

THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

BMWMOA Chapter #5/ BMWRA Chapter #107



Volume XXXVIII Issue 2

February 2009

2009...It's Gonna be a Great Year!

Ron Riggins

Hello Everyone!

2009 is gonna be a great year for our club! We have all sorts of fun things lined up in which you may participate. Check out this lineup...

We have added a couple of new meeting locations along with our favorite spots to add to the fun. Our meetings are always fun with lots of riding, great food, kicking tires and enjoying a big campfire! We really love having new members and those who have not been to our meetings before attend. It's great to see you and we enjoy your company. **Come on out and have some fun with us!**

The MOA International Rally, Chaired by our own Vance Harrelson and Connie Reeves, is going to be in our neck o' the woods this July. You can bet Vance and Connie will make this rally a blast...**Southern Style!** I'll wager that this may be the biggest and best MOA Rally ever! There will be plenty of fun for all and opportunities to volunteer, too!

An outstanding ABEES Touring Program aimed at giving everyone great ideas and great reasons to ride and discover all about our beautiful state of Alabama! The new ABEES Touring Guides are out and these are truly a benefit of membership and something our Club can be very proud of! Participation has increased every year since it was started. The grand prizes have increased too! **Get off that couch and go ridin'!**

"The Great Chicken Rally...All the Smoked Chicken you can eat"...one of the premier club rallies held in the United States. We have folks from all over the country and out of the country attending our rally. Vance and Connie are also the Chicken Rally Chairpersons. Because of this, our rally this year is considered one of the precursors to the MOA Interna-

tional Rally. The Chicken Rally will get lots of extra attention and the opportunity for us to show our hospitality to even more of our fellow riders across the country! This is an all volunteer run rally and I encourage all of our members who have not volunteered in the past to do so this year. Just a few hours of helping at the rally will make a big difference.

I promise you...the rewards you will feel are worth it!

So air up those tires, charge that battery, put in some fresh gas and... **let's go Riding!**

CHRISTMAS PARTY 2009

Jamie Jackson

During the meeting in Montevallo, when the floor was opened for suggestions for a location for the December meeting, there was no doubt that everyone enjoyed the Christmas Party at Guntersville in December and a plea was made to Darlene to repeat the event for this year.

Darlene has set to work with a plan and has offered me the following information for the newsletter:

When: Saturday December 5th

Where: Guntersville State Park

How: Our code no. to book rooms is #1362. Be sure to give the clerk that number when making a reservation. There are now Bluff-side & parking lot rooms available at \$98.00/night double occupancy. Currently there are no Chalets; however, I'm sure there will be cancellations later in the year.

Again we will have the Hospitality Room before and after dinner. Our dinner will be in the Goldenrod Room, located on the balcony level of the lodge.

MEETING MINUTES

February 1, 2009
Montevallo Safety Center
Mari Harrelson, Secretary

The meeting was opened by Connie Reaves, her final meeting as President, by welcoming our new members and 1st time meeting attendees Jason and Gretchen Hinton, Mike Scott, Reese Mullins, Lee Goehler and Beverly Hughston.

First order of business was to announce those members who managed to come to every meeting in 2008. They were Gary Nesmith, Bob Steber and Connie Reaves. Don and Barbara Little only missed 1 meeting.

Connie reminded everyone that they now have this one last opportunity to pay their dues or miss getting printed in the club booklet.

April 45 - Barnsley Motorworks Tech weekend - David and Emy Woodburn will be hosting this event mainly for airheads. Rick Jones and John Swift from Anniston will be there to share some knowledge and a good time is had by all. Friday - Sunday.

Connie then gave the treasurers' report which is always available for member review after the meetings. I reminded everyone that I had books of tickets here to hand out to anyone that needed more or had not gotten theirs yet so don't leave without them. Vance reminded everyone that we had decided on a more expensive bike this year so it is even more important that everyone help to sell tickets and not wait until the rally and depend on us selling the balance there. You can get your tickets by e-mailing me at weridebmw@bellsouth.com or leaving a message at 205-621-1682 if we don't answer and I will send them right out.

Connie turned the floor over to Bob Steber to tell us about the All Around Alabama for 2009 and to pull the winners of the contest for 2008. There were 31 participants in 2008 vs. 15 in 2007 and only 2 the first year; Bob has really high expectations for participation next year and the book that he has put together warrants at least the effort from more members. This year's book has so many pages that it had to be spiral bound. It is much more organized, precise and easy to use. Thanks Bob and Steve and everybody else that helped for all of your hard work. The jacket donated by Bogarts was won fairly by Bob Steber, a helmet donated by Terrys Two Wheel Tire, Tune & Accessories was won by Gary DuBois and a three minute pop up tent do-

nated by Maurice Green of Catoma Outdoor was won by Tommy Arnold.

Bob also wanted to take this time to bring to every one's attention all of the work that Steve Schuckman has put into our website this past year in addition to formatting the new ABEES Guide. Also thanks to Martin Benson for putting all of the way points for the ABEES points on the web site. These retired fellas have been working hard this year to put this all together for you.

Connie then presented me, with the Outstanding Service Award and to tell the truth I was too stunned to remember what it was for! Thanks for putting up with me the past few years as Secretary..... now get your raffle tickets and give me the money!!!!

Connie introduced everyone on the ballot and asked if there was anyone that wanted to volunteer or nominate anyone else for any of the positions in which we only had 1 candidate each. No other nominations were made from the floor so Connie made a motion to accept the officers per the Ballot and seconded. The vote was a unanimous "Yea".

New Officers

President	Ron Riggins
Vice President	Jim Kalahan
Treasurer, CFO	Marty Simpson
Secretary	Jeannine Arnold
Membership Director	Tommy Arnold
Newsletter Director	Jamie Jackson
Photography Director	Jimmy Lowe
Safety Director	Joan Ware
Tech Director	Terry Ware

Ron took over and recognized all of the outgoing officers for a job well done. He then gave Connie an award for Outstanding Service outlining all of the offices she has held with the club over the years. Thanks for all you have done to make this club what it is today.

Ron let everyone know what he wanted out of his first year as President and encouraged the members to fulfill their responsibility to the club and promote its growth in the upcoming year.

Ron then turned it over to Vance for an update on the national rally. Vance also made the point that even though he and Connie are counting on the Alabama club to give a big show of support at the MOA rally that the Chicken Rally will be a pre-cursor for a lot of people to the National this year and will not be getting any less of their attention. A committee

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Jamie Jackson

Terry and Joan Ware have branched out of the basement, and opened a service, apparel and accessories shop, *Terry' Two Wheel Tire, Tune and Accessories*. They will be carrying Scorpion® gear and really nice shirts and sweatshirts from Denise Maples' line, VaVaVroom. Some of you may know Denise Maple from going to Nate's race days. Guys you read that as a gift for your best girl for Valentines Day. Joan is striving to have a shop where the ladies can see, try on and buy gear designed for the feminine figure, not the blob look that we all would like to change.

Terry has a great service area and a new tire machine, so bring on those oil changes and services. They have abbreviated hours now, but will go full bore soon. Grand Opening is scheduled for Saturday, March 21st with hotdogs and all the trimmings, door prizes and more. The address is 1057 Commerce Blvd., Pelham, AL 35124. Phone 205-987-2090. If you are traveling down Hwy 119 toward Hwy 31 turn right at WhataBurger, Southgate Road, and follow the road around to the 4 way stop,(make sure to stop it is well patrolled by Pelham's finest), look to your left and there they are. Coffee's always on with cold water in the frig.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Give John Zibell a note of cheer as he recovers from shoulder surgery.

ITEMS FOR SALE

1993 K75 28.5K miles, Silk Blue, BMW Hard bags, Engine Guards, Metzlers, BMW Battery Charger, Cover. Excellent condition. Always garaged. Serviced @ Bogart's Birmingham. \$4,995 Contact; Sam Kemp (662) 287-1646

02

MARCH B'DAYS

	16	Don Drasheff	19	Rhonda Allred	
1	Bill Lynn	17	Bill Shelton	19	Lila Bonner
2	Larry Byrd	18	Mike Carter	20	David Aiken
4	Jeffrey Fikes	18	Randy Myers	20	Harland Dyer
4	Rob Harrelson	18	Phillip Bryant	20	Noah Johnson
4	Ray McAlevy			21	Tony Allison
4	Steven Wantling			21	Joe Rogers
5	Greg Turp			23	Margaret Rogers
7	Emy Woodburn			23	Charles Haynes
7	Walls Aaron			24	Jerryl Hyché
8	Dudley Carver			27	Paul Thorne
8	Norman Thomas			29	John Cockrell
12	John Gregory			29	Bill Stevens
13	Gerald McCuistion			29	Mike Scott
14	Lucinda Bollinger			30	Shep Brown
14	David Kilmer			31	Stephen Gilbert
15	Rickie Bonner			31	David Winslow



THE NAZI HELMET

Gary Duboise

My first motorcycle was a tough little 1964 Honda 50 cub. When I first bought this blue baby for \$249.00 new there was no helmet law in Alabama, so I basically never wore a helmet while riding this bike for about a year and a half. My next bike was a 1965 Honda 150 dream - blue with a red seat - which cost \$449.00 new. Initially, I didn't wear a helmet while riding this bike either. To combat the summertime bugs-in-the-hair problem, I just went to the barber at the beginning of summer and got a GI haircut. Later Alabama passed a helmet law and I bought a white bowl shaped helmet. Never did like this helmet because the cool factor was zero, especially considering I had an authentic Harley Davidson leather jacket and a pair of Harley gloves.

One day while running the family store, a man named Horace Hargrove came into the store wearing a green painted Nazi helmet. I just had to have that helmet because this was the same summer Peter Fonda had starred in **"The Wild Angels."** Every tough guy in the movie wore a Nazi helmet, and all seventy-five pounds of me wanted to be tough.

I asked Horace what he would take for the helmet. He told me that he didn't want to sell the helmet because he wore it while digging wells and it protected him from dirt and debris falling on his head. Never taking no for answer, I insisted that I wanted to know what he would take for the helmet. He told me he would have to have at least three dollars for the helmet. That doesn't sound like much now, but it was a bit for someone who was broke and there was no way I was going to take three dollars out of Daddy's cash register and pay for that helmet. Even though I wanted it badly, it was not worth getting the stew beat out of oneself by Daddy for "junk like that."

The following week was Thanksgiving week and we got out of school at noon on Wednesday for the Thanksgiving holiday. I rode my Honda 150 straight to Carey and began picking cotton. I knew if I went by the store first I would have to run the store while Mama went to the house to get supper ready. Picking cotton paid \$3.00 a hundred pounds, so I had to pick one hundred pounds to earn enough to pay for the helmet. A good cotton picking day for most folks was one in which they picked around two hundred pounds. So it took me the bigger part of the after-

noon to get my hundred pounds. As soon as I made my \$3.00, I quit and rode straight to Horace Hargrove's house. Lucky for me, he was home and I bought the green Nazi helmet. That was the last cotton I ever picked.

When I say the helmet was green, I mean ol' Horace had painted that fine piece of WWII memorabilia with a paintbrush and had applied several coatings. When I got the helmet home, I examined it and discovered the original owners name was painted on the rear of the inside. The name is "Rudolph" and the name remains in the helmet to this day. I began sanding the green paint from the helmet. As I removed layer after layer of green house paint, I was nearing metal when I discover the Nazi insignia on a red background on each side of the helmet in the temple area. I taped over this area and painted the remainder of the helmet gloss black. However in a moment of stupidity and not appreciating the value of the Nazi insignias, I painted over those with white paint. I have been tempted to try and remove the white paint to see if the original insignias are still there, but then it would not be the same helmet that so impressed Angie the first time I met her.



Putting that helmet and leather jacket on made me officially tough, even if I was the only one that believed that. I wore that helmet every time I rode my Honda for the next three years.

In 1967, Daddy opened an antique store on south Clinton Street in Athens - next to what is now the Cotton States insurance agency. I was tasked to run the Lisa's Antiques (named after our baby sister - Melissa.)

One day Andy and I were running the store and Mama came down to relieve us. At this time Andy had an old U.S. Army helmet that he used for a motorcycle helmet. We both jumped on my Honda headed north up Clinton Street when an Athens City Policeman pulled us over. I had no idea why he was pulling us over because I knew I wasn't speeding. I got off the bike and walked back towards the police car. The policeman met me about half way. I could tell he was madder than an old wet hen. He told me that he didn't like my helmet and that I should be ashamed to wear it, and that he had friends and loved ones who had fought in the war against that helmet. He did not say anything about the helmet not meeting safety requirements, nor did he say anything to Andy for wearing the U.S. Army helmet. He just kept chewing my butt and told me

that if he ever caught me wearing that helmet in Athens again he would arrest me. I never wore the helmet in Athens again.

Note: Years later (2004), I was with a group of my friends riding through Jackson Hole, Wyoming when we were stopped by the Sheriff and a State Trooper because they did not like our riding style. The lawmen did not ticket us but they did give us a royal butt chewing. Because of that incident, my friend -Mike Weyler - named us the "DixieOutlawS." We set the rules for membership as follows: one had to be born south of the Mason-Dixon line, one had to be stopped by a lawman for an infraction of the law while riding a motorcycle, and one had to be released by said lawman without receiving a fine. Later, around the campfire we began telling tales about the different times we had been stopped while motorcycling. The earliest event noted was the one above concerning the Nazi helmet. So I guess you could say I am the original DixieOutlaw.

I still have the Nazi helmet and the Harley leather jacket, but I ain't near as tough now as I was when I was sixteen years old. DixieOutlaw

BARBERS MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Lenn Rainwater

If you are planning to volunteer at the Barber Museum this year, be sure to let them know that you are with our group, BMWMOAL. There is a place on the Volunteer form that says "Group Affiliation" where you will put it.

The reason is b/c if we have so many collective hours as a group, then we can get a credit on rental for a function. For race weekends, it's 100 shifts = \$2800; 75 = \$1500; 50 = \$750; and 15 = \$200. For general museum hours or special functions, it's 50 hours = \$100 credit; 100 hours = \$250; and 150 hours = \$500.

I'm not saying we should push this at all but we seem to have a lot of people who enjoy volunteering and we might have enough hours if we just kept track of them. Especially since there are several more events this year. And we have a super group of folks with motorhomes who provide a great hangout for us during the events.

So be sure to let Michelle know that you are with the club and that you want your hours credited to the club. You never know.

2009 MOA RALLY UPDATE

Vance & Connie

Rally plans are progressing nicely! At the present time we are space planning for committees and working on infrastructure. We will try to update you here in the newsletter and on the club website as more details are available.

It is given that we will need lots of volunteers for all committees. If you want to volunteer for a specific committee you can contact the committee chair directly and get on their list. This committee list will be posted on our site, the MOA website and in the ON magazine shortly. If you do not have a committee preference but want to volunteer for something, please send an email to Don Norwood volunteerme@comcast.net. He is creating a pool to satisfy those committees that run short on volunteers prior to and during the rally itself.

We can use your help! If you have never volunteered at a rally before, join us and find out how rewarding it will be!

For a portion of our charity benefit we will be collecting aluminum pull tabs for the benefit of the Ronald McDonald House chapter in Johnson City. These are the pull tabs on beer and soda cans as well as some pet food cans and others. Please begin to collect these pull tabs now! We want to make a BIG pull tab donation from the Alabama Club. You can bring these to each club meeting and I will collect them or wait and turn them in at the rally. It doesn't seem like much but over 4 MILLION DOLLARS has been raised to date just from these pull tabs.

Again, more information will be available as we go. But make your plans now to join us in Tennessee, July 16-19 to experience some **"Mountain Magic...Southern Style!"**



John Cockrell, Ron Shea, and Sam Peacock discuss the finer points of the K1200LT

(cont. from page 2

has been formed and is already busy working out the details to get the food on the grill. Be ready to volunteer some time May 21-24 for the Chicken Rally so others can rest/play some too.

Ron then began the process of choosing the schedule of monthly meeting sites. All were selected by vote of members present. (see page 12 for list - [ed.]

Other dates of interest were:

Feb 21 Tony Authier will be giving a seminar at 29 Dreams on riding to Alaska

Oct 24/25 Lee Waggoner Rib Fest Centerville Tennessee in conjunction with the Tennessee club.

Lenn Rainwater spoke to us about the happenings at Barbers – when you complete the Museum volunteer form be sure to enter BMW Alabama in club affiliation area so we get credits that are accumulated for possible future use for things like use of the club facilities, etc.

March 21-23 IRL Testing

April 17-19 Mustang Anniversary

I gave the group some estimated pricing on a Rail and Sail cruise for March 1, 2010 sail date to determine if there was enough interest to move forward on the 4th Annual Alabeemer Cruise. I will be sending out an e-mail via Ron this week with the pricing that is firm at this time. If you are interested and do not receive an e-mail, please let me know and I will see that you get the information.

Meeting was then adjourned

THANK YOU!

I would just like to express my thanks to this club for all the support I've received over the years. Whether you hosted a meeting, worked at the rally, made phone calls, sent e-mails, researched something, presented a new idea, or just sent me an e-mail saying "Thanks for what you do", it has been appreciated. You've all made this job easy and fun.

I'd also like to thank everyone for the beautiful award I received at the January meeting. It was so unexpected, and it really will be something I'll treasure forever. To have your "family" award you for something you are having a great time doing, is icing on the cake.

Connie Reaves



Connie Reaves presents the Outstanding Service Award to Mari Harrelson for her unselfish contribution to the club during 2008.

2009 Events at Barber Motorsports Park

Lenn Rainwater

Here are the events for 2009. Check out the websites below for details.

IRL Testing - March 21-23

The Indy Racing League returns to the Barber Motorsports Park on Saturday, March 21 - Monday, March 23 for their sole road course test prior to the start of the 2009 season! A full field is expected for the test as they prepare their open-wheel racers for another exciting season.

Come watch 2008 IRL Champion Scott Dixon, 2007 Champion Dario Franchitti, Helio Castroneves, Danica Patrick, Marco Andretti, and more. Also in attendance will be the IRL's developmental series, the Firestone Indy Lights.

Paddock access is free for this event, and there will be plenty of opportunities to meet your favorite IRL star!

Anniversary of the Mustang - April 17-19

AMA Honda Superbike Classic - May 1-3

Porsche 250 Grand AM - July 17-19 (not a motorcycle event)

Barber Vintage Festival - October 9-11

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ALABAMA BACK ROADS

Martin Benson, Travel Director

I don't believe that we could have selected any better sites for our 2009 club meetings. They are all so diverse with great rides to and around them. We will travel all over the state as well as Tennessee and North Carolina.

Our February meeting will be in south Alabama at Blue Springs State Park with the Don & Barbara Little's famous chili. March will find us in Nauvoo at the Old Harbin Hotel. Pickensville Core of Engineers Recreation in west Alabama will be new for us this year. In May we look forward to the "Chicken Rally" (need volunteers).

Ft. Toulouse in Wetumpka will be the site of our June meeting. The place to be in July is in the mountains, so to the Blue Ridge Campground in Caruso, NC here we come. The famous BB&B at Jim Kalahan's is our official club meeting in August and Shell Mound will welcome us in September.

We go back south to Little River in October and end the year with the Christmas party at the lodge at Guntersville State park.

Look for suggested rides to each meeting posted on the web site under the ABEES thread. I will try to have suggestions from different areas of the state.

For February there will be a route from the Birmingham area that will take us on several scenic back roads. On this ride we will be able to get 14 ABEES points. Lunch will be at Taliaferro's in Tuskegee. This restaurant is in the "100 dishes to eat in Alabama before you die" for their "Mean Greens" and fried chicken. Another route from the south starting in Bay Minette with 6 ABEES points will be posted.

Use these as guides as suggestions. Any route you choose will be a good ride. Just join us at our club meetings.

Ride safe and far.



MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

Joan Ware, Safety Director

Webster's defines safety as "the condition of being safe from undergoing or causing hurt, injury, or loss".

In our motorcycle world safety can mean many things. Riding safely- wearing the right gear, being aware of your surrounding and just being alert, are all safe things.

Bike safety-make sure your bike is safe a sort of pre flight check of tire thread, lights, horn and look for any loose wires or straps. Make sure you have secured your load and not left a strap dangling that could get caught in a wheel or inhibit your steering ability

If you carry a passenger give them a short briefing on what to do and what not to do back there. Tell before hand what kind of a ride you are going to take - long straight road with gentle curves or an exciting twisty road. It is always better that they know what they are in for they will be better apt to ride relaxed.

Riding relaxed that brings up an another safety issue, just as with a car, do not ride when you are upset or mad, your decisions could be impaired. DO NOT DRINK and DRIVE. Take an occasional stretch brake, even if you are on a time ride you need to get off if only for a couple of minutes to clear you head.

We teach small children to be safe when crossing the street, look both ways when crossing the road, and then do it again. That simple principle is one that we adults need to be reminded of ourselves when we are out on the road. We are responsible for our own safety, not the driver that cuts you off or the person that is talking on the phone and just does not see you. You the rider must be alert, aware and safe.

205-467-3395

Scott Moore, Owner

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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CLUB

Ron Riggins

I received the following letter from David Sanders at Bogart's Motosports and wish to share it with the entire club membership.

February 3rd 2009

Mr. Ron Riggins

President

BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

Dear Ron,

Thank you sincerely for your visit to our dealership today and follow up phone call. It's very gracious of you to represent the Club and invite this open letter to your members. It's a privilege for me to have this generous offer to address the group.

First, I'm very sorry things did not go well Sunday. I was less than patient and sincerely feel bad that I've offended members of the Club. The Club has graciously apologized for that misunderstanding and certainly I accept it and as far as I'm concerned I've forgotten it. I hope the Club will accept my very sincere apology also.

My intent last Sunday was to recap and report on progress of my promises from last years meeting. Let's do that now?

First, the Club made it very clear to me they missed the ten percent discount that was offered them at one point. I promised to re-instate and a minimum ten percent discount is standing. That promise to you was delivered immediately.

Second: I promised to fix service. I knew we had fine technicians but lacked quality leadership in Service. We have an outstanding veteran professionally managing our Service Department today. Our technicians are certified heavily experienced dedicated true professionals. I'm very proud of them. My BMW is serviced by the same guys that do yours. I trust them totally. Service is not as easy as one might imagine. Weird things happen to machines! Are machines or us perfect? Heck no. I do know from seeing the satisfaction of our customers measurably increase in the last year and by simply comparing ourselves with my own experience getting service in Atlanta that we are at least as good as elsewhere. No Service Department wants to do anything but a good job. Other dealerships have some good people too. They aren't bad either. But you can get anything you need right here at home. My promise to improve Service is delivered and we are still getting better. We were awarded us a Best in Region recognition for exceeding 96% customer satisfaction in Service.

Third: I promised to fix parts. Our Parts Department was not near what it takes to satisfy me. Candidly I self graded myself critically early last fall as I knew we were better but not up to my expectations. That's my responsibility. We had 100% change in Parts staffing. The Parts Department is totally revised and performing up to my expectations and getting better every week. I delivered a better Parts Department.

Fourth: I promised to improve the Back Office Operations aspect of our business. We've experienced 100% change in staff in Operations. If I described what Operations does for us on a daily basis the job descriptions alone would read four typed pages! Netting it out: It's easier to finance your motorcycle and accessories at preferred rates faster. Additionally, you get your registrations, titles, and documentation in your hands promptly. The attitudes are far more customer friendly and I can definitely say the promise to deliver an improved purchase delivery and documentation process has been delivered.

Fifth: Sales Experience and Pricing was a message I heard from you loud and clear. I was repeatedly reminded that

you felt our pricing was higher than justified and that we were at times less friendly or approachable than one would expect and expensive.

I hear that we don't wave or greet as promptly as would be your preference. I really regret that and we work very hard to not give that impression.

It may be interesting to some members to simply grab a stool and sit and observe just how we do interact with the great number of people we meet every day. Come in on a Saturday and observe?

Now what about pricing? It's an absolute fact that about 75% of buyers do not like the back and forth dickering on price. It's also a fact that 25% enjoy it. What do we do? Market research indicates that the 75% never feel they get a "good deal". They think so because they think they likely pay more than the other person did because they don't think they are good negotiators. 25% think they are paying too much if they don't haggle. What would you do? How can we make everyone happy? In late 2008 we thought long and hard about it. We want our customers to have a pleasant, quick, pain free buying experience. We went to "one price" marketing in 2009. Every motorcycle is discounted and clearly marked with a hang tag marked with an out the door price. Everyone gets the best possible deal. No bull. One thing GS riders told me in 2007 was that they had to go to Atlanta to buy a GS as we were too high. I was amazed by that as having lived in Atlanta and bought several BMW's there I learned that the dealers there did not negotiate much at all. I bought in Birmingham and Knoxville at times because there was a vast difference in price.

Last Saturday we sold a GS to an Atlanta school teacher. He told us we were much, much less than Atlanta dealers were on the same machine. One price buying means you get the best price painlessly every time. Now for the 25% that like the dickering that may not be as much fun but I'll bet you'll be happy at the end of the day.

In closing, I again wish to again express my appreciation of the opportunity to write you and offer an update about our past and present operations. Again, you have my regrets and apology that things got rocky Sunday. I'm no spring chicken. When I was a boy I'd see guys clobber each other one day and go on to be life long friends. It's odd that it sometimes has to come to harsh words before friends, family, church members, teammates, neighbors, and more have to bump heads before they understand each other. I want to be your friend and good neighbor. Hopefully you'll be mine.

Now I would like to sincerely listen to you on an on going basis. I've been told that's why I have two ears and one tongue. Listening is more important than speaking. Let's listen to each other?

I invite everyone to write me if distance makes it less practical to stop by and shake hands with me here at the dealership.

My special Email mailbox for you to write us is bmooa@bogartsmotorsports.com

I sincerely look forward to your visits and mail.

Ride Well and Safe

Respectfully,

David Sanders
VP General Manager
Bogart's Motorsports

FEBRUARY MEETING DETAILS

Barbara Little



Date: February 28 - March 1

Place: Blue Springs State Park, Clio, AL

Contact Info: 2595 Hwy 10, Clio, AL 36017
334-397-4875

Hosts: Don and Barbara Little

Fed by a crystal-clear underground spring, the park's spring pool is the center of attention in this 103-acre park. Other complementing facilities include picnic shelters, tables, grills, comfort stations, playground, and modern or primitive campground. The website, www.alapark.com/BlueSprings/ states that they now have rental campers available for \$50.00 per night. Call them for details.

Directions- Located six miles east of Clio in south-east Alabama. From Montgomery, take Highway 231 South to Troy, then to Brundidge, follow signs.

We will have the pavilion as in the past. Day use fee has gone up to \$3.00. Camping is the same: primitive is \$12.00, with water and electric is \$18.00, and with sewer is \$21.00. The sites on the road directly behind the pavilion are for RV use and they will cost \$21.00 since they have sewer hookups. We will collect the money and turn it in Sunday morning.

The cost of the meal will depend on how much money I spend and how many folks show up. I think it is normally about \$8 or \$9 each and that will include coffee and some sort of pastries for breakfast. I will need a head count no later than February 24th in order to be sure I have enough chili to feed everyone.

If someone comes in late and the gate is closed, just open it, come on thru, and close it again.



(cont. from page 6)

We have a super group of folks with motorhomes who provide a great hangout for us during the events. So if you just want to come and watch, look for the BMW Banner at the RV lot at the top of the hill

For Volunteers

You can volunteer at the Museum (www.barbermuseum.org) or at the track through ZOOM (www.barbermotorsports.com). If you are planning to volunteer at the Barber Museum this year, be sure to let them know that you are with our group, BMWMOAL. There is a place on the Volunteer form that says "Group Affiliation" where you

will put it. The reason is because if we have so many collective hours as a group, then we can get a credit on rental for a function. For race weekends, it's 100 shifts = \$2800; 75 = \$1500; 50 = \$750; and 15 = \$200. For general museum hours or special functions, it's 50 hours = \$100 credit; 100 hours = \$250; and 150 hours = \$500.

I'm not saying we should push this at all but we seem to have a lot of people who enjoy volunteering and we might have enough hours if we just kept track of them. Especially since there are several more events this year. So be sure to let the Museum know that you are with the club and that you want your hours credited to the club. You never know.

ABEES NEWS YOU CAN USE

Bob Steber

Thanks to all of the BamaBeemers who participated in our Club's 2008 riding challenges. Thirty of us had 447 tickets in Vance's "ticket machine" for a chance to win the Bogart's Motorsports Olympia AST riding jacket. In addition to the Olympia jacket, Terry and Joan Ware of Terry's Two Wheel Tire and Tune donated a Scorpion full face helmet, and Maurice Green, V.P. of sales at Catoma Outdoor donated one of their "60 second" tents. Yours truly (45 tickets) won the Olympia Jacket, Gary Dubois (52 tickets) won the Scorpion helmet and Tommy Arnold (16 tickets) won the Catoma Tent. David and Joan and Terry said they are going to participate again in support of our 2009 riding challenges. Thank you David, Joan and Terry and Maurice for your very generous donations to support our BamaBeemers' 2008 and 2009 riding challenges.

Additionally, special congratulations go to the ten hardy Club members: Gary Dubois, Vance Harrelson, Steve Schuckman, Tom Gilbert, David Smith, Paul and Gail Thorne, Barry Clay with Susan as a navigator and whip, and Bob Steber for successfully completing the All Around Alabama Challenge in under 48 hours. Riding their motorcycles 1,293 miles with 223 turns around the circumference of the state on mostly small, twisty county roads was no easy task to accomplish. But, the ride was a lot of fun and many told me they are going to do it again in 2009, me included.

A special thanks to Connie Reaves for her fantastic work preparing our achievement awards (40 of them) and to Steve Schuckman for the incredible job he has done to provide us with the best imaginable web-site possible. Be sure to check out the newly added ABEES pages.

The new and improved ABEES Travel Guides are here, so be sure to get yours at the next club meeting. If you would like for me to mail one to you, send a self addressed envelope (minimum size 6 1/2"x 9 1/2") stamped with 4 first class stamps, or send \$2.00 with your mailing address and I will furnish the envelope. My mailing address is in our blue membership directory. Our Club officers graciously agreed to pay the cost of the ABEES Travel Guide. Thank you.

Our 2009 Travel Director, Martin Benson, who by the way amazingly checked off 348 ABEES sites and favorite rides in 2008, has some excellent rides planned for us this year. I am looking forward to joining many of you who join us in some of our fun Club rides. See you down the road.

BMW MOTORCYCLE OWNERS OF ALABAMA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Date: ____/____/2009

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

BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

c/o Jamie Jackson - Editor
1308 Stonecrest Drive
Birmingham, Al 35235
jamiejackson@bellsouth.net

Dedicated to safe and enjoyable motorcycling



Please visit the BMWMOAL web site at www.bmwmoal.org and register. Log on and see what members are saying about club activities. The site is user friendly and the newsletter is in color.

Club Sponsored Events With Meetings

Feb 28/Mar 1	Blue Springs State Park Clio, AL
Mar 28/29	Harbin Hotel & City Park Nauvoo, AL
Apr 25/26	Pickensville Rec Area Pickensville, AL
May 21-24	Great Chicken Rally-Huntsville, AL
June 27/28	Ft. Toulouse Wetumpka, AL
July 25/26	Blue Ridge MC Camp Ground Cruso, NC
Aug 28/29/30	Beemers, Beer, Brats Enterprise, AL
Sept 26/27	Shell Mound Campground Nickajack Dam, Jasper Tennessee
Oct 31/Nov 1	Little River State Forest Atmore, AL
Dec 5	Christmas Party Guntersville St. Park

Other Events of Interest

Jul 16-19	BMWMOA National Rally Johnson City, TN
Aug 13-16	32nd Dan'l Boone Rally Boone, NC
Oct 24-25	Waggoners RibFest, Centerville, TN

Be sure to save up your beer or soda pull-tabs for Vance to provide to the Ronald McDonald House in Johnson City.