

THE ALABAMA BEEMER



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



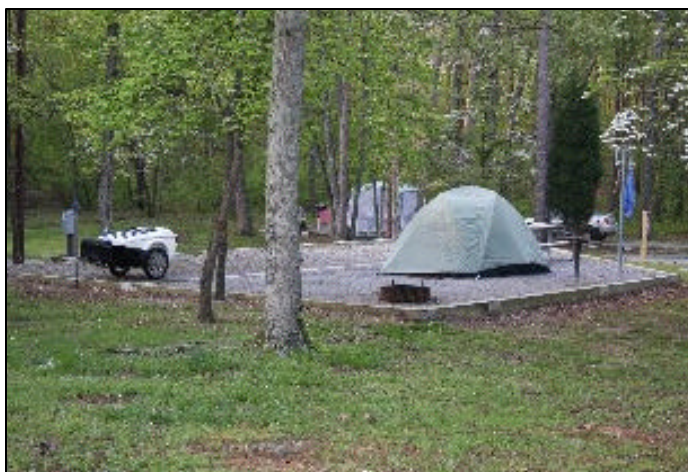
Volume XXXVIII Issue

May 2009

SLOPPY FLOYD NOT SO "SLOPPY" THIS YEAR

Ron Riggins

Hello All! We had a first this past weekend, a Sloppy Floyd club meeting and campout with no RAIN! We had beautiful weather for the entire weekend and had a great time to boot! I want to thank Bob Steber for planning and putting on a great weekend! How did he get the weather to cooperate...?



Clean sites + beautiful weather = perfect camping

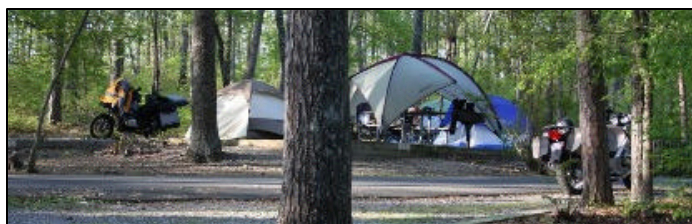
Now it's time to turn our attention and focus to our premier event "The Great Chicken Rally". All the final preparations are being done and everything is progressing smoothly. The two areas that we need your help are Raffle ticket sales and Rally volunteers. The F800GS that we will give away this year is more expensive than the bike in previous years. We really need to sell as many tickets as possible before the rally to make sure we sell out of tickets by the time of the drawing.

So please if you have unsold tickets, sell as many as possible before the rally and send the money to Mari Harrelson. Please send all unsold tickets and monies to Mari by May 13th. This will make sure

that the tickets will be available for sale at the rally.

Our Chicken Rally is made great each year by our volunteers. For all those who will be volunteering at this years Chicken Rally, Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!! You are the ones that make our rally such a special event. For myself, the time given helping out at the rally has been paid back to me many times over.

The camaraderie of working with fellow club members and the satisfaction of helping the club put on a great event is personally very gratifying. Also watching all those fellow riders having a great time makes it worth it. It's easy to volunteer; Just email Connie or Vance at rally@bmwmoal.org to let them know what you you'd like to do. Or, just see Connie or Vance at the rally for an assignment. So, if you haven't volunteered yet, please do so. We Need You!



Happy Campers!



MEETING MINUTES

April 25-26

Sloppy Floyd State Park
Summerville, Georgia
Jeannine Arnold, Secretary

President Ron Riggins opened the meeting Sunday morning with a thank you to host Bob Steber for arranging to have coffee and biscuits each morning and a barbecue dinner with all that went with it, Saturday night. The weekend weather couldn't have been more perfect and the rides were enjoyed by all who took advantage of them.

Ron told us the generalized business cards are available for anyone wanting to pass them to perspective members that want information about our club.

Mari and Vance were out of town on National Rally business, but Mari wanted to remind everyone to get out and sell your Chicken Rally ticket for the Bike giveaway! The Chicken Rally is only about 3 weeks away, May 21-24th. You can turn your money in at the Rally, or send it directly to Mari Harrelson, 1803 Kentucky Cir. Helena, Al. 35080. Remember, 4 books sold=free admission to Chicken Rally. We still need volunteers to sign up to work, if only for a few hours! Let's make this the best one yet!!

Don and Barbara Little are doing fine on their riding tour, just having a lot of cold weather.

We had a short discussion on changing the meeting time. It was agreed to leave it at 8:00am local time.

Bob Steber gave a short talk about the ABEES contest prizes. There are 4 great prizes now; a jacket, helmet, and a large and medium size tent.

Martha Warren mentioned the Georgia Mountain Rally will be at Hiawassee, at the fairgrounds.

Note: June meeting is changed to Blue Ridge and July meeting will be at Ft. Toulouse.

Phillip Warren is the RV chairman for the National Rally at Johnson City, Tennessee July 16-19th., he's stilling needing volunteers.

Don Norwood is the Volunteer Chairman and he told us there will be door prizes for volunteers only, with the Grand prize being a trip to Brazil! There will be between 1500 and 1800 volunteers to compete.

Darlene Massy was given a round of applause for entertainer from a past meeting. Get healed soon, we'll need you at the Chicken Rally!!

Newest members present were Jack and Melba Camp and Mac Stewart.

Welcome back Steve Hebert, from a tour of Afghanistan

MOA mileage cards can be signed by any officer or 2 club members. Ron said it's always nice to see our names in magazines for this.

50/50 was won by Tim Flynn.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1	William Landahl	16	Randy Camp	21	Scott Fuller
1	Jimmy Lowe	16	Sam Peacock	21	Diane Langley
2	Susan Dubick	17	Harry Bonner	21	Joseph Towey
2	Bonnie Sanders	18	Charles Keller	21	Jill VanderWesthuizen
4	Beverly Huffman	19	John Reymann	22	Roger Mullins
5	J. Marty McCary	19	Sandra Newell	22	Earlene McDaniel
6	Sally Williams	19	Erika Smitherman	25	Faye Dyer
6	W. Patrick Reaves			25	Rick Jones
6	Mark Wall			26	Ray Zimmerman
10	Jerry Lusk			27	Joe Ehl
11	Erik Bahl			27	Mari Harrelson
11	Ramona Merrill			27	Russell Kruse
12	Troy Gordon			28	Michael Fallon
13	Shawnette Kirkwood			28	Paul Hamblin
14	Rosie Morgan			28	John Swafford
16	Paul Buckholdt			30	Polly Wright



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Billy & Sandra Newell	Anniston, AL	Sponsor Don Stover
Jerry Griffies	Birmingham, AL	Sponsor: Mike Greenwood
Robert A. Herron	Huntsville, AL	Sponsor: Marty Simpson
Michael Johnston	Daphne, AL	Vance Harrelson
Bud Meade	Nashville , IL	Vance Harrelson

EUROPEAN RIDERS RALLY

MAY 15 -17th
Burkesville, KY
Polly Wright

Lots of good roads to ride, steak dinner on Saturday night, with all the trimmings. GS, Touring, Sport and Self guided rides, Friday lunch ride. Movies on Friday night. Bloodworth's will provide lunch on Saturday, included in rally fee. Saturday morning breakfast by one of the civic groups in Burkesville. Free breakfast on Sunday morning provided by the Living Word Ministeries. They will also provide a service and blessing of the bikes before everyone leaves, for those who like to participate. We hope all of you will come to the Rally this year. You will also receive a pin, tee shirt and no telling what else. There may be some surprises.

THE PHOTO BOOTH

Jimmy Lowe

As the 2009 Photography Director for the club, I have been working to implement new ideas to persuade members to take and submit more photos. With the help and guidance of your club's officers and directors, we have come up with the following ideas:

First: We will be soliciting all photos related to your travel/camping/social adventures with your BMW. Monthly meetings, rallies, weekend rides, workshop follies, technical photos of rebuilds and or upgrades are just a few formats we would love to see.

Second: A monthly contest will be implemented to select a "photo of the month". That photo will be showcased on the home page of the club website and in the club newsletter for the month following submission. When submitting photos, the one you want considered for the "photo of the month" contest should be noted in the email.

Third: A yearly contest will decide (by committee selection) the winner of "photo of the year". That photo will be selected from prior "photo of the month" winners. The winner of the "photo of the year" contest will be presented with a prize to be announced later.

Fourth: A club calendar will be created at the end of the year to exhibit all of the monthly winners and the yearly winner. The "photo of the year" winner will have his or her photo on the cover. Calendars will be sold through the club website and at monthly meetings.

Fifth: Changes to the website will make photos and photo albums easier to access.

Sixth: A photo release will be added to rally sign-in packets and to membership forms to give permission for photo usage on the club website and in the newsletter.

As the year unfolds, I will try to resolve photography related issues and keep up with the thousands of photos I know you all will submit.

Also, when you see me at the meetings or on a ride, make sure to smile. You could be on Candid Camera. Wow. That sounded a lot funnier in my head.

BMW MOTORCYCLE OWNERS OF ALABAMA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Date: ____/____/2009

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 21st Annual Great Chicken Rally in Rocket City

Presented by The BMW Motorcycle
Owners of Alabama
MAY 21 - 24, 2009
Ditto Landing, Huntsville, AL
Highway 231 just south of Huntsville
GPS N34 34.641 W86 33.495



Each Spring, hundreds of motorcycle enthusiasts descend upon the Rocket City to attend the **Great Chicken Rally**. Eat, ride, dance, sleep, repeat!

Three nights camping, BBQ Thursday, pancakes each morning, smoked chicken, Friday evening meal, and Saturday, lunch and dinner meals. Sides will vary. Free coffee, tea, lemonade, popcorn, and peanuts. Who could ask for more?

Attendees get a rally pin, rally gift, chicken key chain (first 600), 100's of Door prizes, standard rally awards, vendors, seminars, all for a \$40 rally fee, children 6 to 12, \$20, under 6 free. Day passes ONLY on Saturday, \$20.

Entertainment Nightly 7-10 PM
Thursday - Jim Parks
Friday - Microwave Dave and the Nukes
Saturday - Jim Parks and Band

Vintage/Classic BMW Bike Show

A Vintage/Classic BMW bike show will be held May 22nd and May 23rd. On Saturday there will be a Vintage/Classic BMW bike ride - judging will be held same day 12:00 to 3:00 PM. Awards for:

- Classic BMW Motorcycle (over 20-29 years old)
- Best Vintage BMW Motorcycle (over 30-39 years old)
- Best Antique BMW Motorcycle (over 40 years old)
- Peoples Choice Award

For more information please contact the club web site at www.bmwmoal.org/contact.php or Tim McGee at tmcgeesr@bellsouth.net or 251-675-5750. So Folks - shine up those old Air heads and bring them to the Chicken Rally, the best Rally in the South



Arkansas TAT Mud Ride

Gail Thorne

For those of you who don't already know, TAT is short for Trans-America-Trail. This is a dual sport ride which starts in Tennessee and goes all the way to the west coast. Paul Dave Smith, and I had already rode the Mississippi section about a year ago, and thought we would tackle Arkansas, which we knew would be more challenging. Dave purchased the maps and he and Paul worked out every detail.

This was going to be sooo much fun we would have felt bad about not sharing, so we invited Gary Dubois. As y'all probably know, Gary is a lot of fun and can fix anything with string and duct tape, so we thought we would drag him into this too. We set a date, made the motel arrangements, I bought new boots (waterproof), and the boys got the bikes ready.

Gary arrived at our house the evening before our departure and everything was ready to go the next morning. We met Dave early and had a very pleasant ride to Grenada, Mississippi for breakfast (we all still liked each other at this point), and then on to Helena, Arkansas and the beginning of the TAT. Just as we crossed the Mississippi river, it started to rain so we all stopped to put on rain gear.

Now all we had to do was find that first gravel road, and the real start of the TAT. When I said it had started to rain, I mean it had really started to rain, as in, you couldn't see ten feet in front of you. Water was already several inches deep across the roads and quite swift in places. The boys were having trouble with their bikes moving around too much on the gravel, so we stopped to let some air out of the tires. I had too much of a death grip to notice. Everything is just lovely now except Gary said his feet were soaked. I think it had rained about 10 minutes at this point.

Dave's GPS said turn left so Paul and Dave did. This road was just mud with no gravel at all. Not me baby, I'm smarter than they are. Gary decided he wouldn't either. Paul and Dave turned around after about 15 yards, and we decided to find a detour and pick up the TAT on up the road. I don't remember when it happened, but Gary was having to shift by hand (reaching down with his left hand to shift gears). Can this possibly be any more fun? Dave's

GPS found a better road and we were riding like the wind until the gravel disappeared and turned into mud hell. Keep in mind, we are still technically in the Delta which is flat and low, and now really wet. It had been raining for weeks and then there was the flood we had just ridden thru. It had stopped raining for now but water is standing everywhere and the sun has come out.

We still have on all our gear and it is warming up nicely. Since we had already turned around once, we hated to detour again just because of a little muddy stretch of what WAS a good road, and we are sure it is just a little piece and it gets better, so we push ahead (no pun intended yet). It isn't getting better and now we've gone far enough that we hate to turn around and go back thru THAT, and we think it gets better "up there".



Those of you who know me, know I'm short and can't begin to get both feet anywhere near flat on the ground. On the Kawasaki KLR, which is what we were all riding, I can just barely get a tip toe at the best. This ain't good in mud! However, I really hate to be outdone, so onward I go until the front end hit a slick spot (and there were lots of

slick spots) and down I go. No harm done other than I am covered in mud from my helmet to my new boots.

But so what, if this was easy everybody would be here, right? And besides, I've got 3 guys to help me so what do I care. But wait, I see Paul's bike go down too and he isn't even riding it. It just slipped down with him standing next to it. And wait, the three of them are W-A-Y up in front of me and I can't move, so I have to just stand there like Willy the Lump until they decide to come back and rescue me. They have decided that "just up there on that little hill it's better".

By now, we have a pattern of one or two going forward and stopping, then walking back to get the others (usually me) and so on for hours and hours. And by the way, it wasn't better on top of that little hill! I found a stretch of about 100 yards where there was grass along the side and I could ride pretty good, then mud again and help was needed. Gary decided he would do better "over in that field", so he started across the ditch. Ooops, the back wheel sunk so he instructed me to get hold of the handle bars and give it some throttle while he picks up on the back end. It worked but the whole front of

his new Frogg Toggs was covered in mud. I laughed, but not where he could see me.

We are all so hot and tired we are sure we are dying a slow death and have shed most of our riding gear. The bad part is we didn't plan on having to carry our riding clothes and really don't have anywhere to put them. We are covered in mud and sweat with no end in sight. They are all starting to hate me because when they have to ride my bike out of the mud for me, my tank panniers are cramping up their legs and I couldn't take them off easily. I am tired, but the guys are just completely exhausted. Paul was having severe legs cramps to add to the excitement. I think I heard Dave say he never wanted to see Arkansas again.

Gary and Dave have forged ahead about 1/4 of a mile and say the road turns into gravel. I think they are lying, but it is true. Not good gravel, but some gravel anyway. After 3 plus hours, we finally reach the end of the mud from hell and stop to catch our breath. Gary and Dave ride up the road to see what lies ahead and come back to report that it's not good, but we can get out. We suit up again and begin to get back on our bikes. We have so much mud on our feet that we have trouble getting our legs over the seat to get on. We have made the decision to hit paved roads and head for our motel.



Things are looking up now! Gary told me if I could just make it to the cemetery that was about 1/2 mile up the road, that I would be ok. I still think they were plotting to kill me and put me in there. So here we go, or so I thought. I put the bike in first gear and nothing happened. This can't be good. Dave and Gary took off like a goat shot in the butt with a hot marble, thinking Paul and I are right behind them, but we aren't. I shout to Paul "something is wrong". @\$%??. I was sure Dave and Gary would never come back, but after about what seemed 30 minutes they did. There was just so much mud caked on every part of the bike, it was hard to tell for sure what was wrong, but finally determined my clutch was toast. I wonder why? @\$%??? Now what?

I begged them to just leave me to die, but they wanted me to suffer some more. It was decided that Gary and Dave would go look for a truck, trailer, etc. and Paul would stay with me. By now it is getting close to dark and looks like a bad storm is coming. Yipeee more fun! Sure enough, about 15 minutes later a good old fashioned thunderstorm

was underway. Paul and I are totally alone in the middle of BFE (that's the place in Egypt in case you didn't know). As a matter of fact, we never saw anyone or anything the whole time we were on the mud road. Do you think we might have been the only four people stupid enough to try and go down it? We did see some deer tracks, but even they jumped over the road!

So here Paul and I are sitting on the side of the road in the rain. At least we had our riding gear. Then it starts lightening all around us. The kind where you don't want to be outside, but we were. It is also raining like you would not believe, AGAIN. We start to crawl up the ditch bank into a brush thicket, and Paul gets a massive leg cramp. There is nothing I can do but stand in front of him to try and block some of the rain from hitting him, while he is flopping around like a fish.

As most things do, all this passes and we survive so Paul decides to try my bike again since it's cooled off a little. By now, after this last flash flood, the "good" road is starting to get water over it. Deep water. To our surprise, my bike will move forward in first gear a little bit. Paul instructs me to start up the road and don't stop for ANYTHING. I am moving along pretty good despite water which is getting deeper by the minute. Then I see a green four wheel drive truck with our "new" friend, Gary, Dave and a trailer. We're saved! Gary and Dave found a guy whose name is Terry Smith (no kin to Dave), and with no hesitation he was willing to go out in the storm to help us. THERE ARE STILL GOOD PEOPLE.

We load up my bike and all pile into Terry's truck with Paul on his bike behind us and off we go toward civilization. Man this water is deep. After a short while, we realize Paul isn't in sight....uh, Terry would you mind turning back, my better half isn't behind us! As a matter of fact, he hasn't moved from where we left him. His side stand switch was so gummed up with mud that it wasn't working as it should and the bike would go dead when put in first gear. This was figured out and fixed and we started again toward Terry's house. We are all riding in a nice dry truck and Paul is riding a motorcycle thru axle deep water. He said he had to slow down once due to log floating across the road in front of him, but when he got close to it he saw it was a huge snake swimming across the road

Cont. page 8

Cont from page 7

(Arkansas Anaconda). EEEW!

After we finally got to Terry's, he let me leave my bike under one of his sheds. He was just a super guy, and we are still grateful for his help. We decide to head back to Helena, get a room, and come back home the next day. Paul, Dave, and I will return the day after and get my bike. Gary said he was going back to Athens (shifting by hand) and that he had had enough of us. Things do look better after a meal, hot shower and good nights sleep, and we

were all our jovial selves the next morning. However, I am sure we are banned from Motel 6 in Helena, Arkansas after the maid saw our rooms. We are already planning on going back, but I think we will wait for a dry spell.

Paul called Gary to make sure he made it home ok. He told him we were planning a trip to hell and wondered if he wanted to go. Gary said he would have to come up with a better trip cause he had already been to hell.

SPECIAL OFFER FROM BMW MOA FOR BMW MOTORCYCLE OWNERS OF ALABAMA CLUB MEMBERS

Ted Moyer

Since our own Vance Harrelson is the Rally Chair for the 2009 BMW MOA International Rally, it would seem only fitting that he is also interested in recent efforts of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of America (the national club) to expand its membership. I had the pleasure of spending a few hours with Vance recently and he asked if there was anything the BMW MOA could do for Alabama club members to encourage membership in both organizations. And there is!

If you are an Alabama club member and have considered joining the BMW MOA as well, now is the time.

A membership in the BMW Motorcycle Owners of America includes 12 issues of a fantastic magazine, *The BMW Owners News*. It is our version of a club newsletter, but with a national focus. The *BMW Owners News* features several ride articles each month, numerous product reviews, some human interest stories, listing of all the rallies and events, a free classified service and generally, anything that is fit to be printed about motorcycling. If you haven't seen the *BMW Owners News* recently, the magazine has expanded to almost 150 pages and is printed completely in color.

You also receive a copy of the *BMW MOA Anonymous Book*. The *BMW MOA Anonymous Book* is a voluntary listing of members across the country that can offer assistance to other members in a time of need. If you have an unfortunate break down on your motorcycle – even as simple as a flat tire or a dead battery – use the *BMW MOA Anonymous Book* to find another member that can offer a helping hand. It is a great resource to find local information when visiting new areas as well. Just look up another member in the city and state and ask for directions to the good roads or places of interest.

BMW MOA members receive full access to our website and web forums. We offer a discounted roadside assistance program, discounts on hotel rooms and rental cars, reduced fares on emergency travel services, discounted motorcycle insurance and in the coming months, we will announce a member discount for extended warranties on motorcycles. If you are planning to attend the International Rally in Johnson City, BMW MOA members will save \$10 on their rally fee.

And, since Vance asked, any BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama club member that joins before the Rally in July will receive 3 extra issues of the magazine, *The BMW Owners News*, free. 15 issue with your 12 month membership, a 25% bonus. Cost to join is \$40 per year and discounts are available on multi year memberships. You can join online at www.bmwmoa.org or you can email me, tedm@bmwmoa.org and I will be glad to reply with a membership application and instructions. We will also be glad to take your membership over the phone at 636-394-7277. No matter what method you use, be sure to let me know you have joined so I can send you your extra issues of the magazine. If your membership has lapsed or you were a member in years past, this offer is extended to you as well.

Vance graciously offered to host the BMW MOA at the Great Chicken Rally. I will be there with applications and samples if you would like to join then. I look forward to seeing you there, regardless!

WHAT'S IN YOUR FIRST AID KIT?

Joan Ware, Safety Director

First of all do you carry a First Aid kit with you? The answer should be YES. Even if you don't need it you may come upon someone who needs help. The following Red Cross recommended list of items is for a family of four, so you can tailor yours accordingly:

- 2 absorbent compress dressings (5 x 9 inches) or small feminine napkins individually wrapped
- adhesive bandages (assorted sizes)
- 1 roll adhesive cloth tape (10 yards x 1 inch)
- antibiotic ointment packets (approximately 1 gram)
- antiseptic wipe packets
- 2 packets of aspirin (81 mg each)
- Benadryl or something like that
- 1 blanket (space blanket)
- 1 breathing barrier (with one-way valve)
- 1 instant cold compress
- 2 pairs of non-latex gloves (size: large)
- 2 hydrocortisone ointment packets (approximately 1 gram each)
- Scissors
- 1 rolled bandage (3 inches wide)
- 1 rolled bandage (4 inches wide)
- 5 sterile gauze pads (3 x 3 inches)
- 5 sterile gauze pads (4 x 4 inches)
- 2 triangular bandages
- Tweezers
- Lighter or water proof matches

When traveling as a group, one rider should carry a well equipped first aid similar to this list. I hope you will take what you need from this list and keep it in a water proof container in a saddlebag.

14th Annual Nauvoo Car Show Saturday June, 20th 2009 Old Harbin Hotel Nauvoo Al Rain or Shine

All proceeds go to the Nauvoo Historical Society

Gene McDaniel would like to invite you to the 14th annual car show. A T-shirt and dash plaque will be given to the first 250 registrants. This year all registrants will be entered for a chance to win lots of door and cash prizes. We will also be selling tickets on a 50/50 pot. All tickets will be drawn at 1:00 PM by Miss Alabama. There will also be special trophies presented by Miss Alabama and Miss Walker County. Expanded parking for show cars and for the public.

Food, Drinks, and Soft Serve Ice Cream will be available for purchase. Entertainment will be provided.

To preregister send a check or money order for \$20.00 to the Nauvoo Historical Society, P.O. Box 157, Nauvoo Al 35578. Please include your Name, Address (city and zip), and car, truck, or tractor info.

For more information contact Gene McDaniel (697-5652), Mary Carey (697-5460), Larry Wideman (697-5256), or Clowers Brothers (924-9929).

**Slick Lizard
Smokehouse
will be open.**

**Car Part Vendors Wel-
come!**



ABEES POINTS TO DATE

Name	Restaurants, Points of Interest and Monthly Club Gatherings	Favorite Roads & Rides	Total ABEES Check Offs	Total ABEES Tickets	Total Bonus Tickets	Total Tickets
Bob Steber	169	29	198	9.9	10	19.9
Martin Benson	117	11	128	6.4	5	11.4
Vance Harrelson	63	5	68	3.4	4	7.4
Paul McBrayer	52	5	57	2.9	4	6.9
Noah Johnson	38	8	46	2.3	1	3.3
Beverly Hughston	41	4	45	2.3	2	4.3
Jimmy Lowe	38	4	42	2.1	3	5.1
Mike Scott	40	1	41	2.1	3	5.1
Jim Dubick	34	2	36	1.8	5	6.8
Gary Nesmith	36		36	1.8	5	6.8
Terry Ware	28	8	36	1.8	1	2.8
Erik Bahl	32	1	33	1.7	2	3.7
Phillip Warren	27	3	30	1.5	5	6.5
Tim Flynn	18	5	23	1.2	4	5.2
Stephen Whitley	18	3	21	1.1	1	2.1
Mickey Gee	14	6	20	1.0	0	1.0
Gary Williams	18		18			
Bob Daigle	16		16			

ABEES NEWS YOU CAN USE

Bob Steber

Great news, we have two more excellent prizes for our 2009 ABEES riding challenge. Maurice Green of Catoma Tents will donate a 2 Up tent and a prototype Switchback tent. That makes four great prizes so far for 2009 counting the Olympia riding jacket from David Sanders at Bogart's Motorsports and a Scorpion Helmet from Terry and Joan Ware at Terry's Two Wheel Tire and Tune. Be sure to thank these fine folks the next time you see them.

Its time to ride folks and if you have not tried the wonderful favorite roads and rides listed in our ABEES Travel Guide, you have really missed some of the great riding in the southeast. The best of the best roads in Alabama are listed with easy to follow turn by turn directions. Just open your Guide to the ride you want to try, place it in your tank bag and follow the turn by turn directions. Better still, if you have a GPS that can accept down loads, go to our website, GPS routes and down load the route of your choice. Martin Benson has done a great job placing all of the routes on GPS route files for our use. Additionally, you will find Martins file with

each of the 600 plus POIs and Restaurants listed to make it a snap for you to find the locations. Both of these files are great tools for us.

The days are getting longer, so its time to plan your All Around Alabama Run. This year we have added the 72 hour challenge which will give you more time to enjoy the fantastic roads and sights that you will find along the way. You will also earn 5 bonus tickets for successfully completing the circuit within 72 hours. Completing the circuit within 48 hours will earn you 10 bonus tickets. Speaking for myself, I can't remember having a better time traveling with three other Alabeemers last year successfully completing the AAA in a clockwise direction. This year, my plan is to do it counter clockwise and I am anxious to get started.

When you have completed your initial 20 ABEES checkoffs, please send your counts to me so that I can add you to our list. Remember it only takes one ticket to win one of the fantastic prizes, but the more tickets you have the better are your chances. Our ABEES challenge is so easy and fun to accomplish. If you have not tried it yet, you have missed a lot of fun. It is amazing what there is to see right here in Alabama.

PRODUCT REPORT: CATOMA TENTS

Bob Steber

The new Catoma tents could be the best tents ever designed for motorcycle camping. Catoma Outdoor has manufactured tents for the military and firefighters since 1993. Two years ago Catoma decided to build tents for the civilian market. Maurice Green, the national VP of sales, asked some of our



Alabama Club members for suggestions as to what we wanted in a tent. Catoma already had the patented Speeddome [sic] system which is based on the old Camel design. He took our suggestions back to his tent designers and the final product is excellent both in quality and cost. The tents come with a great bag, the best tent pegs I have used, a rain fly and a gear loft. You can order the optional ground sheet which attaches to the four corners of the tent by plastic clips; an excellent idea.

There are three Catoma tents designed for the motorcyclist: The Lone Rider, the 2 Up and the Switchback. Details may be found on their website,



www.Catomaoutdoor.com. Click on the Motorcycling tab for all of the details.

I have the 2 Up and really like it. Best of all, and without much practice, I can easily put it up in less than 60 seconds. Maurice does it in about 30 seconds. The take down is just as fast. My first time camping with the 2 Up was at Vech's Vintage Rally the week end of April 17-19. That was the week end the heavy storms blew through and it rained a frog choker for about 30 minutes. I awoke the next morning as dry as I had gone to bed the night before.

Maurice will be at the Great Chicken Rally to demonstrate his tents, so be sure to pay him a visit and see these excellent tents in action. He is giving our club a special discount on each of the three tents until after the MOA National : The Two UP retail price \$179 Club price \$139. Lone Rider, retail price \$199 club price \$160 and the Switchback retail price \$299 club price is \$234. There is no charge for shipping, but Alabama sales tax will be added to the costs.



Maurice is also going to donate a 2 Up, and a prototype Switchback tent for our ABEES riding challenge. That makes four great prizes including the Olympia Jacket from Bogart's and the Scorpion helmet from Terry's Two Wheel Tire and Tune. Be sure to thank these fine folks when you next see them.

If you have not made your reservations for the March 2010 Annual BMWMOAL Blue Water Cruise, what are you waiting for? Call Vanessa Gamble at AAA today! She may be reached at 205-978-7030 or 800-521-8124. You may still be able to lock in the low price offered to club members. The cost of the AMTRAK portion of the package has not yet been determined.

BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

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Dedicated to safe and enjoyable motorcycling



Please visit the BMWMOAL web site at www.bmwmoal.org and register. Log on and see what members are saying about club activities. The site is user friendly and the newsletter is in color.

Club Sponsored Events With Meetings

May 21-24	Great Chicken Rally Huntsville, AL
June 27/28	Blue Ridge MC Camp Ground Cruso, NC
July 25/26	Ft. Toulouse Wetumpka, AL
Aug 28/29/30	Beemers, Beer, Brats Enterprise, AL
Sept 26/27	Shell Mound Campground Nickajack Dam, Jasper Tennessee
Oct 31/Nov 1	Little River State Forest Atmore, AL
Dec 5	Christmas Party Guntersville St. Park

Other Events of Interest

May 15-17	European Riders Rally Burkesville, KY
Jul 16-19	BMWMOA National Rally Johnson City, TN
Aug 13-16	32nd Dan'l Boone Rally Boone, NC
Oct 24-25	Waggoners RibFest, Centerville, TN