

THE ALABAMA BEEMER

BMW MOTORCYCLE OWNERS OF ALABAMA



BMWMOA CHAPTER #5

BMWRA CHAPTER #107



**2012, Jan 28th and 29th
Election of Officers
Traffic Safety Center in
Montevallo**



JANUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

A New Year ...A New Opportunity!

Vance Harrelson

The coming of the new-year always brings those all too familiar resolutions. We all make them and with the best of intentions. Well, it is that time of year again and I would like to challenge each one of you to make just one more than usual. What would that be you ask? Work less and play more? Lose some weight this year so those riding pants fit a little better? Spend more time with family and friends? No, like I said we are all going to make those any way! Let's resolve to spend just a little more time in support of our great club. Make just one more meeting this year....Host a meeting this year...invite a non-member to attend a meeting with you this year.

I am willing to bet that if you can devote a little more time for the good of your club, that it will pay huge dividends for you! Now I have said it before and I do realize all of us have many demands on our time. But the longevity and sustainability of your club depends upon what you can do to support it! I hope you will give special consideration to what you can do to support the club in the coming year.

In this edition you will find the election ballot for your officers for 2012. I want to personally thank those that have agreed to serve. You will notice that there are a couple of Director positions that will go unfilled unless names are added from the floor at the meeting in Montevallo on January 29, 2012. If you are interested in one of these positions, please let me (president@bmwmoal.org) or Connie Reaves (bamabmw@aol.com) know about it and we will add your name to the ballot at the meeting. If you know that you will not be in attendance at the meeting, you may complete the ballot and mail it to Connie Reaves 108 Cape Cod Circle Alabaster, AL 35007. To be fair to all the members not attending the meeting, the only candidates nominated from the floor that will be considered will be any candidates for the open Director positions. All mail in ballots must be received no later than January 27, 2012.

Please fully support your incoming slate of Officers and Directors as they will be working very hard to provide club meetings and activities for all of us!

I want to personally thank each of you for the support you have given me as your President. I have enjoyed working, riding and the fellowship we have had together! Although I will not be holding office for the coming year I intend to fully support my club. I am looking forward to finding new and better ways that we as the Alabeemers can work more closely with our charters the MOA & RA to enhance the BMW motorcycle lifestyle. I believe there are many ways to cooperate with these larger clubs to benefit us as members of our local clubs thereby adding value to our memberships. As we all know there is great strength in numbers so I encourage you, if you are not already, members of those organizations to consider joining and supporting them as well. With all of us working together the sky is the limit! More events, more

information more friendships can only be ours with better club coordination. With this in mind, if you have suggestions and ideas that you think will benefit all of us, please communicate them to me. Sharing of ideas is how we will create new benefits for us as members.

Thanks again for all the great times to this point. I have no doubt that next year will provide even more! Take care, ride safe and I look forward to seeing you on the road or in the woods next year!!

**DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP RAFFLE TICKETS FOR THIS YEAR'S
MOTORCYCLE GIVEAWAY AT THE GREAT CHICKEN RALLY!**

See CONNIE REAVES to get yours!

You can email her at: bamabmw@aol.com for more details.

Remember, this is for a great cause and is the lifeline of the club!

Please participate!

2012 BMW G650 MOTORCYCLE**

Sponsored by the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama



Donation: \$5.00

c/o 1270 1st Ave W., Alabaster, AL 35007

To be given away at

24th Great Chicken Rally, Huntsville, AL

May 26, 2012

***Winner need not be present to win*

JANUARY 2012

OFFICER ELECTIONS AND PLANNING MEETING

DATE: JANUARY 28 AND 29TH

LOCATION: TRAFFIC SAFETY CENTER IN MONTEVALLO, AL

ADDRESS: 955 SHELBY ST

MONTEVALLO, AL 35115-4060

PHONE: 205-665-6740

GPS LOC: N33 06.129 W86 51.980

SATURDAY: Begin arriving anytime from 12 Noon. We will have a very loosely run “Flea Market” so feel free to bring any extra motorcycle related items that you feel a fellow member might put to use.

SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER: Plans are to be completed, but we will order pizza or other takeout to be served around 6PM. Cost will be split among those in attendance. Please bring appropriate change and small bills to facilitate easy payment! We will need a head count no later than Wednesday prior to the meeting to know how much food to order! Please respond to the invitation email with this information.

LODGING: Lodging will be available at the dorm on campus as in the past (Ramsey Hall is just up the street from the Safety Center. It’s within walking distance.) Reservations must be made directly with them! Camping will be available at the Traffic Safety Center inside or RV parking in the parking lot. (no hook ups). Feel free to bring your sleeping bags!

DETAILS ON ROOMS: Hotel like rooms, with TV, 2 twin beds, air and heat, bathroom, but no phones in rooms. PLEASE check with them on price as they were closed for the holidays. Call 205-665-6280 for reservations. The “office” is open from 8AM to 5PM so you should arrive and get checked in by 5PM or CALL THEM and tell them you will be late and make some kind of arrangements for getting your room key.

JANUARY MEETING DIRECTIONS:

University of Montevallo, Alabama Traffic Safety Center

From i-65, take exit of choice to Montevallo. The main street through town is Hwy 119. Off 119 take Shelby Street. It’s just two blocks (north) down Shelby Street on the left. Call 205 -665-6740 if you need more directions.

MAKE YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT MEETING NOW.

BMW MOAL Election Ballot For 2012

President: Don Little

Vice-President: Jamie Jackson

Secretary: Barbara Little

Newsletter Editor: Robin Erwin

Rally Chairman: Sheila Kalahan

CFO: Connie Reaves

Directors:

Travel: Rodger Williamson

Safety: _____

Tech: Terry Ware

Photography: Jimmy Lowe

Membership: Martha Warren

DUES ARE DUE:

Folks should receive a renewal notice soon if they haven't yet paid up.

\$25.00 for primary and \$5.00 for each secondary member.

Make checks to BMW MOAL

Mail to:

Connie Reaves

1270 1st Ave. W.

Alabaster, AL 35007

You have until the January meeting pay your dues

and be listed in the club blue book for 2012.

After that you will be late and will not be listed.

We sure hope you all renew!!!!

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

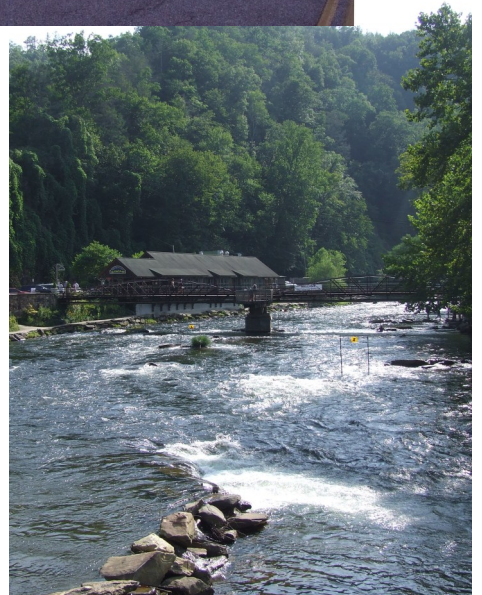
Happy Birthday to all our members born in February! Hope y'all have a great day!

DIXON	TIMOTHY	2	6
HIGGINBOTHAM	FRANK	2	6
JOHNS	STEVE	2	7
DYAR	DOUGLAS	2	8
HOLLEY	JIM	2	8
REESE	SUSAN	2	8
WERGOWSKE	DAVID	2	9
GILBERT	LISA	2	10
MCCURLEY	PAM	2	10
REAVES	CONNIE	2	11
WHITE	ANNA	2	11
FOREMAN	MARK	2	12
WEAVER	WILLIAM	2	12
BARBER	BETSY	2	13
CONVERSE	JUDY	2	14
PENN	JOHN	2	16
ROWE	DONNA	2	16
CASWELL	RUBY	2	18
WILLEY	ELAINE	2	18
AUTHIER	TONY	2	19
BARNHART	TOM	2	19
WARE	JOAN	2	20
DABBS	JOEL	2	24
GIBBEN	LENNY	2	27
BARNHART	CARA	2	28



A YEAR OF GOOD FOOD





A YEAR OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Who Rode Into The New Year?
By Rodger Williamson

I mean it. Who literally was on their bike at midnight when 2011 ended, and 2012 began? ... It wasn't my original plan, but that is where I was when 2012 began.

For those of you who do not know me, I served in the U.S. Army from 1985 to 2009. After I retired from the service, I discovered that I now had time to ride my bike as much as I wanted to, and was only limited by my ability to afford fuel, maintenance, replacement tires, and road-trip expenses. Lately, I have been spending time over at an Army Buddy's house at Fort Benning, GA, and helping his sons stay on top of their school work with some tutoring. While I have been at Fort Benning, I have been introduced to a non-profit group known as "Gameday For Heroes." Their mission is to send wounded and active duty military personnel to college sporting events. They first sent me to an Auburn vs. Mississippi Baseball game last Spring, and then to the Auburn vs. Samford Homecoming game last November. I thoroughly enjoyed both games (both were Auburn wins too!), and I will get choked up and shed a tear when I think of what these folks are doing as a way of saying "thank you" to our Troops for their service. And thus, since I have already attended two games free of charge, I had decided that I will not be greedy, and submit any other requests for free attendance. Meanwhile, my Army buddy at Benning submitted his own request. Four tickets together were donated to attend the Auburn vs. Virginia Chick-fil-A "Peach" Bowl on the evening of 31 December 2011. He had only intended to take his girlfriend, but with four tickets, he offered the extra two to me. I went down my list of immediate friends and family, and although some had initially said "yes" - they then had to back out. And then my buddy called me and told me that he wouldn't be able to go either.

I rode my Beemer up to Atlanta and picked up the tickets, and rode about checking out the tailgating, and eventually went in for the game. I hadn't ever been to the Georgia Dome, and I hadn't ever been to a Post Season Bowl Game, so I was excited. Plus, having spent a fair portion of my youth in Virginia, I am somewhat of a Cavaliers Fan if I were asked "who outside of the SEC would I root for?" ALL of the fans were wearing Orange & Blue, as that was the colors of BOTH teams. As a matter of fact, Auburn University adopted the colors of blue and orange because their first Football coach as a University of Virginia alumni. The University of Virginia had earlier adopted blue and orange after they discovered that their first school colors of gray and red did not show up well when their uniforms were muddy. Gray had been chosen for the color of a Confederate uniform, and red for the color of blood shed by Virginians during the Civil War. When the Virginia students met to decide what colors to change to, there wasn't any consensus, until one student walked in wearing a blue and orange striped scarf. One of the other students held it high and asked "how about these colors?" They then voted unanimously to change their schools colors to blue and orange.

I had great seats, just barely off of the 50 yard line, and in the lower level, on row 27. It was high enough

to see everything, and close enough to see everything, - but I was there by myself, without anyone to share the experience with. Virginia took the lead, and Auburn answered, and it was matched for the first quarter, - but by the time the clock ran out at the end of the fourth quarter, Auburn had won, 43 to 24. ~ War Eagle!!! As I left the Georgia Dome, I heard what sounded like gunfire to me in the distance. As an OIF Vet, I felt myself wanting to reach for my IBA (Improved Body Armor) and M4 rifle. I thought to myself that it was sad that crime was so bad in Atlanta that folks were shooting at each other like that. I geared up for the ride and I was glad to leave, but I was now stuck in the mass exodus of traffic headed for the highway. By the time I neared the Georgia Capitol Building, ALL HELL BROKE LOOSE as they started their fireworks to welcome the new year. I damn near dropped my bike with my instinct reaction to seek cover. I immediately realized that it was just fireworks, but every new boom still made me want to get low and seek cover. I looked down at the digital clock on the dash of my GS and saw that it read 0:00. I now realized that what I had assumed was gunfire, was probably actually fireworks. The big city sponsored fireworks show soon ended, and as the traffic slowly moved forward, we were now inundated with the mass of crowds leaving the downtown fireworks display. I eventually broke free and cut a few blocks over and ran parallel to the mass exodus to get on I-85 south. I have never in 30+ years of riding been so overjoyed to be able to get on to an interstate highway! I rode south on I-85, and then connected to I-185 heading for Columbus, GA. At exactly 1:18 am, I could tell that the temperature had dropped below 50 degrees where an 80 mph breeze pushed the wind chill down to just above freezing. I made it back to Benning at about 2:30 am, and called it a night. I had welcomed the New Year with the most faithful companion I have ever known, - my BMW R1150GS Adventure!!! What is your story? Write it up and submit it for the next newsletter!

**If you have an article or a picture that you would like to share with the club, please email it to
newsletter@bmwmoal.org.**

Newsletter deadline is the Saturday following a club meeting at noon.

If you have an address change, please let Connie or Martha know asap. This will hopefully cut out the returned newsletters, with no forwarding addresses. So please double check your membership address. Thanks!

Join us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/BMWMOAL>

Visit us on the web!

www.bmwmoal.org

**BMW Motorcycle Owners
of Alabama**

c/o Robin Erwin - Editor
3118 Hwy 28
Columbiana, Al 35051

**Dedicated
to safe and
Enjoyable
motorcycling**



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Christmas Party 2011



Don't forget!

The January Business Meeting at Montevallo is one of the most important meetings of the year! Come out and join us as the yearly calendar is voted on, New Officers are elected, and things gear up for a great year of riding, food, and friends! Bring a friend or two and get them signed up to be a part of the "family"! Looking forward to seeing all of you there! BE SAFE!

And come prepared to make this year the best yet!