

THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

BMWMOA Chapter #5/ BMWRA Chapter #107



Volume XXXVI Issue 4

April 2007

“IT’S ALL GOOD “ AND IT JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER

Connie Reaves

The ride down with the stop off in Montgomery for the tours was absolutely fascinating. We toured the Capital and the First White House, thanks to Dan Thompson and Marcella Carroll’s arrangements. That White house is not open on Saturdays but a sweet lil Lady came in on her day off to give us a special tour.

Then there was the tour of the Civil Rights Institute that Morris Dees arranged for us. There was so much interesting stuff there I can’t even begin to explain it all here. Just GO !! It’s worth it.

Bob Steber and Dan Thompson sure worked hard to put together that ride and tour and they deserve a hand. We had about 22 folks and some who we don’t ever get to see came out for this. It was nice to see Gary and Angie Dubois for a change. They just don’t get to come as often as they would like.

I don’t know about the rest of you, but I think Chili tasted just as good in March as it does in February. Don & Barbara Little did another bang-up job with our chili supper at the last meeting. Generally we do this one in Feb-

ruary but with the club cruise and the Little’s on that cruise last month, we delayed this one a month. So that meant warmer weather, and Don had to bring more fans and less fire pits, and they had to cook chili for quite a few more folks than generally braves the cold and usual rain in February.



Don teasingly told me, “we don’t know how to do it in March”. Well.....WRONG ! Like Vance said...”a “**Little**” chili is always good !!! I agree wholeheartedly.

With nearly 50 folks there we had quite a wonderful time. But when do we not? We had several new members and members who had not attended before. We had Alan and Robin Duncan, Terry and Jane Boren, and John Gregory, going on memory here. It was also good to see Lila Bonner becoming a regular face in the crowd. We sure do like to see folks enjoy

themselves so much that they come back time after time !

Don did light up one fire pit, and we had the annual marshmallow roast, and the traditional fudge stripe cookies to sandwich them between. And the fire did come in handy for the slight chill some of us who didn’t want to put the heavy jacket on.

I’ve also heard since the meeting that Alan Duncan looks like he’s going to put the longtime members to shame with his bang up raffle ticket sales. It was only a few days after the meeting he wrote and said he needed more books of tickets to sell, that those he had taken had gone real fast. See folks, it IS easy to sell those tickets, all you have to do is ask. \$5.00 isn’t much for a chance on a BMW and when you tell

them it’s for a BMW and the money goes to the Head Injury Foundation and to the Motorcycle Safety Center, they will hardly turn you down. **YOU CAN CALL MARI HARRELSON and get some tickets to sell or e-mail her at veridebmw@bellsouth.net.** We really need everyone’s help to cover the cost of the bike and then have some left over to give. Mari’s e-mail is if you want to e-mail her.

Bob Steber presented the information he got in relation to our Christmas party, (Cont. Page 3)

MEETING MINUTES

March 25, 2007 - 9:00 AM
Blue Springs Park Campground
President Connie Reaves presiding
Mari Harrelson, Secretary

Connie opened the meeting with a special thanks to our hosts Barbara and Don Little for once again providing Chili and fixins and best of all Smores over the fire tub. The weather was so warm this year we only needed one fire tub but it came in real handy as it did cool off after dark.

A hearty welcome to new members Jane and Terry Boren who have just come in from an 8 month trek of the west as they begin their retirement and 1st time meeting attendees John Gregory and Gary and Angie DuBois. Welcome to our very special guest – Lila Bonner who took her first motorcycle adventure with husband Rickie this week end. We can expect to see her name in the membership directory next month and maybe see her in a tent soon. Welcome to the ranks Lila!

Connie gave the treasurer's report and offered a peek to any one interested in looking at the details. As always, Connie has decals and pins available for sale.

Bob Steber gave the group a description of what is available at the Vinzinni winery for this year's Christmas party and then made a motion to have the party there. It was seconded and voted in. There is room for 100 people and they have several kinds of wine, gourmet cooking with a very good chef, reasonable prices and they offer a tour of the winery. Sounds like a fun time. It is located south of Birmingham near Clanton.

Bob Steber discussed where we are on the development of the new ABEEES book and clarified this year's rules. The book should be ready by Gulf Shores meeting. He talked about Saturday's Capital tour put together by Dan Thompson for those that missed it and the prior week's tour to Anniston led by John Harper. Watch the web site for Saturday rides during the month; Bob is really generating interest from club members to share their favorite rides. Some discussion was held about riding in the Alps and Bob gave some tips since he is somewhat of an expert on the matter.

This year we will be voting on our choice of who will get the Rally plaque. By the time you get this Connie will have sent out an e-mail so you can send your vote to Jeannine Arnold, our Membership Director, so she can tally them up by the 1st of May.

Raffle tickets – We are almost 2 months from Rally

time and we have over half of the tickets left in the box. We need you to get your share of tickets and get out and sell them so we can pay for the bike. We can't depend on my crew selling them all at the rally just in case we have a rain out or something that keeps the crowd down. **Keep in mind you will not receive tickets unless you request them so for tickets contact Vance or Mari Harrelson at weridebmw@bellsouth.net or call 205-621-1682.**

We have Club T-shirts for those that we did not have your size or your have worn out your first set we now have them available again. We are selling out of the smaller sizes already so if you need a small size get your order in now. They will be available at club functions that I don't have a chance to ride to or by mail or if you just let us know ahead of time to bring to a function; contact Vance or Mari Harrelson at weridebmw@bellsouth.net or call 205-621-1682.

The next meeting will be the Shrimp Boil at the Southport Campground under the bridge in Gulf Shores. You won't want to miss that one. All you can eat shrimp, corn, potatoes, etc. and red beans and rice and a big bon fire under the bridge. Bob has another ride planned for the southwest corner so watch the website for plans for that. See you there.

Vance asked for a show of hands of who would be interested in a cruise next year and we voted for a Valentine's cruise so start making your plans and saving your change. More to come....

50/50 split this month is \$40.00 and was won by Terry Boren.

RAFFLE TICKET SALES INCENTIVES

Let's all get some raffle tickets to sell, and help make some money for the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, and the Head Injury foundation.

This is what you will get for your sales efforts.

4 books gets you in the rally free. \$40 value
8 books sold – rally entry + \$10.00 (value \$50)
10 books sold – rally entry plus \$15 (value \$55)
15 books sold – rally entry plus \$25 (value \$65)
20 books sold – rally entry plus \$50 (value \$90)
25 books sold – rally entry plus \$75 (value \$115)

And as always, the person who sells the winning ticket will get \$150.00 towards a new helmet or other gear of choice.

There's not much time left folks and we have barely \$1500 in sales to cover this \$8000 bike. **WE NEED YOU TO HELP SELL, OR BUY, SOME TICKETS.**

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Kimberly Bonner
- 3 Terese Stevens
- 4 Ernie Jacobsen
- 4 Doug Tremblay
- 5 Art Goddard
- 5 Don Norwood
- 5 Cat Pate
- 8 Mark Hendrix
- 10 Sam Monte
- 10 Andrea Pedigo
- 10 Clinton Pittman
- 11 Woods McRoy
- 11 Gail Reynolds
- 12 Jenny McRoy
- 12 Mark Medlin
- 17 Jimmy Morgan
- 18 Michael Harvill
- 19 Gail Thorne
- 20 Malvene Jackson
- 21 Terry Dendy
- 21 Frances Perret
- 22 William Barnes
- 24 Linda Cain
- 25 Chris Madaio
- 26 Tom Kimbrell
- 27 Steve Hebert
- 29 Ray Pate
- 30 Pinkie Brown



THOUGHTS / PRAYERS AND TIDBITS

Glenda Cockrell - for a speedy recovery in her cancer surgery, and we are looking forward to seeing her at Gulf Shores.

Josh Reaves -for his safe return from his service as an Army Medic working in the ER in Baghdad for the next 18 months.

Dennis Hallman - Who lost his Mother on Feb. 27th - Our hearts go out to you.

Kathy Biddlecombe - Who lost her Mother, Ann Doyle on March 12th. Ann was also a BMW MOA Ambassador and was very involved in it for many years.

(Cont. from Page 1) from the Vizzini Farms Winery in Calera, AL. It really sounded good and there were motions made and a vote taken, so that is where our Christmas party will be held this year. The only difference this year and what Joan Ware found out for us last year, is that they have expanded and it will not be a tent for our party. There is a room more than large enough for us to use.

Look for more details on the Christmas party to come later. Thanks to Joan for finding it to start with and for Bob for re-examining it this year. The price will be \$20 per person, but they are not charging us a room rental fee so the club will not have that \$250 expense.

Maybe I can get you guys some better door prizes this year with the difference.

Mr. Travel Director, Steber, also went over the new ABEES challenges for this year for the folks who had not heard previously. Bryson Stephens, of Bogarts Motorsports has again put up and Olympia jacket for the final winner. Look for the rules and guidelines of this year's challenge elsewhere in the newsletter. Our new ABEES ride/guide books will be out in a couple of weeks most likely. We will let you know. Meanwhile you can still use the old one as there

are not that many changes in it. After the meeting Sunday, several of us left off on a ride to pick up some more ABEES points on the ride home. We left and went south to that corner of the state and picked up several other spots before turning back north and having a great lunch at the Poarch House restaurant. Those folks were so nice, and since we were barely there before closing time, they still put more chicken on to fry and served us platters of it when it was done. After that was the ride north and for most of us the stopping point was slightly before Birmingham. But my home arrival time was 7:00 PM. WHEW !!! That meant about 8 hours in the saddle since leaving Blue Springs. But hey !! We got 10 of the ABEES points for the weekend and that's half of one entry for the jacket drawing !

Gulf Shores at SouthPort Campground, is our location for next month. We are having our annual shrimp boil, and Tony Allison's famous red beans and rice. I hope to see A WHOLE BUNCH of you there. There will be a ride going down on Friday of that weekend, and we should be able to pick up a whole bunch of the ABEES points. So get your boots and helmets ready, check the air in the tires and the oil, and clean off your windshield and get ready to RIDE AND EAT !!

CLASSIC / VINTAGE CORNER

The Early Racing Years

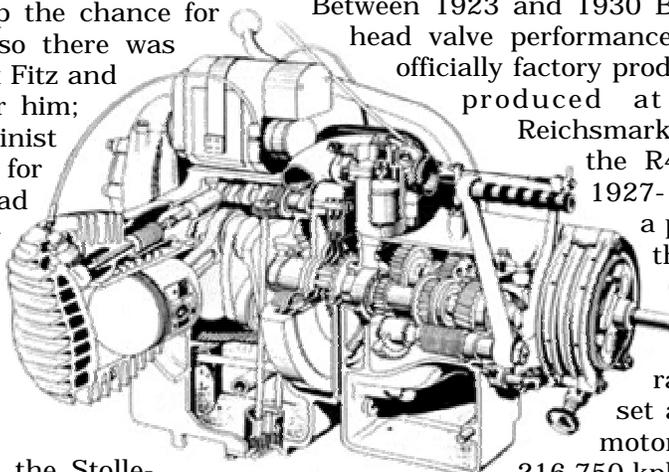
Tim McGee

Well, in February we discussed the history of Bayerische Motoren Werke (BMW) and how they entered the motorcycle business, first as an engine builder then as a motorcycle builder. This was done, almost out of necessity to save the company. BMW would dabble in different things over the years but would always have their core motorcycle business to pull them through tough times. They went on to become a respected air plane engine builder, but then had to stop when they lost WW II. They entered the car business in 1928 when they purchased the Eisenach car plant. This plant had the license to build a small car based on the British Austin. It was called the "Dixi". Now days the car business is the main core business, with the motorcycle division being a small part of BMW. They will never abandon the motorcycle in my opinion. In a lot of ways it's the heart of the company.

Racing in those days was a way to get a lot of free marketing. BMW was a new and struggling company that would not past up the chance for some free advertisement. Also there was some bad blood between Max Fitz and Martin Stolle. You remember him; he was the brilliant machinist that had left BMW to work for Victoria. Martin Stolle had taken the BMW M2B33 engine design and had added over head valves. They were having success on the race-track with the Victoria KR 2 design.

Max Fitz decided to take on the Stolle-Victoria in a race in June of 1923 at the Solitude near Stuttgart. He decided to enter three machines. It was obvious from the start that the side valve BMW's could not compete with the overhead valve design of the Stolle-Victoria in pure performance. The side valve engine was a very reliable engine but never made a name for itself in performance. All three of the machines were modified with overhead valves. However they didn't have enough time to test them before the race, and all three failed to finish. The OHV modification started a trend with BMW that would last until the early 40's. They would offer 2 machines, one a side valve touring model, and one an overhead valve performance model.

With Max Fitz licking his wounds over the failure of all three entries at Solitude, BMW hired Rudolf Schleicher an impassioned motorcyclist who had just graduated from Engineering School. BMW started plotting their revenge for their embarrassing loss. Max Fitz was needed to work on airplane engines, which BMW was starting to develop again. Rudolf was put on the overhead valve-racing program and given full rein. With the newly developed engine designated as the M2 B36, BMW had some modest victories while the bugs were being worked out. Then they returned to Solitude and to everyone's surprise they won with all three entries and captured the best time of the day. BMW went on to produce this machine as the R37, their first true performance machine. Rudolf would race this new machine privately with great success. One of these races he entered was a six-day race in England. Despite inferior tires compared to the other competitors he won a gold medal. The British press was very impressed and wrote glowing articles about the R37. The fact that these words were written by the British press gave double the impact in the market place.



Between 1923 and 1930 BMW made several overhead valve performance models. The R37 was officially factory produced in 1925-1926 (152 produced at a price of 2,900 Reichsmarks). It was replaced by the R47 which was made in 1927-1928 (1,720 produced at a price of 1,850 RM). Then the R57 in 1928-1930 (1,005 produced at a price of 1,850 RM). These bikes won many races in that period and set a world speed record for motorcycles in 1929 of 216.750 kph.

During this same period they continued to make the side valve models. The R32 was made from 1923-1926 (3,090 produced at a price of 2,200 RM). The R32 was replaced by the R42 which was made in 1926-1928 (6,502 produced at a price of 1,510 RM). The years of 1928-1930 saw BMW offer its first 600-cc motorcycle, the R62. During this time the company produced both the R52 and R62. The R52 saw 4,377 units produced at a price of 1,510 RM. The R62 proved very popular with 4,355 units produced at a price of 1,650 RM. The R71 would be the last side valve made in 1938-1941. Production then turned to the war effort with BMW making only the R75 OHV sidecar model from 1941-1944.

NON-MEETING GET-TOGETHERS AROUND THE STATE

Birmingham

Diplomat Deli - Each Thursday evening the Birmingham folks are meeting at a new location called the Diplomat Deli which is located at 1413 Montgomery Highway, Vestavia Hills which is in the same shopping center as Pier 1 near the Bruster's Ice Cream. The food is excellent, the service is unsurpassed and they have the largest selection of beer of any place in the state. They also boast of over 500 different wines. Arrivals begin from about 5 to 5:30 PM and stay till about 7:30 to 8 PM.

Huntsville

The Huntsville crowd currently meets at 6:00 pm each Friday night at The Green Hills Grill on Wynn Drive near the intersection with University Drive. If you are in the area stop in and join the fun.

Montgomery

Flip's Uptown Grill

The monthly Montgomery, Alabama area breakfast (and possible ride) is the second Saturday of each month, at Flip's Uptown Grill in the Sturbridge Shopping Center at the corner of Vaughn Road and Taylor Road. We will meet for breakfast at 8am and those who choose to ride afterwards can plan to do so at that time. All brands of motorcycles and cars welcome. drive whatcha got. Flip's has a complete made-to-order breakfast menu. Bring bucks and come hungry!

Robertsdale (South Alabama)

The Oasis Truck Stop

Saturday mornings at the Oasis Truck Stop at Wilcox Rd Exit I-10 about half way between Mobile and Pensacola, every Sat. morning. Riders are usually there from about 7:30am until 9- 9:30. Rides are concocted for afterwards. Contact John at johnart1@aol.com for details



Don and Barbara Little hosted the Blue Lake Camp-out. Here Barbara prepares to cool down the tea while Don heats up more chili!



ITEMS FOR SALE

1992 R100GS, red with 44K miles, bags, throttle lock, heated grips/hand guards, trailer hitch/electric connection, Olin shock, Time Out camping trailer. Opens to 14ft. Package \$7,000. Rhonda Allred 256-776-3778 02

2004 R1150RS, Blue on blue, 5K miles, ABS, bags, heated grips, Uni-go trailer hitch/electrical connection. Like new \$11,500 Rhonda Allred 256-776-3778 02

2005 Suzuki V-Strom. Corbin seat with passenger back rest and stock seat, heated grips, Givi bags and mounts, Engine guards, BMW style acc plug, new Tourance rear tire, Hawk chain oiler, and headlight protector. Less than 8,000 miles on bike. Always dealer serviced. About a year left on unlimited milage transferrable warranty. \$4,700 E-mail me at bandbbarn@gmail.com or call 256-738-1527 03

1996 K1100LT. Looks Good, Runs great. Second Generation ABS. Plenty of rubber left front and rear. Comes with trailer hitch, all luggage (including extra large back rest with speakers on trunk), BMW AM/FM stereo, new Progressive rear shock, heated grips, 3 BMW acc plugs, cooling fan override kit, Corbin Dual Tour seat, and stock seat. 95,000 miles. Asking \$4,500. e-mail me at bandbbarn@gmail.com, or call Bill 256-738-1527 03

ABEES RIDE TO BLUE SPRINGS & SOUTHEAST ALABAMA

Vance Harrelson

Attending the club meeting at Blue Springs State Park provided an excellent opportunity to explore the Southeast corner of the state in search of a few of those valuable ABEES points.

A group was formed including Bob Steber, Joan & Terry Ware, Connie Reeves, Mari and me, Vernon & Kay Headrick and Ron Shea on Saturday morning in Alabaster for a ride to meet Dan Thompson on the capital steps in Montgomery. We were met there by a bunch of others (I can't name them all) for a tour of the capital and surrounding sites. The first stop was a tour of the Civil Rights institute led by Morris Dees. If you haven't been here..you need to go. No matter your age, you will learn a great deal about the early struggle for civil rights and the historical significance of the events which occurred right here in Alabama. Very informative and even more so with the tour led by Morris. Thanks again Morris!

From there we went down the street to the other end of the block for a BMWMOAL private tour of the first Whitehouse of the Confederacy, the home of Jefferson Davis. Across the street we were led on a tour of the capital building. (Ask Bob Steber about getting caught with his pants down at the metal detector!) The tour was led for us by Aroine Irby who was funny, very informative and had an answer for every question. And believe me this bunch of bikers worked him over...but we all enjoyed it. The scheduled 45 minute tour finished up in exactly an hour and a half!

All this time Dan Thompson stood guard by all the bikes parked on the street outside the capital. I understand he could see the port-o-let on the other side of the chain link fence..he just couldn't get in to it! Thanks Dan for your security services and your patience!

Upon our return Dan and Marcella Carroll led us to Sinclair's in old Montgomery for a great lunch and another ABEES check off. From there it was down the "Seven Bridges Road" and a great back road ride into Troy and on to Blue Springs.

After the meeting concluded Sunday a group including Bob Steber, Jim & Suzie Dubick, Phillip & Martha Warren, Ron Shea, Connie Reeves and Mari & me formed up and set out under the direction of our

esteemed travel director for more check offs.

Our targets for this mission were to include collecting the southeast point in the Extremely Alabama challenge and lunch at the Porch House restaurant in Headland. Any other points collected along the way would be great too. The weather was perfect if a little warm but who's complaining..winter is over!

Leaving Blue Springs we headed for Abbeville and there headed south on AL 95 toward Columbia. The road is good and leads us through rural but interesting areas. The pavement is smooth, clean and while there are no "twisties" it is an interesting ride. As you enter Columbia (I am betting most of you haven't been there) there are a number of large old homes along Main Street and we pass the entrance to the state docks...yes the State of Alabama operates a shipping port here as it is located on the Chattahoochee River. Leaving Columbia we continue down AL 95 past the enormous Farley Nuclear plants billowing stack and cross US 84 and down to the Chattahoochee State Park. This is a small park located on the river and provided a good spot for a photo of the group. From there we proceed about three miles to Crosby to check off that ABEES point. Several of us had the waypoint entered on the GPS and it's a good thing. That is the only way we new we were there! It turns out Crosby is the home of Willoughby Farms as indicated by the only sign there! Oh well, maybe we'll change that point but that is for the Travel Director to decide.

With our breakfast long gone we enter the waypoint into the GPS and demand it take us there! The GPS and our taste buds are locked in on thoughts of the Porch House and the good ole Sunday lunch fried chicken and cornbread (This is where Bob Steber earned his nickname "Cornbread" while in pursuit of last years ABEES prize).. Punch on that GPS Bob and lead the way! Back out to US84, into Dothan and up 431 to Headland.

So at about 1:30 we arrive to find the parking lot mostly void of the "after church" Sunday crowd and this is likely the best thing. Sometimes the arrival of a bunch of bikers dressed as aliens tends to unnerve the elderly. As we entered we were greeted by Jonathon David Louis appropriately positioned at the front door as the official "greeter."

He offered us a warm welcome with his greeting "Welcome to the Porch House". Not too unusual but Jonathon is all of about 6 years old! We immediately attacked the depleted buffet but there was enough to get us started. Owners Sam & Linda Brannon

operate a great place here folks. The entire staff including son, daughter, niece and nephew (remember Jonathon David Lewis?) could not have been more pleasant. They were excited to host us and very interested in our bikes and the club. Sam even purchased a raffle ticket from me! The food is excellent down home southern stuff. The variety is such that it makes it difficult to adhere to the "meat and three" rule! And then there are the deserts. They are known for their peanut butter pie and you should certainly try it but you will have to "plan" to leave room for it! We left but only after posing for a photo on the front porch that Linda promised would be put onto their website if we would email it to her. I have no doubts this will happen.

The challenge now will be to make it all the way home without a nap! We set off from Headland up US431 through the heart of Eufala and the mansions along the main drag. We can check them off too! We make a couple of stops for gas and a break and we work our way up to Opelika and US280 arriving home about dark. We have clocked 470 miles for the weekend, toured the capital complex in Montgomery, had a great club meeting and ended the weekend with a great ABEES tour checking off 10 points for the weekend. *I've said it, I've written it and I mean it.* If you don't get your copy of the ABEES book this year and go exploring, you are going to miss a great opportunity to meet interesting people, learn about your state and up your chances to win a great jacket for doing it!

Gone Ridin'



Riders first got a private tour of the State Capitol in Montgomery (above), then the First Confederate White House (below).



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

Date: ____/____/2006

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

SPRING BIKER BREAK - APRIL 28, 29

SOUTHPORT CAMPGROUNDS - GULF SHORES, ALABAMA

Jamie Jackson

Make your plans now to head to the beaches for a laid back weekend under the pines with plenty of fresh seafood straight from the Gulf. Southport Campgrounds provides a perfect location for a motorcycle campout, with full or partial hook-ups and plenty of tent space.

Southport has two full-sized club-rooms complete with kitchen facilities, clean restrooms, hot showers, and coin operated laundry.



The campground is located on the north shore of the Intercoastal Waterway and is 2 miles from Gulf Shores Beach.

On Saturday night the Harrelson's, the Ware's and the Cockrell's will do the Shrimp Boil dinner like last year with fresh gulf shrimp boiled with potatoes and onions. And of course Tony Allison will prepare his famous Red Beans and Rice.



For the other meals there are many excellent restaurants in gulf shores. Some were blown away in the hurricanes but have been rebuilt. Hazel's Nook is always a favorite for breakfast, and the Shrimp Basket is very good for lunch with shrimp po'boys and grouper sandwiches.

For dinner there are too many restaurants to list. I'm sure everyone has their favorite and will swear it is the best on the beach.

In the evenings there is always a campfire on the bank of the Intercoastal Canal where stories are swapped and tales are told.



It is quite possible that this is where the television program *Liars and Legends* may have originated. Bring your best, or funniest, or most outlandish story and join the fun.

For those that must shop when on "vacation" there are several malls and outlet centers nearby, and numerous boutiques, shops and specialty stores along the "strip".

Of course a visit to Gulf Shores is not complete without a ride out to Ft. Morgan. Fort Morgan is full of migrating birds at this time of year so keep your eye peeled for a glimpse of a Painted Bunting, a Scarlet Tanager, or an Indigo Bunting. If you enjoy birds, consider packing some binoculars.



The ferry runs on just about an hourly basis from Ft. Morgan across Mobile Bay to Ft. Gaines.



A pleasant ride from Ft. Gaines will bring you to the causeway where the Battleship USS Alabama is located. Why not plan a tour of the ship, as well as the USS Drum.



To find the campground from I-65 take Exit 34 and travel South on Alabama 59 (Gulf Shores Parkway) for approximately 50 miles. Southport Campground's entrance is just before you cross the Intercoastal Waterway bridge.

See you on the "Shores".



The Great Bogart's Motorsports- ABEES 2007 Riding Challenge

The grand prize for the 2007 Bogart's- ABEES Riding Challenge is an Olympia AST jacket.

It's easy to become eligible to win the Bogart's Motorsports Olympia jacket. Just ride to twenty or more locations that are listed in your ABEES Touring Guide counting also the Club meetings attended and Favorite Roads and Rides ridden. Your name will be placed in Vance's ticket machine for one chance to win the jacket for each twenty ABEES locations to which you ride your motorcycle. You can also earn one additional chance to win for each of the seven geographical extreme locations listed in the "Extremely Alabama" challenge (see details in the Feb. '07 newsletter). This will give you at least eight chances to win the jacket. But wait, if you complete the "Extremely Alabama" challenge within 36 hours or less, you will also earn two additional chances to win.

The drawing will be held at our January, 2008 Montevallo meeting and you have until December 31, 2007 to complete your rides. As you finish riding to your initial twenty ABEES places and each twenty thereafter, and to each of the seven extreme geographical locations, send a message to the Travel Director for accounting purposes. Some photos and stories about the favorite places and eateries you discovered along your journey to share with our fel-

low club members will be appreciated, but not necessary. However, for the "Extremely Alabama" challenge completed in less than 36 hours, send your photos and time documentation.

Get out there and ride folks! Take the opportunities of the scheduled rides your Travel Director will be organizing at the meetings and other rides that will be posted on the website and in my E-newsletters and in the mailed newsletter when time frame is appropriate.

We've made it pretty easy to get a chance at the prize this year so we hope to see a lot of names in that pot for the drawing.



Two of our newest members, Jane and Terry Boren, relax at Blue springs

RUSS SIMPSON AWARD

Need your votes by May 1st

Connie Reaves

As many of you remember, last year we started the annual Russ Simpson award. We have the large plaque that has the small metal plates on it that will be engraved one each year for the recipient, and that will be displayed during the rally each year.

Also the recipient will get their own smaller plaque to take home with them.

We had two folks who were awarded this last year because they were both equally deserving of it. Marty Simpson (Treasurer and now CFO for 30 years), and Larry Camp (27 years service to the club and Head of the kitchen at the rallies all these years). I hope I remembered those years right.....

We need to get everyone's vote on who they would

like to vote for to receive this year's Russ Simpson award. We ARE not taking nominations, nor making ballots. It will simply be a choose your person to vote for and send it to our Membership Director, Jeannine Arnold. She will tally the votes and the person who gets the most, of course, will be the one to receive the award.

Jeannine's e-mail is twa535is@charter.net or you can mail it to her at:

Jeannine Arnold
471 Plantation Pt. Rd.
Scottsboro, AL. 35768

You may also call her and place your vote by phone. (Listed in your blue club book)

So don't wait for a nomination list or a ballot, simply go ahead and place your vote as soon as you can so she will have time to get the plaque made and the plate for the display plaque engraved, before the rally.

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

Vernon Headrick

If one of the reasons you ride a motorcycle is the adventure found only in following the road less traveled, you may be interested in exploring Alabama's first road. This year is the 200th anniversary of the road that started the extraordinary system that connects us to neighboring states and to their neighbors and even into neighboring countries. Like the road system itself, the impact of that first road spread across the southeast, across the nation and into foreign countries. It shaped the American culture and impacted foreign policy that changed the map of the United States. If you've ever wondered where and how the road system in Alabama started, here's part of the 200 year old story.

The first road in Alabama was simply called The Federal Road. The Alabama portion opened in 1807 when present day Alabama was part of the Mississippi Territory. The road ran from Washington DC to the territory's military outpost at Fort Stoddard near Mount Vernon (AL) on the west bank of the Mobile River. The road was needed for a number of reasons, not the least of which was the on-going tension between the US and Spanish Florida. Tension had been growing since the American Revolution when the Spanish took advantage of the distracted British and seized Mobile and the land west to French held Louisiana. This was territory that would have been ceded by Great Britain as part of the US. Most Americans living in the area abandoned their homes and moved north rather than swear alliance to the Spanish Crown.

After the war, the border between of the United States and Florida was disputed but was officially set at the Saint Mary's River and the 31st parallel west to the Mississippi. This southern border is still part of the state lines between Mississippi and Louisiana, and Alabama and Florida. An original survey marker, The Ellicott Stone, named for the chief surveyor, is preserved just off US 43, a few miles south of Mount Vernon

The planners for the Federal Road decided the eastern starting point in Alabama would be a ferry crossing the Chattahoochee a few miles south of present day Columbus Georgia. The road would run southwest on high ground, avoiding as many streams as possible. It would cut south of the Tallapoosa and the Alabama and cross the Mobile at Mims Ferry. Their first obstacle was the road would cut through Creek Indian country. Mims Ferry operated only three miles south of the Creek Nation boundary. The Treaty of Washington in 1805 with

the Creeks removed the first obstruction. In 1806 a survey team and a crew of axmen set out from Fort Stoddard.

When the Federal Road opened in 1807, the US Superintendent of the Indian Affairs issued hundreds of permits per month for passage into Indian country. Most were for families. By 1811 the road needed to be repaired and widened. The contract called for widening the road to 20 feet with stumps no higher than six inches. While American settlers poured in over the Federal Road, the Creeks listened to the Shawnee Chief Tecumseh urge the eastern tribes to unite. They heard his brother, the Prophet Tenskwa'twa preach visions from the Master of Life of a return to an idealistic pass. A new political and religious order was needed to prevent the Americanization of the Creeks.

The following year, the US was again at war with Great Britain. The Creeks were firmly divided by religion, economics and politics. In the spring of 1813, followers of the Prophet took up the red stick war club to convert the non-believers. The Americans built forts and assigned garrisons to protect themselves against the expanding Creek Civil War. In July reports reach Fort Stoddard that the Spanish in Pensacola had provided firearms to the Red Sticks. A troop of Mississippi Militia intercepted the pack train at Burnt Corn on the Federal Road. The element of surprise provided an initial success but poor discipline resulted in a counter attack that routed the Americans.

The following month at noon, August 30th 1813 approximately 700 Red Stick warriors attacked Fort Mims at the ferry. A garrison of 120 defended approximately 400 civilians in the fort, some of which were Creek. The number of dead has been debated since the burial party reached the burned-out fort. What is known is that the US policy of Assimilation died at Fort Mims. The Choctaw burned ceremonial war clubs in a gesture of peace. The Cherokee sent warriors to join the American Army. General Claiborne enlisted a Creek volunteer to carry the dispatch of the massacre over the Federal Road to Richmond. Despite the number of friendly to hostile Indians, the tide of American opinion turned. Fort Mims was America's first large scale loss of life due to surprise attack. Like subsequent attacks, it set the US on a course that changed our culture.

During the Creek Indian War the road allowed General Claiborne to advance his army from the west. General Floyd attacked from east. The two secured the southern region and forced the Red Sticks north across the Alabama. In October of 1813, American forces moved down the Federal Road and captured

Mobile, bringing the southern coast of Alabama and Mississippi into the US. Colonel Jackson moved his army south through Huntsville to the Creek town of Talladega where he came to the aid of the friendlys under siege by the Red Sticks. The final battle came in the spring of 1814 at Horse Shoe Bend. In July, William Weatherford, AKA Red Eagle, signed the Treaty of Fort Jackson, dissolving the Creek Confederacy. The Muskogee ceded southeastern Alabama and Georgia south of the 31st parallel. The Alabamas ceded central and southwestern Alabama. The Abekas ceded the Warrior, Coosa and Tallapoosa valleys.

Today bits and pieces of the Federal Road still exist. In a few places it is marked, in others there are only clues. The road was planned from east to west but was built west to east. It is the western part that has survived best. Fort Mims Historical Site is located on Baldwin CR 80 off AL 59 at Tensaw. East of there is the Stage Road. The Federal Road became a stagecoach route in 1824.

Old maps show the road formed the county line between Monroe and Conecuh. Current maps show the Old Stage Road just north of Huxford in Escambia County. It turns into Monroe CR 5 and follows the county line through Burnt Corn to Midway. At Midway the road disappears. It maybe AL 47 north to Old Texas but the old maps indicate Butler County 38 is the more likely route. The war records show General Claiborne forted his supplies on the Federal Road at current day Fort Deposit. AL 185 is marked Old Fort Road and matches the old maps from Fort Dale.

The route north and east is not clear on current maps. The next know location on the Federal Road is Snowdoun on US 331. US 31/I-65 is likely part of the route. From there the next marked location is the "Old Federal Road" in Montgomery, just south of US 80/I-85 near Vaughn Road. Shorter and La Place east of Montgomery off US 80 are also shown on old maps. East of there the route is again unclear. It passed south of Tuskegee but there are no current roads that suggest the path. Warrior Stand and Creek Stand are listed as locations on the Federal Road. Russell CR 22 from Uchee to Sandfort matches the old map and landmarks and is the last definable portions of the old road.

I hope to explore this route soon on a motorcycle rather than on the Internet in the library. If you would like to join me in this adventure please let me know what you find. There are 200 years of stories to tell about adventures on Alabama roads. I'd love to hear yours. Let's compare notes at Gulf Shores.

OBEYING THE LAW

Joan Ware

A popular comic starts his act with "There Ought to Be a Law....." Borrowing from his routine, I think the idea can be expanded to:

"There Ought to Be a Law....." That chores can be postponed when the weathers breaks after winter

"There Ought to Be a Law....." That friends should meet up and ride together.

"There Ought to Be a Law....." That mechanics do not work on Saturday; Ok they can work ½ day on Saturday but not Sunday.

"There Ought to Be a Law....." That we stop and take pictures of the beautiful flowering trees on the twisting roads.

"There Ought to Be a Law....." That BMW riders are the best with friends across the motorcycling communities.

We obeyed this "law" this past Sunday, March 11. Terry and I climbed on Blue Diamond, our new to us GS. We had no particular place in mind and just let the bike take us where it wanted. We stopped for lunch and answered a message from Mr. Bob "ABBES" Steber for a ride through Shelby/Bibb County #10. I can't think of a better way to spend a Sunday, with a great husband and friends.

MEMBER QUOTES (OR MIS-QUOTES)

Vance Harrelson

If you missed the club meeting at Blue Springs, you missed a great time! Here are excerpts from just a few of the conversations you missed:

"I know I need them sir, but I can't find my shoes."

"That Extremely Alabama thing won't be hard to do in 24 hours. I'll ride until I bleed".

"Rickie doesn't know it yet but Miss Lila is driving home!".

"You got to get rid of that stomach so I can sit in your lap".

"Any day is a good day for a Little chili!".

"I hear your nickname is "Pootie".

"And Mari had on a dress that was slit up the back like a funeral dress".

Now if you want to be involved in enlightening conversations like this. Join your fellow club members at Gulf Shores next month. You'll be glad you did!

BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

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Dedicated to safe and enjoyable motorcycling



Club Sponsored Events With Meetings

Apr 28/29 SouthPort Campgrnd· Gulf Shores, AL
May 24/27 Great Chicken Rally in Rocket City
Huntsville, AL
Jun 23/24 Sloppy Floyd Park..... Summerville, GA
July 28/29 BlueRidge M/C camp..... Cruso,NC
Aug 25/26 Bedgood's Farm..... Grant,AL
Sep 29/30 Shell Mound Campground
Nickajack Dam, Jasper, TN.
Oct. 27/28 Little River St. ForestAtmore, AL
Dec.1/2 Christmas party Vizzini Farms Winery
Calera, AL
Jan.26/27 2008 Montevallo Traffic Safety Center
Montevallo, AL.

Other Events of Interest

Apr 20 - 22 Barber's Track - Honda Superbike
Classic
Apr 6 - 8 2007 Vintage Motorcycle Rally at
Bench Mark Works
April 13-15 15th Dogwood Trail Rally
BMW Miss - decoles@bellsouth.net
May 4-6 GA Mtn. Rally BMW GA club -
www.bmwmoa.info
May 18-20 European Riders Rally
Burkesville, KY - Nashville club
June 7-10 BMW RA rally Biltmore Estate, NC
Jul 12 - 15 35th BMW MOA International Rally
West Bend, WS
Aug 28 - 31 Curve Cowboy Reunion
Osage Beach, Mo
Oct. 5-7 Return to Shiloh Rally - Shiloh, TN
BMW RAMS
Oct 12-14 Falling Leaf rally - MO., BMW Gate
way Riders