

THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

BMWMOA Chapter #5/ BMWRA Chapter #107



Volume XXXIX Issue 1

January 2010

A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

Ron Riggins

Hello Everyone! Happy New Year to you and your family! It's hard to believe 2009 flew by as quick as it did and 2010 is here already! As I look back on 2009, I'm reminded of the many accomplishments of our club and of **You**, the members who make all of these great things happen! Just a few of the outstanding accomplishments such as our donations to the Motorcycle Safety Center and Alabama Head Injury Foundation, our excellent ABEES Program, our annual "Chicken Rally", our increased donation to the MOA Club Challenge, our outstanding Monthly meetings, our Annual Blue Water Cruise, and the great Camaraderie and Friendships of our club members. Even in a very challenging year, **We** and our club succeeded in all these wonderful things and had a GREAT TIME doing it! 2009 was a great year and now we're onto 2010!!

Yesterday, I was speaking with Bud Meade, MOA Club Coordinator. Bud paid our club a great compliment when he said "The Alabama club is the poster child for what a MOA Chartered club should be. A Great Rally, lots of monthly activities, and most of all lots of Great Camaraderie. We need more clubs like yours!" Folks, we do have a Great Club...and it's because of all the great things that members like you do for our Club! **Thank You for all you do for our club... and let's keep it going!!**

2010 presents all of us with lots of opportunities to Serve, to have Fun, and make Memories with our club and fellow club members. As great a club as we have, we always need and welcome every one of our members to participate in all our club activities, especially our monthly meetings and our "Chicken Rally". So if you haven't been to one, please come...**you have my personal invitation, we'd love to see you!**

Elections for 2010 Officers and Directors:

Our elections will take place at the Montevallo Safety Center meeting at the end of this month. Since the last newsletter several folks have agreed to serve in 2010. Remember, we also accept nominations from the floor. If you'd like to nominate yourself or someone else for a position please send me an email at president@bmwmoal.org . Please make sure the person is agreeable to serve before you nominate them.

A ballot is included on page 2 of this newsletter. Note that there are two proposed changes to our by-laws included on the ballot this year that need your consideration. Please carefully read the proposed changes on pages 3 and 4 and circle either yes or no for each at the appropriate place on the ballot. Since these issues have been discussed at several regular club meetings during the year, and offered in detail in the November newsletter, the vote will be taken at the January meeting without any further discussion of these proposed changes. The results will be printed in the February issue of the newsletter.

BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama 2008 Election Ballot

Select one nominee for each position or write in your choice (with nominee's permission) on a blank line.

Circle your choices

Officers

President: Vance Harrelson

Vice President: Jim Kalahan

Secretary: Mari Harrelson

Chief Financial Officer: Connie Reaves

Newsletter Editor: Joan Ware

Rally Chairperson: Connie Reaves

Directors

Director of Travel: Martin Benson

Director of Technology: Terry Ware

Director of Photography: Jimmy Lowe

Director of Membership: Martha Warren

Director of Safety: _____

Circle your choices to vote on Amendments to By-Laws:

Proposed Amendment to By-Laws #1 YES NO

Proposed Amendment to By-Laws #2 YES NO

There will be ballots at the meeting, or you can e-mail your vote to president@bmwmoal.org .
You can also mail it to: Ron Riggins, 3208 Chickasaw Lane, Birmingham, AL 35242. All ballots mailed or e-mailed will be printed and/or saved for accounting purposes.

Proposed change #1:

CURRENT BY-LAWS

MEMBERSHIP

The following criteria will be met for consideration for membership:

1. Ownership of a BMW.
 2. Recommendation by a current member.
 3. Membership dues are \$20.00 per year for each primary member. Additional secondary member within the same household (spouse or child) will be charged \$3.00 each per year.
 4. Membership dues will be accepted beginning in September of each year to help pay for summer expenditures. Those members whose dues have not been paid by the 31st of December will be considered inactive and their names removed from the Club's mailing list. Those members joining after January will pay their dues on a prorated basis, as determined by schedule in the possession of the Treasurer.
 5. Each paid member will have one vote in club decisions.
 6. Membership may be continued at no annual charge after a member (principal or secondary) in continuous good standing for the past ten (10) years has obtained the age of 75. In such case, ownership of a BMW motorcycle is not mandatory and the member is entitled to have one vote in club decisions (effective January, 1992).
 7. FRIENDS OF BEEMERS: Sponsored by a current BMW member with the same privileges except may not hold office or participate in voting issues. The rules and dues will be the same as the By-Laws dictate.
2. Recommendation by a current member.
 3. Membership dues are \$20.00 per year for each primary member. Additional secondary member within the same household (**family members and/or companion who is a rider/owner**) will be charged \$3.00 each per year.
 4. Membership dues will be accepted beginning in September of each year to help pay for summer expenditures. Those members whose dues have not been paid by the 31st of December will be considered inactive and their names removed from the Club's mailing list. Those members joining after January will pay their dues on a prorated basis, as determined by schedule in the possession of the Treasurer.
 5. Each paid member will have one vote in club decisions.
 6. Membership may be continued at no annual charge after a member (principal or secondary) in continuous good standing for the past ten (10) years has obtained the age of 75. In such case, ownership of a BMW motorcycle is not mandatory and the member is entitled to have one vote in club decisions (effective January, 1992).
 7. **An Active Member may invite guests to participate in Club functions, rides, rallies, etc. The inviting member must be present at the event. The behavior of any guest is the sole responsibility of the inviting member. Any guest participating in a Club function or event where the guest will be riding on their own motorcycle or as a passenger on a member's motorcycle is required to complete a liability waiver. Proper protective clothing is encouraged and helmets are to be worn as indicated by State law.**
 8. **Membership shall terminate upon the occurrence of any one or more of the following:**

PROPOSED CHANGE IN BY-LAWS (Changes are in bold italics)

MEMBERSHIP:

The following criteria will be met for consideration for membership:

1. Ownership of a BMW **motorcycle**.

When the member voluntarily sells, transfers, or abandons legal ownership and registration of one's BMW motorcycle and the household no longer own a BMW motorcycle. This provision does not apply to involuntary loss of the motorcycle and ownership thereof, such as fire, theft, accidental destruction, collision, etc., but a member within the purview of this provision must become the legally registered owner of another BMW motorcycle within six (6) months

six (6) months of the involuntary loss, or within 6 months of one's return to financial or physical means of obtaining and riding a BMW motorcycle.

Proposed change #2

CURRENT BY-LAW

OPERATION:

Paragraph 5. These by-laws may be amended by the Officers and Board of Directors as circumstances may dictate.

PROPOSED CHANGE IN BY-LAW

OPERATION:

Paragraph 5. ***The by-laws may be amended or added to. The proposed amendment must be submitted in writing to the Secretary at a regularly scheduled meeting not later than the October meeting. The proposed amendment will then be discussed and placed on the ballot at the January annual meeting. The Proposed changes will be published in advance of the meeting in the Club newsletter. A two-thirds majority vote of Active Members present will be required to pass an amendment.***

Membership must be paid up to vote and you must be a BMW Owner. "Friends of Beemers" members do not vote.

Nominations will still be taken from the floor, up until voting time so please be aware that additional names may be added.

CLUB DUES PAST DUE ON 12/31/2009

Marty Simpson

If you haven't paid your 2010 dues, please mail ASAP so there will be no interruption of receiving your newsletter.

Also, the information for the 2010 Membership Booklet is now being compiled so please send any changes of your address, phone numbers, or e-mail. You need to renew now if you want to be listed.

The annual dues for the principal member is \$20 plus \$3 for the secondary household member.



Vance Harrelson, past Vice President, and Connie Reaves, past President, were recently appointed as Ambassadors of BMW MOA. This very honorable and prestigious distinction is bestowed on only a few members of BMW Motorcycle Owners of America that serve with extraordinary commitment.

Our club is proud that Vance and Connie have joined Marty Simpson as Ambassadors to represent us as a chartered BMW MOA club.



LESS LIGHT MEANS MOTORCYCLES BECOME LESS VISIBLE

(Excerpts from an article in Road Runner Magazine)
Joan Ware

Now that the days are shorter daylight riding is too. You might leave out early intending on being back home before dark and then something unexpected happens.

Here are a few tips to keep you safe on the road ways:

- When the sun goes down take off sunglasses or change your dark shield for better visibility.
- Use your high beam when there is no on coming traffic.
- Don't look directly into that on coming traffics lights, focus instead, on the white line of the road. (Remember this from driver ed training).
- Watch out for wildlife, ride in the left one third of you lane, keep fingers resting on front brake lever.
- Don't ride in the center of the lane, cars can straddle stuff and you might not be able to see in the dark and avoid until its too late.

To increase your visibility:

- Reflective, Reflective, Reflective, your bike, your helmet, your clothing.
- Add extra lights on front.
- Using turn signals is even more important at night, and then remembering to turn them off, too.
- Add flashing or pulsing brake lights.
- Finally stay out of vehicles blind spots.



Despite the snow and cold, the Christmas Party turned out to be a hit with all. It all started with a big win by Alabama to cinch the BSC. Spirits were high while lots of snack foods were available for the hospitality hour. The camaraderie, carried over to dinner followed by a spiteful and malicious "Dirty Santa" exchange of gifts.



CHRISTMAS PARTY AT GUNTERSVILLE



ABEES POINTS TO DATE

Name	Restaurants, Points of Interest and Monthly Club Gatherings	Favorite Roads & Rides	Total ABEES Check Offs	Total ABEES Tickets	Total Bonus Tickets	Total Tickets
Bob Steber	455	46	501	25.1	49	74.1
Martin Benson	420	39	459	23.0	30	53.0
Rodger Williamson	263	20	283	14.2	21	35.2
Beverly Hughston	218	23	241	12.1	19	31.1
Vance Harrelson	222	16	238	11.9	36	47.9
Paul McBrayer	170	18	188	9.4	8	17.4
Phillip Warren	141	18	159	8.0	31	39.0
Gary Dubois	93	11	104	5.2	8	13.2
Jim Dubick	68	9	77	3.9	10	13.9
Stephen Whitley	58	5	63	3.2	6	9.2
Noah Johnson	52	10	62	3.1	2	5.1
John Gegory	59	1	60	3.0	6	9.0
Bob Daigle	43	5	48	2.4	9	11.4
Terry Ware	39	8	47	2.4	3	5.4
Erik Bahl	40	3	43	2.2	7	9.2
Jimmy Lowe	38	4	42	2.1	3	5.1
Mike Scott	40	1	41	2.1	3	5.1
Angi Dubois	39	1	40	2.0	4	6.0
Tim Flynn	32	6	38	1.9	9	10.9
Gary Williams	35	2	37	1.9	2	3.9
Gary Nesmith	36		36	1.8	1	2.8
Andrea Pedigo	34	2	36	1.8	2	3.8
Ken Pedigo	34	2	36	1.8	2	3.8
Greg Turp	31	2	33	1.7	4	5.7
Ron Shea	14	7	21	1.1	3	4.1
Mickey Gee	14	6	20	1.0	0	1.0

4th ANNUAL BMWMOAL BLUE WATER CRUISE

Jamie Jackson

Don't put it off any longer! You still have time to book on the beautiful Carnival Triumph. The five day cruise departs New Orleans on March 1, 2010 if you have never been on a Caribbean Cruise and are unsure of the value of the cruise or entertainment available during the cruise, then talk to some of the club members that have gone on the past three cruises. I think they will convince you. And if you have been on a cruise before, but not with the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama, you may be in for a treat with twenty-four hour a day rallying with some of the most fun folks alive. Of course, there are luxurious cabins rather than a campground with tents, steel drum bands in lieu of a campfire, and decadent dining instead of a cookout. But it is one big rally none the less.

When you book make sure you do so thru Vanessa Gamble at AAA to be assured of savings afforded the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama. Vanessa's telephone number is 205-978-7030.

2009 Motorcycle Adventures

Lenn Rainwater

2009 was a year filled with adventure. In addition to the wonderful rally in TN, I went to the Ozarks in Arkansas. Having heard how great the roads are there from several friends, I knew I had to explore them. It took 2 days to get there from here, driving across the Mississippi Delta before getting to the hills. The total trip was five days, plenty of time to see things. My favorite town to stay in is Eureka Springs, which reminded me some of Telluride, CO. From there, one has a choice of many routes for good riding and scenery. The roads are in perfect shape with little traffic and few houses.



A few weekends later, I went dual sport riding in the mountains of northwest Georgia. We met at Moto 400 in Dawsonville and rode all day on some really great dirt roads. My lowered KLR did great but I found its height limitations on some of the roads with bigger rocks.

My next venture was to the Twisty Sister Rally held at TWO in Suches. This was my first time to attend this awesome rally of women. I met one lady who has been to several of our Chicken Rallies and had the chickens to prove it. (See photo.) There were wonderful mini-seminars, great street and dirt riding, and fabulous door prizes. I won a new summer jacket that I really needed. On the way home, I noticed that my bike seemed louder and I was thinking that I needed new earplugs. What else could it be anyway? It could be that the muffler had come off! (The KLR) I pushed it back on as best I could and continued on. But not very far. So I pulled the whole thing off and strapped in to the panier, riding the rest of the way home sounding like a Harley.

Then my last trip was a solo 3-week trip to New England – on the BMW. I have never been north of NYC so I decided to go and the time would be when I could see the leaves changing. It was a perfect trip. I somehow missed all the snow and bad weather. My destination was Bar Harbor, Maine, stopping in New York City and Boston on the way. The total miles were around 4100 and I went through 17 states, several ferries, and a whole bunch of toll booths.

For lodging, I stayed with friends and other members of the Motorcycle Travel Network, who are all wonderful people. Many are BMW riders and several are MSF instructors. I had innumerable great experiences with people, places, and rides – hawk watching on Cadillac Summit over Bar Harbor, 9/11 Museum and Ground Zero, Boston Freedom Trail, seeing Don and Barbara in the Catskills, riding the island of Martha's Vineyard, touring Whitehorse Gear, eating Maine lobster and Maryland crab cakes, and riding the back roads of the Vermont mountains with the leaves in perfect color. (See photo.)

The Gerbings worked well, and I had no bike trouble other than needing a new front tire. That's where the BMW Anonymous book came in handy. I found a great shop in Falmouth, Maine called Street Cycles that had a tire and was able to get me right in. Nice shop and good people.

When I was at Acadia National Park, a man noticed me with my helmet and asked if that was my bike with the Alabama tag. I said yes and he said that he wondered that kind of a nut would ride all the way from Alabama on a bike! I couldn't help but laugh and said that I was that nut. A lot of people were really amazed that I would ride all that way – on a bike – by myself. I am thankful that I was protected by the hand of God the entire way.

ABEES NEWS YOU CAN USE

Bob Steber

Happy New Year Alabeemers.

2009 was a fantastic year for exploring and enjoying the many wonderful sites and great eateries that Alabama and the surrounding area have to offer. Twenty six club members sent their ABEES counts to me totaling 2,972 check-offs which earned 420 tickets for a chance to win one of the four great prizes that will be awarded at this month's club meeting in Montevallo. Thank you for your participation. Thanks also to Joan and Terry Ware of Terry's Two Wheel Tire and Tune for donating either a helmet or a riding jacket (winner's choice), Maurice Green with Catoma Outdoor for donating two Catoma tents, a prototype Switch Back and a Two Up, and to Kermit Easterling for donating one of his Kermit Duffels

Special congratulations go out to Martin Benson and Bob Steber for going to all of the 72 county courthouses, 7 vineyards, 20 power dams and 32 Hallelujah Trail churches. Vance also went to all of the county courthouses. Phillip Warren, Vance Harrelson, Beverly Hughston, and Bob Steber went to all 7 extreme locations and Vance, Phillip and Bob completed the 1,293 miles within 48 hours All Around Alabama challenge. Five club members checked off more than 200 ABEES points: Beverly Hughston, 241, Vance Harrelson, 252, Rodger Williamson, 283, Martin Benson, 459 and Bob Steber 501.

Throughout the year many club members told me how much they are enjoying going to the places listed in their ABEES Touring Guides but just didn't want to do the accounting. That's OK, the most important reason for our club offering the ABEES riding challenge is to encourage club members to explore the wonderful and some times very surprising sites that our great state of Alabama has to offer.

The 2010 ABEES Touring Guide is going to be a whopper with 20 more pages listing additional sites, recommended eateries, and favorite roads and rides throughout the state and surrounding areas. It will also be easier for you to find the site locations because the addresses are added in the description column. The pages will also be numbered. If you have a GPS, all of the points of interest and eatery waypoints and Favorite Roads and Rides routes are available to download from our website. Using these great tools make it a snap to plan and navigate your ABEES rides.

I am working on some ABEES club rides for 2010. In addition to riding to some club gatherings, we will go to the Blue Bell Ice Cream Creamery in Sylacauga and also to the new National Infantry Museum and Soldiers Center at Ft. Benning near Columbus, Georgia. There will be no charge guided tours at each location.

Our visit to the National Infantry Museum will be special. An Army Colonel friend stationed at Ft. Benning invited us for a VIP tour of the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center. This world-class tribute to Infantrymen past, present and future is the first of its kind in the United States. Throughout the 190,000-square-foot museum, visitors will take an interactive journey through every war fought by the U.S. over the past two centuries.

The museum tells the heroic story of everyday Infantrymen through an enviable collection of more than 30,000 artifacts. Era galleries trace Infantry history from before the Revolutionary War to action today in Iraq and Afghanistan. There is a special gallery recognizing Medal of Honor recipients and one that pays tribute to those who love an Infantryman, and the sacrifices they make supporting him.

The Soldier Center offers visitors more than an education in military history. There is an IMAX Theatre, full service restaurant and gift store. Patriot Park includes a parade field for Fort Benning Infantry School graduations, a memorial walk of honor and an authentically recreated World War II Company Street.

The buildings that line the World War II Company Street were relocated from the Harmony Church area of Ft. Benning. They will bring back good memories for me because when I went for my ROTC basic training in 1963, we were the first humans to use the Harmony Church facility since it was shut down after the War. It took us just a few days to clean up the area and make the buildings habitable.



National Infantry Museum, Ft. Benning, GA

DAY TRIP TO BARBER VINTAGE MOTORSPORT MUSEUM

Reece Mullins

Eight a.m. sharp, four men on motorcycles, set out from the intersection of Gateway Estates and Highway 167 in Enterprise, on a mission. That mission: Have fun, stay warm, eat lunch, see some fabulous vintage motor cycles, collect some photos and stories and head home before it gets too late. Steve Hebert, (a.k.a. tour guide Barbie) was generous with his time and organized a quick day trip for those of us that work on Hanchey Army Airfield. As the temperatures plummeted down in the brisk 20's and warmed up to 30 degrees Fahrenheit at eight o'clock when we launched on our ride, the list of adventurers quickly narrowed to four, Jim Kalahan, Phil Smeesing, Steve Hebert, and myself. Three Beemers and our resident *Ducati* on his *Ducati* sport bike.



Jim and Steve haven't learned to take their hats off at the table when they eat yet, I'm calling their moms; Phil on the right has.

Despite the cold, it was a clear beautiful day, traffic was moderate, and we settled into our standard staggered right formation. Steve took lead on the way up, and half way back. Steve rode up front and Jim in the back, as they both had radio communication, while the non-commo riders, myself and Phil, stayed mostly in the middle, Phil did move up front near Montgomery to lead the way for a leg of two lane country road that effectively facilitated the bypass of traffic in Montgomery. The cold weather made for a good "check" of our warm weather equipment. My adoptive "dad" Jim, allowed me to borrow some warm weather gloves, that were a life saver, only my toes got cold on the way up, so I'll be in-

vesting in some warmer boots, and gloves, (so I won't have to rely on Jim's extensive stock of loaner gear...I got to grow up some time you know, I can't be a baby rider forever) Phil quickly discovered on the way up that his gloves too were inadequate for the temperatures and wind, and using their communication gear, trail (Jim) was able to let lead (Steve) know of the predicament and near Troy, Steve pulled over to facilitate Phil putting on a warmer set of gloves. With warm hands we motored on to our destination.

As many of you know I haven't been able to get out to far from the house this year as I've found myself in the single father role since June, so when I heard that Steve was organizing a day trip to a museum I jumped on the opportunity to get out on Ursala, with my comrades from work. For those of you who haven't been properly introduced Ursala is my R1200RT, you know we have to name our bikes, for those in the club who haven't given your riding partner a name, "shame on you!"

The ride was fairly uneventful, no unpleasant surprises, all the bikes, well maintained, held up nicely, no accidents, no speeding tickets, the trip went off like a well-oiled machine. I will advocate, to those in the club that can't get out on trips like myself, that riding daily to work, does keep those skills sharp, and serves to significantly mitigate risk, when those longer trip opportunities do finally present themselves. I also found that there is something to that five hour energy drink, seems to keep me alert and thinking straight even on an early, cold December morning.

We stopped several times on the way there, breaking up the trip, keeping it pleasant, I think our total mileage that day was probably around 400 miles, without getting sore or cramped. Stopping for coffee and fuel always makes for a pleasant ride. Prior to the Museum, Steve (I don't know how he finds all these great places) lead us to the Irondale Café, featured in the movie "*Fried Green Tomatoes*" the southern cuisine was exquisite, the perfect recipe for putting four hungry motorcycle riders into a healthy food coma prior to riding to the Museum. The Museum was almost exclusively ours, the nominal \$15.00 entry fee was well worth the price. I saw motorcycles I never dreamed existed, and many I've only seen on TV, all of which were in immaculate condition, works of art on display. Many in the club have probably been to the museum or the racetrack to watch Nate race, but for those in the club that haven't gone yet I highly recommend it. There were lots of Beemers on display, lot's of history associated with each bike. The racecars and riding gear, all a joy to bemuse. I took lots of photos with the iphone, commenting that times have

changed. I recalled that in the past, had I taken this trip with my 35mm SLR, I would run out of film, before I got past the gift shop, today's technology lets us take hundreds of photos without running out of film, (probably invented for the undisciplined shutterbug like myself that can't ration his 35 pictures over the course of a trip)



Steve admiring "Aluminum" race cars of old

As I rolled through the bikes on display, I found myself looking for the bikes I remember from my youth, the bikes my mother and father rode. Oddly some actually struck a familiar cord, so of course I took pictures to send to my parents, hopefully, there will be recognition. I remember as a young lad, my Dad's Triumph, a café rider, customized by him, bought in England when we were stationed at Bentwaters Air Force Base, in the late '60's early '70's (before the infamous UFO incident of 1980) Of course the memory of a small child is clouded over the years of adulthood, so I took as many pictures as I could in the hopes of capturing one of the models, my Dad had owned. The whole experience was quite nostalgic, for those who have ridden their whole lives, I would imagine the museum would conjure up very warm and nostalgic feelings greater than even my own.



A picture of Steve taking a picture of us

The ride home like the ride to Birmingham, was unblemished by any unpleasant surprises, other than the occasional car fender in the middle of the road, or baby stroller on the side of the road, but, a quick "foot point" by lead, kept the flight of riders safe. Steve did lead us on a beautiful twisty road coming from the museum to the interstate, and you all would be proud of me, I didn't cross the double yellow line this time, so no finger waving from Jim the mentor.

I followed Jim back to his house to return his gloves and give mom (a.k.a. Shelia) a hug and thanked her for lending me her husband for the day, and then sauntered back to the house, where my life of errands and chores quickly descended on me and reminded me that play time was over, time to be a responsible adult again.



Steve and Phil preparing to enter into "Fried Green Tomato Heaven" at the Irondale Cafe.

BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

c/o Jamie Jackson - Editor
1308 Stonecrest Drive
Birmingham, Al 35235
jamiejackson@bellsouth.net

Dedicated to safe and enjoyable motorcycling



Please visit the BMWMOAL web site at www.bmwmoal.org and register. Log on and see what members are saying about club activities. The site is user friendly and the newsletter is in color.

