

THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle
Owners of Alabama

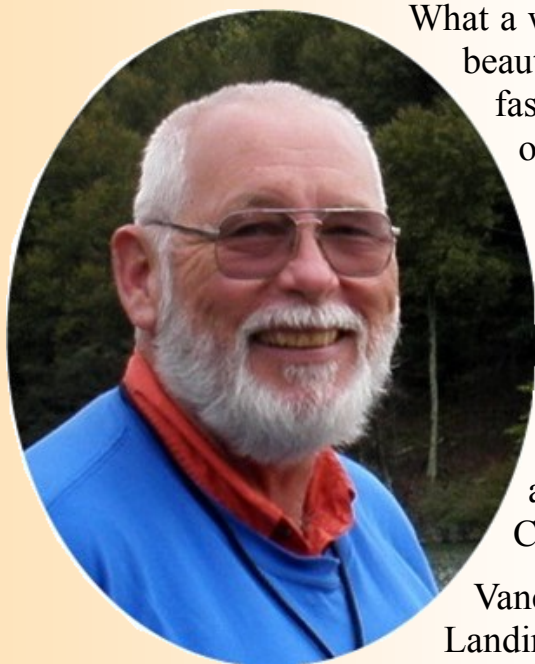
BMWMOA Chapter5/
BMWRA Chapter #107



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REFLECTIONS OF LITTLE RIVER



What a wonderful weekend! The weather was perfect, the area was beautiful and the Bonners did a great job on the pancake breakfast and the catfish dinner. Thank you all so much for making our weekend great.

We finally made a decision about our 2014 rally. We decided to suspend our rally, and join the party at Barber's. Under the circumstances I think it was the best decision we could make.

Monday after the meeting I contacted George Nyktas, president of the RA and secured free booth space in the vendor area for the Club. This will be used to advertise both our Club and our 2015 rally.

Vance was successful in getting our deposit back from Ditto Landing, which was one issue that had concerned some of the members. Thanks, Vance, for taking care of that. We have also submitted notices to both the RA and MOA so that previous rally attendees will be aware of the change in our plans. I am looking forward to the 2014 RA rally and hope to see everyone there.

Our next get-together is the Christmas Party on December 14th (details elsewhere in this newsletter). If it is anything like the last few we have had at the Hampton Inn it will be great. Thanks to Darlene for arranging everything for us...again.

After that will be our annual elections and planning meeting in Montevallo. For the first time in years we will have two people running for President and have a real election, but I would like to see two or more running for every office. If you don't think you want to be an officer, then consider a directorship. The pay ain't great but then neither is the work load. Step up, folks, serve your club and make a difference.

I am looking forward to seeing everybody in December at the Christmas Party and enjoying some good fellowship with all of you.

OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

October 26, 2013

Little River State Park

President, Don Little presiding

Barbara Little, Secretary

Don opened the meeting with a big thank you to the Bonner Family for the wonderful meal and for the door prizes they provided for us. Also thanks to the others who helped to get things ready (and later clean up).

Don then welcomed our new member, Paul Bowers, and other members we haven't seen for a while.

CFO, Tommy Arnold, gave a financial report and reported that we have one renewing member.

Don suggested that members who were there call other members whose names appear on the same page in our "blue book" and tell them what a good time we have at our meetings and invite them to join us.

The subject of our 2014 rally was then brought up. Jim Kalahan reiterated the costs of putting on our 2013 rally.

Vern suggested that we work closely with the RA and move our rally there—a rally in a rally so to speak. He suggested we have a booth there to promote our Club. Tim said the thought that was a good idea and we could also promote our next rally. Mary said that we always get a lot of attention at the booths we have had in the past at various venues, we just need more participation by members. Michael Johnston suggested we give away the old rally shirts that we have (that are paid for) at our booth and Russ suggested getting a limited number of new club shirts and hats to give away to new members signed up there.

Don is going to get with George Nyktas, RA president, to secure booth space for us at the 2014 RA rally.

Vance said he thought it would be a good idea to collect email addresses to build a database, and possibly go back to previous registrations for the Great Chicken Rally for those email addresses, to email invitations to join us at Barber's.

After much discussion and back and forth, the Club voted to suspend our 2014 rally in order to attend and support the RA rally and to promote our Club and our next rally. The following statement will be released to both the RA and BMWMOA publications in order to head off any questions about a 2014 rally:

With the recent announcement of the 2014 RA national rally that will be held at The Barber Motorsports Park, The BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama have decided to suspend our 2014 Great Chicken Rally planned each year for Memorial Day Weekend in Huntsville, AL. We invite all of our club members and past Great Chicken Rally attendees to join us at the RA rally May 29-31, 2014. Be sure to stop by our booth at the rally for more information about our club and our plans for the return of the

Great Chicken Rally in 2015. We look forward to rallying with you at the beautiful Barber Motorsports Park and Museum. Ride safe and we'll see you there!

Don then reminded members that elections are coming up..soon. We need to have some more names on the ballot. Jamie said he will do the ballot before our January meeting but he needs to know the names of the candidates before the end of December in order for it to be correct at the meeting.

Our Christmas party was the next item for discussion, and since Darlene was not able to attend this meeting, Gary filled us in. It is scheduled for December 14 and we are again holding the party at the Hampton Inn in Birmingham (6220 Farley Ct, Birmingham, AL (205) 981-0024). The meal will be catered and the cost will be announced later (via forum or email blast). Just call and tell the folks you are with the BMWMOAL and they will give you our special rate for the night.

Since we are having our party a week later than we normally do, Vance suggested attending the Eldridge Children's Home Benefit Ride which is always held the 1st weekend in December.

Jim Kalahan asked for the floor and made a motion to cease selling rally equipment; the motion was seconded and carried. Don will contact John Zibell, who has been tasked with selling the equipment have him halt the sale.

The meeting was adjourned after the door prizes were handed out.

Dreaming the dream!



STATEMENT OF INTENTION TO RUN FOR OFFICE OF VICE-PRESIDENT

Jamie Jackson, Vice-President

I have decided to run again for the position of Vice-President of the BMW Motorcycle Owners Of Alabama. I have been a member of BMWMOAL for more than 25 years and feel that I am well qualified to serve in that capacity. It is my intent to support the Club President in the execution of his/her duties, and to represent the President as required in the President's absence. I have served in this position for the past two years.

I don't believe that the club is at a crossroads, as I have heard it put, so much as we have just reached a point in time to where we need to step back and refocus on what has made us a strong and resilient organization over the past 40 years. I believe that one of the strengths comes from the insistence that this is a BMW motorcycle club. That is not to say that non-BMW riders cannot attend our meetings (open meetings) and otherwise associate with the club. In fact, I did not own a BMW motorcycle for the first four years that I attended club functions as a guest of Larry Camp. I was well received as a guest and eventually bought a BMW so that I could become a full part of the club.

I believe that our strongest values are found right in the by-laws under Purpose:

The BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama is formed for the purpose of providing friendly association among owners of BMW motorcycles, through simple organization of meetings, outings, instructional classes and other events of common interest to motorcyclists and motorcycling. It is the intention of the club to promote motorcycle safety, and to improve the public image of motorcycling through courtesy on the road and assistance to public officials in time of emergencies when requested.

I feel that our founding fathers had great insight when the by-laws were drawn up and enacted. If elected I pledge to support that statement of purpose and urge the membership to join me in recommitting to the basic foundation on which this great club was built.

BMWMOAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Darlene Massey

Our annual Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 14th .

Location will be the same as the last 2 years at the Hampton Inn, Eagle Point – 6220 Farley on Highway 280 – Birmingham. Room rates are also the same: - \$89.00 + tax for King Standard Room and \$99.00 + tax for King Suites. All you need to do when making your reservation is mention you are with the BMW Club. Phone Number: 205-981-0024. If you should have an issue getting this rate, please email me at dmassey@amerex-fire.com and I'll take care of it for you.

Dinner and Dirty Santa will be in the hotel lobby again this year. Please remember to bring a gift for exchange value of at least \$20.00. This is a really fun game and we get to learn a lot about our fellow Beemers and just how dirty they can be.

In order to start Dirty Santa earlier this year (hopefully by 6:30) we will have dinner starting at 5:45. This year we are having barbeque from Jim & Nicks with all the fixins!!!

We have many great cooks in our club and we all get to enjoy this on this day with everyone bringing their favorite appetizer – So that we can be hungry again by Dinner – we will have appetizers in the lobby of the hotel around 1:00. Army vs. Navy will be on T.V. at 3:00 if anyone is interested. I would much prefer Alabama vs. LSU but that is going to happen on November 9th – of course, I'm sure there will some that might like to discuss the outcome of this game still in December.

If you have a recipe you will be bringing and would like to let me know I will keep a list so we can try and end up with a variety of dishes. If anyone would prefer to bring a dessert to be served with the dinner meal that would be great also.

Please make your dinner reservations with Darlene no later than Friday, December 6th. The meal is not expected to exceed \$12 per person.

Please make your plans to attend our last get together for the year.

Hope to see you there!!!!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Tommy Zeringue
4 Bob Steber
5 Jim Pippin
5 Ron Shea
10 Denise Copeland
11 Jake Bennett
11 Todd Kern
13 Rodger Williamson
15 Joseph Mays
15 Jim Ruggiero
22 Gene McDaniel
23 Pamela Rogers
24 Amelia Bauman
24 Rhonda Scott
24 Larry Tuggle
24 Eddie Williams
27 Dennis Hallman
28 Karen Lee
29 David Ghostley
30 Mavis Cave

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Donald Cave
4 John Beasley
5 Ivory Hampton
7 Sheila Kalahan
8 John Montoya
11 Jo Ann Zeringue
15 Diana Crawford
18 Sharon McLean
18 Kenny Owen
19 Gene Barber
19 Beverly Bedgood
20 Harold Fearing
21 Ron Beck
24 Tim Nesmith
24 Terry Ware
25 Dan Copeland
25 Steven Farley
27 Tim Flynn
27 Marliam Lee
29 Jim McLean



Camp Hosts Relived

Jamie Jackson

Many, many thanks go to Ricky and Lila Bonner, Harry, Celina, John Stanley, and others for the wonderful food at Little River. We have had several to host our meetings/camp-outs this year and it seems as if there is a little competition going on to see who can be the “perfect” host. It would really be hard to judge who did the best job, provided the best food, chose the best place, etc. Blue Springs in February was excellent as always and was hosted by Don and Barbara Little with Barbara’s attention to every detail; March at Ft. Toulouse was rained out; April at Cajun Chaos hosted by Mike and Amelia Bauman was an absolute throw down with fireworks and all.

May found us at the Chicken Rally and June carried us to Cheaha State Park where the park let us down somewhat on the food. Then in July it was to Blue Ridge Motorcycle Campground, hosted by Phillip and Leslie Johnson; really, really good. August was Raccoon Mountain, hosted by Tommy and Jeannine Arnold with Tommy’s famous BBQ from his never-fail pellet smoker.

And what can we say about Nauvoo, hosted by Gary Nesmith and Darlene Massey with Darlene’s wonderful menu? Which brings us back to Little River. The food was wonderful, the pavilion was comfortable, etc., but **can you believe this?** And Alabama won; it just don’t get no better than that!



BMW MOTORCYCLE OWNERS OF ALABAMA
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Date: ____/____/2013

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

NEW MEMBER

Alvah "Buddy" Barron Bham, AL 2012 R1200 Sponsor: Sheila Kalahan

REMINDER!!

Renewal of dues deadline is December 31st. Please get them to Tommy Arnold, our treasurer, in time to add your information in the 2014 membership directory. Reminder letters with renewal application attached will be mailed out 1st week in November to all active members.



This is an outstanding picture of Bob Steber, that was taken by member Paul Bowers at Little River State Park. I certainly hope that Paul will consider serving as Director of Photography for 2014.

BMW MOA Foundation Bike Raffle

You Could Win This One Of A Kind Custom R1200GS Waterhead!



The BMW MOA Foundation is currently selling raffle tickets on this 2013 R1200GS for \$25 per ticket. Buy three tickets for a total investment of \$75 and the MOA Foundation will pay (or renew) your MOA membership for a year...and that is a \$40 value! Tickets will be on sale through early January with the lucky winner to be drawn on January 11, 2014. You may have seen this beautiful bike on display at the recent Barber Vintage Festival and select International Motorcycle Shows around the country. Tickets may be purchased online by logging on to www.BMWMOAFoundation.org and clicking the R1200GS tab.

The BMW MOA Foundation is dedicated to improving motorcycle riders safety, support for motorcycling, and increasing awareness and participation in the moto-lifestyle and its many enjoyable benefits. The BMW MOA Foundation is a non-profit Public Educational Foundation that meets IRS 501(c)(3) requirements.

Order your tickets today to support rider safety, education and training...and you just may be the winner of this awesome bike too!

HOW DO YOU RIDE LIKE THAT?

Jeff Sparks

After leaving my home base in northwestern Alabama for a short ride over into Mississippi with a few friends, one of my Harley riding buddies asked me how I could stand to ride with my feet in the position that they were in. He seemed to think that it was unusual for me to have my feet underneath my torso as opposed to stretched out in front in the proper cruiser position. We had ridden a little more than one hundred miles and I was not uncomfortable at all, but the stop was welcomed for I have a fifty something year old prostate. I didn't really have a good answer other than to say it was very comfortable to me to have them beneath me like that.

His comments though, caused me to give some thought about the issue. I have a R1150R, which is just a standard bike. To me the foot peg location looks to be similar in location to that of the RT (Touring) and GS (Adventure Touring), while the LT (Luxury Touring or Light Truck) models have a slightly more forward position. Most of the time when I ride my instep is on the foot peg, although sometimes I place the ball of my foot on the peg to put little more bend in the knee. Sometimes when I feel a little discomfort I straighten my legs out by hanging them down off the pegs for a while, with my soles just brushing the pavement. I do not believe that I would feel comfortable with my feet resting on the cylinders, not to mention the melting of my boots which would be sure to occur, nor have I felt a need to place foot pegs on the cylinder heads or any other forward locations to get my feet out there in front of me.

My reasoning is simple. I want to be prepared to avoid accidents. With my feet directly beneath me, much as General Lee rode Traveller, when I straighten my knees there is a shift in the center of gravity of about 200 pounds, less the amount bearing on the handle bars, from an area well above the axle height to an area much lower, closer to the axles. And with this lower center of gravity, this 750 pound projectile which is me and my motorcycle is easier to aim. Also from this position, if my path to safety involves grabbing the binders, I can shift my weight forward to assist the front tire in gripping by leaning more onto the handlebars as I rapidly put the pads in touch with the disks on the front. If my feet were out extremely far in front of my body mass and my knees were not completely straight already, the straightening of my legs would push my rear toward the back, and that may cause excessive grip

onto the handlebars to maintain balance. If that is one's chosen riding position, the thought process may be that in an emergency you would relocate your feet from the forward position to the middle (assuming you were using "highway pegs") but that is a time gap in emergency avoidance that I do not wish to have to factor in.

I saw the most beautiful display of the shifting of one's motorcycle center of gravity recently at the AMA race at Barbers. The riders would enter the turn with their bodies toward the inside of the turn, weight on the inside foot peg, then as the track switched back, Barbers has a few of them you know, the rider in a fluid motion, would slightly lift off the inside peg, reposition his body on the other side and the bike would fly through the turn with seemly no other input from the rider.

To see how much your knees are bent and how much forward lean you have on your current bike, or on your next one, you can go to <http://cycle-ergo.com/> . You type in your height and inseam and then select the motorcycle. It will give you a reading of your knee bend and forward lean in degrees. In my case, on a R1150R, I had a knee bend of 97 degrees and a forward lean of 22 degrees. Going to the extremes in the "cruiser" position, a Harley Night Rod, put my knees at 22 degrees and forward lean at 20 degrees. Sport bikes generally have the foot pegs further back to help the rear tire hook up and have lower bars to cause the rider to lean forward to keep the front wheel on the ground. My reading on a BMW S1000RR would be a knee bend of 101 degrees and a forward lean of 44 degrees.

These comments are not to demean or criticize those who chose to ride in the style popularized by the cruiser. I am very much a person who says "Let those who ride decide" but for me, I prefer to ride like General Lee.

This article which was written by member Jeff Sparks was taken from our newsletter archives for reprint. [ed]

2014 ELECTION

Jamie Jackson

If you feel that it is time to take the bull by the horns and run for one of the Officer or Director positions in the club, please submit your name and the position that you are seeking to vicepresident@bmwmoal.org by December 10th so that I may prepare the ballot for the January meeting.

The positions are:

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

Rally Chairman

Directors:

Safety Director

Travel Director

Photography Director

Membership Director

Information Director

(It is assumed here that the office of Newsletter Editor will be eliminated and the position of Information Director will provide all necessary club information via e-blast and club web site. Tech Director, likewise, will be eliminated.)