

THE ALABAMA BEEMER



Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama

BMWMOA Chapter #5/ BMWRA Chapter #107



Volume XXXVI Issue 11

November 2007

DUES - DUES - DUES

**PLEASE MAIL YOUR DUES BEFORE DECEMBER
31, 2007**

It's that time again!!! Please mail early using the Application/Renewal Form in the newsletter. Please correct any address, phone number, or e-mail that changed. The dues are only \$20 for the principal member plus \$3 for the secondary household member. Make check payable to BMW M/C Owners of AL and mail to:

Marty Simpson
10010 Torino Dr., SE
Huntsville, AL 35803

Members that joined during the year (Jan thru Oct) will receive mailed notices in December for prorated dues for 2008.

REMINDER: Some members have paid in advance and this is a reminder that the following are paid for year 2008 or beyond:

Steve Bangham - '08
Harry Bonner - '08
Terry & Jane Boren - '08
Dennis Hallman - '08
Vance & Mari Harrelson - '08 & '09
Mark Hendrix - '08
Lisa Irwin - '08
Ed Kearney - '08, '09, & '10
John & Sue Lide - '08
Dan Lowery - '08
Phillip & Martha Warren - '08
Les & Elaine Willey - '08
Lawrence Russo - '08
P. Harding Leach - '08.

CONGRATULATIONS to Harold Fearing and Fred Merrill for earning the Life Membership category. Harold and Fred will join the Honorary Group with: Ann Carter, Casey Hardison, John Keel, Marty Simpson, Sybil VanderVelde, and William Weaver.

CHRISTMAS PARTY ACTIVITIES

Again this year Dirty Santa will be played around 6:30pm, following dinner. You must put your gift under the tree and have your name in the jar before the game actually starts. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Here are the Dirty Santa game rules and explanation for new folks:

Each person that wishes to open a gift in the game, must bring a gift. The gifts should be at least a \$10.00 gift but less than \$20.00. They can be male or female gifts as both participate. It should be motorcycle related in some fashion to appeal to everyone. Camping items, yes—adult beverages are okay, camping/riding gear, Christmas items, whatever you think someone would like to take home. Remember, you may get something nice, so bring something nice. Gifts must be wrapped but not marked with any name or gender designation. Each person who brings a gift will be counted and numbers will be made and put into a jar. Each person who brings a gift will draw a number. We start with number 1 and that person gets to go up and choose any gift they want to open. Number 2 goes next and may steal that gift or open another one. Number three can steal any previous gift or open a new one, and so on. The person who gets the highest number goes last and has his or her choice of anything that has been opened. If your gift is stolen you will immediately go and open another gift but you may not steal one at that point. You only have the chance to steal a gift on your first time. If you get a bottle of adult beverage or anything else that's perishable, or cannot be packed back up, you may NOT open it until the end of the game and you are positive it is yours to keep. No one under 15 is allowed to play the Dirty Santa game, due to younger folks not being able to handle the disappointment when a gift is stolen.

And please remember their alcohol policy. Do not bring your own. Thank you !

CHRISTMAS PARTY DETAILS

Joan Ware

Our annual Christmas Party will be held at Vizzini Farms Winery, 800 Hwy 87 (I-65 Exit # 234), vizzini-farms@earthlink.net , on December 1, 2007 at approximately 5:30 till 9:00 pm this year.

Wine may be purchased by the glass for \$4.00 or buy a bottle to enjoy all evening at a 10% off the retail price. Prices do vary depending on style of wine chosen. Your table may decide to buy several different ones to pass around. No outside beverages will be allowed.

He does not have tent camping facilities, but does have 4 electrical outlets for fully self contained RV types. Also lodging is available nearby at:

I-65 Exit # 231 (Calera)

Hampton Inn Calera
93 Metro Drive
Phone 205 668-6565

Holiday Inn Express
357 Hwy 304
Phone 205 668-3641

The menu will be choice of Lasagna or Herb Encrusted Pork Tenderloin with Smashed Garlic Potato and includes salad, rolls, assorted desserts, tea and coffee.

Cost of either meal including tax and gratuities is \$23.50, this is based on 50 people attending, and it may change a bit if our numbers go up.

The meal price also includes a tour and wine tasting with appetizers.

Please send reservation request with choice of entrée to joanware@bellsouth.net or call 205-408-7047 and leave a message.

Reservations are due no later than Friday, November 23rd. No-shows will be charged price of meal.

If you have other questions concerning the Christmas party email me or call.

DECEMBER B'DAYS

- 1 Michael Langley
- 4 Bob Steber
- 4 Rose-Ann Bray
- 5 Robert Baker
- 5 Ron Shea
- 8 Wiley Farrar
- 8 Margaret Hoffmam
- 8 Charles Smith
- 10 Philip Barr
- 10 Denise Copeland
- 10 Laura McCormick
- 11 Jake Bennett
- 11 Todd Kern
- 11 Ginger Odom
- 12 Paul Goehler
- 14 Jan Barnett
- 14 Terry Harris
- 16 Morris Dees,
- 16 Doug Peterson
- 17 Pam Freeman
- 18 Jim Ronk
- 23 Ed Kearney
- 23 Pamela Rogers
- 24 Jack Kipp
- 24 Larry Tuggle
- 24 Eddie Williams
- 27 Dennis Hallman
- 30 Charles Binder
- 30 Terry Boren
- 31 Bob Foley



JANUARY B'DAYS

- 1 Jerry Brannan
- 3 Al Wallace
- 4 Karen Myers
- 4 Sam Tabor
- 5 Ivory Hampton
- 6 Regina Binder
- 7 Ron Riggins
- 8 John Montoya
- 10 Kenneth Bonner
- 10 Michelle Whitney
- 12 Randy Hardy
- 15 Jim McCutchen
- 17 Dean Armstrong
- 17 Karen Harrelson
- 17 Lisa Messamore
- 18 Ken Lefkovits
- 18 Sharon McLean
- 18 Kenny Owen
- 19 Turpin Ashurst
- 19 Gene Barker
- 19 Beverly Bedgood
- 19 Guy Caffey
- 19 David Smith
- 20 Harold Fearing
- 21 Ron Beck
- 21 Grant Borden
- 21 Bruce Wheatley
- 22 Keith Koon
- 24 Terry Ware
- 25 Dan Copeland
- 26 Scott Bouwens
- 26 Vernon Headrick
- 27 Tim Flynn
- 28 Cleide DeSouza
- 29 Jim McLean
- 29 Elaine Vechorik
- 30 Jennifer Stover
- 31 Ross Livingston



NEW MEMBERS

- | | |
|--|--|
| Greg Weigart - Athens, AL | Sponsor: Gary Dubois |
| Jim Kalahan - Enterprise, AL | Sponsor: Steve Hebert |
| Frank Taylor - Mobile, AL | Sponsor: Tim McGee |
| Gary W. Williams - Morris, AL | Sponsor: Connie Reaves |
| Samuel B. Peacock - Repton, AL | Sponsor: Victor Howell |
| F. Scott & Jennifer Kennedy - Dothan, AL | Sponsor: Marty Simpson |
| William & Rose-Ann Bray - Pontotoc, MS | Sponsor: Connie Reaves/
Charlie Parsons |
| Joe Rogers - Elkmont, AL | Sponsor: Charles Stroud |
| Tom Sherrill - Nashville, TN | Sponsor: Connie Reaves |
| Charles W. Stroud - Demopolis, AL | Sponsor: Margaret Hoff
man |

PAST MEMBERS RE- JOINED

- David Kilmer - Birmingham, AL
- Lawrence J. Russo, Jr. - Waldorf, MD

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 West End Grill off of Madison Pike just east of Research Park Blvd (This change is due to the recent closing of the Green Hills Grill). Stop by for food and conversation.

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:johnart1@aol.com) for details

MEETING MINUTES

October 28, 2007 - 9:00 AM
Little River State Forest – Atmore, AL
President Connie Reaves presiding
Mari Harrelson, Secretary

Connie opened the meeting with a big hand to the whole Bonner clan, Mike Harvick, John and Glenda Cockrell for great food and accommodations. Thanks went out to the very few costume participants and dirty looks to the non-participants. The participants did the voting this year for the awards and they are as follows:

1st place male – Ricky Bonner – The Cat in the Hat
2nd place male – Gary Williams – The Surgeon
1st place female – Connie Reeves – Dark Angel
2nd place female – Lila Bonner – Black Eyed P
1st place couple – Harry and Celena – Micky and Minnie
2nd place couple – Bill and Beverly – a couple of convicts – very fitting for the area

We had lots of new members this meeting that we are glad to have aboard:

Frank Taylor
“Big Bucks” Jim Kalahan – 1st ever \$20 50/50 chance since Vance and I have been doing it. That is a new challenge for ya.
Gary Williams
Sam Peacock – who also acted as tour guide for Saturday ride

Connie gave the treasurer’s report and offered a peek to any one interested in looking at the details. As always, Connie has decals, pins and mugs available for sale. We also have rally t-shirts, as well as club t-shirts for sale.

Raffle tickets – It is not to early to start selling raffle tickets. **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.** It was brought up that it would be a good idea to put it out on the web site that tickets could be bought from the site. Great idea.

John Cockrell gave us a run down on a new place to have our Shrimp Boil meeting this next year but we will have to get our reservations in immediately to secure the place. It is called Big Lagoon State Park and is located near Perdido Key right across the bridge. You will find more information on our website about it and how to get to their website to take a look at it. It was motioned that John make the reservation and pay the downpayment for the pavil-

ion, seconded and voted all in favor. John has promised there will only be 1 spicy pot this year so don’t be afraid to come back.

Connie announced that Joan Ware will be getting information out for the Christmas Party for reservations sometime around the 16th and it is imperative that you get your reservation in on time.

Connie asked that every body send any pictures that you have to her and she can get them up on the website thanks to the software that Steve has made available now.

We presented the donation to the Motorcycle Safety Foundation at the Diplomat Deli this month and they surprised us with a trophy for long standing supporters to their cause. This trophy will be on display at the Christmas party. They also presented one of our members Jim Baker with the Instructor of the Year Award at the same dinner. It was a very nice evening.

Final payments for the cruise are due December 1.

Bob Steber asked that everyone continue to get all of their ABEES information in to him as the deadline is December 31. That Jacket is just waiting for some lucky winner.

This is our last meeting of the year so see you all at the Christmas Party on December 1st.

50/50 split this month is \$46.00 and was won by Harry Bonner .

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



The Little River Forest camping area was very nice.

LITTLE RIVER RUN

Gary DuBois

Meeting Place - Alabaster Exit, Chevron Station. Situation - Early, Cold and some of the best looking riders around—okay, but it was early and cold. So begins another Bob Steber ride to the monthly to Alabeemers Club meeting. Posse consists of Bob, Tim, Phillip, Larry, Angie, and Gary. We've got a bunch of places to check out before we get to Little River Forest Campground.

First stop unplanned - Tim's 1200C is blowing smoke. We stopped for him to check it out. He was over one quart of oil low. A quick analysis by Bob determined we were running late for our link-up with Don Drasheff, Ted Thompson and Dan Thompson at Selma. Sorry Tim, but you are on your own. Actually, it wasn't quite that brutal. We did hang around with Tim and try to determine the cause of his bike problems. We gave him a quart of oil; and he decided it was best to return home. This little delay allowed Lenn Rainwater to catch up with us.

We linked with the Don and Ted at Selma and rode over to Old Cahawba to meet with Dan. Old Cahawba is the site of the original state capital before being moved to Tuscaloosa and subsequently Montgomery - seems no self-respecting town wanted all the politicians hanging around.

At Old Cahawba visitors center, Dan presented a framed rare copy of a poster detailing forgotten places in Alabama to the historical society. We all duly posed for the Selma newspaper photographer on this presentation. This was followed by a briefing on the history of Old Cahawba by park staff. We then rode down to the town ruins and viewed the Crocheron Columns - the only remaining elements of a once large and thriving business which was located at the confluence of the Cahaba and Alabama rivers.

Next stop on this sojourn - Gees Bend Quilting College. A bit about Gees Bend. It is located within the horseshoe loop of the Alabama River. This community is noted as the most isolated community in Alabama. Most of the residents are decedents of slaves from the Pettway Plantation. The most common name here is Pettway having taken their owners name after the War of Northern Aggression. Anyway, we are here to look at the quilts the community has become famous for, and to help Bob pick out a nice one for Kathy's birthday. The quilts are nice and colorful with many having African designs. Even though we prodded Bob to purchase a particular quilt, he seemed to be too much of a skinflint to pay the asking price of \$13,500.00. I

think he was just being modest around some of us poorer riders, and he probably went back by there on the way home to buy it for Kathy.

From the Quilting College we rode the Gees Bend Ferry to Camden. This is a good 4 or 5 miles cruise up the Alabama River. At Camden, we all selected Redd's Soul Food and BBQ for the place to eat. We were joined by Jim and Suzi. After all ate more than we should have, Dan Thompson decided he had better things to do than hang around this illustrious group. The rest of us headed for Davis Ferry. Arriving at the ferry for immediate loading. There cannot be a greater contrast of the ferries operating at Gees Bend and Davis Ferry. Whereas Gees Bend Ferry is modern with a capacity of 15-20 cars, the Davis Ferry probably dates from the 30's or 40's and is powered by an old 6 cylinder Chevy engine and transmission. This powers a single side-mounted paddle wheel and may hold 3 cars. The ferry is operated by two individuals who don't appear to have been in any water in the past year. **And my wife hugged both of them - I got pictures.** While at the Davis Ferry site, Lenn took the opportunity to go on high, as the toilet facility is on stilts about 10 feet in the air.

From Davis Ferry, we rode to Perdue Hill. There are several historical buildings in this small community, including the second oldest Masonic Lodge in the state dating from the early 1800's and the law office of William Travis of the Alamo fame. From Perdue Hill it was a short ride to Little River Forest Camp Site for the monthly meeting being hosted by the Bonner family. I want to thank the entire Bonner Clan for putting on a wonderful extravaganza.

May God Bless, Keep Safe and we'll see you down the rode, Dixieoutlaw



Angie with her friends from the ferry.

Waterfalls, Rednecks, Rattlesnakes, Jesse Owens and Indians

By Gary DuBois

DuBois you may ask, "What in tarnation are you talking bout? Don't you know this newsie is for motorsickle folks."

Well gather round my children and I will weave the sinew that ties all these things into an ABEES ride. You see it was Saturday morning and having nothing better to do, I encouraged the Sweetie to get in her riding gear and let's go chase down some of the waterfalls listed in the ABEES guide. I done plotted all the coords into the Garmin. Without regard to the cold hard fact that it ain't rained in two months, I intended to find and photograph the waterfalls of Northeast Alabama. Now then the first and closest waterfall is Butler Falls in the corner of Franklin/Lawrence County - a mere 75 miles away.

Off we go following Ruth (that's my sister's name and since she is so bossy, we have named the GPS after her.) Ruth leads us to a gravel road which we take for about half a mile until we reach an open gate on a fence row with three signs of either post-**"Posted"** **"Private Property"** **"Keep Out"**. We are about ¼ mile from the falls. I stop - don't these folks know this falls is listed by Bob Steber in his little blue book? They can't keep us from gathering ABEES points - besides we are way behind since we took the summer to visit Alaska. Just then I noticed a little girl - maybe 9 or 10 - race across the yard towards a house trailer about 200 yards away from us. I know she thinks we are aliens being we are in full-tilt power ranger riding gear. I turn around - Angie shouts through her visor for me to go up and ask about the falls. Heck woman, I'm a man-animal and if I wanted to ask directions I *wouldenof* bought a GPS.

But now my man-pride is challenged so I slowly ride towards the trailer where I saw this medium height, stocky, bearded man emerging from the front porch with arms folded. With great trepidation, I continued easing towards him and the girl. I really know rednecks when I see them and this sho'nuf is one of'em. Heck, I might even be kin to 'em since this is the part of the state my forebears are from. Anyway I state, "I'm looking for Butler Falls." Him: "Butler Falls?" Me: "Yep, the tour book I have here says it is just down that road." Him: (arms still folded) "Well there is a waterfalls down there just past the other trailer, but the land's private." Me: "Can we ride down there and see the

falls?" *Don't guess he would understand ABEES and Olympic jackets.* Him: "You could, but it's done growed up around it and ain't no water going down in the hole since it hain't rained in so long - you know it's posted." Me: "Well ain't no big deal, maybe I'll come back after it rains." *Yeah, sure chicken little.* We waste no time gotten outta there. **Note to Bob:** I think you can take Butler Falls out of the book.

At end of road, I punch in the next closest waterfall - just 6 miles away. A short ride on pavement leads to another gravel road on the edge of Bankhead Forest. This gravel road has lots of loose gravel, but we charge on - gonna make the Sweetie a GS rider one of these days. About three miles down the road and having passed no houses, we approach a church on a small rise. The name on the sign says "FCM Chapel". I been all over backroads and seen a bunch of "We are the truth Baptists" "We are the only ones Church of Christ" "We are jump and shout Holiness" but ain't never seen no FCM - maybe it is "Full Cry Methodist."

Just as I'm trying to sort this church in my mind, I noticed something ahead slap dab in the middle of the road - **IT'S A RATTLESNAKE**. And it is lying straight as an arrow across the road and holding its rattlers up. This dude is about 32-36 inches long and biggest part is about the size of my wrist. Guess he is hanging around for Sunday's service - holy moly this is a snake handling congregation. I decided I wanted a picture and start retrieving my camera from my backpack. In the meantime Angie has caught up to me and I tell her what is going on. Angie: **"Don't mess with it, you are getting too close!!!"** Me: "Honey be quiet, you will scare it and I want a photo." Meanwhile, I turn on the camera - message - "turn off and turn on again." Darn, the camera don't wanna work. Angie: **"You are too close, we need to turn around - now!!!"** I keep fiddling with the camera to no avail. Finally, Jake crawls off into the bush. Now I have to coerce Angie into riding by the spot previously occupied by Satan *hissself*.

We head out and about a half a mile, I noticed I am missing my sunglasses (yes, Mari the same ones I left on the table at the Bedgoods.) Don't remember if I took them off back with the snake, but I do remember taking them off to talk with the Redneck. Don't really want to go back and visit him, so I secretly hope the snake has them - believing he'll be the easier prey. Go back, and they are in the middle of the road where I was fighting the camera. Still on the bike, I reach down to pick them up and

Angie blows by in a cloud of dust. She would have made Jimmy Lewis proud cuz ain't no way she's gonna stop where that snake was. I ran her down and asked if she didn't want to go to the waterfall. She reluctantly agreed and turned around. I do think someday she will shoot me on some of these grand adventures.

Another couple of miles down the road and we found Kinlock Falls. The falls is easily accessible and really pretty. The falls are about 15 feet high and empty into a pool about 5 feet deep. There were three teenagers there going over the falls on boogie boards. After visiting a short while we decide we were hungry, besides I think we have had enough waterfall chasing for one day.

We backtracked the way we went in. Once back on the pavement we went by New Hope where most of my paternal relatives hail from. Visited the DuBois Cemetery and the DuBois War Memorial (in honor of a second cousin.) From there we rode to Moulton and ate at the Steak and Biscuit (good simple country food.) Went by the Lawrence County Court House - ah ha, one ABEES point.

From Moulton we went to Oakville to visit the Jesse Owens Park and Museum and the Oakville Indian Mounds and Education Center. Both of the sites are well worth visiting and should be in the ABEES book (are you listening Bob?) I was surprised and pleased at how well the Jesse Owens Museum is presented. I didn't realize Jesse was nearly cripple in his childhood days with his legs covered in boils which his father cut out with a knife (they could not

afford a doctor.)

The Oakville Indian Mounds are about 1/2 mile from the Jesse Owens Park. The museum is a seven-side structure to coincide with the seven clans of Cherokee Indians who occupied this area. If one is into arrowheads this is the place to visit.

After such an eventful day and very few ABEES points, we decided it was very appropriate to stop by "THE DAM STORE" near Wheeler Dam to have a drink and cool down period.

Now, I am thinking about just buying the darn jacket, before I get both the wife and myself shot chasing dead coon dogs and live rattlesnakes.



**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

CONFESSIONS OF A TOURING RIDER

Don Hamblin

Touring

Yep, even as my R1150RT is classified as a *sport tourer* by BMW there are a few tip-offs as to how it is normally ridden. Most of the time, I am a touring rider. I usually wear out the tops of my foot pegs before the bottoms, and have a *CrampBuster* throttle control on the right grip. If the bar backs and luggage do not tip you off, then maybe the Helen Two Wheels D Ring straps should. So when I got the email from "Dancin" Dave Cwi about a *Raider Sport Touring* event with our own Susan Galpin on the roads around Shelbyville and Lynchburg, TN., I figured it was time to hone those *sport* skills that can come in handy during a *touring* emergency. We all love to tell the stories of the two lane blacktop through the mountains, but most of my miles are either on *Interstate Something* or commuting to and from work.

Sport Touring

Like most riders, Dave tries to pick predictable companions to ride with. The group that has become known as *Raiders* are all riders who have consistently demonstrated predictable riding skills, that sense of less traveled road adventure, and just enough maturity so that others can ride near them with confidence. Matching a small group of such riders with Susan's *Sport Rider Clinic* had to be the perfect marriage of adventure and skill polishing. Big gas tanks would cease to be a status symbol and the thinnest *chicken strip* was to become the true badge of courage.

Transition Time

We all met at a motel in Shelbyville on Friday night. A number of the riders covered over 800 to 1000 mile that day to get there, so dinner at the nearby steakhouse provided a welcome transition to the culture of the road. The restaurant management had set aside a room for us, and Susan began her well known technical seminar on the art of smoothly taking a BMW through the curves. Those trademark tips about shifting into the same gear as the first digit of the curve limit, and pointing your chin toward the exit of a curve laid the foundation for the next day's ride.

Touring vs. Sport Touring

It has been said that *Touring* is when you look at the butterflies, and *Sport Touring* is when you look *through* the butterflies! The cool morning air meant

serious sport riding and serious fun. We left Shelbyville in a group down 231 and negotiated the curves under Susan's watchful eye. No, there was no challenge to see who was the fastest rider, but there was a true teacher's evaluation of who needed improvements in what areas. Stopping in Lynchburg, we divided up into groups of those who only wanted to take a spirited ride through the country side, and those who wanted the opportunity to unlearn bad habits or sharpen their skills. Jumping at the chance, I rode off for some serious one-on-one instruction.

Susan had picked a great back road loop that included all the basic curve types you expect to encounter on two wheels, and not a bit of traffic. Not a speed run, we were all admonished to ride well and not fast. With Susan in trail we each ran the loop and then were critiqued on performance. Later, some were even given either a shot on the back of her bike, or even on the back of our own bikes with her at the controls. As we headed back to Lynchburg for lunch the last comment I heard was, "I didn't know my bike would do that!"

Fed and Fueled

What would an afternoon of riding be without crossing at least one State line? Yet another route was attacked by the group in mass. I cannot tell you the number of times I have vowed to never ride with more than three other bikes at the same time. But this time it was different. Even I could see vast improvements in most all riders. Watching from within the group, there was an air of relaxed confidence rarely seen in groups with less than 24 hours of meeting each other. Oh the technical level of the roads we covered was elevated several notches over earlier in the day, but sheer smoothness of the execution drastically increased everyone's enjoyment. The combined beauty of the countryside, and challenge of ride made this one ride to remember.

It Had To End

As we all hung around the motel parking lot waiting to head back to the steak house a lone motorcycle policeman rode into the lot. "We had reports of typically rowdy BMW riders," was his greeting. A moment of stunned silence, and then his face broke out in a full grin. I am sure you have guessed it, he immediately wanted to talk about the GS he rode when not on Shelbyville's *Blue Light Special* police bike. We each had to be sure we were photographed with the officer, and the mood was complete. This was one of those weekends you do not forget.

That evening at dinner the early talk was a complete

play-by-play of the day by each of the 12 riders. Then Dave gave his blessing to all with his statement that all were now *Raider Certified* – this was his way of saying that he would ride with any of us in the future. Funny, I am sure that everyone else at the table felt exactly the same way! Early the next morning, Dave rode along with Susan and me over to I-65 where we each went our separate ways: Susan to her new house, me back to Madison, and Dave north to Indy. All of us better riders.

That *Touring Rider*

Oh yes, I still think of myself as a *touring rider*, but spending a few hours seriously honing my technical skills gave me an even greater confidence in my ability to deal with those unexpected curves thrown at the best of us. Confident riding leads to a greater enjoyment of road and greater satisfaction in rolling up the miles. Even a touring rider can benefit from slipping over into the sport riding world and enjoy it!



It was nice to have Josh to visit with Mom and the club. What a way to spend R&R from Iraq!

THOUGHTS / PRAYERS AND TIDBITS

Remember Don Little with a phone call or e-mail as he continues to recover from his broken leg and injuries that resulted from his accident returning from Shiloh.

Congratulations are in order for Phillip and Martha Warren, grandparents of new born granddaughter, Ella Shay Frier.

Be sure to read the article on page 118 of the November BMW Owners News. The article is all about the “Great Chicken Rally” and was submitted by Vance Harrelson, our Vice-president.

Try out a new feature that has been added to our web site. You can now visit www.bmwmoal.org then scroll down to below the picture and click as indicated to view pictures from the current series or from the entire gallery. Also, past newsletters are available for viewing from the Home Page. You will need Adobe Reader to view the newsletter. If you don't have it you may do a free download from www.adobe.com.



Sam Peacock got to enjoy some delicious fried catfish and trimmings at his very first meeting.



The campground was just too close to Atmore!

THE GREAT BOGART'S - ABEES 2007 RIDING CHALLENGE

NAME	CLUB MEETINGS	RESTAURANTS & POINTS OF INTEREST	FAVORITE ROADS & RIDES	TOTAL ABEES CHECK OFFS	TICKETS EARNED FOR ABEES	EXTREME LOCATIONS	TOTAL JACKET TICKETS
Bob Steber	10	136	15	161	8	7	15
Gary Dubois	4	139	14	157	7	7	14
Angie Dubois	3	133	12	148	7	7	14
Vance	10	93	11	114	5	7	12
Phillip Warren	8	90	4	102	5	7	12
Martin Benson	0	98	8	106	5	3	8
Terry Ware	4	57	10	71	3	4	7
Connie Reaves	9	55	4	68	3	4	7
Jim Dubick	7	42	7	56	2	2	4
Larry Camp	3	21	3	27	1	2	3
Don Drasheff	1	40	1	42	2	0	2
John Harper	3	34	4	41	2	0	2
Gary Nesmith	5	26	4	35	1	1	2
Joan Ware	1	17	2	20	1	1	2
Total Tickets							104

REVISIONS TO THE ABEES TRAVEL GUIDE

Bob Steber

Additions:

NE	Athens	Limestone County Court House
NW	Natural Bridge	Natural Bridge Restaurant
NW	Natural Bridge	Natural Bridge Park
NW	Oakville	Jesse Owens Memorial
NW	Oakville	Indian Mound
SE	Montgomery	Civil Rights Memorial
SW	Gee's Bend	Quilt University
SW	Chrysler	William Weatherford (Red Eagle) grave
SW	Packers Bend	Davis Ferry
SW	Packers Bend	Lenn's Penthouse Privy (Outhouse on stilts-south landing, Davis Ferry)
SW	Perdue Hill	Historic Buildings

Deletions:

C	Tuscaloosa	The European Café	Out of Business
NW	Cullman	Sweet Potato Heaven	Out of Business
NW	Franklin County	Butler Falls	On private property

Well.....hmmmmmmmm

By Connie Reaves

You certainly couldn't have asked for better weather last weekend for the Little River campout. It got a bit cool at night but nothing that was uncomfortable. The dinner was fantastic as usual with some of my favorites. I really love fried catfish and potato salad so I was in heaven. I ate a good bit more than I've been used to and it tried to talk to me later on, but I wouldn't talk back to it and it went away. Maybe that's why I was "molting". (You'd understand if you'd been there and maybe you can figure it out from the pictures.....grin)

I had a wonderful time this past weekend, what with Josh being with me for the first time in a long, long time, and meeting some of the most wonderful new members, but I was also intensely disappointed in the participation of the costume contest. I laid there in the tent that night remembering the Crash Test Dummies (The Headricks), the open back naked "bum" (courtesy of Russ Simpson one year), the Island King and his bevy of Island beauties (Rob Allred with Rhonda, and two other girls as his fan wielding slaves), and scores of other wonderfully creative things folks have come up with in the past for costumes. I remembered what fun everyone always had because nearly everyone attending participated. Let's don't get "old" and stop having fun folks.

I can say I stilland always will.... love this group of folks. You all are like family to me and it's wonderful the way we all step up and gather the wagons 'round when one of us is hurt or in need. There's not another group like this in the world that you can count on for anything at any time. But I have gone through a life changing revelation or two the last few months, and inside.....I'm a lot different than before. With my boy in Baghdad, and realizing even more lately that life can throw you curve balls that actually curve back at you and slam you in the head.....that life is way too short to let it pass by un-lived.

It seems the Friday club ride down to Atmore was a lot of fun, but for those of us who couldn't get an extra day off work to participate, we can only look at the pictures and wish we could have been there. But of course this particular trip I had my guest and had to take the truck anyway. We all know that red trucks on club rides are dangerous anyway. Seems to ju-ju the karma or something every time. Good thing I couldn't get Friday off ain't it?

I was extremely happy to meet our five newest members this past weekend. All were really interesting to talk to for the time I got with each. Gary

Williams actually was brave enough to come with a costume, not even knowing the group, and seemed to have a blast. Bob Foley, I didn't get to talk to much as I got busy taking up money for dinner and such, and I missed him the next morning. Frank Taylor was another I need to find more time to talk with too. Sam Peacock had just joined the week before and it was great to get a chance to visit with him some, and Jim Kalahan also needs to make sure and come back and hang out with us and maybe even get Ol' Hebert to come with him more often too. And wasn't it Jim that threw down the 50/50 challenge and bought more than the standard \$2.00 worth of tickets? Vance's machine was on fire!!!

Yes, I sure hope to see all these new guys come hang with us very often and see just what a bunch of stand-up, caring folks they will be glad they chose to be a part of. I'm sure they could tell that the Bonner clan, and Mike Harvill, and the Cockrell's attention to detail to make the dinner so good for us, wasn't just a one time thing and that we have folks who go out of their way to do something like that for us every month.

Joan Ware has the details set up for our Christmas Party so you folks make sure you contact her with your reservations. *This isn't one where you can just show up like at 29 Dreams if you don't call ahead. She really, really needs to know if you are coming or not.* For you new folks.....we generally do not have a formal meeting at the Christmas Party, it's all about fun. We will have some door prizes, so you might take home something besides the Dirty Santa gift you end up with. See elsewhere in the newsletter for the details and Joan's e-mail and phone number.

This is your last newsletter until January, so start thinking about the ballot for January and the places you would like to see us go for meetings next year. January is when we vote ALL that in. And yes, you can nominate (volunteer) yourself for a club position.

Our rally is written up in the Nov. MOA issue so take a look at that. I have no idea what's written or what pics Vince used, because I haven't gotten my issue yet, but it's probably good "press" !!



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 new BMWMOAL web site at 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

Dec.1/2 Christmas party Vizzini Farms Winery
Calera, AL
Jan.26/27 2008 Montevallo Traffic Safety Center
Montevallo, AL



Nothing but the truth spoken here. Right!



Lila and Rickey Bonner both won awards for costumes as Black-eyed Pea and Cat-in-the-Hat.