

BMW Motorcycle Club
ASHEVILLE BMW RIDERS



The Blue Ridge Breeze

A Publication of the Asheville BMW Riders

BMWMOA Club #353 & BMWRA Club #339

April - 2013

April Meeting

For the April ABMWR membership meeting, the Eurosport Asheville Apparel Team will entertain us with a presentation on the new Spring Apparel. This presentation will focus on the latest and greatest apparel from BMW, Schubert, Klim, and others. It will include a detailed look at the long awaited new BMW GS Dry Suit!!! The presenting team will go over each item in depth to show all the features and have product to try on and purchase if you are interested. Expect the unexpected! This is one presentation you don't want to miss (better than the yellow Santa Claus at Christmas).

So join us again for a fun evening at Eurosport Asheville at 7:00 pm on April 16th.

Schedule of Club Events

- 4/6 **Saturday 9am Social Gathering**
Asheville - Eurosport Asheville
30 Bryson Street, Asheville, NC 28803
- 4/16 **Tuesday 7pm Membership Meeting**
Eurosport Asheville
30 Bryson Street, Asheville, NC 28803
- 4/21 **Sunday 9am Social Gathering**
South Asheville - The Green Sage Cafe
1800 Hendersonville Road, Asheville
- 5/4 **Saturday 9am Social Gathering**
Asheville - Eurosport Asheville
30 Bryson Street, Asheville, NC 28803
- 5/19 **Sunday 9am Social Gathering**
South Asheville - The Green Sage Cafe
1800 Hendersonville Road, Asheville
- 5/21 **Tuesday 7pm Membership Meeting**
Eurosport Asheville
30 Bryson Street, Asheville, NC 28803



Photo by John Koenig

Mark Your Calendars Other Upcoming Events

April 17th, 2013

Wednesday 7-10pm

Bike Night at Juicy Lucy's

Juicy Lucy's Burger Bar & Grill

620 Hendersonville Rd, Asheville, NC

Let's all join the Asheville riding crowd for this Season Opener and Bike Show. Free entry, free admission. Great burgers, lots of local brews. Food and drink specials. Prizes for vintage, cruiser, sport, and best of show. Come on out... let's park a few BMW's in the lot.

April 26-28th, 2013

Multi-Club Campout

TWO Creeks Campground, Del Rio, TN

<http://twocreeks.shutterfly.com/>

ABMWR member Kent Skoug has been organizing this camping weekend, and hopes to attract riders from all area chapters. Network with other members at the AMBWR.org forum or just show up!

April 26-28th, 2013

BMWMOA Weekend Getaway

Fontana Village Resort, Fontana Dam, NC

www.bmwmoa.org

Although this event date conflicts with our local campout, it offers a nice alternative for some.

April 27th, 2013

Meltdown Vintage Bike Show

Southern Appalachian Brewery

Hendersonville, NC

www.meltdownvintage.com

From 1:00pm until ? All pre-1980 bikes will be eligible for trophies in a variety of classes (including best German). Enter your classic BMW or just ride it down to hang out. Hell, just ride anything with 2 wheels down and enjoy the show. The Ton-Up, NC folks are good people. Their tag line is "an unnatural affinity for obsolete technology". www.tonup-nc.com

May 3-5th, 2013

BMW Owners of Georgia

23rd Annual Georgia Mountain Rally

Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds

Hiawassee, Georgia

www.bmwmoa.info

Many of our members made this event last year. Fun event. Great venue, great riding. Pre-registration is almost over. Sign up and plan to camp with our Asheville club.

May 10-13th, 2013

6th Buzzard Bottom 6

High Country Motorcycle Camp

Ferguson, NC

www.highcountrymotorcyclecamp.com

I have fond memories of GS international rallies when Turkey Tom was there years ago. Now, join Buzzard Brent and Poverty Riders International at the same campground. Not a structured rally; just a fun time. Awesome roads, camaraderie, camping, and food. Make it!

May 23-26th, 2013

Alabama BMW Club's Chicken Rally

Huntsville, AL (area)

www.bmwmoal.org/rally.php

ABMWR member Dan Thompson tells us this be the last one (after 25 years). Join him as he carries our flag over to Alabama.

June 20-23rd, 2013

BMWRA National Rally

Biltmore Estate, Asheville, NC

www.bmwra.org

Visit the RA website for info or to sign up. Volunteers are still needed!

July 18-21st, 2013

BMWMOA International Rally

Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem, Oregon

www.bmwmoa.org

Road trip, anyone?



World Traveler Returns

Thomas Montgomery, fearless leader of Eurosport Asheville, is back in town after a few months of travel. After testing the new 1200 GS under all conditions in Africa, he's pictured here (back at Eurosport) with one of the new GS arrivals. This one's a demo, and be forewarned, you try it, you may buy one.

Speaking with Thomas, he says he's settling back in, excited about the dealership's inventory, and ready for another banner season.

“Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away”.

Unknown

Welcome New Member

Harry S. Collier Jr. - Chapel Hill, NC

Meet The Board of Directors

Over the past year or so, we have already highlighted a few of our Board members as “Featured Members”. Before their term of office closes this Fall, we thought we'd feature one more of them each month. Your editor John Koenig runs this month, and will be followed in May thru August by Jim McMains, Perry Hebard, Phil Weinmann and Dan Thompson.

Then in the September issue, we'd like to run Bio's of any other members that may be running for office in September. Hopefully, this will give you a better view of your leadership choices for the upcoming election.

“An adventure is misery and discomfort, relived in the safety of reminiscence”.

Marco Polo

Blue Ridge Parkway Update

Yes, Spring has sprung. The Pisgah Inn has opened on April 1st, and is calling out with breakfast and lunch for wandering BMW riders. Of course, that also means the Parkway is now open from NC151 to US 276. If riding up there is still a little chilly for you, try stopping at milepost 407 and taking a quick hike to the summit of 5721 foot Mount Pisgah. It'll warm you up quicker than a full Gerbings outfit!

There have been a lot of federal budget cuts this year, so many facilities and centers will be closed. Facilities like Linville Falls, Craggy Gardens, etc will have delayed openings this year. For up to date weather, road conditions, and openings, go to www.nps.gov/blri or call 298-0398.

“Remember folks, street lights timed for 35 mph are also timed for 70 mph.

Jim Samuels

Down the Road President's Message

By Jim
McMains



Hello Gang,

Now that the time change is behind us we have those later daylight hours to enjoy riding into the evening. I am looking forward to finally being able to get back on the bike in April. (As long as the Doc gives the OK).

This month is the kick-off of our warm weather Gathering times which are now at 9am, and we have narrowed it down to 2 locations as I am sure you have been reading or hearing. As always we have First Saturday and Third Sunday to give everyone equal time on weekends for other obligations. First Saturdays will now be meeting at Eurosport Asheville (where they will extend the usual Tuesday Night Meeting discount to those Saturday mornings as well). Third Sundays will remain at The Green Sage Cafe which seems to please most everyone. So come on out and have some fun meeting others and hanging with friends. The more bikes the merrier.

Now is also a good time to check the bike over, do any after winter maintenance needed, check the treads and get it in top shape. If you haven't already done so, you might want to print out the Emergency Information Sheet, fill in the necessities and put it in your jacket. You can access it under Documents on our website www.abmwr.org Please don't leave home without it, because it is that important!

The rally is getting closer so please consider signing up for a volunteer position to help out. You can view the Schedules at: <http://www.bmwra.org/d/node/35> We are also looking to have a Club Camping area at the Rally for those wishing to come and camp on the Biltmore Estate. The BMWRA is the only venue that has been allowed to do so in the past and now again this year. More info on our club campsite will be forthcoming, so get out the tent and get it ready!

I also want to really thank those of you who have filled the Rally Chairperson positions and to the rest who have given me their names to add to the volunteer list or are assisting in other ways. You know who you are! Thank-you.

On a last note, if you have any accolades, suggestions, complaints, or just general feedback on anything with the club, please let it be known so that we can try and address them. As I always say, this is your club so don't be shy.

See Ya Down the Road,
(hopefully on my bike)
Jim

Who's Who

Board of Directors

Jim McMains, President

Perry Hebard, Vice President

Kent Skoug, Secretary

Dan Falkenstein, Treasurer

John Koenig, Newsletter Editor

Dan Thompson, Merchandising
Director

Phil Weinmann, Webmaster

Sergeant at Arms

Adam Stewart

Ride Captain

Kent Skoug

March Social Gathering



Photos by
John Koenig



Featured Member - April John Koenig

John's early days of motorcycles included hours of polishing the wheels and spokes of his older brother's collection of Vincents. At 8 years old, John experienced his first motorcycle ride on the back of a 1951 Vincent Black Shadow. He purchased his first motorcycle at age 11; a basket case Harley 125 two-stroke for \$25.00. Fast forward to age 13, and with much help from his then 24 year old brother, John began short-track racing his modified little Harley. For 5 more years, he enjoyed sportsman racing in Scrambles, flat track, road racing, and even ice racing on a diverse assortment of machines. Wins seemed plentiful on the local level.

Then came 1969, when John was finally old enough to get his Pro License with the AMA and go on the full "class C" circuit. Debuting with a short track at the Astrodome, followed by road racing at Daytona, he was in for a big surprise with the national talent of the big boys! Being a top amateur hotshoe in Upstate New York meant nothing when competing with California's best, and John didn't win a single race in his first professional season! But he did work his way up through the ranks over the following four years. Back then, success was best measured by one's ability to financially "stay on the road" season after season. When asked about his highest moment in racing, John replied; "Kenny Roberts and I went through our pro Junior year together. After a race-long wheel to wheel battle at the Road Atlanta National that year, I edged out Kenny in a photo finish. It wasn't until years later that I could say I beat a future world champion." As for "living the life", John says the mile ovals on the flat track circuit were his greatest highs, "pitching a bike sideways at 140mph and clicking handlebars with your peers was the ultimate high". Various sponsorships kept him in the chase through early 1974, when three serious crashes sidelined him late in the season, ending his pro career.

After several more years of street riding cafe bikes and competing in observed trials, John Koenig one day saw a strange looking motorcycle debuting on the cover of Cycle World. It was a BMW R80GS. His first thought was "that's really weird", and second thought was "who in Hell would want one of

those?" One year later, for whatever reason, he rode a new Paris-Dakar outfitted one off the showroom floor, thus starting a 30 year love affair with the GS. A couple of hundred thousand miles later, he's still in love, and about to take delivery of his fifth GS machine.



**Koenig
on a Colorado
Rocky Mountain High**

Being a lifelong, 3rd generation carpenter, the custom home building and timber framing profession has afforded John to travel extensively and enjoy almost 50 years of motorcycling. After building for decades in Highlands, NC followed by four years of "early retirement" in Hawaii, John and Jill now live in South Asheville. When building their new home, plans had to be made to house the "stable" of bikes, which now includes a Triumph Scrambler, a Ducati Hypermotard, a Husqvarna Terra, and soon the new 1200GS waterboxer.

John's been a long-term AMA, BMWMOA, and BMWRA member. He's a founding Board Member of our local ABMWR club and serves as our newsletter editor. One thing's for sure; you won't find too many members in our club much more enthusiastic and passionate about the sport than John Koenig.

NEW Warm Weather Gathering Schedule

April - November First Saturday & Third Sunday of the Month @ 9am

Saturday	4/6	9 am	Eurosport Asheville 30 Bryson St Asheville
Sunday	4/21	9 am	The Green Sage Cafe South 1800 Hendersonville Rd Asheville
Saturday	5/4	9 am	Eurosport Asheville 30 Bryson St Asheville
Sunday	5/19	9 am	The Green Sage Cafe South 1800 Hendersonville Rd Asheville
Saturday	6/1	9 am	Eurosport Asheville 30 Bryson St Asheville
Sunday	6/16	9 am	The Green Sage Cafe South 1800 Hendersonville Rd Asheville
Saturday	7/6	9 am	Eurosport Asheville 30 Bryson St Asheville
Sunday	7/21	9 am	The Green Sage Cafe South 1800 Hendersonville Rd Asheville
Saturday	8/3	9 am	Eurosport Asheville 30 Bryson St Asheville
Sunday	8/18	9 am	The Green Sage Cafe South 1800 Hendersonville Rd Asheville
Saturday	9/7	9 am	Eurosport Asheville 30 Bryson St Asheville
Sunday	9/15	9 am	The Green Sage Cafe South 1800 Hendersonville Rd Asheville
Saturday	10/5	9 am	Eurosport Asheville 30 Bryson St Asheville
Sunday	10/20	9 am	The Green Sage Cafe South 1800 Hendersonville Rd Asheville
Saturday	11/2	9 am	Eurosport Asheville 30 Bryson St Asheville
Sunday	11/17	9 am	The Green Sage Cafe South 1800 Hendersonville Rd Asheville

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, North Carolina, membership and participation from all surrounding areas are encouraged. For membership information, view our website at www.abmwr.org or drop us a line at ABMWR, PO Box 5103, Asheville, NC 28813



March Membership Meeting Photos



Photos by
Perry 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

www.AshevilleBMWRiders.org