

BMW Motorcycle Club
ASHEVILLE BMW RIDERS



The Blue Ridge Breeze

A Publication of the Asheville BMW Riders

BMWMOA Club #353 & BMWRA Club #339

April - 2012



Photo by Perry Hebard

April Meeting

Our April membership meeting will be held Tuesday evening, April 17th, at 7:00 PM.

Location will again be Eurosport Asheville, 30 Bryson Street, Asheville, NC. The program will explain proper set-up and adjusting of suspensions. Speakers will be announced. See you there.

Course Discounts Have you enrolled in a BMW Performance Center training course yet? Ross McKinney gave a great presentation of our March meeting, and explained what the school has to offer. Contact the center at 888-345-4269, and mention this opportunity for a 20% discount. Additionally, you may contact Justin at Eurosport, who is organizing a group to go down to Greer for a course. And thanks again to Ross for his time with us last month.

Asheville BMW Riders

Schedule of Club Events

- 4/7 **Saturday 9am Social Gathering**
South Asheville - Atlanta Bread Co
484 Hendersonville Road Asheville 28803
- 4/15 **Sunday 9am Social Gathering**
Black Mountain - Dynamite Roasting Co
3198 US Hwy 70, Black Mountain
- 4/17 **Tuesday 7pm Membership Meeting**
Eurosport Asheville
30 Bryson Street, Asheville, NC 28803
- 5/5 **Saturday 9am Social Gathering**
Waynesville, Clydes Restaurant
2107 S. Main Street, Waynesville
- 5/15 **Tuesday 7pm Membership Meeting**
Eurosport Asheville
30 Bryson Street, Asheville, NC 28803
- 5/20 **Sunday 9am Social Gathering**
Hendersonville, Atlanta Bread Co
147 Highlands Square Drive, Hendersonville

Mark Your Calendars Other Upcoming Events

April 20-22nd 2012

T.W.O. Creeks Campground
Del Rio, TN

A “non-official, non-sanctioned” campout organized by ABMWR member Wayne Zell and friends. Members of three clubs will be attending. Contact Wayne at secretary@abmwr.org for more information.

April 29th 2012 - 9:00 am

Formational meeting of the
“Blue Ridge Adventure Riders”

Join ABMWR member John Koenig if you have an interest in area rides on your dual-sport bike. See Article on page 6

Starbucks, Asheville, NC
1378 Hendersonville Rd
(next to Harris Teeter’s)
newsletter@ashevillebmwridders.org

May 4-6th 2012

Georgia Mountain Rally
BMW Owners of GA
Hiawassee, GA

May 10-13th 2012

Asheville Bikefest and Blue Ridge Run
WNC AgCenter, Fletcher, NC
www.ashevillebikefest.com

May 12th 2012 - Saturday 10-3 pm

Ohlins USA Open House
Hendersonville, NC

Ohlins will be opening their facilities to the public. See incredible machinery there, from Indy cars to exotic motorcycles. Live music, food, and plenty of what Ohlins does best.

May 18-20th 2012

European Riders Rally
Burkesville, KY

BMW Motorcycle Club of Nashville
www.bmwcon.org/rally.php

May 25-28th 2012

ROK Rally
Del Rio, TN

BMW Riders of Knoxville
(Between Knoxville and Johnson City)

June 14-17th 2012

BMWRA Rally - National
Copper Mountain, Colorado

July 19-22nd 2012

BMWMOA Rally - National
Sedalia, Missouri

August 9-12th, 2012

Annual Dan’l Boone Rally
KOA - Boone, NC

Carolinas BMW Club (Charlotte)

Pre-registration opens in March

www.carolinasbmwmoa.org/annual-boone-rally/



Members Frank Murphy and Rob Colasacco
on the April Fools Ride Photo by Perry Hebard

Featured Member-April

John Thornton (Member #100)

By John Koenig, Editor

As we grow our club, we develop milestones. Never expecting this phenomenal growth, we recently received our 100th membership! John Thornton is presently residing primarily in Virginia, but still calls Mills River "home". He obviously has solid ties to WNC, and hopes to soon return full time to his place in the Mills River area. I asked him a few questions, and here's what he had to say:

I'm 52, born and raised in Alabama. I moved to WNC (Asheville) at my first chance, which was 1990. My work was in the environmental industry, specifically recycling. I set up area recycling plants and later (in 2001) co-founded a business that still exists in Asheville - (Altamont Environmental). I sold my interest in 2005, with the intention of taking a stretch of time "off" and riding my motorcycle. I made one trip to the annual BMW MOA rally in the summer, then other events influenced my future rides. Katrina and Rita hit the Gulf Coast. I went to New Orleans to be the Operations Manager, to reestablish residential solid waste collection services throughout New Orleans and oversee demolition of hurricane - destroyed structures in the Upper and Lower Ninth Wards. I lived in Louisiana through



2009. After the recovery, my wife and I moved to Virginia, where I continue to work as a VP for a company that was integral in assisting those impacted by the storms to rebuild and return to their homes.

As far as riding, my first bike was a 1978 Honda CB 350, during college. I had the bike for two years, using it mainly for transportation, but was a threat to go off road or even take it to drag events (which I would lose of course). My next bike was not until after I moved to Asheville in 1993. I bought a used 1983 Suzuki GL 1100. Fast does not begin to describe it. I'm amazed that I survived that bike. I kept it four years, selling it roughly at the time I got married (1997), which is coincidentally, the same time I became a fan of BMW motorcycles. I met my wife, Nippy Page in WNC, she's a native of Hendersonville, born and raised. Nippy had ridden BMWs previously, and had viewed my previous bikes with quiet disdain. We found a 1990 R100GS in Georgia which became our toy for the next seven years. We took many two up weekend trips throughout WNC and thoroughly enjoyed the bike. She began hinting that she really was tired of the whole "two up thing" and would like her own bike. I traded my R100 for my current bike, a 2004 GSA1150. We also bought her a F650. Since then, I sincerely think we've covered every mile of two lane asphalt in WNC, and many of the dirt roads also. We later traded her bike in for her current bike, a 2004 R1150R.

Northern Virginia, particularly the far western part of the state, offers riding similar to WNC. Its known as horse country, with beautiful rides and scenery. It's easy to spend a weekend taking in the sights and enjoying a great ride. In many ways, its ideal riding for me - twisty country roads, beautiful scenery, then suddenly, the pavement ends. For the next several miles, we might travel on a dirt road that seems to lead nowhere. Then suddenly, pavement resumes. For a GS rider, it's a lovely way to go.

We do look forward to returning to WNC. Until then, we get home for a few days each month. We've got two grandkids in Henderson County. My wife's son and his wife have a restaurant in Asheville-HomeGrown. We keep the R1150R in Mills River on the battery tender and we're ready to go. We look forward to meeting up with you.

I joined the Asheville BMW Riders because I wanted to support the club. My roots are firmly in that area, and I want to keep abreast of riding information.

Who's Who

Board of Directors

Jim McMains, President
Perry Hebard, Vice President
Dan Falkenstein, Treasurer
Wayne Zell, Secretary
John Koenig, Newsletter Editor
Dan Thompson, Merchandising Director
Phil Weinmann, Webmaster

Sergeant at Arms

Adam Stewart

Ride Captains

Kent Skoug
Rob Colasacco

About The ABMWR

Members of our club share many things in common, including a love of riding, being outdoors, a fondness for BMW motorcycles regardless of type or age, and the camaraderie of our sport. We are a social club, focused on riding, and take full advantage of our area's beautiful roads and scenery. Although our club is based in Asheville, North Carolina, membership and participation from all surrounding areas are encouraged. For membership information, view our website at www.ambwr.org or drop us a line at ABMWR, PO Box 5103, Asheville, NC 28813

Editor's Ramblings by John Koenig

Now's the time. No more excuses. Just do it. The weather's straightened out, and it's time to go get lost on your bike. Rallies, campouts, rides, or just roll out of your driveway and see where it leads you.

And don't hold off on those plans and reservations. I can't count the times I've waited or procrastinated, only to have passed a sign-up deadline for an event or missed reserving a room somewhere. Spring is here, and summer reservations are filling up fast. Whether you're camping with Wayne in April, attending the Georgia Mountain Rally in May, or have big plans for summer, get those RSVP's in now!

I hear it all the time. "I wish I had gone on that ride", or "I really missed out on quite an adventure". Don't let it happen to you. Enjoy the ride and be safe.

John Koenig, Editor
newsletter@ashevillebmwriders.org



Photo by Perry Hebard

ABMWR Hits 120!

No, we're not speeding down the interstate like our gallant photographer Perry Hebard. Our membership numbers, however, are really smoking. In less than nine months, our membership has grown to 120 members. Who said Asheville couldn't support a BMW Club? Let's keep it up. Print out some membership apps from the last page of this newsletter. Pass them out to every prospect you know of and keep a couple extras in your tank bag.



"Taking the slab back home" Photo by Perry and Jane Hebard

Guest Writer Article

Early March Ride

By Kent Skoug

Let's see, early March (the 3rd), cloudy overcast and cool. I wonder if anyone will show up. These were the thoughts that were going through my head as I approached the Atlanta Bread Co. in Hendersonville. By the time 10:00 AM rolled around (our departure time) we had thirteen folks on twelve bikes ready to head wherever I decided to lead them.

We took off in an easterly direction on Highway 64 and followed the curves down the mountain to Bat Cave where we turned right onto 64/74/9, take your choice, it's all the same road, and passed through Chimney Rock and Lave Lure. Then it was gentle sweepers for about fifteen miles eventually straightening out as we started passing through farmland. The trees were just starting to bud so it wasn't too hard to see all the farms and fields before they got planted.

Just short of Rutherfordton we stopped at a Marathon to take a short break and get rid of any excess morning coffee. According to John Koenig the cashier inside made some comment about, "Bikers, a dozen to use the restroom and only two to buy gas!" What can I say?

We continued east on Hwy 64 through Forrest City and Spindale, eventually turning south on Hwy 120 which intersected with Hwy 221A. We crossed into South Carolina and when we hit Hwy 11 we turned into Cowpens National Battlefield. This is a Revolutionary War battlefield where the American forces were final able to defeat Col. Banastre Tarleton and start the end of the war. Everyone enjoyed a short presentation at the visitor's center.

Then it was only about three miles west to the town of Chesnee where we were able to top off the bikes for about \$.35/gallon less then NC prices. Then it was to a local pizza place for lunch. Pizza, salads and sandwiches in this Italian/Greek establishment made up the bulk of

the menus. At least I don't think anyone left hungry.

Back on the bikes it was westward to some smaller roads which we followed north-west eventually meeting up with Hwy 9 after we had crossed back into North Carolina. Then it was back to Lake Lure and retrace our earlier path up the grade to Asheville Bread Co. From there we split up to all head for home. All in all, it turned out to be a great day. The rain held off and, in fact, it was sunny by the time we returned.

Keep it safe out there and we'll see you next month at the Atlanta Bread in south Asheville.



Photos by Kent Skoug



Blue Ridge Parkway Updates

Spring is Officially here, and what better time to enjoy the Blue Ridge Parkway. The next couple of months especially mid-week, offers some of the nicest weather, most vivid scenery, and only minimal traffic.



The Pisgah Inn

has just re-opened, but several pieces of the parkway are still closed. Unfortunately MP 393 to MP 405 is still closed for tunnel repairs, and this is the direct route from Asheville to the Pisgah Inn. Fortunately, the road's open from MP 405 (going south to the Inn), and can be accessed from NC 151 at MP 405. This is a really nice "slow and scenic" route to the Inn for lunch on a nice day, and you can pick several return routes beyond that. The Parkway is also still closed between MP 455 (at US 19) and the end in Cherokee.

North of Asheville, the BRP is generally open all the way up to MP 217. The restaurant at Mount Mitchell is still closed 'till May 1st, but the roads to the Park up there are open now.

The warm, mild weather this winter has helped to keep all construction projects on or ahead of target. By April 15th, much of the North Carolina roadwork will be done, and the work from NP 217 north (into Virginia) will be completed by May 15th. For daily weather and road conditions, including closures on the Parkway, call 298-0398.

Calling all GS Riders!

By John Koenig, F800GS Rider

Since recently moving back to this area, I'm blown away by the lack of big-bike "dual sport" riders here in the Asheville area. Across the country, the GS's have been brisk sellers, and this area is no exception. I'm finding, however, that many GS owners here seem to be like Jeep Wrangler owners in Atlanta. The owners farkle them out for the "tough stuff", but don't seem inclined to let their mighty beasts leave the pavement. Let's change that!

I personally would like to start organizing a specific riding group within our club, which we'll call the Blue Ridge Adventurer Riders. Anybody that enjoys a mix of paved canyon carving and dirt road exploring, please send me your email and phone contact information. I'm envisioning some interesting rides in smaller groups, with the ride difficulty tailored directly to the abilities of the group on that particular day. The group will not be limited to BMW riders, but I'd like to limit it to 600cc and above "adventure machines".

If you're new to the world of adventure bikes, please join us anyway. I'm by no means a qualified instructor (disclaimer stated), but I have 28 years of GS riding under my belt, and would be happy to ride with newbies at any pace. I'm sure I could offer a few tips that the beginner would find helpful. As a matter of fact, I'd be thrilled to organize a little tutorial ride in the mild stuff to give newcomers a chance to get their feet wet.

On Sunday April 29th at 9:00 am let's meet at the Starbucks at 1378 Hendersonville Road to further discuss the groups existence. That's the Starbucks in the Harris Teeter and Liberty Bicycle Parking Lot just off the Blue Ridge Parkway. Bring your bike, and maybe we can do a little jaunt through the forest that day. Meanwhile, please contact me if you have an interest in riding some of the most beautiful and special backcountry in the nation, or have specific ideas or suggestions.



Photos by Perry and Jane Hebard



Photos taken by
Perry and Jane Hebard





Asheville BMW Riders Membership / Renewal Application

We are a club of motorcycle enthusiasts sanctioned by BMW Motorcycle Owners of America (MOA) and BMW Riders Association (RA). Our members generally ride BMW motorcycles but **all brands are represented** and **All are welcomed!**

The Asheville BMW Riders annual membership fee is very nominal.
\$20.00 for Regular membership \$10.00 for Associate membership

Please sign and fill out the information below. Bring this form to the next club meeting or make a check payable to Asheville BMW Riders for dues and mail to the post office box listed below. By membership in this Club the member (s) acknowledges the risk of injury to person and property, and accepts full responsibility for their actions while participating in all club events. The member(s) will not hold liable or make claims whatsoever against the Club, its sponsors, any member or staff.

New Renewal Updated Information

Member: _____

Associate Member: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____ - _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

E-Mail: _____ Associate E-mail _____

BMW-MOA Member Yes No Membership Number: _____

BMW-RA Member Yes No Membership Number: _____

I'm interested in: Rally's Long Distance Touring Tech Sessions Day Rides

Club Support Preferences: Newsletter/Website Administrative Help with Events Club Officer

Other _____

_____/_____
Member Signature & Date **Associate Signature & Date**

The \$20 Annual Membership covers a period from October 1st to September 30th. Check all that apply:

New / Renewing Member \$20

Associate Member \$10

Make check payable in total to: **Asheville BMW Riders**
Please print a copy of this form and mail the completed form and check to:
Asheville BMW Riders, PO Box 5103, Asheville, NC 28813