

# THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

BMWMOA Chapter #5/ BMWRA Chapter #107



Volume XXXVII Issue 3

March 2008

## AMA RACES NEED BMWMOAL VOLUNTEERS

Lenn Rainwater

We have an opportunity to be involved with the AMA Honda Superbike Classic at Barber Motorsports Park on April 18-20. They are looking for sharp volunteers to help out, and I thought this would be a great way for us to enjoy the races and have fun. We are planning on having an area set aside just for us with a several canopies and coolers, food, and whatever else. If anyone wants to bring a camper or motor-home, that would be great as well.

The shifts are for half-day mainly on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. There are a few openings on Wednesday and Thursday. Of course, you can work more than one shift if you would like. The various positions still available are Hillside Marshals, Paddock Marshals, Race Control Security, Paddock Credentials, Main Credentials, Sponsor Hospitality, and Shipping and Receiving. Unless there is something specific you want to do, I will place you with other club members so that we are all together.

Each volunteer receives a t-shirt, cap, race admission, an extra 3-day admission ticket, and of course, parking pass, and free lunch. The only very small detail is that the volunteers need to pay

\$15. I know it seems odd to have to pay to volunteer but apparently that's the way it is with these type of events b/c of the commitment that is required. I guess they figure that if we pay, we are going to play. It cuts down on the no-shows and we all know how critical showing up can be for an event.

You can go to the website at [www.barbermotorsports.com/volunteer.php](http://www.barbermotorsports.com/volunteer.php) to get an application. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Lenn Rainwater. She is coordinating this for the club. Be sure to email or call her to let her know if you will be participating so we can get a head count for our setup and so we can be sure to assign you with other club members.

The assignments are filling up so don't wait to send in your application! We want to be sure to get the assignments we want.

Barber Motorsports Museum is also looking for volunteers. If you want to volunteer at the Museum, contact Michelle Gaither at [mgaither@barbermuseum.org](mailto:mgaither@barbermuseum.org).

**Visit the club web site at  
<http://bmwmoal.org>**

**Check out the new features on the menu.**

## RACER NATE KERN'S TRAILER BURGLARIZED

Burglars broke into BMW racer Nate Kern's trailer, taking several personal racing items, according to a police report.

The burglary took place at the BMW Motorcycles of Atlanta dealership over the weekend of January 12-13, Bob Woolridge, co-owner of the dealership, told police, according to an offense report from the Marietta Police Department. The trailer's doors were discovered open by employees at the dealership the morning of January 14.

Missing were two of Kern's Suomy helmets, Kern's custom Vanson racing suit, three pairs of Sidi boots, three sets of Chickhawk tire warmers and other parts, the police report stated. The black and white leathers carry BMW Xplor logos, and have a N8 logo on the hump and "Kern" across the back.

Police said the burglars appeared to have wiped fingerprints off the doors of the trailer and the cabinets where the gear was stored. Bob Woolridge also reported that a custom 8-foot-long aluminum ramp was stolen from his pickup truck.

Anyone with information should contact the Marietta Police Department at (770) 794-5300.

## MEETING MINUTES

February 24, 2008 9:00 AM

Blue Springs Camp Ground

President Connie Reaves presiding

Mari Harrelson, Secretary

Connie opened the meeting with a special thanks to Barbara and Don Little for once again warming us with their awesome chili, smores and breakfast. Thanks goes out to our Fly Boys, Steve, Jim and Dudley for the fire wood that helped to keep us warm on a very chilly night.

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.

We also have club t-shirts and raffle tickets. May is closing in on us so get your raffle tickets now. Remember 4 books sold gets you into the rally free. Contact me at [weridebmw@bellsouth.net](mailto:weridebmw@bellsouth.net) and I will get them right out.

Gary Nesmith and Bob Steber got up and talked about the upcoming meeting in Nauvoo. Gene McDaniel, the owner of the town is excited about "The Mild Ones" taking over his ghost town for the week end. They have wood available for us and Bob and Gary have met with the Deputy Sheriff and they are "prepared for us". Nauvoo is located between Jasper and Hamilton and you can find out more about it and the ride that Bob will be leading on Friday in the Newsletter. The charge for full hook up camp site is \$16.00 and tent and breakfast will be \$10.00 per night. On Friday dinner will be catered by Slick Lizard BBQ in the Hotel and on Saturday it will be a Country Dinner. The old RR museum will also be open to us. There is a shower for each, men and women and there are 2 rest-rooms. There will be a 100 mile ride on Saturday at 9:30 that will go to Natural Bridge, Dismal's Canyon (\$8.00 chg) and lunch at Hackleburg. This is a meeting you won't want to miss.

Currently all the rooms are booked in the Harbin (Nauvoo) Hotel but you can call them for standby reservations at 205-697-5652. T-shirts have been

designed by Gary and Darlene and will be for sale before event date. This is a really cute town going back in time and owned by the same man that owns the hotel and you can find out more about it on the forum and in this newsletter. Please order your t-shirt from Connie who is keeping the count.

Bob Steber visited High Valley which is on our list for June and was disappointed to find that they no longer cook but have dinner catered in. They have not responded back to him about arrangements for us to have our meeting there so he has made a recommendation that we look for another meeting spot for June.

John and Glenda Cockrell will be having a Shrimp Boil with some of the South Alabama folks on April 21 in Pensacola at Big Lagoon-Governor's pavilion. All are welcome and if you want to camp you need to make reservations through Reserve America, link and further information are on the forum.

Steve Shuckman has done a great job of making ABEES list easy to work with on the Forum. You can now sort by city or code or alphabetize and you can print it out like you prefer your route. Be sure to check it out and give it a try. The new ABEES books will be ready for the next meeting.

Lynn Rainwater is working with Barbers and Zoom Motorsports to find volunteers to work events at Barbers. They are looking for quality people to work the Paddock, Museum and on the Hill. If we have a number of BMW members interested Lynn has volunteered to be in charge of setting up a refreshment/break area for our group where we can watch the races and relax when not working. Connie has some applications or you can contact Lynn, she is in the blue book.

Connie has the new spring schedule for the Traffic Safety Center so contact her if you are interested or know anyone who is.

50/50 split this month is \$73.00 and was won by Bob Sweeney.

Until next time.....RIDE SAFE AND BE HAPPY.....Mari Harrelson

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Tom Barnett
- 2 Eric Stinson
- 2 Paul McBrayer
- 5 Randy Blair
- 5 Sandra Owen
- 8 Julie Corl
- 8 Tim McGee
- 9 Randall McMurtrey
- 11 Susan Goertz
- 13 Stephen Pearce
- 14 Jim Baker
- 14 Tom Binford
- 17 Perry Aaron
- 18 Glenn Baird
- 18 Jack Goertz
- 19 Cary McCormick
- 20 Vishell Ehl
- 21 Suzanne Hebert
- 22 Robby Atchison
- 23 Lenn Rainwater
- 25 Walter Daniel
- 26 Tammy Baker
- 26 J. Bruce Huffman
- 28 Debra Keller
- 29 Don Hamblin



Who knew that Don Drasheff had a home life as well as all his other accomplishments? His lovely wife and grandchild attended the campout and Don kept everyone entertained with the baby.

(I am very proud to be part of a club that is family friendly. [ed.]

## THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Phillip Warren,s mom, 93, has been in ICU because of a very large aneurysm on her aorta. She underwent the procedure that placed a stint at the location of the aneurysm. So far, the procedure appears to be successful and Phillip thinks she will be able to be moved into a private room in a day or two, and then go home. He said she was responding very well and looking forward to going home.

## NEW MEMBERS

Don & Leigh Delashaw Hoover, AL Sponsor: Vance Harrelson

## FOR SALE

### 2004 BMW R1150RT - 42K Miles - \$10,500.00

One owner, purchased new in December 2004. Meticulously maintained. Serviced every 6K. Final drive resealed and new pivot bearings installed. Alternator belt changed at 36K. Metzeler Z6 Rubber is about 50% at present.

Will be happy to assist a fly and ride buyer or delivery is available for additional charge.

See Photos At:

<http://vanmar.smugmug.com/gallery/4246110/1/248512718>

### Options Include:

BMW Heated Grips, BMW Comfort Seat, BMW Side Bags, BMW Top Case W/Back Pad, ZTechnik V-Stream Windshield, Sirius Radio Mount & Antenna, Auxiliary Handlebar Mounted Mirrors, Bob's Wrist Rest & Matching Bar End Weight, Auxiliary Centek AP-1 Fuse Panel, Moto Lights, Elf Fold Away Highway Pegs, Additional LED Brake Light, Bob's Sidestand Plate, Kisan Signal Minder, Hyper-Light Turn Signals Mounted Beneath Mirrors, RCU Accessory Shelf.

Contact: Vance Harrelson (Cell) 205.915.5188 or 205.621.1682

[02]

## **PART 2 OF A BRAZIL ADVENTURE 2007**

Don G Norwood

### **Rio de Janeiro**

Rio is the second largest city. Carnival is the biggest event in Rio and Brazil. If I had to describe [Rio de Janeiro](#) to anyone in a sentence I would say that is was like New York City surrounded by white beaches and giant lagoon in the middle instead of Central Park. This is a Fun City. Great food, beaches, beaches, beaches, with the sites on the beaches hard on the eyes and play with your mind, soccer any day all day and night everywhere, night life starts about 2 AM with the favorite spots having long lines to enter starting about midnight. You can view the [Christ](#) from just about any point in Rio and you can see Sugar Loaf Mountain as well. There was a high presence of tourist police and groups of military police everywhere in the tourist locations and the market areas. Rio like any major US city has certain area you want to avoid at night or by yourself. I never felt threaten at any time, but this blue eyed light skinned pot belly human had tourist written all over me. A simple wave of the index figure and no and they backed off. Of course most of the time I had a Brazilian escort with me, either Fernanda or her dad or mom.

### **Small World Story**

My host in Rio was Fernanda's Aunt and Uncle. Her Aunt a federal lawyer and her husband the BMW (Cars & Bikes) sales manager. Talk about small world story... a few months ago, Davis the tour operator dropped in the BMW place to pick up a part, as he was talking with the manager, Davis mentioned that he operated the motorcycle tour company and used BMW bikes, the response from the manager was "yes and Don Norwood from Alabama USA will be coming to do your tour" Davis with dropped jaw responded how do you know that? His Brazilian daughter is my niece. Now as I mentioned before, Salvador, where Fernanda lives is 900 hundred miles from Rio and I am 5000 miles from Salvador and when Fernanda came to our home, I had just purchased my first BMW bike in 2000.

### **The tour begins**

Rio is about three hour flight from Salvador, Fernanda and I arrived a few days before the tour was to start so we got a jump start on seeing some of the sites and sounds and did I mention food. She was going to spend the next few months in Rio de Janeiro staying with her Aunt and studying Brazil federal law via videoconference. So this was just a another great part of this trip, the timing was perfect,

Fernanda had family in Rio, as we started Spring in the USA, they started their Fall, temps in the day where 80 to 85 and night was 70 and in the mountains about 55 to 60 F.

The tour include the host hotel on [Ipenima beach](#), the use of the bikes, food, fuel, tolls, support vehicle and driver, spare bike, helicopter tour of Rio De Janeiro, night out on the town and vehicle tour of Rio De Janeiro to see sights such as the Christ, Sugar Loaf and other attractions. Saturday, after the lunch where we all got to meet each other, most spend the afternoon and early evening getting over the jet lag...then it was time to see the night lights...as I mentioned the night life starts about 2 AM, but we came in a little earlier and ready for Sunday morning helicopter tour and to see the Christ. Sunday night we had dinner at one of Rio's favorite places on [Cocobanca beach](#) area.

If I had to describe Davis the tour owner in a short sentence it would be... he loves fine food and plenty of it...he likes only the best accommodations and has a wealth of knowledge about Brazil and it's history. That was true the entire tour, only the best that Brazil had to offer. Even the snack, which was on our own, those stops where selected to further enjoy the flavor and history of that wonderful country.

### **Monday we start on the Bikes**

After a weekend of Rio De Janeiro we are transported over to the BMW dealership, there the bikes have been prepped for the ride and we finish our paperwork, International driver licenses, insurance forms, load the complimentary side bags that Davis has furnished us to use and keep into the panniers. Ok, here we go, head South along the Atlanta Coast for a day's ride, our destination is [Paraty](#) a world heritage town and located near the Coast.

I am posting links to pictures that will better describe the beautiful sites and countryside than I can ever put into words. Check info at the end of article.

### **Headed to the mountains**

Tuesday, we head inland and into the mountains. Our route carried us past many small villages and towns and into the mountains, school children and folks waves us on. We caught plenty of attention in our riding gear. The environment has changed to less traffic, mostly supply trucks, buses which is the mode of travel, small motorbikes used to deliver water, propane and mail and supplies. Since the truckers are paid by the month usually they would simple pull over and signal us to pass...they are in no hurry. We now see a lot of livestock, farms, plantations, and folks using carts and horses and

bicycles. Flowers are so plentiful; as you will see by the pictures it was like riding through a botanical garden.

### **Tour turns to Adventure**

As nightfall catches us we have arrived near our destination, we stop and Davis gives us a chance to switch to the support vehicle for the trip off the mountain into the valley to the restored Coffee Plantation. He explains that the road is packed dirt and gravel and we will be descending the mountain into the valley. We all agree that doesn't sound to bad, so we all head out on the bikes.....well it dark and I'm glad it was...the road wasn't that bad...but...

We are greeted by the owners and staff of this restored plantation, our gear is all handled by the staff and we are shown are rooms. The plantation had about 10 private rooms with baths; very nice, rustic...again the pictures will tell the tale...

I headed to my room to shower before dinner, as I sat down I noticed the fine room decorations, very tall ceiling 14 feet or so, nice paintings, old hats hanging on the walls, I love the décor, now look that interesting... wonder why they would put that so high up the wall... wow, this is the mother of all spiders...wait it's moving, hold on...hey wait a minute that a [Brazilian tarantula](#)... it was a big as my hand... The servants came in with a small broom and pan, they had done this before!!! IT is now an ADVENTURE.

Yes, I did look under the bed before I went to bed. Under the sheets, under blankets, under the furniture too! Actually they are quite harmless, but so are most snakes!

### **Parador Lumiar**

Our next day to traveled to Parador Lumiar another mountain retreat, except this time Davis figured that since we had ridden the packed roads down the mountain, we could ride up the mountain top to this resort...well Davis is a very good experienced rider, but now we where in light rain and muddy road up the mountains, well we all made it just fine, but the next morning we ferried the street bikes down and took the support vehicle.

Again the picture link and the link to the resort will tell more, but simply fantastic area.

### **Buzios, Bridget's hideaway**

We headed back to the coast today to the resort town of [Buzios](#) made famous by movie star Bridget Bardo in the late 50's .. This resort town is located north of Rio de Janeiro, so we have now made a full have circle around the Rio, all this is in the State of Rio. Here we again enjoyed the evening and took a

water taxi to see the beaches, walk into town for a dinner and do some shopping.

Next we head back into the mountains, to about 60 miles north of Rio de Janeiro to the mountain villa of our tour owner. This place was out of this world beautiful, check the picture link and I have enclosed the web site as well.

### **Ouro Preto, a World Heritage Center**

Claudia that has ridden up from Rio joins us at the villa and Fernanda has caught an express bus out of Rio to the Villa. They will join us for the last couple of days of the adventure. We have a BBQ Friday night, some swim and we just relax. Saturday morning we head out for the longest leg of the ride to the mountain city of [Ouro Preto](#) another world heritage center...this town had the European influence, more cobblestone steep street than would rival San Francisco and so many towering churches. See link.

Saturday Bob and Fred depart for Rio de Janeiro for some day sightseeing before catching their return flight.

Sunday morning we head to back to the headquarters mountain villa, this time we do all back roads. The roads are really good, while they where many police checkpoints, we where never ask to stop...just thumbs up and go. So many sweeping turns, switchbacks that reminded me of a mix between Western North Carolina and the Rockies.

The roadside and countryside was a deep lush green, waterfalls, flowers and wildlife. We shared the road with many carts and horses and folks on horseback.

### **Back to Rio, Sugarloaf Mountain at Sunset**

We return Sunday afternoon, Ron and Barbara have a late departure flight to Atlanta, Fernanda and Claudia return to Rio as well. Tony and I remain and just kick back on Monday and relax and help Davis catalog many pictures, we took about 4000 pictures between all of us. Tuesday Tony and I head to Rio to again meet Fernanda for a lunch and sunset trip up to [Sugarloaf](#) Mountain before we say our goodbyes and catch our flight home.

Many have viewed the pictures and many have asked...would you do it again? Yes, in a heartbeat... I am already thinking about 2009.

Here are a few links:

### **Picture gallery of the tour**

<http://dongnorwood.smugmug.com/Motorcycle%20Tours%20and%20Adventures/303130>

## Tour headquarters

<http://www.macawnest.com/>

## Brazil Motor website with tour rate information

[http://www.brazilmoto.com/frameset\\_rates.html](http://www.brazilmoto.com/frameset_rates.html)

## Host hotel in Rio de Janeiro Ipanema beach

<http://www.ipanemaplazahotel.com/>

## Ouro Preto

<http://www3.telus.net/braziliana/ouopreto.html>

## Ouro Preto our hotel

<http://www.mondego.com.br/>

## Link two of our locations **Buzios and Paraty**

<http://www.pousadacorsario.com.br/>

## Link to **Parador Lumiar**

<http://www.paradorlumiar.com/english/index.htm>

## Cost factors and other helpful information as of March 2007

- The tour (adventure) included just about everything, even pick up and delivery from airport.
- Ballpark price \$3800 to \$5500 depends on length of tour, single or two up.
- Passport. If you don't have one... the wait could be several weeks
- Travel VISA ... about \$120. With certified mailing. Takes about two weeks good for 1800 days.
- I checked with my health insurance carrier... they gave me number to call for any emergency and how to handle sickness or injury... I was covered.
- I have [MedJet Assist](#), for emergency airlift from anywhere to my designated hospital. About \$175 per year
- International Drivers Licenses with motorbike endorsement...\$10-\$20
- All my medical and vaccinations where up to date.
- Round trip airfare Atlanta to Rio De Janeiro INT and return, shop early, from \$700 to \$1300 per person. I used Delta non-stop service on the return trip.
- Bike insurance, check to see if your carrier covers a rented bike as well.

American dollar was better than 2 to 1 then, but changes daily.

## A few of Don's pictures of Brazil



Cobblestone road and tunnel in curve...WOW!



A beautiful mountain road.



A countryside school house.

## MARCH MEETING DETAILS

Bob Steber

**Where:** Old Harbin Hotel & Campground, McDaniel Ave & 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Nauvoo, AL. Phone: (205) 697-5652

**When:** Friday & Saturday March 28 & 29.

*"It's every biker's dream to ride in and take over a town."*

Gary Nesmith

Make your dream come true and join your fellow Alabeemers in Nauvoo, Alabama for the March rumble in Nauvoo. We will take over this old mining town for two days, and while there, enjoy the hospitality of Gene and Eurlene McDaniel, owners of the Old Harbin Hotel and most of the rest of town. They will prepare a hardy breakfast for us on Saturday and Sunday mornings and dinner Friday and Saturday night. Breakfast is included with the daily tent camping charge of \$10.00, and dinners will be \$12.00. Friday night's dinner will be a BBQ feast from the famous Slick Lizard BBQ restaurant located near Nauvoo. Saturday night will be home made country cooking with all the trimmings. The meals will be served in the hotel ballroom.

Breakfast is also included with the hotel accommodations and full hook-up RV camping which is \$16.00 per night. All of the Hotel rooms are booked by our club members, but there is a waiting list in case someone cancels. There is a little motel in Natural Bridge, AL, the Natural Bridge Motel which is 11 miles north of Nauvoo on Alabama 5. I have not been there and can't vouch for the room quality. The rates are low though. (Tel. # (205) 486-5261). Other motels are available in Jasper, about 18 miles SE of Nauvoo.

We will go for a group ABEES exploring ride Saturday morning leaving from in front of the Old Harbin Hotel at 9:00 am to see the Natural Bridge (small admission charge) and from there, ride some great back-roads to the Dismals Canyon near Phil Campbell, Alabama. Lunch will be at Grace's Place in Hackleburg before touring the Dismals. Our ride back to Nauvoo will be over more great back-roads returning around 4 pm and will be 91 miles round trip.

"Dismals Canyon (<http://www.dismalscanyon.com/thecanyon/index.html>) offers a quiet and unspoiled oasis in Alabama's last secret hiding place. It is in a secluded wilderness filled with natural phenomena tucked deep within the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Our visit is a step back to the time when the earth was clean and the water was clear. Aside from the necessary clearing of the trails, the area is now - as it has been for centuries - completely natural. Its waterfalls, natural bridges, cliffs and boulders give this place a mysterious ambiance. Until an ice storm destroyed one of them, twin Canadian Hemlocks towered up from the canyon floor. One of them remains and looks sturdy and healthy for its 350 years. It is 138' tall, 8'9" around and has a crown spread of 50'. It is the largest of its species in Alabama and thought to be the largest anywhere in the world."

The hike through Dismals Canyon is about 1 ½ miles, but not difficult and will take about 2 hours allowing time to stop to admire the wonderful scenery. There is an admission charge of \$ 9.00 for adults with a \$1.00 discount for seniors 60 and older.

Please let Connie know which night(s) you plan to camp and which meals you want. Also, please tell her if you are going on the Saturday morning ride.

## ABEES NEWS YOU CAN USE

Bob Steber

The 2008 ABEES Touring Guide has been made to be more user friendly by organizing the cities in alphabetical order rather than by Region. This will make it much easier for you to find you're Cities when you are traveling and planning your rides. The 2008 Guide will be ready to hand out at our Nauvoo meeting in March.

Take a look at the new ABEES features on our website forums ([www.bmwmoal.org](http://www.bmwmoal.org)). Steve Shuckman has done a fabulous job placing the Touring Guide on line. Not only that, you have an HTML version that makes it easy to sort the information in various ways. One important sort is by Code. Simply point to Code and it automatically does the sort. By making this sort, you can easily select you're desired POIs like Covered Bridges, Waterfalls, Wineries, Courthouses and BBQ Joints. You now have easy access to the individual locations without scanning the entire Guide. Give it a try, it's easy.

We are in the process of adding all of the Favorite Roads and Rides as Garmin files in the Favorite Roads and Rides section. There are several rides there now, so check out this new feature too.

Here is the information for our Great Bogart's 2008 riding challenge and rules to qualify for tickets to win Bryson's Olympia Jacket. Good luck everyone.

### The Great Bogart's Motorsports - BMWMOAL 2008 Riding Challenge Rules

It's easy to become eligible to win Bogart's jacket. All you need to do is:

(1) Ride your motorcycle to twenty or more places that are listed in the ABEES Touring Guide including the Club meetings attended and Favorite Roads and Rides ridden in any region ----- **One Ticket**

After checking off the first 20 locations you will receive bonus tickets for the following:

(2) Each additional twenty places visited ----- **One Bonus Ticket**

(3) Each monthly meeting attended ----- **One Bonus Ticket**

(4) Each of the seven "Extremely Alabama" locations you visit ----- **One Bonus Ticket**

NW-Waterloo, NE - Long Island, SW - Bayou la Batre

SE - Chattahoochee S P

Central - Main Hall, University of Montevallo marker on the steps

Highest - Mt. Cheaha Rock Tower, Lowest - Pink Pony Pub, Gulf Shores

(5) The All-Around Alabama Challenge in less than 48 hours. ----- **Ten Bonus Tickets**

(6) Checking off any 10 POIs or all, if less than 10 mini challenges that are

listed below----- **One Bonus Ticket**

+++ The Hallelujah Trail, # Covered Bridges, \*\*\* Waterfalls, ### Wineries

The drawing for Bogart's Olympia AST riding jacket will be held at our January, 2009 Montevallo meeting and you have until December 31, 2008 to complete your rides. Attendance at the meeting is not necessary to win, but you will have a lot of fun when Vance pulls out his ticket machine and the drawing begins.

When you finish checking off the initial twenty ABEES places, send your counts to Bob Steber ([bsteberbtr@gmail.com](mailto:bsteberbtr@gmail.com)) for accounting purposes. Some photos and stories about your favorite places and eateries that you discovered along your journey to share with our fellow club members will be appreciated.

The grand prize for our 2008 BMWMOAL Bogart's - BMWMOAL Riding Challenge is an Olympia AST riding jacket donated by Bryson Stephens at Bogart's Motorsports. Thank you Bryson!!!!

## A sampling of activity at Blue Springs



Has Gail sworn off camping? Again?



Campout hosts Don and Barbara Little.



Serious club business in progress



Everyone was pleased to meet Mrs. Drasheff

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

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

NEW \_\_\_ RENEW \_\_\_ UPDATE \_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## IT'S COMING SOON!!

Connie Reaves

The nice Spring weather is coming soon ! I've got cabin fever because I'm like a big bear that just wants to hibernate when I'm cold. So very soon, Ellie May, Punkin' and myself will be out terrorizing the highways regular-like.

The Little's chili was great at the last meeting, and I know everyone there was grateful for Steve Hebert and Jim Kalahan taking that load of firewood to the campsite on Friday. We definitely needed it. It was a chilly night that night. It sure is nice to have so many folks always ready to step up and help with these campouts/meetings. This was Steve's last meeting for a while. He'll be overseas for about a year. I've told him to keep in touch with us whenever he can. But Jim Kalahan, and our other recently joined fly-boy, Dudley Carver, plan to keep the club entertained with their presence. Gary Du-bois only has one less to spar with so he can't relax yet.

It's time to start thinking about who you want to vote for to receive the annual "Russ Simpson Award" at our rally this year. Jeannine Arnold, your Membership Director, will be taking your calls, e-mails and mailed votes, and will handle getting the award plaque made, and the plate for the large plaque that we display at the rally each year. I sure have my person in mind and I will be getting my vote in to Jeannine soon.

The new Rally Page is on our website. It has a form that can be printed and mailed in to pre-register this year. But the most exciting part is Steve Schuckman's design of our rally page. Heck, who else does it as well as the Alabama club, and now our website clearly shows all aspects of our rally and how much fun it would be to attend. The scrolling pictures of last year's rally at the bottom, is clearly the topper for me. Thanks Steve, for the wonderful page and the image you are helping this club project.

When you read the meeting details in Bob Steber's article for March in Nauvoo, please add in to your reservations you send me whether you want one of the t-shirts we are getting made for that event. Gary Nesmith's vision of "The MILD Ones" where our club rides in and takes over the town, is what the t-shirt will be all about. We are still getting the info on what color they will be and how much they will be, but the "soon-to-be" son-in-law of our Vice-President and Secretary is the one printing them,

so we're all betting we get a VERY good price. (Yep, I'm still grinning after that was announced at the Feb. meeting)

Raffle tickets sales need to be stepped up !!! The rally is getting closer than you realize. I know, we spout this off every year, but hey, it is one of the biggest draws of our rally and the money goes to folks who we also get back from, so come on and sell a few. They aren't hard to sell at all if you open your mouth and mention you have them. Getting gas, eating somewhere, being at a rally, or at 29 Dreams, or even over at Bogart's. Wherever someone sees you on your bike, they will generally buy a \$5.00 ticket from you if you just say you have them. Try it, it really works !!

Well, the weekend is looking good and I think I'm going out and see if I can chalk up some ABEES points. Maybe Punkin Saturday and Ellie May Sunday. Take your bike out for a ride. It'll cut down on the whining and get rid of the cabin fever.



Chili cookin' and serious conversation at Blue Springs



## LET'S GO CRUSIN'

Mari Harrelson

For those of you that joined us this year on the Holiday I hope you had a great time. We are planning next year's cruise to make the best of the prices and space available. We have chosen something a little different for 2009. The Fascination will be coming to Jacksonville soon and we will be taking it to Key West and Nassau. The Fascination is a much larger ship, 70,367 tons, 855 feet long, 103 feet wide vs. the Holiday 46,052 ton, 727 feet long, 92 feet wide. It carries an additional 500 hundred passengers and 250 staff. There are a few more entertainment areas and my favorite, the sushi bar, all the free sushi you can eat every evening before dinner.

Key West has the following things to do, just to name a few: Historical Trolley Tour, Pirate Soul Museum, Butterfly Conservatory & Key West Aquarium, Parasailing, Key West Bike Tour and a Certified Two-Tank Dive. There are also lots of cool shopping and bars, some clothing optional. This is one place you will see things you may never see again if you keep your eyes open. Vance and I have had some real fun just people watching.

Nassau has a Glass-Bottom Boat, Historical Highlights Tour, Cable Beach Golf Club, Thriller Powerboat to Blackbeard's Cay with Stingrays Snorkel, Ardastra Gardens Zoo and City Tour and Discover Atlantis and Historical Harbour Cruise. There are also lots of cool shopping and bars. It has been my experience that you can't miss seeing Atlantis, it is simply fantastic.

You can go to [carnival.com/shoreexcursions](http://carnival.com/shoreexcursions) to see more of the excursions available.

If we get enough people signed up, 50 minimum, we can rent a bus and driver for an additional fee and party our way there and back. Deposits are due by the end of March so don't hold out. Don't miss out on the time of your life and a great t-shirt to top it off. For those that have never joined us for our group cruises we all dine together in one section, room in the same area and have a great time together or on your own. Don't miss out!! Call Vanessa Gamble at 205-978-7030 for reservation.



# CARNIVAL FASCINATION<sup>SM</sup>

Don't just take a vacation. Take the vacation that's just more fun.

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from

INTERIOR	OCEANVIEW
<b>\$395</b>	<b>\$445</b>

Fuel supplement additional \$5 per guest, per day.\*

\*Cruise rates and capacity extended to full dates per guest without an double occupancy. Government fees/taxes are included. Air transportation is additional for all guests. Based on available air rates. Airfares include: round-trip airfare, taxes, and airport fees. \*Fuel supplement of \$5 per guest, per day based on double occupancy. Tax and fee supplement for meals of \$4.00 or higher to full per guest. Age, Smoking, The Balance and Terms.

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Fax: 205-978-7025  
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**5 Day Key West & Bahamas Itinerary**

DAY	PORT	ARRIVE	DEPART
Mon.	Jacksonville		4:00 P.M.
Tue.	"Fun Day" at Sea		
Wed.	Key West	7:00 A.M.	3:00 P.M.
Thurs.	Nassau	11:00 A.M.	10:00 P.M.
Fri.	"Fun Day" at Sea		
Sat.	Jacksonville	8:00 A.M.	

**Carnival**  
The Fun Ships.

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# BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

c/o Jamie Jackson - Editor  
1308 Stonecrest Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35235  
jamiejackson@bellsouth.net

**Dedicated to safe and enjoyable motorcycling**



**Please visit the BMWMOAL web site at [www.bmwmoal.org](http://www.bmwmoal.org) and register. Log on and see what members are saying about club activities. The site is user friendly and the newsletter is in color.**

## **Club Sponsored Events With Meetings**

Mar 29 - 30 Harbin Hotel & City Park Nauvoo, AL  
Apr 26 - 27 Moundville Park, Moundville, AL  
May 22 - 25 Great Chicken Rally Huntsville, AL  
Jun 28 - 29 TBA  
Jul 26 - 27 Guntersville Park, Guntersville, AL  
Aug 30 - 31 Blue Ridge MC Cmpgrnd Cruso, NC  
Sep 27 - 28 Shell Mound Campground  
Nickajack Dam, Jasper, TN  
Oct 25 - 26 Waggoners RibFest, Centerville, TN  
Dec 6 Christmas party (To be announced)

## **Other Events of Interest**

Jul 17 - 19 BMWMOA Int'nl Rally, Gillette WY  
Aug 28 - 30 Curve Cowboy Reunion Midway, Utah