

# THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

BMWMOA Chapter #5/ BMWRA Chapter #107



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## CHRISTMAS PARTY December 13, 2008

Darlene Massey

Hey Guys, It's about that time of the year again...you know when there is magic in the air and all the little children are wishing for Santa to bring them ALL they ask for.

And then it is time for the rest of us middle age folks, to get together one last time before Christmas and enjoy a great meal and play Dirty Santa.

This year our annual Christmas party will be at Lake Gunterville State Park, located at the base of the mountains of the Appalachian range. There are 949 miles of shoreline and 69,000 acres of sparkling beautiful water with the most breathtaking views. There are 31 miles of hiking and biking trails, with rental available of canoes, fishing boats, and pontoon boats, so if you want to come a day early or stay a day later there is plenty to do.

If you haven't visited there since their renovation then you are in for a treat. Besides the nice rooms at the lodge they also have chalets that overlook the bluff and cabins on the water. If you haven't booked your lodging yet, remember to use our group code **CGBMWM**. This will allow you to only have to book a room for one night instead of their usual two night minimum.

**Our Christmas party will be in the Hickory Room located downstairs from the lodge lobby.**

Happy hour will be from 6:00 to 7:00 and a buffet dinner will start at 7:00pm. Dirty Santa will start immediately after dinner.

The cost of the dinner, including tax and gratuity is \$16.78 per person. On the menu this year we will have:

*Steamship Round of Beef  
(carved on the buffet line)*

*Baked Chicken*

*AuGratin Potatoes*

*Squash Casserole*

*Italian Green Beans*

*Coleslaw*

*Broccoli Salad*

*Tossed Salad*

*Antipasto Salad*

*Triple Hummingbird Cake*

*Fruit Cobbler*

*Along with coffee, tea and rolls*

We will have a full bar; Prices are mixed drinks from \$4.25 - \$5.50, beer from \$3.50 - \$4.25, and wine by the glass from \$4.75 - \$5.99.

Now you're probably asking yourself just how much better can

this get - well guess what - it gets even better.

This year Connie, our gracious President, has agreed for the club to furnish us with a Hospitality Room for the night of December 13<sup>th</sup>. Immediately following Dirty Santa we can go to Hospitality Room # 320, located in the wing to the left of the lodge. This room will be open for everyone to come and enjoy. You can bring your own beverages and therefore not have the high cost of the bar prices.

This room has a full kitchen and we will have ice chests for anything that needs to be iced down, with plenty of ice, cups & mixers. We will even have some munchies in case anyone didn't get enough to eat at dinner. This room has plenty of sitting space and again, another beautiful view of the lake. There will be several of us with keys in case you want to put something in there prior to the party. You can get with either me, Malvene Jackson, Jeanine Arnold or Connie Reaves.

We will need to make your reservation for dinner no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>. You can email me at [DMASSEY@AMEREX-FIRE.COM](mailto:DMASSEY@AMEREX-FIRE.COM) - Please make sure you get a reply back to insure that I received your email.

Looking forward to seeing everyone and let me be the first to say to you - **Merry Christmas.**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**October 26, 2008**

**Lee Waggoner's farm , Centerville Tenn.**

**Connie Reaves, President presiding**

**Jeannine Arnold, Acting Secretary**

Connie opened the meeting asking for a big hand for Lee Waggoner for the use of his facility and host services, to Tom Sherrill of The Kermit Chair company for providing the food, and the Kermit Chair door prize, and to the Nashville club for providing the Porta Potties.

Connie read the letter from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation thanking us for our 2008 donation which was presented a few weeks before.

She then welcomed Russ Kruse as being his first time at a club meeting and a new member since BBB two weeks previous.

Gary Nesmith was asked if Darlene had sent any information she would like us to know about the Christmas party coming up in December, He said she wanted folks to know that Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> was cut-off date for getting Chalets under the group Code for only one night.

Connie announced that Ron Riggins had stepped up to run for President in 2009 and that the other positions needed to be filled out and that a few of the folks had agreed to again run for their current positions again. (look for a list elsewhere and/or in an E-newsletter)

It was announced that the January meeting would be Jan. 31/Feb 1 weekend since the club cruise would only just be returning on the normal meeting weekend. The Montevallo Traffic Safety Center has been scheduled for that 31<sup>st</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> weekend.

Bob Steber announced that 10 people had completed the Bogarts/ABEES All Around Alabama challenge. He also told us that Martin Benson has the most ABEES points as of now, but that it only takes on ticket to win the jacket. He pleaded for everyone to send him their points totals so he can be working on the tally.

Connie read the Treasurer's report and offered a copy to anyone interested.

Bob Steber then told us of some of the best rides in the N. Ala...TN area and offered to share routes.

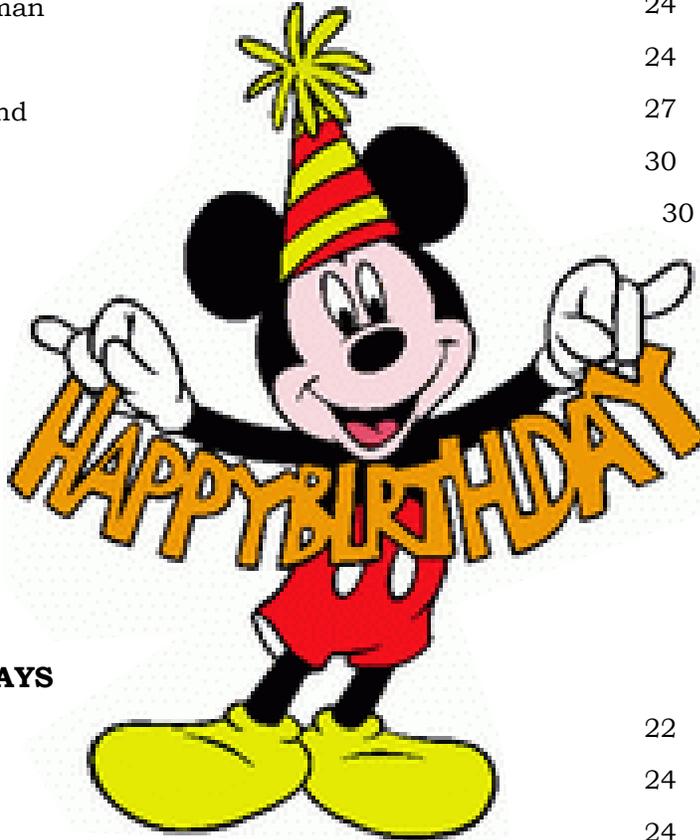
Connie read a short note from Sheila Kalahan, thanking the club for attending BBB and how much fun she had with us there and that she intends to join us some in the coming months albeit in four wheels and walls, but she's also looking forward to hosting BBB again next year.

Meeting was adjourned under protest that the 50/50 was not drawn for, until reminded that we had for-gone doing a 50/50 this month (haha) and that door prizes could be still be drawn for whether the meeting was in progress or not.

These minutes were taken by Jeannine Arnold, sitting in for Mari Harrelson, typed up by Connie Reaves, and submitted to Jamie Jackson for publication. (Now that's the AlaBeemers teamwork in action!!)

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

1	Michael Langley	12	Paul Goehler	20	Tom Gilbert
4	Bob Steber	12	Bill Hancock	20	Phillip Thibodeau
5	Robert Baker	14	Jan Barnett	21	Jennifer Kennedy
5	Jim Pippin	15	Joseph Mays	23	Ed Kearney
5	Ron Shea	16	Doug Peterson	23	Pamela Rogers
8	Wiley Farrar	16	Morris Dees,	24	Jack Kipp
8	Margaret Hoffman	18	Jim Ronk	24	Larry Tuggle
8	Charles Smith			24	Eddie Williams
10	Denise Copeland			24	Elaine Winslow
11	Jake Bennett			27	Dennis Hallman
11	Todd Kern			30	Charles Binder
11	Ginger Odom			30	Terry Boren
				31	Bob Foley



**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

3	Al Wallace			22	Keith Koon
4	Karen Myers			24	Terry Ware
5	Ivory Hampton			24	Tim Nesmith
6	Regina Binder	18	BJ Ronk	25	Dan Copeland
7	Ron Riggins	19	Turpin Ashurst	25	Steven Farley
8	John Montoya	19	Gene Barker	25	Brian Jones
10	Kenneth Bonner	19	Beverly Bedgood	26	Scott Bouwens
12	Randy Hardy	19	David Smith	26	Vernon Headrick
15	Jim McCutchen	20	Harold Fearing	27	Tim Flynn,
17	Dean Armstrong	20	Ridge Marriott	27	Marliam Lee
17	Karen Harrelson	20	Don Delashaw	27	Khristi Lowe
18	Ken Lefkovits	21	Ron Beck	29	Jim McLean,
18	Sharon McLean	21	Grant Borden	29	Elaine Vechorik
18	Kenny Owen	21	Bruce Wheatley	30	Jennifer Stover

## THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Remember Bob Daigle in the loss of his sister who succumbed to a brain hemorrhage on October 23.

## ITEMS FOR SALE

'98 K1200RS, yellow, 69K miles, one owner, with color matched Hannigan sport sidecar, \$8950 or good K75 + cash. Contact Tony at [alafilingsys@bellsouth.net](mailto:alafilingsys@bellsouth.net) or 334-244-0499 in Montgomery

## NEW MEMBERS

Mike Scott	Houma, LA	Sponsor: Bob Daigle
Janice Seaman	Birmingham, AL	Sponsor: Joan Ware
Brian T. Jones	Clermont, FL	Sponsor: Don Drasheff (Sr. & Jr.)
Russell & Roxanne Kruse (FOB)	Ozark, AL	Sponsor: Jim Kallahan
Mac Stewart	Jackson, AL	Sponsor: Tommy Arnold

## DUES - DUES - DUES

PLEASE MAIL YOUR '09 DUES BEFORE  
DECEMBER 31, 2008

Please mail early using the Application/Renewal Form in the newsletter, and correct any changes of your address, phone numbers, or e-mail address. The dues are only \$20 for the principal member plus \$3 for the secondary household member. Make check payable to BMW M/C Owners of AL and mail to:

Marty Simpson  
10010 Torino Dr., SE  
Huntsville, AL 35803

Members that joined during the year (Jan thru Oct) will receive mailed notices in December for prorated dues for 2009.

REMINDER: Some members paid in advance and this is a reminder that the following are paid for

year 2009 or beyond:

Tony Allison - '09  
Robert & Tammy Baker - '09  
David & Lucinda Bollinger - '09, '10, '11, '12  
Paul Buckholdt - '09, '10, '11, '12  
Lenny Gribben - '09, '10  
Jim & Linda Holley - '09  
Ed Kearney - '09, '10  
Leroy Sloan - '09  
Don Norwood - '09, '10  
Albert & Anna Whilte - '09  
Charles & Deborah Parsons - '09  
Vance & Mari Harreslon - '09

CONGRATULATIONS to Donna Fearing, Will Diener, Ramona Merrill, and Larry Mullens for earning the Life Membership category. They will join the Honorary Group with: Ann Carter, Harold Fearing, Casey Hardison, John Keel, Fred Merrill, Marty Simpson, Sybil VanderVelde, and William Weaver.

EVERYONE ATTENDING THE **CHRISTMAS PARTY**, ESPECIALLY NEW MEMBERS, SHOULD REVIEW THE DIRTY SANTA RULES ON PAGE 11

## THE LAST PRESIDENTIAL RIDE

Connie Reaves

Boy has it been a busy few weeks. It's like everyone is trying to cram in every event possible before....ooooooooo.....WINTER !!! First it was the meeting at Shell Mound, the next weekend was the Shiloh Rally, next came BB & B (or for some , Woodburn's tech weekend), then we went to or worked at the Barber's Vintage Days, and last weekend was the October meeting Rib Fest !! I feel positively rushed, but happy. I guess we need all that to satisfy us until January or so. Sure we can get out and ride a lot around here on nice days all through the winter since it's never bad for very long, but there are no big events or meetings to go to and it gets a bit stale. I guess we all need time to catch up though.

I was very disappointed with Shiloh because the attendance was so far down, but it was still fun.

BB & B was wonderful and I sure was happy to finally meet Sheila Kala-han. I always thought Jim was just braggin, but she's everything he said and she was the most tire-less hostess for this motley crew the entire weekend. She even did a happy dance over seeing tents in her back yard.

I enjoyed working in the 1900-1930's section of the Barber's museum over the Vintage Days. For a Saturday morning shift I got breakfast, lunch after, a t-shirt, an event pin, a bag of Halloween treat goodies, and Saturday and Sunday entry tickets; and got to visit with friends during the rest of the time. Now you just can't beat that for a great, nearly free weekend !!

The rib fest at the October meeting was fun with the Nashville club. At first it was Nashville folks around the campfire and Alabama folks around a couple picnic tables. I said it looked like boys and girls at separate sides of the gym at a sock-hop. So Alabama folks moved on over to the campfire and Nashville folks filtered away towards the shelter and cook fire. Hmmmmmmm..... So then I went over and shamed them about running away from us and bein sceert. So then the Nashville folks filtered back over to the campfire and we all had a grand time !!

Tom Sherrill who is a member of both clubs and the owner of Kermit Chair company had donated a chair for a door prize, I had brought 4 of the Alabama club anniversary mugs, and the Nashville club had brought a few door prizes so we all got a chance at the combined loot. There were ribs still being cooked at 10 pm. About 4:40 that afternoon someone said we needed to have a "half hour rule". That meant we had to go get another hunk of ribs every half hour. I think a whole bunch of us lived up to that rule. Even so, there were still ribs left over. They were wrapped in foil and left on the covered grill to keep the warmth and some folks even sampled the left overs for breakfast. WOW !!! Let's do it again !!!!!



As it should be, it was my last meeting to **ride** to as President, and it was with full Military escort. Jim Kala-han and Russ Kruse, two of our "Flyboys", led me to Center-ville, TN, in style. Well, almost; Jim forgot the blue lights. (**OK - wild laughter here**) However, Jim and Russ did have their CAV hats properly displayed on the topmost of their luggage and Jim who was in the lead had his American flag flying proudly on the rear. I made a proper Presidential arrival to our joint meeting with the Nashville club.

I know, I have one more meeting as President, but I don't ride to the January meeting. I'm always the meeting host and bring the truck loaded with large coffee pots, snacks, breakfast fixin's and dinner paper goods.

The last six years as President have been good ones. I've had no lack of help, and you folks always step up and get whatever needs doing, done. I can't think of another group of folks I would have worked for, for six years, and still enjoyed it. However, it's time to step aside, take a break, let some new ideas filter in, some new folks take the lead, and do some things I haven't got to do in a while. I still plan to be a part of the club on a regular basis. I just don't plan to be in charge of anything. THANK YOU ALL for all the help you've given me all along.

See ya at the Christmas party, the Cruise, or the January meeting !!!!

## **FROST BOUND IN ALABAMA**

### ***Preparing the motorcycle for winter storage for those that do not ride throughout the winter***

Don Hamblin

Bottom Line Up Front: Motorcycles are emotional creatures, and more spiteful than an old girlfriend. Showing some care and interest in the fall will return a happier bike in the spring. If she is happy then we are happy!

Even a BMW Needs Love!

You spent a whole lot of money for that BMW, and yet there it sits – under a frost covered tarp in the driveway or a corner your garage. As each fall day becomes colder that beloved motorcycle becomes more invisible. Maybe you will become more interested next spring, maybe you are thinking of buying one of the “new” ones before Daytona Bike Week next year, or maybe you thought about winter riding but can find nothing exciting about a freezing ride now. Do not fall for those feelings that at the prices BMW charges you should not have to do anything but ride. Unless you plan on moving it to the curb for a spring trash day, it might be a good idea to give that investment a fighting chance when the cotton wood trees bloom. It was good to you all summer, so it has earned your personal interest now. A neglected motorcycle will be tough to start, and even tougher to like, when the weather becomes more cooperative. It is not too late to save the spring.

By The Book

There really is not a lot to do to prepare a motorcycle for winter hibernation. If you still have that owners' manual that came with it, there is usually a checklist for winter storage. That list should always beat any advice given you by the gear head down the street or me – the folks who designed your motorcycle know better than any of us what should be done. Most tasks are easy for even the most mechanically challenged to complete, and I will bet there was even tool kit included with the bike to take away your excuses. No owners' manual, then here is my own quick list for the long winter nap:

By The Numbers

1. Wash and wax the bike. I know it is getting cold, but removing the dirt and grime will make all the other tasks a whole lot easier. Wax will protect all the visible parts from accidental bumping and environmental stuff during storage. Parts and fasteners will be a lot simpler to work when they are visible. And a clean motorcycle is a whole lot easier to ride – see number 2.

2. Take a ride. I know that it is getting cold, but even a ride of 10 miles will warm up all the lubricants that need to be changed. Warm lubricants do a better job of mixing with any contaminants that might be around the moving parts. That ride will also put a light charge on the battery and hopefully inspire you to finish the job.

3. Change all the fluids. Yep, replace all the oils, lubricants and even the coolant if it is a K Bike. I am not a chemist, but I have seen how the acids and stuff that builds up in lubricants when exposed to the engine's internal combustion can eat away at the best of metals. Changing those fluids will remove the acids so that the bike does not rot from the inside. If you have an F Bike with a chain drive, then it should be cleaned and re-lubricated. If not, then make sure to change any fluids for the drive shaft on a /2 or final drive in newer bikes. And do not forget the transmission. Oh yeah, I will bet that there is some kind of grease fitting for the swing arm and space to lubricate the control levers. If so, go ahead and pump some grease into them to clean out that dried up stuff from the summer heat.

4. Gas. If the bike has carburetors, make sure to empty any gas out of the float bowls. Usually this can be done by snapping a spring clip and removing the bowl. At least fill the tank with fresh gas, or better yet, once filled you should add some gas stabilizer. That will keep the gas from absorbing moisture from the air or becoming a gummy paste over the next few months. A bit of advice here is to make sure you take reasonable precautions so as not to start a fire or breathe too many fumes during this operation. Firemen are known to be nice people and it is better to meet them somewhere other than when they are trying to save your house.

5. Change any oil or fuel filters. New filters will give the bike an even better shot at running properly next spring.

6. Check the tires. Make sure tire pressure is up to the specifications of the maker or that of the bike manufacturer. Tires with too little air pressure will tend to “flat spot” during storage, that flat spot will be a very uncomfortable “thump” every time it hits the pavement next spring.

7. Electricity. Here is where you might need to invest around \$10 by buying a “trickle” charger. That is one that only puts out around 3 amps. It will keep the battery happy and ready for warmer weather. Then there are two ways to store the battery. The first is to remove it completely from the bike, hook up that charger, and forget about it until

you need it. The other is to hook that charger up to the battery while it is still in the bike, usually through an accessory plug with a BMW charger. If you have a newer BMW or battery, check to see if you have the right charger – they are a bit different. Either way, be sure any vent hoses are clear and any cell caps are open – combustible fumes are given off while a better charges, so give the local firemen a few extra hours of rest during the holiday season.

8. Center stand. Most motorcycles have a center stand that allows for fully upright storage. Using the center stand will make it more stable. If there are grease fittings on either stand, pump some new grease in them first

9. Cover it. Either outdoors or indoors storage should include some kind of cover. That cover will lessen accidental bumping and discourage prying eyes. You like a thick blanket in the winter and so does your bike. This is one way to show it you care.

10. Ready for spring! Just like a spiteful “old” girlfriend, a neglected BMW will be very hard to get along with. Properly preparing your motorcycle for long term storage will pay off big time in the spring. Fresh gas, a charged battery, and properly inflated tires should be about all it will need to begin spring training.

So if you do plan on climbing back in the saddle during the first warm days, or even listing it in the want ads amid dreams of buying a fresh mount for Daytona Bike Week, a couple hours invested in the fall will become very important in the spring. It is still not too late.

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## **BEER, BRATS, AND BEEMERS EVENT**

Lenn Rainwater

About 20 members were lucky enough to make it to the Hebert/Kalahan Beer, Brats and Beemers in October. Jim Kalahan welcomed everyone with custom-designed “BBB 2008” decals for our bikes. Those who arrived at noon on Friday had a light lunch of pinwheel sandwiches, fresh raw vegetables and dip, and little smokies. Another group rode in shortly and then we headed over to Ft. Rucker where Jim gave us all a demonstration of the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter cockpit including the laser sights and artillery, and then over to his classroom where several missiles and other interesting military items were displayed. We can’t talk about them of course.

Back at the house, we had our choice of fine Ger-

man beverages, an excellent Shrimp boil dinner with corn-on-the-cob, onions and garlic, and new potatoes. Everyone settled in for a nice evening around the fire pit. Most of us were staying at the Kalahan’s in bedrooms with a few people camping in the backyard or staying at the Hebert’s close by. I heard the guys wound up in Jim’s Man Cave telling lies to each other and shooting pool. Did I mention the shower that Hugh Hefner would be jealous of???

After breakfast, the gearheads went over to Steve Hebert’s house to get his bike ready for his return from Afghanistan. I’m not sure how much was actually accomplished since there were more Chiefs than warriors. Since my mechanical ability involves writing a check, I opted to follow Sam Peacock as he led a ride through the surrounding counties. Everyone came back to the house for another lunch provided by the Kalahan’s and then we were off to the base where Jim had arranged a private tour for us of the Army Aviation Museum. This was one of the best tours I’ve been on because the guide had actually flown most of the planes and helicopters so he knew what he was talking about and was able to answer all our questions.

Upon returning to the house, we refreshed ourselves and relaxed in Jim and Shelia’s backyard haven. Jim threw some honest-to-goodness German brats on the grill for us to eat with the brotchen. Shelia made German potato salad and kraut that were very good. Really. More lies and stories around the fire pit until who knows when. The grand finale was the unbelievable breakfast that Shelia made – egg and sausage casserole, hash brown casserole, and fresh fruit. It just doesn’t get any better than this, folks. Thanks Jim and Shelia.



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

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2008

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

**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 West End Grill off of Madison Pike just east of Research Park Blvd (This change is due to the recent closing of the Green Hills Grill). Stop by for food and conversation.

**Montgomery**

Flip's Uptown Grill

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

**Robertsdale (South Alabama)**

The Oasis Truck Stop

Saturday mornings at the Oasis Truck Stop at Wilcox Rd Exit I-10 about half way between Mobile and Pensacola, every Sat. morning. Riders are usually there from about 7:30am until 9- 9:30. Rides are concocted for afterwards. Contact John at [johnart1@aol.com](mailto:johnart1@aol.com) for details

## SHILOH!

Don Hamblin

Tennessee in early October can be a time of magic. The air is crisp, with only a slight evening chill, and the trees are still full of the summer's leaves. If you add around 300 BMW riders from as far away as Canada you are in for a great way to begin closing the rally season. This year's Return to Shiloh Rally was no exception.

The first Friday of the month opened with my RT heading east out of the Kansas City area on 50 Highway while I decided if it were going to be a back road or Interstate ride. Coming up to the exit for County Highway F the allure of covering serious mileage overtook me as I slipped onto the short cut to I-70. Immediately a County Policeman jumped in behind. Any thoughts of peg dragging disappeared and I settled in to "look at, rather than through, the butterflies" touring pace. Nearing Oak Grove, Missouri the frustrated officer pulled off to await other prey, so I celebrated with some biscuits and gravy at a Waffle House. 6 and ½ hours later I said good-bye to the slab and hello to Tennessee Highway 214.

I have heard it said that there are no bad roads in Tennessee. Founded on an agrarian economy, Tennessee still prides itself in maintaining their vital farm-to-market roads. That means that even the greyest colored roads on the map promise good pavement and a pleasant ride for the motorcyclist, and the ones to Savannah, Tennessee were no exception. Oh yes, it can be a very good day when it is filled with friendly towns and constant radius curves!

Pickwick Lock and Dam State Park is one of those rally sites you never forget. Everyone talks about treed campsites, and this one delivers. Every campsite is well shaded and there is no shortage of showers within walking distance. Relaxation is king with the soothing entertainment provided by barges and pleasure boats making their way through the locks across the river. But back to the rally.

Maybe it is the economy, but this year there were very few vendors. Interestingly, our own Craig Vechorik (better known as Vech to anyone who has tried to restore or keep a /2 running) of Bench Mark Works, and Rick Jones of Motorrad Elektrik, came to rally and not vend. It was nice being able to spend time hanging out rather than spending money with these two champions of older BMW motorcycles.

A good local band played on Friday evening, while I dealt with a blown low beam for the ride back to the Days Inn to sample Single Malt Scotch with Bob Shar. A quick tip is that H7 bulbs are less expensive at AutoZone.

Saturday field events are always enjoyable at Shilo. There was something about watching Vech take his 1955 R67/3 sidecar rig through the Blind Man's Bluff, or his son-in-law's 1968 R69S in the Slow Race. Returning to the rally scene, Chris Biddlecombe (Cookie Monster) loaded his saddle bags with a couple of trophies once again. And how do you deal with a wet tee shirt contest, when it involves how far you can throw a wet tee shirt.

The Alabeemers came through once again with our own form of entertainment. Word had been to come as your favorite Super Hero, and Connie's Incredible Hulk did attract attention. And yes, we did take the Largest Club Award.

Making this a memorable rally, even I was surprised to find the two guys from South Philly grilling real Cheese Steaks for lunch. Since I was back in the Real South, I could not pass up all-you-can-eat catfish at the nearby Boatel restaurant for dinner.

Sunday morning bought out clear 50 degree air as I looked for highways colored black to grey on the map. Tennessee and Arkansas opened the way to the Ozarks, and another chance to round off those tires for the route home. Happily, 11 hours later I pulled into my Lee's Summit, Missouri garage. Rested, relaxed, and looking forward to next year for Shiloh. There is magic in those hills.



The AlaBeemers showed up "in force" as Super Heroes at Shiloh. Again this year, the Alabama Club won the most attendance award for any club.

### ABEES POINTS SUBMITTED TO DATE

Name	Restaurants & Points of Interest	Favorite Roads & Rides	Total ABEES Check Offs	Total ABEES Tickets	Total Bonus Tickets	Total Tickets
Martin Benson	311	20	331	16.6	22	38.6
Gary Dubois	219	21	240	12.0	35	47.0
Bob Steber	200	22	222	11.1	32	43.1
Vance Harrelson	113	2	115	5.8	25	30.8
Angie Dubois	105	10	115	5.8	15	20.8
Gary Williams	63	8	71	3.6	8	11.6
Lenn Rainwater	56	8	64	3.2	8	11.2
Paul McBrayer	61	2	63	3.2	5	8.2
Tom Gilbert	54	4	58	2.9	17	19.9
Steve Schuckman	50	7	57	2.9	18	20.9
David Smith	33	3	36	1.8	18	19.8
Eddie Lindsey	35		35	1.8	0	1.8
Phillip Warren	31	2	33	1.7	10	11.7
Jim Dubick	28	2	30	1.5	7	8.5
Joan Ware	22	6	28	1.4	7	8.4
Ken Pedigo	26	1	27	1.4	1	2.4
Barry Clay	26	1	27	1.4	16	17.4
Greg Turp	26		26	1.3	4	5.3
Terry Ware	17	5	22	1.1	7	8.1
Paul Orr	20	1	21	1.1	1	2.1
Erik Bahl	17	4	21	1.1	4	5.1

### OLYMPIA RIDING JACKET TO BE GIVEN AWAY

The people listed in the table above have been accumulating ABEES points all year long by visiting the locations listed in the ABEES Handbook. The accumulated points are converted to “tickets” which are placed in Vance’s “machine” at the January club meeting in Montevallo, and one ticket is drawn to win the Olympia “High-Viz” riding jacket shown here.

Past winners are Bob Steber (2006) and Angie Dubois (2007).

The jacket is donated by Bogart’s BMW of Birmingham



## **DIRTY SANTA RULES**

Connie Reaves

Here are the Dirty Santa game rules and explanation for new folks:

Each person that wishes to open a gift in the game, must bring a gift. The gifts should be at least a \$10.00 gift but less than \$20.00. They can be male or female gifts as both participate. It should be motorcycle related in some fashion to appeal to everyone. Camping items, yes—adult beverages are okay, camping/riding gear, Christmas items, whatever you think someone would like to take home. Remember, you may get something nice, so bring something nice. Gifts must be wrapped but not marked with any name or gender designation. Each person who brings a gift will be counted and numbers will be made and put into a jar. Each person who brings a gift will draw a number. We start with number 1 and that person gets to go up and choose any gift they want to open. Number 2 goes next and may steal that gift or open another one. Number three can steal any previous gift or open a new one, and so on. The person who gets the highest number goes last and has his or her choice of anything that has been opened. If your gift is stolen you will immediately go and open another gift but you may not steal one at that point. You only have the chance to steal a gift on your first time. If you get a bottle of adult beverage or anything else that's perishable, or cannot be packed back up, you may NOT open it until the end of the game and you are positive it is yours to keep. No one under 15 is allowed to play the Dirty Santa game, due to younger folks not being able to handle the disappointment when a gift is stolen. (Editor's note: I have trouble with it myself.)

## **ABEES NEWS YOU CAN USE**

Bob Steber

Here is a NE Alabama Backroads Tour will take you riding on the best of the best roads there. By the time you receive this newsletter, the fall foliage should be close to its peak, but even if you can not go now, any time of the year when the weather is good will be OK because the ride is excellent and so is the scenery.

Guntersville State Park is the hub for the tour which has two one day rides with stops at some very interesting sites to see and really good eateries to enjoy. Ride #1 is 268 miles in length and starts and ends at the Guntersville State Park. Ride #2 is 167 miles starting at the Guntersville State Park and ending in Collinsville, Alabama. Here is the link for all of the details. You can download the GPS routes and also an easy to follow route sheet. [http://www.bmwmoal.org/routes.php#ride\\_024](http://www.bmwmoal.org/routes.php#ride_024)

For folks that live to far from NE Alabama to make the ride and return home each day, and would like to take a mini riding vacation, Guntersville SP offers excellent overnight accommodations and dining. <http://www.guntersvillestatepark.com/>

After you do the tour, please post your comments and your favorite photos to our website, Alabama Beemers' Exploring & Epicurean Society page.

Enjoy.

## **THIRD ANNUAL BLUE WATER CRUISE**

Jamie Jackson

That's right, the third BMWMOAL Cruise is coming up on January 19, 2009. If you think a BMW rally is fun then you ain't seen nothing yet. A BMW Owners of Alabama cruise is the craziest, most hysterical, and most relaxing time a person can experience in one week.

If you have not signed up yet, forget about the stock market (it will come back), and call Vanessa Gamble at AAA and book your passage on the wonderful Carnival Fascination to join with your fellow club members for a super Bahama vacation right in the middle of winter. Vanessa's number is 205-978-7030. Vanessa may be able to book you for the very low rate that was available on the original offering.

Lounge in the shade of a lazy palm on the welcoming beaches of Nassau with a Pina Colada. If you are a golfer you can lower your score and raise your spirits with guided golf excursions to exotic destinations and the world's most beautiful courses. Snorkel to your heart's content. Shop until you drop. Nassau has dozens of duty-free shops where you can get bargains on everything from jewelry to cigars. Altogether, this is a perfect way to spend a few days away from the stresses of your busy life.

Did I mention the food on the ship? It is an opportunity to try dishes that are just too darned expensive to sample at home. Ever tasted the perfect Napoleon, for instance. This is your chance. Go for it!

# 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](http://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**

Dec 13 Christmas Party, Guntersville State Park  
Lodge - Guntersville, AL

Jan 31-Feb 1 Montevallo Traffic Safety Center  
Montevallo, AL

## **Other Events of Interest**

Nov 7-9 Swamp Scooters - Lafayette, LA



Guntersville State Park Lodge is the location for the club Christmas party on December 13. Please make your reservations for this fun event.