



THE ALABAMA BEEMER

**Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle Owners
of Alabama**

February 2011

BMWMOA Chapter #5/ BMWRA Chapter #107

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New Members:

Jerry and Mary Etta Palmer
Cottondale, AL.

Sponsor: Albert and Anna White

2011 Mileage Contest & Challenge

In lieu of the ABEES challenge that we have had in the past, we will have a mileage contest and club challenge.

The **mileage contest** is what it implies. The rider with the most total miles is number one. All participants will be recognized with a certificate. There will be prizes for the first three high totals and the one with the average miles.

The **challenge** is for the members of BMWMOAL to record a total of 250,000 miles ridden this year.

To enter the contest, click on "2011 Mileage Contest" at <http://www.bmwmoal.org/> fill out form. Include all bikes that you will ride this year.

If you sell or add bikes any time during the year, just email travel@bmwmoal.org with the information

A few words from our Prez...

BMWMOAL
2011 Riding Season
....Here We Come!
Vance Harrelson



We had great weather for this past weekend and the annual **BMW MOAL** planning meeting. Saturday brought a beautiful warm and sunny day that allowed the annual Flea Market to be held outside for the first time in a long time! It was great to see everyone there...(Note to self) Steve Johns and Tom Binford need to pay a Vendor Fee next year! Seriously it was a great time of fellowship and bargain hunting.

We also had the BMW MOA "Smart Trainer" there. The Smart Trainer is an interactive tool you sit on like a motorcycle and "ride" through scenarios of all kinds to test your cognitive riding skills. A computerized training bike so to speak. The transportation and operation of the Smart Trainer was provided at no cost to the club through the BMW MOA. I would like to personally thank Ray Zimmerman, a long time MOAL member and current Executive Director of the BMW MOA for coming and facilitating the operation of the Smart Trainer for us. It was well received by our membership and is a great training tool to improve rider safety. It was great to have Ray at an Alabama club meeting again...even if we did keep him working all day! We once again awarded some great ABEES prizes for the 2010 competitors. Thanks to all of the prize donors; Terry's Two Wheel Tire & Tune, Catoma Tents, Pandora's European Motorsports and Kermit's Kamping Products. And hey, this was the sixth year for this competition and I finally won a tent!

I would like to thank and welcome your new officers and directors for 2011. I do appreciate those who agree to give of their time to promote and operate your club. I look forward to working with you all this year! You will find contact information for your Officers and Directors on the website. Please contact us with any questions you may have!

We do have a very exciting year upcoming. First, we have printed an abbreviated version of the ABEES guide and these are available for \$6 each. This will be a great tool to have with you as you travel around the state to locate interesting places to check out! We will also have a series of new contest and challenges for 2011. And this year we have the *BMW MOAL Total Mileage Challenge*. This program is designed to determine if our AL club members will ride in excess of 250,000 combined miles in 2011. The rules are simple. If you are a member of the club, visit the website at www.bmwmoal.org and fill out the mileage form. Once submitted, you will be entered and receive an email copy of your entry. Then at the end of the year (December 31, 2011) repeat the process and Martin will total the miles. The contest

was designed for club members as a group and is not bike or brand specific. There are many members that have multiple bikes and brands of bikes so feel free to register all the bikes you have that will be ridden! Let's see if we can break that club goal of 250,000 miles this year!

Also new this year we have *the Explore Alabama Challenge*, a benefit for the Eldridge Children's home in Eldridge, AL. Check them out at <http://www.eldridgefbchildrenshome.org/>. This event is open to all riders and is designed to benefit the home while providing an opportunity to explore our great state on two wheels. Complete details and entry form can be found on the website as well. I hope our club will get behind this great event. Check it out and if you have any questions, email your Travel Director Martin Benson # ! Again this challenge is designed by and sponsored by the BMW MOAL. It will be posted at dealerships, websites and other places intended to bring in participation from all riders for the express purpose of raising money for the Eldridge Children's Home. Your club is acting as the host and sponsor of the challenge...let's support it!

We have selected a great slate of meeting locations this year. We are currently updating the website with information so check it regularly. Some of the information will change and be updated as we finalize plans but mark your calendars now! This year the BMWMOAL will be riding and meeting at the beach in Gulf Shores, in the mountains in North Carolina, up ON the mountain in Monteagle, TN and down in Louisiana, yes, Cajun country too! We will also return to some of our old favorite spots like Blue Springs for a Little Chili and others that you just do not want to miss! Our meeting in Nauvoo, AL in October will really be a special one. Your club will celebrate its 40th anniversary in October this year!! We are at work now planning an event in this great location that will both honor and showcase the history and heritage of our club. That is just a tease I know, but folks...trust me...you will not want to miss this meeting. So stay tuned for details! And if you have old pictures and or any memorabilia from days gone by, let us know. Maybe we can use it in the celebration!

Coming up in May there is a little party we have planned in Huntsville we call the **Great Chicken Rally**. Just before that be sure to take in the Nashville club rally the **European Rider's Rally** in beautiful Burkesville, KY on May 20-22. The **BMW RA rally** will be in WI June 30-July 3 and another little gathering of about 10,000 of your closest friends will convene in Bloomsburg, PA for the MOA rally July 21-24.

As you can tell, there will be a lot of opportunities to ride and enjoy our bikes. And that is not all, there are more plans in the works! Please take time to look at the calendar and make your plans to join us as often as you can. This year there will be more rallies and riding opportunities than ever before! I ask for your continued support of the **BMWMOAL** and the **BMWMOA**! Please let us know if we can help you in any way!

Above All, Be Safe And.....Let's Ride!

Vance Harrelson

And now a word from your new

Vice-President!

New Years Resolutions

By Rodger Williamson



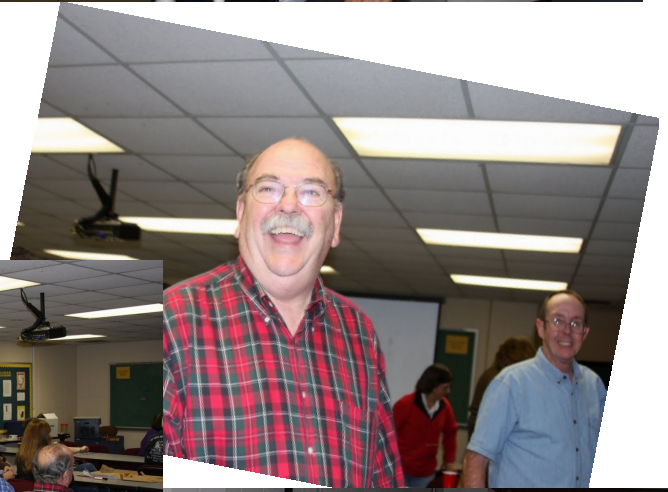
It is once again a new year. Winter is here in Alabama, but not every day is a wintry day, and thus, it is still possible to get out on ones motorcycle and have an adventure. The BMWMOAL just had their annual business meeting, and voted upon what locations the club will have their meetings throughout the rest of the year. There were roughly 40 members present at this meeting, but there are about 400 members in the club. The question is, where was everyone else?

This is a new year, and is as good a time as any to make a New Years Resolution. I would like to challenge each and every club member to step up and do something with the club this year. If you are a member, and have never attended a single club meeting, then please make an effort to attend at least one meeting this year. If you normally attend just one meeting, then make an effort to make more than one. If you normally attend a couple of meetings, then please make an effort to attend a couple more. If you have never written an article for the newsletter, write one up and share with everyone. If you have never held office, consider running for a position next year. Finally, I would like to challenge EVERYONE to recruit one new younger member this year. If

you have a friend at work, or at school, or a grown child (or even a grown grandchild) who is even remotely interested in BMW motorcycles, then try to recruit them and bring them to an event. Because the present demographics of the club lean heavily toward those who are 40 and up, we need to recruit a bunch of younger 20-30 somethings to balance things out. ... Last year I made a resolution to attend every meeting, and I was successful in my endeavor. By doing so, I got a lot of great riding in all over Alabama and nearby southeastern states. I had some great times with some really great folks. And, by simply stopping at ABEES locations on my way to and from a club gathering, I racked up the highest amount of ABEES tickets in the club for last year. I have discovered great roads to ride on, scenic beauty that was so awesome that it made tears well in my eyes, and I ate some of the best food that I have ever had.

The BMWMOAL is YOUR Club. Without YOUR support, it will die. Save the Club, and soothe your motorcycle riding soul in the process.

January Business Meeting Memories





2011

**Explore Alabama hosted by
BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama
and**

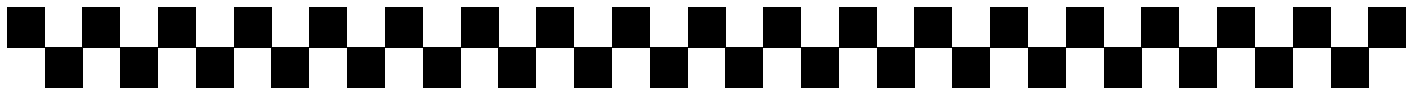
Ride your Motorcycle, see the great State of Alabama and help support needy children. Enjoy a summer of riding experiences and help provide a clean home for these children.



Donate \$25.00 to Eldridge Children's Home and receive a passport list of 20 scenic and historical locations throughout the State of Alabama.

Ride to 15 of 20 locations between February 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011. Record each visit with a photo and submit your record of visits to travel@bmwmoal.org. Upon completion of 15 visits you will receive your choice of a children's home tee shirt or patch.

To obtain a Tour of Alabama Application visit the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama website at www.bmwmoal.org.



**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

Ride Safe – Ride to Help Others!

All entrants must read this application, fill it out completely, sign it and mail it with fees enclosed to:

Eldridge Children's Home
Travel Director
104 Buckskin Trace
Alabaster, AL 35007

Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

This is a release, Read carefully before signing!

I understand that the Explore Alabama is a motorcycle touring event. I further understand that motorcycling is an inherently dangerous activity which should be undertaken by competent experienced individuals. I hereby accept the risks, which I may incur, or which I may cause to another, as a condition of participation in the 2011 Explore Alabama. I hereby waive all claims I have or may have against the Eldridge Children's Home, BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama, Explore Alabama organizers, volunteers and participants as a result of my participation in the Tour of Alabama. I will obey all traffic rules and regulations during my participation in the Tour of Alabama 2011. I understand that my entry is non-refundable.

Signature(s) _____

Dates(s) _____

Eldridge Children's Home

An entry fee is payable by personal check or money order. The entry fee is \$25.00 if riding solo or \$40.00 if riding two up. Please make your check or money order payable to the Eldridge Children's Home.

February Meeting Details

Month: February 2011

Date: February 26th and 27th

Title: Chilly Chili

Location: Blue Springs

Address: 2595 Hwy 10, Blue Springs (Clio), AL

GPS LOC: N31 39.751 W85 30.426

Our February meeting will be at Blue Springs State Park in Blue Springs, AL .

The menu will be the same as in the past: chili, chips, nacho cheese and various deserts. There will be coffee and rolls for Sunday morning. (Thank you, Sheila!)

The cost will be determined by the number of folks we have there for dinner, but last time it was \$9.00. Sheila may put together something for Friday night, but nothing is definite at this time.

Camping fees will be collected at the gate.

Last time we visited, rates were as follows:

Primitive sites (those behind the bath house) were \$12.48.

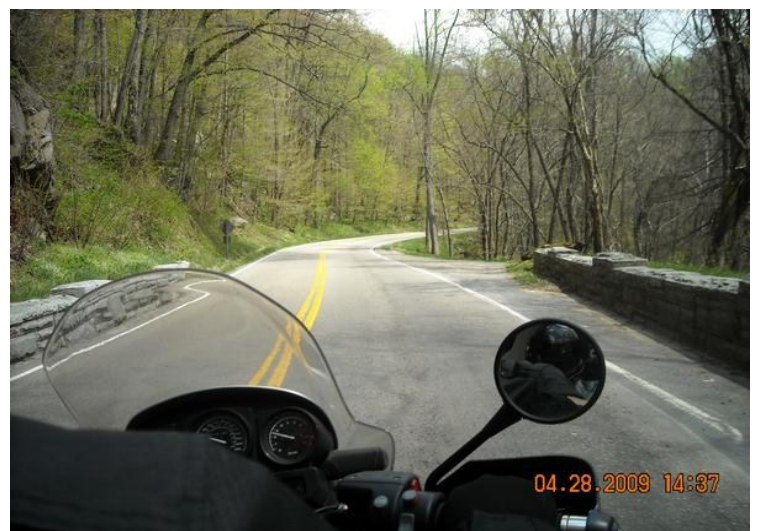
Sites with water and electric are \$18.72

Those with full hook ups (4) are \$21.82.

Of course, there will be plenty of firewood for the fire pits!

Please join us for our 20th year of Chilly Chili!

**Coming in March:
Meeting in Zachary, LA
"Cajun Chaos"
March 25, 26 & 27th! More
details on the website and
in the next newsletter.
Make plans to go NOW :)**



Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2011 8:00

Montevallo Alabama Traffic Safety Center

President Vance Harrelson presiding

Vance opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the big January planning meeting. We have to thank the Traffic Safety Center for this great place to hold this wintertime meeting. No guests present but welcome to new member Robin Erwin. Thanks to Ray Zimmerman and the MOA for bringing the Smart Trainer for everyone to take a turn. It is a great learning tool.

Vance gave the treasurer's report and thanked Connie for all of her hard work getting everything set up in the computer. He said that membership at this time is 348 members and 16 associates. Since 2007 membership is down 21%.

Bob and Martin gave out all of the ABEES Awards for 2010. First prize was won by Tim and he chose the tools from Pandora's. Bob "Gator" Daigle won second draw and selected the 2 man tent from Catoma. Vance won 3rd and took the 1 man tent from Bob. Jamie got the next draw and chose the duffle from Kermet and Laneace Whitley took the helmet from Terry's 2 wheels. Stephen "Santa" Whitley took the final prize. Thanks to all of the suppliers that gave prizes this year for our ABEES program.

Bob Steber talked about how due to the growing cost of production, the new ABEES book is more concise and will cost \$6.00 each. You can go online on the website to get directions and GPS coordinates for the topics and locations listed. A new program will be installed this year and Martin will discuss later in meeting. Bob thanked everyone that had participated last year.

The calendar for the New Year was then voted on and it can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. We have a couple of new locations voted in and one of them is in Zachary, Louisiana to join the Cajun contingent thanks to Mike and Amelia Bauman. Also a return to Monteagle, TN hosted by Terese Stephens and Briarfield State Park to be hosted by Jamie and Malvene Jackson. Nauvoo has been moved to October where we will celebrate our 40th anniversary in a special meeting.

Joan Ware announced that Terry's 2-wheels will be having a Mystery ride for a few lucky participants. They will also have their Red Beans and Rice in March. Watch for announcements on the Website and Newsletter.

Elections were held and since there were no nominations from the floor and the ballot had only 1 person in most positions. The officers were installed by acclamation as per the motion and votes from the floor. They are as follows:

President-Vance Harrelson
Vice President-Rodger Williamson
Secretary-Barbara Little
Treasurer and CFO-Connie Reeves
Rally Chair-Connie Reeves
Newsletter Editor-Robin Erwin
Safety Director-Tom Barnett
Membership Director-Martha Warren
Travel Director-Martin Benson
Photography Director-Jimmy Lowe
Technical Director-Terry Ware

Tim proposed that next year we consider Lateral Position for the top 3 positions where the Vice President would take the President position next year, etc and we discussed term possibilities.

Martin then presented the 2011 ABEES program and began by talking about this being a riding club and encouraged everyone to get out and do exactly that, whether you ride alone or with a group. This year we are doing things a little different. There will be no keeping up with your ABEES rides and reporting to Bob. The new guide is very simple to use and you can get GPS specs on the website as well as a full length version of the ABEES guide for further direction. The Ride Around Alabama is still on but there will be no prizes. Same for the Extreme Alabama challenge. Instead he challenged the club to a charity ride for Eldridge Children's Home and Explore Alabama explained elsewhere in this newsletter. Martin also suggested a mileage contest listed separately also and a challenge to start early on the BMWMOA rally challenge.

Meeting locations were then selected after discussion-see write up in newsletter for more information. Be sure and watch the website for any off meeting weekend events and plan one to share with the rest of us.

Next month's meeting is a "Little" Chili and smores, etc at Blue Springs State Park. You never know what will happen at this meeting!

No 50/50 this meeting

RIDE SAFE AND BE HAPPY...Mari Harrelson

FYI...

*ASSORTED LINKS, BLURBS,
AND INFORMATION*

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! I also have a 28x19 detachable platform for camping gear included. Email pix available \$5,500.00.

**Paul Goehler
256-353-2398
golhlerp@bellsouth.net**

www.bmwmoal.org

Our Club's Webpage



*Join us on
FACEBOOK!*

*www.facebook.com/pages/
**BMW-Motorcycle-Owners-
of-Alabama***

March Birthdays



Larry Byrd	March 2
John Thomans	March 2
Rob Harrelson	March 4
Steven Wantling	March 4
Greg Turp	March 5
Aaron Walls	March 7
Emy Woodburn	March 7
Norman Thomas	March 8
Linda Goodin	March 9
Federico Morales	March 10
John Gregory	March 12
Billy Newell	March 12
Lucinda Bollinger	March 14
Rickie Bonner	March 15
Don Drasheff	March 16
Lila Bonner	March 19
Rhonda Simon	March 19
Tony Allison	March 21
Joe Rogers	March 21
Margaret Rogers	March 23
Jerryl Hyche	March 24
Paul Thorne	March 27
John Cockrell	March 29
Mike Scott	March 29
Shep Brown	March 30

BEST of ABEES ???

This is the seventh year for the Alabama Beemers Exploring and Epicurean Society, and my third year as a participant. The ABEES Touring Guide is available to anyone for the current cost of \$6.00. The guide began as a repost of "100 Dishes to Eat in Alabama," and has grown to 739 listings in the newest edition. It was because of the ABEES book that I was born again as a motorcyclist, and for that I am truly thankful. The book listed all of the coolest places to go to, and all of the best places to eat (no matter where I was), and all of the most awesome roads to ride there. I went from riding my bike as an alternate mode of transportation when my truck was just too much, - and riding the biggest roads to get from Point A to Point B the fastest, ... to riding my bike exclusively and taking the most awesome back roads from Point A to Point B and taking as long as I could because I traveled on the twistiest roads, and stopped to sight-see as much as possible. As a new Club Member in 2009 I managed to pull in the third highest number of ABEES points for the year, and the majority of those points were earned in only the second half of the year. I conceived a new strategy for 2010, and made a New Years resolution to attend every BMWMOAL Meeting, and then on my way to and from each monthly meeting, to pick up as many ABEES points as I could on the to and from trips. In general, I only went out on a motorcycle road trip on the last weekend of each month, and then laid low around the house during the full month between meetings living my normal life. This simple strategy earned me the second highest amount of ABEES points, but the highest number of ABEES tickets for the 2010 Season. Because of this, I have a very sincere interest in the ABEES Program. I want to preach the ABEES gospel to all of my fellow Alabeemers and get everyone in on the fun. I would like to see the book eventually grow into "1000 places to Ride To in Alabama," and possibly publish that for motorcyclist everywhere who may traverse our State. I'd also like to see other BMWMOA Chartered Clubs establish their own BEE Societies and in turn publish their own State Guide for motorcyclist who may traverse their State. Meanwhile, our ABEES Guide has grown because of suggestions made by members of our Club.

At the end of March of 2010 I posted an ABEES Survey in the ABEES Section of the Forums of our Clubs web page. On February 1st, 2011 I saw that there had been 673 views and NO ONE had posted a single response. I made another plea for input, and thus far have three responses, and only one of those three lists a specific location. I had hoped to make an article for a future Monthly Club Newsletter, and I can't write that article without feedback from YOU !!! ... So here I go again, but this time I am posting my Survey Questions here in print. When you have a few minutes, make a short list of your answers and post them in the ABEES Survey Thread at <http://bmwmoal.org/forums/showthread.php?t=1199> , ... If you are unable to post your response there, email them to me at AbnCavScout@Yahoo.com, ... and if you do not have internet access, write your answers on a piece of paper and hand them to me at a Club Meeting. I am EXTREMELY curious what the other club members would rate as the best and worst on the list? What do you rate as the best (or top 5) in each category of Points of Interest; Covered Bridges; Vineyards; Courthouses; Churches; Restaurants; BBQ Joints; Waterfalls; and Power Dams. I am also interested if any member considers any points as not worth seeing for any reason, - like the service or food was bad; or it was located off of a barely used goat trail that your bike (or skills) were unable to navigate; or it just wasn't interesting. I will consolidate the responses and post them in the future.

Some of my favorites include the Barbers Motorcycle Museum, and the Alabama Capitol Complex as top POI's, followed closely by Confederate Memorial Park, and the National Infantry and National Civil War Naval Museums; Swann CBR; Dreamland BBQ in Northport for the hands down best BBQ sammich (followed closely by The Brick Pit in Mobile); and after the very public DeSoto Falls, Little River Falls, and Noccalulu Falls, I was stunned to emotional tears by the serenity and beauty of Kinlock Falls. I have previously submitted "The Montgomery Brewing Company" (aka 'The Brew Pub") as an ABEES point and it is definitely on of my most favorite places to eat and enjoy a hand crafted beer, but it is still as of yet not listed in the ABEES Guide. After that, I am undecided on Restaurants, Wineries, Churches and Courthouses. My favorite roads include: C-2 AL Hwy-25; C-5 Cheaha Skyway; C-17 Coosa CR-14; C-SE-2 CR-29; NE-1 and NE-2 Little River Canyon; and NW-3 Natchez Trace.

Some of my least favorites include: any Courthouse that is in a building that is less than 100 years old; also any church that is in a building that is less than 100 years old; any falls that are not worth the effort to get there/back; and any POI with an above nominal entry fee (including my favorite Barbers museum.)

Please respond with what you rate as best and worst, and also feel free to add any new submissions while you are at it.

Thanks,

Rodger

BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

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Editor

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enjoyable motorcycling**

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2011 CLUB MEETINGS

Feb. 26-27 Blue Springs St.
Park

Chilly Chili

Mar. 25-27 Zachary, LA

Cajun Chaos

April 29-May 1 Gulf Shores

Crustacean Chowdown

May 26-29 Great Chicken
Rally

Huntsville

June 24-27 Cruso, NC

Blue Ridge Motorcycle
Campground

July 30-31 Brierfield Iron-
works St. Park, AL

Aug 26-28 Kinderfest—
Enterprise, AL

Sept 24-25 Laurel Trails
Campground,

Monteagle, TN

Oct 28-30 Nauvoo, AL

Club's 40th B'day Party

Dec 3rd—Christmas Party

Location TBA

2011 RALLY LIST

MAR. 4- 13 DAYTONA BIKE WEEK

APR 8-10 Dogwood Trail Rally, MS

APR 15-17 Vintage Rally,

Benchmark Works, Sturgis, MS

APR 29—May 1 Georgia Mountain
Rally

May 20-22 European Riders Rally,
Burkesville, KY

Jun 30—July 3 RA National
Chippewa Falls, WI

July 21-24 MOA National

Bloomsburg, PA