March 2011

THE ALABAMA BEEMER

Monthly Newsletter of the
BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama
BMWMOA Chapter #5/ BMWRA Chapter #107

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2011 RAFFLE TICKETS for G650GS

$5.00 PER TICKET

Please contact Connie Reaves to get your books to sell.
Rally@BMWMOAL.org or
BAMABMW@aol.com

Four books sold gets you free entry into the Great Chicken Rally.

Don't forget to purchase some for yourself.

Remember, the extra money goes to the Montevallo Safety Program and the Head Injury Foundation, so do your part and make an effort to try and sell a few. It's not that hard.

There is a GREAT CHICKEN TROPHY for the highest ticket seller which will be given away at the rally. Darlene Massey won it last year.


And don't forget to visit the club website at www.bmwmoal.org for information and forums!

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Please stop by and “like” our page!


And don't forget to visit the club website at www.bmwmoal.org for information and forums!


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Blue Skies Over Blue Springs!
Vance Harrelson

Well, it finally happened! A meeting in February in Blue Springs, AL with no blue lips! The norm of course for this meeting is freezing temperatures, howling winds and occasionally even a snowy ride home! Well, this meeting gives hope that old man winter is in fact retreating and fair weather will return!

We had a great turnout beginning on Friday afternoon and I arrived just before dark. What I found was a group of the faithful gathered beneath the pavilion enjoying Jim and Sheila Kalahan’s creation called “goulash” accompanied by cole slaw and a three layer salad. Of course the tables had been completely decorated with brightly colored table cloths, props and centerpieces! Once again, the bar has been set quite high for our club meetings. I may need to figure out just how to attach a neck tie to my riding jacket as we keep this up! (That is a joke of course) but we all do appreciate the efforts of the meeting hosts to enhance our experience! Thanks again to Kalahan’s for putting me up (and putting up with me...as sometimes I snore...no really) in the rented RV they had. Kept me from setting up my tent in the dark!

Saturday brought a beautiful morning that called us all to ride...well except Jamie and Malvene, but that is their story...not mine. Of course Russ and Roxanne put on a great breakfast of pancakes and sausage first to get all us all ready for the day’s activities! Afterward, several of us GS’ers including Gator on his new bike visited the abandoned Wright Memorial Cemetery that Kalahan had spotted from his helicopter a couple years ago. This required the navigation of about a mile and a half of fairly rough dirt road littered with puddles and ruts and boy that Gator handled it with ease I tell you. I think he had such a good time heck he may have knobbies on that GS next time we see him!

Afterward a whole slew of Beemers met in Abbeville at Huggin’ Mollies for a great time of lunch and fellowship. I tell you a row of Beemers parked in front of that place draws some attention indeed!

Saturday evening we got what we all came for in the first place...a Little Chili! And of course we were not disappointed! Don has redesigned his fire tubs and created a great wood burning heater...that he really should patent! The fire pit provided a great place to gather and “kick tires” as usual. There were plenty of fixins and my favorite chili topping of jalapenos for topping it all off...yum...yum! Thanks to Don and Barbara once again for hosting this great meeting!

Vernon Headrick has suggested that as a club we might want to Adopt-A-Mile somewhere in the state. This is a program that many are familiar with where we would agree to provide litter pick up for this stretch on a periodic basis. In return they will provide a nice sign emblazoned with our name indicating that we are keeping that stretch clean. In order to do this...first we have to commit to it and second we would need to identify the mile...and that may be a tough thing to do! I am planning to make a forum post on our website to discuss the merits of this program before we decide to do it. I invite you to check out the forum and comment on this idea. If you prefer not to visit the forum, well then you can email me with comments or questions. I think this would be a great way to bring a great service to a favorite stretch of road and shine a positive light on our club at the same time! Let me hear from you on this subject!

Just a reminder about riding programs we have for this year. First is the Explore Alabama program that benefits the Eldridge Children’s Home. This is a fun and easy way to ride the state and benefit a great cause at the home. While you are out riding around you should at least keep up with the miles...right? We are asking that club members register their bikes and mileages to see just how many miles we ride as a club this year. There is an easy to fill out form on the website where you list your bikes and that is all you do! Again, complete details on these programs are available online or contact our Travel Director Martin Benson travel@bmwmoal.org for more information!

Next month we will be in the great state of Louisiana for our first monthly club meeting held there. This will be at the home of Mike and Amelia Bauman and they have planned a big party for us. If you are not already aware of this you should know that we have a great group of members from LA that I refer affectionately to as the “Cajun Contingent” and they are really excited about having us down that way. So much so that Bayou Bikers club down there voted to donate $100 to the cause to offset some of our cost to come that way! A special THANK YOU from us to you all for being such kind hosts! We are looking forward to “passing a good time” down your way in a few weeks!
The Birth of BMW
(This is the first installment of several in a series to tell the history of BMW motorcycles. ~ R. Williamson, Editor)

BMW stands for “Bayerische Motoren Werke,” or in English: “Bavarian Motor Works”. As most of us already know, they are a German automobile, motorcycle and engine manufacturing company. What we may not all know, is that they were founded in 1917 as the off shoot of the Rapp Motorenwerke.

Only ten years after the first flight by the Wright Brothers at Kitty hawk, NC, the Rapp Motorenwerke was founded in 1913 to build and sell internal combustion engines for aircraft and other motor vehicles. Before World War I, Rapp produced both in-line 6 cylinder and V-8 water-cooled aeroengines. All of Rapp’s designs were overhead cam, with forged steel liners screwed to cast steel heads. The aeroengines produced by Rapp were easily distinguished from the other aeroengines, because all the cylinders were in pairs, (something BMW would later continue in their motorcycles.)

When World War I broke out, it was Franz Josef Popp who lobbied German military authorities to place orders with Rapp Motorenwerke (Popp would later become the one of three men responsible for the founding of BMW and their First General Director). ... The German Military then placed orders for the manufacture of engines under license from the Austro-Daimler aircraft engine company. With the influx of capital, the company expanded rapidly. Popp then convinced Max Friz, an aircraft engine designer and engineer at Daimler, to come to Munich to assist in development and expansion. With Friz’ arrival in 1916, the original Rapp designs were also worked on to create a "high altitude" aeroengine that would give the Imperial Army strategic air superiority in combat (since the atmospheric pressure decreases the higher a pilot flies a plane, a conventional engine at this time literally stalled out above 3,000 meters).

In the spring of 1917, as Friz was working at the drawing board on his groundbreaking engine, the outlook for Rapp Motorenwerke was poor. The Army High Command wanted to commit itself to just a few types of aircraft and aeroengine and then get these built under license by several companies. In the spring of 1917 a commission from the Reichswehr therefore inspected the Rapp engine plant. They had to decide which engine would in future have to be produced under license in Munich. In the end, the Rapp management was faced with the choice of manufacturing either Daimler or Benz engines. However, Franz Josef Popp seized the opportunity to present their new engine to the commission of experts, an engine which up till then had only existed in Max Friz’s drawings.

The interest shown by the officers was considerable, and soon there was no more talk of the Rapp engine factory being relegated to the rank of a mere assembler. In fact, the Reichswehr was so impressed by the new engine that it placed an order for 600 units, even before a single prototype had been produced. The aeroengine developed by Friz had turned Rapp Motorenwerke into an essential contributor to the war effort virtually overnight.
On 20 May 1917, Rapp Motorenwerke registered the documentation for the construction design for the new engine, dubbed project "BBE". Max Friz’s design was laid out as an in-line six cylinder, which guaranteed optimum balance, and therefore few vibrations. The engine was successful, but the real breakthrough came in 1917, when Friz integrated a basically simple throttle butterfly into the "high-altitude carburetor," enabling the engine to develop its full power high above the ground. This is precisely the reason why the engine, now dubbed "Type IIIa", had unique superiority in air combat. The water-cooled in-line 6 cylinder engine’s reputation grew very quickly. Franz-Zeno Diemer, the pioneering aviator, sets a new world altitude record with a 32,000 ft. flight in 1919 using the BMW IVa engine.

It was the success of this engine that allowed the company to grow exceptionally fast, necessitating the restructuring of the company. In 1917, Rapp Motorenwerke is renamed Bayerische Motoren Werke. Max Friz, was named the Design Director for BMW, and he continued to design further aircraft engines which strengthened BMW’s reputation into later years.

With the end of World War I, and the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on 28 June 1919, all German manufacturers were forbidden from production of aircraft design. This necessitated the need for new avenues of growth for the company. Friz, with his designs and engineering expertise, decided to launch BMW into full motorcycle production. ... At that time, BMW was manufacturing their flat-twin M2B15 engine for Victoria Werke of Nuremberg. The engine was initially intended as a portable industrial engine, but found its main use in Victoria motorcycles. The engine was also used in the Helios motorcycle built by Bayerisch Flugzeug, which was later merged into BMW. The General Director of BMW Franz Josef Popp asked Design Director Max Friz to assess the Helios motorcycle, and upon completing his assessment, Friz suggested to Popp that the best thing that could be done with the Helios would be to dump it in the nearest lake. More specifically, Friz condemned the Douglas-style transverse-crankshaft layout, which heavily restricted the cooling of the rear cylinder. Popp and Friz then agreed to a near-term solution of redesigning the Helios to make it more salable and a long-term solution of an all new motorcycle design. This new design was designated the BMW R32 and began production in 1923, becoming the first motorcycle to be badged as a BMW. The M2B33 engine in the R32 had a displacement of 486 cc and had aluminum alloy cylinders and a light alloy cylinder head. The engine produced 8.5 hp, which propelled the R32 to a top speed of 59 mph. The engine and gear box formed a single unit. The new engine featured a recirculating wet sump oiling system at a time when most
motorcycle manufacturers used a total-loss oiling system. To counter the cooling problems encountered with the Helios, Friz oriented the R32's M2B33 boxer engine with the cylinder heads projecting out on each side for cooling, as used in the earlier British-manufactured ABC. Unlike the ABC, however, the R32 used shaft final drive from a flexible coupling on the gearbox output shaft to a pinion driving a ring gear on the rear wheel hub. The R32 established the boxer-twin, shaft-drive powertrain layout that BMW would use until the present. BMW used shaft drives in all of its motorcycles until the introduction of the F650 in 1994 and continues to use it on all of their boxer-twin motorcycles.

BMW would not produce their first automobiles until 1928. ... As for the round BMW logo depicting an airplanes spinning propeller, well, - it doesn't. Back in 1929, BMW claimed in their advertisements that their circular blue and white BMW logo or “roundel” was the movement of an aircraft propeller, - to signify the white blades cutting through the blue sky; but that interpretation was not adopted by BMW until twelve years after the roundel was created. In reality, the emblem evolved from the circular Rapp Motorenwerke company logo, from which the BMW company grew, combined with the blue and white colors of the flag of Bavaria, (reversed due to a German Law prohibiting duplications of officially registered State designs.)
Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2011 9:00
Blue Springs State Park
President Vance Harrelson
Presiding

Vance began the meeting with a welcome to our first time attendee: Steve Hudson. His wife, Wanda was with us for chili but left before the meeting. Welcome Steve and Wanda.

Next Vance thanked Barbara and Don, as well as Sheila, Jim, Roxanne and Russ for the food and decorations for what a lot of folks say is their favorite meeting. Don also thanked the folks who helped out in his absence on Saturday. Thanks were also given for the great weather we had this weekend. No SNOW, no rain, no real cold weather, just lots of beautiful sunshine.

Robin was congratulated on her first newsletter, but she says she is in need of material for future newsletters. (Please help her out. If you have a story about a good ride or a good story about a bad ride please send it along to: newsletter@bmwmoal.org)

Vance announced that he will be unable to attend this year because of a commitment with the MOA. After the boos and hisses quieted he explained that he will take care of ordering the groceries as he has for the past several years. It was reported that Pandora’s will have demo bikes at our rally. This will be the first time in several years that we have been able to offer demo rides. Pandora’s and Terry’s Two Wheel, offering service, will be set up together. Capital Cycle is thinking about coming and will definitely contribute door prizes even if they can’t attend.” Jim said that we need to check the ad that goes into BMW ON as there is no mention of dinner on Saturday night. Connie commented that the ad had to be submitted last November.

Vance again explained the Club’s 2011 mileage contest. We are looking for the Club’s cumulative miles for the year, January 1 thru December 31. Let’s see just how many miles we all will ride this year. Steve has a form all set up on the website so it’s easy to get your miles counted. If you don’t remember your mileage on January 1, just take a real good guess. We also have Explore Alabama in connection with and to benefit the Eldridge Children’s Home. For a donation of $25.00 you will receive a passport list of 20 locations around the state. Ride to 15 locations, record each visit with a photo and submit the record of your visits to travel@bmwmoal.org. Upon completion of 15 visits before December 31 you will receive your choice of a children’s home tee shirt or patch. Applications are available at our website.

As a reminder, Vance is still collecting aluminum pop-tops for the Ronald McDonald House. Contributions gladly accepted.

Next up was discussion of the April meeting in Gulf Shores. Camping and our meeting Sunday morning will be at Southport Campground. Dinner will be at Ribs and Reds Saturday night. There was a suggestion that we set up a local motel for members who don’t care to camp, and Jamie suggested Vance check into online reviews for the closest motels before making any deals.

Vernon has been looking into the Club participating in the state Adopt-A-Mile program and offered info for consideration. We select the stretch of highway we wish to adopt. Clean up will need to take place every 4 to 6 weeks and the DOT will inspect and if it’s not properly cleaned, they will remove our sign. Any interest?? We’ll think about it.

Next month’s meeting will be in Zachary, LA at Mike and Amelia Bauman’s home. Gator says they have a good area for camping and have made some fun plans for the weekend, including a ride on back roads on Saturday. Friday night’s meal plan is red beans and rice and the Saturday night menu includes a crawfish boil and maybe some other crawfish dishes.

Bob Steber talked about the latest version of ABEES books. They have been slimmed down but still contain a lot of good information on fun rides and interesting places to see—a great quick reference guide. All of the info in the previous books is still available on the website. If anyone has any changes or additions to the info we have, please contact Bob.

Vance gave an update on the MAC (Motorcycle Awareness Campaign). The Birmingham chapter is now up and running. Can a SE Alabama chapter be far behind? Russ is looking into the possibility that Army Safety will include the MAC logo on their forthcoming posters, etc. which will mean lots of free publicity for the program. Thanks to Mike Scott for donating the proceeds of the sale of the Louisiana chapter’s cookbooks at the January meeting to the Birmingham chapter.

Vance reminded everyone that February 28 is the last day for the MOA Super Stakes. Two motorcycles, a European bike trip and other good prizes are up for grabs.

Rodger urged all members to check out the Club’s Facebook page. He would also like to have photos of all members posted on the page.

Russ Kruse won the 50-50 pot and took home $52.00.

Meeting adjourned (or rather abandoned). See you next month in Louisiana!!!
ATTENTION EVERYONE

TERRY’S TWO WHEELS
WILL BE HOSTING
THE FIRST ANNUAL TRADE DAYS
& 2ND ANNUAL
RED BEANS AND RICE
SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH
WE WILL START WITH COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS AT 8:00
ESCORTED RIDE AT 8:30

LUNCH STARTING AT NOON UNTIL THE FOOD RUNS OUT
The new Motorcycle Awareness Campaign (MAC) representatives will be present to answer questions.

They will have information to hand out and take memberships too.

Become a member for $15.00 and help promote Motorcycle Awareness.

Bring items you want to sell, give away or whatever and enjoy the day.

For more information either call 205-987-2090 or email terrystwowheel@gmail.com

SEE YOU SOON, RIDE LONG & RIDE SAFE

Terry and Joan

BMW MOTORCYCLE OWNERS OF ALABAMA
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Date: _____/ _____/ 2011

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 $25.00 per year for primary and $5.00 per year for secondary members. Make check payable to:
BMW M/C Owners of Alabama. Mail application with check to: Connie Reeves, 108 Cape Cod Circle, Alabaster, AL 35007
Valentine’s Day Gulf Shores Ride Report

Terry and I took off on Magellan (R1150RT) and Polar Bear (Suzuki Burgman), for Gulf Shores early Saturday morning, February 12th, and headed to the Gulf in search of even nicer weather than Birmingham had that weekend. We took the long way down arriving about 3 o’clock in the afternoon. After checking in to a local motel and letting our bodies straighten out, we went in search of seafood. On Vance’s recommendation about where the Shrimp Fest may be held, we tried Ribs and Reds. It was GOOD; the ribs FELL off the bone and the Reds where HUGE. Sunday dawned sunny and a bit chilly, but through the day it warmed up. We headed out to Fort Morgan so we could have at least a couple of curves. It was a great ride and tour of the Fort is always fun. We rode around more on Sunday and then another round of seafood, this time at MIKEE’S Oyster Bar. Yummy! Sunday we started the ride home and thanks to the wonderful GPS we got to take a dirt road for 8.5 miles. When we got off the road I made Terry repeat after me –“we will not take any dirt roads when Joan is riding”, just joking, well sort of. So if you need a weekend getaway we recommend Gulf Shores, we recommend staying off beach and the hotel/motel rates are better and book through one of those “travel sites”. (I had never been one to do that, but we got a killer deal.) –Terry and Joan

Barnesley Motor Works
Ephesus, GA

Announces a Rider’s Weekend April 29 – May 1. David and Emy Woodburn are once again hosting a weekend event and invite all riders to attend. You can arrive as early as Friday and enjoy food fun and fellowship with riders of “motorbikes” from all over the country. There is room to camp and room to work on your bike…or watch and learn as others work on theirs! David and Emy open their home twice a year for this event to celebrate all that is two wheels. For fun, food and fellowship ride on in! For more information give them a ring at 770-854-9136
Exploring Alabama
by
Vernon Headrick

Another year, another opportunity to explore Alabama. Some of the scenery we will be watching this coming year will be the rear end of a vehicle with Sweet Home Alabama inscribed on its license plate. For many Alabamians, the tag line expresses the pride we have in our state. Thanks to the anthem status song, it is recognized around the country and even around the world as unique to Alabama. It joins a short list of tag lines used by the Alabama Motor Vehicle Division and Department of Tourism to build State identity and attract visitors. Previous tag lines were: The Cotton State, The Heart of Dixie and Alabama the Beautiful. The Cotton State was adopted well before motor vehicles, just after the Civil War. Liberty, Now and Forever More didn’t seem quite appropriate with Union troops and Carpetbaggers occupying the state. Come explore The Cotton State didn’t attract a big crowd. After all, lots of states produced cotton, even California, and there’s not much excitement watching cotton grow. In 1951, the state legislator adopted “The Heart of Dixie” motto as a means of distinguishing Alabama from the other cotton states. At least it was unique. Alabama and the Heart of Dixie became interchangeable terms. The motto remained on our license plates until 2007 when the state adopted Alabama the Beautiful. At last, a motto that sounds inviting, even a bit challenging to come discover why! The signs still welcome visitors at the state line but the short-lived license plate was changed in 2010 to Sweet Home Alabama.

“Sweet home Alabama were skies are so blue” written by Ronnie VanZant has a significantly different meaning than the original author intended. The original phrase was “Sweet home Alabama how I will sing your praises, once I reach the Georgia border”. William Bartram wrote this version while exploring Alabama in 1773. Bartram barely escaped Alabama with his life and “Lord I’m coming home to you” would have had a very different meaning. Bartram was more than just an explorer; he was on a mission to discover the people, plants and terrain of Alabama. This was Alabama before it was part of the Mississippi Territory, before the onslaught of American settlers, when all land west of the Flint River in Georgia belonged to the Indian Nations. Two years before Daniel Boone blazed his famous Wilderness Road through the Cumberland Gap into Kentucky, Bartram completed his exploration of the “old southwest” and published a book on his travels through Alabama, the Floridas and Mississippi. His book, The Travels of William Bartram provided detailed drawings and poetic descriptions of the people, flora and fauna of that period. It made him the most famous American author of his day. Even though Bartram may have looked forward to reaching the Georgia boarder, while in Alabama, he recognized the qualities in the people and the land that lead him to pen the phrase Sweet Home Alabama. Two hundred and thirty plus years later, the reasons for exploring Alabama haven’t changed. Perhaps his intent was not that different after all.

In 1911 the U.S. Geological Service undertook retracing Bartram’s explorations and erected signs designating The Bartram Trail. Exploring The Bartram Trail and other historic sites around the state is a great way to discover Alabama and turn your BMW motorcycle into a true time machine. I hope one of the license plates I see this coming year will be yours.

Let’s go explore, discover, experience - Sweet Home Alabama.
2011 MEMBER ANNIVERSARY MILESTONES

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<td>DATCHER, ROUGLAS</td>
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<td>ROBINSON, JIM</td>
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<td>GOERTZ, JACK</td>
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<td>HEBERT, SUZANNE</td>
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<td>BAKER, TAMMY</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAMBLIN, DON</td>
<td>4 29</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Mayberry’s Sherpa Service will be at the Great Chicken rally this year.

Hotel Services for the Camper - Known Nationally from the MOA and RA rallies.

Go to [WWW.sherpamayberry.com](http://WWW.sherpamayberry.com) and make your reservations now.

Leave your camping gear behind, lighten your load. Let Ted take care of it for you.

Tent, Pad, chair, towels, more......check it out on his website !!!

We're very proud to have Ted join us this year.

FOR SALE:

1999 silver K1200LT 48,300 miles
excellent cond, new Metzeler
880’s, brake pads, battery, backup backrest, service up to date, garaged and covered. All records, new shop manual. No trouble ever!

I also have a 28x19 detachable platform for camping gear included. Email pix available $5,500.00.

Paul Goehler
256-353-2398
golhlerp@bellsouth.net

Don’t miss this month’s meeting in Zachary, LA!
March 25-27
at the home of Mike and Amelia Bauman.

Great fun and food for all!

Please contact Amelia to make your reservations by March 18 so she can prepare for the festivities!

Cost is only $10 for meals for the weekend. Please let her know which meals you will be attending.

baumana@att.net
225-654-9186

Check out more details on the website.

The original BMW Motorcycle. - The 1923 BMW R32
2011 CLUB

MEETINGS

MAR. 25-27
ZACHARY, LA
CAJUN CHAOS

APRIL 29-MAY 1
GULF SHORES
CRUSTACEAN CHOWDOWN

MAY 26-29
GREAT CHICKEN RALLY
HUNTSVILLE

JUNE 24-27
CRUSO, NC
BLUE RIDGE MOTORCYCLE
CAMPGROUND

JULY 30-31
BRIERFIELD IRONWORKS
ST. PARK, AL

AUG 26-28
KINDERFEST
ENTERPRISE, AL

SEPT 24-25
LAUREL TRAILS
CAMPGROUND
MONTEAGLE, TN

OCT 28-30
NAUVOO, AL
CLUB’S 40TH B’DAY PARTY

DEC 3RD
CHRISTMAS PARTY
LOCATION TBA

2011 RALLY LIST

MAR. 4–13 DAYTONA BIKE WEEK

APR 8-10 DOGWOOD TRAIL RALLY, MS

APR 15-17 VINTAGE RALLY, BENCHMARK WORKS, STURGIS, MS

APR 29–MAY 1 GEORGIA MOUNTAIN RALLY

MAY 20-22 EUROPEAN RIDERS RALLY, BURKESVILLE, KY

MAY 26-29 GREAT CHICKEN RALLY, HUNTSVILLE, AL

JUN 30–JULY 3 RA NATIONAL CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI

JULY 21-24 MOA NATIONAL BLOOMSBURG, PA.

NEWSLETTER SUBMITTIONS DUE THE FRIDAY FOLLOWING EACH MEETING.