

THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle
Owners of Alabama

BMWMOA Chapter5/
BMWRA Chapter #107



Volume XLII Issue 1

January 2013

2013: A NEW YEAR AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR US

Even though Christmas is behind us, I feel I must take a few lines to talk about another great Christmas party and to give a huge THANK YOU to Darlene Massey for all of the hard work that went into arranging everything for us. The food was wonderful, the motel staff was friendly; the gifts seemed to be more motorcycle related this year, but the best part was being able to share the weekend with friends. Even though I was only able to sit in the middle of the floor while everyone walked around me, it was wonderful.

Our January meeting is just around serious items on the agenda. The order of business is the election

If you check out the definition will see that it means “choose, name is on the ballot, there is current officers and directors feelings hurt if someone runs clined to do so, please put your this coming year. (Please email Bar- have ballots ready for the vote.)



the corner and we have some very first and perhaps most important of officers.

of election in the dictionary you especially by vote”. If only one hardly a choice. None of the will be offended or get their against them, so if you feel in- name on the ballot for an office bara before the meeting so she can

The second, very important matter is the continuation of the Great Chicken Rally....or not. The 2013 rally will be the 25th and it has been suggested that it be our last, while spending all the money in the rally fund and go out with a bang.

While many are opposed to the idea of discontinuing a rally that has a great reputation with riders all over the country, most feel that some changes must be made in order for us to continue. As much as it pains me to admit it, some of us are getting older and we have been doing this for many years, some of us for over 20 years. We either need more people, or we need to limit what we do. Some ideas I have thought about are:

(Continued page 2)

(from page 1)

Limiting attendance (350-450?)
Only allow pre-registered attendees
Eliminating another meal or perhaps two
Or some combination of the above

Please bring any ideas you might have so we can have a meaningful discussion.

Personally, I would like to continue our rally, but we cannot unless we have more workers or less work. Volunteers are always welcomed and appreciated so please consider attending and volunteering this year.

I would like to request that you not vote to continue our rally if you aren't planning to attend and contribute considerable work to make it the success it has been in the past.

The third and final item on the agenda is meeting places for 2013. If you have a favorite park or location that you think your fellow members will enjoy and appreciate, please submit the idea.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

Remember that your club dues should have been paid by December 31 in order to be able to vote at the January meeting in Montevallo. Use the form on page 4 to renew your membership, or mail your check to Tommy Arnold clearly marked "Dues Renewal".



Also, your dues must be received before February 1 for your name to appear in the 2013 Membership Directory.

NEW MEMBER

Stevo Ehrnst 2012 F800ST Springville, AL Sponsor: Lenn Rainwater

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Bill Shanks	12	Leslie Johnson	16	Donna Rowe
4	Larry Camp	13	Betsy Barber	16	John Penn
4	John Lide			18	Ruby Caswell
5	Sharon Hogg			18	Elaine Willey
6	Frank Higginbotham			19	Tony Authier
7	Steve Johns			19	Tom Barnhart
8	Douglas Dyer			20	Joan Ware
8	Susan Reese			24	Michael Benoit
9	Mike Pavelec			24	Joel Dabbs
9	David Wergowske			24	Lenny Gribben
11	Connie Reaves			27	Lou Church
11	Anna White			28	Cara Barnhart



ALABEEMER 2013

Malvene Jackson, Editor

I wish to thank everyone that contributed to our newsletter during this past year. To have an excellent newsletter we must have excellent writers; and we have some of the best.

I urge you to continue with your exceptional contributions during 2013. Greg and Melanie Turp has started us off with outstanding article for this newsletter. Thanks to Greg and Melanie for their support. Also, thanks to our president, Don Little, for his ongoing support.

I know that each of you have adventures as you travel on your bikes. Why not take time to share those journeys the rest of us by jotting down a few lines and submitting it to the Alabeemer for publication. "Can't write, or can't spell" you say? It doesn't matter, submit what you have and it will be edited and formatted to fit right in.

Thank you in advance for the support that I know you will provide during this exciting year of 2013.

MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE!!

Martha Warren, Director of Membership

Your club dues deadline was December 31. In order to be able to vote at the January meeting in Montevallo and help support this Club through 2013, they need to be paid as soon as possible. As of today only 1/4th of the membership have paid their renewal. Use the form below to renew your membership, or mail your check to Tommy Arnold clearly marked "Dues Renewal". Update any information on this form if different from 2012 Directory. **If not received by the Annual Meeting, your membership information will not make the 2013 Club Directory.**

**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

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

SMOKE CHASING 2012

Greg Turp

(from my blog at <http://www.wandrrmotorcycletours.com/blog.html>)

After a great finish and a lot of fun in last years Smoke Chasing, (SmokeChasing.com) I decided to give it another try. 2012 brought us a total of 15 BBQ restaurants in 15 states, but this year were going for 30 BBQ's in 30 states, starting in NM, which is where I was when the contest started this year. After working in Las Cruces for a week we got a chance to pick up TX one afternoon. I didn't need to do it right then, since I will be in TX several times this year, but it looked like a good afternoon ride. These were the only two states I would pick up on this trip, but it was a start.

After working in NM for a while we headed back east. One of the challenges this year is to get 15 BBQ's in 15 states in 15 days. I had a couple weeks to play and a father-in-law to see in SD, so why not give it a go. I packed up my wife and the dog on the bike and took off from Arkansas. We followed a route the long way around headed to Sioux Falls, SD, and then on to Pierre. The route took us through the following states in this order. AR, TN, MO, KY, IL, IN, MI, WI, MN, SD, IO, NE, KS, OK, and back to Arkansas. I needed 1 more so I scooted over to LA to finish up. We were gone 12 days, 4 of which were spent with family in South Dakota.

The next group of states to pick up were while we were seeing of kids in TN. We rode down to MS, AL, GA, and FL in a big swoop and then back to Chattanooga, TN. It was a good day for a long ride, about 900 miles.

We were now at a total of 20 states. The only other trip I had planned was to meet members of the MTF in Gunnison, CO for some Flower Sniffing, which is their idea of just good old riding. We headed out with a route that would let us pick up a few more states, but, being on a time restraint this time, had to miss a couple close ones, which would come back to haunt me. We set a route from NM through CO, UT, WY, ID and MT, staying a day in MT with some family. It was a great trip Flaming Gorge Recreational Area, Jackson Hole, and Yellowstone. I really love riding through those places. Of course my wife, dog, and camping gear came along on this trip.

I stopped at this point for a trip to Ireland and rented a BMW GS from Celtic riders out of Dublin. Paul and the guys were great getting me all set up and the trip was fantastic. While I was there I competed in an IBA Ireland sanctioned event called a Phoker Rally. The idea is to ride around Ireland looking for certain landmarks with GPS coordinates, taking a picture of them, and receiving a playing card for the picture. You would get 5 cards and the best poker hand would win the rally. I was entered in the EU section and ended up winning. As the Irish say, Brilliant.

When we returned we headed to Helen, GA for Octoberfest since it was October, with the family. We had a great few days but I still needed 4 more states to hit my mark of 30. I headed down to Daytona Beach for a RTE with the MTF riders and then headed back to SC, one of the states I needed.

One of the BBQjoints that was a "must do" for NC was in Raleigh. We headed up there and then off to some friends house near there for some, you guessed it, BBQ. San and Carrie cooked us some of the best BBQ we had had yet. We left the following morning to catch the last 2 states, VA and WV, then headed to see our kids in Nashville.

Well 30 states were done but I still wanted two more. Still working on getting them with the time ticking down, 10 more days.

I got a weekend off and set out for the last two BBQ's for my list. We set off from Yuma, AZ headed toward CA with our goal of getting BBQ in Blythe, CA and then heading up to Lake Havasu, AZ for lunch. It was a great morning for a ride, blue skies in all direction and perfect temps in the 60's. We took Parker Dam Road on the CA side and crossed over at Parker dam. Gorgeous area complete with Blue raters of the Colorado river and burros along side the road. Continuing onward we rode up to see London Bridge crossing the Colorado river in Lake Havasu city. Next we found lunch and a local brewery, Mud-sharks, and had a very tasty burger. Heading south back toward Yuma we decided to catch the town of Quartzite, AZ, a town that booms with snowbirds during the winter, most of them dry camping. Found a little BBQ stand in town that finished up my states.

The counts are tallied and the results from Smoke Chasing 2012 are done. Melanie and I finished in the top category of King/Queen of Q with a total of 295 points. The top winner ended up with a total of 906 points. We traveled to 32 states over a 6 month period, had some great BBQ, and had fun traveling around the good old US of A. Till next year...

Greg "WANDRR" Turp

Life is too short to do anything other than that about which you are absolutely passionate . . .

Ride till you can't!



**BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama
2013 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: Don Little

Vice President: Jamie Jackson

Secretary: Barbara Little

Chief Financial Officer: Tommy Arnold

Newsletter Editor: Malvene Jackson

Rally Chairperson: Sheila Kalahan

Directors

Director of Travel: Roger Williamson

Director of Technology: Terry Ware

Director of Photography: Jim Kalahan

Director of Membership: Martha Warren

Director of Safety: Russ Kruse

There will be ballots at the meeting, or you can e-mail your vote to president@bmwmoal.org
Also, you may mail it to: **Don Little P.O. Box 190, Clayton, AL 36016**

All ballots mailed or e-mailed will be printed and/or saved for accounting purposes.

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.

GS Clarification

John Koenig

[Reprinted with permission from *The Blue Ridge Breeze* newsletter (North Carolina club) and submitted by Bob Steber]

Being an avid BMW "GS" rider, I often get asked "what does GS stand for". I also often hear a lot of terms used to describe the sport of GSing, and many are confusing. I'll attempt to demystify some of it.

In 1980, the term "G/S" was given to BMW's prototypes, just prior to releasing the R80 G/S on the market. It stood for "Gelande/Strasse" in German, which loosely translates to "Overland/Street".

In 1987, BMW removed the slash, and the designation became "GS". BMWNA said this model signified "Gelande Sport", for the sport of riding Overland in any terrain.

Since then, many terms have been used in an attempt to describe the GS motorcycle and lifestyle. Dirt bike, off-road, off-pavement, Dual-Sport, and Adventure riding are some of them.

Dirt Bike doesn't typically describe the GS. This is a term commonly used by cyclists to describe motocross bikes, enduro bikes, scramblers, and even trials bikes. They usually aren't street legal and are typically trailered to their riding environment.

Off-Road is also a term that doesn't really describe the typical GS. This usually means single-track riding, boon-docking, blasting through open country like desert, and riding where roads don't exist.

Off-Pavement definitely describes a GS. Where the pavement ends is where the GS shines. Over 95% of the world's roads are unpaved. These roads are gravel, dirt, sand, mud, grass, rock, loam, or a combination of

all.

Dual-Sport certainly describes a GS, but it also describes millions of enduro, street/trail, and multi-purpose motorcycles. Everything from Japanese 100cc bikes to 1200cc German bikes fall into this group. The term generally describes the dual sport of "dirt" riding and "street riding". The most classic examples of this would be 250 to 650cc, street legal "enduro bikes".

Adventure Bike is a term BMW has made famous with their "GSA" or "GS Adventure". Adventure Riding is an old term recently made famous by Ewan McGregor and Charley Boorman with their travel documentaries worldwide aboard GSA bikes. For many years "Adventure Riding" has been given fame by the huge rider's forum at advrider.com. In this forum, liberal space has been given to the BMW GS's, but all 650cc and above machines are featured.

To sum it up, I think "Adventure Riding" best describes what us GS guys do. It seems like when the pavement ends, many of the true adventures begin. Whether this fun and exhilarating sport is practiced alone or with a group, the rewards are gratifying. Be it "broken pavement" or no pavement at all, riding the Adventure Lifestyle affords us the opportunity to experience the paved roads the others love as well as myriad other pathways to a whole new world of motorcycling.

An adventure rider on a GS can enjoy riding the rugged backcountry. yet pop back out on pavement to chew up massive distances of roadway in style. Be it a 5,000 mile journey or a casual afternoon jaunt, it can be immensely rewarding for you. Try it; you'll like it. "One often meets his destiny on the road he takes to avoid it! Oogway

Thank you, John, for allowing us to print this interesting article.---Editor.