

THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

BMWMOA Chapter #5/ BMWRA Chapter #107



Volume XXXVI Issue 7

July 2007

AlaBeemer Happenin's

Connie Reaves

Sloppy Floyd wasn't sloppy at all this year, for the first time ever ! Not a drop of rain on our parade, our dinner, or morning meeting on Sunday. What a nice weekend.....

Bob Steber, our Travel Director, had planned a very nice morning ride and there were around 22 bikes in the procession. The weather was nice and not too hot until about the last 30 minutes when it started to get really warm. Fortunately it was time for the lunch stop and we were able to cool off, have hot dogs and hamburgers and finish up the last 12 miles back to the campground.

For those still not satisfied, Bob had another 90 mile "more technical" ride for the afternoon that a few of the guys went on. Just when we thought that this year was going to be free from "snake bites" they returned and we found out that one of them had overshot the road and flipped the bike a couple of times and landed about 10 feet down a slope. He was up and really all right immediately. Thank goodness he had all the gear on.

It happened just a few miles from the campground on their return route, and so several of the guys went back to meet a tow truck to help strap the bike up and gently glide it back up the slope. All in all, the bike was still fine too. A little bend in the saddlebag mount I think, which was straightened on site and usable, and another couple of minor things wrong. Nothing to keep it from being road worthy. Sheesh !! Talk about luck. We've just got to break this string of wrecks at the Sloppy Floyd meeting. No where else does this seem to happen. I've been on the rides, and I can tell you that we DO NOT override or speed. Heck if anything it's a bit slow. There's going to have to be some changes in the way the rides are handled up there next year. Your Officers are working on that believe me.

Dinner was on just about the time they arrived

back from bike extraction, and the BBQ chicken and pork was divine as usual. Kim had also made us peach cobbler this year to go with the home-made ice cream. Some kind of heaven in that combination. You should have been there.

One of the highlights was Rhonda Allred gracing us with a visit. It sure was good to see her after so long and I personally hope she will return more often !!

We also welcomed Steve Shuckman to his first meeting. He has been a member for several years but has not been able to attend a meeting until now. We hope to see his smiling face each month as a regular.

John Harper, our founder, was present for this weekend also, and helped keep Bob in check throughout the group ride. HHHmmmmmm.....I think John may need to start becoming a regular if he can keep Bob Steber in check. That's a FIRST ! (grin) Anyway, it was nice to have John as a part of the group this time.

Our next meeting is on July 27-29 up at Phillip and Leslie Johnson's, BlueRidge Motorcycle Campground in Cruso, NC. You really don't want to miss this one. Some of the most beautiful riding roads and scenery in the country. Phillip will lead us in a nice "on road" ride this year. He will have a lunch stop planned and then a return to the campground. I believe he said it was round trip of about 120 miles. Of course if you have been there before you know that Leslie's cooking is some of the best you can get. Please remember to bring cash to pay for meals. They don't have a credit card machine handy at the food pavilion and it's much easier on everyone to pay as you go up there.

If you haven't called to get a cabin you might want to do that immediately to see if they have any left. This is one of our favorite meetings of the year and we hope some of you who don't get to come often can take the time to make it to this one. Phillip is recovering nicely from foot surgery he had the week

(cont. next page)

MEETING MINUTES

June 24, 2007 - 9:00 AM
Sloppy Floyd Campground
President Connie Reaves presiding
Minutes taken by Mari Harrelson, Secretary

Connie opened the meeting with a special thanks to Bob Steber for setting everything up again. The rides, dinner and breakfasts were great, if a little short on the last morning.

Connie gave a hearty welcome to new member Mike Carter and welcome back to the oldest member and founder of the club, John Harper. We'd also gave a big welcome to Steve .

Connie gave the treasurer's report and offered a peek to any one interested in looking at the details. As always, Connie has decals and pins available for sale. I also had a room full of t-shirts to sell and all you need to do is call or e-mail and we will send them right out or bring to next function.

Bob will be adding all of the places in the newsletter for you to ABEES list that we hit on this week end's ride to help you keep up. Keep watching the web site for Saturday rides during the month; Bob is really generating interest from club members to share their favorite rides. He already has a ride set up for the October meeting that he is calling the River Run, I believe.

The cruise final deadline for deposits is coming up but since the meeting has been extended until July 21. Call your friends and other club members you haven't seen in awhile and get them onboard. The more the merrier.

Gary Dubois has gotten all of the particulars for the MOA rally and has developed a spreadsheet to coordinate all of the mileage for all of our club attendees. He has asked that everyone that even thinks that they will be going contact him asap and he will figure your mileage and have it on the spreadsheet. When you arrive onsite you can call he or Vance if you don't see where it is posted and they will direct you to it. I am sure the info is posted in this newsletter elsewhere.

We will have raffle tickets in plenty of time for the MOA Rally so get your order in so I can get them shipped out to you before you leave. **Keep in mind you will not receive tickets unless you request them so for tickets contact Vance or Mari Harrelson at weridebmw@bellsouth.net or call 205-621-1682.**

MOA National is asking for donations that they are going to consolidate for a worthy cause and it was voted that they club would give \$100.00 and we passed the hat and collected another \$60.00 so Alabama club will be giving \$160.00 towards the cause. We will let you know what the cause actually is next month.

What's the connection between bananas and mosquitoes?

Recent research shows that mosquitoes are attracted to people who have recently eaten bananas. The reason? Banana oil is released through their pores as they sweat, making their skin a popular hot spot for mosquitoes. So when heading outdoors this summer, skip the yellow fruit!

(from page 1)

after the RA rally at the Biltmore. He has already been back on a bike and should be more than fine to lead our ride at the end of the month.

I hope those of you who go (went?) to the MOA rally in Wisconsin, will be sure to send me pictures you take from it so we can all share in the fun we missed...and so I can include some of them in the

end of year DVD. In fact, if you haven't sent me the pictures you have taken at meetings so far, please remember to do that. The more pics I have to choose from the better the end of year DVD it is. I sure hate I can't get the days off to go, but hey, bring me some of that fine cheese to go with my whine and I'll be all right.

Keep it upright even if there ain't no shiny side.....

August Birthdays

- 1 Milton Woodfin
- 2 Kevin Louie
- 2 C. J. Morgan
- 4 Michelle Erker
- 4 Genelle Poe
- 5 Ann Clements
- 6 Tom Cowan
- 9 Albert White
- 10 Myrtle Harris
- 10 Eric Oller
- 11 Chuck Dickey
- 11 Susie McAlevy
- 11 Phillip McMurrin
- 15 Michael Waybright
- 16 Nancy Merrill
- 16 Bob Metzl
- 16 Tom Younger
- 17 Shelia Baker
- 17 Perry Guffey
- 18 Bain Brown
- 20 Mary Ultz
- 20 Les Willey
- 21 Robert Shar
- 22 Steve Morgan
- 23 Steve Bangham
- 23 Kenneth Reynolds
- 28 Susan Clay
- 28 Jim Thompson
- 29 Linda Pearson
- 30 Steve Merrill
- 30 Judy Swafford
- 31 Billy Barnes
- 31 Lee Harrelson



THOUGHTS / PRAYERS AND TIDBITS

Pray for a speedy recovery for Ann Carter from her recent surgery.

NEW MEMBERS

Alan Barton	Vestavia	Sponsor: Bruce Farr
Bill Lynn	Huntsville, AL	Sponsor: Signed at the rally
Mike R. Carter	Atlanta, GA	Sponsor: Signed at the rally
Phillip S. McMurrin	Madison, AL	Sponsor: Signed at the rally
Brady & Pamela Rogers	Madison, AL	Sponsor: Signed at the rally
Marliam Lee	Walker, LA	Sponsor: Jamie Jackson

NEW SECONDARY MEMBERS:

Darlene Massey with Gary Nesmith
Joseph Towey with Paul & Rhonda Wharton

NON-MEETING GET-TOGETHERS AROUND THE STATE

Birmingham

Diplomat Deli - Each Thursday evening the Birmingham folks are meeting at a new location called the Diplomat Deli which is located at 1413 Montgomery Highway, Vestavia Hills which is in the same shopping center as Pier 1 near the Bruster's Ice Cream. The food is excellent, the service is unsurpassed and they have the largest selection of beer of any place in the state. They also boast of over 500 different wines. Arrivals begin from about 5 to 5:30 PM and stay till about 7:30 to 8 PM.

Huntsville

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

Montgomery

Flip's Uptown Grill

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

Robertsdale (South Alabama)

The Oasis Truck Stop

Saturday mornings at the Oasis Truck Stop at Wilcox Rd Exit I-10 about half way between Mobile and Pensacola, every Sat. morning. Riders are usually there from about 7:30am until 9- 9:30. Rides are concocted for afterwards. Contact John at joh-nart1@aol.com for details

WHAT'S IN A WAVE?

Joan Ware

It occurred to me in all of our travels around on the bike and scooter that different riders or bikers acknowledge fellow riders with different salutes.

So having a few minutes I thought I would take up some space for Jamie with some of waves I have observed, and maybe someone can shed light on what some of them mean. I know when we lived in KY and would drive a car down the country roads the farmer would lift the first two fingers from the steering wheel to acknowledge us and it would be returned the same way. Sometimes it would just be the first finger, never was it meant to be vulgar, just a friendly hello on the road.

I have noticed that when passing other bikers, not riders, that they have a tendency to point down to the ground with one of two fingers. They may or may not take their hand off the bars, but just point down. Then sometimes they do swing their arm down and extend the full hand palm open, kind of like a low 5.

The Goldwinger's and Cruisers may or may not wave depending on.... who knows what. But generally you get an open palm not pointed down and if they a 2 up both people "wave".

The sport bikers wave as if it seems they are really intent on what they are doing (going fast) and they just lift one or two fingers off the bar. That is probably the safest thing for them and us.

New riders may just dip their head, 'cause they do not want to let go of the bars. I also find the head dip works well at intersections when there is so much to concentrate on that you dare not have hands ready to roll.

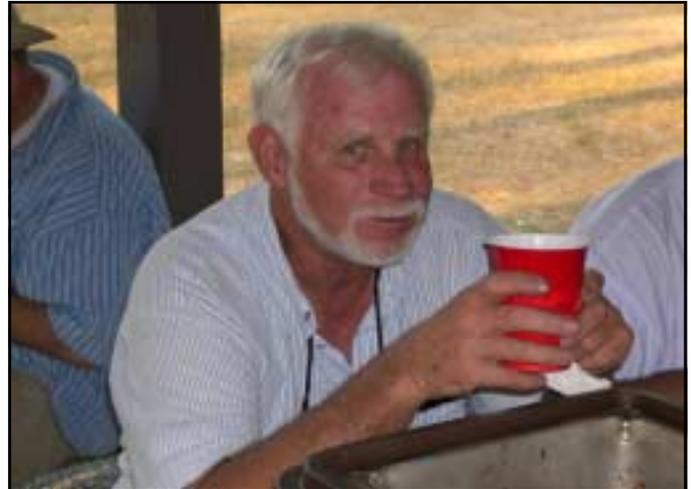
The funniest thing lately, is that when I am riding the scooter, some of bikes coming the opposite direction will wave and then, Terry says, after they pass and realize they have waved at a scooter, act like they hope no one saw what they did. Now what does that say....

SO WAVE ON

Anyone got anything to add to this nonsensical drabble?

[I like to wave at the young kid that is riding a 250cc bike just to watch his/her face beam. The youngster may not be skilled enough to wave back but I always know that the recognition made their day. Ed]

SLOPPY FLOYD BAR-B-QUE



The Cap'n enjoys somebody else smoked chicken



Plenty of bar-b-que and sunshine for all.



John Harper says the bar-b-que is goooooood!

SLOPPY FLOYD GROUP RIDE PICS

SUMMER HEAT

Rick Jones



Gary and Angie enjoy lunch at Momma'n'ems.



Group ride first stop at Little River Canyon.



Group ride stops for fuel at Dog Town.

Howdy, Beemers!

Well, it's been a number of years since I last wrote for the newsletter, during which time my life has changed profoundly as I'm sure it has for most of us. Writing anything much beyond the mass of daily emails I get has not been easy, thus explaining why I've started and shelved work on the comprehensive Airhead electrical manual 3 or 4 times now. And then Jamie and Connie caught me in a moment's weakness at Shiloh last year and wouldn't take NO for an answer, and I told 'em I'd post stuff to the newsletter eventually.

So, in the interest of a timely HOT topic, here goes : Have you heard your K bike radiator fan run lately ? Have you ever heard it run, at all? If not, you really need to verify its operation to insure that it will do the job if / when it's really needed, like sitting in six lanes of stalled traffic a thousand miles from home someplace this summer.

The cooling fan must switch on automatically when the engine coolant reaches about 220F , or dire consequences can result. This activation temperature is already quite high, and a sticky, slow, or non-functional fan can turn a temporary discomfort to a major headache of on-the-road failure. A sticking fan can consume so much electrical current that fuses may blow, rendering other electrical items in-operative or overheat the fan motor till it actually melts the plastic case.

Before setting off on this summer's long journeys, do a fan inspection and function check: reach in with your fingers (insert warning to the silly here about not trying this with the ignition switch on, with a hot motor) and turn the fan blades. They should easily spin about a half-turn or more, with no drag or binding . Let the bike idle in-place, until the fan does finally kick on automatically, and then listen for it to shut off . It may take several minutes if done from a cold startup, so you might want to do this after a warm-up ride. Just make sure the fan is run at least occasionally in this manner, and there will be very little likelihood of a stuck fan blowing your cool , and maybe a radiator hose.

And Airheads, just remember: if the head's not moving, it's not cooling, just radiating into the atmosphere - not good, better hope you have synthetic oil in the motor !

When are you TOO Hot??? Will you know the signs?

Joan Ware

I do not know how many of you all subscribe to Motorcycle Consumer News and are familiar with Flash Gordon, M.D., who writes a monthly article for the publication. In the June 2007 issue he discussed *Summer Riding*; hot weather and the dangers.

It occurred to me that we could all use a refresher about heat related hazards such as, heat cramps, heat stroke, dehydration, heat exhaustion, and sunburn. These hazards cause more deaths in Americans than floods, lightning, tornados, hurricanes, winter storms or extreme cold. Hard to believe, isn't it?

Dehydration is one of those things that most of us are aware of and think that our liquid intake is enough, but it may not be. Alcoholic drinks and caffeinated beverages of all types act as a diuretic and are not good for hydrating. Plain ol' water is what gets the job done. You can even add in some of the "Gatorade type" drinks to keep everything in balance. Dehydration can lead to the other more serious problems that can affect you during summer riding and other outdoor activities.

Heat Cramps: Spasms in the muscles due to excessive of sweating or physical activity. According to Dr. Gordon if the cramps last more than 4 hours seek medical attention, otherwise drink some juice or Gatorade, or have some other liquid and a salty snack and rest.

Heat Exhaustion: If not treated correctly it *may* develop into heat stroke. Symptoms are excessive sweating, cramps, fatigue, tiredness, dizziness, nausea with or without vomiting, headache, and fainting.

Treatment includes: Getting out of the heat if possible (at least out of direct sunlight), removing as much clothing as practical without getting arrested for indecent exposure, re-hydrating, and if possible taking a cool shower, or wetting down clothing.

Caution: If nausea or vomiting take small sips of water, you are less likely to throw up.

Heat exhaustion can usually be treated where you are as long as there are not other contributing factors, i.e., age (advanced), heart problems, diabetes or recent illness that may have caused dehydration or taking diuretics that can limit sweating.

Heat Stroke: The worst! **It can be fatal.** Symptoms

are elevated body temperature, hot, red, or flushed skin that's dry, trouble breathing, rapid pulse, hallucinations (not pink elephants), confusion (more than normal), agitation, disorientation, strange behavior (again, more than usual), and even seizures and coma

This is truly a medical emergency and must be treated immediately!

Treatment includes cooling victim immediately, getting them to shade, and removing excess clothing. Wet the person down (garden hose, creek or bottles of water if that is all you have), fan the person, put ice in armpits and groin, **CALL 911.**

Caution, the person needs immediate medical attention! Do not delay.

Sunburn

This seems hardly worth mentioning after the above, and most riders wearing proper gear will not have this problem except maybe face and back of neck. So use a good sunscreen if those parts are exposed.

Dr. Gordon says he soaks his shirt and the inside of his helmet to keep cool. I know some of our members have loaded pockets with ice which can lead to embarrassing moments if you take gear off to go in a restaurant. There are those neck wraps that start out wet. Another tip that is a no brainer, although I never think to do it, is take gear in with you when stopping for a period of time in AC. Don't leave your helmet in the sun, now that's a great tip.

Here are 3 websites to check out for cooling products:

www.aerostitch.com/product.php?productid=16741

www.aerostitch.com/catalog/US/Chilly-Mate-p-16833.html

www.blackicecooling.com

Terry and I have purchased the Black Ice system. It is a polyurethane collar that adjusts with Velcro. The freezable portion has 4 interconnected pouches so that the gel can be distributed to your preference. The gel is like that in the freezer packs for a sprain. It claims to last longer than the wet type of neck gear. We will let you know soon.

The article that I read, and from which I have quoted, in the June 2007 issue of Motorcycle Consumer News. If you do not subscribe but would like a copy of the article drop an email to joan-ware@bellsouth.net and I will scan a copy for you, or ask around the club to borrow that issue.

To ABEES or not to ABEES

Gary DuBoise

It's Tuesday and 95 degrees outside, and I have spent most of the day prepping our bikes for our upcoming Alaska trip. Let's see new tires, fresh fluids, tighten nuts and bolts (a little loctite), synch throttle bodies, check brakes and lights. Wait a minute what does this have to do with ABEES?

During my bike prep, I made the mistake of checking my email while in the house for a drink. **"You've got mail."** It is from the travel director, Cornbread himself. Cornbread asks me to write an article for the up coming July newsletter on ABEES travel; and by the way the deadline for submission to Jamie is Friday. Despite flunking freshman English, I agree to Cornbread's desires.

Back to the bikes and pick up the tools - looks like a thunderstorm brewing. Back in the house and I see a bowl of limes beckoning me to make a margarita. Margarita is half finished - hey, looks like a good time to write that ABEES article. Now I have an excuse for the misspellings and poor grammar.

This past weekend, we attended the Alabeemers club meeting at Sloppy Floyd State Park. So on the trip over Angie and I decided to knock off a couple of ABEES points. We went by Scottsboro to check off the Jackson County Court House and the Unclaimed Baggage Store. Then we rode up to Bridgeport and went to Russell Cave National Monument. Russell Cave is really pretty is worth visiting if you are in the area, but I would not make a long trip just to visit this site. From Russell Cave we rode to Sloppy Floyd via Bryant (the extreme NE corner) and good for one ABEES ticket. All back roads to Sloppy Floyd. Since it was our first time to the club meeting at Sloppy Floyd, we did not know what to expect except for the usual crowd of misfits - ahem, I mean club members.

Friday night for dinner, most us went to Jim's family restaurant for a moluth watering meal and an all around goodtime. Back to the campground, we chewed the fat as various attendees stopped by our camp platz.

After a catered breakfast, Bob Steber and John Harper led 26 of us on 23 bikes on our club ride and a chance to check off some ABEES points. We rode some fabulous Georgia back roads back to Ala-

bama where we arrived at Little River Canyon National Preserve (an ABEES point.) Little River Canyon is the deepest canyon east of the Mississippi and has the distinction of running its entire length on top of a mountain. Immediately on the entering the canyon road we stopped for an overview of High Falls (one ABEES point). Because of the drought, there was not the usual amount of water going over the falls, but it was very scenic anyway. We then rode the winding road along side of the Canyon (another ABEES point) until its end. From the south end of the Canyon we rode towards Desoto State Park. Just before reaching the park, Bob sprung a real surprise on us by turning right at the dead end where one would normally turn left to go to Desoto Falls. About 100 yards down on the right, everyone pulls over and I'm thinking- yeah Cornbread, you done gone and made a wrong turn and here we are all 23 of bikes trying to do a u-turn on a curvy road. But Bob tells everyone to dismount. We are in front of the "Sallie Howard Memorial Chapel; built in the 1930's." This chapel is a real gem. The chapel incorporates a massive boulder as one end of the structure. Inside you see the boulder is also the backdrop for the altar then you realize the inspired spirit of Colonel Howard to honor his deceased wife. This is a must see and another ABEES point.

From the chapel, we are lead on more back roads into Georgia and an appointment with Momma and 'ems farm for a cater lunch of hamburgers and hot-dogs. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the most scenic part to the morning's ride was through Mountain Cove Farms valley in route to Momma and 'ems . Why isn't this place on the tourist maps? Good winding roads and incredible views.

Man that margarita went fast! Do I mix another one or dig deep within my hollowness for more Shakespearian thought. Ah, yeah this is about to ABEES or not to ABEES.

After lunch, we returned to Sloppy Floyd to allow Phillip and Martha to drop out for some private time (I told you this is going to wander.) Twelve of us on eleven bikes elect to participate in the afternoon's ride. We were told up front that this portion would be much more technical than the morning's ride - whatever that means (*I ain't no inguneer.*)

First stop is at the Pocket campground in the Chattahoochee National Forest. This campground has a clear stream being feed by a large spring. A couple

Cont. next page



(from page 7) of the overheated riders elect to frolic in the cold stream with other children. From the Pocket, we rode a mountain road that had several switchbacks both up and down hill. The ride was a challenge and a chance to practice a lot of braking, shifting and counter steering all through forestry line roads.

Back to Sloppy Floyd for a catered dinner of BBQ and homemade ice cream and peach cobbler - no ABEES points, but some darn good chowing down.

Saturday night spent meeting more club members and telling lies - this is what we are here for.

After Sunday mornings club meeting (one ABEES point), Angie and I weed our way home through Fort Payne (DeKalb County Court House - one ABEES point) onto Sand Mountain. At eleven o'clock sharp, we found ourselves in front of the Martling Methodist Church. You can't find Martling on a map, but we decided it was a good place to attend worship service. We were not prepared for the open armed welcome that two grungy bikers in riding gear received at this small church. Every one of the 20 odd parishioners got up and came back to welcome us. The pastor, Woody Franklin, introduced himself. When I introduced myself, he said he knew some DuBoises in Limestone County. I asked him their names and he named my father. Folks we were about 100 miles from home and in the middle of nowhere. Turns out the pastor was born and raised about two miles from where we live. He had worked with my dad and married the daughter of our good family friends. To top all this off, this church was having their monthly church lunch after service, and we were invited to eat with them. We go to some good eating places on our ABEES rides, but there

ain't no eating like a church social where the elderly women do the cooking. No this wasn't an ABEES check off, but it certainly was the highlight of our weekend. You just don't know what you will run up on if you are out doing the back road ABEES thing. From there we rode AL 227 (a great road along Gunter'sville Lake) to Gunter'sville to check off the Marshall County Court House. Then on to home.

So do we ABEES or not ABEES? Angie and I have elected to ABEES and see some of this great state. I have traveled on five continents, in 46 countries not counting the Confederacy and in 49 states and can honestly say that Alabama can compete on its own with any of them.

So far we have checked off over 80 ABEES points and four extremes. What have we seen? Thirty-one Court Houses. Ft. Mims the site of the greatest slaughter of American citizens until 9/11. Horseshoe Bend Military Park, the site of the greatest slaughter of Indians on American soil. State Capitol sites from Huntsville to Cahaba to Tuscaloosa to Montgomery. The Confederate White House. The chamber in the State Capitol where the orders were issued to fire on Ft. Sumter starting the War Between the States (sorry, I not politically correct.) The Civil Rights Museum and Edmund Pettus Bridge. Beautiful anti-Bellum homes. Mooresville were the entire town is on the National Registry of Historic Places and which has a direct link to two US presidents (see if you can find out which two.) There is much more to see and we intent to short circuit Cornbread's quest for that new riding jacket being offered by Bogart's for ABEES participation. Note: we concentrate on historical sites. If you want a review of the eateries, talk to Bob and Vance.

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

Date: _____/_____/2006

NEW ___ RENEW ___ UPDATE ___

Sponsored by _____

Primary Member: _____ DOB: _____

Secondary Member: _____ DOB: _____

Address: _____ Apt# _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ FAX: _____

Year / Model BMW(s) : _____

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

Dues are \$20.00 per year for primary and \$3.00 per year for secondary members. Make check payable to:

BMW M/C Owners of Alabama. Mail application with check to: Marty Simpson, 10010 Torino Drive, Huntsville, AL 35803

ALABAMA BACKROADS

Bob Steber

2007 is half over and many of our Club members have told me that they have racked up a lot of tickets for themselves to win Bryson's Bogart's Motorsports Olympia AST Jacket and are having a blast exploring the backroads of Alabama to discover new and exciting places. Most of the conversations start with "I never dreamed there were so many interesting places to see and good places to eat in this State. I amen those comments enthusiastically and encourage every one to get your ABEES Touring Guide, pick out some points of interest, eateries and favorite roads and rides in your area, then go exploring. You will be amazed what you find in your own backyard.

Beginning in next month's newsletter, I will post the list of members' total ABEES check offs and total Olympia AST jacket tickets earned. Here is an example of how the numbers will be recorded and posted:

NAME	CLUB MEETINGS	RESTAURANTS & POINTS OF INTEREST	FAVORITE ROADS & RIDES	TOTAL ABEES CHECK OFFS	EXTREME LOCATIONS	TOTAL JACKET TICKETS
Bob Steber	6	100	13	119	5	10

Please, as soon as you read this article, send me (bsteberbtr@gmail.com) your total numbers and each month thereafter; send your revised grand totals. Photos and documentation are not necessary, but it will be appreciated if you send a little story about your favorite adventure and some photos for the newsletter. Our deadline for the newsletter is the Friday after the Club meeting. The only way for you to have a chance to win Bogart's jacket is to enter your name on the list.

To review, you earn a ticket to win the Bogart's AST jacket for each 20 ABEES check offs plus a bonus ticket for each of the Extreme Alabama locations you visit. If you go to all seven extreme locations in under 36 hours, you earn two more bonus tickets. Additionally, you get another bonus ticket for attending the January 2008 meeting. The bonus tickets count only after your first 20 ABEES check offs. The tickets will be placed in Vance's ticket machine and the winning ticket will be drawn at the January meeting. You do not need to be present to win. All of the details are in your 2007 ABEES Touring Guide.

Now hear this. If you haven't signed on to our new web site, you are really missing something good. Many of our members are posting fantastic photos with captions of our get-togethers and of their ABEES adventures. It is easy to do. Just go to <http://www.bmwmoal.org>, click "Register" on the menu bar, and follow the instructions.

Once logged in be sure to check out Martin Benson's posts in the Forums/Rides & Events/Happenings section. He knows how to mix work and pleasure.

See you on the back roads...



Panoramic view of group ride taking a break at Little River Falls. (Picture by Steve Schuckman.)

SUMMER STORM SAFETY

Joan Ware

Where were you the last time one of those cooling afternoon rain showers appeared, drought weather aside. Did I say shower, what I meant was a storm with lightning accompanied by rain, hail and wind.



Terry and I had the "luck" to be out in the middle of, Nowheresville, not to long ago when one of these storms blew up. So what do you do, pray that the storm passes quickly. I got to thinking and decided I would investigate and see what the safest thing to do would be.

For all the details see ON June 2007, page 58. I will just hit the highlights here.

Mr. Schultz says in his article that he just wants for the BMW rider community to have a greater awareness of the potential dangers of riding in a storm. The information contained in his article and this one come from various websites. (www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/outdoors.htm)

"Many lightning causalities happen at the beginning of an approaching storm because people try and wait to the list minute before seeking shelter, but more than 50% of lightning deaths occur after the thunderstorm has passed. In fact, most people struck by lightning are not evening even in the rain."

No one likes to ride in pouring rain, we all plan to just get that last mile in before the rain starts, which doesn't make sense. The experts say seek shelter when you hear the first thunder, see lightning or see threatening dark clouds. If that is not possible right then count the seconds between the flash of lightning and the clap of thunder, for every 5 seconds you count the lightning is 1 mile away. If possible stay in your safe place for 30 minutes after the storm passes.

If you are caught out with no place to go here are some tips that may slightly reduce the odds, but will not prevent being hit by lightning.

The obvious: Wait the storm out. Some suggestions are under an overpass or bridge; do not lean on the metal parts of the structure or some sort of wooden structure. Try to stand on dry surfaces.

DO NOT: Seek shelter under tall isolated trees. DUH! Actually stay twice as far away from that tall tree.

Lightning typically strikes the tallest object and that might just be you. So if you are on big open road crouch down with feet together, away from bike. If you can find a **dry** ditch or low area go there. Do not lie down.

Lightning will seek the path of least resistance on its way to the ground. We humans are great conductors and so are wet ropes, metal objects such as fence posts, lines and let us not forget motorcycles. Current can travel, so try to keep at least 50' from any metal objects, also do not carry anything with you that has a metal frame, bags, tools and for you golfers, clubs.



Now for the real shocker, pardon the pun. One of the places you can seek shelter with a degree of safety is under the high voltage towers and wires. They are designed with lightning arrestors.

Disclaimer: These suggestions are a last resort. You are only marginally safer in these places than out in the open.

MILEAGE TO MOA RALLY

Gary DuBois

This year the MOA volunteers will not tally the total mileage for each of the clubs. Each individual club is responsible for tallying and turning in the total mileage ridden by club members to the MOA Rally. I have been tagged with the job of tallying this mileage. My plan to do so is to have anyone from the Alabeemers that is even remotely thinking about going to the MOA rally to email me there address. I will calculate the mileage from this address to the MOA Rally site using MS Streets and Trips. I will enter this mileage into a spreadsheet with your name. Once you get to the rally, please contact me on my cell (which will be sent to you as acknowledgement that I received your email) or Vance, who has offered to help (his cell will also be sent in the acknowledging email.) You can give us your actually mileage at that time or we will use the pre-calculated mileage. If we don't hear from you at the Rally I will not include your mileage in the totals. Thanks.

Test ride the club's exciting new web site at
www.bmwmoal.org

BEAT THE HEAT

Jamie Jackson

Tired of the heat and humidity of Dog Days? Escape it all by joining in on the August campout and club meeting at Blue Ridge Motorcycle Campground at Cruso, NC. You will find cool temperatures, green grass, burbling river, and good food, all at the campground. If you want even cooler temps, ride south for six miles to the Blue Ridge Parkway and enjoy the most scenic road in the South East. Or if you want to experience a different menu and check out some unique shops, ride north for thirteen miles to Waynesville. Or just sit around and relax by the river at the campground.



Because of its location and amenities, Blue Ridge M/C Campground easily becomes a favorite location for camping when visiting the Appalachians. The bath houses have clean, hot showers and coin laundry. Ice, with ice chest rental, and sundry items are available at the Camp Store, but be sure to bring your own beverages. The Snack Shop is open 24 hours a day with vending machines, television, and magazines.

If tent camping is not your idea of fun, 18 cabins are available but be sure to call early to request one as most are rented well in advance. The owners are Phillip and Leslie Johnson, long time members of BMWMOAL. In fact, Phillip is a past President of the club. Contact them at (828)235-8350 to rent a cabin or email at phil@blueridgemotorcyclecamp.com for questions. Cabins cannot be reserved by email. I hope to see you there!



MORE SLOPPY FLOYD PICS



These are legs waiting for chiggers!



Riding through the park at Sloppy Floyd.



Now this is real camp food!

BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

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Dedicated to safe and enjoyable motorcycling



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

Club Sponsored Events With Meetings

July 28/29	Blue Ridge M/C camp	Cruso, NC
Aug 25/26	Bedgood's Farm	Grant, AL
Sep 29/30	Shell Mound Campground Nickajack Dam, Jasper, TN	
Oct. 27/28	Little River St. Forest	Atmore, AL
Dec. 1/2	Christmas party Vizzini Farms Winery Calera, AL	
Jan. 26/27 2008	Montevallo Traffic Safety Center Montevallo, AL	

Other Events of Interest

Jul 12 - 15	35th BMW MOA International Rally West Bend, WS
Aug 28 - 31	Curve Cowboy Reunion Osage Beach, Mo
Sept 7 - 9	Beemers in the Bluegrass Rally Near Frankfort, KY
Oct. 5-7	Return to Shiloh Rally - Shiloh, TN BMW RAMS
Oct 12-14	Falling Leaf rally - MO. BMW Gateway Riders