

THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

BMWMOA Chapter #5/ BMWRA Chapter #107



Volume XXXVIII Issue 2

February 2010

From the of the NEW President:

Mr. Vance Harrelson or "Big D" as he is fondly known as

Thank you to everyone that attended the meeting this weekend. I will appreciate your individual support of your officers installed at this meeting. We have come a long way from the "early" days and we have so much more we can do to have fun and enjoy our BMW motorcycles!

As I reflect on the meeting, we talked about a lot of things we want to do this year to get ourselves outside the norm. We will endeavor to offer more opportunities in addition to our traditional monthly meetings in places all over the state so more members can take part. More outings you say?? Well, start with this....

Our ABEES program just gets bigger and better. Bob Steber has worked really hard to put together this year's guide. You will find it loaded with over 600 places to see and eat in our great state along with member's favorite rides in many areas. If you have an hour, a day or a weekend and don't really know where to go, here is your answer. Grab a guide and ride! In addition as you ride send your point totals in to Bob and get your shot at some really great prizes. We awarded 4 fantastic prizes at this meeting in a random drawing of those that participated in 2009. It's easy and I guarantee you will find some interesting things to see that you never knew existed!

Watch your newsletter and the website for events that may be held on off meeting weekends. These two things are the lifeline to your club! Our website is loaded with all sorts of useful information and is easy to navigate. If you have not logged on...do it today. Easy to register and easy to use!

We have another great lineup of meeting locations this year. Some have become "traditions" and are a must each year. We have also added three new meeting sites this year so check out the great lineup in this newsletter.

Thank you for supporting me as president of your club. I want to thank all of the officers and directors for your willingness to give your time and talents for your club. We will need the help and support of the entire membership to accomplish our goals for the year. I encourage all our members to communicate and participate to make your club the best it can be! Please contact me or any of the officers and directors when we can be of service!

January BMW Club Planning Meeting Minutes

Meeting was opened by President Ron Riggins with a good morning and welcome. Ron thanked Janice Seaman for opening her Bed & Breakfast for our Pizza get together for supper. Connie said she will see that she gets a thank-you card.

Ron recognized: Maurice Green with Catoma tents that brought tents for us to view. Also first time attendees, Matt Wilson and Matt and Amelia Baldwin from Louisiana. Steve Schuckman was praised for our web site and all that it offers. Ron allowed that it was a first class web site. Steve said that it wasn't all done by him, others helped, and namely Bob Steber and Martin Benson are contributors.

Ron recognized John Harper, reminding us that John was the one who founded our Club.

Don Little said that the web site was their life line while he and Barbara were traveling for 8 months.

ABEES recognition went to: Ron Shea, Greg Turp, Tim Flynn, Ken and Andrea Pedigo, Gary Williams, Gary Ne-smith, Jimmy Lowe, Angie Dubois, Terry Ware, Mike Scott, Eric Bahl, Noah Johnson, Steve Whitley, John Gregory, Jim Dubick, Phillip Warren, Paul McBrayer, Beverly Hughston, Roger Williamson, Martin Benson, Bob Steber (winner) Gary Dubois, Mickey Gee, and Bob Daigle.

All Around Alabama Challenge Award: Phillip Warren, Vance Harrelson and Bob Steber.

Extreme Alabama Challenge: Bob Steber, Vance Harrelson, Beverly Hughston, Phillip Warren

Bob explained how to do the ABEES ride and the prizes. The prizes were: 2 Catoma tents donated by Maurice Green, (a two up and a switch back) Joan and Terry Ware donated a one piece riding suit and a jacket and a helmet, Kermit donated a duffle bag. All names were put in a pot and a drawing began. The winners were, Jim Kalahan, Martin Benson, Angie Dubose, Jim Dubick

Bob said next year there would be prizes awarded to riders for two-up also. Pandora's would also donate next year. Teresa asked if Pandora's will be at the Rally (Chicken) and Vance said he'll do door prize for sure but he's starting out small and trying to get established. (Pandora's is our new BMW shop in Chattanooga)

Martin said for GPS, ABEES and favorite rides download from web site.

All around Alabama prizes were done by Connie and they were beautiful

Bob Steber finally gave Connie back her blue book with points of interest that he borrowed 5 years ago (big laugh!) We thanked Bob for all his hard work and to all who donated the prizes.

Ron reminded everyone to pay for dinner and breakfast.

Ron recognized all attendees for all meetings, not missed

Presentations were made to outgoing officers:

Jeannine Arnold, Secretary

Jamie Jackson, Newsletter editor

Marty Simpson, CFO

President's award went to Vance for all the help.

Vance and Connie recognized Ron with a trophy, ha, ha, and then they gave him a nice plaque with a gavel to replace the hammer!!!!!!

Next Ron reminded us we were all friends and we would remain so after voting for the proposed amendments and that we all have the best interest for our club. Martha Warren asked to amend one amendment to read--

Continued on page 4

MARCH BIRTHDAYS DAYS

Day

- 2 Larry Byrd
- 3 Walls Aaron, Steve Wantling
- 4 Rob Harrelson, Ray McAlevy
- 5 Greg Turp
- 7 Emy Woodburn
- 8 Norman Thomas
- 9 Linda Goodin
- 12 John Gregory, Billy Newell
- 14 Lucinda Bollinger
- 15 Rickie Bonner
- 16 Don Drasheff
- 18 Mike Carter
- 19 Rhonda Allred, Lila Bonner
- 20 Noah Johnson
- 21 Tony Allison, Joe Rogers
- 22 Phil Freeman
- 23 Margaret Rogers
- 24 Jerry Hyché
- 27 Paul Thorne
- 29 John Cockrell, Mike Scott, Bill Stevens, Rick Mitchell
- 30 Shep Brown
- 31 David Winslow



New Member:

Tommy Hicks Sponsor—Marty Simpson

Editors note: If you would like to submit articles pictures whatever please email them to:

bmwalnewsletter@gmail.com

If you do or don't get Road Runner Magazine this is a short article they had on line and website to read the rest.

TOURING TIP: TRIP PLANNING

It's the middle of February and many of us--especially this year--are pining for warm, sunshine-filled days and the open road. But this is precisely the right time to begin planning your motorcycle touring adventures for 2010. So for this month's, "Touring Tips" we'll be discussing my four-Rs for planning a motorcycle tour: **Research, Roads, Reservations, and Resources.**

- **Research Destinations & Attractions:** Assuming that you don't already know your intended destination and the things you want to see and do along the way, researching the possibilities will be time well spent. If you plan to stop and see a lot of attractions, it's important to calibrate your daily mileage accordingly. Also, you should consider the skills and types of bikes of the other riders that will be accompanying you on the trip. As the number of people in the touring group increases, so does the complexity of planning and managing a trip that will be enjoyable for all of the participants. Determining the best time of year to ride in the area of your intended route is also part of the researching process

- **Plan Roads:** One of the great things about touring by motorcycle is that getting there truly is at least half, if not more, of the fun. Time spent researching the most scenic and interesting roads to your destination and other stops will boost the enjoyment factor for everyone involved. But be sure there's agreement from the other riders on the type of roads that will be followed.

Read the full article and many more online in our forum:

www.roadrunner.travel/vb/showthread.php?t=2306

Amendment #1

3. Membership dues are \$20.00 per year for each primary member. Additional secondary member with the same household (family members and/or companion will be charged \$3.00 each per year.

7. As of February 1, 2010 the Friends of Beemer's(FOB) sponsorship is rescinded, and present FOB active members are grandfathered in with the same privileges except may not hld office or participate in voting issues. The rules and dues will be the same as the By-Laws dictate. After February 1, 2010, new and existing primary members will be the owners of a BMW motorcycle and may invite guests to participate in Club functions, rides, rallies, etc. The inviting member must be present at the event. The behavior of any guest is the responsibility of the inviting member.

8. Delete

Amendment #2

Paragraph 5. The by-laws may be amended or added to. The proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the Secretary at a regularly scheduled meeting not later than the October meeting. The proposed amendment will then be discussed and placed on the ballot at the January annual meeting. The proposed changes will be published in advance of the meeting in the Club newsletter. Two-thirds of votes received of Active members will be required to pass and amendment.

Ballots were passed out.

Vance read his stand as incoming President. He also stated that Ray Zimmerman was supposed to be at the meeting but he couldn't make it but he sent his ballot- he wants FOB's. A discussion followed about whether we needed to vote on Amendment #2 first. Then about how often we are going to amend by-laws.

Susan Riggins made a motion and Terry Ware seconded to allow in Amendment #2, to include non present member to be allowed to send in their votes. Martin made the motion and Terry seconded.

Terry Ware made the motion to vote for #2 first. Suzie seconded. Votes were then marked and Secretary Jeannine Arnold, Marty Simpson and Darlene Warren went to count in another room.

Amendment #2 carried with 57 yes, 27 no.

Amendment #1 failed with 29 yes, 52 no.

The office for Travel Director went to Gail Thorne, Congratulations Gail!!

The new officers are as follows:

Vance Harrelson-President

Jim Kalahan-Vice President

CFO-Connie Reaves

Secretary-Mari Harrelson

Editor-Joan Ware

Vance gave us all a great pep talk and it was well worth hearing. Great job Vance!

Vance addressed ride/membership waiver and liability insurance and said the liability insurance waiver we all sign is required by the Insurance Co.

Vance also asked us to encourage new membership and participation other than monthly meetings, are during the month extra rides, and other motorcycle related activities.

Steve Schuckman related how there is a possibility in the future of paying dues on line some day, calendar of events, he is open to suggestions. Vance thanked him, and said there are other resources open to us from other clubs and that he is close to MOA organization and we could utilize them for things like advertising, legal issues, etc. There is space available in the magazine for advertising, not to mirror them but to take advantage of them.

Vance brought up the newsletter, it still will have to be paper, but it could be available on line after publishing. This could be done later on.

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Announcements of 2 events: David and Emmie will have a tech weekend on April 9-11, for air cooled BMW's David has details, good for all bikes too. Joan and Terry Ware will have on Saturday, Feb. 20th, Red Beans and Rice and Cokes at their Shop 11-2p.m. Rain or shine.

Schedule of Events for the year were voted on and are as follows:

February 20-21 Oak Mountain State Park and for lunch at Terry's Two Wheel until food runs out

March 27-28 Nauvoo

April 24-25 Gulf Shores-Southport

May 27-30 Chicken Rally

June- 26-27 Cruso

July 24-25 FDR State Park, Columbus, Ga

Aug. 27-29 Kinderfest @ Kalahan's

Sept. 25-26 Shellmound, Jasper, Tenn.

Oct 30-31 Blue Springs

December 4th, Eldridge Children's' Home

Paul Thorne made motion to accept and Connie seconded.

Christmas Party plans were table for now

50/50 was won by Sam Peacock

-- Respectfully submitted by Jeanne Arnold



Come enjoy a taste of New Orleans at

Terry's Two Wheel
1057 Commerce Blvd
Pelham, AL 35124
205-987-2090

On Saturday, February 20th

Red Beans and Rice
Cold Soda

BARNESLEY Motor Werks

Spring Tech. Weekend

April 9th, 10th and 11th 2010

For air-cooled BMW Motorcycles

Rain or Shine

Food and non-alcoholic beverages served.

Limited camping, some barn space and a few cots— ring ahead

2 or 3 benches available for projects; Special tools available, please bring you own tools

We can dispose of old oil—**batteries & tyres are your own responsibility**

We can give a lecture of demo (after lunch) if enough interest— ring ahead and ask

NO PETS —WELL BEHAVED children only

Yes, you can bring items to sell

We don't mind drinking but no drunkenness, please.

If any interest we will try to arrange an afternoon ride. Beautiful country.

Anyone is welcome, if they are well behaved & regardless of what bike you ride or don't ride. No Richard Craniums, please

This is a free event to give people a chance to maintain and to understand their older BMW motorcycles. Regardless, it is primarily a social event; to celebrate the fellowship and interest motorcycling gives us.

Ephesus is on Route 100 between Bowdon & Franklin. The nearest big town is Carrolton. Coming south 11 miles from Bowdon you travel through the village of Ephesus, past the primary school (left). The Baptist church (left), the Fire Brigade (right) and you shall come to a petrol station. Turn right here onto Alabama Road and travel 1/2 mile. We are on the Right.

400 Alabama Road; Ephesus, Via Roopville, GA 30170; 770-854-9136

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

Date: _____/_____/2010

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

"Baby, It's Cold Outside"



One of the many advantages of living in the good old South, is the fact that we seldom have extremely harsh winters. This enables us to ride our motorcycles when most of the country has parked theirs until spring. BMW riders tend to ride in more undesirable weather conditions than most other motorcyclist mainly because they truly love the sport. Riding on a cold, dreary winter's day can be a great riding experience that should not be missed. Also, riding in cold weather usually means you won't have to share the road with the cruiser crowd and their obnoxious loud pipes! With the proper riding gear and an understanding of how our bodies react to the cold, there really is no reason not to ride during the winter. However, if we are careless, there are a few things that can turn an otherwise pleasant ride into a dangerous one. Even when temps are in the 40's, there can be serious consequences for being unprepared.

Wind chill is the first issue I would like to bring to your attention. Wind chill is a bad thing in that it causes body moisture to evaporate more quickly, sapping precious body heat with it. The faster you ride, the colder your body feels. There are many wind chill charts available on line that you can refer to before you go out on a ride, such as the one from the National Weather Service. When you look at these calculations, you can easily see how wind chill can change the situation even when the actual temperature is not what you would consider cold.

Another issue is frostbite, which is the term for damage to the skin and other tissues caused by freezing. If your skin feels like it is being pricked by pins-frostbite is starting.

Hypothermia is also a condition we need to be aware of. This happens when our bodies' core temperature drops below the minimum temperature necessary for our body to operate. This causes mild confusion, sluggishness, poor muscle coordination and incoherent behavior. Consequently, when your toes & hands become numb, you can't manipulate the controls on your motorcycle. Your mind isn't concentrating on riding, but instead your thinking about how miserable you are and getting warm. All of us know this is a formula for disaster.

All of these conditions can be greatly diminished by the riding gear you choose. One of the greatest advancements in riding apparel is heated gear. The most popular being the Gerbings brand. This heated gear is available in jackets, pants, gloves and even socks. It should be worn over a light layer, such as a long sleeve tee shirt, etc., and not directly touching your skin. As your top layer, choose a high quality one or two piece riding suit which is waterproof and breathable fabric (Goretex), with adequate armor in case of an accident. Dressing this way, you should be well protected from the elements. Chaps, fringed jackets, and fingerless gloves are not adequate riding apparel.

Most all the modern BMW's have ample electrical capacity to handle heated gear. Many, even enough for two people per bike. Other brands of motorcycles may very well come up short in this area. If you ride one of these other brands, proceed with caution.....BRRRR!

Next, don't forget to keep your head warm. A full coverage helmet, worn over a balacava to fill in the gaps, works best. Open-face helmets are colder and a shorty helmet offers even less insulation. A beanie-like helmet offers about as much protection from the cold as it does in an accident. The balacava mentioned earlier, worn under your helmet, offers another layer of warmth and protects your neck, which is an important area since blood circulates thru it between your brain and vital organs.

Seldom, in our part of the country, will you have to ride in snow and ice, but if you do, there is no need to panic. I am not recommending that you intentionally go riding in snow & ice, but sometimes we find ourselves in situations where we have to. Mainly, just slow down, don't make sudden moves and allow yourself plenty of distance to stop. Use your brakes, clutch, steering and throttle gently.

Ice is more hazardous than snow, but many of the same principles apply. Be very cautious on bridges and over passes. If you cannot avoid crossing a patch of ice, as mentioned above, slow down, go smooth & steady, pull in the clutch and free wheel across to help you keep from applying too much or too little power to the rear wheel. Standing on the pegs helps you have much better control if you have the type of motorcycle where you can safely do this (dual sport). Be aware when the temperature is cold, your tires are cold to, meaning less traction.

With a little preparation and some common sense, riding in cold weather is very rewarding. It is not difficult to find parks and picnic areas that are pretty much secluded this time of year. Paul & I often pack a light lunch with hot coffee and hot chocolate and spend most of the day riding, when everyone else is at home being couch potatoes. Now, go get that BMW out of the garage and RIDE!!

Ride Often to Ride Well,

Gail Thorne

Hello Folks,

I wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed being President of our club this past year. It was a great experience. I learned a lot and had many enjoyable moments. Thank you all for your support and words of encouragement and advice... YOU the members of our club are the BEST! The healing process is going well with my new hip. In a few months, I'll be riding and having fun with all of you on the road and at our monthly meetings! I can't wait! Thank you again for your support and encouragement this past year! Ron Riggins



Alabama Back Roads

Martin Benson

Bob Steber has created the “Alabama Beemers’ Exploring & Epicurean Society (ABEES) Touring Guide” expressly for BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama. This is a great resource for finding some the best roads and eating places in Alabama.

To add to the pleasure of riding and eating, several of our sponsors contribute riding and camping gear as added incentives. Decide on what sites you want to see, place to eat and favorite ride to ride. Just keep a record of each and you will earn chances to win one of several great prizes. The guide contains all the “Challenge Instructions”.

For those of us that have a GPS, our web site contains even more help. Just go to <http://www.bmwmoal.org/> and select one of the following:

GPS Route Planning Maps - There is a Route Planning Map template with all of the waypoints that are listed in your ABEES Touring Guide. Use this GPS Route Planning Map template to plot your trip. When your route is laid out on the map template, you can easily see the ABEES sites that are close by, and then adjust the route to take you to the sites you want to see.

Favorite Roads and Rides – These are favorites have been contributed by our members.

All Around Alabama Challenge - All Around Alabama Challenge for 2010 is to circumnavigate Alabama staying inside the state boundaries within either 48 hours or 72 hours. You may start at any location along the route and must return to that location within the allotted time. The challenge can be ridden clockwise or counter clockwise. Along the way, you will ride through many interesting small to medium sized towns and cities. Most of the roads you ride are small scenic county roads, some are very twisty, and you will make 223 turns within the 1,293 miles to complete the ride.

All of these files are in two formats. GBD route files are Garmin MapSource files. For other GPS brands, use the GPX link to download your route.

Get out there and ride Alabama’s great roads, eat at some of the best places in the country and explore “Alabama the Beautiful”. Who knows, you might win a riding suit like I did.

Birmingham South Campground
222 Highway 33, Pelham, AL 35124
205-664-8832

www.birminghamsouthcampground.com

PLEASE CALL AND MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR TENT SITES OR CABINS SOON !
MAKE SURE YOU TELL THEM YOU ARE WITH THE BMW MC CLUB
FEB 27TH IS THE DATE
THEY WILL RESERVE A GRASSY AREA SPOT FOR YOU AFTER REGULAR TENT SITES ARE FILLED.
AND SEND ME A HEAD COUNT FOR BEEF STEW DINNER

There are 6 tent sites - 2 people per site (which can mean 2 small tents and they need to be small as these tent sites are each enclosed and wont hold large tents)

\$30.00 per site so get a buddy and reserve a site together for \$15.00 per tent (does have power)

These tent sites must be rented out before they will rent out the grassy area spots (understandable)

Grassy area spots will be \$22.00 per tent - 1 person (power available one place along fence and two in pavilion)

They have 6 cabins. 1 cabin is a 2 room which they will allow 6 people \$51.00 per nite.

5 cabins have one room which they will allow 4 people (a set of bunks and a queen bed in each) \$44.00 per nite.

They do of course have RV sites if you are bringing a trailer of some type. The trailers will not fit in a tent site. RV sites are \$37.00 unless you want 30 or 50 amp

We have the use of a very nice pavilion, an outdoor camp kitchen which is like pavilion with 2 burners and a sink, but we have also reserved the Club House which is an indoor room that should hold us for dinner or morning meeting should the weather be bad.

This is not a state park so it's not quite as cheap but it's very nice and pretty and the folks are real sweet.

And hey, its only one month.

Campfires only at the tent sites and not in the grassy area so we may get one site just for a fire. Anyone in the area want to take a bit of wood out there? Otherwise we will have the indoor Club house to keep warm in.

Dinner will be my homemade Beef Stew, and Darlene's cornbread, and whatever else we can scare up for you. Price will be determined later, but it will be reasonable as usual.

OUT OF AFRICA

By David Woodburn

I am submitting a series of essays to your magazine. Collectively, they are a story of crossing Zaire (Democratic Republic of Congo), one of the ultimate overland journeys. The tale begins in Bangui, the capital of Republic Central Afrique. For us to have arrived at this point from, let's say, Gibraltar, that queer little British theme park in southern Spain, we have crossed the straits of Gibraltar to Morocco and then have headed south through Mauritania, Mali, Bukina Faso and Republic Du Benin to the Guinea Coast. There we turned east into Nigeria and then through the jungles of Cameroon and C.A.R..

This initial African leg had been quite tough but we'd been on the road for many years and were hardened veterans of difficult travel or..... Well, so we might have supposed.

An African truck driver we were to meet in the Zairean jungle, camping patiently under his broken truck, referred back to the awful roads of C.A.R. as 'the super highway'!

We were three: Emy and I and our daughter Mattea. Our bike was a well worn R80 GS with a sidecar we'd built in England from bits and pieces we scrounged together. Our bike and sidecar and tools and spares had been stolen there. The Bobbies found most of our bike but not the sidecar, yet that is another story. The journey proper had started in Singapore when Mattea was turning two. That was in 1990. Now she was rising ten.

The route from west to east across Zaire was only twelve hundred miles, just a series of undulating lines on a ragged Michellin Map. We finally reached the Rawandan border post after thirty-one days, the day our visa expired. It had been a race of sorts; a race against time, against the wet season, against terrible exhaustion and against the outbreak of civil war, a situation which has been ongoing to this day.

I venture, we were the last travelers to make this particular crossing. There is a grapevine amongst overlanders. We were to hear, that the few hardy souls that did attempt a crossing during the approximate season of our journey met with unsuccess which included robbery, rape, the confiscation of vehicles or just being sent back. Since then the route must be impractical.

Why would we enter so uncertain a place? Well, we were on our way to South Africa and then, perhaps, to America. From Cameroon there were two basic routes, one through the country called Congo and the other through Zaire. That was a dilemma. War was already ongoing in Congo and beyond that was Angola, which was another uncertainty. Zaire (D.R.C.) was the only other option.

We'd not been in an English speaking country for about two years, except for a couple of days in tiny Gibraltar. So, you blunder on, trying to glean knowledge from locals along the way and from any other travelers you happen across.

To be quite honest, some of the route to Bangui had been so difficult that we didn't have the courage to turn around and retrace our steps. It was mentally easier to go on. South Africa beckoned and we naively figured the route couldn't get too much worse.

Conrad wrote a story, 'Heart of Darkness'. This became the basis for the film 'Apocalypse Now', a movie about the surreal. The original story, however, was about Zaire. Jungles are jungles and they play with men's souls. The red stain of Zairean mud is etched into the pores of the alloy of our motorcycle. It doesn't wash off. In a manner of speaking, it is also etched into our souls.

Several years back I wrote some of this story as a series of articles for a motorcycle club magazine in Florida. Our daughter, though only a school girl, edited and published this for a couple of years. This was a failing club. Her labor seemed unappreciated, a thankless burden for a little girl. I finally relieved her of this task. In doing so, I never pursued the completion of these essays.

omplaining let me state..... "They were also joyous times, because we were living out a dream!"

continued page 11

Our plane from Johannesburg deposited us in Miami. We were tired and bewildered, perhaps even exhausted and slightly traumatized. In our collective pocket was a week's wages by Floridian standards. A new battle began. Now we live in Georgia and not in Florida. There was arguably the greatest culture shock of all our journeying. It became a season of enormous struggle for us. It's hard to briefly explain but I state it as the tale of Zaire focuses on a struggle. Yet, what is already written was written during a period of different, though at least equal, duress. Florida, to this day, makes little sense to Emy and I.

So, I have tried to explain this to give some context to the stories I have written. I wish to finish this series of essays and if they are of interest to you that is the vehicle I need to be able to do so.

I can be frank but I loathe to offend. I do hope the content is acceptable. This is a more gentle life but those were not gentle times. Please, bear with me as I revisit some memories. If you think they can sometimes be harsh or complaining let me state..... "They were also joyous times, because we were living out a dream!"

ABEES NEWS YOU CAN USE Bob Steber

Congratulations to Martin Benson, Jim Kalahan, Jim Dubick and Angie Dubois for winning the 2009 ABEES riding challenge grand prizes. Congratulations also go out to Vance Harrelson, Phillip Warren and Bob Steber for completing the 2009, 223 backroad turns in 1,293 miles within 48 hours, All Around Alabama Challenge, and to the 28 club members who participated in our 2009 ABEES riding challenges. Martin (53 tickets) took the riding suit that Joan and Terry of Terry's Two Wheel Tire and Tune donated, Jim Kalahan (19 tickets) selected the Catoma Outdoor Switchback tent, Jim Dubick (15 tickets) got the Catoma Outdoor 2 Up tent and "Lucky" Angie (6 tickets) won the Kermit Easy Pack Duffle. It should be noted that the top ticket earner, yours truly, with 74 tickets in the pot won nota, zip, nothingJ which proves what I have been saying; it only takes one ticket to win, and the more tickets you have doesn't necessarily mean you will win a prize, but it helps.

I am pleased to tell you that for our 2010 ABEES riding challenge all of the fine folks that donated prizes in 2009 will also donate grand prizes for our 2010 riding challenge. Additionally, Pandora's European Motor Sports, the new BMW motorcycle dealer in Chattanooga, Tennessee will donate a BMW Dakar Motorcycle Survival Toolkit. Terry and Joan at Terry's Two Wheel Tire and Tune will donate a helmet or the winner can select something else to be announced later. Maurice Green of Catoma Outdoor is giving us two more of their great motorcycle camping tents, a switchback and a 2 Up, and Kermit Easterling with Kermit's Camping Products is donating one of his fantastic Kermit Easy Pack Duffels.

The idea behind your club providing you with the ABEES Travel Guide is to help you plan rides, day trips, and even mini vacations in and around Alabama. In your Travel Guide, you will find 641 places of interest and good eateries as well as 55 club members' favorite roads and rides with detailed turn directions. Participating in our riding challenges is only the icing on the cake and not necessary for you to enjoy the sites and roads that our beautiful State of Alabama has to offer. But, many of us have found it is a lot of fun to acquire points for tickets to win the great grand prizes that are offered to encourage us to go riding more.

For 2010 and beyond, our passengers/navigators will participate fully in our club's riding challenges by earning check off points for all places visited and roads and rides ridden while on a two wheel motorcycle, side cars included. One of the choices that Joan and Terry will offer is a grand prize for ladies. When you send your numbers to me, please include all of your checkoffs for the driver and for the passenger separately.

It looks like Martin will be the one to catch this year; he already has 55 checkoffs and is going strong. I look forward to enjoying all of the good conversations with many of my fellow club members about the really interesting and sometimes surprising sites that we see right here in our own back yards. If you want to participate in the Alabama Beemers Exploring and Epicurean Society riding challenges, please send your numbers to me by category (bsteberbtr@gmail.com) after checking off your first 20 POIs and Favorite roads and rides, then monthly there after, send your updates. If you do not have your 2010 Touring Guide, please let either Vance or me know and we will see that you get one

BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

c/o Joan Ware - Editor
Terry's Two Wheels
1057 Commerce Blvd
Pelham, Al 35124

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

February 20-21 Oak Mountain State Park
March 27-28 Nauvoo
April 24-25 Gulf Shores-Southport
May 27-30 Chicken Rally
June- 26-27 Cruso
July 24-25 FDR State Park, Columbus, Ga
Aug. 27-29 Kinderfest @ Kalahan's
Sept. 25-26 Shellmound, Jasper, Tenn.
Oct 30-31 Blue Springs
December Christmas Party plans were tabled for now

Other Events of Interest

February 20th, Saturday Mardi Gras Party
11a -2p or until food runs out.
April 9-11 Barnsley Motor Werks Tech Days
MOA Rally Redmond, OR July 15th—18th
RA Rally July 29th—Aug 1
October 23—24 Rib Fest
December 4th, Eldridge Children's' Home