

THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle
Owners of Alabama

BMWMOA Chapter5/
BMWRA Chapter #107



Volume XLII Issue 2

February 2013

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE GATHERING

Jamie Jackson, Vice - President

The gathering at Montevallo was again both a successful planning session and wonderful time of fellowship. We were able to establish another circuit of meeting places for the coming year. Each motorcycle trip I take is not just the journey but an adventure, as I never know exactly how things will develop; Failed rear drive at Blue Springs, tornados and downpours at Gulf Shores, sleet at Monteagle, etc. But the greatest part of traveling to our meeting locations is finding some of my very best friends gathered there.

Speaking of Blue Springs, I am already excited about lunch at Huggin' Molly's in Abbyville, and Barbara's Old World Recipe Chili under the pavilion. Then comes Ft. Toulouse, right on the river with all its history and mystic, with plenty of restaurants nearby.

The next meeting place is a story all unto itself; Cajun Chaos at the Bauman's in Zachary, LA. Three days of Cajun and Creole cooking and festivities. Also there are many sights to see in the area. The Myrtles Plantation (haunted) in St. Francisville has a rich history and some questionable lore of events that have happened and still happen today.

Next comes the fun at the Great Chicken Rally, with pulled pork and smoked chicken for three days, and lots of motorcycling friends gathered there.

Then it's off to Cheaha for a relaxing weekend at Alabama's highest point. The lodge there has pretty decent meals and the views are like nowhere else in the state. And what about Blue Ridge for a mini vacation where we all can gather at the swings and exchange a story or two? Food at the pavilion is first class without any riding to get it. I hope we have the wonderful mountain Rainbow Trout for it is as good as it gets.

A fresh location for 2013 is Raccoon Mountain RV Park and Campground. With Tommy and Jeanine Arnold hosting, it is bound to be a hit. Don't miss the Raccoon Mountain TVA Project there; It is well worth the time. I look forward to gathering with everyone there.

The Harbin Hotel in Nauvoo is as good a gathering place as I have ever found.

I am glad that Ricky Bonner has committed to have a fish fry this year. The place to gather will be announced as soon as Ricky works out the details.

Then we gather to enjoy the annual Christmas Party. I can't even guess what may develop there. It is a great time of fellowship that I look forward to all year long.

It's all about the gathering!

MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2013

Montevallo, AL

President Don Little presiding

Don opened the meeting with Thanks to everyone who attended, to Connie for once again arranging for our Saturday night pizza and Sunday morning eats, and finally to Don Norwood for the Saturday tech session on using the new Garmin Base Camp GPS program. He also thanked the officers who served the Club in 2012.

The next order of business was to ask about renewing our RA charter for 2013. There were no objections to that so our CFO was asked to mail a check for renewal.

Don then reminded members that we need to be selling raffle tickets. We made a good start at Barber's in the fall, but we are far short of what we need to do. Raffle tickets are available from your humble secretary (secretary@bmwmoal.org just email me and I will get them out to you asap).

Tommy Arnold, our CFO, took the floor to echo what Don had said. So far we have sold only a small part of what we will need to pay for the bike. He then gave a financial report which brought up the subject of this year's rally.

Because rally chair, Sheila Kalahan, had family obligations, she was unable to attend but Jim filled us in on some things in the planning stages for this year's rally. We are only planning on 400 attendees this year so we are cutting back on the food we pre-order. If it appears we will have more attendees, more food is available locally. Instead of Thursday night music, there will be a couple of movies shown with popcorn available. We will have a "Wall of Honor" to pay tribute to our fallen warriors. If you know of someone whom you feel we should honor, please bring a photo to go on the wall.

Membership director, Martha Warren, says that renewals are down somewhat, and she will be sending out reminders in the next few days.

Because there were no officer or director offices contested, Don asked that the slate of officers be accepted by resolution and that was agreed upon. He also announced that this would be his last year as President and urged member to think about running for office next year.

The next order of business was the future of our rally. Don asked for comments, both pro and con, but asked members not to vote to continue our rally if they were not going to attend and put in serious time and effort. As one of the other members put it, don't vote for me to work when you aren't going to do the same.

There were many comments beginning with Gary Nesmith who pointed to Larry Camp as the heart and soul of the rally (for a lot of years). Larry had said this would be his last year. Because of that Gary said the format must be changed.

Bob Steber reported that he and Phillip Warren had talked with the guys who put on and cook for the Ribfest, and they indicated they would be interested in visiting our rally this year and perhaps taking on the cooking duties next year for a fee.

Vance Harrelson talked about what a wonderful reputation our rally has across the country with other BMW clubs and riders. He believes the Club will really suffer if we discontinue the rally, perhaps to the point of killing the Club.

Vern Headrick reminded us that the rally was begun as payback to other clubs whose rallies we attend and enjoy. Kay Headrick said that rally goers have come to have certain expectations and perhaps we need to change the entire format.

Tommy Zeringue says that our rally is what caused him to join our club and to subsequently get all of our other Cajun friends involved. Michael Johnston thanked the members for all the work that is done to make our rally so enjoyable.

After all of the discussion, Tommy Z. made a motion that the Club continues a rally for 2014. The motion was seconded and carried by a majority of those present.

Don Norwood and Lenn Rainwater both suggested a committee to investigate all possibilities of reshaping our rally and to make suggestions as to how we go forward. Five members agreed to serve on the committee. Don Norwood, Tommy Arnold, Vern Headrick, Vance Harrelson, and Rodger Williamson will bring ideas back to the Club so that we will be able to decide at the business meeting after this year's rally which direction our rally will take going forward. Thanks to these guys for taking on this very important project.

Rodger Williamson, Travel Director, presented 19 mileage awards to those members who participated in the 2012 mileage contest. These folks ran a total of 269,798 miles or almost 11 trips around the earth.

Don the announced that only two people had attended every meeting last year but because they (Jamie and Malvene) didn't want any recognition he wouldn't give out the names of the two.

[Because of faulty record keeping by your forgetful secretary two others also had perfect attendance but did not receive proper recognition. See the President's message. Barbara]

Next we set up meeting places for the year. After some discussion we decided upon the following:

- February 23 Little Chili at Blue Springs State Park Clio,AL; the Littles hosting
- March 23 Ft. Toulouse National Historic Park - south of Wetumpka,AL
- April 27 Cajun Chaos - Zachary, LA; Amelia & Mike Bauman hosting
- May 26 The Great Chicken Rally Ditto Landing Huntsville

- June 29 Cheaha State Park - Delta, AL; no one volunteered to host
- July 27 Blue Ridge Motorcycle Camp - Cruso, NC
- August 24 Raccoon Mtn. Campground - Chattanooga, TN; the Arnolds hosting
- September 28 Old Harbin Hotel & Campground - Nauvoo, AL; Darlene and Gary hosting
- October 26 Site to be determined in SW AL; the Bonners hosting
- December 14 Our annual Christmas Party at the Hampton Inn Eagle Point in Birmingham, AL; Darlene hosting

Adjournment followed and then Don had a short prayer asking for our safety as we returned home.

Respectfully submitted by
Barbara Little, Secretary



2013 European Riders Rally May 17th - 19th

The Rally dates are set and hope you will mark your calendar to join us this year. We have grown each year with many riders returning and new ones joining us for the first time. Riders from all over the country gather to enjoy some of the best riding in the Southeast through the foothills of KY and TN.

There is free camping on the banks of the beautiful Cumberland River which runs through the middle of quaint downtown Burkesville, KY. There are well maintained toilet and showering facilities (bring your own towel and soap) and a covered pavilion with a fire pit. For those who prefer hotels, reservations are available at the Riverfront Lodge (walking distance from the rally site) by calling 270-864-3300. Register early as the rooms there tend to fill up.

Both guided tours and self guided rides will be offered. It is a rider's paradise.

The rally is hosted by the BMW Motorcycle Club of Nashville. Riders may register online beginning Friday, February 22, 2013. In the meantime, if any questions contact the rally chairman at rally@bmwmcon.org

More to come as details are worked out and confirmed.

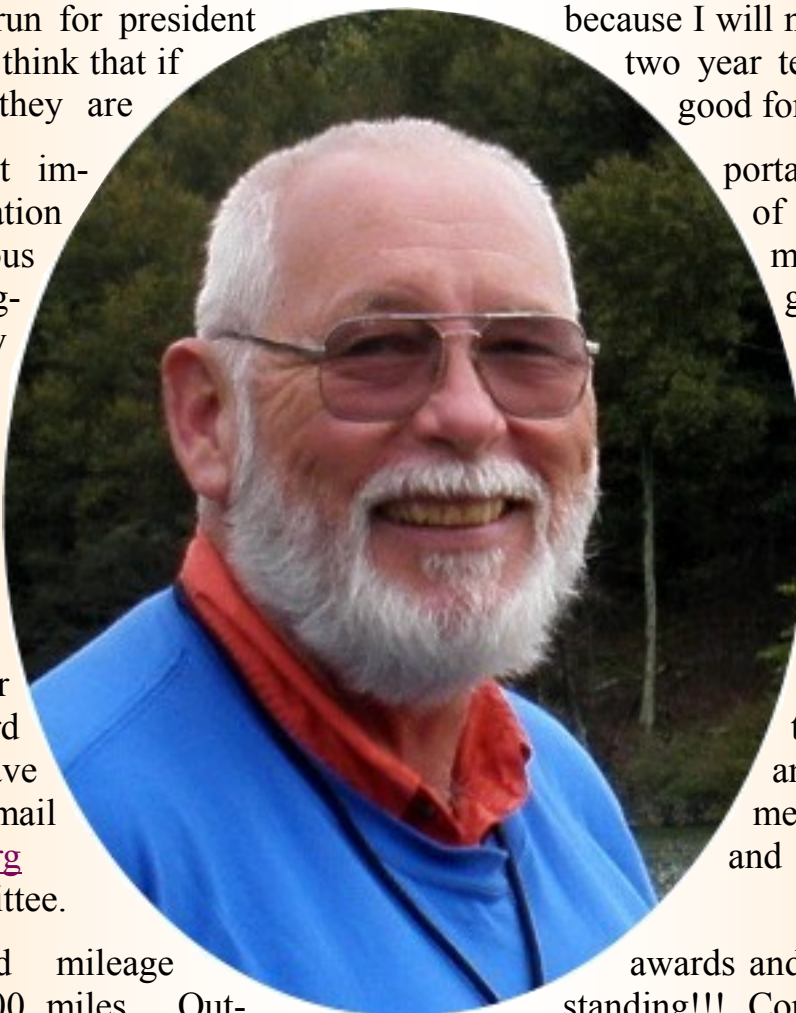
A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Don Little - President

Well, another annual planning meeting down and I want to thank everyone for your cooperation in keeping the meeting orderly and on track. I feel we got a lot accomplished.

I would like to thank Russ Kruse for stepping up to run for Safety Director, but I am disappointed that he was the only member who chose to do so. I would also like to thank those officers and directors who chose to stay in their positions for another year. Next year someone will have to run for president in the future, but I think that if for the country, they are because I will not. I may run again two year term limits are good good for the Club.

Perhaps our most important item for discussion was continuation of our rally. As was discussed in previous meetings and newsletters, it was suggested after the 2012 rally that our rally this year be our last. After some important and suggestions, the majority of those attending voted to continue with a rally of some kind, but not necessarily a "great chicken rally". A committee made up of five very capable Club members is working on a form for future rallies, and I am looking forward to hearing their suggestions. If you have any ideas for future rallies, please email me at president@bmwmoal.org and I will pass them along to the committee.



Rodger presented awards and the 19 participants ran almost 270,000 miles. Outstanding!!! Congratulations to everyone who turned in your mileage last year. Maybe I will get mine in this year.

I mentioned at the meeting that we only had two members who attended all of the 2012 meetings but since Jamie and Malvene didn't want any recognition I wouldn't give out their names. However, there was a very serious mistake made and after the meeting I was informed that Mike and Rhonda Scott also made every meeting. Please accept my apologies and you may slap me at the next meeting. For them to make every meeting is quite an accomplishment so please be sure to offer congratulations next time you see them.

We have selected some good meeting places for the year, some new and some old favorites and I am looking forward to seeing you all during the year.

MOTORCYCLE RAFFLE FOLLOW-UP

Malvene Jackson, Editor

The proceeds from the motorcycle raffle, that is done annually in connection with the Great Chicken Rally, were divided equally between two organizations this year; the Alabama Head Injury Foundation, and Alabama Motorcycle Safety Program. The following letter of appreciation was received from Rick Randolph.

Alabama Traffic Safety Center

University of Montevallo

Montevallo, Alabama 35115-6000

Fax (205) 665-6749

RandolphRW@montevallo.edu

(205) 665-6740

December 18, 2012

BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

Don and Barbara Little

PO Box 190

Clayton, AL 36016

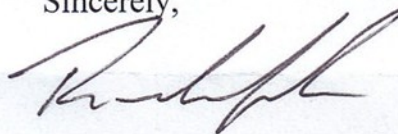
334.775.9513

Dear Don and Barbara,

BMWMOAL has again shown its generosity and support of the Alabama Motorcycle Safety Program through the \$2,222.50 donation made at the Alabama Traffic Safety Center on February 5th. Donations such as this, which BMWMOAL has made for a number of years, will continue to assist us in promoting safer motorcycling in Alabama. Specifically your organization's donation will allow us to pursue production and delivery of professional advertisements for the program.

On behalf of everyone here at the Alabama Traffic Safety Center and the Alabama Motorcycle Safety Program, please thank all of the membership of BMWMOA for your continued support. Please let us know if we can be of assistance to either you, or your organization.

Sincerely,



Rick W. Randolph, Program Manager
Alabama Motorcycle Safety Program

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



2	Larry Byrd	15	Rickie Bonner	24	Jerry Hyche
4	Rob Harrelson	15	Frank Fisher	26	Barry Land
4	Steven Wantling	16	Don Drasheff	27	Paul Thorne
5	Greg Turp	19	Lila Bonner	29	John Cockrell
7	Walls Aaron	19	Rhonda Simon	29	Mike Scott
9	Linda Goodin	21	Tony Allison	30	Shep Brown
12	John Gregory	21	Joe Rogers		
13	Sharon Bryan	23	Margaret Rogers		



FEBRUARY MEETING DETAILS

Barbara Little

Date: February 23

Place: Blue Springs State Park, Clio, AL

Hosts: Don and Barbara Little

Y'ALL READY FOR SOME MORE CHILI????

Yep, it will soon be time for a Little Chili. The date for the meeting is Saturday evening February 23rd, but some folks will surely be there on Friday this year. Thanks to Sheila Kalahan there will be beef stew for dinner Friday night and hot coffee Saturday morning.

Saturday at lunchtime, some of us will be heading south to Abbeville for lunch at Huggin' Molly's. Those of us who went last year really enjoyed it.

Don and I first fixed chili for the Club in 1992. The menu hasn't changed much in the years since. It's simply chili, chips, nacho cheese and maybe if you're lucky a dessert or perhaps two. Iced tea, sodas and water will be on hand to quench your thirst.

I always try to keep the cost down as much as possible but I won't know till I do my shopping what it will cost you. It's usually less than \$10 for dinner and pastries for Sunday morning breakfast. I will need a head count no later than February 18th so I will know how much stuff to buy. I want to be sure everyone gets fed.

I am going to let the park take care of collecting camping fees again this year. Camping rates are: Primitive camping \$13.00 per day; with water and electricity \$ 19.00. The sites on the road directly behind the pavilion are for RV use and are \$22.00 per day since they have sewer hookups. A 4% Lodging Tax is not included in the rates. Hot showers are available. Free WIFI access is available near the park entrance. We will have the pavilion as in the past. There is a 15% Seniors Discount (over 62) for camping.

Again, **please negotiate your camping directly with the Park Attendant, not with the club.**

We are already looking forward to seeing all of our friends for a Little chili again.



MORE ABOUT BLUE SPRINGS STATE PARK

Fed by a crystal-clear underground spring, the park's spring is the center of attention in this 103-acre park. The spring pumps 3,600 gallons of water per minute and the temperature of the water is 68 degrees year round. The spring pool is crystal clear with a sandy bottom and swimming is allowed at your own risk, no lifeguard is on duty Other complementing facilities include picnic shelters, tables, grills, comfort stations, playground, and modern or primitive campgrounds.



Gasoline and supplies can be had at the small town of Clio, six miles away. As a note of interest, Clio is the birthplace of the late Gov. George C. Wallace, Don Sutton, major league hall of famer, and Elton B. Stephens which was the founder of EBSCO Industries and grandfather of Elton Stephens that owned the now defunct Bogarts BMW.

Be sure to watch your speed on Highway 10 anywhere from Brundidge to Abbeville as it seems to be well patrolled by Alabama State Troopers.

The park also has a fishing pond that is stocked with catfish and bream. An Alabama fishing license is required. (Note: Alabama residents that are over 65 do not need a license.) Once over the spillway, you can search for critters among the rocks in the shallows before it flows into the west fork of the Choctawhatchee River



If someone comes in late and the gate to the campground is closed, just open it, come on thru, and close it again behind you.

**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

- Feb 23 Blue Springs State Park - Clio, AL
- Mar 23 Ft. Toulouse Historic Park - Wetumpka, AL
- 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

- Mar 21- 24 MotoMadness - Tellico, TN
- Apr 5 - 7 Dogwood Trail Rally - Newton, MS
- Jun 20-23 RA Rally - Biltmore House, Asheville, NC
- Jun 21 - 23 Barber Superbike - Birmingham, AL
- Jul 18 - 21 BMWMOA - Salem Oregon
- Oct 11 - 13 Barber Vintage Days - B'ham, AL
- Oct 4 - 6 Return to Shiloh - Pickwick Dam, TN