

# THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

BMWMOA Chapter #5/ BMWRA Chapter #107



Volume XXXIV Issue 9

September 2010

## A KINDA KINDERFEST!

Vance Harrelson

What a great time we had at the second annual Kinderfest! (Actually, it was the first Kinderfest since last year was called BB&B). Anyway, Jim and Sheila Kalahan sure know how to throw a party! Of course you first start with beautiful home complete with about 20 rooms (I lost count) for sleeping and throw in a swimming pool, hot tub and a JumboTron sized TV, and oh, let's not forget the well appointed garage and the Man Cave. My goodness, their home causes a sensory overload! Next add in enough food to feed the Army (which thank goodness is close by, I might add) and you have the infrastructure needed for a great party.

The last and best ingredient of course would be the Alabeemers and friends. Thanks again to Jim and Sheila and all those who came along to participate. I heard several mentions like "Next year I'm gonna" (do this or that). So it is obvious this event has become another one of the favorites. So much so that I think if they'll have us, we'll be back for a long time to come for this one!

It has been really hot and I suspect that has kept many of us from riding as much this summer as we might normally. However, can you feel it? Change is in the air! The kids are back in school and the weather will begin to cool shortly, creating the perfect op-

portunity to get that bike out and catch up on all those ABEES stops you have missed. The challenge is on folks! We have many new riders taking the challenge this year whose names will be entered into the drawing at the January meeting. Someone will win some mighty nice prizes. If you are not familiar with the program, refer to the website for complete details or contact Bob Steber. He will be glad to explain just how easy it is to get your name in that drawing in January. And the bonus is you will see some fantastic places and sample some fine cuisine from around our state!

The second half of the year is also packed with events. With this many options available you may have trouble deciding just what to do; "So Many Roads...So Little Time" comes to mind! I said in January that I hoped to have multiple opportunities, in addition to our regular monthly meetings, available to our members so that more could get involved. The idea was that not everyone can make monthly meetings, but smaller rides and events in a lot of locations would provide many opportunities for our members to fellowship and ride together. Well, we got the opportunities and here is what is coming up!

**Saturday, September 18** - Ride to Eat to enjoy the oysters in Apalachicola, FL. Meet at the famous Boss Oyster restaurant at 3PM on Saturday. After lunch stay at the Inn next door and enjoy this his-

toric quaint fishing village or other points in the area.

**Sunday, September 19** - Meet for lunch on the mountain at Benedikt's and then ride the best of Blount County with Gary Nesmith. He knows the best of the back roads up there and will show you where they are!

**Saturday, September 25** - Join us for the monthly club meeting at Shellmound Campground on Nickajack Lake near Chattanooga, hosted by Tommy & Jeannine Arnold.

**October 8-10** - Attend the Barber's Vintage Festival where your BMWMOAL will host a club display in the Expo Area showcasing BMW motorcycles from vintage to the latest new models. Sure to be a great weekend!

**Oct 16-17** - There will be a Leaf Peepin' ride in NE Alabama led by Bob Steber. That same weekend on Saturday 16th enjoy a fall riverboat cruise in Chattanooga aboard the Southern Belle. This event will be hosted by Pandora's Motorsports and is sure to be a lot of fun. The day's events will begin at the dealership with representatives from BMW corporate on hand and a host of prizes to be given away!

**October 23-24** - The famous Ribfest hosted by Lee Waggoner will be held in Tennessee. Enjoy

the best in ribs and roads along with the Nashville club!

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**Oct 30-31** - Don and Barbara Little will host our monthly club meeting at Blue Springs State park. I can smell the camp fires and almost taste the chili now!!!

**Saturday, December 4** - Our annual Christmas Party will be held Saturday night December 4<sup>th</sup> in Leeds, AL and this year it has been planned close enough to allow riders to attend the annual Eldridge Children's Home Toy Run in Eldridge, AL and easily make the party that afternoon all while the wives are shopping for us at the Bass Pro Shops! A discount program has been worked out for our club at the Barbers Museum that weekend and discounted rooms at the new Hampton Inn too!

Now tell me folks... how's about all that for something to do this fall??

I would also like to mention that the end of the year will be here before we know it. That means elections for your Officers and Directors will be coming up. Every member of this great club is a part of it and has something to offer! That means YOU (Yes...YOU) should consider getting more involved! I encourage each of you to consider putting your name on the ballot for an Officer or Director Position!

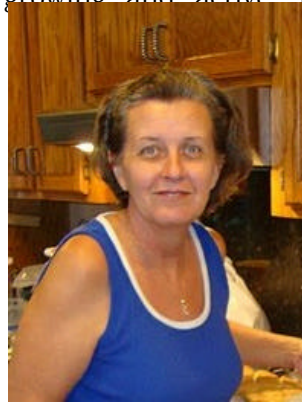
A complete explanation and description of the duties of each position is available on our website. Or if you have any questions about whether a particular job is just the right one for you....ask the person holding that position now.

I believe leadership should be strong and proactive to keep the club growing and active. I also

believe that leadership should change periodically and in doing so that will keep the club fresh and provide new ideas. We want your input and need your participation to keep the club moving forward!

Thanks for all the support you have given me as your President. I say it frequently but it most certainly bears repeating. This is a fantastic group with a great heritage and we are known nationally as one of the best BMW clubs there is. Let's keep it going with new ideas and initiatives to promote our club and our great riding machines!

I look forward to a great fall riding season and the best year ever for our great club in 2011! Get out and ride...and ride safely. I look forward to seeing you along the way!



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

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2010

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BMW M/C Owners of Alabama. Mail application with check to: Connie Reaves, 108 Cape Cod Circle, Alabaster, AL. 35007

## MEETING MINUTES

Sunday August 29, 2010 8:00AM  
Jim and Sheila Kalahan Residence  
Jeannine Arnold, Acting Secretary for Mari Harrelson  
President Vance Harrelson presiding

Vance opened the meeting by thanking Jim and Sheila and they were awarded a huge round of applause for once again opening up their home to a rowdy crowd of motor cycle enthusiasts.

Vance welcomed first time new member from Florida, Jack Cox and Louisiana, Brian Niebuhr. Also welcome to first time guest from Louisiana, Eric Gilmore. Louisiana had a huge showing at this event. Some thought was given that since we have picked up such a big Louisiana membership that maybe they should host an event. We need to see how many we can get from Alabama to Swamp Scooters on November 11.

Vance told about several upcoming events that are written up in this newsletter in detail. Gary Nesmith told everyone about the upcoming ABEES ride on September 19 from Benedikt's also written up in further detail in this newsletter. There are several upcoming events this fall listed elsewhere in this newsletter, so check them out.

We have had a few changes in the Newsletter pro-

duction. Jamie Jackson will be taking over the helm again as Editor to at least finish out this term. The processing and mailing are being done by Jack and Susan Goertz. Please help out and submit an article.

Vance encouraged everyone to start thinking about officers-we need leadership-it is almost time to fill all of the positions from President on down again, so start looking around and consider if it might be something you want to try. At least encourage someone that you think would do a good job at some position.

Next month's meeting is at Shellmound on September 25-26. The Chattanooga BMW club has been invited to join us. Justin from Pandora's will be there also and who knows what all will be in store??

50/50 was won by none other than Jim Kalahan....\$113.50

Until Next Time...RIDE SAFE AND BE HAPPY...Mari Harrelson

## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Cajun Swamp Scooter Rally

Join us at our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Rally at the Bayou Wilderness RV Resort ([www.bwrvr.com](http://www.bwrvr.com)) on November 12 - 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Be here for Friday and Saturday night primitive tent camping under beautiful, old oak trees. There is NO electricity. If you absolutely have to have electricity, you are welcome to rent an RV site. If you arrive earlier than Friday, you may have to pay extra for camping. We will have clean port-o-lets and water stations in the camping area. There is a bathhouse with toilets and hot showers in the RV area for our use. **NO TRAVEL TRAILERS, CAMPERS OR BUSES ALLOWED ON THE GRASS.** If you have one of the aforementioned sleepers, you will need to call the campground, 337-896-0598, to reserve a site in the RV area. Charges are separate from the entry fee.

On Friday, around 7:00 p.m., Rolls Cycle will cook Chicken & Sausage Jambalaya for early bird arrivals. Enjoy your meal around the bon-fire. On Saturday enjoy the Swamp Tour (additional charge), dual-sport ride, games and door prizes. That evening the Club will offer the best Steak and trimmings for supper, you won't go away hungry. There will also be awards, bon-fire, door prizes and music playing in the pavilion.

So, for your pre-entry of \$35.00, you will receive a t-shirt, two nights camping, fun, food and entertainment!! The first 100 entries will receive a recyclable, water repellent backpack tote, with rally logo. Children 8-12, \$15.00 (no tote bag). Children younger than 8, lagniappe (no charge). Pre-entry deadline 11/1/2010, Post-entry, \$45.00

Questions: [rollscycle@bellsouth.net](mailto:rollscycle@bellsouth.net)

Details: [www.swampscooters.net](http://www.swampscooters.net)

Money and registration to: Joe Gajan, 114 Evangeline Drive, Lafayette, LA 70501

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Joe Clark	14	Thomas Armour	19	Gary Nesmith
3	Sue Lide	14	Steve Schuckman	19	Bryan Niebuhr
3	Charlie Parsons	14	Phillip Warren	20	Hank Holcombe
4	Jeff Sparks	16	Mike Ford	21	Thomas Patterson
5	P. Harding Leach	18	Barry Clay	22	Mark Rusak
9	Jim Kalahan	18	Steve Sanders	23	Becky Blair
9	Wade Killen			24	Linda Holley
10	Lee Clements			24	Don Little
10	Donna Fearing			25	Jim Dubick
10	Marlin Priest			26	James Pritchett
10	Don Stover			26	Rhonda Wharton
11	Frank Sirles			27	Joyce Goehler
12	Sam Kemp			28	Mickey Gee
14	Tom McIntyre			30	Gary Williams
14	Larry Russo			30	David Woodburn



## NEW MEMBERS

G. Bryan Niebuhr	Baton Rouge, LA.	Sponsor: Gator (Bob Daigle)
Federico Morales	Madison, AL	Sponsor: Connie Reaves
Wanda & Steven Hudson	Harvest, AL	Sponsor: Connie Reaves

## ITEMS FOR SALE

Titan Silver 2002 BMW K1200LTC for sale. 16,310 miles. Meticulously kept, Motolights , Factory Stereo with a Single Disc Player in the Console and a 6-Disc changer in the Saddlebag , ABS integrated brakes, Heated Grips, Heated Seats, BMW Alarm System. Always garaged. Selling due to health reasons. If you have Any Questions please do not hesitate to ask. Call Michael Langley Sr at 256-693-4162. Asking \$10,995 or Best Offer.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Barnsley Motor Werks Autumn Tech Weekend - October 15,16,17. This event is for air cooled BMW motorcycles. Food and non-alcoholic beverages served; limited camping, some barn space; 2 or 3 benches available; please, no pets; can dispose of old oil but not tires or batteries; drinking is okay but no drunkenness, please; the address is: 400 Alabama Road, Ephesus, Via Roopville, Georgia 30170. Phone 770-854-9136 c/o David and Emy Woodburn.

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

## **KINDERFEST - SHEILA AND JIM OUT DO THEMSELVES... AGAIN!**

Reece Mullins

The last weekend in August the skies were gray and cloudy. Thunderstorms, embedded with lightning and heavy rain permeated the week, playing havoc with flight schedules and riding schedules. But the Friday that led BMW motorcycles to Enterprise, AL was blessed with dry roads, and cloudy skies, that kept the temperatures, out of the triple digits. As I was riding home from the helicopter simulator in Daleville, after making at least one of my students "green", I noticed an RT on the loop in Enterprise, two up, being the lone RT rider in Enterprise, I knew this was a Kinderfest sighting, and gave the bike an excited beep from Ursala's horn. From across traffic, both rider and passenger, recognized the sound of that horn under the helmets, and the sound of Enterprise "rush-hour" traffic, and gave Ursala and I a friendly wave; irrefutable proof, that the couple riding the motorcycle were more than just riders, but true, dyed-in-the-wool BMW motorcycle enthusiasts that can recognize the sound of a BMW horn in a crowd of vehicles.

Yes, this weekend was a long time coming. Work for me had been especially challenging for the month of August, and eating, drinking and socializing with my BMW family was definitely something Rhonda and I were looking forward to; and this is how my weekend at Kinderfest started, that cloudy day, in the waning days of summer in Enterprise Alabama.

This year, I drove Aerial instead of riding Ursala, (Aerial is my four-wheeled BMW) because last year the five minute ride to Jim and Sheila's house, wasn't worth not drinking the home brewed German beer provided by Brian Yoder... last year I got to taste it, this year I got to imbibe, and fully appreciate the food and drink of Kinderfest. Also this year, I got to bring Rhonda, my fiancée, who was introduced to the BMW family of Alabama... again, as her first exposure to the club was limited during the Chicken Rally, due to the impromptu decision to head to Mona-Sano Mountain and get some riding in before 6 p.m. Mom had insisted that Rhonda and I get back home for a fish fry, with my aunts and uncles, as my mom lives close to Huntsville, and likes to feed me and my family when I'm in town.

For those who were unable to attend and are enjoying Kinderfest in a "belated-vicarious" kinda way by reading this article in the newsletter, and perusing the photographs; I'll fill you in on the details with paragraph four of the newsletter article... (this paragraph, if you're counting). When the gang closed in on Friday, we all parked our Bikes and vehicles in the garage or driveway, of course Jim donned the

Alabeemers sign between two trees in the front yard, and the two Blue and White BMW flags on either side of the driveway were there, gently undulating in the breeze, greeting on lookers. As the club-members took off their helmets, their ears were greeted with music from the 80's and 90's and the warm smile and handshake that are unique to Jim Kalahan. As club members and their guest doffed their skid year and became more comfortable, drinks and snacks were probably shoved their direction by Sheila, or she told 'em where the food was, and to help themselves, as the Chili was cooking and the hot dogs were a grilling; then club-members, would start up conversations... catching up on all the latest club activities, you know, Vance's new bike, Jim's new bike, next months meeting at Shell Mound, and just the general health and welfare of the club.

Family Reunion... yes, that would be the best analogy to describe most of our club meetings but especially Kinderfest, and Jim and Sheila's warm inviting home. After the home-brewed beer and chili dogs Friday night, many of the members headed out on bikes to take in the scenery at the Fort Rucker Aviation Museum, while others stayed for "Tech-day" and learned all Jim had to offer concerning the mechanical nuances of the beautifully engineered BMW motorcycle. Saturday night dawned under a nearly full moon, and everyone got to partake in the highly anticipated Shrimp boil that Jim and Russ Cruse have become famous for over the years. Home brewed beer, and a shrimp boil, coupled with a salt water pool, hot-tub, large screen TV, surround sound, and BMW motorcycle DVD's... really, I think BMW heaven can't be far from Jim and Sheila's home.

Sunday Morning dawned, and the club awakened to coffee and breakfast, and the club meeting. I'm sure somewhere in this newsletter the minutes are published where you'll all be able to read that Jim won the 50-50 drawing AGAIN! In Iraq we had a saying, Every time we fly outside the wire we have to get lucky, the enemy only has to get lucky once, out of which was born the saying, "If I have a choice, whether to be lucky or good, I'll choose lucky every day of the week and twice on Sunday." Jim is lucky, and the rest of us will just have to be jealous.

Much thanks to Sheila and Jim, our most eloquent hosts, Russ and Roxanne Cruse, for helping with the cooking and food Saturday night and the delicious Sangria Friday night, and Brian and Robin Yoder, for their wonderful home brewed beer, and blessing us all with the pool-side antics of their young grandson Saturday night. Yes, Kinderfest was very much like a family reunion, and we were all blessed for being there.

## OUR LATEST "PATCHWORK QUILT"

Barbara Little

I just finished reading Fred Rau's article in our new Motorcycle Consumer News about his latest motorcycle trip. He says the bits and pieces [of the trip] are like a patchwork quilt when pieced together. I can't think of a better description for our latest trip.

We left home on Monday, July 5th looking forward to a leisurely trip to the BMW MOA National Rally at Redmond, Oregon via Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado... 10 DAYS 2800-2900 miles sounds about right. Everything was going along fine Tuesday morning as we were having a great time riding north on Arkansas Hwy 7 enjoying the road and scenery. Then Don started hearing a repetitious noise; Yes Don, who can't seem to hear most of what I say, but can hear the least unusual noise on the bike. Thinking there was something in the rear tire, we stopped and checked it...twice...before he pulled the saddlebag and wiggled the rear tire. Yep, you probably guessed it...the final drive was going out.

We limped the bike a few more miles into Jasper, Arkansas, had lunch at the Ozark Café and then dug out the Anonymous Book. Jasper is 90 miles from Bentonville, the nearest BMW dealer (one of only 2 in the state). Having exhausted all of the closer possibilities, we called David Carlson in Bentonville. Then we went back to the Ozark Café for ice cream sundaes and waited. Several hours later David and his wife, Viah arrived with a trailer to take us back to Bentonville. The ride between Jasper to Bentonville is a slow one because of the twists and turns (which would have been great on the bike) so it took them quite a while to rescue us.

As they were making their way to us, their daughter found us a great motel for an very good price (talk about helping out!). While the dealer ordered parts and made repairs over the next few days, David and Viah showed us their hometown, including Sam Walton's original 5 and 10 cent store and the future home of a state-of-the-art art museum being built by one of the Walton daughters. They also took us out to Pea Ridge National Battlefield, one of the most intact civil war battlefields anywhere. What a wonderful experience it turned out to be!! David and Viah are 2 of the nicest folks we have ever met.

They are members of the CMA, and it is obvious they live their beliefs. After 3 1/2 days they were truly like old friends. David has invited us back to ride the Arkansas mountains later, and we would love to be able to do that. The dealer did a great job

of getting us back on the road quickly and even talked BMW into paying for the repairs although the bike was a few months out of warranty.

We were able to get back on the road early Saturday morning and even though we rode quite a few more miles daily than we originally intended and had no extra time for sight seeing, we did make it through the Rocky Mountain National Park, Dinosaur National Monument, Haggerman Fossil Beds National Monument, John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area and a favorite restaurant at Carmela Winery in Glenn's Ferry, Idaho before reaching Redmond as planned on Wednesday before the start of the rally.

We attended the 2001 national rally in Redmond and I have to say the facility was just as nice as I remembered...only this time we had even more friends there to share the experience with us. Vance did a great job at the closing ceremonies and Mari and Jeannine livened things up by shooting t-shirts into the crowd. Greg and Melanie (otherwise known as "significant other") Turp won the Long-Distance 2-Up award; Don Norwood took 2nd place in the North America Tour category thanks to his jaunt through Alaska and Canada.

Don came away a "big winner" as well. He won the Grand Prize of a \$1500 shopping spree with Full Throttle Camping, the folks who sell Big Agnes tents, etc. He could hardly wait to get to a computer to start putting his order together. He thinks the fact that he was sitting next to Pieter de Waal ,VP of BMW Motorrad USA, (how's that for name dropping?) brought him luck. Susie Dubick says she brought him good luck when she invited us to sit with them. Either way, it a great way to end the rally.

Sunday morning had us pulling out bright and early headed for the north rim of the Grand Canyon. We had been advised that we would see fewer people there than at the south rim and that most would be Europeans or Asians. We met a charming family from Holland and exchanged e-mail addresses. We have gotten a couple of e-mails from them since they returned home. The canyon is awe-inspiring from either side but much more hazy than I remembered from our first visit in 1998. While we were there, we decided to attend the Top O' the Rockies Rally at Paonia, Colorado.

We have been hearing about this rally for years and thought this was as good a time as any to check it out. People rave about this rally and while we did enjoy it, it can't hold a candle to our rally. We each paid \$60 to get in (pre-registration was cheaper). The price included one meal which was provided by



a local civic organization. The other meals, which we had to pay for, were provided by local civic organizations or school clubs or athletic departments. They had a beer tent, but the local American Legion manned it and, I assume, reaped the profits. While they did have vendors, they didn't have any more than we normally do. Oh, and at the end of the evening, they presented the mayor of Paonia with a check for \$8000.00. Is it any wonder the town of Paonia loves that rally??? We did have the honor of receiving the Long Distance 2-Up certificate there though.

We left there Sunday going southeast on CO highways 92 and 149 and I have to say that was some of the most spectacular scenery I have ever seen. The Gunnison River cuts through towering black rocks along side a winding road that was fun to ride. If you ever get the chance to ride it, go for it!!

Sunday night and Monday morning we got to eat at one of our favorite restaurants: Michael's Kitchen in Taos, New Mexico. What a treat it always is for us.

Tuesday, our fun came to a screeching halt ...literally. Don felt a little bump and looked into the rear view mirror to see black smoke pouring from our trailer tire. The retaining bolt for the swing arm bushing broke, which caused the spring to push the suspension to one side locking up the wheel. We had just come through Woodward, Oklahoma and the Good Samaritan who stopped to help agreed to take the trailer back to the Super 8 Motel on the outskirts of town. As we were waiting on the side of the road for help Don checked the rear tire on the bike (again) and found that it was more badly worn than when he last checked it. This is really getting serious. What do we do now?? As we discussed our situation later, replacing the bike tire on the road as opposed to doing the work at home (Don had already ordered a tire and it was waiting on him), broken trailer suspension that would take who-knows-what in time and money to repair, we decided to call the local U-Haul dealer and rent a truck to take us home. Not the finish we had in mind when we started but a safe one, nonetheless. It was the coolest ride we have ever made across Oklahoma.

When we got home, Don called Jamie (Jackson), acted all upset and said, "Jamie, I am broke down in Woodward, Oklahoma. Can you come get me?" Without a moment's hesitation, Jamie replied, "Sure." I think he might have at least thought about it had he realized where Woodward is, but I have no doubt the answer would have been the same. We met some wonderful folks on this trip but the best folks in our world are our fellow BMW friends right here in Alabama.

## **ABEES NEWS YOU CAN USE**

Bob Steber

Fried chicken pulley bones, fresh purple hull peas, turnip greens, creamy mashed potatoes, carrot/raisin salad, salad bar, bread puddin' and lots of other really good meats and vegetables along with delicious homemade pies and cakes. If this sounds good to you, join your fellow Alabeemers for lunch at Benedikt's Restaurant and Bakery Sunday morning at 11:30, September 19, 2010.

Benedikt's is located between Springville and Oneonta at 4125 Blount County Road 27, (205) 274-0230, GPS: N33 52.017 W86 26.609. At the four way stop intersection of US 11 and SR 174 in Springville, go north on Murphrees Valley Road to the top of the mountain and then continue east on CR 27 to Benedikt's on the right (9.5 miles). From Hwy 231, go south on CR 29 two miles then right on CR 27 four miles to Benedikt's on the left.

After lunch, Gary Nesmith is going to show us around his stomping grounds with a Blount County Tour that will last about two hours. We will ride some of Gary's favorite back roads and visit three covered bridges along the way. The Horton Mill bridge is a picturesque latticed structure looming some 70 feet above the Warrior River; higher above the river than any other covered bridge in the US. The Easley Bridge is the shortest tin topped covered bridge in Blount County, and the Swann is a three span covered bridge and extends 324 feet over the Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River. We must be cautious when parking our bikes at the bridge sites. The parking areas are graveled and sometimes a bit rutted.

We will also visit the Blount County Courthouse and the Oneonta Bible Church which is one of the 32 Hallelujah Trail churches. The Oneonta Bible Church is also known as the 'Little Brick Church'. It began its life as a Methodist Episcopal Church. During Gary's ride, we will check off six ABEES points of interest.

As always, be sure that you have a full tank of fuel and an empty bladder prior to going on the ride.

Thanks to Gary for showing us around. His Blount County Tour will be a fun ride and the meal we will enjoy at Benedikt's will be one of the best we have ever had.

## **DO YOU DRINK TOO MUCH?**

Gail Thorne, Safety Director

With the summer we've had this year, probably not. Of course, I am referring to water. This has been one of the longest, hottest summers I can remember with the temperature getting over 100 degrees for several days in a row. However, no matter how extreme the weather, the BMW crowd still rides. This brings to mind what we can do to stay as cool and hydrated as possible so we don't have a heat stroke and die (which could certainly ruin a good ride).

Let's face it, the BMW group is, by other riding group standards, the strangest, nerdiest bunch out there, and I am proud to one of them. We are the ones that wear all that gear when it's 100 degrees with tropical like humidity. We are a mystery to the cruiser crowd who just cannot figure us out. I've heard WAY too many times, "Ain't you hot in all them clothes?" To which I reply "Well, I'd rather sweat than bleed!" And then think to myself.....now please go away.

If you are not accustomed to being outside in extreme hot weather, do not suddenly decide you are going on an afternoon bike ride or worse, take a road trip. It does make a difference if you are an outdoorsey type. If you spend most of your time inside under air conditioning, don't think you can just jump on a motorcycle when it's hot and not pay a price. I spend more time outside than inside, and you do get acclimated to hot and cold. Riding a motorcycle in extreme conditions isn't for wimps and it can result in severe consequences. In this case, dehydration and heat exhaustion, which can lead to heat stroke and death.

Dehydration is an excessive loss of water from the body. By staying hydrated we keep our muscles supple and less susceptible to strain. Signs of dehydration are dizziness, nausea, confusion, dry or sticky mouth, and in extreme cases, urinating less or it is really dark colored. When riding in hot weather we need to be sure to take in more water than is being drawn out by the wind. Soooo.... when riding in temps greater than normal body temperature, don't wear that mesh riding jacket. You want your skin covered. This hot air will heat your skin and dehydrate you. Cover your neck with a soaking wet bandana and wet down your tee shirt (use caution with the wet tee if you're a well endowed female). Drink more water than you actually want.

If you must wear mesh, some type of Camelbak hydration system should be considered. Don't drink soda or anything with caffeine and or sugar. This only adds to dehydration. Water or sport drinks should be your choice. Sport drinks do not hydrate better than good old water but you might tend to drink more, thus keeping you better hydrated. Also, you can get a carbohydrate boost and electrolytes, which are lost in sweating. I also read while researching this topic, that alcoholics, obese, older people, and those taking certain medications are more likely to become dehydrated. I'm just saying that this "might" apply to "some" club members! I love the change of seasons but I do hope we've seen the last of this extreme, sweltering summer heat for a while. No matter what outside activity you are participating in when it is extremely hot...KEEP HYDRATED. As usual, use common sense.

Ride Often to Ride Well Gail Thorne

## **RETURN TO SHILOH INFORMATION**

We'd like to invite your club members to celebrate the 36th Return to Shiloh Rally, sponsored by the BMW Riders Association of the Mid-South (BMW RAMS), October 1-3, at Pickwick Dam, TN.

Registration is \$25/each and includes three nights free camping "under the pines" at the TVA Campground primitive area, Friday night BBQ dinner until gone, rally pins for the first 350 guests.

This year, "Rally Central" and the "Vendor Areas" have been relocated to a small commercial campground adjacent to the TVA Campground primitive area. This area is directly across the road from the old Pavilion, our traditional gathering area. Look for the giant 30 x 60 tent!!

For more information:

- RAMS Website: <http://www.bmwrams.com>

- Email: [rally@bmwrams.com](mailto:rally@bmwrams.com)

- TVA Pickwick Dam Tailwater Campground: <http://www.tva.gov/river/recreation/camping.htm>

We hope you'll join us again at "the best rally by a Dam site"!



## MEETING AND CAMPOUT - SEPTEMBER

Jamie Jackson

The September meeting will be at Shell Mound Campground in Jasper, TN which is about 20 minutes from Chattanooga, located at Nickojack Dam. The address is:

2735 TVA Rd

Jasper, TN 37347

Phone: 423-942-9857

Directions: If coming from south on I-59, take I-24 West to Exit 158. Follow the signs on TVA Road for about 3 miles to the dam. Follow the BMW signs to the campground.

If coming up Highway 72, at South Pittsburg turn right on 156 toward New Hope. Travel approx. 11 miles to Highway 41. Turn left on 41 and go across the old river bridge to Highway 27 (approx. 2.5 mi) to Hyway 27. Turn left on 27 and follow to dam and campground.

Saturday dinner will be around 5:30pm. The menu will include Tommy Arnold's Barbeque pork with



A sample of the cobbler and fried pies from last year.

baked beans and cole slaw. Desserts will include homemade cobbler and Jeannine's wonderful homemade fried pies.

Coffee and pastries will be available Sunday morning.

The cost of the meal will be split between the atten



dees and should run around \$10.

Sites with hookups are \$22; tent sites are \$10. The area that we will be using is near the bath house.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: (within 20 min.)

Nickajack Cave (across the lake), Nickajack Dam, Russell Cave National Monument, Raccoon Mountain pumped storage, Reflection Riding, Tennessee Wildlife Center, Lookout Mountain, Ruby Falls, Battles for Chattanooga Electric Map & Museum, Point Park, Cravens House & Battle Above the Clouds, Incline Railway, Rock City, Tennessee Aquarium, Imax Theater, Creative Discovery Museum, Ross's Landing, Southern Belle Dinner Cruises, Hunter Museum, Chattanooga Regional History Museum, African Heritage Museum, Huston Museum, International Towing and Recovery Museum, Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum, Chattanooga Choo Choo, National Military Cemetery, Confederate Cemetery, John Ross House, Lake Winnepesaukah, Chickamauga Chattanooga National Military Park



## REDMOND OR BUST!

Jim and Suzi Dubick

Our trip to the Redmond rally was all new territory for us as we made the trek out in a newly acquired, used motor home pulling a trailer with two bikes. I must say the drive through Kansas and Nebraska was far less of an adventure than when we were on our bikes contending with winds that felt like someone's hot breath trying to blow us out of the saddle. The benefit of Jim being able to keep driving while I made lunch or used the facilities was a huge plus on this trip for both of us. And, there is really no price you can put on sleeping in your own bed. One teeny thing that would have been better is if we could have driven faster than 35 mph over those high mountain passes. Other than that, we were truly happy campers.

The bikes finally came out for the first time when we reached the Black Hills of South Dakota, as we headed for the incredible piece of art that is Mt. Rushmore. From there we made a quick run to the Crazy Horse memorial, which when finished, is to be of far greater proportions than Rushmore. Seeing what little progress it appears they have made since 1950, gave me a whole new respect for the completion of the previous monument. However, I do give the leadership of the Crazy Horse project extra points for turning their site into a small cottage industry while they work. There is a museum, gift shop, restaurant, tours to the mountainside and they even give you an opportunity to buy a piece of the actual rock that is being blasted away to create this eventual masterpiece...and folks were actually paying money to tote their rubble away!

Red Lodge, Montana became the staging area for our next big adventure. The night before we were to drive over the Bear Tooth Pass, a couple of Harley riders at the campground told us they had gone the day before when it was 32 degrees and snowing. We were not dissuaded as we headed for bed. The next morning we layered up under our riding suits and headed out. When we started up the pass, we ended up behind four Harleys with no chance to pass. After several miles, in one of the narrower curvy parts, the guy in front of us hit a fair size rock that was lying in the road. The way he was driving, we

thought the front tire had blown. He was frantically blowing the horn for his friends and finally came to a stop; that was when Jim pulled up alongside to assess the damage. When he found that it was just the front fender bent into the wheel, he offered his tools to pry it loose. By this time his friends were making their way to him and they all agreed that they had the tools to handle it. They thanked us for stopping and we headed on our way with our eyes peeled for gray rocks on gray pavement. The rest of the ride went smoothly as we enjoyed brisk temperatures and incredible vistas. Turning onto the Chief Joseph Scenic Byway we finally made our way into Cody where I met up with a wildlife photographer friend of mine. As she and I spent time together, Jim explored the Buffalo Bill Historical Center. We had dinner and headed back the short route to Red Lodge as the sun was setting and deer were coming out to feed...another thing to keep your eyes trained for.



From Red Lodge we pressed on and finally came to Washington, where Jim had heard of a small burg by the name of Leavenworth...not to be confused with the federal pen in Kansas. This Leavenworth is touted as a Bavarian village complete with the cuisine, libations and ambiance of the Alps. We enjoyed a brat sampler platter at the Baren Haus and perusing the fine art in the street festival. The

next morning, we took a drive on our bikes into the countryside of Washington before packing up to continue the meandering toward Redmond.

Once we made it to Oregon, our days were filled with discovering all the wondrous hidden treasures divulged by friendly locals who were intent on making our arduous journey up from the deep-south worthwhile. They diverted us from the well traveled Highway 101 in order to explore lighthouses, valleys, mountain peaks and awesome vistas tucked away on dirt, gravel and smaller side roads. We were even directed to the original dirt road through the Redwood Forest, which I most likely had been on with my family over 40 years ago. We discovered flower covered landscapes divulged only by heavily perfumed winds sweeping up steep cliffs from rocky beaches. Our poking around was abruptly ended with the realization that it was rally time.

Since we had not thought about taking our bed-in-

a-box until far past the deadline for RV spaces, we opted for a nearby KOA nestled between Highway 97, a reservoir and blooming fields of carrots. In the evenings there would be the occasional shower from sprinklers overshooting the fields, which sometimes produced a rainbow...the only decorative accent to the consistently clear blue skies. Wednesday we went to sign in early and heard a distinctive and familiar voice wafting across the vast expanse of the fairgrounds. Mari and Jeannine were a welcome sight and their hugs felt good so far from home. Jim and I had no trouble making the rally theme our own; we rode, rallied and relaxed in and around Redmond. You can always tell a well planned rally by the things that don't happen...and this was one smooth operation. Besides all of the terrific rides that had been mapped out, Jim and I were given VIP treatment, compliments of our Alabeemer buds. Instead of hanging in the shadows with the swarm-

ing masses, we were invited backstage and up close to the action. We even shared our good fortune by giving Don and Barbara Little their lucky seats on the front row, which made it much easier for him to collect his \$1500 camping gear shopping spree that he won early on in the closing festivities. But the most fun was had watching the way Mari so naturally took to firing the T-shirt bazooka. Not since Bonnie and Clyde have I ever seen a woman take so to a fire arm. It was almost maniacal the way she wielded her weapon, which made getting free T-shirts one of the most crowd pleasing and exciting events of the rally.

Now we are looking forward to next year. And, although this isn't very BMWish of us, knowing the next rally will be over smaller mountain ranges just may entice us into keeping our bed-in-a-box a little while longer.

### ABEES POINTS TO DATE

Name	Restaurants, Points of Interest and Monthly Club Gatherings	Favorite Roads & Rides	Total ABEES Check Offs	Total ABEES Tickets	Total Bonus Tickets	Total Tickets
Martin Benson	245	26	271	13.6	14	27.6
Rodger Williamson	230	24	254	12.7	20	32.7
Bob Steber	122	18	140	7.0	10	17.0
Jamie Jackson	72	4	76	3.8	11	14.8
Malvene Jackson	72	4	76	3.8	11	14.8
Vance Harrelson	67	3	70	3.5	11	14.5
Gary Dubois	21	7	28	1.4	2	3.4
Bob Daigle	25	1	26	1.3	7	8.3
Tim Flynn	18	4	22	1.1	2	3.1
Terry Ware	20	2	22	1.1	5	6.1
Wanda Daigle	20		20	1.0	6	7.0
Rhea Converse	15		15	0.8	0	0.8
Leroy Sloan	13	1	14	0.7	0	0.7
Joan Ware	11		11	0.6	0	0.6
John Harper	8	3	11	0.6	0	0.6
Mari Harrelson	10	1	11	0.6	0	0.6

## BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

c/o Jamie Jackson - Editor  
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Birmingham, AL 35235

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**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

- Sep 25-26 Shellmound Cmpgrnd - Nickajack Dam, TN
- Oct 30-31 Blue Springs State Park - Clio, AL
- Dec 4 Christmas Party - Leeds, AL

### Other Events of Interest

- Oct 1-3 Return to Shiloh - Pickwick Dam, TN
- Oct 8-10 35th Falling Leaf Rally - Potosi, MO
- Oct 14-17 Biketoberfest 2010 - Bunnell, FL
- Oct 15-17 - Autumn Tech Weekend - Ephesus, GA
- Oct 22-24 Waggoners RibFest - Centerville, TN
- Nov 12-14 SwampScooters Rally - Carencro, LA



Entrance to KinderFest - No doubt everyone would have a good time!