

THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle
Owners of Alabama

BMWMOA Chapter5/
BMWRA Chapter #107



Volume XLI Issue 8

August 2012

RELIEF IN THE MOUNTAINS

Don Little, President

We had another very good time this past weekend at the Blue Ridge Motorcycle Campground in Cruso, NC. For those of us who had attended the BMW National Rally, the cool temperatures in the mountains were a welcome relief after the 100+ temperatures in Sedalia.

Barbara, our son, Don, daughter-in-law, Becky and I arrived on Tuesday and spent almost the entire day Wednesday doing nothing more strenuous than sitting and reading our books. On Thursday, we made the mistake of riding to Cades Cove, TN. This used to be one of our favorite places, but I think they were having an idiot convention there that afternoon and that was not a good place to be on motorcycles. The breakfast at Mt. Pisgah Lodge and the wonderful temperatures on the Blue Ridge Parkway did make the trip somewhat enjoyable though.

Phillip and Leslie, as always, made us feel welcome and Leslie cooked up some wonderful meals for us Friday and Saturday night. We had a pretty good turnout, about 28 or 30 folks who enjoyed the riding and visiting and swapping tales, although all did not attend the meeting.

At the meeting, which we held on Saturday night, I asked everyone what they thought about changing our meetings to Saturday nights. At one time we had quite a few members who would ride in to our meetings on Sunday mornings and we held our meetings at 11 o'clock to accommodate them. Then the time was changed to 10, then 9 and finally to 8 several years ago. Some of us from time to time have long rides home and the extra hours might be helpful. We will discuss this further at Kinderfest next month and possibly vote on it.

Raffle tickets for the 2013 rally are now available and can be obtained by contacting Barbara at secretary@bmwmoal.org.

Like I said earlier, Cruso was a first class meeting and I am looking forward to seeing everyone next month at Kinderfest.



MEETING MINUTES

July 28, 2012

Blue Ridge Motorcycle Campground

President, Don Little presiding

Don opened the meeting by calling for a round of applause for Phillip and Leslie for their warm reception for Club members. Phillip thanked us for coming.

Don then asked members for help in wishing Kay Headrick a Happy Birthday today (July 28) and Phillip Johnson a Happy Birthday on Monday (July 30).

He then asked Tommy for a treasurer's report. Tommy reported that we did make some money on the rally and will be able to donate to the three organizations that we voted to support at the June meeting.

At the mention of the raffle and sales of raffle tickets, I announced that the 2013 raffle tickets are now available for anyone who is interested in selling them. They were ordered early so we could get a head start on selling them. (Please contact me at secretary@bmwmoal.org to get your raffle tickets. I urge all members to try to sell at least 2 books this year.)

Don then asked the members present what they thought of changing our meetings to Saturday night, rather than Sunday morning. The meeting time has been changed several times and at one time meetings were actually held on Saturday night (so I have heard). He asked everyone to think about it and there will be more discussion and a vote at next month's meeting.

Gary Nesmith took the floor to talk a little about the September meeting which will feature an Oktoberfest theme. It sounds like Gary is planning another really good weekend for us in Nauvoo.

Kinderfest (the August gathering) was mentioned, but due to a back injury Jim Kalahan was not able to attend the meeting and we didn't have all the specifics, but we know it will be an outstanding weekend, as always.

Don then recognized our daughter-in-law, Becky, who joined us at the meeting and our son, Don, who opted instead to smoke his cigar in one of the swings. It was good to have them join us for the national rally and our days at Blue Ridge.

The 50/50 pot of \$24.50 was won by Malvene Jackson followed by adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Little, Secretary

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

The August meeting will be held Saturday August 25 at 7pm. This will enable those of us in a hurry to get home to get an earlier start than would have otherwise been possible.



FOR SALE

BMW K1200GT; 2006 with 32,xxx miles; ABS; Heated Grips; Bill Meyer Heated Seat; Electronic Adjustable Suspension; Electronic Cruise Control; Garmin GPS with Weather Radar; Bar Backs; 15amp Non-CANBUS Outlet; \$9,750

Contact Vernon Headrick at 256-837-5820 or headrick1@knology.net

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Sabrina Summers
- 3 Michelle Stanfield
- 4 Steve Irwin
- 5 Sabrena Zangel
- 5 Ian Schmeisser
- 6 Kerry Jenkins
- 7 John Harrison
- 7 Marty Simpson
- 8 Barbara Little
- 9 Kathy Biddlecombe
- 9 Leroy Sloan
- 10 Mac Stewart
- 11 Marvin "Jack" Cox
- 12 Erik Bahl
- 15 Ricky Huey
- 15 Lori Dixon
- 15 Jennifer Rusak
- 17 Becky Ghostley



- 18 Monica Calero
- 18 Wanda Daigle
- 19 Stan Zangel
- 20 Robert Munday
- 20 Laneace Whitley
- 21 John Stanley Bonner
- 21 Chuck Sloan
- 21 Pat Huey
- 24 Jeff Stanfield
- 24 Carmen Sparks
- 26 James Tucker
- 26 Terry Walker
- 27 Rhea Converse
- 28 Sheri Nesmith
- 29 Brady Rogers
- 29 Melissa Aaron
- 29 Darlene Massey

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

FATHER/ / DAUGHTER RIDE JUNE 19 TO JUNE 26, 2004

Tommy Zeringue

Our daughter Tammy and I decided upon a trip to northern Georgia and parts of North Carolina. Other than our initial destination of T.W.O., the motorcyclist only resort in Suches, Georgia, we had no definite plans. Our plan was to make plans on a daily basis. For me, it was a return to an area I had visited on my first motorcycle trip in 1981.

We met with a few Bayou Biker club members in Raceland early Saturday morning, June 19th. The group was to ride together toward Atlanta, then go our separate ways the next day. After a long day of traveling interstates, we stopped for the night in Douglasville, GA, just east of Atlanta.



On Sunday morning our club friends headed to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, while Tammy and I headed to the mountains of northern Georgia. We followed US 19 north out of Atlanta and reached Dahlonega around lunch time. Dahlonega is the site of the first major gold rush in North America. Millions of dollars worth of gold have been taken out of the area. We visited the Dahlonega Gold Museum, located in the old Lumpkin County Courthouse where we saw numerous displays of artifacts from the gold rush era.

Since it was lunchtime we decided to eat in Dahlonega. Recognizing our "Cajun" accent, a staff member of the museum recommended that we try the local Cajun cuisine at Gabee's Cajun Kitchen. Naturally, our interest was peaked and wondered if the food was really Cajun. To our surprise, the owners of Gabee's were a family from the Acadiana region of Louisiana who had moved to Georgia. All their food products were from Louisiana. It was good to eat some real Cajun food so far away from home.

After a good meal, we rode north on US 19 and GA 60 to Suches and our destination for the night, TWO. We set up our tent and decided to return to Dahlonega to do a little panning for gold. GA 60 and US 19 are great mountain roads with numerous curves. During the remainder of the week, we rode these roads many times.



The Appalachian Trail crosses the highway about a mile south of the campground.

We stopped at the scenic pullover and "hiked" a short way up the trail. This scenic pullover proved to be the best place to communicate with the outside world; it was the nearest point at which I was able to get a signal on my cell phone.



Just north of Dahlonega on US 19 is the Crisson Gold Mine, established in 1847. This mine is owned and operated by a fourth generation of gold miners around the Dahlonega area. We purchased a Zip-lock bag of "high grade ore" that was guaranteed to contain some gold. It took Tammy and I about thirty minutes to pan the ore; and true to their claims, gold was found. Between the two of us, we panned at least 20 nuggets. Of course, the value of the find wasn't enough to even think about retirement!!!

After our "big" gold find, we began a return trip to the campground. That night at supper, we met some of the other riders who were staying at TWO. Edward and Karen Denison from Odum, Georgia would become our traveling companions for the next couple of days. They were staying in one of the rooms available at the TWO lodge. As we were to soon find out, Sunday was to be one of the few dry days that we would enjoy on our trip.



Monday we woke up to cloudy skies. The first day's destination would be Brasstown Bald, the highest point in Georgia. Accompanying us were Edward and Karen. We headed northeast on GA 180, a twisty narrow two-lane highway which took us to the turn-off for Brasstown Bald.

Brasstown Bald can be recognized by the tower atop the peak, which is actually the third station to sit at the top. The original tower was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the depression. The current structure was completed in 1965 and sits near the location of the original tower, housing a museum that explains much of the natural and human history of the area.



A 360-degree panoramic view of North Georgia and neighboring states can be seen from the observation deck. A steep, paved 1/2-mile trail leads from the parking lot to the visitor Information Center on the Bald. For those who don't want to walk, a concessionaire operates a shuttle bus from the parking area to the Visitors Information center. Tammy and I took the hike, while Edward and Karen opted to ride. Unfortunately, our panoramic view consisted of clouds!!

Leaving Brasstown Bald, we took GA 180 and GA 75 to Helen. Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains on the Chattahoochee River, Helen is a re-creation of an alpine village, complete with cobblestone alleys and old-world towers. The area has numerous specialty and import shops that offer a variety of items. Restaurant options range from German to traditional southern country to just plain American. We arrived in Helen along with the rain. After visiting some of the shops in town, we opted to sample the German food.

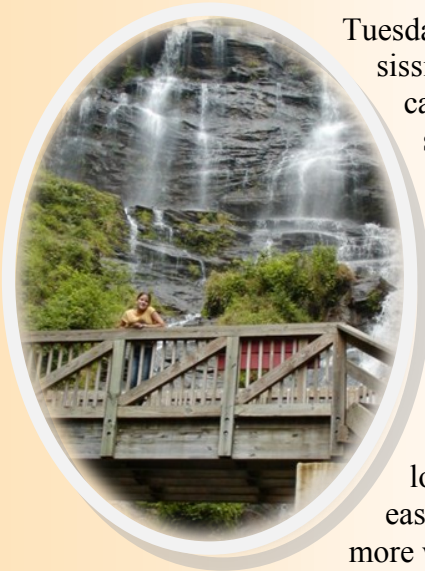
The rain continued as we mounted up and began our return trip to the campground. We headed north on GA 75, then west on GA 348, better known as the Richard Russell Scenic Highway. Then we retraced our route back to camp on GA 180. We encountered rain and wet roads the remainder of the ride.

For supper, we decided to return to Dahlonega to a restaurant I had visited on my first trip to the area. Besides Edward and Karen, we were joined by three other bikers staying at TWO, two who were from northern Louisiana. As luck would have it, the restaurant was closed on Mondays; and we ended up at a Pizza Hut. The ride to Dahlonega and back was fun; the road had dried off and there was very little traffic.



Back at TWO, Tammy started her own "pool tournament", playing 8-ball against some of the people who had accompanied us on our supper ride. A brief light rain fell during the night, but luckily our home away from home remained dry.

The sun was out when we awoke Tuesday morning. It looked like we might have a decent morning ride. When not riding we would check out the weather channel in the lodge, and watching that was depressing. Rain, Rain, Rain. That's all we saw.



Tuesday's destination was Amicalola Falls, one of the highest falls east of the Mississippi River. Named after the Cherokee word meaning "tumbling waters," Amicalola Falls cascades 729 feet. Edward and Karen joined us again. We headed south back toward Dahlonega on what was fast becoming a favorite route, GA 60 and GA 19. We turned west at Dahlonega on GA 52 to Amicalola Falls.

At the visitors center, we inquired about hiking trails to the falls. Since Edward and Karen both have bad knees, we wanted to take the easiest trail to the bottom of the falls. The park road led to the top of the falls, and it was only a short walk to the falls overlook.

Midway down the park road was the parking area for the "short" hike to the bottom of the falls. At least, that was what we intended. Leaving the parking lot, we hit the trail, and it immediately began a fairly steep descent. If this was easy, I wouldn't want to try the more strenuous trail!!! The further we walked, the more we realized we weren't on the right trail.

We finally reached an intersection, and it was at that point that we knew we were definitely on the wrong trail. As it turned out, the short three tenths of a mile trail was located at the opposite end of the parking lot; and we had taken the more strenuous one-and- one-half-mile trail. At the end of the trail was a climb of hundreds of steps to get to the observation deck. Tammy and I enjoyed the hike, but Edward and Karen had difficulty. Leaving the observation deck, we found the "easy" trail, an almost level three-tenths of a mile hike.

After a cool, relaxing break at the visitors center, we returned to GA 52 and continued west toward East Ellijay. The skies suddenly turned dark and then the rain began to fall. Not a brief shower this time; it was a deluge. We were able to find an old abandoned convenience store with a narrow covered area and were able to don our rain gear. Of course, we were already wet; but at least we weren't completely soaked. We waited a while; and when it slacked we continued our journey west. It wasn't long before there was another deluge. We found a gas station to give us protection from the rain. This time, we waited until the rain stopped before continuing. Across the road from the station; there was a dump truck and trailer that had slid down into the ditch. No one was hurt in the accident.

We finally reached East Ellijay and had lunch. Then we headed north on US 76 to near Mineral Bluff where we rejoined GA 60 for the return to the campground. The sun was out and the roads were dry when we left East Ellijay

Back at the campground, Tammy again organized another pool "tournament" with other guests at TWO. That night it rained again.



Wednesday Tammy and I were on our own. We decided to return to Helen and buy some souvenirs for the family back home. Not wanting to retrace our previous

route to Helen, we headed south on GA 60, then east on US 129 than GA 75 into Helen. The town looked so much better in the sunshine.



After stocking up on souvenirs, we decided to return to the Richard Russell Scenic Highway. It was good to ride this highway without rain. Though we did briefly encounter a few "cloudy stretches", we stayed dry. At the end of the Richard Russell, we turned west on GA 180. Instead of continuing all the way to the campground on GA 180, we turned south on US 19. This ended up being a good choice as US 19

was a good road with lots of curves and passing lanes. Traffic was light and we made good time, enjoying the sweeping curves.

At the point where US 19 intersects with GA 60, there is a pile of stones that marks the grave of a Cherokee princess, Trahlyta. According to legend her tribe knew the secret of the magic springs of eternal youth on Cedar Mountain. She was kidnapped by a rejected suitor and taken far away where she lost her beauty. As she was dying, her kidnapper promised to bury her near her home and the magic springs. The custom arose among the Indians, and later the whites, to drop stones on her grave for good fortune. After placing a rock on the grave, we returned to TWO by GA 60.



Since it was still early in the day, and our friends had not returned from their trip, we decided to ride a loop back to the campground. We rode south on GA 60, then north on US 19 to GA 180 and back to the campground. US 19 was just as much fun going north as it was when we rode south.

Since we would be leaving the next morning, we wanted to make one last run into Dahlonega; but the rain returned with a vengeance. We joined other bikers on the porch of the camp store and lodge. Not wanting to miss our one "last ride" on our favorite road, we waited out the rain. Donning our rain gear, Tammy and I headed out alone. After only a few miles, we were out of the rain and by the time we got to Dahlonega, we were in sunshine. We decided to eat at Danny's, the restaurant that we had missed Monday. After a good meal, we gassed up and returned to Suches shortly after dark.

Our last night was rainy with lots of lightning and thunder interspersed with a hard drizzle. We were offered a bed in the lodge, but decided to stick it out in the tent. A rainy night like that justifies the extra expense of a good tent.

Thursday morning dawned cloudy and cool. Packing went smoothly, except the wet tent. At least everything inside was dry. We ate our last breakfast at TWO and headed north on GA 60 toward Tennessee. Once across the Tennessee state line, GA 60 became TN 68. We continued up TN 68 to Tellico Plains where we stopped for lunch at the Tellicafe. Tammy and I had eaten there on our 2001 trip to Tennessee and had enjoyed the food so much that it was worth a return.

After lunch, we visited the Tellico Plains museum and then headed for the Cherohala Skyway. This was a return trip for us as we had rode the Cherohala and camped along the Skyway at one of the park campgrounds on our last trip. There were lots of motorcycles on the Skyway, due to it's proximity to the Honda Hoot in Knoxville. The weather was perfect for riding, sunny and not too hot.

After a couple of stops at scenic overlooks for pictures, we turned on Forest Service Road 210 to Bald River Falls. This road is narrow and follows a creek to the falls.

Leaving the falls, we continued east on the Cherohalla, again meeting lots of bikes. Almost every scenic pullover had a number of bikers, some taking pictures, others just enjoying the view.

After crossing over into North Carolina, we began to see clouds and rain ahead. But, we were lucky, as every time we seemed to be headed into bad weather, the road would take us away from it. Not wanting to get caught unprepared, we rode the last portion of the Skyway with our rain coats on.



Upon leaving the Skyway, we continued on NC 143 to Robbinsville, our selected stop for the night. There would not be a tent tonight, rather a nice little mom-and-pop motel. The room was nice, not fancy and there were a few other bikers staying the night. We unloaded our gear, gassed up, and decided to take another loop ride. We headed northwest on US 129 to Deals Gap. Most bikers know about Deals Gap, 318 curves in 11 miles. When we reached Crossroads of Time at the top of Deals Gap, there wasn't an empty spot in the parking lot. It was full of bikes. Having previously ridden the Dragon, as US 129 west is called, and knowing that there were going to be a lot of bikes, we decided to skip it this time. Tammy was relieved, as she wasn't too excited about repeating her experience on the Dragon last time we were there. Instead we decided to head east on NC 28, a curvy but more sedate highway. We then returned to Robbinsville on NC 143.

Friday morning started out wet. We should have taken that as an omen and began our return journey, but I was able to convince Tammy that we would be out of the weather eventually and had only one more day in the area. Today's destination the Mountain Waters Byway. In the rain, we headed east on US 129.

Somewhere along the way, we made a wrong turn and ended up in Andrews. By then, the rain had gotten worse. After a brief stop, we turned around and tried to find the Byway. We did get part of it, actually it was US 19. Traffic was heavy; the rain continued, and by the time we got to the intersection of US 19 and GA 28, we decided we had had enough.

We turned west returning to Robbinsville and then got on the Cherohalla for a return to Tennessee. This was to be a big mistake. Once on the Cherohalla, we were the only ones on the highway heading west. We did pass two motorcyclists heading east. The rain became torrential. We climbed up into the clouds; visibility was very poor, and the temperature dropped into the low 50's. Rain began seeping in around our necks and Tammy began shivering. We could do nothing but push on. With visibility as bad as it was and the rain falling, our speed was down to 15 to 20 MPH. We finally crossed the highest point and began our descent. Rain continued, but visibility began to improve.



Two more bikes passed us, also heading east.

We finally reached Tellico Plains, and once again stopped at the Tellicafe for lunch and to warm up. We weren't the only ones sitting in the restaurant, in wet rain gear, drinking hot chocolate. Four other bikers arrived shortly after we did.

I decided to take TN 68 north until I reached I 75. We hadn't gone far out of Tellico Plains before the rain returned, and it continued, all the way to I 75. Now, we were officially heading home as we turned south on I 75. It would be nothing but interstate from here on out. Just north of Chattanooga, we came upon a 7 mile long traffic jam. There was a multi-car accident and traffic was at a standstill. Of course, as we were sitting waiting in traffic, it began to rain again!

That's how the remainder of the day's ride was. A little sunshine, another shower. We just kept the rain gear on all day. It wasn't hot enough to be uncomfortable and it beat numerous stops to put it on and take it off. Friday night we spent the night in a real nice hotel in Birmingham, the Drury Hotel, one picked out by Tammy when we had stopped at the Alabama Welcome Center.

Saturday's return home was much the same, rain and sun. In spite of all the rain, we had a good time. This trip proved to be a good father-daughter bonding experience.

KINDERFEST - OR SUMMER OLYMPICS?

I, like many millions more, have been glued to the tube watching the Summer Olympics occurring in London, England. I am exceedingly impressed with the athletic skills of the young contestants that compete in the water games like synchronized diving, water polo, swimming, etc. The various countries around the world have created athletes with remarkable strength, stamina, and poise. As I watch I realize that I don't personally know a single athlete of the caliber required to compete in the Olympics.

On pondering why I don't know any, it occurred to me that those athletes probably don't know beans about super-splash, speed-slide, paired speed-slide, nor last but not least, "booby-ball". Past kinderfests have brought to light local athletes that possess physical skills that are world classed and absolutely unmatched by the contestants at London.

Hey, and what about the discipline required to remain in the water for six hours without a bathroom break. Hours and days of training are required to get it right!

If you are wondering what this gibberish is all about, then plan to join us at the August meeting and campout at Jim and Sheila Kalahan's, better known as "Kinderfest". The location is 312 Arrowhead Drive, Enterprise, Alabama 36330.

Go to <http://www.bmwmoal.org/> then click the "INFO" button at the top then Meeting Information. Click the date "Aug 2012" and all the information about the meeting will be displayed. If you wish to attend you must let Jim or Sheila know which days and which meals so they may plan appropriately.

Also, there will be a ride out to Fort Rucker at 2:00pm Friday to witness a helicopter fire-power display featuring Jim and Russ Kruse.



Glass bottles are welcomed in the pool area and running at poolside is encouraged.

12th Annual Cajun Swamp Scooter Rally

Come pass a good time and *laissez les bons temps rouler* at Bayou Wilderness RV Resort (www.bwrvr.com) near Lafayette, Louisiana, November 9-11th, 2012. Come for Friday and Saturday night primitive tent camping under beautiful, old oak trees. There is NO electricity. If you want electricity you will need to get an RV site. If you arrive earlier than Friday, you will have to pay extra for camping. We will have clean port-o-lets and water stations in the camping area. There is a bath house with toilets and hot showers in the RV area for our use. NO TRAVEL TRAILERS, CAMPER OR BUSES ALLOWED ON GRASS. If you have one of the aforementioned sleepers, you will need to call the campground, 337-896-0598, to reserve a site in the RV area. Charges are separate from entry fee.

There will be a Friday evening meal and bon fire. Breakfast will be available on Saturday, and our infamous grits and grillauds served Sunday morning. The usual dual-sport ride, games, and door prizes will be held on Saturday. Then our Fourth Annual Gumbo Cook-off will offer the best gumbo sampling, and you won't go away hungry! *Ca c'est bon!* If you would like to compete in our cook-off, please email bmwbonton@yahoo.com. Space for our teams is limited, so get your reservation made early. Also, music around the camp fire on Saturday evening.

So, for your pre-entry of \$35.00, you will receive a t-shirt, two nights camping, fun, food and entertainment! The first 100 pre-entries are guaranteed a shirt. Children 8-12, \$15.00. Children younger than 8, lagniappe (no charge). Pre-entry deadline 11/1/12, post-entry, \$45.00.

Questions: Rally Queen Cindy bmwbonton@yahoo.com

Allen allen@allenbacque.com

Darrel darrel.leger@yahoo.com

Details: www.swampscooters.net

Money and registration to: Joe Gajan, 114 Evangeline Drive, Lafayette, La., 70501.

Name _____ Phone _____

E-mail & Physical

Address _____

_____ T-shirt size: S M L XL 2XL 3XL Camping? Fri.____ Sat._____

I want to participate in: Games____ Dual-sport ride____

Name _____ Phone _____

E-mail & Physical

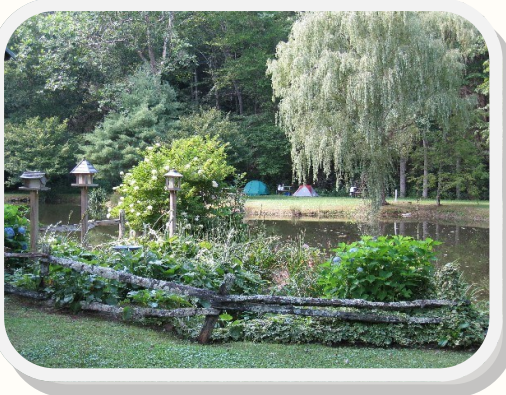
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_____ T-shirt size: S M L XL 2XL 3XL Camping? Fri____ Sat_____

I want to participate in: Games____ Dual-sport ride____



Takin' it easy at Blue Ridge M/C Campground



Club Sponsored Events With Meetings

- 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

- 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