

# THE ALABAMA BEEMER



SEPTEMBER  
NEWSLETTER

OF THE BMW MOTORCYCLE OWNERS OF ALABAMA  
BMWMOA CHAPTER #5 / BMWRA CHAPTER #107



## CLUB OFFICERS

### **PRESIDENT**

VANCE HARRELSON  
President@bmwmoal.org  
205-621-1682

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

RODGER WILLIAMSON  
Vicepresident@bmwmoal.org

### **SECRETARY**

BARBARA LITTLE  
Secretary@bmwmoal.org  
334-775-9513

### **CFO**

CONNIE REAVES  
Cfo@bmwmoal.org  
205-663-5376

### **Newsletter Editor**

ROBIN ANDREWS-ERWIN  
Newsletter@bmwmoal.org

### **Rally Chairman**

CONNIE REAVES  
Rally@bmwmoal.org  
205-663-5376

### **Safety Director**

TOM BARNET  
Safety@bmwmoal.org

### **Travel Director**

MARTIN BENSON  
Travel@bmwmoal.org  
205-807-4284

### **Photography Director**

JIMMY LOWE  
Photography@bmwmoal.org  
205-966-3265

### **Membership Director**

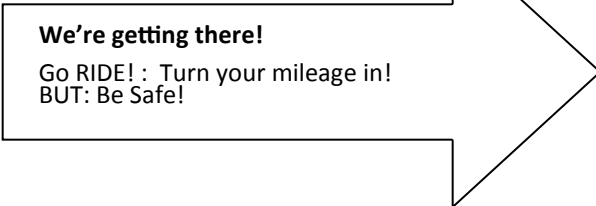
MARTHA WARREN  
Membership@bmwmoal.org  
931-388-2865

### **Tech Director**

TERRY WARE  
Tech@bmwmoal.org  
205-987-2090



Kinderfest reports inside!



BMW MOAL 2011 Miles Ridden  
as of 08-31-2011

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Goal: 250,000

## Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2011

At Kinderfest

President, Vance Harrelson presiding

**Vance opened the meeting with a big THANK YOU to Sheila and Jim for all of their hard work in order to make another wonderful Kinderfest.** Sheila, in turn, thanked everyone who helped her with food preparation during the weekend which for some began on Thursday.

Thanks also to our Saturday night entertainment, Recall Riot. They did a great job.

Our two guests, Tammy and Michael Benoit, were recognized. Though we were glad to have them there, Tammy's father Tommy Zeringue would have preferred to ride his bike home rather than have to trailer it home behind their truck. Tommy thanked everyone who helped him with his bike woes over the weekend and Tommy Arnold presented him with the ignition switch that had to be chiseled out of TA's bike after TZ rode it Saturday morning. (You just had to be there to understand all that.)

Also recognized was new member Sanford Colley. Welcome Sanford.

By way of a financial report, Connie says we have 3 new members and 1 renewal to add to our coffers.

Jim Dubick gave a report on Eric Bahl, and we were glad to hear that he has been cleared to walk and could have gone home but chose to stay in re-hab one more week in order to take advantage of equipment available to him there. He should be going home on the 2<sup>nd</sup> if all continues to go well.

Next up was discussion of the **October meeting which will be our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary party in Nauvoo.** We are going to have commemorative t-shirts available for those who pre-order them. There will be a ½ page ad in the October issue of the Owners News inviting other clubs to join us in our celebration. **We must have RSVP's in order to make arrangements for the right amount of food.** The possibility of a live band was discussed but no decision was made.

**October 7-9 is the Vintage Festival at Barber's.** Last year we had a booth and sold lots of raffle tickets. Although the booth was free last year, this year it will cost us \$400. For that price we will receive 10 - \$40.00 tickets for the festival so if we sell the tickets, it would defray the cost of the booth.

Russ Kruse gave a report on the Wiregrass MAC chapter. They will have their first meeting on September 6 at Larry's Bar-B-Q in Daleville. Meetings will be the first Tuesday of every month, thereafter. Russ proudly announced that MAC has gone global. When he approached the Army Safety Center about the program they were very enthusiastic and put a link on their website. Now anyone, anywhere in the world who logs into the ASC site will have access to MAC.

2012 elections are coming up soon, and we need candidates for all officer/director positions. Vance has made it clear that he will not be able to run for president next year. Every member needs to think about putting his or her name on the ballot for next year. *(We need to have a real election for a change. Just because someone has agreed to run does not mean that another name can't be put on the ballot. From your Club secretary)*

Martha Warren has compiled and will be presenting information concerning compliance with BMW's new regulations concerning their logo and Corporate Identity at next month's meeting. Changes to our club name should be minimal but it is important that everyone know what is taking place with that.

Please send your bike mileage to Martin Benson so he can tally up the total mileage ridden by club members and post it in the newsletter.

The Apalachicola Oyster Ride will be November 5-6, 2011. If you are interested, please let Vance know so he can make appropriate reservations at the motel, etc.

The September meeting will be at Laurel Trails Campground in Monteagle, TN.

RibFest Centerville, TN is coming up October 22-23. Connie reports that the promoters are thinking/talking about turning it into a rally. Rumor has it that this is a great event.

Bob Daigle reported that the "booby prize" committee had met and it was decided that Tim Flynn should be awarded the booby for his outstanding performance during the weekend. A tradition that began with Cajun Chaos.

The \$105 50-50 pot was won by yours truly and will be donated to the Red Cross for disaster relief specifically hurricane relief for those who suffered while we were having such a wonderful time at Kinderfest.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Little, Secretary

## ***A 40th Anniversary Gift From the BMW Motorcycle Owners of America!***

The BMW Motorcycle Owners of America has a special offer just for Alabama club members in recognition of our 40th Anniversary. Any Alabama club member who joins the BMW MOA or renews their MOA membership before October 31st will receive a \$25 RevZilla gift card along with their MOA membership. Normal BMW MOA dues are only \$40 per year and the MOA will give you the \$25 gift card as a special gift for turning 40. You can join as a new member, renew your membership, reactivate an old membership or simply extend your current expiration date another 12 months. No matter how you say it, join the MOA for one year and receive a \$25 gift card in recognition of 40th anniversary of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama!

Join or renew through any of the procedures - online, mail an application or call the BMW MOA office (636-394-7277). However, to receive the anniversary present, Alabama club members will need to notify Ted Moyer ([tedm@bmwmoa.org](mailto:tedm@bmwmoa.org) or 866-865-1055) that you have joined or renewed. Ted will verify that the application has been received and send you the RevZilla gift card. You may also contact Ted directly to join or renew and take advantage of this offer. **This is a special offer only for BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama.** You won't find any information about this offer anywhere but right here!

You can find information about BMW MOA membership through the MOA's website, [www.bmwmoa.org/club/membership](http://www.bmwmoa.org/club/membership), but the special offer details are right here.

***Turning 40 does have its advantages! Join the MOA and get 25 bucks back just for being a BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama Club member!!***



### **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



It is time to start planning our cruise for 2012. Several people have inquired about going somewhere different. In order to do this we will have to do a 7-day cruise. I have held a group for a 7-night Western Caribbean for March 17-24, 2012 from New Orleans. It is on the Royal Caribbean Voyager of the Seas and goes to Georgetown, Grand Cayman, Falmouth, Jamaica and Cozumel, Mexico. Obviously since we will be eating and messing up our room for an additional 2 days it is a little more expensive than previous cruises.

This cruise ship is one of the newer ships in Royal's fleet, 4<sup>th</sup> largest. It is really different than any the group has sailed and has the Royal Promenade in the middle of the ship with real live trees and shops and I am quoting rooms with window seats that overlook the promenade as well as the usual categories. There is a rock climbing wall, ice rink, golf simulator, mini-bars in the room, a 3 story dining room, specialty restaurants for an additional fee, and much more.

I think we will find a lot more going on at all times of the day and night. Vance and I have sailed Royal Caribbean on several occasions and it is a different atmosphere than the Carnival ships. Don't miss out on a really great time visiting new ports on a new cruise line.

Pricing includes cruise, port charges, taxes, and tips:

Inside \$754.03 per person

Quad insides \$824.03 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, \$454.03 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> person or 687.05 per person split

Outside \$864.03 per person

Promenade \$884.03 per person

Balcony \$1054.03 per person

Quad Balcony \$1204.03 for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, \$534.03 for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> or 869.03 per person split

Due immediately - \$50.00 per person deposit or \$500.00 for quad rooms

2<sup>nd</sup> Deposit of 450.00 due 9/4/2011

Final payment due on 12/29/2011

Insurance is based on per person and cabin and age.

We will be booking at the Fulfordale branch this year as I now manage that branch so you can talk to Debbie or me to book it. 205-841-2374

Don't miss out on this new and exciting itinerary. Debbie and I are looking forward to hearing from you.

## Kinderfest...Edition III...In The Books!

Vance Harrelson

The club meeting that has become known as Kinderfest is in the books! We had a great time in Enterprise and I want to again thank Jim & Sheila Kalahan for being the wonderful hosts they are! There is a complete report and wrap up elsewhere in this newsletter so check out all the details! I suppose they will offer their place for this event next year, and if so, I hope you will make your plans now to attend...you won't be disappointed!

I am pleased to report that Erik Bahl is making great progress on his recovery and by the time you get this I suspect he will be at home. We are thinking about you every day and praying for your continued quick recovery!! We miss you "Peanut"!

It is hard to believe that it is already fall! School is back in session and hopefully it will finally begin to cool off a little. I am really looking forward to the fall riding season this year. If you are like me, your calendar is absolutely packed with events from now until year end. I want to remind you of several events upcoming that will give you an opportunity to support your club and get out and ride. In September there will be the MOA Open House in St. Louis September 17 and two MOA Weekend Getaways one out in Cedar City, UT on September 24-25. The next weekend I will be at the second MOA Weekend Getaway in Tomah, WI where we will explore both on road and off road riding opportunities in another fantastic riding locale. Complete information on these events are available here [www.bmwmoa.org](http://www.bmwmoa.org) I hope you will check it out and just maybe I will see you at one of them!

Our September club meeting will be held at Laurel Trails Campground on the tippy top of Monteagle Mountain outside Chattanooga, TN September 24-25. Needless to say the riding in this area is well...fantastic!

Next is our club's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party. This will be held as our October club meeting in Nauvoo, AL on Halloween weekend October 28-30. You will not want to miss this celebration. Gary and Darlene are planning some very special things so make plans to be at this one and watch us once again take over the town! We are planning a commemorative t-shirt to mark our very special 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party. We are now taking orders for these shirts as we will produce a limited number at \$15 each. Please send your order and sizes now to Darlene [dmassey@amerex-fire.com](mailto:dmassey@amerex-fire.com). We will need to place our order for these shirts no later than Oct 1<sup>st</sup>! Be sure to get your name on the list!

November 12 & 13 (tentatively as of now) we will hold our second annual (second time anyway) ride into Apalachicola, FL for more of those world famous Boss Oysters! We held this

event last year that was attended by 13 people and we had a great time. So much so, that we decided to do it again! We will advertise this on the MOA Forums and set this up as a general ride in to see just how many folks we can get there. And don't fear, if you are not into oysters, but into the fun and fellowship, they have all the other stuff too! Ride in with us for a fun time!

Of course the Eldridge Children's Home Annual Benefit Ride On December 3 will get December started, along with the club Christmas party.

How is that for riding opportunities this fall?

The end of the year means another one is coming quickly! That means that we will be holding elections in a few short months at our January meeting in Montevallo. I hope that you will consider running for office for the upcoming year. We always need dedicated, energetic leadership and really it is not hard. On our club website [www.bmwmoa.org](http://www.bmwmoa.org) you will find a list of the offices and duties of each. Please review that and consider where you can fit in a leadership position. An election should be just that, meaning two or more names on the ballot for each position. For the last several years we have had a hard time filling the ballot until very late in the process. I want to thank all those who have served this year and certainly encourage those run for their office again. But beyond that, I would love to see more people running for each office. ..this includes the office of President. Due to the ongoing commitments I have for the MOA, MAC, my work and my grandkids (Not necessarily in that order mind you) I will not seek re-election for 2012. I have enjoyed it but I must attend to these other areas of my life. I have said many times, I do love this club and all of you. I am not going away, just stepping away. So if you have ever wanted to be president of the greatest club ever...put your name on the ballot! Here's how to do it....Once you decide which office you seek, let me know by phone or email. We will be gathering the information and finalize the ballot no later than January 1, 2012. If you have any questions about this process, just let me know. And thank you for stepping up!

So it is off to a busy September and fall for me. I look forward to seeing you along the way. Ride Safe!



## APPLIED PHYSICS AND PRACTICAL HYDRAULICS

Jamie Jackson

I have been to many, many club meetings/campouts but this was the first time I remember an engineering course being taught during the meeting. Saturday night it seems that a group of intellectual giants gathered to prove, and maybe even embellish, some laws of physics. Now let it be known that these persons of intellect were self proclaimed intellects only after the blind "taste test" involving not Coke vs. Pepsi but Kentucky Bourbon vs. Tennessee Whiskey.

While I don't recall the results of the taste test, I do remember the discussion and actual application of Newton's Laws of Physics, Einstein's  $E=MC^2$ , and some newly discovered properties of motion. The only "laboratory" available to these scientists was a salt water swimming pool equipped with a curving slide. To measure the outcome of the various experiments, some of the deck chairs around the pool were carefully placed so that spectators could judge the effectiveness of each demonstration. Some of the spectators were only passively involved until a theorem was proven to the extreme, then they would cheer loudly.

Some of the more common physical laws of gravity that were dealt with are:

Traversing the slide is somewhat a function of gravity, and a body tends to accelerate toward the earth at the rate of 32 feet/second/second until terminal velocity is reached. The mental condition of the volunteers had no bearing on the experiment, but did provide a large base of viable test subjects.

The coefficient of friction between the slide and whatever part is touching the slide reduces the terminal velocity. The coefficient of friction can be reduced by "slicking" the slide with running water. One subject eliminated the friction of the slide by leaving the slide and traveling directly to the concrete before eventually entering the pool.

The overall mass of the body tends to increase the terminal velocity (more on this in  $E=MC^2$ ).

Wind resistance upon the subject turned out to be very difficult to measure. It was determined, though, that some of the subjects were affected considerably by wind.

Now, as to exploring Einstein's  $E=MC^2$  we determined: Energy equals mass multiplied by the speed of light squared. Because the speed of light is very large in common units, and we didn't have a calculator, we chose to discount that part of the formula and just use a constant that we labeled "real fast".

We determined that with the simplification of using a constant for the formula, then energy equals mass times gravity, minus coefficient of friction and wind resistance. It is amazing how great minds can simplify even the most complex issues.

This formula will no doubt be named by future scientists as the "Big Splash Theory".

Proving the theory:

It then follows that as the energy of the subject traversing the slide is transferred to the pool at the end of the slide, a given amount of the salt water will be displaced.

The amount of water displaced should be directionally proportional to the "Big Splash" formula.

The amount of water displaced was indeed proportionately greater as the mass of the subject increased.

An easy way to increase the mass of the subject is to compound subjects, as I heard it described "...riding him like Sea Biscuit down the slide..."

Bottom line, US FAT GUYS WERE ABLE TO WET MORE UNSUSPECTING PEOPLE THAN THE SKINNY GUYS!





## Kinderfest 2011

By  
Reece Mullins

I'm quite certain the legendary adventures of this year's Kinderfest will be sung by minstrels and poets in the halls of BMW royalty for years and years to come. Shelia and Jim Kalahan, Russ and Roxanne Kruse really put on a show this year. The itinerary was as varied and wild as one might expect from our powerhouse of hosts. Members and non-members alike traveled from far and wide to attend this auspicious event and started filtering in to Jim and Sheila's large and beautiful home in the Gateway subdivision of Enterprise, Alabama. Officially things got started Friday, with what we in the military in the past have sometimes referred to as a CAPEX, or Capabilities Exercise, demonstrating the totally awesome live-fire capability of the Bird so many of us in the Club here in Lower Alabama fly; the OH-58D[R] Kiowa Warrior, Armed Scout Helicopter.

At 10 am Russ and Jim, departed Gateway in flight uniform to preflight the aircraft and reposition from Hanchey Army Helipoint, our base of operations here at Fort Rucker, to the Molinelli Aerial Gunnery Range Complex. I showed up with my DAC (Department of the Army Civilian) flight uniform, Stetson Cavalry hat, and an AN-PRC 112 survival radio that I had signed out of the ALSE (Aviation Life Support Equipment) shop the day before. We were going to use the radio to talk to the aircraft and get updates on their whereabouts and status. My mission was to escort the convoy of BMW motorcycle riders and a smattering of non riders and support vehicles to the Matteson Run/Dive fire bleachers where, I tried to keep the groups mind off of the oppressive heat until the aircraft had conducted a range sweep and loaded up with three hundred rounds of fifty caliber machine gun ammo and seven 2.75" FFAR (Folding Fin Aerial Rockets). Once load up was complete at the FARRP (Forward Area Refuel Rearm Point) Russ and Jim, callsign OUTCAST 22, maneuvered to Mattson Run/Dive fire. With a low pass by the bleachers, Jim maneuvered the aircraft in what we refer to in the industry as an "offset" bump maneuver, involving a cyclic climb, left cyclic, a little bit of left pedal to bring that nose around with out over torqueing the mast, line the nose up with the target, weapons switches, hot, and depress the trigger. Just prior to the low pass someone in the audience asked, "How loud is this going to be?" I lied, and answered, "Oh, not that loud." As I recall, a wee lie or two, was clearly authorized in the rules and by laws of big talk Friday, and as the live-fire progressed, I found myself liberally exercising all of these rules to the maximum extent the law would allow.

The maneuvering continued, and between passes, I tried to answer any questions, group members may have had concerning the aircraft and its weapon systems. Terry Walker, and his delightful wife Mary, seemed quite interested and asked quite a few very good questions in between the noise of each pass. Jim started a fire down range with his .50 tracer rounds and rockets. As the smoke billowed, ash started to rain down a bit on some in the group; it really seemed to drive home the de

structive power of the working end of our Scout/Attack airframe. Upon completion of 300 and 7 the crew announced "Winchester" landed and conducted a hot-seat swap out, putting Russ in the drivers seat. Now it was Russell's turn to show the crowd the *right stuff*, so over the survival radio I gave him the challenge of hitting the close target on his return, he accepted the challenge with gusto, and upon buckling in, took off with an altitude over air-speed takeoff in front of the stands to head back to the FARRP. During their 15-minute hiatus, I continued to answer any questions, and entertain as the heat of the day seemed a be amplified by the fires and smoke emanating from "down range."

OUTCAST 22 called inbound for his second turn of ammo and right off the bat, Russ came in low for a running fire engagement on the close target, the rockets were very loud now, and people in the stands, I'm sure, were catching on to my lies. At least one of the rockets did hit the tank hulk, as I was able to here the distinctive sound of "metal on metal", though the effects on target were obscured from our location due to massive quantities of billowing dust and acrid white smoke. God, I loved it. I think my audience was able to tell; I truly love that aircraft and it's mission. If I was a priest I'm sure I would have led my congregation to true belief that day. Russ and Jim came in for several more passes, mostly focusing on the close target using different engagement techniques, and eventually the second Winchester call was made, and the aircraft broke station to head back to the FARRP to de-arm and Return to Base. Show over, I gathered up my new flock of believers, and returned to our trusty BMW steeds, for a lap around Molinelli that also proved fortuitous as I was able to time the departure to ride as a group between two hovering 58D's one of which was Jim and Russ again, on the east side of the range. I ride that route often myself, and I must say, I've never quite got a show like that one. The group was really treated to an all around, once in a lifetime show. At the intersection of East range road and highway 27, I gave Vance the Presidential "Fist Bump" he turned left and I led the remaining group of riders down the twisties of highway 27 through the heat and red-lights of Ozark, and on to Hunt Stage field where Thunder Flight section was conducting "Crash and Bangs" or "non-standard" maneuvers where we, the IP roll the throttle of our single engine helicopter to idle and simulate an engine failure to the lane. We lined the bikes up, and as it just happened, we had an aircraft tail number 544 conducting low level autorotations on lane 2 to the north, which was practically 20 yards from the bikes. It worked out quite nice for some photo ops, and for a little more entertainment and information for the group of hardy heat soaked adventurers. Departing Hunt Stagefield, I led the group through, Ozark, down Deloney Road, where I assume legendary local artist, Jack Deloney and His brother Bill live. Many of the scenes we would view on Friday's ride and Saturday's "on road" tour through the wire-grass, reminded me of his artwork. To get an idea of the imagery I'm referring to one can go to [www.jackdeloney.com](http://www.jackdeloney.com) and view his gallery.

I missed Friday evening's dinner and entertainment as I had an Enterprise High School Football game to watch (Yes I have three teenage boys in the house) but Kinderfest affords me the opportunity to indulge many opportunities near simultaneously as Jim and Shelia's house is so close to my own. I did hear of a rousing pool party game of fun-noodles and boob ball... no new hot tube record, (last year's I was told was 17 people) but I'm quite sure, based on some of the red-eyed wonders I saw the next morning that Kinderfest is alive and well and living up to it's name sake.

Saturday morning I arrived back at Jim and Sheila's to lead the road tour, which I abdicated to Russ, as we began to talk about the route, it became apparent his knowledge of some nice back roads through Ozark exceeded my own. Jim led the group of off road adventure riders to some nice back roads in and around Molinelli Range Complex. And when I returned, I was informed of quite an adventurous ride to the Fort Rucker Army Aviation Museum led by Gator, for those Louisiana contingent club members that had not seen the museum before. The on road tour started out with Five riders, Russ, Myself, Russ' son Doug, Jack Cox and new member Sanford Colley from Alpine, AL on a lovely Silver RT (I'm a little partial to RT's you know; this was Sanford's first club meeting and I wanted to pay-it-forward and ensure it wouldn't be his last). Another trip around Molinelli, the twisties of 27, a couple of back roads to avoid Ozark, back on the twisties of 27, Cow pastures, Cotton fields, peanut fields, and eventually Headland AL, where we stopped at Bob's gas station, an ethanol free "pure gas" filling station I discovered by using the link to pure gas filling stations that someone on the club site posted after a forum discussion about gas products. (While I'm on the subject of club resources... It may be interesting to note for some that when tasked to lead several of the club members during Kinderfest, I read and studied one of the articles in this months BMW ON magazine; *10 tips for leading a group ride* by Victor Cruz #91428 on page 76, and it was this article that formed some of my suggestions about stopping at a gas station, taking bathroom breaks, and I even discovered that I could turn on my hazards by pressing both turn signals simultaneously, instead of my hazards button, just one of those little bike nuances that fell through the cracks in the last three years of riding and learning; proof, that we never stop learning to ride.) From Bob's gas station, Jack Cox departed on his LT for his home in Dothan with a warm farewell, the group had dropped Doug off earlier at an intersection, as he needed to return home to Ozark, so the three of us continued past the WWI monument at Headland's town square, remaining on highway 134, past the airport, through Newton, Ozark, across Deloney road again to twisty ole highway 27 and back to Jim and Sheila's house. Other than the oppressive heat that Vance referred to in the August newsletter, I'm quite sure the ride could by all accounts be considered a success. It did feel nice to get back to the shady green lawn and cool blue pool of Jim and Sheila's back yard.

Shortly after the tour I departed again to help with church clean up at the Women's retreat that coincided with the

Kinderfest schedule, Rhonda had a good time and some much needed time in church focusing on her needs. Several hours later, towards evening, Rhonda and I meandered back to Kinderfest in our alternate BMW vehicle, Aerial, the 328i, (Yes, Ursula is the R1200RT, I'm sure your picking up on the theme there) for a night of fun and fellowship. As soon as we walked through the gate, Russ and Jim hijacked Rhonda and I as our impeccable timing placed us at Kinderfest at the exact time the shrimp boil was done, pans were required to maneuver the succulent crustaceans and their low country boil ingredients from the pots to the dining room, and of course Rhonda and I moved out smartly to bring said required pans... we both know how to take orders from Jim and Sheila when it comes to cooking; we knew we would be well rewarded for our compliance. And true to form we were all rewarded, the spread in the buffet style dining room, was wonderful. A hush fell over the crowd, as low country boil vittles were consumed by all. After dinner and drinks, the crowd began to mingle again, there was lots of catching up to do, rides to plan on the side. As the evening drew nigh, the Kinder eased into the pool for a relaxing game of fun-noodle-boob-ball as Ethan, Russ and Roxanne's middle son, set up in the yard with his band, to entertain us all, and that they did. Starting around the time the sun set, the band opened up with their first set of cover songs, with a smattering of originals thrown in, (which in my opinion were quite good). The crowd of Kinders were quite pleased. Roxanne, Linda, Darlene, Mary, and Jim started cutting a rug on some concrete by the pool, (cutting a concrete?) while the band played on. So there I sat, sipping some beer with Rhonda in our folding chairs by the pool, it was dark now, boob ball in the foreground, behind us, the gentle discussion of Connie and others, occasional laughter; in the middle ground, Jim and the girls dancing, and silhouetted by the darkness with the soft movement of a weeping willow, almost swaying with the music and dancers in the background, was Ethan and his band. Presented with this scene, I began to wax nostalgic, like I often do when all in the world seems right. It's these kind of moments that serves to reassure me that its worth it. The sacrifices made on so many levels by so many people... all coming together in moments like these. The family was whole again... until next month's meeting.

Rhonda and I left that night around 10:30, apparently just before the police arrived to quite the party down, the band must have been a little too loud for a neighbor somewhere close, and I returned the next morning for the meeting. A few squinty eyes bellied the truth behind last night's indulgences, as Vance called the meeting to order, getting things started with his typical presidential presence. Upcoming events made there way to the ears and iPhones of the audience as they wolfed down some most excellent German-style cold cut breakfast, Jim Dubick was able to inform us of Eric Bahl's condition, a constant concern for everyone in the club since his riding incident in Georgia. There were numerous door prizes that Russ and Jim had drummed up from Fort Rucker, Jim handed out gift bags with goodies. I wasn't able to stay for the

entire meeting, as I had volunteered to help teach the little ones at our church some music at 10 am. I left the meeting in capable hands, but as I tried to dart out the back gate without much notice or fan fare, Vance was able to catch up with me and ask me to write a story for next months news letter, flattering me about how great my stories are, so of course, if Vance asks you to do something, is there anyone that can say no? Well, maybe Connie, but I assure you all, I haven't the constitution to turn down my president when called to duty. And now you know, the rest of the story. I hope this news-letter article fits the byline billing. Safe travel to you all, until we meet again further down the road.



"Like" us on Facebook!  
125 have joined so far!



## We're Back As most of you already know

**Terry's Two Wheel** has re-opened in the same location with same great service.

**However we do have a new phone number  
205-987-1928.**

We now have a very comfortable customer lounge with coffee, water and snacks available. On Saturdays drop in for coffee and ..... Come by and watch SPEED channel, WEATHER, Saturday Football or come by to hang out at a fun motorcycle shop.

We got Terry a Porta Kool for the shop so now we can have regular hours all year, even this very hot end to summer.

Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9-5, Saturday 9-2. We will make every effort to accommodate appointments outside these hours, just call and ask.

We hope to see you at the Vintage Rally we will have hot beverages and cold maybe even snacks and a few items of merchandise.

Terry and I want to thank everyone for their support and prayers, we would not exist without all of you out there.

We carry genuine BMW parts.

--Terry and Joan

### FOR SALE:

2002, Silver, 166K miles, Oilins, PIAA lights, factory comfort seat, Run-N-Lights, Lite Blazer, BMW Saddle Bags, Top Trunk Mount ready to accept GiVi case, RAM Mount for GPS. Has Fresh brakes, fairly new tires, and major tune up recently done. Uni-Go trailer is painted to match. It has less than 8K miles. I purchased the bike new in 2002, the trailer was purchased new in 2004. The bike is in excellent mechanical shape & probably as good today as it was when purchased. Never wrecked and is ready for many more miles. I can send pictures, repair logs, a list of all the parts I have replaced. email is pmclain@uabmc.edu, cell 205-261-3172 or home 205-380-0810. \$6500.

Paul McClain



## Discovering Alabama (and Two Hundred Years of Dancing with the Stars)

by Vernon Headrick

In November 1954 Ann Hodges was napping on her couch near Sylacauga when a star fell on Alabama. Ann became the first person documented to have been hit by a meteor. Prior to this astronomically rare event, the 1934 song *Stars Fell on Alabama* was an established standard at football games around the state. Prior to the song was a book by the same name and prior to the book were stories of the Leonid meteor shower of 1833 when an estimated 30,000 meteors per hour filled the sky over Alabama. Alabama and stars have been closely associated since, well since before Alabama was Alabama. You might even say the birth of Alabama was written in the stars. In 1811 a comet, simply known as the Great Comet of 1811, appeared in sky. It was visible for 260 days. The tail of that comet and the tale of the birth of the State of Alabama are intertwined.

Today, the Rocket City is home to the Huntsville Stars minor league baseball team, the US Army Aviation and Missile Command and Marshall Space Flight Center. It is also the home of the Alabama Constitution Village. One block off the square, Alabama's birthplace is appropriately marked with a Historic Marker. On this site the first Alabama Constitution was written and adopted along with the application for Statehood. Eight years after the Great Comet, Congress approved the application and Alabama became the 22<sup>nd</sup> State in the Union.

To get to the tale of the comet and statehood, we need to start in Louisiana. Yep, our Cajun cousins started our road to statehood. Literally, that road is now known as the Old Federal Road. Its purpose was to establish a land route from Washington DC to the new American city of New Orleans. After the Louisiana Purchase President Jefferson asked Col. Benjamin Hawkins to negotiate a treaty with the Creek Indians for a Right-of-Way to extend

the Federal Road across Alabama. The road would connect Fort Mitchell, in present day Columbus Georgia to Fort Stoddard on the west bank of the Mobile River near present day Mount Vernon Alabama. The treaty also provided for placing ferries and accommodations along the road. The road was to be at least eight feet wide with stumps not more than six inches tall. The route was to keep to high ground, crossing as few streams as possible. The treaty was signed in 1805. That same year Congress authorized funds to buy 813 square miles on the north bank of the Tennessee from the Cherokee and Choctaw. James Ditto built a ferry across the river and John Hunt who had established the original trading post, named the community Twickingham. The 813 square miles later became Madison County and Twickingham was renamed Huntsville, aka Rocket City U.S.A.

When the Federal Road was widened in 1811 to accommodate wagons, it opened the way for farmers and families. They poured in by the thousands. The Indian Agency at Fort Mitchell issued up to 500 permits a week for settlers to use the new road. These settlers purchased or squatted on Indian land and established the Plantation Economic system across the fertile Black Belt of Alabama. The success of this system encouraged many Native American Indians to give up hunting and the deer skin trade. Many who adopted the plantation model were as successful as their white neighbors. Beef, pork and chicken replaced deer and wild turkey as their main meat supply. Gardens in Indiana towns became common. The official Indiana policy of Assimilation seemed to be working, but not for everyone, which brings us back to the Great Comet of 1811.

In September of that year the Shawnee Chief, Tecumseh came to Alabama trying to unite all of the eastern tribes. He had witnessed first hand how the white settlers in Ohio had divided the tribes and convinced their leader to trade land for " Rum, trinkets and graves". He believed Indian land was owned in common by all tribes. No tribe

or individual had the right to sell land and that the penalty for doing so should be death. His message was "War now! War forever! War upon the living! War upon the dead! Dig their very corpses from the grave. Our country must give no rest to a white man's bones. This is the will of the Great Spirit, revealed to my brother..." Tecumseh's lesser-known brother was the Prophet Tenskwatawa. The will of the Great Spirit was revealed to Tenskwatawa in a dream. The Prophet preached rejection of the white man's ways and that they should give up liquor, European clothing and farming.

The Cherokee, Chickasaw and Choctaw all rejected Tecumseh's call for war, but in the black belt of Alabama, some of the Creeks listened. In the Creek town of Tuckaubatchee, Tecumseh declared "Soon shall you see my arm of fire stretched athwart the sky. I will stamp my foot at Tippecanoe, and the very earth shall shake." As Tecumseh preached Indian unity and war against the white man, Tenskwatawa preached the will of the Great Spirit to return to the ways of their ancestors. Just weeks later in October, The Great Comet reached its peak brightest. Tenskwatawa's vision gained acceptance and converts. In December, the largest earthquake to hit North America in the modern era occurred along the New Madrid fault. It shook the entire eastern seaboard ringing church bells in Boston. The Mississippi flowed backwards and cut a new course when the water returned southward. Aftershocks continued through March 1812. The Prophet had provided proof of the Great Spirit's displeasure and converts began butchering cattle and destroying gardens. They declared nonbelievers who did not do the same were traders and would suffer the same fate as the white man. The Prophet's disciples and converts carrying the Great Spirit's message and the red war stick spread across the Creek Nation, along with civil war.

In August 1813, the Creek Civil War spread to settlers at Fort Mimms sparking the Creek Indian War. Their final defeat at the Battle of Horseshoe

Bend and ceding their land to the U.S. allowed for the formation of the State of Alabama just five years latter.

The anniversary of the Great Comet is a great time to discover Alabama's birthplace. In addition to the fantastic roads and fall colors on the Appalachian Plateau, the Space and Rocket Museum along with the Alabama Constitution Village provide an opportunity to experience glimpses of Alabama's past and future. At the Alabama Constitution Village you can step inside the white picket fence and be transported back to 1819. Re-enactors provide insights into daily tasks using period tools, equipment and facilities. On October 16<sup>th</sup>, the Huntsville Historical Society will conduct its annual Maple Hills Cemetery Stroll from 2-4:30 pm. Established before statehood, the history of Maple Hills Cemetery is the history of the old southwest and of Alabama. Sixty-five or more re-enactors will share that history one person at a time. Roads, new and old, and adventures through time, all great reasons to discover Alabama.

## FOR SALE!

### GoPro Motorsports Hero

### Digital Hero 5 Helmet

### Camera System

- Shock-proof design
- Enclosed in waterproof casing (which does work-son took in scuba and it was GREAT)
- Can be helmet mounted or mounted anywhere on bike with little to no modifications
- 5 megapixel (2048 x 1536) resolution
- SD card compatible (NOT INCLUDED)
- Comes with USB/RCD cables and 2 AAA batteries
- Kit contains array of mounts

**Also in this deal I am including the LCD BACPAK so you can see what the camera is seeing.**

**This is an extra. Neither of these items has been opened. \$400.00 plus shipping**

Cash preferred and prefer not to ship, if items need to be shipped the buyer will pay cost of item and shipping and insurance, TBD. Any questions email Joan Ware [jkware35242@gmail.com](mailto:jkware35242@gmail.com). Terry Ware uses Camera and so does our son. **First one to email with promise to get money to me gets it. I will watch the time stamps on emails to make it fair.**

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

SIMON, ERWIN	10/2
LIDE, SUE	10/3
PARSONS, CHARLIE	10/4
SPARKS, JEFF	10/4
LEACH, P. HARDING	10/5
AARON, MELISSA	10/9
KALAHAN, JIM	10/9
KILLEN, WADE	10/9
CLEMENTS, LEE	10/10
FEARING, DONNA	10/10
PRIEST, MARLIN	10/10
STOVER, DON	10/10
BRAWLEY, EMERY	10/13
ARMOUR, THOMAS	10/14
MCCORSTIN, JIM	10/14
MCINTYRE, TOM	10/14
SCHUCKMAN, STEVE	10/14
WARREN, PHILLIP	10/14
FORD, MIKE	10/16
ZIBELL, JOHN	10/16
CLAY, BARRY	10/18
SANDERS, STEVE	10/18
NEIBUHR, BRIAN	10/19
NESMITH, GARY	10/19
CLARK, JOE	10/20
HOLCOMB, HANK	10/21
KIDD, ALAN	10/21
PATTERSON, TOMMY	10/21
RUSAK, MARK	10/22
HOLLEY, LINDA	10/24
LITTLE, DON	10/24
DUBICK, JIM	10/25
SHOEMAKER, RICHARD	10/26
WHARTON, RHONDA	10/26
GEE, MICKEY	10/28
WILLIAMS, GARY	10/30
WOODBURN, DAVID	10/30



**BMW Motorcycle Owners  
of Alabama**

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

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SEPTEMBER 9-11	LBL 200 KENTUCKY LAKE
SEPTEMBER 17	MOA OPEN HOUSE ELLISVILLE, MO
SEPTEMBER 23-25	LAUREL TRAILS CAMPGROUND, MONTEAGLE, TN
SEPTEMBER 30-OCT 1	MOA WEEKEND GETAWAY TOMAH, WI
OCTOBER 7-9	BARBER'S VINTAGE BIKE FEST
OCTOBER 15	MOA BOARD MEETING SEDALIA, MO
OCTOBER 14-16	BARNESLEY MOTOR WERKS AUTUMN OPEN WEEKEND
OCTOBER 23-24	RIBFEST CENTERVILLE, TN
OCTOBER 28-30	CLUB 40TH B'DAY PARTY! NAUVOO, AL 

**40<sup>th</sup>  
year**

**BMW Motorcycle  
Owners of Alabama**

Come celebrate 40 years with the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama. October 28 - 30, 2011 at the historic Harbin Hotel in Nauvoo, Alabama. Outdoor picnic with friends on Friday night. BBQ dinner and 40 years of tall tales on Saturday. Breakfast served every morning in the Harbin Hotel dining room. Hotel rooms, camping and even RV space available. Visit [www.bmwmoal.org](http://www.bmwmoal.org) for details or email Darlene Massey, [dmassey@amerex-fire.com](mailto:dmassey@amerex-fire.com), to RSVP.

**October 28 - 30, 2011**