

THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle
Owners of Alabama

BMWMOA Chapter 5/
BMWRA Chapter #107



Volume XLII Issue 3

March 2013

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Don Little

Our meeting last weekend was another good one even though attendance was off a little from previous years. Weather could have had something to do with that because the forecast here was for rain, rain, and then more rain. The few brave souls who came on their motorcycles made the trip without much trouble though.

Paul and Gail got all the way to the the rain caught up with them. to the park nice and dry on camp without floating away.

Most of our attendees ar-thanks to Sheila they down on some very good brought some Mexican with the stew. She also brownies. Russ and pancakes and sausage ing's breakfast. Thanks

My biggest disappoint-was not being able to Molly's. Of all the bad that weekend to close for Oh well, maybe next year. ing hungry though as we right down the street that met



park entrance on Friday before Bob Steber and Tim Flynn got Saturday and were able to

rived Friday night and were able to chow beef stew. Darlene corn muffins to go provided some killer Roxanne provided for Saturday morn-so much to all of you.

ment of the weekend have lunch at Huggin' luck, the owners chose renovation and repair!! Not to worry about our go-found Jimmy's Barbeque our needs.

The meeting, itself, was really good. The main topic of conversation was, as could be expected, our future rallies. The committee that agreed last month to scout out potential rally locations and submit ideas for possible formats has been very hard at work. Vern gave us an update, the high points of which are in the minutes. Afterward, there was some great discussion as to which direction we want to follow in the future. This is something that will be discussed at all future meetings until we have decided which direction we want to follow so put your thinking caps on.

If you have any ideas regarding our future rallies, please send them to me at president@bmwmoal.org and I will pass them along to the members of the committee.

Something else to think about is a chairperson for that rally. Sheila has announced that this will be her last year as rally chair so we need someone to step forward soon in order to train this year. If you think this is something you might like to do for your Club, let me know.

I want to thank the members of our rally committee, who have and will continue to work hard, for their commitment to this task and to the Club. I really appreciate your hard work and dedication.

We are looking forward to seeing some of you later this month at Ft. Toulouse and even more of you at Cajun Chaos in April. Until then, be safe and watch out for the crazies.



MEETING MINUTES

February 23, 2013

Blue Springs State Park

President, Don Little presiding

Don called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Since both the CFO and the Membership Director were absent, the secretary gave the financial report and told members that Club directories had been mailed out and should be delivered by February 25.

Next up was a report on our October meeting place. As decided in January, the Bonner family will once more host the Club with a fish fry in October. At that time, the exact place had not been determined. Since then, Rickie has arranged for use of Little River State Park (www.littleriverstatepark.com) which is now managed by the Iron Men Outdoor Ministries, Inc (www.ironmen.info). We have always enjoyed this facility in the past and look forward to being there again.

The meeting moved on to a discussion of our 2014 rally. As a member of the committee to make recommendations on the site, format, etc. of ongoing rallies, Vern Headrick was asked to report on what actions the committee had taken so far.

The first thing we learned was that Vance Harrelson has contacted the new management of Ditto Landing and they have agreed to reduce our cost for that facility for this year's rally by \$2000.00 (which is actually \$4000.00 less than what they originally wanted). This will certainly take some of the strain off for this year.

Vern then talked about all of the places they have investigated so far:

Locust Fork Campground: nice but no motels close by and it's in a dry county, also the pavilion is not adequate for our needs;

Horse Pens 40: close to Birmingham and Mt. Cheaha but there is uncertainty about the campground;

North Alabama Mountain Lake Resort: Don Norwood has talked with the folks there and there seems to be potential, more investigating to be done.

The Ft. Payne Chamber of Commerce is interested in having our rally in their area but so far nothing has been found that will work for us.

This all led to discussion of exactly what kind of rally do we want? As discussed in our January meeting, we have a great reputation across the country and the question was asked "How can we be great—still?"

Bill Tonkin says our rally must have a "draw" to be memorable. What do we want?? He later

suggested that something with local flavor would be best.

Do we want to ask local non-profit organizations (i.e. Lions, Kiwanis, Rotary or VFD) to bring in and do the food??

Suzi Dubick suggested that people feel better buying from a non-profit.

John Zibell suggested that we determine how many meals we want to serve and issue one meal ticket per meal.

Paul Thorne opined that the Swamp Scooter rally which has a great reputation does not provide as much food as we do at the Great Chicken Rally.

Vern said the idea of possibly combining our rally with those of neighboring states for a southeast rally has also been discussed (within the committee only) perhaps with sponsorship by BMW of Atlanta and Pandora's. But this brings up the question of how to split any monies made at such a rally.

The question of involving caterers was brought up but Vern said that is not really an option because the number of attendees is too iffy. Food vendors would be ok, though.

They have not looked into the idea of civic organizations, yet.

Suzi asked if we might have enough information about the new format to tell 2013 rally attendees. It was decided that perhaps we could tell them that the format would change, but not announce definite changes.

John Zibell said that vendors don't want to come for less than three meals and if we use the smokers or griddle at all, the equipment must be cleaned afterward (which is a nasty, nasty job).

Darlene Massey asked if perhaps we could hire someone to cook the chicken and let members do the rest?? To which Jim Dubick replied that is what we are trying to get away from, namely the same folks doing all of the work, year after year.

Bob Steber suggested that bar-b-que might be a good draw, but probably more expensive.

Again the number of meals was brought up, should we do breakfast only?? Tim Flynn suggested only three meals be served.

Tim says it appears to him that everything discussed leads to the conclusion that we want to get out of the food cooking business.

Don said we should all keep thinking about this and there will be more discussion at subsequent meetings.

Jim Kalahan reminded us that even if we do decide to stop using the smokers and the griddle, there is still the coffee pot and the popcorn popper to think about in terms of replacement in the future. In other words, we will still have expenses.

Russ Kruse asked if the committee will be able to make final recommendations at the Chicken Rally and Vern said they will do their best.

Don said this committee has been very busy and has done some great work for which he and the Club are grateful.

Michael Scott then asked if information about this year's rally was going to be posted to the BMWMOA website and Sheila replied that it had been submitted.

Sheila then asked about pre-registrations in order to get a better idea of number of attendees. Would it be possible to charge more at the gate?

While this won't be as critical if we don't cook, it will still be important.

Vern then made a motion that we put a pre-registration process in place for the 2014 rally with a \$5-10 increase in prices at the gate. Motion carried.

Jamie Jackson then took the floor to say "Thanks for the chili" and Jim reminded us about the beef stew that Sheila made for Friday night, which was accompanied by cornbread muffins courtesy of Darlene. Darlene also made some great fudge for desert. Russ and Roxanne provided pancakes for Saturday morning fare.

Malvene requested (BEGGED!!) for newsletter contributions.

Jim reminded us to check out the website for 2013 rally info which will include a "Wall of Honor" for veterans. Please bring photos of a veteran you want to honor. It was suggested you bring a copy rather than a cherished original.

Tim made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded and the motion carried.

NEW MEMBER

Michael T. Azure

Remlap, AL

2008 K1200GT

Sponsor: Vance Harrelson



STATEMENT FROM A CLUB MEMBER

Charlie Parsons is a member of more than 15 years with BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama. The following statement was submitted to BMWMOA by Charlie. [ed.]

Hello, My name is Charlie Parsons and I am running for one of the four positions on the Board of Directors of the BMWMOA. I have just retired as a pharmacist/store manager after 40 years. Many of you know me as the "Coffee Guy" since I have served as Coffee Chairman for the last 4 MOA International Rallies.

After riding Harleys beginning in 1970, I purchased my first BMW, a 1984 R100, in February 1985, joined the MOA and never looked back. Going to BMW rallies on my Harley and the rally scene is what made the decision for me.

I now have 9 BMW bikes, beginning with a 1939 R12 and ending with a 2006 R1200GS, along with a LOT of parts. I have traveled through Germany, Austria and Switzerland on a BMW as well as 2 trips to Alaska. My first international rally was Escanaba and I haven't missed many since. I neglected to keep up with all my miles ridden, choosing to just measure the smiles instead.

I am the Airheads Airmarshal of Arkansas, a member of the BMW Owners of Alabama, and President of The Road Animals Touring Society. I have served on the board of trustees of a national non-profit fraternal organization as well as an national officer and state committee chairman. I also served as Rally Meister of "Return to Shiloh" for two years.

Recognizing the importance to our club and our sport of winning new members, I want to continue and expand the progress made through Camp Gears and the MOA Foundation's Smart Trainer Program which brings safety and education to the sport of motorcycling. If the MOA is going to have a strong future, then young riders must be exposed to our philosophy of skill and safety training.

We, as MOA members, have the best magazine of any other motorcycle organization. Our international rallies are outstanding and our leadership is second to none. However we can't sit back and become complacent - we must continue to push for excellence. It is not my desire to radically change the organization but rather preserve and perpetuate.

FEBRRRRRRARY!

by Suzi Dubick

February started off with promise as a lunch gathering was scheduled in Chattanooga. While folks in Birmingham were gathering at Terry Ware's shop to start the ride, Jim was in our office checking a radar screen covered in pink and blue. Once he told me that the colors represented ice and snow, I balked at going altogether. But Jim is an eternal optimist in weather matters, so he suggested we take the Miata instead of our bike.

We loaded up and headed north with cloudy skies looming ahead. By the time we got to I-24 a blizzard had reduced our visibility to two or three car lengths. All I could see was the white truck next to me, sliding in my direction. It was kind of like being inside a pin-ball machine as the guy hit the middle of my door then spun away. Jim stepped on the gas, never losing control, as he glanced in the rear view mirror and saw the truck sliding sideways across both lanes behind us. I would have looked, but my side mirror was dangling against the car door. We decided to move on, not chancing the consequences of getting caught in a pile up. Long story short, we went to the next exit and enjoyed lunch by ourselves near the sizzling fire in Cracker Barrel. Jim made a couple of calls and found out that 3 bikes had gone down with no injuries except to bikes and pride.



Fast forward to the Blue Springs meeting. Radars are our friend and this time it was green all over. There was not a bike to be seen when we first arrived, and we were no exception. The first night, Sheila Kalahan was kind enough to share beef stew with everyone. Unfortunately, we didn't know and had already eaten before she came calling with a personal invitation. The words were barely out of her mouth when the rain started pelting down, again. She ran back up the hill and the rain continued hammering our roof the rest of the night.

The next morning, Roxanne Kruse invited everyone for a wonderful breakfast of pancakes and sausage. We talked and laughed our breakfast off until it was time to refuel at Huggin' Molly's. When we drove up, folks were standing outside looking very disappointed. "Closed for remodeling" is not the sign you want to see when you have your mouth fixed for certain extraordinary desserts. Our little crowd meandered down the street to the only eating establishment that was open, a small burger/pizza joint. We all squeezed in around worn tables





and chairs and placed our orders. I must say, their French fries were...and I don't use this phrase often...the best I've ever had. That is all I have to say about that. A few hours later, we gathered for Don and Barbara's delicious chili dinner. Several ladies brought desserts to round out the meal. Thanks to the efforts of Don and the guys, the double-washer fire-pit kept us all toasty, giving good friends a comfy place to gather. It even made the business meeting more enjoyable.

Sunday morning became the first glorious day of sunshine and warmth. Jim and I decided to stay one more night so we could join Don and Barbara at church. We spent the rest of the day with the top down on the Miata, lollygagging through the serene and tranquil countryside. It wasn't like being on the bike, but was as close as we would come this time. We thank God for keeping us all safe during our adventures and for good friends who are always a delight to see. Thanks again to everyone for the great food!



Jim, in the Miata, in front of the homeplace of Rosa Parks.

March Meeting - Fort Toulouse, Wetumpka, AL March 23 / 24, 2013

Located just south of Wetumpka where the Coosa and Tallapoosa rivers meet to form the headwaters of the Alabama River, visitors will find over 6000 years of history at Fort Toulouse-Jackson National Historic Park. One of the areas best tourist attractions, the park is open year round and everyone is invited to enjoy 165 acres of living history and natural beauty. Tour the French and American Forts, or the Mississippian Indian Mound site or just relax and take a walk along the William Bartram Arboretum trail, named for the famed 18th century botanist. Top off your trip with a visit to the Grave's House where you'll find a bookstore and museum featuring archaeological collections from French colonial, early American and prehistoric Indian items. The park also hosts a full service 39-site campground overlooking the Coosa River.



Troop Housing



Graves' House

Here Native Americans, Spanish explorers, French soldiers, English and Scottish traders, American settlers, and modern archaeologists have all left their mark. Frequent living history events showcase a recreated 1751 French fort, recreated Creek Indian houses, and the partially restored 1814 American Fort Jackson. A 3,000-year-old Mississippian Indian mound, the William Bartram Nature Trail, and an early-19th-century house weave even more strands into this colorful tapestry of Alabama's earliest days.

In 1717, when this region was part of French Louisiana, the French built a fort near the strategically vital junction where the Tallapoosa and Coosa Rivers form the Alabama River. The fort was primarily a trading post where Indians exchanged fur pelts for guns and household items. There were no battles at the post as French diplomacy forged allies with the natives. The surrounding Indians, commonly referred to as Creeks, wanted peace so they could trade with both the French and British.

The wall of the fort facing the Coosa River washed away in 1747 and a second fort was built in 1751 using a palisade of pointed logs. The French lost the French and Indian War and the fort in 1763. The site was abandoned by the French and the lands reverted to native occupation.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

8 Sanford Colley
 11 Susan Goertz
 13 Dianne Albea
 14 Tom Binford
 16 Michael Azure
 18 Anita Brooks



18 Jack Goertz
 19 Russell Yeager
 21 Suz'anne Hebert
 22 Bill Tonkin
 23 Lenn Rainwater
 25 Walter Daniel

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

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, Ashville, 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 2013 RAMS Rally - Parker's Crossroads, TN
 (Formerly Return to Shiloh Rally)