

# THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

BMWMOA Chapter #5/ BMWRA Chapter #107



Volume XXXVI Issue 8

August 2007

## JULY AT CRUSO

Connie Reaves

Arriving on Friday, I was greeted by Phillip and Leslie. I checked into the cabin and then found a few others had already arrived. I spent a better part of the afternoon working the store and checking folks in.

Other AlaBeemers arrived throughout the afternoon and on into the late evening with some getting there as late as 11PM or so. We had earlier had dinner that was either fresh Trout or steaks. Both are great! If you have never been to BlueRidge Motorcycle campground and eaten their food, you will find it some of the best home cooked meals ever. The place is a little paradise and the temperature is very nice, especially in mid-summer escaping our Alabama heat.

I met Paul & Brenda McBrayer, who had contacted me prior to the campout and asked how to join the club, and that they were planning on coming to the campout, so I had told them just to join up while there. They were so delightful, and it seems that they weren't scared off by our crazy bunch. They laughed a lot at us, and I do think they will be back.

The Friday night campfire brought an opportunity to chat with some other non-beemer folks there at the campground and some very interesting conversations were had. We all made some new friends that we will most likely see up there again sometime in the future.

Saturday morning I worked the kitchen for the breakfast shift and after all had eaten Phillip waited a bit, checking the weather channel to see if the rain that was coming down was going to pass. At noon, about an hour after our planned departure time we finally did leave on the guided tour Phillip had planned for us.

Unfortunately, the Parkway was covered up in fog for the most part, but most of the tour was on other roads that were fairly clear. We did have a couple of rain showers to ride through but at least it wasn't the entire trip.

The café where we ate lunch had some great menu choices. One was the BLT, consisting of bacon, lettuce and fried green tomatoes. YUM !! I got to try a bite of someone else's who ordered that. I chose to the blue cheese burger. That was heavenly too. Can't remember the name of the place but it was in the town of Hot Springs.

Arriving back at the campground around 6PM, it was time for dinner and we had a choice of Brunswick stew (homemade) or BBQ sandwiches. Both were excellent as usual. My favorite was the peach cobbler, also homemade. Mmmmmmmmmmm.....

Sunday morning meeting was held after everyone had been served breakfast. Phillip and Leslie donated some Blue Ridge Campground t-shirts to add to the door prizes, and Bob Steber had talked a vendor out of a couple t-shirts the day before, and Joan Ware brought a large box of mixed Jelly Belly Beans.

I reminded everyone that Jane Boren had an article published in the MOA magazine and that if they had not caught that and read it, they needed to make sure and do so. It was really, really good.

We were also quoted twice in the RA magazine again, and Vance and Bob Steber were mentioned. Bob's ABEES tour and The Great QQuest tours were mentioned. Vance's comment in the April newsletter, "Sometimes the arrival of a bunch of bikers dressed as aliens tends to unnerve the elderly", was chastised in **bold** letters that he apparently had not noticed that the elderly **were** the motorcyclists dressed as aliens.

## MEETING MINUTES

July 29 - 9:30 AM  
Blue Ridge Motorcycle Campground  
President Connie Reaves presiding  
Mari Harrelson, Secretary

Connie opened the meeting with a big hand for Phillip and Leslie and helpers for the wonderful food and accommodations. Also thanks to Phillip for showing them a great ride on Saturday. A hearty welcome to 1<sup>st</sup> time members Joel Dabbs, Janice Seiman and brand new members Paul and Brenda McBrayer. Welcome back into the club to Randall McMurtrey.

Vance gave a big welcome to Wade Killen, this year's raffle winner showing off his new F650. We have tickets printed and reminded everyone that we only print 3500 tickets. As some of you may know there is some question as to whether the F-650 will be available when the drawing is held but we have tickets printed and we will deal with changing the bike specified if and when that time comes.

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.

Connie brought up that once again Vance Harrelson was quoted in the BMW Owners News, along with Bob Steber in recognition of the Presidents Exceptional Service Award he was given at the rally.

Bob Steber asked that everyone send him their ABEES points to date so he can get you in his spreadsheet. The format will be in newsletter. See the web site for details about Saturday rides during the month. Dan Drasheff will be leading the ride to Little River for the October meeting and Gary Dubois is leading a GS Ride in mid November with backwoods camping and cooking. Details will follow on both of these rides soon.

O.D. Wright told us about the GS/Street ride he and Rick Jones are planning for next year's rally.

The next meeting will be at Bill and Beverly Bedgoods' place. This is our Camp Stew cook out and if you have never been to one, you need to come. Just bring a can or two of anything and we throw it all in and believe it or not it has always been wonderful. Beverly will provide some good cornbread too. You won't be disappointed and it is fun to watch the process as well.

50/50 split this month is \$40.00 and was won by Joel Dabbs.

Until next time.....RIDE SAFE AND BE HAPPY.....Mari Harrelson



Paul Orr and Kay Headrick share a swing and conversation.



Bob says the blueberry pancakes "are the best he's ever had."

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Sabrina Summers
- 3 Michelle Stanfield
- 4 Brit McBride
- 4 Steve Irwin
- 4 Mike Reaves
- 5 Bill Bedgood
- 5 Sabrena Zangel
- 6 Kerry Jenkins
- 6 Jorge Picabea
- 7 Paul Edmundson
- 7 John Harrison
- 7 Marty Simpson
- 8 Barbara Little
- 9 Kathy Biddlecombe
- 9 Leroy Sloan
- 10 Eddue DeSouza
- 12 Jennifer Bahl
- 13 Daniel Sims
- 14 Robert Anderson
- 15 Ricky Huey
- 15 David Pool
- 15 Jennifer Rusak
- 16 Kenneth McCuistion
- 17 Scott Butler
- 18 Wanda Daigle
- 19 Stan Zangel
- 20 Angela Dubois
- 20 Robert Munday
- 21 John-Stanley Bonner
- 21 Clinton Frey
- 21 Pat Huey
- 21 Chuck Sloan
- 23 Casey Hardison
- 23 Lisa Irwin
- 23 Dan Lowery
- 23 Regina McClain
- 24 Darryl Falkner
- 24 Jeff Stanfield
- 24 Alan Barton
- 26 Kay Brooks
- 26 James Tucker
- 26 Ronald Ultz
- 27 Rhea Converse
- 28 David Bollinger
- 29 Melissa Aaron
- 29 Darlene Massey
- 29 Brady Rogers
- 30 James Morris



## THOUGHTS / PRAYERS AND TIDBITS

Please support Tommy Arnold during his recovery from heart surgery of July 30 with a visit, card, or phone call at home. (See member directory).

## NEW MEMBERS

Nat Goode	Wichita Falls, TX	Sponser: Connie Reaves
Paul & Brenda McBrayer	Talladega, AL	Sponser: Connie Reaves
Randall McMurtrey	Tuscumbia, AL	Sponser: Wade Killen

## 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 [joh-nart1@aol.com](mailto:joh-nart1@aol.com) for details

**Test ride the club's exciting new web site  
at [www.bmwmoal.org](http://www.bmwmoal.org)**

## Moooving Along to Wisconsin

Suzi Dubick

It seemed like we would never leave the house on Saturday as we tried to get our two week vacation to the BMW National Rally under way. There were things we couldn't find, things that broke and various other delays that got us started later than we had hoped. However, as I reminded Jim, there were folks who missed work in the twin towers on 9-11 because of pesky little annoyances and it was a very real possibility that the Lord may have been orchestrating our safe keeping as well. It was certainly a thought worthy of considering in the midst of the turmoil.

Once on the road, our trip was thankfully pleasant and mostly uneventful. However, our first rush of adrenaline came as we drove along the farm roads of Illinois. The sky appeared newly bruised as deep blue clouds were pulsing our way; slowly blanketing the endless cornfields, and turning our narrow path to dark, eerie shades of purple. That was when we spotted the sign for I-90. Emerging from the fields, we found ourselves in the midst of a mass of cars and trucks, trying to move toward the interstate in 5 o'clock traffic. The moment we reached the concrete slab, Jim rolled on the throttle, as we raced toward Chicago. In the distance we saw a Country Inn and Suites sign looming over the very next exit and managed to scurry under the shelter of their porte cochere mere moments before rain gushed from the sky. A short while later we were counting our blessings from the comfort of one of their cozy little rooms, listening to news reports of damaging lightening strikes and golf-ball size hail.

The next day brought beautiful skies and miles of wonderful scenery, all of which can make you very hungry. We spotted the Corner Stone Restaurant and Deli on Hwy. 83 in Genesee Depot, Wisconsin and were treated to delicious blueberry pancakes and an omelet full of fresh veggies. That absolutely hit the spot and we didn't have to eat again until dinner time.



Arriving a day before the rally started, we headed for the Fond Du Lac KOA Kampground near Eden, Wisconsin. It would be the place we would call home for the next couple days. No, we did not join



the teaming throngs, vying for the few showers that always seem to be in great demand during these events. In fact, we really woosed out and stayed in one of the kute little kabins at the KOA. I'm still not sure why they have a name that may cause our kids to have spelling problems later in life; but we like them because you can usually kount on them to be klean with a laid back and kalm atmosphere. This one was especially quiet because it was located in the middle of a bunch of korn fields. While there, we made friends with a kouple next door who drove a Gold Wing; along with several other Beemer riders who had also decided to remain far from the mad-ding crowd.

Jim decided to familiarize himself early on with the fairgrounds, so we spent a brief time there before striking out for Sheboygan. We were in the midst of a Kodak moment on the banks of Lake Michigan when an elderly man came by, checking his watch, obviously timing his brisk walk. He appeared somewhat annoyed when Jim asked if he lived nearby but did answer in the affirmative. That was when Jim asked if he could tell us where we could get the best brats in Sheboygan. Suddenly we were like long lost buddies, as he gave us directions and a vivid description of the brats we could expect at the Charcoal Inn. He also encouraged us to get them "all the way," even though that meant a big hunk of butter on the bun. We could tell from the wistful look in his eyes that it had been a long time since he had been allowed to have one. With nothing green to be had on their menu, I took the stranger's advice and indulged in a brat all the way. I am here to tell you, that if vegetarians knew about these brats, they would not be cheating with beef!

The next day, we got to the fairgrounds relatively early, armed with a camera, per orders from Connie. Once we managed to get to the area where you turn in raffle tickets and buy T-shirts, we saw the smiling face of Ted Moyer. It is always great to see



Ted again and Jim invited him to join us at upcoming BMWMOAL events. From there, we found Nate



Kern's truck and went to introduce ourselves. Nate was very complimentary toward our prez, Connie Reaves, and the club in general. We moved on to the American Legion area where they had rustled



us up an ample breakfast. The veterans there treated us like we were the heroes instead of them; we made sure to thank them for their service to our country. It ended up a long day of eating, making new friends, finding old ones, walking a lot and buying a few things. I also tried some Kettle Corn for the first time in my life...it is addicting. I went back the next day for more, but they had not fired up their machine yet so I got the name of the popcorn they were using...Magic Mushroom. Imagine that.

After a couple of days, we struck out for the cold and blustery Upper Peninsula of Michigan and a thrilling ride across the Mackinaw Bridge. As we



drove along, the clouds rained themselves out ahead of us leaving behind damp streets, which made for a fairly dry ride. Jim had been keeping an eye to the west where ominous clouds were gathering and working their way toward the bridge. It was way past lunch time, so the signs and smells of food were really drawing our attention. When we stopped for gas, Jim asked the guy at the station what these "pasties" we had seen advertised over the last few miles were all about. He was being briefed that his pronunciation was a little off and that they were



one-handed pastry meals, a UP specialty. Just as the man got to the point of explaining the difference between what they were, and what Jim had mentioned earlier, the man's wife abruptly ended the conversation. That was OK, because we really couldn't imagine that people would be proudly advertising that sort of thing. We decided to quickly duck into the nearby Suzy's Pasties, get a couple to go and then beat it across the bridge before the sky opened up. Once safely on the other side, we took our bag of warm "pasties" to a table at the lakeside and proceeded to have lunch. Both of us found that a "pasty" rhymes well with a description of their taste...which we found to be quite nasty! Later we read that they are derived from an old British recipe, which pretty much explained things. About the time we finished throwing out the last of our lunch to the seagulls, sporadic raindrops began to fall. Jim quickly moved the bike under the bridge and we took our time in the nearby gift shop until the storm blew by. Jim's goal that day was to reach the cherry capital, Traverse City; and reach it we did. Only problem was, everyone else had reached it as well. We were not aware that our stay had fallen on the weekend of the Cherry Festival. Somehow, we managed to find one of the few remaining hotel rooms in the city, which quickly became obvious as to why it was one of the few that remained. You really don't want to know the sordid details involved there, trust me.



It had been almost 50 years since Jim last saw his next door neighbor, Martha, from Vermilion, OH, but for the past several years they had reconnected by email. Martha insisted that we spend some time with she and her husband, Herb, and we were pleased to do so. It was three days of following them around on their Honda scooter to old landmarks, reconnecting with others Jim had not seen in as many years and laughing until we hurt. One friend had recently taken the MSF course and had a group of us in stitches recounting his newbie biking tales.

From Vermilion, we drove to Columbus to have lunch with yet another high school friend; then left for Lexington, KY. There is some awesome countryside in the Bluegrass State, but I didn't get very many pictures. Jim made me put his camera up at the first sign of rain, which was a good thing. When the bottom dropped out, we were in the middle of horse country. Just as the lightening was beginning to arc and spark around us, we found a hotel. That evening was spent taking long hot showers, repacking and turning in early for our trip home the next morning.

Our thirteen days ended having brought us many wonderful visits with friends and safe riding for over 3500 miles, with less than 5 miles on the Interstate system. We were only rained on one time, which was no real match for our newly purchased Olympia riding suits. Does it get any better than that? Absolutely...just not very often.



## **THEY JUST FADE AWAY..... (to smaller bikes!)**

Pete Jessen

It's a gradual process. They perpetually enjoy riding. They perpetually enjoy the camaraderie of other riders. But there comes a time when the light fades and they are not seen as often. It's not something you notice immediately, but one day you stop a friend and ask, "Have you seen Harry around?" They are gone.

The day will never come, one thinks. When the age of discovery sets in early in life, getting drenched, dumped, thrown off and banged up is routine and natural. That works fine in the teens and twenties. Then, with the expanded family and bigger job, the riding time gets sandwiched and squeezed in the process of life. Sport touring and more specific and focussed trips become the escape. Tossing the bike during track days and occasional dumps off road are no big deal. A collarbone or rib break here and there are compensated for, then quickly forgotten. This works great in the thirties and forties.

By the fifties, the kids move off to a life of their own, and the "old" man can now afford the ride of his dreams. He adds more farkles than a Filipino taxi. He plans and rides several trips per year of 10 days or more, often accompanied by the wife. Hopefully experience gained in other decades keeps one out of danger, for a ding of earlier years is now a trip to the hospital.

Sometime after sixty, the heaviness of Reality sets in like a slow moving fog, and the fadeout begins. For a few years it is appearance only at a few favorite rallies and select meetings. The bike is no longer the big tourer, but a smaller, more manageable airhead, hack or trike. Then it's more likely that they show up in the pickup. Then, they "just don't seem to be able to get around to getting there any more."

The transition from "World-Wide Adventurer" to the sale of the last bike can take years. God willing, it's not a body slam, it's a long, slow ride into the woods from which there is no return. The invigorating breath of riding gets shallower, then ceases all together. The stickers on the touring bags just keep fading, cracking and falling away with each wash. The patches and pins on the vest hearken to events that occurred decades ago. No new ones show up.

It's insidious as carbon monoxide. It creeps in without notice, and drains the spirit of the will to adventure. Oh, to be sure the spirit outlives the physical capabilities in most cases, but often it's a close race. It's hard to tell whether the bike is sold be-

cause he doesn't trust himself with it, or because it has become too much, too much, too much. It is overwhelming to go for a ride. The bike goes, and soon the gear...and soon the rider.

For me the first buoy was the GS Adventure. It's a bike most would lust for all of their riding life. That's what it was for me for several years. This is the one I'll keep to the end of my days; days that will include Alaska and Mexico, and the grocery store. Then came the change in the tides. It crept into the base of the brain, then wormed down through the body through the marrow of every bone. When the process was complete, I recognized that I had come to hate that bike. When did it get to be so damn big and clumsy? Why did it always want to tip over, and jerk on take-off? When did it get to be a big pain in the butt to move it around? The hard bags used to be just accessories. Now they loomed as colossal cargo ships lashed to each side, always in the way, always sticking out, heavy, bulky, and, a pain in the butt. It's just too much. In three short years it went from the bike of dreams to the biggest...pain in the butt in the garage. I was relieved to sell it in the summer. I don't miss the bike at all. I do miss the feeling of wanting it and loving it. It became all too much, and now it's all gone.

As big a pain as the GS Adventure was, I still have the K1200LT. It is still a joy to ride. The tippy nature of the LT at low speed, its 800 pounds of heft and shear size still don't bother me. It is total comfort and control at the same time. But instead of a bike forever, it is starting to look like an elephant in a dog house, and perhaps I should be looking to move it on...a thought that wouldn't have occurred just months ago.

A fresh breeze has been an old KLR 650 that spent most of its life as a campus commuter at Clemson and Colorado Universities. The long-term owner was happy to move on to a big truck, and I had a manageable restoration project for a few hundred dollars. So far, the bike is a ton of fun for nearly everything. It is my second KLR, which is a complete head knocker; "Why the hell did you get rid of the first one?" Sure the GS/PD that replaced it was a kick, but it was big, heavy and under powered. I also had a XX Blackbird at the time, so I knew what pure power was. And the Adventure was everything to all things riding, right? With "okay" power, it was still very heavy and a pig off road. Could you do a bunch of off road trails? Yes, but was it fun? To be charitable, not as much as it should have been.

(Reproduced from the BMW Luxury Touring Community web site [www.bmwlt.com](http://www.bmwlt.com).)

**This is a Test-----  
Motorcycle Terminology**

Joan Ware

How many of the following terms can you define before or after reading the article in the August 2007 OWNERS NEWS, page 40.

- Tank Slapper
- High Side/Low Side
- Stoppie
- Squid - (finally a definition)
- Softtail/Hardtail/Knucklehead/Panhead/Shovelhead
- Boxer
- Splines
- Pillion- (I have spent many a mile as this)
- Panniers
- Countersteering- (never understood this one until I got the scooter)
- Rake/Trail/Caster
- Harvest Season
- Twisties - DUH

- Cagers
- Thumper
- Road Gator - Ask Vance
- Hard Parts
- Basket Case

If anyone is really interested in the definitions, and can find them, let me know by e-mail.  
joanware@bellsouth.net

The picture below was taken by Suzi Dubick at the national rally. The tent was bright pink and quite frilly. I sure hope it did not belong to a BMW rider. [ed.]



**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

## RIDING AND SCOOTING

Joan Ware

Like always, going to the Blue Ridge Motorcycle Campground Resort is a high point on our yearly agenda.

This year it was even more appealing to me because I had gotten a Honda Reflex Scooter for Mother's day, when I went to work the day after one of the young men I worked with commented, "All I got my Mom was flowers, how boring", I digress.

Anyway I trailered my Scooter along with a R1150R to our destination. We decided we would trailer; Cathy Steber, Janice Seaman and I took off early on Friday morning on a Steber route and had the best time. It made for a short 8 hours or however long it takes to get there from Birmingham.

Now let me discuss scooting versus riding. As all of the riders left on Saturday morning I waved goodbye and went back for another cup of coffee and conversation with Mari and Kris. They were off to Maggie Valley I think or just off exploring in the convertible.

I suited up, yes always wear gear whether it be scooting or riding, and headed off to do some riding and exploring, just Scooty and me. God was with me because I never had cars behind or in front of me so I could practice all the things I have been taught in motorcycle safety school and from fellow riders. I rode for about 2 hours before the fog and cold set in again and I had to come back to camp for a hot shower and toddy.

ScOOTING is a great thing, I use mine to zip back and forth to work, short grocery store trips. With the price of gas going who knows where and the Green Thinking, I feel like I am ahead of the game and did not even plan it. I get 70 miles to the gallon and I only have a 3 gallon tank. I love it.

My wonderful husband is not even embarrassed riding with me and we have a great time. If he is not really on the throttle when the light changes I can really get a jump on him. That gives us both a smile. We rode from Birmingham to Desoto State Park, Mentone and around a few weekends ago and I had the time of my life, I did both sides of the canyon road and all sorts of stuff I would never have even thought about if I had a bike.

On the way home we even Beemerized and Scooterized a couple of Harley's, I bet they don't mention that at their next meeting.

## AUGUST MEETING—BEDGOOD FARM

Bill Bedgood

Everything will be about the same as last year.

1. Planned Dinner; Camp stew. Everyone bring a can or two of something. Beverly and I will furnish cornbread. If anyone thinks we should add something else, we're open for suggestions.

2. Dinner Price; As it is now, the dinner price will be, just bring the cans for the stew.

3. Facilities; Lots of room for camping. There will be a quiet camping area near the front of the property. There will be electricity if you camp near the barn. I ask that people with breathing machines be given priority on the outlets as there are not too many. There will be 2 porta potties centrally located. We have a shower tent mostly for the guys. I have come up with a rig so it can have warm water instead of just hooked to the garden hose. There will also be one restroom with a shower available upstairs. The ladies will be given priority on this.

The camping fee will be the cost of the porta potties (\$120, same as last year) divided among how many people show up.

4. Breakfast, or close eating places. We are 5 minutes from Grant, 10 minutes from Guntersville, 20 minutes from Scottsboro, and 30 minutes from Huntsville (only about 20 minutes from Hampton Cove). There is a place in Grant called Mimi's that is really good for lunch. You can find just about any kind of food within 30 minutes. There are several motels in Guntersville if anyone wants to come, but not camp.

5. Directions; The place is really easy to find. from Hwy 431. Cathedral Caverns rd (county Rd 5 on some maps and GPS) is 6.5 miles North of the bridge leaving Guntersville. There are signs that say Grant, and Cathedral Caverns. Turn East on Cathedral Caverns Rd. Go 2.2 miles to the top of the hill. Turn Right on Randles Rd and go 0.4 miles on the right. There will be the standard Roundel signs to show the way. Need more directions call me, or Beverly. Our cell numbers are (Me) 256-738-1527 or (Bev) 256-468-1957.

There is a gravel driveway that is about 1/4 mi long. I have graded the gravel pretty thin and have been driving on it to pack it. I'm trying to have it rider friendly.

## ALABAMA BACKROADS

Bob Steber

We're in for a real treat for this month's campout and meeting at the Bedgood's farm. Bill and Bev's place is a little oasis on top of Grant Mountain and beautifully manicured for tent pitching. I remember last year that the porta-toilets were so nice that Paul Thorne thought that one of them could be his private shower house. It always amazes me just how good our camp stew is when we bring cans of any and everything to put into the pot.

Not only the camping facilities and food are excellent at the Bedgood's, but also the roads around Grant Mountain offer some of the best riding and scenery without traffic in Alabama. Thanks to Kay and Vernon Headrick and John Zibell, for sending their "Favorite Roads and Rides for our ABEES Touring Guide: **From US 72 @ Gurley South on Keel Mountain Road** (John Zibell), and **Grant Mountain To Paint Rock Valley By Way Of Crow Mountain** (Vernon and Kay Headrick). I altered Vernon and Kay's ride as an alternative ride to avoid the Scottsboro traffic as **Grant Mountain via Crow Mountain II**. If you want to go to the Unclaimed Baggage Store and Court House in Scottsboro then go on Vernon and Kay's ride and enjoy riding down the east side of Grant Mountain.

The main attraction is Alabama 65 which is a candidate for being the best motorcycling road in the State. If your time permits, I suggest that you extend your ride and keep going 9 miles north (18 additional miles backtracking) from the Hwy.65/Cr.27 intersection to Huntland, Tennessee. It's a wonderful ride along a little river and tree tunneled twisties most of the way. If you need fuel, continue past the little town of Huntland about ½ mile north to a service station on the right. There is another fuel opportunity on Hwy 65 about 15 miles north of US 72.

There are also two really good places to eat along the way. My favorite is the Pikeville Store and Deli north of Scottsboro at the intersection of Cr. 21 and Cr. 470. There you will enjoy some of the best burgers that you have ever had. The other one is Joe's Pizza near Woodville on US 72. Vernon and Kay say they have the best Muffelatta anywhere. Of course, both eateries are ABEES check offs and so are the Favorite Rides.

In case you do not have an **ABEES Travel Guide**, I am including the three "Favorite Rides" below. If you don't have a Guide, I will bring some with me for you to get while at the Bedgood's, August 25 and 26.

Our monthly club meeting at the Bedgood farm is going to be lots of fun and the riding there is fantastic. I am looking forward to seeing you on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

### FAVORITE RIDES

#### **RIDE 1:**

From US 72 @ Gurley, south on Keel Mountain Road, then right on Keel Hollow Road to Cherry Tree Road (very tight and twisty) John Zibell
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(cont. next page)

## RIDE 2:

NE	0 ft	<b>Grant - Get on Swarengin Rd. and drive east to Hwy 79</b>
	9.03 mi	Hwy 77 @ Hwy 79 turn left and go NE to Hwy 279
	13.4 mi	Hwy 79 @ Hwy 279 Go straight on Hwy 279 to US72
	16.4 mi	Take right ramp onto US 72 E
	18.3 mi	Turn left on Hwy 35 to East Willow
	19.3 mi	Get on E Willow St/Cr. 21 and drive east (Payne's is to the left on Hwy 35 on the Court House Square)
	24.5 mi	Cr 21 @ Cr 470 Continue Straight to CR 33. (Great burgers at the Pikeville Store)
	26.1 mi	Turn left on Cr-33 and drive northwest to Hwy 79
	37.8 mi	Cr 33 @ Hwy 79 Turn left to Hwy 146
	38.7 mi	Hwy 79 @ CR 146 Turn right and drive west to Hwy 65
	45.0 mi	Cr 146 @ Hwy 65 Turn right on Hwy 65 to single lane bridge on left.
	49.5 mi	Turn left and cross the bridge to Cr 27
	51.0 mi	Turn left on Cr-27 and drive south to Hwy 65
	54.4 mi	Cr 27 @ Hwy 65 turn right to US 72
	71.6 mi	Hwy 65 @ US 72
	71.6 mi	Turn left onto US 72 E to Paint Rock
	73.0 mi	Paint Rock
	73.0 mi	Continue on US 72 E and drive south to Cr 5
	75.4 mi	Us 72 @ CR 5 turn right to Butler Mill Road
	79.3 mi	Turn left on Butler Mill to Fish Trap Road
	84.2 mi	Turn left on Fish Trap Road and drive east
	87.4 mi	Turn right onto Cr-5 to Grant
	88.0 mi	Grant (Vernon and Kay Headrick)

## RIDE 3:

NE	N 34 30 092 W 86 15 663	<b>Grant Mountain via Crow Mountain Run II.</b> This is an alternate run on the wonderful roads in NE Alabama that Vernon & Kay gave us. This route backtracks from the Pikeville Store & Deli to the Grant Chevron in order to avoid traffic in Scottsboro. (Bob Steber) <b>Zero Your Odometer @ the Grant Chevron</b>
	11.9 mi	Turn right on New Hope Cedar Point Rd (Jackson Cty # 5) and drive north to US 72
	15.8 mi	Turn left onto US 72 W
	19.6 mi	Turn right onto Hwy 65
	19.6 mi	Get on Hwy 65 and drive northeast to Cr 27
	36.8 mi	Turn left on Cr-27 and drive northwest
	41.5 mi	Turn right on the one lane bridge to Hwy 65
	41.7 mi	Turn right on Hwy 65 and drive southeast to Hwy 146
	52.5 mi	Turn left on Hwy 146 and ride east to Hwy 79
	52.5 mi	Turn left on Hwy 79 and go north to Cr 33
	53.3 mi	Turn right on Cr-33 and drive east to Cr 470
	65.1 mi	Turn right on Cr-470 and drive SW to the Pikeville Store. "Best hamburgers in the world"
	66.7 mi	Pikeville Store & Deli
	66.7 mi	Backtrack on CR 470
	68.4 mi	Turn left on Cr-33 and drive northwest to Hwy 79
	80.1 mi	Turn left on Hwy 79 and drive south to Hwy 146
	80.9 mi	Turn right on Hwy 146 and drive west to Hwy 65
	87.2 mi	Turn right on Hwy 65 and drive northwest to Cr-27
	91.7 mi	Turn left @ the one lane bridge & go west to Cr-27
	91.9 mi	Turn left on Cr-27 and drive east to Hwy 65
	96.6 mi	Turn right onto Hwy 65 and go southwest to US 72
	114 mi	Turn left onto US 72 E and go to Jackson Cty # 5
	118 mi	Turn right on Cr-5 and drive west to Butler Mill
	122 mi	Turn left on Butler Mill Rd and drive east to Fish trap Rd.
	127 mi	Turn left on Fishtrap Rd and drive east to Marshall Cty 5
	130 mi	Turn right on Cr-5 and drive southeast to the Grant Chevron
	133 mi	Arrive at the Grant Chevron

# BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

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**Dedicated to safe and enjoyable motorcycling**



**Please visit the new BMWMOAL web site at [www.bmwmoal.org](http://www.bmwmoal.org) and register. Log on and see what members are saying about club activities. The new site is user friendly and the newsletter is in color.**

## Club Sponsored Events With Meetings

Aug 25/26 Bedgood's Farm Grant, AL  
Sep 29/30 Shell Mound Campground  
Nickajack Dam, Jasper, TN  
Oct. 27/28 Little River St. Forest Atmore, 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

Aug 28 - 31 Curve Cowboy Reunion  
Osage Beach, Mo  
Sept 7 - 9 Beemers in the Bluegrass Rally  
Near Frankfort, KY  
Oct. 5-7 Return to Shiloh Rally - Shiloh, TN  
BMW RAMS  
Oct 12-14 Falling Leaf rally - MO.  
BMW Gateway Riders