

# THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle  
Owners of Alabama

BMWMOA Chapter 5/  
BMWRA Chapter #107



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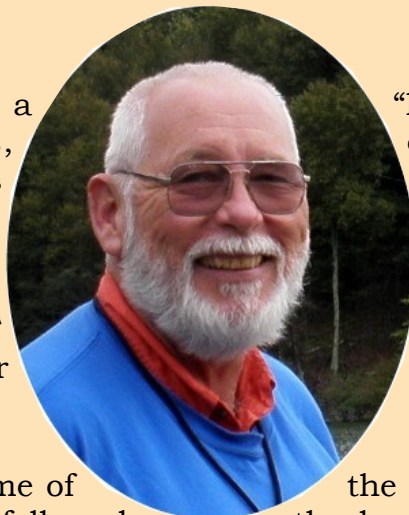
## HOW DO YOU SPELL “AAAAYEEEE”??

Don Little, President

What a great weekend!!! If you missed the latest Cajun Chaos, you missed a good time and I really feel sorry for you. Our Cajuns really outdid themselves with everything from great food, to a local author with copies of his book for sale, to another one of Mike’s famous fireworks display.

For the second year Amelia and Mike Bauman opened their home to any and all comers. They provided camp space to several members as well as inside space to others who were helping with preparations.

The weekend began with a tuna salad sandwiches, tic chocolate chip cookies we were treated to some Frederick, Champion of Festival, cooked up a huge dessert there were EIGHT to sample, whichever your tip of the proverbial iceberg.



“light” lunch on Friday: chicken and chips, dips, salsa, and some fantas-and pralines. YUM! Friday night award winning Jambalaya. Kyle Champions at the 2011 Jambalaya pot of that Cajun creation. For different cakes to choose from, or diet allowed. And that was just the

After breakfast Saturday some of the folks rode over to the BMW shop in Baton Rouge, while other followed the human GPS, Keith Gutbier, on a ride through Ascension Parrish. A few others accompanied Bob Daigle on his quest for crawdads. Actually, Bob had already gotten the mudbugs, about 200 pounds of them, and they just went to pick them up. Everyone got back in time for another of Amelia’s “light” lunches.

Saturday night the eating started out with Bob cooking up several batches of fried frog legs and a pot of (snapping) turtle soup. That was followed up by the aforementioned mudbugs accompanied by corn and potatoes. Can you say “pig out”?? I ate so many crawdads I was afraid the bike wouldn’t haul me home. I heard that some of our folks enjoyed the salads provided by Karen Lee and Joyce Gutbier but I couldn’t pull myself away from the crawdads long enough to go check them out.

After all that, (yes, there was more) Amelia set out the fixin’s for ice cream sundaes. Scrumptious!!!! All of it!!!

(cont. page 2)

After all that food, there was only one thing left to do: sit back, relax, and let Mike entertain with another of his fabulous fireworks display. It rivaled some of the “professional” holiday displays I have seen.

We had about fifty folks there Saturday night for dinner, including quite a few folks from the BMW shop, at least one of the local police and two visitors from Argentina. Leandro Mendez and his wife were at the shop Saturday morning and were invited to come join us. When they left they carried with them pins and decals and honorary membership in our club.

Alex V. Cook was also there with copies of his book, “LOUISIANA SATURDAY NIGHT, Looking for a Good Time in South Louisiana’s Juke Joints, Honky-tonks and Dance Halls.” He had some interesting stories about the research for his book.

It was great to see Melanie and Greg Turp there, too. They made a mad dash down from Missouri just to spend a few hours with us.

THANK YOU to each and every person involved in making this a memorable weekend for all the rest of us. I really appreciate the contributions you have made and continue to make in our Club.

Thanks, too, to everyone else who was there this weekend. It was great being able to see and visit with you and hope to see you all in Huntsville the end of May.



This is how Kyle Frederick does it to win the World Championship Jambalaya Cook-off.



Hey, its getting close now!



Kyle shows off his championship ring for the camera.

## **MEETING MINUTES**

April 29, 2012

Cajun Chaos, Zachary, LA  
Barbara Little - Secretary  
President Don Little presiding

Don called the meeting to order with a huge THANK YOU to everyone involved in another wonderful Cajun Chaos. Amelia and Mike Bauman again opened their home to fellow members. Bob and Wanda Daigle, Rhonda and Michael Scott, Joanne and Tommy Zeringue, and Sheila Kalahan (who has evidently become an honorary Cajun) all helped out with the preparations.

Report of officers and directors:

Jamie (on behalf of Malvene) asked, again, for newsletter contributions. Last month's newsletter was somewhat slim and it really needs to be a full 12 pages.

Sheila in her Rally Chair report is still asking for volunteers. She said that we have had lots of pre-registrations and quite a few new vendors signed up.

Travel Director, Rodger Williamson, asked that members send him current mileages and any ABEES points by May 4. So far, there have been no ABEES points reported.

Martha Warren, Membership Director, reported that she has gotten lots of new membership applications lately.

Jim Kalahan said that the Wiregrass Chapter of MAC is planning a ride in the near future from Ft. Rucker to Panama City, FL. Details haven't been completed at this time though.

That brought comments from some of our LA members that a rally was scheduled for Baton Rouge that morning to kick off Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month in LA.

Alabama's governor, Robert Bentley, has signed a proclamation naming May Motorcycle Safety Awareness month here as well.

Don then announced that Linda Woolridge of BMW Atlanta has purchased booth space for us next to hers at Vintage Days at Barber's in October. Members will probably remember the discussion last year about the feasibility of purchasing booth space to sell raffle tickets and recruit new members. This year the space is provided for us and we don't have to worry about the cost. (Thanks, Linda!)

(continued page 4)

After some discussion by previous and present recipients of the famous Club booby prize, it was decided that Michael Scott should be the newest, although temporary, holder of that prestigious award. You will have to ask Michael why he was chosen for the award.

Not only did Amelia and Mike provide fantastic food and hospitality, but they had a table full of door prizes as well. All was going well until it was discovered that I had misplaced about one-third of the door prize tickets to be drawn. (I still don't know where they went, but I am blaming an unseen gremlin. I am just sorry I didn't think to take Mike's newly awarded booby prize away from him.) Since there were enough door prizes for everyone to have at least one, new tickets were issued to those whose tickets had disappeared and the drawing went forward.

Darlene Massey, who was kind enough to sell 50-50 tickets, won the \$65.00 pot.

After that, the meeting was adjourned. Don followed the adjournment with a short prayer for the safety of everyone as we left for home.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Little, Secretary



Let's cook some crawfish!



That's what I'm talking about!

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Jerry and Anita Brooks	Trussville, AL	1997 R1100RT	Sponsor: Jamie Jackson
Tom and Monica Moran	Meridianville, AL	2004 K1200GT	Sponsor: Don Drasheff

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1 William Landahl	12 Troy Gordon	16 Samuel Peacock
1 Jimmy Lowe	13 Douglas Key	17 Harry Bonner
1 David Lee Walker		18 Charles Keller
2 Suzi Dubick		19 Tom Hargrave
2 Bonnie Sanders		19 Erika Smitherman
3 Pierre-Philippe Nicolas		21 Scott Fuller
4 James Rasco		21 Jill Vanderwesthuizen
6 W. Patrick Reaves		22 Kathleen West
9 Bill Bryan		25 Angie Dubois
9 Deborah Parsons		25 Ray Zimmerman
10 Jerry Lusk		25 Rick Jones
10 Beth Roscher		27 Mari Harrelson
11 Erik Bahl	14 Rosie Morgan	27 Roxanne Kruse
11 Ramona Merrill	15 Angie Prann	28 John Swafford
	16 Paul Buckholdt	30 Polly Wright



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

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2012

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: Tommy Arnold, 471 Plantation Pt. Rd., Scottsboro, AL 35768

## Road Trip to Driskill Mountains August 14 and 15, 2003

Tommy Zeringue

From swampland to cotton fields to pine forests and finally to the mountains of Louisiana. This trip included it all. Along the way I'm sure there were many people who thought that these two crazy cajuns had gone plumb loco. WHAT? MOUNTAINS IN LOUISIANA?? You've got to be kidding! So it went at gas stops, food stops, and rest stops.

The trip almost ended soon after it started. A short distance from home the brake warning light on my motorcycle began flashing. This meant either end the trip now or fight morning rush hour and go to the dealership in Baton Rouge. After arriving at Hebert Cycles a quick check uncovered a low brake fluid level and a stuck sensor. A little brake fluid and we were on our way.



Cotton Fields North of Bunkie

Our original plan was to stay off of the interstates and take secondary roads but, we had to make up lost time, so we took I-10 then US 190 in Port Allen. Fortunately, traffic was fairly light and we made good time all the way to Krotz Springs where we took LA 105 north -- following the twists and turns of the Atchafalaya River. At Melville, we turned west on LA 10 then north on US 71 to Lecompte -- passing fields of sugar cane, cotton, and soy beans.

At Lecompte, we took LA 112 and LA 121 through a portion of the Kisatchie National Forest. Most of the time we were the only vehicle on the highway. Both highways had numerous curves and took us through an old abandoned army base and the pine forests of Kisatchie.

We turned off of LA 121 onto LA 28 to Leesville where we picked up US 171. After the solitude of the Kisatchie, the increased traffic along LA 28 and US 171 was frustrating. Fortunately the congestion didn't last long. Upon reaching Anacoco we turned west on LA 392 and headed to the Texas state line and the dam at Toledo Bend.

The Sabine River's Toledo Bend once played a major role in the history of East Texas. Toledo Bend was located on the western edge of the neutral territory, and the border area was disputed by the United States and Spain during the early 1800's. It was a major route of trade and migration. In more recent years the damming of the Sabine has created a huge reservoir that has become a major resort area along the Texas and Louisiana border.



Toledo Bend Dam, TX/LA State Line

Refreshed after a break for picture taking and enjoying the view, we returned to the highway, specifically LA 191 north. This scenic highway follows the eastern side of the Toledo Bend Reservoir, occasionally providing glimpses of the water. We practically had this curvy road to ourselves, with only an occasional vehicle appearing.

We followed LA 191 to near Noble, where we stopped to revisit a campsite and land that my family owned years back. Quite a change had taken place over the years and being there brought back lots of memories. As I had done on previous visits, I took lots of pictures, creating a sort of history of changes in the area.

We continued on LA 191 to LA 174, then turned east to Converse, then north on US 171 to Mansfield and on to LA 175 until we reached I-49 which took us into Shreveport.

After a few phone calls we located friends and met them at a campground on Black Bayou Reservoir. We rented a cabin for the night - and our friends treated us to a nice home-cooked meal.

Friday morning started with a bang -- ants were all over the bike -- in every nook and cranny. A trail of ants were climbing up the sidestand and spreading out in all directions. We "dusted" off as many as we could and over the next hundred miles or so we lost the rest of them.

We took I-20 east to the Arcadia exit and at a brief rest stop, we finally met someone who actually knew about the Louisiana mountains. From Arcadia we headed south on LA 9 then LA 147, LA 797, and LA 507. We easily found Mt. Zion Independent Presbyterian Church, the starting point of our quest to climb the lofty peak of Driskill Mountain. Our directions said to follow the main dirt road and not to stray, as this was private property. We were the only two people on the dirt road and we had encountered few vehicles on our ride to this "well-known major attraction."

We were all excited when we began our quest to conquer the mile long trail to the peak. The trail started out as a dirt road which had been blocked off by a gate. The climb was gradual. Signs indicating the way were scarce and we hoped we were still on the right track.

The directions I secured from my research on the internet warned about staying on the main road as there was a trail to a "false summit." At about the halfway point, we found another gate blocking the road and off to the right was a tree with a sign pointing out the direction of Driskill Mountain. Here the trail narrowed. We continued pushing on, the trail began to get steeper. Finally, there it was, Driskill Mountain, the highest point in Louisiana, all of 535 feet above sea level! We had made it!



Cairn on Driskill Mountain peak

A small rock cairn marked the summit, and a metal box containing a log book and various business cards of past visitors was attached to the sign pole indicating the elevation. The notebook was fairly new and there weren't many entries. The entries that were there were interesting. Most of them were from fellow Louisianans but there was one from a Californian.

The box also contained a note written by a couple who became engaged on this spot. My research had turned up a national club whose members climbed the highest points in states throughout the United States. After taking a number of pictures and enjoying the scenic view from the peak, it was time to begin the descent.

With the main objective of our trip accomplished, we headed south exploring other roads in the area. We took a meandering route south toward Alexandria taking back roads through sections of the Kisatchie National Forest. These roads included LA 507, LA 508, LA 155, and LA 501 to Winnfield. At Winnfield we took US 167 for a short stretch then veered east on LA 472 which looped back to US 167. Next we turned east on LA 123 to US 165 then looped back to US 167 on LA 8. Then it was on to US 167 until it exited on I-49. We remained on I-49 until we reached the LA 182 exit, rode LA 182 to LA 10 at which point we returned to our route of the previous day. Since it was now afternoon rush hour, we stayed on the west bank of the Mississippi on our return to Labadieville.



Tammy and I had a wonderful time and the trip strengthened our father/daughter relationship. The only difficulty we had was the heat -- temperatures ranged in the mid to high 90's both days. We resorted to wetting our outer shirts to keep cool between rest stops.



The view from the "peak".



The official tourism sign

**The 24th Great Chicken Rally**  
**May 24th -27th, 2012**  
**Ditto Landing, Huntsville, AL**

Nightly  
Entertainment

For More Details:  
Please go to:  
[www.BMWMOAL.org](http://www.BMWMOAL.org)



Win a 2012 G650 GS BMW  
Motorcycle  
Tickets \$ 5.00  
Drawing at Awards Ceremony on  
Saturday Night  
Winner need not be present

## 2012 European Rider's Rally May 18th - 20th

Connie Reaves

The registration is open for the European Rider's Rally. We have a great rally planned this year with a class on slow maneuvering and throttle/clutch control with drag rear braking.

If you have ever wondered how motorcycle policemen turn around in the space of a single lane, let this 20 year veteran instructor teach you how. The steak dinner, Bicho Brother's Band and the campground are ready. Go to <http://www.bmwcon.org/rally.php> to sign up.

The first two hundred online signups are assured a long sleeved Rally shirt and pin. Once the shirts are gone, only pins will be available--so sign up soon!

## 2012 CHICKEN RALLY

Jamie Jackson

Tommy Arnold reports that pre-registrations are still pouring in for our annual "Chicken Rally" in Huntsville Alabama and it is looking like we will have a record crowd this year.

If you as a club member have never attended the annual rally, why not make this year the time to try it. Find out what all your club does to promote motorcycling and motorcycle camping. The rally brings international interest to Alabama and showcases our many motorcycle attractions such as Barbers Motorsports, Little River Canyon, Cheaha State Park, Monte Sano State Park, and thousands of miles of beautiful twisting back roads throughout the state.

If camping is not your game then there are many motels nearby. Also, day passes are available for Saturday.

**BMW MOTORCYCLE OWNERS OF ALABAMA - Dedicated to safe and enjoyable motorcycling.**

## HELP WANTED

Sheila Kalahan

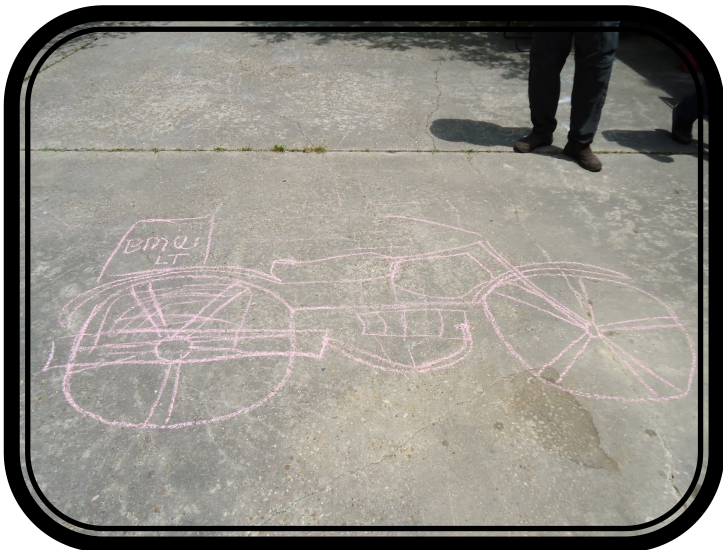
Volunteers for the 2012 Chicken Rally are needed. **NO FORMAL SKILLS REQUIRED** other than knowing that you are supporting the club. All on-the-job training will be performed by our highly qualified personnel. Great benefits (lots of chicken) For more information or to volunteer, call from blue members book or e-mail to:

[rally@bmwmoal.org](mailto:rally@bmwmoal.org)

## RAFFLE TICKET SALES

Raffle ticket sales is going well but many more need to be sold to pay for the motorcycle that will be given away at the Huntsville Rally. Word is that Steve Hebert has already sold 10 books in Afghanistan. If you need tickets contact Connie Reaves for books of tickets. Her telephone number and e-mail address is in the blue Members Directory.

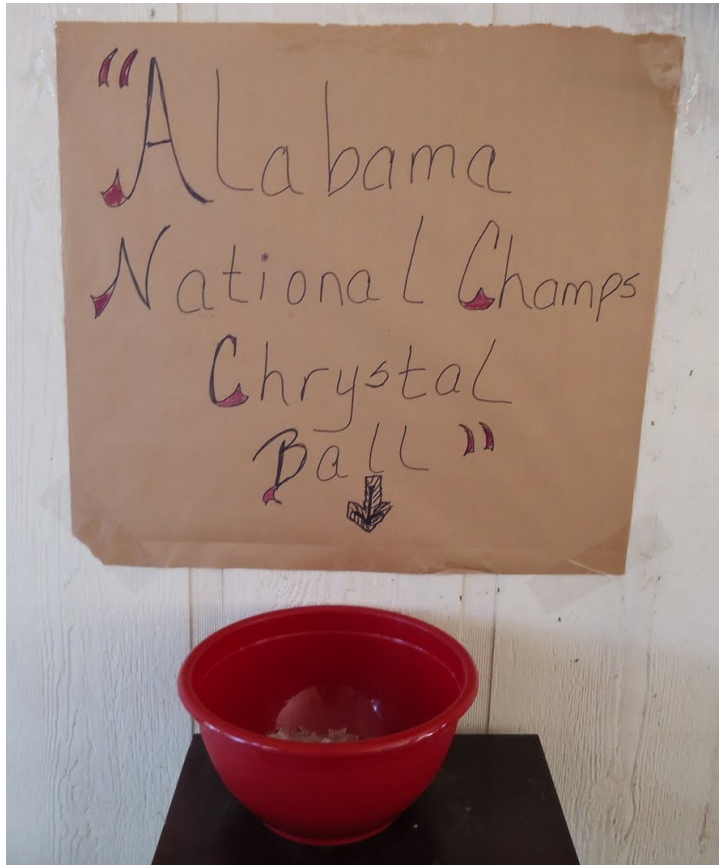
# Cajun Chaos—What a Party!



The Ultimate Insult

## More Cajun Chaos Photos

Thanks to Jim Kalahan, our Director of Photography for the great photos. [ed.]



Ole Gator sure knows how to fry them frogs legs!

Just Another Insult!



This rider seems torn between Louisiana and Alabama

### Club Sponsored Events With Meetings

- May 24 - 26 Great Chicken Rally - Huntsville, AL
- Jun 23/24 Courtyard 25 - Vandiver, AL
- Jul 28/29 Blue Ridge MC Campground - Cruso, NC
- Aug 25/26 Kinderfest - Enterprise, AL
- Sep 29/30 Harbin Hotel - Nauvoo, AL
- Oct 27/28 Laurel Trails Campgnd - Monteagle, TN
- Dec 8 Christmas Party - Hampton Inn, Eagle Point

### Other Events of Interest

- Jun 14 -17 RA Rally - Copper Mtn, CO
- Jun 22 - 24 Barber Superbike - Birmingham, AL
- Jul 19 - 22 BMWMOA - Sedalia, MO
- Oct 12 - 14 Barber Vintage Days - B'ham,AL
- Oct 5 - 7 Return to Shiloh - Pickwick Dam, TN
- Nov 12-14 SwampScooters Rally - Carencro, LA