

# THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle  
Owners of Alabama

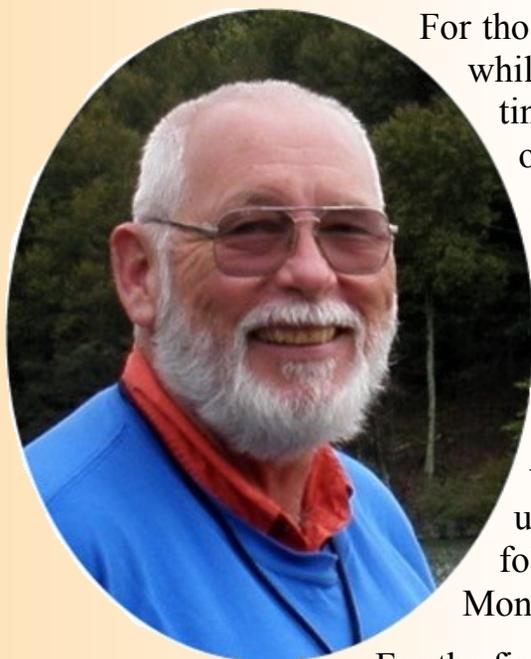
BMWMOA Chapter5/  
BMWRA Chapter #107



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January 2014

WOW! It's January already and we have a whole new year in front of us. I hope everyone had a great Christmas and I wish for a Happy, Happy, Happy New Year for everyone.



For those who missed it, we had another great Christmas Party and while attendance was down a little the ones there had a good time. We had good food, lots of fun with dirty Santa with lots of good gifts, and good fellowship. What more can you ask? Darlene did her usual wonderful job of getting everything set up with the usual help from the other ladies. Thanks to all who came and participated.

Now we look forward to a New Year that I trust will be even better than 2013. First up will be our annual elections and planning meeting at the end of the month. This year we will be going back to letting members go out for dinner Saturday night rather than have something brought in. That way folks can have dinner at the cafeteria on campus or eat in Montevallo and sample the local cuisine.

For the first time in too many years, we will have an actual election for the office of president of the club. Because there are two candidates with differing opinions, I think this is a good opportunity to decide the future of the Club. There are other positions still available with no opposition, and I would love to see more folks step up, take an interest and run for them all.

After elections are settled, we will have the fun of deciding where we want to meet this year. If you have any ideas or suggestions on new places, please get some information together to present to club members. We have had very good (and some not quite so good) places in the past and there is always room on the list for another great place so put your thinking caps on. One thing I would like to throw out there for thought: we really do need a host for all of our meetings. This past year we had a couple of meetings without hosts and they seemed somewhat disorganized. So consider hosting a meeting at your favorite park or gathering spot.

Let's have another great year this year.

## AGENDA ITEMS FOR JANUARY MEETING

Jamie Jackson

In keeping with the club by-laws, I mailed the letter below to our Secretary in October listing some proposed changes to the by-laws. Please be prepared to discuss these proposed changes and vote accordingly in the January meeting. I feel that these items need to be addressed before the election of Officers for obvious reasons.

October 23, 2013

Barbara Little,  
Secretary BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

Dear Barbara,

Please prepare the January meeting agenda to include the following proposed changes to the by-laws of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama:

*Under **Operation** item 3 delete*

*Under **Operation** item 2 to read "Normal meeting will be held on the last Saturday of each month with the exception of January, May, and December. January and May will be last Sunday and there will be no meeting in December. Membership will be notified as to time, place, and any changes through the club web site or by 'E-blast'".*

*Under **Officers** delete Newsletter Editor as an Officer.*

In keeping with those changes, I also propose the title for *Technology Director* be changed to *Communication Director* to better describe the activities of the member that will become the liaison to get important information to the members in a timely fashion.

Jamie Jackson, Vice President



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Celina Seibert
- 4 Larry Camp
- 5 Sharon Hogg
- 8 Douglas Dyar
- 9 Mike Pavelec
- 11 Connie Reaves
- 11 Anna White
- 12 Leslie Johnson
- 13 Betsy Barber
- 18 Elaine Willey
- 19 Tom Barnhart
- 24 Michael Benoit
- 27 Lou Church
- 28 Cara Barnhart



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

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2014

NEW\_\_\_\_RENEW\_\_\_\_UPDATE\_\_\_\_

Sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Member: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Member: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt# \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

Year / Model BMW(s) : \_\_\_\_\_

Circle those that apply:    MOA Member    RA Member    Airheads Member    Oilheads Member    AMA Member

Dues are \$25.00 per year for primary and \$5.00 per year for secondary members. Make check payable to:  
BMW M/C Owners of Alabama.    Mail application with check to: Tommy Arnold, 471 Plantation Pt. Rd., Scottsboro, AL 35768

## HE RIDES A PALE HORSE

Jamie Jackson

Nobody wants it to happen but the burden of age creeps upon us as vaguely as nightfall. There is no distinct time that one can say “I have lost the edge” but little by little the motorcycle becomes a stranger, as if it takes on a cruel and pitiless personality with a will to intimidate and embarrass. The once powerful legs of the rider slowly become shaky, with knees that ache from a lifetime of abuse; hawk-like eyes of youth begin to cover over with the milky quality of cataracts; balance gives way to uncertainty; surefootedness is foiled by a single smooth pebble underfoot. The motorcycle seems to sense these slight changes and exploits them at every opportunity.

The rider may have a lifetime of experience in motorcycle touring, wearing badges from many rallies. Longtime companions admire the mileage accumulated and the many places visited. Younger riders sit in awe and dream of such accomplishments. But the edge may no longer be quite as sharp as once was. It becomes apparent as the curves are now taken just a little slower, mileage for the day becomes less important, and trips begin to be planned as daylight affairs with night riding excluded. Some riders deny any such waning of spirit and ability but they know...they know it is happening.

When do the campfire conversations about smaller, lighter bikes begin to make sense despite our pride and egos? When do we decide that maybe it *is* okay to trailer the bike to the National Rally that is clear across the country? When do we trade our camping gear for the comforts of motels? When do we give in to the ugliness of aging? I, for one, don't know but I am sure it all is coming; however, I am also absolutely certain that for a while we will continue to ride like there is no tomorrow, and when we meet up with our brethren at the campgrounds and exchange conversation around the campfire a subtle smile and nod will be all that is needed to say “I'm still alive and well”!

This article which was written by member Jamie Jackson was taken from our newsletter archives for reprint. [ed]

### NEW MEMBER

Howard Sankey Sharon, GA '05 R1200RT Sponsors: Martha Warren/  
Gene McDaniel