

THE ALABAMA BEEMER



APRIL NEWSLETTER

OF THE BMW MOTORCYCLE OWNERS OF ALABAMA
BMWMOA CHAPTER #5 / BMWRA CHAPTER #107



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This is what was for dinner at the
CAJUN CHAOS Meeting in Zachary,
LA...



**DON'T FORGET THE
GREAT
CHICKEN RALLY
COMING IN MAY!
MAKE PLANS NOW!**

**NEXT UP:
GULF SHORES
MEETING
APRIL 29-
May 1**

"This is not an ad. This is a deal this company is giving us to earn extra door prizes for the rally while getting a discount on their products. If you use these products, great, and if not you can try it at a discounted price. ~~ Connie

20% off for your member's orders. Please make sure to remind them to enter this code as indicated at the bottom of the "Shopping Cart" page, **BEFORE check out**, so we may allocate the portion to be accumulated and donated to your association in Crystal-Glo products, to help contribute at your annual upcoming rallies and runs.

Here is the Code: "**bmwmoa11**" valid until May 15, 2011 www.crystal-glo.com

Telephone orders are welcome and also qualify: at toll free 1-800-263-0887, mention your organization code.

Let us know of your setup, and if you have any questions or require further assistance. Have a nice weekend.

Best regards,

Valerie Atcon, Events Coordinator

Crystal-Glo Manufacturing Corp. "

MAY



BIRTHDAYS!

LINDSEY	EDDIE	5/10
MONTE	SAM	5/10
PEDIGO	ANDREA	5/10
PITTMAN	CLINTON	5/10
MCROY	WOODS	5/11
REYNOLDS	GAIL	5/11
MCROY	JENNY	5/12
MORRIS	LAURA	5/13
DABBS	JOYCE	5/15
FLYNN	PAM	5/16
MORGAN	JIMMY	5/17
RIDGEWAY	TONY	5/17
THORNE	GAIL	5/19
JACKSON	MALVENE	5/20
PERRET	FRANCES	5/21
BARNES	WILLIAM	5/22
HUGHSTON	BEVERLY	5/22
CAIN	LINDA	5/24
HEBERT	STEVE	5/27
BROWN	PINKIE	5/30
PESNELL	SARAH	5/30

DONNELS	DEBORA	5/2
BONNER	KIMBERLY	5/3
KRUSE	RUSS	5/3
STEVENS	TERESE	5/3
ERWIN	ROBIN	5/5 ←---THAT'S ME!
NORWOOD	DON	5/5
PRANN	JUSTIN	5/8

Laissez les bons temps rouler!

Vance Harrelson

Hello Alabeemers! Did we have a blast at this month's meeting? A **huge "Thank You"** goes to the entire "*Cajun Contingent*" for hosting a fantastic party. There are other write ups elsewhere in this newsletter that will detail all the "doings" so check it out! And of course there is photographic evidence available for viewing on the club website at www.bmwmoal.org too! The weather was chilly for most of us starting out but once we arrived it could not have been better! As you would expect the food was magnificent and Gator reports that "*These Alabeemers can sure eat a mess of crawfish once you teach 'em how!*" And eat 'em we did...with all the trimmings. All who were there would agree "we passed a good time" indeed! Thanks to Mike & Amelia Bauman for hosting the event and all the help from the Bayou Bikers for the help and preparation...and the financial contribution...you guys have outdone yourselves....and I suspect we will be back there again next year....if not before! In fact Amelia has even posted the popular recipes on the website. I think this was an attempt on her part to let everyone know...you can do it yourself! Thanks again you guys...it was really fun!

Next up is Gulf Shores where we are planning a great event as well. The Saturday morning breakfast club from the Oasis has been invited to join us on Saturday evening for food fun and fellowship at Ribs and Reds in Gulf Shores. See the details in this newsletter and on the website. Get your reservations in now!

That meeting will be closely followed by the Great Chicken Rally. Planning for this event is wide open right now and this too will be a BIG time. We have the music lined up and Friday night will feature a new group from Scottsboro that you will not want to miss! Jim Parks will be back on Thursday and Saturday night with his great show as well. Connie Reaves has agreed to take the Rally chair position again this year so please send her your preferred positions and shifts for volunteering. Soon we will have a sheet posted with that information as well. We have a great line up of vendors this year including several never before attendees! And Sherpa Ted Mayberry will be there if you do not want to mess with

bringing your tent! Contact him here for "reservations" <http://www.sherpamayberry.com/>. As you can see this 40th Anniversary rally is coming together to be bigger and better than ever. So make your plans now to be in Huntsville on Memorial Day Weekend!

Also, remember we have a couple new challenges and the mileage contest for you this year. I hope you will take time to check out these riding opportunities and support the Eldridge Children's Home along the way. The mileage program is a just for fun attempt to see how many miles the Alabeemers will ride in a year. Sign up today for both of these online at www.bmwmoal.org. Also, with the coming of spring there are many opportunities to ride across the country. April is the AMA sponsored "Get Out And Ride" month. Check that out here <http://www.americanmotorcyclist.com/> for lots of opportunities to ride.

Also, a reminder about the bike raffle... Once again this year we are behind where we would like to be in ticket sales. But with all the great weather and riding opportunities coming up, I see no reason why we can't sell most of those tickets before the Chicken Rally even starts! Tickets are \$5 each and available in books of 10. Remember when you sell 4 books you will receive a free rally pass worth \$45 !!! so order your tickets today from Connie at bamabmw@aol.com and she will get them right out to you!

As you can see, there are lots of opportunities to ride and rally coming up. Now that the weather has finally improved, I hope you will make your plans to get riding. The Dogwood Trail Rally, The Barnesley Motor Werkes Riders Weekend, The Georgia Mountain Rally, The European Riders Rally in Burkesville all coming up before our Great Chicken Rally on Memorial Day Weekend. Hit the road and check them out!

Gear Up...And Ride Safe To Ride Far!

We have a guest columnist this month!

Russ Kruse

I really enjoyed reading his account of the LA trip. I think y'all will too!

Thanks, Russ!...

Cajun: (noun) Somebody from Louisiana who is descended from French colonists exiled in the 18th century from Acadia in present-day Canada

Chaos: (noun) disorder, confusion, bedlam, anarchy, pandemonium, commotion disarray, turmoil, madness, mess, unruliness.

aaaaaheeeeeee, Let the good times roll or Laissez le bon roulement de périodes. If I spelled it correctly, it defines the weekend in Louisiana to a tee. So where do I begin, okay, Friday. Some left from chilly temperatures in Northern Alabama. Others began their trip from slightly warmer weather. Regardless of origin, the destination was the same; Zachary, LA.

Jim Kalahan and I planned on leaving late morning on Friday. Jim had to work and I spent the morning cutting down a tree for our church. (Jack of many trades, master of none) comes to mind but I usually lay them down where I plan. I've only damaged a few fences. I asked Jim if he wanted to eat before we left but we decided to get on the road and eat in Mobile in a few hours when I needed gas. A quick commo check and my J&M will received but not transmit. The mission must go on, so Jim is in the lead and me in trail. It's a quiet ride as we normally are joking about the other drivers or condition of the roads etc. Beautiful weather and fairly light traffic got us to Mobile mid afternoon. Thinking about the red beans and rice that awaited us in Louisiana, I opted for a Snickers and a Mountain Dew. (Caffeine and sugar) every aviators lunch when on the run. While savoring the caramel flavor, I felt a hard chunk in my mouth. I thought it was a peanut, well it wasn't, it was a piece of my tooth. Now 3 hours from home, do I turn around or keep going? What the heck, drive on.

We arrived in Zachary just as dinner was served. Sheila had been waiting there with a beer for Jim and me since Wednesday and it was my favorite

kind, "cold and free". I ate a quick bowl of red beans and rice and put up my tent. Then went back for seconds. The mandatory F's taken care of (Fire, Food, Friends) it was an enjoyable night under the stars. I finally called it quits about midnight.

Saturday morning found us feasting on a healthy dose of coffee and a wonderful spread. Amelia and friends did a great job of feeding the troops. I finished my coffee and started working on the communications on the bike. Jim had a wild hair during the night thinking it might be a loose wire and sure enough the retaining clip was not retaining, it was pushing itself back when connected. A little adjustment and it was working like a champ. That Jim is a pretty fart smeller, I mean a pretty smart feller. Everyone went their separate ways exploring and finding great finds, like six different kinds of Rye Whiskey, well worth a booby prize. We departed with a group of 13 on a three hour tour of local roads and sights. Keith (the human GPS) was great. He led us on roads that I'm sure many local's have never seen. We did manage to teach him something though. "The curve speed formula" on most highways when you see a yellow sign for speed in the corner, double it and subtract 10, i.e. $35 \times 2 = 70 - 10 = 60$. Note: *professional driver on closed course, do not attempt on your own*. Anyway back to the trip, from the Nuclear plant to Greenwood Mansion it was well worth the time. Vance, Jim and I split from the group and headed for Hebert's, I mean BMW of Baton Rouge. Vance did his grippin' and grinnin' while Jim and I looked around the showroom floor eating the Cajun spiced Popcorn. We jumped back on the slab we headed back to Mike and Amelia's. Baton Rouge is the 3rd or 4th most dangerous city to drive in and I think the three of us would agree. We almost got taken out a couple times. I wish we would have had a "follow me" sticker on the bikes and had those jokers follow us to the MAC presentation put on by Warren when we got back. It's a great organization with great intentions. If you're not a member you should be.

Warren finished up and the tables got set up. You could see something good was on the way. Gator

and Tommy got the crawfish going and set a table fit for Kings and Queens, as long as you don't mind eating with your hands. Four bags of crawfish later we all had our belly's and T-shirts full. If you didn't get any on you, you weren't trying, right Jamie and Gator? The boys from MAC hung around as well as the guys from Hebert's, I mean BMW of Baton Rouge. Gator made the comment "not bad for a bunch of non-Cajun folks" or something like that meaning we ate more than he thought we would. I know I ate at least my age in mud-bugs. They were soooo big, we were eating the meat out of the claws. The BMW guys brought out the demo bikes and offered them up for a test drive. I passed as my Beer vs. Drive limit had already been reached. The night sky was lit up with fireworks. Mike had a box of leftovers and shared them with us before we called it a night. The grand finally was a string of some 4000 fire-crackers strung in a tree.

Sunday morning was brought in early for those in tents. Mike's neighbor has chickens. And with chickens comes a rooster. He obviously did not get the memo on daylight savings. 4:50 am or O'dark thirty for those who used to be in the military. I told Mike, next year we would have chicken with our crawfish if he does it again. Again Amelia and friends put on a great spread.

Meeting adjourned, we all packed up and headed home. Well, not so fast. I'm pointed out the driveway and Mike say's "Russ, your tire looks low". I hop off the bike and sure enough a little low. I put air in and roll it forward to check if anything was in it. Not half a roll and Mike say's "Stop". We pulled out a 16 penny nail. For those not in the construction business or do-it-yourselfer's. It's a big nail. Whoosh comes the air and the game is on to try and plug the hole. Since it went in at an angle it was not easily plugged. Three attempts later and just as many hours, Gator and Wanda took me to Hebert's, I mean BMW of Baton Rouge where Cory was waiting with a new tire. He gave me the option of new or used. I've got a new set of tires at the house for the trip to National so opted for the used tire. With the speed of a well oiled ma-

chine, Cory had the old tire off and the new/used tire on the rim. 20 minutes back to the gas station where Jim was patiently waiting with Mike, we got the tire on the bike and were headed East but not before Amelia could feed us again with a chicken salad sandwich. Maybe Mike got to the Rooster before I could, Hmmm I hope so.

For those who headed back to Alabama, we were hit with cool temps from the storms that had rolled through. Being three hours late in our arrival meant Jim and I missed the golf ball size hail in Opp and Enterprise. Moral of the story, everything happens for a reason.

In my opinion, we had a great turn-out for a meeting held two states away. I've rambled on long enough about my escapades but I want to thank the Cajun Contingent for their efforts in sharing some of their heritage with us non-cajun's. And thanks for being a part of the Alabeemers. You guys and gals Rock, aaaaaheeeeeeee, ain't we havin' fun now!

Russ Kruse





Cajun Chaos
2011
Zachary, LA



BMW MOAL 2011 Miles Ridden as of 03-31-2011

	2	6	6	6	2
--	---	---	---	---	---

Goal: 250,000



FOR SALE: 1999 silver K1200LT 48,300 miles, excellent cond, new Metzeler 880's, brake pads, battery, backup backrest, service up to date, garaged and covered. All records, new shop manual. No trouble ever!! also have a 28x19 detachable platform for camping gear included. Email pix available \$5,500.00. Paul Goehler, 256-353-2398, gohlerp@bellsouth.net



BMW MOTORCYCLE OWNERS OF ALABAMA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Date: ____/____/2011

NEW RENEW UPDATE

Sponsored by _____

Primary Member: _____ DOB: _____

Secondary Member: _____ DOB: _____

Address: _____ Apt# _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ FAX: _____

Year / Model BMW(s): _____

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

Dues are \$25.00 per year for primary and \$5.00 per year for secondary members. Make check payable to:
BMW M/C Owners of Alabama. Mail application with check to: Connie Reaves, 108 Cape Cod Circle, Alabaster, AL 35007

Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2011
Cajun Chaos Headquarters
President Vance Harrelson presiding

Vance began the meeting with a HUGE Thank You to our hosts, Amelia and Mike Bauman as well as to all their helpers including Rhonda and Mike Scott, Wanda and Bob Daigle, Jo Ann and Tommy Zeringue and Sheila Kalahan and others. A special Thanks to the Bayou Bikers whose monetary contribution made it possible for us to feast all weekend for a very modest price. Gator (Bob) was thanked for getting and cooking the 160 pounds of crawfish we consumed Saturday night.

We had two visitors present: D. D. Stacey and Jo Ann Zeringue. We hope you can both join us again.

Vance then passed along the sad news that we had lost a long time member, Larry Russo. He moved out of state several years ago because of his business, but usually returned every year to help at the rally. He was only 55 and suffered a fatal heart attack in March 2010.

Vance announced that several new MAC members had signed up on Saturday as a result of the presentation and video we were able to see Saturday. He also spoke on his efforts this past month on behalf of MAC (Motorcycle Awareness Campaign). Info on the Louisiana club is available at www.macorg.com.

Rally update: the music for the rally has been booked, Jim Parks on Thursday and Saturday nights, the same as last year, and some friends of Tommy Arnold's (who played at a couple of their Goose Pond meetings) will be playing on Friday night. Other plans are progressing as well. Vance has managed to change his plans so he and Mari will be attending after all. As to raffle tickets: SELL SOME!!!. Time is running out and we still have a lot of tickets left.

Next meeting: Gulf Shores in April. Camping and our Sunday morning meeting will be at Southport Campground. Marriott (on Hwy 59) is holding 10 rooms (5 queens, 5 kings) until April 8 for a reduced price of \$119. They are first come, first served and after April 8 the price will go up so if you're interest-

ed, call now.

Saturday night's dinner will be at Ribs and Reds about 1 block from the "T" on Hwy 59. The restaurant is on stilts with a paved pad underneath so we can park on either side there and they will have a buffet set up in the middle (shrimp boil, pulled pork, tea, etc) from 5:30 till 8:30. The price is \$20.00 per person and will include live music.

NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL, Please.

Connie is handling reservations for this so please email her ASAP if you plan to attend.

July meeting: Jamie reported that the Brierfield Park has some restored buildings and a lodge that are available for rent that weekend. The houses are not real cheap but they are air conditioned (a point that Jamie kept stressing, seemed real important to him). Rental does include a wrist band for the pool which will cost extra for campers. Jamie has reserved the Lodge which will sleep 16 (in bunk beds) for a cost of \$185. That makes the cost cheaper than camping. There is a link to their website from ours so you can check it out if you like.

2011 Mileage Contest: Information and entry form are on our website. Rodger says he will put monthly totals in the newsletter if you let him know your mileage at the beginning of every month.

If you haven't already done so, check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BMWMOAL

Vance suggests checking out www.ridemaster.com for some interesting riding challenges.

Not only did our hosts provide a fantastic weekend with a guided ride, absolutely fabulous food, good accommodations, and a goody bag when we got there, they also supplied some excellent door prizes. What a week-end!!!

Gary Nesmith was the proud winner of \$106.00 in the 50-50 pot.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Little, Secretary

Gulf Shores Beach Bash!

Event Date: April 29- May 1 2011

Location: Gulf Shores, AL

Southport Campground

Under The Bridge On Hwy 59

Contact Sandy with Questions:

251-968-6220

Host Hotel: Courtyard By Marriott

3750 Gulf Shores Parkway

Gulf Shores, Alabama 36542

251-968-1113

CALLING THE BMW MOAL & THE OASIS GROUP!!!!

Join us for a fun time at the beach for our monthly BMWMOAL meeting weekend. This year by request, we have taken a great AL club tradition and added a twist to it! You may arrive anytime Friday or Saturday and camp at Southport or this year we have arranged a discounted rate with the Courtyard By Marriott for those who would like more plush (or a bit more comfortable) accommodations. The rooms at the Marriott are of course on a first come first served basis so I suggest you book now to get a room there!

Now, how is it going to be different you ask? Well, join us on Saturday night at **Ribs and Reds Seafood Restaurant** located at 128 East First Ave in Gulf Shores at 5:30 PM for a traditional shrimp boil and buffet! Menu items include pulled pork BBQ and all the trimmings in addition to the shrimp boil. Sweet & Unsweet tea included. Alcohol extra of course and must be purchased at Ribs and Reds...NO BYOB please!

During dinner the MOAL will have use of the entire area below the restaurant. Bike parking there is encouraged! Mingle among the bikes and friends and enjoy dinner while being musically entertained by the proprietor **Don Sutton**. **Party on until 8:30 PM for only \$20 PP!!**

After Ribs and Reds all are invited to Southport Campground to watch or participate in their weekly Karaoke contest! Or whatever.....

Sunday morning we will hold the regular BMWMOAL club business meeting at Southport Campground. **THIS MEETING WILL CONVENE AT 9AM!!** That's right...9AM! A light breakfast of pastries and coffee will be served. We will collect for that cost at the meeting time. Please be prepared for that!

Now here are the details on booking the campground and hotel....

Southport Campground:Call Sandy (251) 752-8215

and Reserve Your Spot.

Camping for tents in the primitive area will be **\$15.00 per night**

Camping for tent at a site with water and electric will be **\$17.00 per night**

RV's with full hooks ups will be **\$25.00 per night**

Courtyard By Marriott - Call the hotel directly to book!!! Make sure you request the BMW Motorcycle Group Rate!! Room rates are \$119 / night + Taxes (Normal Rate is \$139). I have set back 5 King Rooms and 5 Queen Rooms ONLY!!! Once these are gone...well...they are gone! **YOUR ROOM MUST BE BOOKED NO LATER THAN APRIL 8!!!** After that remaining rooms will be released and the rate goes back to normal!!

Gulf Shores Courtyard Marriott at Craft Farms

3750 Gulf Shores Parkway, Gulf Shores, AL 36542

Phone 251-968-1113

SO WE NEED YOUR RESERVATIONS TO PLAN FOR THE SATURDAY NIGHT MEAL AT RIBS AND REDS!!!! PLEASE EMAIL CONNIE REAVES TODAY AT bam-abmw@aol.com AND LET HER KNOW HOW MANY WILL BE IN YOUR PARTY. WE MUST HAVE **DINNER RESERVATIONS NO LATER THAN APRIL 23...AS WE MUST ADJUST THE HEADCOUNT FOR THE RESTAURANT!!**

PLEASE NOTE: WE HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT DEPOSIT TO THE RESTAURANT IN ORDER TO BOOK THIS PARTY. THEREFORE IF YOU MAKE A RESERVATION AND DO NOT ATTEND, YOU WILL NEED TO PAY FOR YOUR SPOT...AND WE BELIEVE YOU WILL AGREE THAT IS ONLY FAIR!

******REMEMBER, PLEASE MAKE YOUR CAMPGROUND AND HOTEL RESERVATIONS DIRECTLY WITH SOUTHPORT OR THE COURTYARD HOTEL.**

As you can see we are planning a great time at the Gulf Shores Beach Bash and we would like to you to join us too! Make your plans now to join us at the beach! Of course contact me or Connie with any questions!!



My First “Big” Ride, by: Wanda Hudson

Another first time submission!

Thank you Wanda for a great article!

Sunday, April 3, 2011, I went for my first big ride on my Little Bear, a black G650GS that I am completely enamored with. Participants were (in riding order): Gary and Angie Dubois, Michael Weyler, me, and trusty hubby, Steve. A girl couldn't ask for a finer group to ride with. With only a few hundred miles of riding experience under my belt and the MSF course still a fairly recent memory, this was my first group ride and the longest ride I had attempted to date. I could barely contain my excitement.

The weather forecast predicted copious amounts of sunshine, blue skies, and 20 mph winds out of the south. The idea of riding in the wind gave me some low-level anxiety which I mostly squelched by educating myself on the proper way to ride on windy days. All I had to do was keep my knees in against the bike, keep a loose upper body posture, ride the wind like an ocean wave, and I'd be fine. No problem.

Steve and I made the 23-mile run from our house near Harvest, AL to the gas station in downtown Elkmont, AL to meet up with Gary, Angie, and Mike. On the way there, I got to practice my emergency downshifting and maneuvering skills when I came down a hill and around a curve right up on a horse pulling a cart and two dogs in the road with double yellow lines and a car coming from the opposite direction. It was a lot to take in, but I mostly remember seeing the ass end of that horse looming large. The Little Bear handled the situation with ease, though, and in a blink we were there at the gas station unscathed and unscathed.

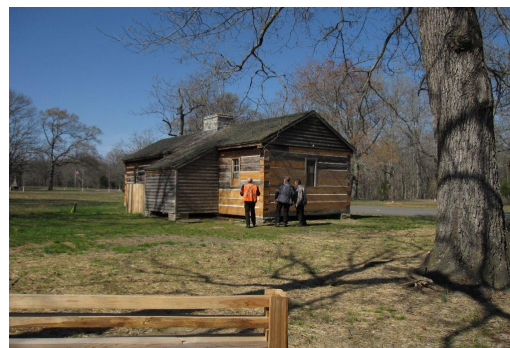
At the corner, we chased our sandwiches with delicious stories and laughter, and we were on our way. We headed north up AL 127/TN 166 to Pulaski, TN. I saw right away I was going to have trouble keeping up with the Dixie OutlawS. Man, can they ride! I was getting settled into my pace when a white car pulled out in front of me. I had to downshift and get on the brakes, enough so that I fish-tailed the rear wheel. It kind of irritated me, because I know the person saw me; I was wearing a high-visibility riding jacket. Oh well, I remained on the bike with rubber side down, so I shook it off. Nothing was going to prevent me from enjoying the ride and the beautiful day.

We hung a left on US 64 W towards Lawrenceburg, TN. The south wind was a challenge for me, but I managed to keep the group in sight. The toughest part was getting wind gusts while trying to lean into a turn; it would almost stand the bike back up. Luckily, almost all the curves were long, sweeping ones, so it wasn't too bad. I found the G650GS to be a very stable bike at only 423 lbs. wet.

We kept on US 64 W through Lawrenceburg, TN, and then picked up the Natchez Trace north toward Columbia, TN. It was beautiful and peaceful there, and I can see myself riding it again, perhaps in the southerly direction. The dogwoods had not started to bloom there yet like we had hoped, but it was still pretty. The Natchez Trace was originally an Indian trail leading from Natchez, MS to Nashville, TN. We stopped a couple times to look around, pausing for a bit at Meriwether Lewis Park to inspect the sturdy log cabin where the great explorer, Meriwether Lewis (of Lewis and Clark fame), is said to have died. His grave is also in the park.

At Columbia, TN, it was time to turn towards home, so we headed south on US 31. Just north of Pulaski, TN, we stopped for R and R (rest and refuel). By then, I was beginning to tire of the wind and opted for the shortest route home. Steve and I split off from the group, continuing down US 31 to Ardmore, AL and on home, while Gary, Angie, and Mike headed back to Elkmont. It had been a good ride with no accidents or encounters with law enforcement, and the only mechanical problem was a blown headlamp bulb on Steve's bike. With my Little Bear back in the garage and on its center stand, I went in and sat down awhile, listening to Bob Seger and the Silver Bullet Band on my MP3 player while I downloaded the pictures from the Natchez Trace. Then, I went to bed and lay awake until way after 11:00 p.m., reliving the ride in my head. With my soul realigned and my heart still singing, I'm back at work this morning and now have to turn my focus to helicopters.

The Motorrads
(L to R): R850R,
R1150GS, R100GS,
G650GS, and
R1200GS



Cabin at Meri-
wether Lewis
Park, Natchez
Trace between
Lawrenceburg
and Columbia,
TN

Harley-Davidson's homage to BMW

Rodger Williamson, Editor

In post World War One Europe, the German economy boomed, and in 1923, BMW introduced their first motorcycle, the R32. BMW set an innovative standard when they oriented the boxer engine with the cylinder heads projecting out on each side for cooling, an engine and gearbox that formed a bolt-up single unit, and a shaft drive. BMW began racing their bikes in 1924, but Germany's economy retracted in 1929 as the Great Depression forced American Banks to stop lending money to rebuild Europe's Economy. Unemployment soared, especially in larger cities, but in 1937, Ernst Henne was able to set a world record when he rode a supercharged BMW to a speed of 173.88 mph, - and in 1939, BMW took both the First and Second place trophies at the International Isle of Man TT (Tourist Trophy) Race.

In the early days of World War Two, the BMW R75 performed very well in the harsh operating environment of the North African Campaign. The protruding cylinders of the flat-twin engine performed better than other configurations which tended to overheat in the desert temperatures, and BMW's shaft drive performed better than a chain-drive that was subject to damage by desert grit. BMW's war-machines were so successful,

Harley-Davidson XA 1942



that the U.S. Army asked Harley-Davidson to design the next-generation U.S. Military motorcycle. Harley-Davidson created their XA (Experimental Army) model when they took a captured BMW R71 and replicated it part by part, except converted all bolts to SAE measured sizes instead of BMW's metric sized bolts. In addition, per the original U.S. Army request, - the throttle was on the left end of the bars and the hand clutch on the right. A massive rear rack carried a then-lightweight 40-pound radio. And, starting in 1943, the XA also sported the company's first hydraulically damped telescopic forks (a technology that had been introduced by BMW in 1935). Mechanically, the large cooling fins stuck straight out in the breeze, reportedly keeping the XA's oil temperature 100 degrees cooler than a standard Harley WLA. And at 4,600 rpm, the side-valve engine put out a claimed 23 horsepower. The Army ordered a test batch of 1,000 XA's, and at the same time, also asked The Indian Motorcycle Company to make a 750cc shaft-drive twin. Indian came up with a 90-degree V-twin design (much like recent Moto Guzzi) that Indian designated as the Model 841.

While the Army dragged its feet on picking a winner between the Harley and the Indian, the U.S. military eventually hitched its hopes to the Jeep, and the need for an American produced opposed twin motorcycle with a shaft drive ceased to exist. The end of World War II found BMW in ruins. Its plant outside of Munich was destroyed by Allied bombing, and it's Eisenach facility was badly damaged. After the war the terms of Germany's surrender initially forbade BMW from manufacturing motorcycles, and without the need to compete against a superior design, Harley Davidson continued production with their traditional V-twin design. Meanwhile, BMW would not be able to produce another motorcycle until 1948.

It was U.S. Military Veterans who were stationed on Post War Germany that would re-discover BMW's motorcycles, and then bring them back to the U.S.A. Eventually, in 1972 five BMW enthusiasts formed a Club we all know as the BMW Motorcycle Owners of America.

**BMW Motorcycle
Owners of Alabama**

c/o Robin Erwin - Editor
3118 Hwy 28
Columbiana, Al 35051



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**DEDICATED TO SAFE AND
ENJOYABLE MOTORCYCLING**

DON'T FORGET....

....MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW FOR THE
APRIL CLUB MEETING IN GULF SHORES!

April 29- May 1

....ONLY 1 MONTH TILL THE CHICKEN RAL-
LY! LET CONNIE KNOW IF YOU WOULD
LIKE TO HELP!

...ASK SOMEONE IF THEY WOULD LIKE A
RAFFLE TICKET (OR 2) ON THIS BEAUTY!



FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS

& EVENTS OF INTEREST :

APRIL 30 - MAY 1, ~ GULF SHORES, AL

**MAY 26-29, ~ CHICKEN RALLY IN HUNTSVILLE,
AL**

June 17-19, ~ AMA Superbike Classic at Barber Motor-
sports Park, Leeds. AL

**JUNE 25-26, ~ BLUE RIDGE MOTORCYCLE RE-
SORT, CRUSO, NC**

June 30-July 3, ~ BMWRA Rally, Chippewa Falls, Wi

July 21 - 24, ~ BMWMOA Rally, Bloomsburg, PA

**JULY 30-31, ~ BRIARFIELD IRONWORKS PARK,
BRIARFIELD, AL**

AUGUST 27-28. ~ ENTERPRISE, AL

**SEPT. 24-25, ~ LAUREL TRAIL CAMPGROUND,
MONTEAGLE, TN**

Oct. 7-9, Barber Vintage Motorcycle Festival, Leeds,
AL

OCTOBER 29-30, ~ NAUVOO, AL