

# THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle  
Owners of Alabama

BMWMOA Chapter5/  
BMWRA Chapter #107



Volume XLII Issue 4

April 2013

## HELP WANTED

### ...or to paraphrase John Kennedy "Ask what you can do for your Club"

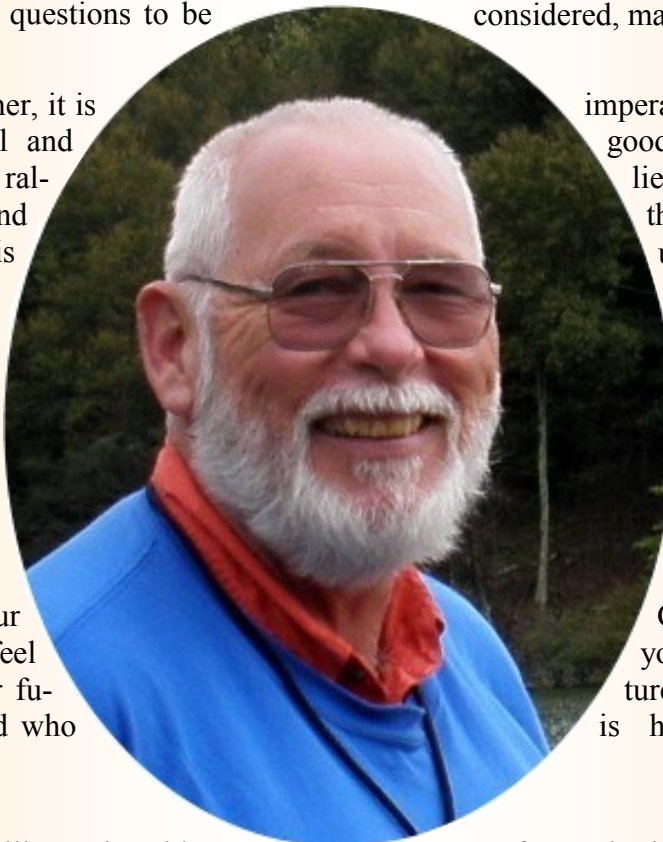
In the ten months since our 2012 rally, when the suggestion was made to discontinue our rally after 2013, there has been a lot of discussion. Even though we voted in our January meeting to continue with the rally, but possibly changing the location and format, it seems there are far more questions than answers. As I have stated in previous newsletters, the committee that volunteered to look into various locations and venues has done a great job, but there are still many questions to be considered, many decisions to be made.

BUT before we go any further, it is imperative that we have a Rally Chairperson. It is all well and good for the Club as a whole to vote to continue with future rallies, but without someone to oversee the preparations, and the actual implementation of those preparations, that vote is useless.

Current Rally Chair, Sheila Kalahan, has already said that this will be her last year as chairperson. If we do change the entire focus of our rally, and it appears now that we will, the next chairperson will need to be involved from the very first decision made until the rally comes to a close.

So I am asking (begging?) our Club members to give this some thought, and if you feel you have the organizational skills necessary to make our future rallies successful, please contact me or Don Norwood who is heading up our committee ASAP.

Without a rally chair we will not be able to move forward with any degree of certainty towards a 2014 rally.



Club members to give this you have the organizational ture rallies successful, please is heading up our committee

## **MARCH MEETING MINUTES**

March 23, 2013

Ft. Toulouse National Historical Park  
President, Don Little presiding  
Barbara Little, Secretary

Don called the meeting to order and thanked those attending. He then turned the floor over to Vern for the latest update on the committee's findings. Vern said that the most urgent need is a rally chairperson. Because we are talking about making some drastic changes in our rally, the chairperson needs to be involved in the early decisions to be made. He then went on to talk about some of the places he has and will visit in regards to a different rally site.

Don then talked about an article that he had seen in the AMA magazine about the motorcycle campground in Suches, GA, formerly known as "Two Wheels Only".

The new owners plan to open the facility later this year, likely under a new name. Interesting article and good news.

He also read from an email concerning the Georgia Mountain Rally coming up May 3-5. (more information elsewhere in this newsletter).

Don then asked if anyone there was going to the MOA National Rally in Salem OR this summer (only Wanda held up her hand). He received a letter from the Awards Co-chair informing that Chartered Club leadership will be responsible for getting Club members to sign in with them at the National Rally in order to get a fair accounting of Club attendance. Since we are not sure if we will be going, we may need for another member to do this if the Club members are interested in Attendance Recognition Awards in Salem.

Rodger then said that the former "29 Dreams"/ "Courtyards 25" is open once again under a different name, but it will no longer be catering to motorcycles only.


He also reminded members that the RA rally will once again be at the Biltmore in June. Jamie then reminisced about how great the last one was.

The Club received a Thank You note from the family of Lenny Gribben who passed away earlier this year. The note inside said "Thank you for...providing Lenny with a great group of people to ride with." (Isn't this what we should be about?) Wanda then thanked the Club for the flowers sent to her mother's services.

Mike Bauman gave us a little info on the upcoming Cajun Chaos, and of course, it's going to be a good one. All of the information can be found on our website and in this newsletter.

The meeting was then adjourned.

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

3 Kimberly Bonner		16 Marvin B. "Jack" Snyder
3 Russell Kruse		17 Tony Ridgeway
3 Terese Stevens		19 Gail Thorne
5 Don Norwood		20 Malvene Jackson
8 Justin Prann		22 Beverly Hughston
10 Andrea Pedigo		24 Linda Cain
10 Clinton Pittman		27 Steve Hebert
11 Gail Reynolds		30 Pinkie Brown
13 Carlos Blum		31 Linda Jiheng
16 Pam Flynn		

## TIME IS RUNING OUT

Barbara Little

IT IS ALMOST TIME FOR THE GREAT CHICKEN RALLY OF 2013. To those of you who have taken raffle tickets to sell, THANK YOU. Please get the stubs and the money back to me at your first opportunity.

To those of you who have not requested tickets, it is not too late. We still have plenty available. Just email me at [secretary@bmwmoal.org](mailto:secretary@bmwmoal.org) and I will get them in the mail to you ASAP

## NEW MEMBERS

Paul and Janice Bowers	Mobile, AL	2003 BMW 1150RT	Sponsor: Martha Warren
Linda Jiheng	Irondale, AL	2002 R1150RT	Sponsor: Jimmy Morgan

## Die Schwarze Schönheit

Erik Bahl

The inaugural Motorcycle Cannonball Run occurred in 2010. This was a cross country run that required a pre-1916 motorcycle. They repeated the race in 2012. This time they expanded the entry range to pre-1930 ( <http://www.motorcyclecannonball.com> ). This allowed BMW motorcycles to be entered. Three hardy souls entered BMW's. A 1929 R11, a 1928 R62, a 1928 R52, all side valve machines. This was a great adventure that covered 3956 miles. I watched the reports of the 2012 race on a daily basis as two of the racers were friends of mine. There is a strong indication that they will repeat the race in 2014. An announcement of this is supposed to be happening this spring.

After talking with my friends that ran the race in 2012, I decided this was something I wanted to do. The only problem was is my oldest BMW is 1935. So I found myself starting to search for a bike that met the age criteria and that would be a good candidate for this endeavor. I searched for US based pre-1930 BMW's that might be for sale starting last October. After five months of searching I located three potential candidates. All three owners said they might be interested in selling. The nearest of the three was approximately a 1000 miles home. When you are buying something this old, it requires inspection in person. It's just the nature of the game. I looked at one bike in Boulder Colorado. I was really interested in it, but the owner just could not commit to selling.

The second bike I looked at was owned by noted collector Evan Bell in California. I was really interested in this one, but buying it was a long shot for various reasons. One being like the first bike I looked at, I suspected Evan was not a motivated seller. I made a trip to look at the bike and after about six hours of inspection and negotiation a deal was struck. I have purchased a 1929 R63.

This is an overhead valve, 735cc, 24 HP, 3 speed machine. The bike is an older restoration. Although the outward appearance is nice,

this bike will have to be completely disassembled inspected and probably repaired. The last time this bike was started was in 2002. It was run briefly by Evan; he has no idea of the internal mechanical condition of this bike. This is to be expected on almost all of the early bikes you run across. After buying the bike, the first thing to do was get it home. After insuring the bike through a specialty collector insurance outfit, I arranged shipping through a motorcycle transport service. A week after purchase, the bike was picked up from Evan. Two weeks later it showed up in Huntsville. This is a photo the bike just after retrieving it from the shipper. It even came with some old German dust!



I may try to document this adventure via a website but will need some help getting that setup. There is going to be the rebuild process, test driving and repairing, and finally the race. The whole process is going to occur over the next year and a half. This is going to be quite an effort, but I am really excited about it. Maybe a club sticker or rubber chicken will find its way onto my bike for the race. One thing I am looking for at this time is an old leather pair of saddlebags that would be used on a horse. It was very common in the day to take a set of these and use them on the bike. Oh, by the way, I think I have a name for the bike - Die Schwarze Schönheit which translates to The Black Beauty.

## CAJUN CHAOS 2013

Please let us know by Monday, April 22, if you will be attending. If you plan to arrive early, please contact us to make arrangements.

Friday, April 26 – Sunday, April 28

### Menus:

Friday

Light lunch

Dinner - Jambalaya and white beans (Yes, Kyle is cooking again!)

Saturday

Breakfast casseroles

Lunch at the house – Make your own sandwiches

Dinner – CRAWFISH!!!! (Thanks to Bob)

Sunday

Breakfast – Whatever Mike wants to get up and cook!

Snacks available any time.

### Schedule:

Friday – Tall tales and adult beverage consumption. (BYOB)

Saturday – Ride to the BMW Motorcycles of Baton Rouge open house. Lunch and entertainment provided by BMW MC of BR. (Of course, you are always welcome to have lunch at the house.)

Saturday – Tall tales, adult beverage consumption (BYOB), and possibly a special guest.

Sunday – Good-byes until next month.

Cost: \$25 per person

Location: 21115 MacHost Road  
Zachary, LA  
N30 39.643 W91 07.432

**Contact info:** [amelia.bauman@yahoo.com](mailto:amelia.bauman@yahoo.com)  
Home: 225-654-9186  
Mike's cell: 225-933-5666  
Amelia's cell: 225-936-3540



**Hotels:** Best Western – 225-658-2550  
Holiday Inn Express - 225-654-1402

# BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK ADVENTURE

Terlingua, TX

February 24 – March 15, 2013

Phillip and Martha Warren

Our adventure started morning of February 22<sup>nd</sup> after packing our Winnebago Sprinter camper and trailering the BMW F800 to Big Bend Adventure & Resort RV Park, Terlingua, TX. Terlingua is a remote town just outside the west gate of Big Bend National Park near the Texas-Mexican border. It took 2 days to get there by way of Ft. Stockton where the closest Walmart is located to Terlingua. It was cooler than usual this time of year and made riding a little more enjoyable since summers are way too hot there. The wind and dust can be rough at times and really no place for long-term tent camping.



We met up with some friends (Dan and Deb Dickey) who have spent the last 4 winters there with their motorcycle rental business and made it much more enjoyable to learn from them where to ride and visit. Even Voni and Paul Glaves (long time MOA Ambassadors) live right up the road when they aren't traveling the U.S. and saw them quite often at town events. All the locals were very friendly and accommodating.



The next day, we quickly mounted the F800 to strike out to explore the Big Bend National Park which is Texas first national park and well over 800,000 acres including 150 miles of hiking trails. The bike is great for 2-up and was very comfortable on paved and unpaved roads which were well maintained. The roads and facilities in the park were note crowded since we were there before Texas Spring Break.



The rocky mountain terrain of southwest Texas was like living in a world with dinosaurs and mammals that roamed this area before volcanoes erupted over 25 million years ago, and fossils have been uncovered where once was an ancient ocean long before prehistoric humans, American Indians, Spanish and Mexican ranchers and farmers. The Rio Grande River in places was nothing but a trickle. While we were there the wind never stopped blowing. There were a few days we didn't even venture out due to gusty winds blowing sand and dust.

Residents were scattered around this area living in fifth wheel campers, mobile homes, adobe and rock structures (some renovated from earlier years). Many northern snowbirds staying the winter to escape the snow and ice worked along side the locals but lived in the RV parks.



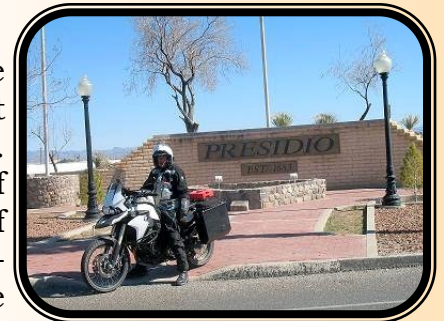


Terlingua is a very active town with lots of talented residents playing fiddles and guitars at events, also known for great Mexican food, flea markets, farmers market, chili cookoffs and lots of Lone Star beer. One favorite gathering place in particular called Terlingua Ghost Town housed the Starlight Theatre/Restaurant and Trading Post, the only commercial buildings still open after mining mercury from cinnabar rock ended in 1945. The motorcycle riders enjoyed this area, sitting on the porch listening to local music with their Lone Star after touring the park.



We quickly learned how important water was, since the showers were \$2.00 for 6 minute in the RV campground bath house. It quickly came to my hunny's attention that sharing the 6 minute shower would be quite a cost savings over several weeks when I could sneak him in the women's bath area early in the morning hence confirming his handle "Ole' Tightwad."

On one day we had a great ride on Highway 70 river road to the towns of Lajitas and Presidio, 67 miles of beautiful scenery west of Terlingua just before the Mexican border crossing to Ojinaga. We had our passports so decided to venture on across. Of course, the border crossing had the K-9 sniffers and lots of armed border patrol. Not much of a town - just run down commercial and residential buildings and didn't even get off the bike. After turning onto several one-way streets the "wrong" way, I told my driver it's time to leave before we spend our golden years in a Mexican jail.



Numerous other rides took us back in time to historical landmarks, abandoned ranches, trading posts, prehistoric pictographs and even a hot spring that was full of tourists in bathing suits. Only wildlife we saw the whole trip was a long-eared jackrabbit and a roadrunner but the bird watching is better at Rio Grande Village and Cottonwood Campground along the river in the park.

We headed home on the 12<sup>th</sup> by way of Ft. Davis, TX with a tour of the fort which was active 1854-1891, one of the best preserved forts in the West, then a day ride to the McDonald Astronomical Observatory for a tour of one of the largest reflecting telescopes which was quite breath-taking literally at 6791 elevation - highest point on Texas Highways.



All in all, this was a very scenic and amazing trip through country worth seeing. However, it does make you appreciate green trees and running water, but the adventure was quite inspiring especially as to how past cultures endured hard times.



## WETUMPKA - A GOOD TIME

Jamie Jackson

The meeting at Ft. Toulouse was raised to an unexpected level, simply by the folks that attended. Of the 15 members present 40 per cent had traveled from Louisiana. The group was small but upbeat in spite of the very inclement weather. On Friday night boredom had set in so almost all that were present loaded up and drove 53 miles south to Red's Little Schoolhouse for dinner. Although known for their black skillet, southern cooked, extensive buffet, I had heard that the steaks on Friday and Saturday nights were really something to write home about. Most of the group changed their minds, however, after we got there and attacked the buffet with a gusto that would make any biker proud. Two of us held steady and ordered steaks and two ordered Broiled Salmon.

I have eaten steaks at a lot of well known restaurants, but I must say that I rated the steak the second best I have ever had in my life, anywhere, hands down! Don Little also dined on the steak and agreed that it could not be beat. So, for all of you that have eaten buffet lunch at Red's Little Schoolhouse, consider joining them on Friday or Saturday night for a perfectly cooked piece of prize beef that you will indeed remember. After the long ride back to Wetumpka, we all gathered in one of the motel rooms for an evening of fellowship and fantastic stories.

The showers and thunder storms let up somewhat on Saturday morning, allowing us to get out and explore Ft. Toulouse. Rodger Williamson, our Director of Travel, led the group on a walking tour throughout the park. First of all, he used his influence to get the park officials to open the buildings to give us complete access. Rodger was well prepared and very knowledgeable of the history of the fort, both Fort Toulouse and Fort Jackson, as it was called. It seems that Rodger has participated in many reenactments there and has become very familiar with the surroundings. Rodger apparently is in pretty good physical shape and led a pretty fast paced walk through the park (or so it seemed fast paced for some of us out of shape old farts, me in particular).



Again, Saturday afternoon Rodger came through with a sport ride over some of his favorite local roads. Mike Bauman and Tommy Zeringue came back with huge grins that would not wipe off. Mike and Tommy said a lot of stuff was dragging on their K1600's. Rodger made a significant contribution to the success of the meeting. Thank you Rodger.

This was not a meeting for the feint of heart as the weather was menacing and cruel through the weekend. Am I glad I went? You bet I am. If some of our Louisiana members can suit up and ride more than 500 miles in the storms just to fellowship, then you bet your life I am glad to have been there. Did you hear me say that they were 40 per cent of the members present? As them guys say, "We passed a good time".

**Do not enter any kind of fried chicken and fried cornbread contest with Mike Bauman or Mike Scott...You will lose, Jack!**

**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

**Club Sponsored Events With Meetings**

- Apr 27 Cajun Chaos - Zachary, LA
- May 23-26 Great Chicken Rally - Huntsville, AL
- Jun 29 Cheaha State Park - Delta, AL
- Jul 27 Blue Ridge MC Campground - Cruso, NC
- Aug 24 Raccoon Mtn. Campgnd - Chattanooga, TN
- Sep 28 Old Harbin Hotel & Campgnd - Nauvoo, AL
- Oct 26 Site to be determined in SW AL;
- Dec 14 Christmas Party - Hampton Inn, Eagle Point

**Other Events of Interest**

- Apr 5 - 7 Dogwood Trail Rally - Newton, MS
- May 3-5 Georgia Mountain Rally - Hiawassee, GA
- May 17-19 European Riders Rally - Burkesville, KY
- Jun 20-23 RA Rally - Biltmore House, Ashville, NC
- Jun 21-23 Barber Superbike - Birmingham, AL
- Jul 18-21 BMWMOA - Salem Oregon
- Oct 4-6 2013 RAMS Rally - Parker's Crossroads, TN  
(Formerly Return to Shiloh Rally)
- Oct 11-13 Barber Vintage Days - B'ham, AL