

THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

BMWMOA Chapter #5/ BMWRA Chapter #107



Volume XXXVIII Issue 3

March 2010

Mardi Gras Madness at T4!

Vance Harrelson

What a great time we had at T4 on Saturday 20th! (For those not familiar, T4 is the acronym we fondly use for Terry's Two Wheel Tire & Tune located in Pelham, AL. Terry & Joan operate their shop for the benefit of motorcycling and especially the BMW community. Their planned Open House made a great opportunity for us to build a monthly meeting around and it was fantastic!

The weather could not have been any better and by one conservative estimate there were over 60 people in attendance. The red beans and rice must have been really great too but I never got a chance to sample them before they were gone! It was a great so many club members there and some I haven't seen in quite a while.

This was our first taste of a great riding season ahead. It is time to check out your bike and make sure everything is ready to ride. Make your plans now to join us as we have a great meeting schedule along with many other opportunities to ride. Don't forget the ABEES program where you can not only ride and discover new and interesting sites but have a chance to win some really great prizes as well!

The Great Chicken Rally is fast approaching us too! I hope you will consider volunteering to help us put on this now nationally known *little* party! We have many opportunities in every area where we can use your help. If you have any questions about what you can do to help or volunteer, contact Connie bamabmw@aol.com or me president@bmwmoal.org we would love to have you!

Also, please remember raffle tickets are now available for the G650GS that we will give away at the closing ceremony Saturday night of the rally. Tickets are \$5 each and available by contacting Mari Harrelson mari27@bellsouth.net. Remember if you sell just four books you get into the Great Chicken Rally for free! So get out and sell those tickets!

Get out and ride...be safe and we'll see you next month for the *Woo Hoo@ Nauvoo!!*

Here is the updated ABEES riding challenge information for 2010. Note that in addition to the All Around Alabama Challenge, we also have the Extremely Alabama Challenge which is to ride your motorcycle to all seven extreme locations within 48 hours. Additionally, our passenger/navigator club members will now participate fully in the ABEES challenges and can collect tickets to win prizes just as the rider does.

ABEES Riding Challenges for 2010

It's very easy to participate in the Club's ABEES riding challenge and to become eligible for a chance to win a great prize just for having a lot of fun riding in 2010. All you need to do is:

(1) Ride your motorcycle to twenty or more places that are listed in the ABEES Touring Guide including club gatherings and favorite roads & rides. You must have something to eat or drink at the eateries and tour the museums. **One Ticket**

(2) After checking off the first 20 places and favorite rides you will receive bonus tickets for the following:

(a) Each additional twenty places visited and roads & rides ridden **One Bonus Ticket**

(b) Each Sunday Club business meeting attended..... **One Bonus Ticket**

(c) Each of the seven Alabama Extreme Locations you visit. **One Bonus Ticket**

NW–Waterloo, NE–Long Island, SW–Bayou la Batre, SE–Chattahoochee State Park, Highest Point–Mt. Cheaha SP Rock Tower Lowest Point–Pink Pony Pub, Gulf Shores Central-Main Hall University of Montevallo, marker on the steps.

(d) *The All Around Alabama Challenge within than 48 hours..... **Ten Bonus Tickets**

(e) *The All Around Alabama Challenge within 72 hours **Five Bonus Tickets**

(f) *The Extremely Alabama Challenge within 48 hours **Five Bonus Tickets**

(g) Check off 10 places or all if less than 10 in each of the featured categories that are listed below **One Bonus Ticket**

Hallelujah Trail Churches, BBQ Joints, Dams, Covered Bridges, Extreme locations and Courthouses.

(h) Check off all of the locations within each featured category..... **One Bonus Ticket**

(i) Start and finish forms for the BMWMOA mileage contest..... **One Bonus Ticket**

The drawing for prizes will be held at our January, 2011 Montevallo meeting and you have until December 31, 2010 to complete your rides. Attendance at the meeting is not necessary to win, but you will have a lot of fun when the drawing starts and your name is pulled out Vance's ticket machine. It only takes one ticket to win, but the more you have, the better your chances will be.

When you finish checking off your initial twenty ABEES places and favorite rides, tally your check offs by these categories: Total Restaurants, POIs & monthly club gatherings combined, and total favorite rides. For Bonus tickets, tally each of these categories: Extreme Locations, Sunday Club Business Meetings, MOA Mileage Contest (1 ticket) and All Around Alabama completion (10 or 5 tickets). For additional bonus points, tally your total check offs for each featured category: Churches, BBQ Joints, Dams, Covered Bridges Extreme Locations and Courthouses. If you don't want to do all of the accounting, that's OK. Just send me your ABEES counts. When totaled, send your numbers to Bob Steber (bsteberbtr@gmail.com). Some photos and stories about your favorite places and eateries that you discovered along your journey to share with our fellow club members will be greatly appreciated.

The grand prizes for our 2010 BMWMOAL ABEES Riding Challenge will be announced.

* Check the website www.bmwmoal.org ABEES Riding Challenges page for details.

ABEES NEWS YOU CAN USE

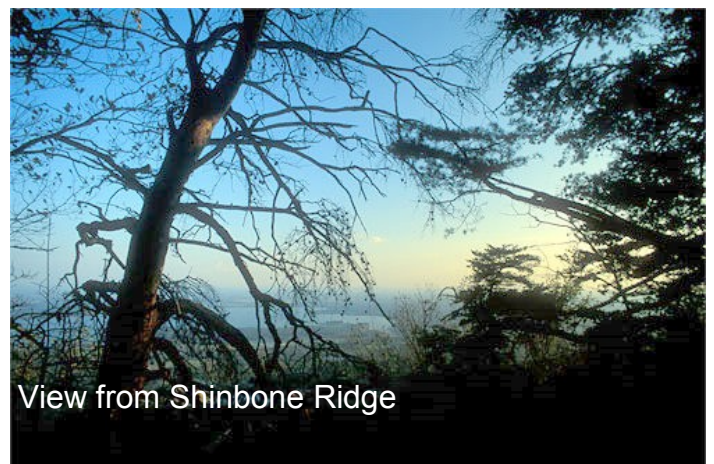
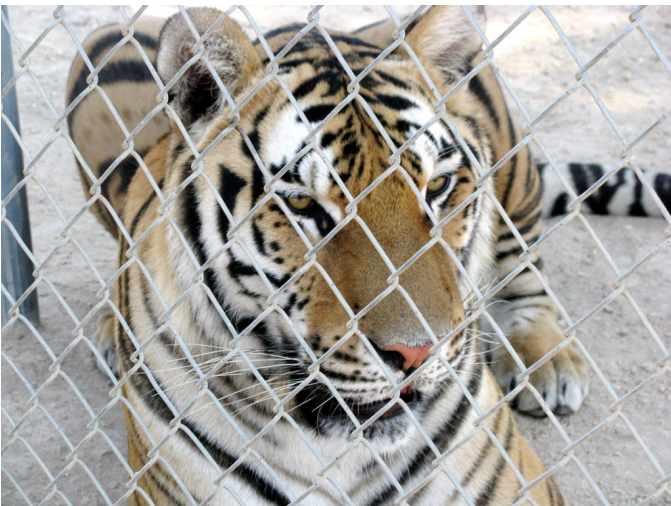
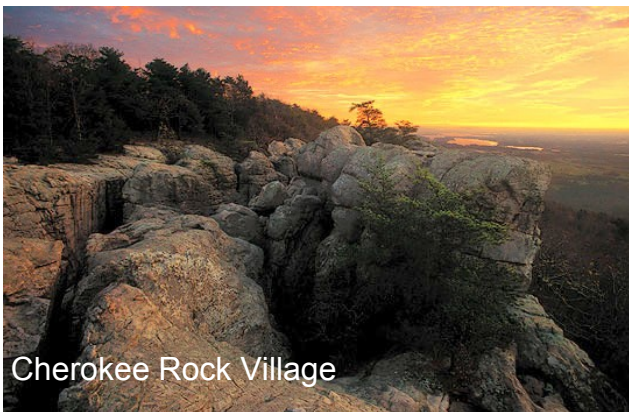
Bob Steber

Can you feel it? Good riding weather is right around the corner and now is the time to get your bikes and your gear prepped and ready to ride. When you are ready, take a look in your ABEES Travel Guide for many great ideas to find new eateries, places to visit and great roads to ride throughout Alabama and surrounding areas.

A favorite site that I visited last year is Tigers for Tomorrow at Untamed Mountain near Collinsville. Tigers for Tomorrow is an exotic animal park and rescue preserve, and is home to over 105 exotic and a few domestic animals. This is a last stop preserve, and the animals that go to live there remain for the rest of their lives. (<http://www.tigersfortomorrow.org/>).

Another fun place to visit which is near Tigers for Tomorrow is Cherokee Rock Village located atop Lookout Mountain in Cherokee County at the SW end of CR 70/Indian Creek Ave. just north of Leesburg. The view from the mountain top includes [Weiss Lake](#) and parts of two states. Features include a natural arch, caves and an imaginary village made of enormous boulders. Visitors to the site will marvel at the view trails. Enormous sandstone and quartz formations rise 150 feet and measure 70 feet wide in some areas. This was an important site for both Cherokee and Creek Indians. (<http://frankemory.com/articles/cherokeerockvillage.html>).

You will find many other interesting sites in your Touring Guide. Additionally, you will find many good eateries and 54 favorite roads and rides that your fellow club members have recommended. I predict you will enjoy using your ABEES Travel Guide to help plan day rides as well as mini vacations. Using an old famous advertising phrase, "Try it, you'll like it".



The BMW MOA Superbike Superstakes

For those not aware, the BMW MOA is sponsoring this great sweepstakes where the grand prize is the new BMS S1000RR Superbike along with a helmet to boots BMW riding outfit and a trip to Miller Motorsports Park for the US Superbike Race in May. In total the grand prize is over \$20,000!! As an MOA member you can purchase tickets online for \$10 each...or extend your current membership by one or more years and get a free ticket! Complete details are available in the January edition of the ON or online at www.bmwmoa.org. Oh yeah and if you don't win the grand prize, you may just have to settle for one of the two European tours or other merchandise as your consolation.



Pre-Order Your Nauvoo Event T-Shirts Now!

Darlene and Gary are again planning to provide custom t-shirts to commemorate our annual Nauvoo meeting. This will be another unique piece and one that is envied by all who see them. A Charcoal grey pocketed Beefy T – with Dennis Hopper on a slash 5 BMW – bearing the wording – “Unbeschwerter Motorradfahrer”, meaning Easy Rider – and also “Easy Riding into

Welcome to:

S. Mike Pavelec, Montgomery, AL

SPONSOR: Marty Simpson

The Total ABEES Check Offs column is calculated by adding checkoffs of each place you visit that is listed in your ABEES Touring Guide. This includes the Extreme Locations, Club monthly get togethers and Favorite Rides. A bonus ticket is also awarded for attending each Sunday business meeting, and for going to each extreme location. Bonus tickets are calculated by adding your visits to the Extreme Locations, Sunday Club Meetings, competing in the MOA Mileage Contest, the All Around Alabama Challenge, and the total of each featured category divided by 10. Additionally, you get one bonus ticket for checking off all of the sites within each featured category. The Total Tickets column is the sum of Total ABEES Tickets and Total Bonus Tickets.

Name	2009 ABEES COUNTS							BONUS TICKETS					FEATURED CATEGORIES Include Extreme Locations				
	Restaurants, Points of Interest and Monthly Club Gatherings	Favorite Roads & Rides	Total ABEES Check Offs	Total ABEES Tickets	Total Bonus Tickets	Total Tickets	Extreme Locations 7	Sunday Club Business Meetings 10	MOA Mileage Contest	All Around Alabama Tickets	Total Category Tickets	Churches 32	BBQ Joints 44	Power Dams 20	Covered Bridges 14	Courthouses 72	
Martin Benson	48	7	55	2.8	4	6.8	3	1			2	1	1	3			
Rodger Williamson	41	9	50	2.5	4	6.5	1	2		1.0		2	6			13	
Bob Steber	31	4	35	1.8	2	3.8	1	1			2	1	1	3		6	
Vance Harrelson	5		5	0.3	0	0.0	1	2			2						

This is picture 2 of three (others to follow).
 Please attach these pictures to the Columbus
 Article for the newsletter. ... For all three, note my
 bike parked in front. The ship is a full scale rep-
 lica of a civil war era steam ship that is a local
 landmark to identify the museum. Yes, we get to
 board her.



**BMW MOTORCYCLE OWNERS OF ALABAMA
 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM**

Date: ____/____/2010

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 \$20.00 per year for primary and \$3.00 per year for secondary members. Make check payable to:

BMW M/C Owners of Alabama. Mail application with check to: Marty Simpson, 10010 Torino Drive, Huntsville, AL 35803

OUT OF AFRICA By David Woodburn

I am submitting a series of essays to your magazine. Collectively, they are a story of crossing Zaire (Democratic Republic of Congo), one of the ultimate overland journeys. The tale begins in Bangui, the capital of Republic Central Afrique. For us to have arrived at this point from, let's say, Gibraltar, that queer little British theme park in southern Spain, we have crossed the straits of Gibraltar to Morocco and then have headed south through Mauritania, Mali, Bukina Faso and Republic Du Benin to the Guinea Coast. There we turned east into Nigeria and then through the jungles of Cameroon and C.A.R.

This initial African leg had been quite tough but we'd been on the road for many years and were hardened veterans of difficult travel or..... well, so we might have supposed.

An African truck driver we were to meet in the Zairean jungle, camping patiently under his broken truck, referred back to the awful roads of C.A.R. as 'the super highway'!

We were three: Emy and I and our daughter Mattea. Our bike was a well worn R80 GS with a sidecar we'd built in England from bits and pieces we scrounged together. Our bike and sidecar and tools and spares had been stolen there. The Bobbies found most of our bike but not the sidecar, yet that is another story. The journey proper had started in Singapore when Mattea was turning two. That was in 1990. Now she was raising ten.

The route from west to east across Zaire was only twelve hundred miles, just a series of undulating lines on a ragged Michellin Map. We finally reached the Rawandan border post after thirty-one days, the day our visa expired. It had been a race of sorts; a race against time, against the wet season, against terrible exhaustion and against the outbreak of civil war, a situation which has been ongoing to this day.

I venture, we were the last travelers to make this particular crossing. There is a grapevine amongst overlanders. We were to hear, that the few hardy souls that did attempt a crossing during the approximate season of our journey met with unsuccess which included robbery, rape, the confiscation of vehicles or just being sent back. Since then the route must be impractical.

Why would we enter so uncertain a place? Well, we were on our way to South Africa and then, perhaps, to America. From Cameroon there were two basic routes, one through the country called Congo and the other through Zaire. That was a dilemma. War was already ongoing in Congo and beyond that was Angola, which was another uncertainty. Zaire (D.R.C.) was the only other option.

We'd not been in an English speaking country for about two years, except for a couple of days in tiny Gibraltar. So, you blunder on, trying to glean knowledge from locals along the way and from any other travelers you happen across.

To be quite honest, some of the route to Bangui had been so difficult that we didn't have the courage to turn around and retrace our steps. It was mentally easier to go on. South Africa beckoned and we naively figured the route couldn't get too much worse.

Conrad wrote a story, 'Heart of Darkness'. This became the basis for the film 'Apocalypse Now', a movie about the surreal. The original story, however, was about Zaire. Jungles are jungles and they play with men's souls. The red stain of Zairean mud is etched into the pores of the alloy of our motorcycle. It doesn't wash off. In a manner of speaking, it is also etched into our souls.

Several years back I wrote some of this story as a series of articles for a motorcycle club magazine in Florida. Our daughter, though only a school girl, edited and published this for a couple of years. This was a failing club. Her labour seemed unappreciated, a thankless burden for a little girl. I finally relieved her of this task. In doing so, I never pursued the completion of these essays.

Our plane from Johannesburg deposited us in Miami. We were tired and bewildered, perhaps even exhausted and slightly traumatized. In our collective pocket was a week's wages by Floridian standards. A new battle began. Now we live in Georgia and not in Florida. There was arguably the greatest culture shock of all our journeying. It became a season of enormous struggle for us. It's hard to briefly explain but I state it as the tale of Zaire focuses on a struggle. Yet, what is already written was written during a period of different, though at least equal, duress. Florida, to this day, makes little sense to Emy and I.

So, I have tried to explain this to give some context to the stories I have written. I wish to finish this series of essays and if they are of interest to you that is the vehicle I need to be able to do so.

I can be frank but I loathe to offend. I do hope the content is acceptable. This is a more gentle life but those were not gentle times. Please, bear with me as I revisit some memories. If you think they can sometimes be harsh or complaining let me state..... "They were also joyous times, because we were living out a dream!"



"Our Vision is to provide a facility where like minded riders can gather to indulge in a high performance/adventure motorsports lifestyle. Safety is a primary concern, Pandora's Motorsports aims to not only supply machines and support, but also arrangements for riding these machines in a controlled environment (track days, adventure rides)."

I started putting together the plans for the shop about a year ago when I was still up with BMW Corporate, it has taken some time to get here but now things are moving along swimmingly.

Justin Prann

Pandora's European Motorsports

shop: 423 468 4104

cell: 423 991 5003

fax: 423 468 4089

THE ULTIMATE RIDING MACHINE™

ABEES Addendum-2010				
City	Region	Place	Code	Description
Chattanooga	TN	Pandora's European Motor Sports	POI	4784 Highway 58. BMW Motorcycle Dealer
Alexander City	C	Welborn Muscle Car Museum	POI	124 Broad Street. 23 of only 63 made 1971 Dodge Daytona Chargers. 50 American made muscle cars on display.
Mentone	NE	SR 87	FR	Favorite Ride SR 87 from Mentone to SR 35



APRIL B'DAYS:

- 1 Tom Barnett, Eric Stinson
- 2 Paul McBrayer, Susan Riggins
- 5 Randy Blair, Sandra Owen
- 7 Gail Kaltz
- 8 Tim McGee
- 11 Stephen Whitley
- 12 Sheryl Herron
- 14 Jim Baker, Tom Binford
- 15 Jim Robinson
- 19 Cary McCormick
- 20 Vishell Ehl
- 21 Suzanne Hebert, Greg Rowe
- 23 Lenn Rainwater
- 25 Walter Daniel
- 26 Tammy Baker
- 28 Debra Keller



Terry's Two Wheel Gang
wants to thank everyone
for a great Mardi Gras Day,
See you all next year!



July Gathering in Columbus, GA

Things are lining up for our July monthly gathering set in Columbus, GA. I recently made an advanced reconnaissance and coordinated tours of both the National Civil War Naval Museum and the National Infantry Museum. Both of these museums recently received multi-million dollar new facilities and are state-of-art 21st century venues. The Infantry Museum has their own restaurant that is similar to a Ruby Tuesday, and lunch is planned for there. ... These are not your grandparents type of museum ! One of the things the Infantry Museum has is what is known as the "EST," or Engagement Skills Trainer. For a \$5.00 fee you can shoot the same weapons our soldiers shoot, real M4 carbines, M16 rifles, M249 and M240 light machineguns. These are real weapons rigged into a computer system, a full wall screen to depict your attacking enemy, and compressed air to give your weapon realistic recoil. This by itself is worth checking out. If you haven't already visited either of these museums, then I would definitely make plans to attend with the BMWMOAL this summer. The Civil War Naval Museum has a 5.00 entry fee (discounted for us from their normal \$6.50), and the Infantry Museum is FREE !!! Their web addresses are <http://www.portcolumbus.org/> and <http://www.nationalinfantrymuseum.com/>

I also visited FDR State Park, and while it is nice, I have discovered another camp sight that is closer, less expensive, and has the benefit of that they have offered their air-conditioned club-house to us for the weekend without additional charge. I plan to head there this weekend to see it in person and if all is as expected, to confirm our meeting there. So for now, let's refer to the July meeting as just "Columbus," and not "FDR State Park, Columbus." On this next trip I also plan to get the rate info for the nearest hotels to the campground for anyone who doesn't like to camp. Watch for my next updates.

Dinner is scheduled for "The Cannon" in downtown Columbus. They are a Brew Pub type restaurant and brew their own beer on sight. Their regular beers include: City Mills Wheat, Goldens' Ale, Red Jacket Ale, Ironclad Stout, Special 'Ops IPA, and a seasonal brew. When I was speaking with the manager about our club coming out, he turned and asked his Brewmeister what was scheduled for the seasonal brew for July. When the brewmeister answered that nothing was yet decided, the light bulb lit up in my head, and I asked if I could make a suggestion. When I was asked what my suggestion was, I suggested "anything Bavarian, and perhaps named something to do with motorcycles." The manager said "we can probably do that" and told his brewmeister to make a note. In addition to their own beers, they also brew their own Root Beer, and have all regular soft drinks, tea, etc., as well as regular bottled beers and a bar. Their menu includes appetizers, soups & salads, entrees, pasta, pizzas, and calzones, sandwiches and burgers, a kids menu and desserts. Prices range from \$7.25 for a wood fired cheese bread appetizer; to \$9.95 for a Brew Pub Greek Salad; \$15.95 for a half-rack of hickory smoked BBQ Ribs; \$12.99 for a wood fired 10" house special pizza with pepperoni, bacon, sausage, tomatoes and black olives; \$8.95 to \$9.75 for 10oz. Angus Burgers, the top priced item is \$21.95 for 12 oz. aged Ribeye; - and \$2.99 to \$5.95 for deserts. You can look them up online at <http://thecannonbrewpub.com/>

Columbus is just across the Chattahoochee River from Phenix City, AL so they are in the Eastern Time Zone.

Remember to set your watches and bike clocks an hour ahead on your way there, and back again on your way home.

The average high temp for Columbus in July is 92^o and the average low is 72^o. Sunrise will be at about 5:45 am and sunset will be about 8:45 pm. There will be a full hour of twilight before sunrise and after sunset, and there will be a full moon for the best possible night visibility. There is an average of 5" precipitation for the month of July, but we will be there the last weekend as it becomes August, and there is only 3-3/4" precipitation average for August, so hopefully we'll miss any rain.

In addition to the scheduled group tours, there are numerous other things to do in and near Columbus. If you want to test your GS off-road riding skills, there is Dirty Dogs ATV Park. If you want to spend some time down by the river, the Columbus River Walk was just recently renovated and provides some scenic views. They have a minor league baseball team and I am still trying to find out if they will be having a home game when we are there. If you want to party all night, in downtown Columbus next to The Cannon there are all sorts of clubs and bars, many with live music. Further outside of Columbus is the National Prisoner of War Museum in Andersonville; the FDR Museum in Warm Springs, Calloway Gardens, and much more !!!

In addition, I have sent an invitation to the BMWMOGA to ride and camp with us, so if there are a lot of attendees, this will be a sort of mini rally!

I hope to see as many members of our club as possible, so plan now and ride safe always!

Rodger

JANUARY MEETING



Hurrah I'm done



SMILE



MONEY, MONEY, MONEY LADY



You da' Man



SAY, CHEESE



HOW BIG IS IT, JIM



I WON, I WON, THE SUIT



THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK



THANK YOU JAMIE



Feb 27-28
Mar 20-21
Apr 27-28
May 24-25
Jun 27-29 Chi
Jul 24-25
Aug 28-29 Cruis
Sept 25-26
Oct 30-31
Dec Christmas



PAST AND PRESENT



BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

c/o Joan Ware - Editor
Terry's Two Wheels
1057 Commerce Blvd
Pelham, Al 35124

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.

Club Sponsored Events With Meetings

March 27-28 Nauvoo

April 24-25 Gulf Shores-Southport

May 27-30 Chicken Rally

June- 26-27 Cruso

July 24-25 FDR State Park, Columbus, Ga

Aug. 27-29 Kinderfest @ Kalahan's

Sept. 25-26 Shellmound, Jasper, Tenn.

Oct 30-31 Blue Springs

December Christmas Party plans were tabled for now

Other Events of Interest

February 20th, Saturday Mardi Gras Party
11a -2p or until food runs out.

April 9-11 Barnsley Motor Werks Tech Days

MOA Rally Redmond, OR July 15th—18th

RA Rally July 29th—Aug 1

October 23—24 Rib Fest

December 4th, Eldridge Children's' Home