

THE ALABAMA BEEMER



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



Volume XXXVIII Issue 2

June 2010

2010 Great Chicken Rally Winners

Grand Prize Catoma Tent Winner

David Adams—Salem, Va.

Grand Prize Week long Mtn. cabin winner

Pierre-Phillipe Nicolas—Miami, FL

Grand Prize Motobikini bike cover winner

Rick Moore—Johnson City, TN.

Terry's Two Wheel Lady's Prize package winner

Connie Reaves—Alabaster, AL

2010 Motorcycle Raffle Winner

Linda Methvin—Greenville, IL

"Gator" Daigle

Gary Williams

Tater Boy

Gary Nesmith

BMW OWNERS
OF
ALABAMA

Chicken Sherrif
Don Little

2010 Great Chicken Rally Statistics

521 Regular Attendees—38 Day Passes—8 Children

Total 567

29 States and 2 countries represented

Alabama	128	Mississippi	19
Arkansas	3	Missouri	7
California	3	New Jersey	2
Florida	39	New York	2
Georgia	45	N. Carolina	18
Hawaii	1	Ohio	25
Illinois	8	Pennsylvania	7
Indiana	19	S. Carolina	16
Iowa	5	Tennessee	104
Kansas	2	Texas	13
Kentucky	24	Virginia	12
Louisiana	22	W. Virginia	1
Maryland	1	Wisconsin	19
Massachusetts	1	Berrnuda	2
Michigan	7	Ontario	7
Minnesota	5		





Ma-

What's for dinner? Chicken, baked beans, cole slaw and cookies. Yum, yum

(Does anyone remember Hee Haw?)

2010 Chicken Rally...Another Good One!

By Vance Harrelson

Well another Memorial Day weekend has come and gone. To the Alabeemers, in addition to honoring our veterans on this special day, it is time for the Great Chicken Rally...and GREAT it was again!

A special thanks to all of you that helped to make this 22nd rally the event that is envied throughout the BMW community around the country! The weather was a little trying at times but it could have been worse no doubt. We were off a little in attendance from the previous years but still had a great turnout. Check for stats elsewhere in this newsletter.

I am always grateful for the work of our club members and many of our attendees. People just seem to appear and lend a hand when something is needed and work until it is done. For example, when our normal breakfast team leaders could not be there, several of our own stepped up along with the Bayou Bikers "Cajun" contingent and made it look easy. Was that a taste crawfish I detected in the pancakes?

To all those that come together to pull off this rally, a BIG **Thank You** is in order. It is truly gratifying to see it all come together...and it's fun too! The Kitchen, Registration, Door Prizes, 50/50 and Raffle, it is a big show!

The raffle bike was won by Linda Methvin of Greenville, IL. She tells me that it has been years since she has been on a bike. But she will take delivery of her new G650 in St. Louis and complete the Beginning Riders Course now. Looks like we have added a new rider to the BMW community! Congratulations to Linda!

The music was great again this year with Jim Parks on Thursday and Saturday. This year we were entertained by Scott Boyer and Kelvin Holly from Muscle Shoals and they did an awesome job on Friday night.

Yep...rally number 22 is in the books. If you weren't there, ask some that was about the "Shucking of the Bands Ceremony Saturday night...I think we might have started something! And for sure you will want to be there for it next year! All the tools of the rally are neatly packed away into the trailer once again until we do it all over again next year....See you there!

Riding season is in full swing! Get out there and enjoy it. Our next meeting will be at the beautiful Blue Ridge Motorcycle Campground in Cruso, NC. If you have been there you know...If you haven't, make plans to attend now...you'll be glad you did!

Ride Safe!



Linda Goodin & Ron Riggins



Darlene Massey

Happy Birthday July Babies

Jane Wall	7/1	Bruce Cain	7/15
Michael Johnston	7/2	Mary Borden	7/18
Christopher Perret	7/3	Mark Foreman	7/19
Ted Thompson	7/3	William Weaver	7/19
Jeannine Arnold	7/5	Beth Gregory	7/21
Stephen Smitherman	7/5	Joe Oliver	7/22
Fred Merrill	7/6	Tom Dyer	7/23
Susan Johns	7/8	Joe Lange	7/24
Bob "Gator" Daigle	7/8	Ken Pedigo	7/25
Jamie Jackson	7/9	John Harper	7/26
Claudia Shar	7/10	Kay Headrick	7/28
Miles Hinton	7/13	David Lawrenz	7/29
Martin Benson	7/13	Steven Cooper	7/29
Gary Dubois	7/13	Phillip Johnson	7/30
John Keel	7/14	Paul McClain	7/31

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



Congratulations to our new members and welcome back to some past ones:

New Members

- Pierre-Philippe Nicolas Miami, FL Sponsor—Albert White
- Marvin B. “Jack” Cox Dothan, AL Sponsor—Troy Gordon
- Frank Nelson Southside, AL Sponsor—Rick Jones
- Henry Sutton Navarre, FL Sponsor—Tim McGee

Past members re-joined (not in current booklet)

- Don Drasheff, Jr. Gotha, FL. Dennis Hallman Montgomery, AL
- Jack & Susan Goertz Birmingham, AL Larry Russo Waldorf, MD
- Janice Seaman Montevallo, AL Rouglas Datcher Birmingham, AL
- John & Sue Lide Orange Bch, AL Brian & Miles Hinton Montgomery, AL
- John Montoya Wetumpka, AL John P. Thomas Birmingham, AL

Meeting Minutes

May 30, 2010 9:00 a.m.

Ditto Landing Home of The Great Chicken Rally

President Vance Harrelson presiding

Vance opened the meeting by thanking everyone for all of their hours of hard work and patience during the rally. A special notice went out to the Cajun pancake “mixers” that stepped in and really added some entertainment to breakfast, as well as some great pancakes. The apprentices in the kitchen really made a difference and helped ease the pain for the regulars. Thanks to all and come again.

Vance then did the ceremonial asking if the members wanted to do the rally again next year. Ron Riggins made a motion to have a rally next year, it was seconded and voted and none opposed.

Discussion was held about the raffle. We only sold about 2500 tickets and made approximately \$10,945. The cost of the free entries will be about \$1000 from the raffle fund. If we do it again Connie will take over handling the tickets so I can rest. Tom Barnett made a motion to do the raffle and Connie seconded it. A vote was taken and none opposed.

Vance again said what a successful rally he felt we had. We had 568 total even with the rain. There were a lot of 1st timers and he commented that he felt that really said a lot about the rally and the reputation that it has. He did some impromptu surveys regarding the value that folks felt that they got at our rally and was pleased with the overall results.

Roger Williamson passed out brochures for Lake Pines Campgrounds and RV Park where we are going to go in July instead of FDR Park. Camping is \$10 per person. He visited FDR Park and was not pleased with the facility and changed the site. Please make a note of the change. The address is 6404 Garrett Road Columbus, GA. 706-561-9675. www.lakepines.net for further information. If I know Roger I bet he will have brochures at next month’s meeting if you did not get one. It looks like a real nice facility with a Swimming pool, fishing, and walking trail.

Next month is Blue Ridge Camp Ground in Cruso. See you all there.

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

TOURING TIP: EATING RIGHT ON THE ROAD

I like a Krispy Kreme "donut run" or a Haagen-Dazs "ice cream run" as much as the next rider, especially when it also includes a hot cappuccino or latte. There seems to be something in our human genetics that has us hard wired for sugar-laden treats and other foodstuffs that, on the one hand, our body craves, but, on the other, contribute virtually no nutritional value to the health of the body.

Eating right on the road--where fast food, bags of chips, sodas, microwave-ready popcorn, candy bars, high calorie desserts and other fatty fare seem to be the only food available--can be a real challenge. Eating "junk food" for several days can leave you feeling fatigued and out-of-sorts. Getting your body the nutrition it needs, while enduring the physical demands of a multi-day motorcycle tour, is especially important for a rider's wellbeing and riding enjoyment. Here are my top ten strategies for eating right on the road:

- **Drink Plenty of Liquids:** It's always important to keep well hydrated when riding a motorcycle, with water, tea, low calorie energy drinks and other liquids that replenish fluids and electrolytes in your body. High liquid intake also helps to avoid binge eating. Sodas and other high sugar drinks tend to pass through your body much faster with little to no nutritional benefit.
- **Pack Healthy Snacks:** Stuff your tankbag with healthy snacks, like nuts that contain polyunsaturated fats (like almonds, cashews and walnuts), raisins, dried fruits, low fat energy bars, whole-grain crackers and fresh fruit (such as bananas, oranges and apples). Snacking between meals will keep your energy level up, and also help curb any tendency to overeat at mealtime.
- **Always Eat Breakfast:** Just like mom always said, "Breakfast is the most important meal of the day." After fasting for eight or more hours at night, your body needs "fuel" to get it firing on all cylinders. You wouldn't consider riding your bike out of town on an empty gas tank would you? A high sugar and carbohydrate breakfast may increase your energy for a short time, but it won't last long. Instead, consume milk, juices, fruit, hardboiled eggs and yogurt; minimize the toast, bagels and hot sticky buns.
- **Avoid Large Portions:** Restaurants generally provide portions that are well in excess of what most of us need to consume to operate a motorcycle. Consider ordering one or more appetizers, instead of an entree, or share an entree with another member of your touring group. As a rough guide, don't eat a piece of meat larger than the palm of your hand.
- **Stop Eating When You're Full:** Many men and women in America were trained from childhood, like Pavlov's dog, that they must "clean their plate" of everything on it that even remotely resembles food. This conditioning keeps many of us eating long after our stomach is full - just say no after you're full!
- **Avoid Fried, Fatty Foods and Minimize Carbohydrates:** Like many of you, I was raised in the 50s and 60s on fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, and cherry pie for dessert. I still have a strong craving for these foods, which are frequently on the menus of small town, family-owned restaurants and chain restaurants like Cracker Barrel and Denny's. Virtually all restaurants, however, have other healthier food options on their menus. For example, I particularly like the salad offerings at Wendy's. Because your body metabolizes carbohydrates into sugar, go easy on the pizza, dinner rolls and other similar starchy foods, and stick to whole grains whenever possible.
- **Find Fresh Fruit:** Fruit stands often can be found along secondary roads and offer a refreshing and healthy break from the fare one usually finds at gas stations and fast food restaurants. Take a cantaloupe break at a fruit stand and avoid feeling stuffed and getting sleepy on the road.
- **Stop at Grocery Stores:** When passing through small towns, with little or no good restaurant options, I've often stopped at the local super market and picked up fruit and other low fat food for a picnic lunch.
- **Don't Skip Meals:** To avoid the potential for binge eating, it's important to plan for and eat three meals each day. Those healthy snacks in your tankbag are especially beneficial when it's time to eat, you're hungry and there's no place around to buy food.
- **Eat the Healthy Stuff First:** Cafeterias offer a wide variety of dining selections, some healthy, others not so much. I've found that if I load up my first plate at the salad bar, I won't be as hungry for the meat, potatoes and gravy, and cherry pie on the second and third passes. Chinese restaurants, which can be found in many small towns across America, offer tasty fare, which can include a variety of vegetables.

The key is to find a happy medium between denying all high-sugar and fatty foods, and the occasional indulgence that keeps a trip enjoyable. The bottom line, though, is that eating right on the road will increase the enjoyment of your touring experience.

If you are interested in reprinting any of our "Touring Tips" from our monthly newsletters, please contact Jim Parks at jparks@roadrunner.travel for details and requirements.

Be well and we'll see you again next month.

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The Perfect Motorcycling Road

Bob Steber

After a recent ride in Northwest Arkansas, I believe I have found some roads that are as close as possible to being perfect motorcycling roads. Mario Caruso in his book "ARKANSAS riders guide" gives an excellent description of the ingredients that make a perfect motorcycling road: Jaw-slackening scenery, relentless curves and low traffic densities. In my judgment, he is correct, and I will add one more ingredient to my list, well paved and canted roads. I highly recommend that if you plan to go to Arkansas for a motorcycle journey that you purchase Mr. Caruso's excellent book and then enjoy many of his recommended rides.

In his "ARKANSAS riders guide", Mr. Caruso lists his ten favorite roads in Arkansas. Here they are: (1) AR 123 from Hagarville to Hasty, (2) AR 341 from AR 14 to Norfork, (3) AR 16 from Clinton to AR 23, (4) Scenic Seven National Byway from Hot Springs to Diamond, (5) Arkansas 74 from Bass to AR 23, (6) Old Scenic US 71 from Brentwood to Mountainburg, (7) AR 14 from AR 9 near Mountain View west to US 65, (8) AR 309, the Mount Magazine National Scenic Byway, from Havana to Paris, (9) AR 88/OK 1, The Talimena National Scenic Byway, from Mena to US 271 in Oklahoma, and (10) AR 127/12 from Rockhouse to Rogers. Of these 10 great motorcycling roads, I will place AR 123, AR 341, AR 16, and AR 309 in the perfect motorcycling road category. The other roads are fantastic, but traffic density takes them out of the running for being a perfect road for motorcycling.

The best of the best road in Arkansas and perhaps east of the Rockies is by far AR 123 near Jasper. Here is what Mr. Caruso has to say about this most wonderful motorcycling road: "Motorcycling nirvana awaits on this great road from AR 374 to AR 7. This highway's freshly paved track quality curves will have the heads of peg scrapers swimming." "Luckily for some of us either a motorcyclist or a doodling toddler mapped AR 123." "Directly across from the intersection of AR 16 & AR 7 is my favorite road in Arkansas. Unless you think the ass end of cars and RVs make great scenery, National Byway Seven has nothing on this road. Clear views through the Curves of this writhing beauty inspire lean angle confidence. At the crests of **1960' Coleman Knob**, **2000' McMinn Knob** and **1960' Wheeler Knob** the forest opens up and offers long distance Arkansas panoramas. The road falls down to **Big Piney Creek**, then follows a winding gully formed by **Haw Creek**. The dark red sandstone side of **1970' Hess knob** had to be blown off to lay in this course."

Were there a modern day Horace Greeley making the statement, "Go west young man, go west", I am sure he would be talking about Northwest Arkansas.

2010 ABEES COUNTS

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	139	8	147	7.4	0	7.4
Bob Steber	112	15	127	6.4	0	6.4
Rodger Williamson	96	13	109	5.5	0	5.5
Vance Harrelson	64	3	67	3.4	0	3.4
Jamie Jackson	42		42	2.1	0	2.1
Malvene Jackson	42		42	2.1	0	2.1
Tim Flynn	18	4	22	1.1	0	1.1
Terry Ware	18	1	19	1.0		1.0
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	7	8	7	0.4	0	0.4

JUNE MEETING DETAILS

June 25—27th

Blue Ridge Motorcycle Campground—Cruso, NC

828-235-8350

They no longer cook meals but they do stock some food on site for breakfast and snacks.

Breakfast—Banana nut or Blueberry muffins, Sausage egg and cheese biscuits or croissants, or chicken biscuits, Oatmeal, and Coffee and OJ

Lunch or Snack—Beanie Weenies, Vienna sausages, Cup-a-soup, Tuna meals-to-go packs

Dinner—The club will take advantage of the catering they have available from a local pizzeria. The pizzas are a choice of sausage OR pepperoni and are 12” pizzas for \$9.95. Please send Vance your order if you wish to have **pizza on Friday night**. On **Saturday night** the club will be grilling out hamburgers and hot dogs. YOU MUST LET US KNOW if you want hamburgers or hot dogs or both and how many for each person. They will pick up the grocery order for us and we will cook it ourselves. We will have chips and cookies. We will give you the price after groceries are bought. Club members also have the option both nights to ride to dinner somewhere. **We will NOT be cooking for you unless you have told us what you want in advance. We will NOT be buying extra supplies. So please let Vance know.**

Rally Volunteering by Non-Members

Connie Reaves

Most of you know your fellow club members when you see them, and so you know they are working hard. But how about those faces you didn't recognize? Those were non-members, who stepped up and asked if they could be of help and pitched in. Some didn't even really ask, they just showed up. So this article is not to discount the hard work and long hours our club members put in, but to recognize those non-members you might not have known. **If anyone, club member or not, did not receive their rally caps for working, PLEASE let me know and I will see to it that you get it. THANKS EVERYONE !!!!! You are all invaluable friends and make the rally fun, worthwhile, and rewarding.**

I'd like to mention these folks so you know who they are and where they came from. (alphabetical order)

Diane Albea, from the newly formed Chattanooga club. Worked selling raffle and 50/50.

William Bryant - Tenn - Trash and kitchen

Kema Clark - GA. She was asked to make posters, put rondels on award plaques, running for coffee filters, and many other things I threw at her to do.

David and Lydia Fontenot - LA. Serving Line - Trash

Nathan Gober - Nathan was indispensable to me early mornings, all day and late at night. He hauled boxes down stairs to open registration, t-shirts table and raffle, I sent him around the campground for all kinds of things that needed doing, and hauled boxes upstairs at night to close t-shirts, registration and raffle tables. Nathan gets my BEST HELPER award this year. For a non member, this young man gave his entire rally to the club and says we can count on him again next year.

Richard Jackson - Chattanooga - Registration for hours and hours Friday and Saturday.

Larry Lange - AL - Registration Thursday. Larry comes each year and works registration. Usually more than one day but this year he had a conflict and could only work one day.

Antoine Rodrigue - LA. Worked pancakes Fri and Sat. morning. Another member of our most beloved Cajun contingent (so named by Vance). He also hauled an enormous amount of boxes around and helped with set up on Wednesday too I think.

Tommy Zeringue - LA. Another Cajun contingent and long time friend. Tommy has attended numerous Chicken rallies for several years now. This year he stepped in with Antoine and our Alabama club members from down LA way and made morning pancakes more fun. He was available for box hauling and other jobw too. **UPDATE—since the rally Tommy has sent in his membership form and has joined our Alabama club. Starting retirement, he plans to try and make some club meetings throughout the year. WELCOME Tommy !!!**

SLOW BOATS ON CONGO

David Woodburn

DIARY. 1st of June, 1998, (Monday)- *We awake at first light and I start to work on the bike. The people become a nuisance and I chastise them. (Privacy is Western invention.) It is a very hot day. The clutch is burnt and some oil has leaked onto it from the input shaft seal. I think, the seal is alright but I change it as a matter of course. I fit another clutch (second hand from MotorWorks in Yorkshire). All goes well but it is seven hours work. Everything has to be cleaned again and again. I clean the filter (K&N) also and drain out the diff oil, incase there is water inside. By afternoon the people don't bother me anymore.*

I start the bike..... The people cheered and clapped when it ran.....

22nd of June (Tuesday)- *Woke early and packed up. It was 17km to Lisala- a good deal of which was soft sand.... We push a lot. There is a one bridge- a little tricky (Bridges were generally of logs laid lengthwise to suit the passage of the very occasional truck that used these roads).*

We ask permission to camp at the Catholic Mission. Mattea has some fever and diarrhea. I leave Emy and Mattea and walk down to the port to ask about a boat. Then we search out Immigration. (If you don't check they will come looking for you).

We have reached the mighty Congo River. As I descend the high ground from the Mission and looked across the river's wide expanse there lay jungle, and then jungle and then more rich jungle, a verdant green forest as far as the eye could see. For a brief moment a little boy's eyes rejoiced in the sight of all this. Here I was at the fulfillment of a life dream and all there is to do is to go matter-of- factly about the business at hand. My daughter is poorly. My wife is weary. I am exploring new realms of exhaustion. We have heard, there may be a paddleboat going up-river. We have heard also, that from here on the roads really begin to deteriorate.

The Primus Boat (Primus is Zairian for beer, mate), was due Thursday. We waited until early morning Thursday and I went aboard and talked to the captain. He had no authority to take us. A family discussion followed back at the mission and we decided to drive. First, we needed to see the Army Commander. Instead of endorsing our letter of safe passage he took it to photocopy.

We were taken to the Immigration. They try to extract a ransom out of us for another letter of passage. The cost is \$10 each but this is a considerable sum here in 1998, at least for a worker. We have limited funds and no way to replenish them. We are still only half way to South Africa, with no guarantee of finding any work there. Africa consumes our resources more greedily than we'd expected. Had we paid every bribe demanded of us we'd already be broke and where would that leave us?

I demand my original back. Oh! The Commander still has it. While Emy and Mattea wait under the shade of a mango tree, I walk the weary distance back down the sandy track, to military H.Q. The Commander is not there and they take me to the port in their mini-bus. At least, I didn't have to walk.

The Commander and his clique are there, with their concubines, drinking to celebrate, one supposes, the eventful arrival of the Primus Boat. Obviously, the Commander had more important business today than to deal with us. Still, despite the 'Alice in Wonderland' direction today was headed in, our letter was returned and I was sent with the Adjutant to have it photo -stated and endorsed. We trudged uphill to the local bank to obtain the copies. On the way we came across the mini-bus and it's driver.

We are suddenly back on center stage in Alice's dreams. The driver is severely chastised. It is a pretty steep and sandy track up from the banks of the Congo to the little bank building which overlooks it. Perhaps, the Adjutant didn't like having to walk and perhaps, the driver should have waited. He was made to lie face down on the ground and the Adjutant flogged his quivering buttocks half a dozen times with a doubled up 3/4inch rope, which many soldiers carried around one shoulder and across the chest and back and which was joined with a carabiner.

The general fiasco continued, but by 2:00pm I am back at the mango tree. Children had been annoying the girls, but they are frightened off by my arrival. With our letter finally endorsed but no \$30 permission from the Immigration we set out for the barricade.

We had tried this barricade earlier in the morning. When we tried to sneak past the soldiers grew excited. We knew, that if we stopped we would loose at least a precious half a day. They had chased after us and I had halted the bike when I heard a round chambered. "Pick your battles", is a pragmatic America saying.

They try to hassle us the second time but I was rude and they backed off and let us pass. We had a stamp from the local Commander but more often than not this was an academic exercise and the men would

hassle you anyway.

DIARY-.....It was 90km (54miles) to the mission at Modjamboki. The road was better than we had grown used to. There was a fair bit of soft sand, today I had let the tyres down (We had rim locks on the rear. Otherwise this wouldn't work. In the desert we sometimes went as low as 5lbs per Sq inch).

There were five or six bridges, which were tricky. We didn't really get stuck today. We didn't arrive until 6:00pm at the Mission. By 5:30pm it was already pretty- well dark. Mattea was very tired but rallied with a reluctant wash, a lie down, and some food. We shall camp here tonight. My legs are very sore, especially the right. The thigh muscles are torn.

We have been told, there may be chance of catching a steamer in Bumba, sixty- six kilometers up river. The road was quite eroded and there were several difficult bridges to negotiate. We were stopped at two more barricades by soldiers, who we were able to bluff our way past without a major interrogation or search.

Bumba was tense with soldiery... our eyes again watching muddy feet...our ears pretending to hear no taunts. Soldiers tried to hassle us. You see, we must have been the vanguard of the American invasion but the novelty of this prevented them from knowing exactly how to react. Why did Rambo have this woman and a little girl with him? Shouldn't he be taller and not so skinny? Why is the woman not white? With a sigh of relief, we finally located the Commander, very pleasant young man, only twenty-four years of age.

DIARY- He rode with us on another motorcycle (with driver) to the Catholic Mission. There we are installed a small room in an outbuilding. We are all very tired and Mattea has some blood when she goes to the toilet- I think only a tear. Emy has hurt her leg and I have an ulcer (tropical ulcer- this is a volcanic looking sore that just spreads) on my left ankle from wearing mud caked boots (Chinese canvas basketball boots) and my thigh muscle is very painful. At evening time I collapse some hours on the bed from delayed exhaustion. I almost succumb to illness. Emy is also very worn out.

DIARY- 6th of June (Saturday)- By morning I feel somewhat better and am glad not to be sick. After breakfast Emy and I walk to the post. Mattea is too tired. The Immigration Office is closed (we have been ordered to report there). We leave towards the port. Then, an officer on a bicycle turn up. We return. He takes all our details. He acts properly. Finished, we walk the few hundred meters to the port in search of a boat. Immigration Officials there accost us and despite the stupidity (of which they have no grasp) our details are taken again. The bloke can hardly read the passports.

We find one steamer, the Ketsy. We must return Sunday to talk to the captain. They'll take us, but they may or may not leave next Wednesday. Our visa is ticking away.

Without formally making the decision to drive, we walk twice to the fuel depot with our cans and buy petrol. Then we find somewhere to change money. One green hundred-dollar bill gives us of 135,000francs, which took three men twenty minutes to count.

We desperately need to rest if we are to do the unspoken and continue to drive. We return to our little room to find a great assembly celebrating, whatever it is they are celebrating, in the little compound we are in. We are devastated. Since arriving in Bumba we have been walking and procuring and searching, mending the bike and what not. We desperately need to rest but we can barely squeeze past the throng into our frugal little room.

Bang! The heavens open. The party is over. We might just get to rest, but are overcome with disappointment as to what this is going to do tomorrow's track.

Should we go?

Should we wait?

The compound is flooding and I go to move the bike away from the bamboo shelter it is under. This suddenly collapsed, just missing the machine and the beaten individual wearily struggling to move it. The rain eventually peters out and Emy and I go fetch water. We must have unspokenly decided to try the track tomorrow because we walk out and purchase another 5 liters of fuel. Who knows, where and when we will find more?

DIARY... Carlos (the priest) tells us not to drive. The road (ahead) is too bad!

BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

c/o Joan Ware - Editor
Terry's Two Wheels
1057 Commerce Blvd
Pelham, Al 35124

Dedicated to safe and enjoyable motorcycling



Please visit the BMWMOAL web site at 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

June- 26-27 Cruso, NC at BRMC campground
July 24-25 Lake Pines campground,
Columbus, Ga
Aug. 27-29 Kinderfest @ Kalahan's, Enterprise
Sept. 25-26 Shellmound, Jasper, Tenn.
Oct 30-31 Blue Springs State Park
December Christmas Party plans in the works

Other Events of Interest

MOA Rally Redmond, OR. July 15th—18th
Top o the Rockies, CO July 22-25
RA Rally July 29th Aug 1
Georgia Festival of Fives Aug 6-8
Daniel Boone rally, NC Aug 12-15
Beemers in the Blue Grass.KY Sept 10-12
Wisconsin Dells rally, WI Sept 10-12
October 23—24 Rib Fest
December 4th, Eldridge Children's' Home