

THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

BMWMOA Chapter #5/ BMWRA Chapter #107



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June 2007

We Did It Again !

By Connie Reaves

The talk I've heard since the 19th Great Chicken Rally is that the crew felt it was one of the smoothest operations we have ever experienced even though, as usual, we all worked very, very hard. Despite a huge hiccup on the day we all arrived and found that our trailer had been broken into, everything was handled and we got it all set up and proceeded to pull off another professional job. The loss of our new coffee pot was a blow, but the other few things missing were fairly minor and hopefully the numbers will still come out to where we can replace the coffee pot again. Our old one fairly shuddered when we told it we expected another several thousand cups of coffee out of it again this year, but it hung in there and we didn't have to face a mutiny or an uprising.

We do have plans to check in to an insurance policy for our trailer and goods, and our locksmith member, Jimmy Lowe is going to give us a good plan for better than the small locks that we use on it now. It had never been thought of that our locked trailer in a locked warehouse would be threatened but heck, you live and learn and are still surprised by things in life.

By Thursday night we had just over 300 again this year and we were wondering if it was going to be another of those over 700 years

in attendance. But Friday slowed down considerably and the final total ended up 603. That was doable and back to our normal numbers. It should bring us to a break even number but we will see when our CFO, Marty Simpson finishes the final totals.

The weather was much nicer than it has been in the past. The humidity never really got bad until on Saturday and there were some nice continuing breezes throughout the week to keep things pretty darn comfortable. We really couldn't have ordered up weather much better.

Saturday's awards were started after the final folks came and collected their door prizes and the Jim Parks band got set up. As usual, Jim let us use his sound system for the awards night and we got started about 30 minutes past when we had planned, but I didn't hear too much grumbling since it wasn't so hot as to cook folks who had gathered up for the show.

As always, I couldn't say enough or name all the names of those who made this rally happen, but you cooks, registration folks, door prize folks, t-shirt, seminars, security, 50/50, and floaters all should know that it wouldn't have gone so well, or been so easy without you all. I hope all of you who worked got you caps and t-shirts but as crazy as it was for me to keep up with all the

"stations" on that, you need to let me know if you got missed and I will get them to you right away. The caps were for those who worked at least four hours, and the t-shirts were for those that worked off and on all week or continually like many of us do. A little something to make sure you know you are appreciated.

I did hear that some of the vendors did not have as much traffic, and my theory while there and looking around is that the weather was so much nicer than usual, that it seemed more folks were out riding since the heat wasn't so oppressive this time. Just a theory, but it did look deserted around there in the daytime.

I welcomed Vince Winkel, MOA Media Director, to our rally for his first time visiting. Vince will be doing a write up with pictures in the MOA magazine on our Great Chicken Rally and he took over 500 shots. I'm looking forward to that coming out in a couple months. We also had Ray Zimmerman, MOA Executive Director there and longtime AlaBeemer, who never misses coming, but at the awards I focused on Vince as a first-timer. Probably should have recognized Ray but as usual, I become brainless at times when faced with that job of getting up in front of all those people and trying to keep it together. I'm just not really suited to that, and it's a shame I didn't lose my voice again

this year and make Vance do it. (I sure tried though, because my voice was gone again this year come Sunday morning-grin)

We had two folks who raised their hands and gave me their contact information, as the only ones who have been to ALL 19 of our rallies and plan to be there for the 20th one next year. We will have plaques made for those two guys if they do come next year.

I turned the mic over to Jeannine Arnold, our Membership director, to present the Russ Simpson Annual Service award for whom you guys had voted with her in secret. I stepped back and was stunned when she announced it and looked at me to receive it. You guys really touched me with that. I'm just not good at thinking of the right thing to say when surprised and touched like that. I just had to try my best to keep from wanting to cry and keeping it together for the rest of the show, but I hope you all genuinely know how much it meant to me and how completely surprised I was. I've loved this club, and all the folks in it, like family for nearly 20 years and it just doesn't seem like a job nor much of an effort to do things for this club. I know I mess up some but with Vance, Marty, Mari, Jamie, Lori and all the directors and members who are willing to give their input, you guys really do all the running of this club, and all I have to do is take the majority opinions and good advice of those above and it makes it easy. Any-way.....THANK YOU !

We moved on after that to the things everyone was really waiting for, and the Grand Door Prizes were drawn for. One was \$175 gold motoman necklace charm, and the other was a battery tender with \$50 cash. We had received lots of door prizes again this year thanks to Shelia and Jim Baker's efforts, but not some of the larger items we have re-

ceived before. Still, folks were amazed and complimentary at the number of prizes we had. There were 74 companies and individuals who donated door prizes this year.

The 16 year old boy who won the grand prize first and chose the Motoman necklace was the same one who had just won the award for "youngest Rider" to the rally. What a big night for him ! Zack Schmidgall from Lake Wylie, SC.

As usual, Jack Roddick, 86 years old, from Pennsylvania, won the Oldest Male Rider. It's sure good to see him come back every year. The BMW Rams won the Largest club in Attendance with 34 members and they graced us by each and every one of them putting on a chicken hat. It was a sight to behold. And since our club has won their rally's award for largest club every year for a long time, we sure were happy to give one back to them. We need to come up with a theme again this year like we did in the past and stage another parade at the Shiloh rally this year. They asked if we would and said they always enjoyed and would like it if we did it again. So lets see if we can some big numbers to go to Shiloh this year and give them a show !

Nancy Musto, from Minnesota won the Long distance Female rider and I don't remember the last time Nancy missed coming to our rally. We sure do have our regulars. Vech won the Oldest bike and it was ONLY a 1954 R68. He brought a fairly new bike for him. Jerry Sullivan, regular attendee, won the Highest mileage BMW at the rally with 271,600 miles, and he won the Long Distance Male rider with 2455 miles to get to the rally. We sure like to see Jerry there every year.

We drew for the 50/50 and \$503.00 was the winners' split with the club getting \$503.00 what a great pot to win !

It concluded with the drawing of the bike ticket. Lauren Pate was again our ticket drawer for all the things and she scrambled around being very careful not to look and picked the winning ticket and presented it to Vance. It was very exciting to have him announce a club member's name and to have them actually be present to win. Wade Killen, of Killen, AL was the winner and he came up and was so excited. There were shouts to "Do the chicken dance" and Wade obliged by entertaining us with his happy chicken dance up there at the drawing table. Congratulations to Wade, and he has already been to Bogart's to become completely confused in his excitement at what he actually wants to get. We will be making payment to Bogart's this week for the amount of the F650.

After the awards and drawings, Jim Parks' band got started and we had a great evening of dancing and letting off steam from working so hard all week. When Jim quit there were several of us who were just still to over-excited and not quite ready for the party to end and we got in a water fight with water guns and hoses in the "kitchen staging" area and that lasted until way too late to be proper, but HECK, we had some fun. Lots of little wet AlaBeemers running around like teenagers and blowing off the rest of the stress and work of the week. Yes....there are pictures. Go to our website, and check into the forums under "happenings" and go to each person's posting where they have put links to the pictures they took during the week. There are some really great ones ! Enjoy ! And we'll do it all again next year for the 20TH !!

See you at the end of the month for our meeting weekend at James H. (Sloppy) Floyd State Park in Summerville, GA.; Details of which are on page 11 of this issue.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jane Wall
- 2 Greg Key
- 3 Christopher Perret
- 3 Ted Thompson
- 5 Jeannine Arnold
- 5 Stephen Smitherman
- 6 Fred Merrill
- 8 Susan Johns
- 8 Jim Weber
- 8 Bob Daigle
- 9 Jamie Jackson
- 10 Bruce Dinoff
- 10 Claudia Shar
- 12 Patrick Tuten
- 13 Martin Benson
- 13 Gary Dubois
- 14 John Keel
- 15 Bruce Cain
- 15 Julie Peterson
- 15 David Corl
- 16 Bill White
- 18 Mary Borden
- 19 Mark Foreman
- 19 William Weaver
- 21 Cynthia Farr
- 21 Beth Gregory
- 22 Joe Oliver
- 23 Tom Dyer
- 24 Paul Orr
- 25 Ken Pedigo
- 26 Alan Duncan
- 26 John Harper
- 27 Dian Slark
- 28 Kay Headrick
- 29 Steven Cooper
- 29 Lori Dendy
- 29 Leigh Edwards
- 29 David Lawrenz
- 30 Phillip Johnson
- 31 Paul McClain



THOUGHTS / PRAYERS AND TIDBITS

Pray for a speedy recovery for Stephen Pearce after his accident on May 25 that left him with a severely broken pelvis. He was transported to UAB where surgery was performed to repair his pelvis, however it will be quite some time before he will be able to walk.



AND THE WINNER IS.....

The winner of the F650 BMW Motorcycle was Wade Killen, of Killen, AL. Wade is a member of BMWMOAL and bought the winning ticket at the rally.



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

“DuBois, Buy a GS and We Will Go Somewhere!”

By Gary DuBois

Those are the words spoken to me by Roger Dabbs. I met Roger in the late '80s while we were stationed with NATO in Naples, Italy. Roger was an Air Force F-16 pilot on a staff assignment. Plastered on his wall in Naples was his dream trip – a motorcycle trip to Tierra del Fuego. I was an Army helicopter pilot on a staff assignment and never gave much thought to Roger's motorcycle ambitions. It had been twenty years since I had owned a motorcycle – a 1965 Honda 150 dream.

Fast forward to Spring 2001. I am visiting Roger at his home in Cleveland, TN, and he is showing me his new to him motorcycle – a 1998 BMW R1100GS. Roger bought the bike the previous spring, and rode it to the Artic Circle in June 2000. I had never seen a motorcycle like the funky GS. Roger detailed all of its unique characteristics and its reliability, while encouraging me buy a bike so we could travel together – possibly to Tierra del Fuego.

The thought certainly intrigued me; but hey, that was a big bike and I really had not ridden more than a few miles in the past 30 odd years. On our way home, I mentioned to Angie that I really liked Roger's motorcycle. She told me that maybe I should get one – man, what a wife?

I started investigating the GS's, and found a used 2000 R1150GS with 3000 miles in Orlando, Florida. I bought the Mandarin beast in May 2001. I did not own a helmet, or any riding gear. I borrowed an open face helmet with snap on shield and a rain suit from my brother. I flew to Orlando to pick up my new toy. After spending the night in Orlando, I began my ride back to Elkmont. About fifty miles north of Orlando, it began to rain – thank God, my brother insisted I take the rain suit. It was a monsoon for the next 150 miles then light rain on into Dothan. I only stopped for fuel. I kept telling myself, that it would never be any worse than this. I spent the night with my niece in Enterprise –first days ride 450 miles. Not bad for a rookie. The next day I rode home for a two days ride of 700 + miles.

Roger and I immediately began planning for a ride to the Darin Gap, Panama for January 2002 as a precursor to the Tierra del Fuego trip. In the meantime, to get some mileage and experience under my belt, I rode to the RA rally in Morganton, little Sturgis in Mississippi, and then a long three day ride to Colorado Springs to visit our daughter – followed by a quick two day ride home just ahead of a line of tornado warning.

January 2002, Angie noticed all the fun I was having and hinted maybe she needed a motorcycle. We found her a 1997 R850R in Fort Payne. I can see this is going to be a sickness.

The following week, Roger and I left for our ride to the Darin Gap. This was a life-changing trip. I have always loved travel, history, and geography. Now I discovered I could combine all those with a new passion of riding. After four weeks of diarrhea, fleabites, bad border crossings and touring all of the countries in Central American, Roger and I returned still friends with a promise to each other that we would pursue other trips.

Summer of 2002, saw me off the MOA rally in Trenton, Ontario. From there, I toured Niagara Falls and headed cross-country to Colorado Springs to visit our first grandchild – born while I was in Trenton. While in Colorado Springs, I took advantage of the Top of Rockies Rally in Paonia and the one day 100,000 foot ride in the Colorado Rockies. On to Sturgis for bike week and then a Bun Burner Gold 1500 mile ride home.

This same summer, Angie attended the MSF beginner's course (I did the ERC course in Trenton.) We did several local rides as Angie gained her legs.

During this time, I encouraged my brother, Daryl (yes I know, and my other brother Daryl) to do a European bike tour with me. Although I had lived in Europe for 10 years while in the Army, I had never traveled in the Eastern block of countries, and Daryl had never been to Europe. I wanted to experience the former Communist bloc before they became totally westernized. While trying to sort the cost of shipping his Goldwing and my GS, I discovered the Trans-Atlantic Bikeshare Club. We joined and began making contacts for borrowing a bike in June 2003.

In the meantime, I went to Daytona bike week 2003 for BMW's 80th anniversary. I attended all of Helge Pedersen's classes and was taken by his recent tour around Southern Africa. I discussed his fall 2003 tour with him and asked what kind off-road experience one needed. He told me not much, but that was a little more than I had. When I got home, I mentioned the African tour to Angie and told her that we should both go. We had always wanted to do a Kenyan safari and this was probably as close as we would ever come. We got the last two slots on Helge's African tour.

Daryl and his wife borrowed their bike in London and I picked my up in Sheffield, England. We met
(cont. next page)

in Poole, rode the ferry across the English Channel to Normandy. We continued on to Krakow, Poland and back to England. Enroute, we rode through France, Luxemburg, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Czech Republic, The Netherlands and Belgium. While in Germany, I attended BMW's enduro course at Hechlingen. This probably saved my neck when I later took the Sani Pass to Lesotho challenge while on the African tour.

Angie rode with me to the RA rally in Charleston. Immediately on return home, it was time to box up my GS for shipment to Seattle to join the other bikes on the container to South Africa. Our tour would not start until Oct. To prevent loss of bike withdrawal, I occasionally borrowed Daryl's Goldwing 1800 or Harley Road King. **They ain't the same!** I decided then my next favorite bike would be a BMW GS.

In October and November, we toured South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana, Zambia, and Namibia. While there we flew over Victoria Falls and did a four days safari in the Okavango Delta of Botswana. The total ride was 6000 miles with over 1500 miles of dirt. We rode two-up about half of the time. The remainder, Angie rode in one of the chase trucks. To say this trip was another life changing experience is a gross understatement. The intensity of the safari was a constant adrenaline rush. To experience some of the living conditions, yet contentment of much of the population certain humbles one when you think about riding a toy that cost more than most of these people will ever see in a lifetime – not to mention the cost of the tour. Everyone we met on the tour was friendly with 98 percent of them speaking English. Many asked how they could come to America.

On my return, I mentioned to a black friend that Jesse Jackson should stand on the Capitol steps and apologize for all the "shit" he had given this country over the past 25 years. WE LIVE IN A GREAT COUNTRY AND WE ALL NEED PULL TOGETHER INSTEAD OF CREATING DIVISIONS. You realize these things when you travel the third world!

I picked my bike up in Seattle in March 2004 and rode home via San Diego.

Summer of 2004, a group of us including Roger, is off the MOA Rally in Spokane. From Spokane, four of us rode to Prudhoe Bay, Alaska and back home. Returning from the Shiloh rally, I blew out of a nasty curve and crashed. Result: one totaled 1150GS and one leg with two broken bones. Had to have a cadaver replacement for part of the Tibia. Problem is that I believe the doc inserted an old

woman's bone. During recovery, I know I went into menopause. I had urges to go to Wal-mart, I had hot flashes followed by cold chills, I was irritable, and I think I had problems I should not mention here.

Four to five months of recovery and no riding – well almost none. I would catch Angie gone and hobble out to her bike. I would get on it and prop my crutches against the wall and go for a little ride. Did I mention this was a sickness?

Winter '04 and spring '05 found Mike Weyler, my good friend and riding buddy, rebuilding my GS. We had it ready for the 2005-riding season. Angie and I rode our bikes to the MOA rally in Lima and then on to Niagara Falls including some fantastic riding in central Pennsylvania. This year, Roger and I did intensive planning for our trip to Tierra del Fuego. We were to leave in October for three months. As our departure time neared, Roger inherited the care of his mother when his sister moved to England. This along with continued weakness in my leg necessitated us to propose our trip south for a while.

Summer of 2006 found us with a new baby in the garage. Roger Dabbs decided to upgrade to a 2004 R1150GS and offered me a fabulous deal on his old '98 R1100GS with 75K miles. I jumped at the chance to own the first BMW GS I had ever seen. After all it was family and I had already decided my second bike would be a GS. Did I mention this was a sickness?

Our 2006 riding season included both of us riding to the MOA rally in Essex Junction with a continuation to Nova Scotia and back down the eastern seaboard. On this trip I surpassed the 100,000 miles mark on a BMW – got to submit that form. In October, Roger and I rode to Copper Canyon Mexico for a great adventure. Yep, I rode his old GS.

Riding season of 2007 is on us. Angie and I have plans to ride to the MOA rally at West Bend, then on to Seattle for a military reunion and then to Alaska.

What a trip it continues to be. I have ridden in 48 states and 27 countries and four continents. Yes Roger, you were right. Get a GS and we will go somewhere. Besides that trip to Tierra del Fuego is still on the cooker.

Visit the exciting new club web site at
www.bmwmoal.org

Great Chicken Rally 2007 - Door Prize Contributors

Thanks to Jim & Shelia Baker for their work on this !

Fulmer Helmets	4 helmets-1 modular and 3 ¾ with attached faceshield	
Snider's Products	2 Paintgards and 2 Grip Donuts	
Motorrad Elektrik	LED Worklight	
Stop & Go	Ball cap, Tire Plugger	
Touratech/Cycoactive	T-shirt	
Formotion	Police SL Clock	
Ashland, Inc.	Daytona Valvoline Ball Cap	
Helen TwoWheels	Packing Straps	
Held, USA	2 T-shirts	
Fast Company, Inc.	2 Ball caps, 2 T-shirts	
Givi	7 Ball caps, Fanny pack	
Deltran	3 Battery Tenders, "Bobble Head"	
Willie & Max (Pinsley Mfg)	Large tail bag & smaller tail bag	
Powerlet	Multifit Panel, 2 adapter sockets	
Helmet Head Cycle Gear	2 Helmet Sunblockers	
RoadGear	Deluxe Tire Gauge, Standard Tire Gauge	
Kauffman Marketing	3 Green Light Triggers, 3 Green Light Swipes	
BMWMOA Country Store	2 T-shirts	
Ron Baroody's Bike Logs	2 Bike Logs	
Wells Cargo	6 Ball caps	
Touring Sport BMW	4 T-shirts	
AL Traffic Safety Center 4	T-shirts, 2 ERC Gift Certificates	
Aerostich/Riderwarehouse	Book "Long Way Round", Glove Box, Outdoor Shirt,	Sigma Bike Computer
Connie Reeves	5 Helmet Ears	
Bob's BMW	12 T-shirts, 6 ball caps	
Cycle Gadgets	Bitty Boost Jumper Cables, 2 Helmet Sliks, 2 Face Shield Protectors, Neck Cooler, Microfiber Cleaning Cloth	
Road Runner Magazine	4 Subscriptions with T-shirts	
Chase Harper	10 Zipper bags with gift certificates, SR2 Saddlebags, 2 Barrel Bags, Tankbag, 2 Tool Bags, 5 Bungee Ropes	
BMW N/A	11 T-shirts, 2 sweatshirts	
Bogart's BMW	Battery Tender, Bike Cover, Tie Down Straps, Plexus, Book "Off The Beaten Path, Alabama", Hearos, 6 T-shirts	
	Also sponsored the rally pack mug	
MC Travel Network	DVD package-"Long Way Round" & "The World's Fastest Indian"	
Whitehorse Gear	Books-"AMA Ride Guide To America" & "Motorcycling Excellence"	
Spiegler Performance	2 Pair Gold fren brake pads, brake line key chain	
Grab On Grips	3 Johar Grips, 3 Classic Grips, 1 Grip Cover	
Follow My Heart Decorating	1 Candle, 1 Lamp Ring Set	
RLP Racing	Recessed Wheel Chock	
Post Enterprises	10 Glare Reducers	
Shango Rider	2 T-shirts, \$20 Gift Certificate	
David Bowers	Wood Pen with BMW logo	
Safety Outdoors Products	2 Everlite LED Safety Vests	
Boxerworks	Mini-candle Lantern, 2 T-shirts	
Rita Walters	Zippo Wine Coasters, tape measure, corkscrew	
ROK Straps	(2) Multipacks, (2) 12-42", (2) 24", (2) 10FT, 36", 54" ROK Straps	
Motorcycle Rider Supply	30" ROK Straps	
Terese Stevens	K1200 poster, Gift Certificate for massage	
BDF Enterprises	Helmet Hanger	
Ear-ific Molds, Tim McCarty	Wickers Underwear T-shirt	
Silver Eagle Outfitters	Microfiber shirt, Cooling Vest	



Eat mor chikin!

Bench Mark Works	Novelty Helmet
Grant Borden	(4) Kerchiefs, (3) Kawasaki ball caps, (2) T-shirts, (2) card files, Cargo Net, Helmet Bag, Camp Stool, Safety Glasses, Collapsible Cooler, Tote bag with office supplies
Allyn Air	Gift Certificates 50% off "Cycle Sac" & 50% off "Allyn Air Seat"
Sargent Cycle Products	Gift Certificate 50% off products or custom services
Parabellum, LTD	Gift Certificate \$100 off
Laminar, LLC	Gift Certificate Laminar standard LIP or Speed Shield
BMW RA	Gift membership
United Sidecar Assn	1 Year Membership
Angel City Cycle	\$50 CASH
MotoGear Outlet	Gift Certificates (2) \$25
Beach's MC Adventures	Gift Certificate \$250 toward one of their tours
Red Wing Shoes	Gift Certificate \$100 off purchase of Red Wing Motorcycle Boots
Real Gaskets Tennessee	4 Gift Certificates for gasket sets
Widder Enterprises	Gift Certificate 30% discount
K&N Performance Filters	Gift Certificate K&N Replacement Air Filter
BMW Club of Nashville	Free admission to 2008 European Riders Rally
JMH Associates	Gift Certificate \$50 toward 1 item
Blue Ridge MC Campground	2 Gift Certificates \$30 value camping fees
Finger Lakes BMW Club	Free admission 2007 Finger Lakes Rally
Rider Magazine	3 1-Year Subscriptions
Bing Agency International	3 Gift Certificates 30% off Gasket kit or 3' fuel Line of free carb manual
2008 GA Mountain Rally	Free Admission, Admit 2
Rick Mayer Saddles	\$250 off Any Custom Saddle
Mountain Brook	2 Free nights in a cottage
MC Tours LLC	Free 1 day motorcycle rental

Grand Prize

Bob Cates Jewelers Gold Motoman Charm

Please remember to support these vendors that graciously support our rally.

**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

GREAT CHICKEN RALLY - 2007

Jamie Jackson

Just what does it take to put on a motorcycle rally for 600 or so hungry bikers? Well, first of all how about five to six months of budget planning and coordinating with food suppliers, vendors, musicians, and site managers. That is pretty much the responsibility of the Rally Chairperson, Lori Dendy, with support from our President, Vice-President, and CFO.

Besides the logistical planning a hefty volunteer staff is required to do the work of preparing and serving the food. This year we had a total 603 attendees. To feed this size group for three days requires a lot of groceries. Here is a partial list of the items consumed:

2150 lbs chicken
300 lbs. pork
20 gal peanut oil
720 lbs potatoes
150 lbs onions
100 lbs peanuts
110 bottles butter
10 cases beans-baked
10 cases pinto beans
186 lbs coleslaw
3 cases peaches
12 gallons BBQ sauce
5 lbs butter
7 lbs brown sugar
60 loaves sliced bread
2 cases syrup
1 case sugar free syrup
6 cases mixed cookies
2 cases pickles
160 lbs pancake mix
3 cases 1 gal. ketchup
gallons and gallons of orange juice (lost the count)
Lots and lots of Popcorn
80 gallons Lemonade mix
70 gallons sweet tea
70 gallons unsweet tea
2000 lbs ice
1000's of cups of coffee

In addition to preparing and serving the food, scores of volunteers were required to register attendees, provide security, sell merchandise, and keep things clean. Thank goodness we have both members and non-members alike, that are willing to volunteer their time and talents to make it all possible. **My hat is off to each and every volunteer.**



Riding for a cause.... Or can Bicyclists and Motorcyclist really share the road?

Joan Ware

Terry and I had the privilege of escorting the bicycle riders for the Century of Compassion 2007 Body and Soul 100K Event sponsored by Salvation Army and Alabaster Parks and Recreation, on Saturday June 2nd. This opportunity was made available by a request from John Tidwell, the Director Development. The "regulars" had last minute conflicts so apparently John call Bogart's and Connie was notified and asked to post it on our website. It sounded like a fun way to spend a morning and get some great back roads riding in.

Terry and I arrived at the Colonnade Promenade Shopping Center in Alabaster about 6:15am and were introduced around, given instructions and breakfast. The first group of bikers headed out, these were the die hard guys 100K to 80K, later in the day I heard one of them say he had done it in 1hr and 35min. In about 20 minutes the rest of the group headed out. We then were ready to set out for Columbiana Methodist Church that was the refueling stop and the hub of the event. It was really neat, sprayed on the route were green, blue and orange symbols like this:



The bikers and the escorts just followed these symbols on the roads, EASY, except cyclists do not need quite as much lead time to turn as motorized bikes, so it was sort of comical the first few times around Terry and I would run past the turns. (I got a lot of practice turning on my scooter).

I say this to say if you are out riding on some back roads and see something like the above symbol you might just want to see where it takes you. It might just be the best road yet, and generally there is no worry of dirt roads or iffy bridges cause those cyclist tires are very skinny and do not do dirt or small slats well.

So if you ever have a chance to escort some cyclists try it, you may just discover some of the best back roads ever.

Oh I forgot, after the rides we were treated to a great lunch provided by the local Salvation Army. They really know how to cook and as we were told early they do not know how to just make a small amount.

So...can we really share the road with bicycles? You bet!.....Terry "Magellan" and Joan "Scooter" Ware

ALABAMA BACKROADS

Bob Steber

Ron Riggins took us on a great historical ride and tour Saturday, May 12, 2007, and I must tell you that Ron's knowledge and ability to tell us about Alabama's earliest history is phenomenal. Every one there came away with a great understanding of what happened in the early 1800's with the Creek Indian uprising starting at Burnt Corn Creek, the massacre at Ft. Mimms, and the defeat of the Red Stick Creeks at Horseshoe Bend that led to the peace treaty signed at Ft. Jackson which ceded most of the land that is present day Alabama. While at the Horseshoe Bend Military Park, Ron also arranged for one of the Park rangers, a friend, to give us a wonderful demonstration of what it was like to be one of Andy Jackson's soldiers on the day of the battle.



An infantryman fires his musket

After leaving Horseshoe Bend, we followed Ron to Ft. Toulouse/Ft. Jackson near Wetumpka, Alabama to see where the treaty was signed. While there we also saw how the folks of that time lived by viewing the reconstructed structures there.

All in all it was a great ride and tour over some great Alabama backroads. On our 273 mile round trip ride we checked off 14 ABEES places and added one great Ron Riggins' favorite road (Hwy 29 from Wetumpka through Weogufka to Sylacauga) for a total of 15 check offs. Wow!!

For those of you that have not visited Horseshoe Bend Military Park, you really should go at your earliest opportunity. The battle there is one of the most historically significant events that shaped not only our state, but



One of Andy Jackson's soldiers tells us how it was

also our nation. Be sure not to miss Ft. Mimms and Forts Toulouse and Jackson also.

To make your future rides easier to plan, just get your ABEES Travel Guide, select the places you want to see, pick out some favorite roads and eateries along the way, get on your bike and go exploring. If you do not have your ABEES Travel Guide yet, be sure to get one at the next Club gathering or contact Connie or me and one of us will mail it to you.

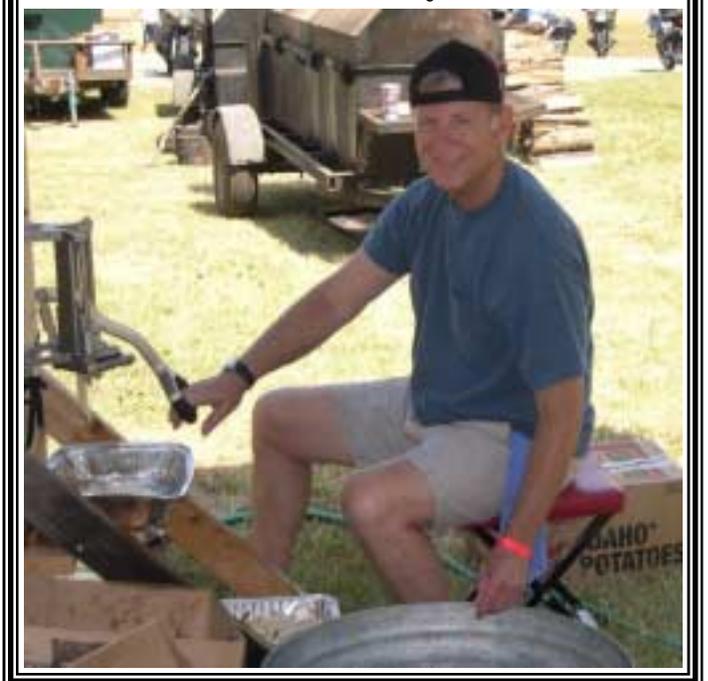


Ron explains how the pioneers lived at Ft. Toulouse.

See you down the backroads.



Great Chicken Rally - 2007





19th Great Chicken Rally, Huntsville Alabama - May 2007



JUNE 2007 MEETING

June 22 - 23
James H. "Sloppy" Floyd State
Park - Summerville, Georgia
(706) 857-0826
By Bob Steber

The entrance to James H. "Sloppy" Floyd State Park is 2.5 miles East of Summerville on US 27 at Sloppy Floyd Lake Road. There are State Park direction signs there and the campground is at the south end of the Park. We have 8 tent campsites reserved for Friday and Saturday nights, which are easily identified by our BMW signs. When you arrive, go directly to a campsite and set up, and please place your tents on the prepared camp sites and not on the grass. There can be up to 6 people

on each site. We will collect your camping fees during the weekend. The camping fee is \$20.00 per day for tent camping divided by the number of people there. There is also an additional one time \$3.00 park pass for each vehicle. If you are

going in an RV, or wish to have your own campsite, please call the Georgia Park Service central reservations desk at 1-800 864-7275 to make your reservation. The campground completely sold out early last year, so I suggest that you make your reservations quickly.

For those not wanting to camp, there is a nice little 24 room motel (Coach Inn) in Summerville at the junction of GA Highway 100/114 & US27. The address is 9785 Rome Blvd. Tel # 706 857-7007. A Smoking or non-smoking single king bed room is \$49.00 incl. tax and a room with two queen beds is \$56.00 incl. tax. Suites with multiple beds and Jacuzzis are also available from \$60.00 to \$70.00 (call for details). All of the rooms are very nice with fridge, microwave and coffee maker. If you want a room, I recommend you make your reservations as quickly as possible, because they are fully booked most of the time. Unfortunately, there is 5 day cancellation policy for room reservations.

Kim and Stan Reynolds will have a Bar-B-Q feast



Picnic Shelter

with beans, slaw, tea and sweets for \$10.00 ready for us at 5:30 - 6:00 pm Georgia time Saturday evening at their pavilion. They will also bring assorted breakfast biscuits to the campground at 7 am Georgia time (2 per person), orange

juice and coffee for our Saturday and Sunday morning breakfasts for \$3.00. Each campsite has electricity, water, fire rings and grills, so plan to bring some cooking stuff for your Friday night dinner, or you can go to a restaurant in Summerville. Jim's Family Restaurant is across Hwy 100 from the Coach Inn and is a good place to eat.

Please, double please let Connie know as soon as you possibly can (BAMABMW@aol.com), if you plan to attend and if you want lunch (during the Club ABEES ride) & dinner Saturday night, breakfast Saturday and Sunday mornings, and which nights you want to camp. Also, please tell her if you want to go on the Club ABEES ride which is described in the next paragraph. At this writing (May 29) there are only 8 additional camp sites left and they will all be gone by the time we get there.

Our back roads ride will depart Saturday morning leaving Sloppy Floyd campground at 9 am Georgia time. We will ride the Little River Canyon rim road to Dogtown for a fuel/restroom break (41 miles), so please be sure to have enough fuel for the first leg. After leaving Dogtown, we will ride through Desoto State Park and Mentone via highways 176 & CR 89 to Sallie Howard Memorial Chapel for a photo-opp and continue through Mountain Cove Farms, and Lafayette, then down Halls Valley Road for home cooked Hamburgers and Hotdogs at "Mama N'ems" on Kim Reynolds' folk's farm. After lunch, we will go by the entrance of Sloppy Floyd, so those not wishing to continue the last 76 miles of the ride can go directly to the campground. We will continue our ride over Johns Mountain, Everett Springs Rd., Little Sand Mtn. Rd., Silver Hill Rd. and back to Sloppy Floyd on Lick Skillet Rd. The ride is 191 miles and will cover some of the most exciting roads and beautiful scenery in our part of the country.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Sloppy Floyd June 22nd. This one is always a lot of fun.

BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

c/o Jamie Jackson - Editor
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Birmingham, Al 35235
jamiejackson@bellsouth.net

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

Jun 23/24	Sloppy Floyd Park	Summerville, GA
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

June 7-10	BMW RA rally Biltmore Estate, NC
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