride to historical Horseshoe Bend and Ft. Jackson/Ft. Toulouse**

**Saturday, May 12, 2007**

"A Ride through Alabama History"...The Creek Indian War. Sat. May 12th...We'll leave 29 Dreams at 8:30 am and ride to Horseshoe Bend Military Park for a tour of the Battlefield, Museum and a demonstration by one of Andy Jackson's soldiers. Then on to Cotton's BBQ and to Ft Toulouse - Ft Jackson for a tour of this very historic site. We'll return to 29 Dreams at 6:00 (ish) pm. Come enjoy a day of riding and discovering history with your friends!!"

Ron Riggins

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### **2007 ABEES Touring Guides are available**

The new and improved 2007 ABEES Touring Guides are available, so be sure to get one at the next Club gathering or contact Connie or me to have one mailed to you. The Touring Guides are gratis for Club members; however, donations will be appreciated to help defray costs.

These new locations were not included in the 2007 Guide, so please write them in:

Southeast Region - Montgomery ## Civil Rights Memorial.

Southwest Region - Chrysler ## William Weatherford (Red Eagle) Monument

Southwest Region - Perdue Hill ## Historical Buildings

Bob Steber

## BIKE SHARE

Gary DuBois

During the BMWMOAL Blue Springs Club meeting, the question of how to get a bike in Europe was posed. Other than the obvious of shipping your own or renting, I offered the bike share alternative.

The Trans-Atlantic Bikeshare Club is a group of similarly minded individuals who enjoying traveling in various locations of the world but do not want the hassle or expense of shipping their own bike or of renting one. Although the club was started by Tom Burklow of Ohio and Tony Wood (since deceased) of England, it has grown into a trans-world club. Current member locations are Australia, Canada, England, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Scotland, Slovenia, South Africa, and the USA.

The idea is simple, but not for everyone. If you are willing to let another individual borrow your bike for a couple of weeks, then there are individuals around the world who are willing to loan their bike to you for a couple of weeks. This swap does not have to be a direct swap. Example: Alabama biker (actually me) borrowed a R1100RS from an English member for a 4 weeks round-trip ride to Krakow, Poland and back. Later, an Australian member borrowed one of our bikes for a couple of weeks riding around the south. We also have hosted another Australian and an English couple in our home although they borrowed their bikes in Atlanta. Both have invited us to their homes and offered us bikes to ride.

Cost of doing this? You work it out with the individual you are borrowing from. Typically, you pay

the insurance premium for the period you are riding and offer a gratuity. On the bike I borrowed, since I rode it over 4500 miles, in addition to insurance I paid for a tire and a service (the owner only wanted the insurance premium.) If I had shipped my own bike I would have been due a service, a tire and an insurance premium. I did my four week vacation for less than it was going to cost me to ship my bike to Europe and back.

I have found all the members to be mature and wonderful individuals.

No one forces you to loan your bike to anyone you don't feel comfortable with, and it is up to the individual parties to vet the exchange including fees.

Cost of membership? Ridiculous - \$50 dollars to join and \$15 annually thereafter. You can tell by these fees that you are not going to be soaked. I don't see how Tom maintains his website on the membership fees.

As mentioned earlier, not for everyone. Some folks don't even want you to touch their bike, must less ride it.

Check us out at [www.bikeshareworld.com](http://www.bikeshareworld.com). You have to be a member to check out the database of names, specific locations, and types of bikes available. There are some member stories on the home page you can check out. All around, I can't think of better way to tour the world a couple of weeks at a time.

(Gary has been a member since spring 2003, and is trying to save enough for that round-trip airfare to Australia and New Zealand.)



These "Mockingbirds" were re-enacting the movie *To Kill A Mockingbird* while visiting the Monroe County Courthouse during the Saturday ride.



These BMWMOAL members at Gulf Shores could very well be mistaken as modern day gypsies.

## ABEES Ride To The Beach!

Vance Harrelson

### Friday Morning

Another interesting ride was planned and successfully executed by our travel director to get us to the beach for our annual shrimp boil. Our assigned meeting point was again I-65 & US 31 in Alabaster. We were instructed to be there FTEB (full tank, empty bladder) and ready to launch at 8:30 AM.

Phillip & Martha Warren, Bob Steber, Larry Camp, Rob Harrelson, Jim McCutchen, Connie Reaves, Bruce Wheatley, along with Gary and Angie Dubois and me gathered at the appointed time.

We headed down I-65 to Jemison and out AL 191 and AL 22 to Maplesville and down through Selma and turned south on AL 41. Some of you may already know about an obscure bar b que joint just south of Craig Field at the Sardis cross roads called Bama Bar B Que. In case you don't, rest assured most folks would ride right on by but let me tell you that would be a mistake. Do yourself a favor and



Phillip Warren enjoys a rib at Bama Bar-B-Que.

stop in and visit with Charles and Mrs. Emma, they will be glad to see you! This is down home southern cookin' served up by some nice folks. You can choose from pulled bar-b-que, or just have Charles throw you a "bone" or two. Ask Bob Steber and he'll likely remark "Best I Ever Had". Believe me, it is worth the stop! We were headed to Camden to eat but Charles served a plate of bones for us as an appetizer. We were pleased.....

Back aboard we headed down AL 41 and into Camden. We met Jim Duffy at Redd's Soul Food there on Main Street and "grazed" the steam table. Yep, more good ole southern cookin'.

Although we needed a nap after lunch we pressed on after a brief rider meeting. We made stops at Perdue Hill, The grave of William Weatherford "Red Eagle", Fort Mims the site of the bloodiest one day massacre ever. Approximately 800 people were killed in one afternoon! Shortly after that stop we refreshed ourselves at the Red Hill Spring on AL 59 just north of Stockton gathering ABEES points all along the way. I tell you folks; this program will get you to places you most likely wouldn't go...I continue to be amazed.

With the afternoon getting away, we made one more stop in Daphne at the Greek Orthodox Church. Although no one was there to allow us to look inside, we were amazed at the mosaic murals on the front. I am told the inside is magnificent, I have to go back sometime to see it!

We arrived as scheduled at Southport Campground around 6:30 and compared notes over dinner at King Neptune's in Gulf Shores (and yes that is another ABEES point!)

### Saturday Morning

Today's task was to visit more points of interest as well as visit two of the "Extremely Alabama" points in the area. We blew off the traditional Hazel's breakfast and instead opted for honey buns at the campground to get an early start. Today's group includes Phillip & Martha, Joan & Terry Ware, Stephen & Ben Pearce, Bruce Wheatly, Bob Steber, Albert & Kevin White, Gary & Angie Dubois and me again. We headed out Fort Morgan Road and arrived in plenty of time to make the ferry across to Dauphin Island. This is a neat deal if you haven't done it. You'll get a close up view of a good size operating natural gas rig; pretty cool. We learned that natural



Martha Warren poses in front of Mary's Place.

gas is blowing from a hole beneath that rig about 4" in diameter and drilled over 22,000 feet into the earth! Bet you didn't know that!

Safely across the bay we head north for an early lunch at Mary's Place in Coden. While some graze that buffet, me and Steber opt for sharing a shrimp po boy. We decide the best plan is to save up for what's coming in just a few hours! From there we head north into Bayou La Batre for a look around the village. A quick stop for pictures along the waterfront and we are back aboard. Heading north we pick up I-10 and head west toward Mobile. We pass by the Carnival Holiday in port today loading for a late afternoon departure. The Holiday was our ship for the first annual Alabeemer Blue Water Cruise in February. I am torn as to whether I want to be riding my bike today or climbing aboard her for another run to the Caribbean. Oh well, were going again next February but that information is for a different article. I smile and throw out an imaginary wave and head into the tunnel beneath her. Out the other side, and I don't look back.

Across the bay and we head into Daphne and stop for a famous Bloody Mary at Mancini's Antique House. This unique place has been in constant operation since 1924 and is filled with the Mancini's personal collections of many different items such as ceramic liquor decanters valued at over 3 million bucks. There are guns, golf balls, thimbles, beer cans, skeleton keys and horse shoes. I am sure there are many other things but folks we were only in there about 45 minutes. To appreciate the place you need to sit there and slow sip that Bloody Mary

and look around. Then order another one, sip, look, you get the idea! You could stay all day and not see it all. And when you see Martha Warren, ask her about the "surprise" in the Ladies room!

My trip ended here but the group soldiered on to Stacy's Rexall Drugs in Foley for their famous Key Lime milk shake and then down to the Pink Pony in Gulf Shores. Joan and Terry and I split off and returned to the campground. Something about getting some shrimp for dinner.....Thanks to Jim Duffy, Bob Steber and all who rode with us. Another great time!



The Saturday group takes time between meals to pose for a photo.

**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

# THE BMW M/C OWNERS OF ALABAMA

PRESENTS

THE 19TH ANNUAL

“GREAT CHICKEN RALLY in ROCKET CITY”

MAY 24-27 2007

Ditto Landing, Huntsville, AL

Hwy 231 just So. of Huntsville

4 nights Camping  
Rally Pin  
Rally Gift  
Field Events  
Trophies  
Door Prizes



Vendors  
Rides to:  
Space Museum  
Jack Daniels  
Barber's !!  
Cathedral Caverns

Entertainment Nightly

Jim Parks—Thursday night

Microwave Dave and the Nukes—Friday night

Jim Parks Band—Saturday night

**ALL YOU CAN EAT  
SMOKED CHICKEN**

Win a 2007 F650—Tickets \$5.00  
Drawing at Awards Ceremony Sat. night  
Winner need not be present.

WIN an F650 !



BMW Riders and Guests.....Day passes Saturday only \$20.00  
Arm bands **MUST** be worn every day

REGISTRATION - \$40.00

7-12 years - \$20.00

6 yrs. Under - free

or e-mail Lori Dendy—[Girlie72964@aol.com](mailto:Girlie72964@aol.com) or Connie Reaves—[BAMABMW@aol.com](mailto:BAMABMW@aol.com)

Information call

256-840-9806

205-663-5376



## IT IS THAT TIME AGAIN

***(Surprises are more fun in your own driveway!)***

Don Hamblin

The weather has finally started to cooperate, the "honey-do" list can be prioritized, dreams of all those wonderful rides last year are in the front of your mind, and the bike calling you from the garage.

Now before you head out to see just how many "hundred" miles you can string together in a single day, it is time to listen to what your bike is saying with its mournful call. Yes, it is a BMW motorcycle so it wants to run! But before that run it might be asking for a bit of attention. Just like your family dog, your motorcycle wants you to ease into full performance exercise. It is time to invest some of the time you might have forgotten last fall.

Should you not have a family dog (sorry, I do not have one either), maybe you could act like that



A picture of the author from 1980, repairing his 1965 R69S on some state highway in Arkansas, in front of a "local" hardware store. Riding along through the Ozarks he noticed that the fairing was "shaking" a bit more than it should. Turned out that a couple of nuts has loosened on the fairing mount. The paper sack contained a whole bunch of nuts and bolts that he had just bought to try and find a "match" for the lost ones. *Moral: Should have checked for loose nuts and bolts before heading out*

Apache pilot you see flying nap of the earth on CNN almost every night. Before he lights a fire in those turbine engines he does a *walk around* preflight of the aircraft. He walks around the aircraft looking closely at all the mechanical bits for anything out of the ordinary. Things like oil on parts or the ground, loose nuts (no, that does not include the "nut" down the street with the loud leaf blower), cracked windshields, questionable tires, and stuff like that. You ought to be looking at all the stuff in the pre-ride (or *before you ride*) check list in your owner's manual. Sort of get acquainted again with the machine you are considering taking you out for the day. That walk around will warn you of possible surprises in that hairpin turn on *Deal's Gap*. It only takes a minute or two, and mechanical surprises are a lot more fun in your own driveway than three hundred miles from home – in the rain.

The next step is the one that will burn up a couple of hours of that first real riding day. Pull out your owner's manual again and look at the maintenance service schedules. If you do not remember when the last one was performed, then you really should consider a major (or 12,000 mile) service. Addressing all those oil, rubber, and adjustment issues before your first ride is what will make for a better set of riding memories than spreading out a tool kit on the side of a lonely road. So either do that service yourself, or quickly call the nearest dealer for an appointment. If you have a service manual and some common tools it could be completed in less than three hours. If not, then entrust that work to a qualified and certified service technician. Yep, that guy with the factory certificate will expect more payment than enlisting the assistance of that neighbor with the leaf blower, but he is better prepared to deal with those potential surprises.

I know that even with my own best intentions, "circumstances" got the better of me over the winter. I would also bet that there were at least a couple of things everybody forgets to do in preparation for that first serious ride of the season. It is time to invest some of the time you might have forgotten last fall. Surprises are a lot more fun to deal with in your own driveway!

**Don't miss out!**

**Register with the new club web site at [www.bmwmoal.org](http://www.bmwmoal.org) and join the fun.**

**As a bonus you can view the newsletter in color.**



# HOLIDAY <sup>SM</sup>



**JOIN THE BMW MOTORCYCLE OWNERS OF ALABAMA  
ON A FIVE DAY CRUISE OUT OF MOBILE ALABAMA.**

**MONDAY, FERUARY 11, 2008**

Priced from

**Interior**

**Oceanview**

**\$ 378<sub>pp</sub>**

**\$428<sub>pp</sub>**



**5 Day Western Caribbean**

DAY	PORT	ARRIVE	DEPART
Mon.	Mobile		4:00 P.M.
Tues.	"Fun Day" or Sea		
Wed.	Cozumel	8:00 A.M.	6:00 P.M.
Thurs.	Calico*	7:00 A.M.	6:00 P.M.
Fri.	"Fun Day" or Sea		
Sat.	Mobile	8:00 A.M.	

\* Optional shore excursions to Playa del Carmen, Tulum, Xcaret, etc. are available

The cruise is being booked by AAA Alabama. Contact Vanessa Gamble at 205.978.7030 with any questions. You must go through her to get all the group benefits.

**AAA Alabama**  
2400 Aclan Rd  
Birmingham AL 35243  
Phone: 2059787030  
Fax: 2059787025  
vsartb@aaa-alabama.com



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Beginning January 1, 2008 you MUST have a passport to travel. If you already have one, it must be valid for 6 months after your travel date. If you don't have one now, you must get started to have it in time!

## CLASSIC/VINTAGE CORNER

Tim McGee

### What does that slash (/) stuff mean anyway?

We have talked about BMW and how they got started making motorcycles, and how they used racing in the early years to spread the word about their product and its renowned reliability. This month we will talk about the slash designation in some of their models years and what it means.

BMW wanted to find a way to call attention to major upgrades in their models along with model year changes. In the early years they used to refer to them series 1, 2, 3 etc. The first recorded use of this was in the 1929-30 R11 referred to as the R11 Series 1. There was a change each year up to the year of 1934 which saw the R11 series 5 make its debut. During the same years (1929-1934) they had their overhead valve model the R16 with the same series designation (Series 1-5). BMW went to use the series designation to denote primarily model year changes until the end of the war. BMW stopped production of all models except the R75 military sidecar unit in 1941. That year would also be the last side valve engine that BMW would very make. They made two versions of the last side valve, the R61, which was a 600-cc model, and a R71, which was a 750-cc model.

After the war BMW started back up with a 500-cc model called the R51/2. This is the first indication of the use of the slash (/) to designate models. It was followed by the R51/3 in 1951. This model was a completely new engine design that would remain basically unchanged aside from displacement changes until the announcement of the /5 series in 1969. Also that year they came out with a side car motorcycle called the R67. The R67 would be manufactured from 1951 to 1956 with designations of R67/2 in 1952 when they added 2 hp to the 600 cc power plant, and the R67/3 that was manufactured in 1955-1956. These sidecar units had low compression ratios with large flywheels. They were excellent sidecar motorcycles with one exception, they had telescopic forks. The leading link (Earles Fork) front ends were much better for sidecar use. More on that later.

Also in 1952 BMW made its first performance motorcycle since 1941. They designated it the R68. It remains one of the most collectable BMW's to this day. It had the same displacement as the R67 but its compression ration was 8:1, where the R67 was 6.5:1. It had bigger valves, and a lighter flywheel. It

was the hot rod of the day.

BMW would continue to use the slash designation up through the R80/7 series, which was manufactured up to 1984. They also adopted the symbol "S" to designate their performance models; the most famous of which is the R69S manufactured from 1960-1969. They adopted the designation "US", as in the R69 US. This indicated that the model had telescopic forks.

In modern history BMW has several very significant models which I hope to profile in upcoming articles. Through my eyes they are:

R68 (1952) First performance bike since 1941 R69S

(1960) First performance bike with newly designed drive train

R50, R60, R75/5 (1969) the first big road bike. Also major engine redesign.

R60, R75, R90/6, R90S (1973-74) First super bike  
R100/7, R100S, R100RS (1976-77) First 1,000 cc.  
First factored faired bike.

R1100RS (1993) Complete drive train redesign and true modern, reliable, 2-cylinder performance.

Each one of these models is the first following a very significant engineering design change within BMW.

Those of you that have the interest in old bikes, and get a chance to buy any /5 series motorcycle you need to do it. These bikes are just now starting to appreciate in value. Across the counter parts are still available. Restoring one is within most gear heads grasp. IMHO this will be a very sought after bike within the next 5-10 years.



A very nice R75/5 with "Toaster Tank".

# BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

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**Dedicated to safe and enjoyable motorcycling**



**Please visit the new BMWMOAL web site at [www.bmwmoal.org](http://www.bmwmoal.org) and register. Log on and see what members are saying about club activities. The new site is user friendly and the newsletter is in color.**

## Club Sponsored Events With Meetings

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 Vizzini Farms Winery  
Calera, AL

Jan.26/27 2008 Montevallo Traffic Safety Center  
Montevallo, AL.

## Other Events of Interest

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

Oct. 5-7 Return to Shiloh Rally - Shiloh, TN  
BMW RAMS

Oct 12-14 Falling Leaf rally - MO.  
BMW Gateway Riders