

**BMW Motorcycle Club**  
ASHEVILLE BMW RIDERS



# The Blue Ridge Breeze

A Publication of the Asheville BMW Riders

BMWMOA Club #353 & BMWRA Club #339

August - 2012



July was a big Dirt Riding Month as shown in this issue.

Ride and event photos this month by John Koenig

## August Meeting

Instead of a formal membership meeting, we're finishing off summer with a Bike and Pizza Night on August 21st. There will not be an agenda or presentation, just a social event to enjoy. The club will be springing for Pizza, and Eurosport will supply the non-alcoholic drinks.

Club Photographer Perry Hebard is planning a club photo in the Eurosport parking lot, so be sure to bring your bike if possible. In the event of rain, a group photo will be taken inside the showroom. Be there, and make history being part of our one-year anniversary photo.

Please come early. We will start staging bikes for the photo by 7:00 pm, and have the shoot at 7:15. Food is planned at 7:30.

Although not an official meeting, Eurosport is still honoring the club meeting discount for that evening. So come earlier than 7:00 if you wish to shop.

## Asheville BMW Riders

### Schedule of Club Events

- 8/1 **Wednesday 5pm Rally Session**  
**Eurosport Asheville**  
30 Bryson Street, Asheville, NC 28803
- 8/4 **Saturday 9am Social Gathering**  
**South Asheville - Atlanta Bread Co.**  
484 Hendersonville Road, Asheville
- 8/19 **Sunday 9am Social Gathering**  
**Black Mountain -Dynamite Roasting Co.**  
3198 US Hwy 70, Black Mountain
- 8/21 **Tuesday 7pm Bike & Pizza Night**  
**Eurosport Asheville**  
30 Bryson Street, Asheville, NC 28803
- 9/1 **Saturday 9am Social Gathering**  
**Waynesville - Panacea Coffee HouseCafe**  
66 Commerce Street, Waynesville
- 9/16 **Sunday 9am Social Gathering**  
**Hendersonville - Atlanta Bread Co.**  
147 Highlands Square Drive, Hendersonville
- 9/18 **Tuesday 7pm Membership Meeting**  
**Eurosport Asheville**  
30 Bryson Street, Asheville, NC 28803

## **Rally Planning Session Wednesday Aug. 1 at 5:00 pm**

Our club will be holding an open planning session for upcoming area rallies. All members are invited to attend the meeting at Eurosport Asheville. We'll be networking for riding together, camping together, or sharing stories of past rallies at the six or seven locations listed here. New to rallies? Even better reason to join us and learn more. After Eurosport closes at 6:00 pm, there's rumor that the planning session may reconvene down at Wedge Brewery. Only rumor, though.

### **Mark Your Calendars Other Upcoming Events**

August 9-12th, 2012

**Annual Dan'l Boone Rally**  
**KOA - Boone, NC**

Carolinas BMW Club (Charlotte)

Pre-registration still open

[www.carolinasbmwmoa.org/annual-boone-rally/](http://www.carolinasbmwmoa.org/annual-boone-rally/)

September 7-9th 2012

**Beemers in the Bluegrass**  
**Stillwater Campground**  
**Frankfort, KY**

Bluegrass Beemers, Inc

Roy at 828-223-5459

[kr4mo@yahoo.com](mailto:kr4mo@yahoo.com)

September 8-9th 2012

**Blue Ridge Adventure Ride**  
**Steele Creek Park Campground**  
**(near) Morganton, NC**

AMA sanctioned Adventure Ride

Bring your GS

Contact Ron Miller

704-309-3271

[millerron@bellsouth.net](mailto:millerron@bellsouth.net)

September 21-23rd 2012

**"Ride the Blue Ridge"**

**Knobbies Rally**  
**Morganton, NC**

Gene Smith 828-439-9754

[www.knobbies.org](http://www.knobbies.org)

The club's called the knobbies, but this is a road rider's event with optional dual-sport rides.

October 5-7th 2012

**Beemers and Warbirds Rally**  
**North Landing Beach Campground**  
**Virginia Beach, VA**

BMW m/c club of Hampton Roads

More distant rally, but a nice Fall ride.

Interesting plane museum.

October 18-21st 2012

**Biketoberfest**

**Daytona Beach, FL**

[www.biketoberfest.org](http://www.biketoberfest.org)

This is obviously not a primarily - BMW event, but a pretty cool place to go and watch an animal show.

October 27-30th 2012

**Great Smoky Motomarathon**  
**Asheville and Fontana, NC**

[www.motomarathon.com](http://www.motomarathon.com)

Please note: This event may be cancelled or postponed... Stay Tuned.

## Featured Member-August

### Kent Skoug



I was never really into motorcycles when I was young (except for putting baseball cards into the spokes of my bike.) All through high school and college, two and four wheel transportation was only a means of getting from point A to point B. I had such great cars as a used Buick Skylark and, while in the Navy, a French Simca.

It wasn't until I was approaching my mid-thirties that a friend introduced me to motorcycles and I thought to myself, "Self, this just might be fun!" So on April 1<sup>st</sup> 1980 (yes, April Fool's Day) I went out and bought myself a Honda CM400E. Ursula looked at me like, yes you are the fool! After riding this bike for a year without killing myself she totally shocked me by saying, "Let's go around the block." After that it was around town and soon it was up to North

Carolina (we were just north of Atlanta at that time).

I probably put between twenty and twenty-five thousand miles on that bike and within two years I wanted something a little larger. The friend that introduced me to riding knew someone in Chattanooga, TN that had a 1980 Honda 750F for sale. I went to look at it and thought this will be perfect. I bought it and brought it back to Atlanta. About a year later I got transferred to Seattle and took the bike with me.

Within a couple of months Ursula had the Atlanta house sold and I had decided on a new one in the Seattle area. This bike was large enough for two up riding and carrying some camping gear. I had mounted a fairing and saddlebags with a travel trunk and we put about 50,000 miles on this one. One spring I needed to burn up some vacation time or loose it so I threw a tent, sleeping bag and air mattress on the back of the bike and took off.

I went south to Olympia, WA where I picked up Hwy 101. I was going to stay on this for the next few days. I went around the Olympic Peninsula, up Hurricane Ridge into the Olympic National Park, finally setting up my tent for the night in Forks, WA. Yes, this is the same Forks as was the basis for the Twilight series of books but in 1984 the concept probably hadn't even been thought of yet. The next day I continued down the Washington coast, crossing the Columbia River to Astoria, OR and setting up for the second night in Florence, OR. The third day I finished up the Oregon coast and crossed into California. I reached Crescent City about noon and set up the tent then went exploring the Redwoods National Park.

The following morning I decided this wasn't as much fun traveling by myself so I thought I would head back. I packed up and took Hwy 199 north-east through the mountains to Grants Pass, OR where I went east on Hwy 62 to Crater Lake. It was a beautiful area but it was still only about 1:00 PM so I headed north to Bend, OR to spend the night. I arrived in Bend before 5:00 and though I could still get in a few more miles so I continued north to Mount Hood

and back to Portland, then on the interstate back home. I reached Seattle about 1:00 in the morning. At that point I knew, after putting a total of 50,000 miles on the bike and a 850 mile day, there really is nothing you can do to a Honda 750F to make that seat into a touring saddle! The next day I was looking for a new bike.

I settled on a Suzuki Cavalcade and I believe that is still probably Ursula's favorite bike that I have owned. During this time period I was the state director for RMTTC, Rider Motorcycle Touring Club, sponsored by Rider magazine, later being renamed Rider Club. I had set up nine chapters in the state and Ursula and I attended almost every meeting every month. So within five years I had put over 180,000 miles on the bike. Suzuki, in its infinite wisdom, had decided that no one would ever spend over \$10,000 for a bike so they stopped production of the touring bike class. It was getting harder to get parts so I changed to a Honda Gold Wing.

This was 1994 and I had left Rider Club and started my own all brand club M.O.R.A., Motorcycle Owners and Riders Association. I was also very active in promoting a positive image of motorcycling so I was doing a lot of charity work on the bike. We had Poker Runs for Lupus, and a 1,000 mile two day ride every summer to raise money for the MS Society. Also, I was in charge of organizing and providing the motorcycle support for the MS Society's two day bicycle event every July. I had been doing this for over ten years but in 2000, while riding back to check on three bikes still on the course, I went down on some damp moss on the pavement that I didn't see. I totaled the Wing and busted up my ribs pretty well so that ended the 2000 riding season for me as well as the Wing. The bike only had a little over 50,000 miles on it.

The following spring I was looking for a new bike and I happened to see a K1200 LT riding down the street. I decided to check it out and the following Monday I owned one. I also became active in the Washington State BMW Riders. In 2005 BMW came out with the new R1200 RT and I wanted one. I was able to get it in 2006. I still kept the LT. In 2007 Ursula said to me, "You've always wanted to ride in Europe,

do it!" So I signed up for one of the Edelweiss High Alpine Tours. It was fantastic.

In 2009 I retired and we moved back to the east coast to be closer to our children and grandchildren (and now great grandchildren). However, after retiring and taking the RT up to Alaska, I was riding it to our new home in Arden when I had a disagreement with a coyote, while in Kansas, about which part of the lane was mine. The coyote lost the battle but he got in his licks. I totaled the RT and had a right arm that could only flop weakly. No more riding for the 2009 year.

In 2010 I purchased a used R1200 GS to replace the RT. I was active in the Greenville BMW chapter and am currently the assistant chapter director and road master for them. When Jim started the Asheville Chapter I also became active here as the co-road master and the chapter secretary. In the last six months I have also become a Regional Rep for the BMW RA covering North Carolina, northern South Carolina and eastern Tennessee. Anyone who says you get to sleep in when you retire hasn't tried it yet!

I still enjoy long rides and probably put between 30,000 to 35,000 miles on the bikes per year and will probably hit my 200,000 BMW miles this year, although Ursula doesn't ride with me much anymore. She was driving my car right behind me when I went airborne in Kansas. See you on the road  
Kent

Our featured Member this month, Kent Skoug, is quite a motorcyclist. Kent showed up on our club's doorstep shortly after our formation, and we're so fortunate to have him as part of our team. Soft spoken and not one to boast, we're constantly learning about more of his accomplishments. He's an AMA lifer, a MOA lifer, long term with RA, and an Iron Butt with about half a million miles on bikes. He's won many mileage awards, including 1st place in Upstate for the last two years. He's also finished in the top 15 Nationally (MOA) for those years. His wife, Ursula, is also no stranger to mileage recognition riding behind Kent a lot of times.

In addition to accolades, Kent's also a great guy off the bike. His energetic volunteer work with our club to date is really appreciated, and we're proud to have him on board with us. Submitted by John Koenig, Editor.

## Down the Road President's Message

### Presidents Message

**Jim McMains**

Hey Gang,

Well if anyone said it couldn't be done they were wrong.

ONE YEAR!

You are receiving this August

Newsletter and it marks the one year point for our club.

The first meeting was held on August 30th, 2011. So I say congratulations to all of us for a great First year. We have a membership of 150 and growing. We have come very far in one year and we continue to make strides every day in making our club the best it can be. Please continue to support the club by participating at events, rides, online, etc. Without all of you we would not have this.

We look forward to a big turnout for our August meeting. Please ride your bike to the meeting if weather and health permits, for some Pizza and a club Photo.

As the name on that famous brand of shirts says: "Life is Good"

See ya Down the Road,  
Jim

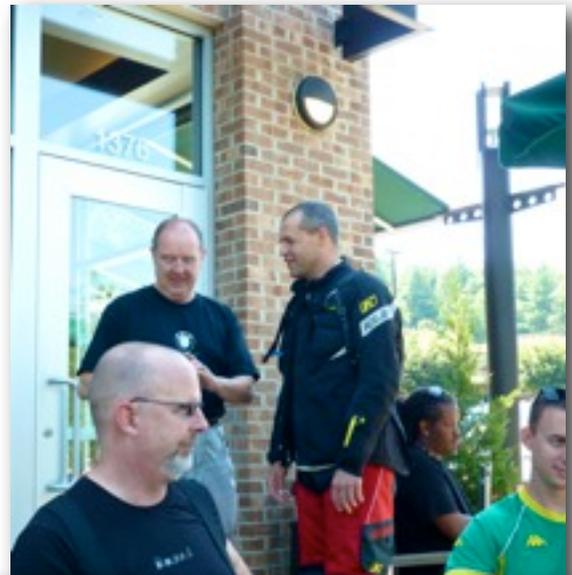
President ABMW

[president@ashevillebmwridders.org](mailto:president@ashevillebmwridders.org)



## 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](http://www.ambwr.org) or drop us a line at ABMWR, PO Box 5103, Asheville, NC 28813



## Editor's Ramblings

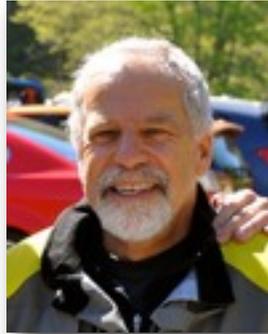
by John Koenig

### Technology and Annoyances

Ah, the feedback this month has been interesting. Seems there are folks annoyed that they get too many emails related to our Yahoo forum. And there are others that look forward to this chatter of emails plus more. When some of us try to explain the right time and place for emails or messages, it gets even muddier. I hear wishes of easier times. The word "airhead" often surfaces. I am quite a Luddite myself, so I can relate.

I think back to my first BMW, a shiny new 1983 R80 GS/PD. Life was simple. Computers were huge, stayed at the house (if you had one), and cell phones were carried in a self-contained suitcase. Didn't need that stuff on a motorcycle. I remember rambling around, with my wanderlust, putting 60,000 miles on that bike. Paved roads, dirt roads, goat trails. No GPS, just a folder full of maps. Tools, and a few clothes. Got lost a bunch, but sometimes that adventure in itself turned out more interesting than the adventure that was originally planned. Yes, life was good before technology. Airhead simple.

But then I remember stories from my Dad. He marveled at the high-tech nature of my new R80. Shaft driven, high tech electronics, real suspension, and such. He told of a time when the relationship between a man and his bike were more direct. Bare boned simplicity. Even



more simple than airhead simple. You see, he was an early adventure rider. In 1927 (21 years old) he took a boat from Germany to this country, headed up to Milwaukee, and bought himself a "brand new traveling machine". After touring the US, he was back to Europe, then Africa, then over to the Orient, back to Germany and then to the US again. All in 3 years. He carried minor spares like pistons, rings, and such, but was stuck once in Africa waiting for transmission parts for 10 weeks! And he called those "simple times" back then "better times". I guess it's all about each person's perspective of the situation.

We each find happiness and equilibrium somewhere in between it all. I now ride a 2006 Triumph Scrambler because I got tired of wrenching on my 1971 Bonneville. I prefer pretty bare bones bikes, but newer bare bones bikes. When traveling a couple of years ago I bought an iPad to keep connected to the world. In this year alone, I've already caved in to an iPhone and Facebook. My main bike is an F800GS, water cooled, but chain driven. I still don't watch TV much, and can't work a DVR. Sometimes I don't know who I am or where I'm going, or which way to steer.

One thing remains constant though, I truly dig riding a two wheeler with a throaty motor pushing it forward. With or without an on-board computer! Freedom on a bike rocks.

So the only advice I can give is this... If some piece of technology annoys you, cope with it, turn it off or eliminate it. If you dig it, keep doing it. As Mae West once said, "Too much of a good thing is Wonderful".

Be Safe. Happy Trails.

John Koenig, Editor

[newsletter@ashevillebmwridders.org](mailto:newsletter@ashevillebmwridders.org)



Shawn Thomas discusses riding tips while brother Lance demos.



Lance Thomas shows proper bike lifting techniques.



**RawHyde  
GS Riding Clinic**

Asheville, North Carolina  
July 12, 2012

## Your Board of Directors

In case you weren't aware, the ABMWR club is governed by 7 members (Board of Directors), listed below. We meet about 10 or 12 times each year to hammer out the inner-workings and business aspects of our club. Although the seven of us far prefer the more social gatherings and general membership meetings, someone has to work out the hard details and logistics to keep our club afloat. That would be your Board.

Please keep in mind that we work for you, the members (even though it's non-paid volunteer work). Also keep in mind that we try to make decisions in the best interest of the majority of the membership. The "greatest good for the greatest number", so to speak. On that note, we still listen to every single idea, comment or suggestion. Please feel free to speak your mind.

Meeting frequency is usually monthly, many times just prior to the membership meetings. Other times meetings are specially scheduled as needed.

### 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 Captains

Kent Skoug

Rob Colasacco



## Membership Drive is ON

As we approach September, our membership drive is on. Not only are we soliciting new members; we're just as concerned with existing member retention.

Please do your part in this effort. Invite a prospective member to join you at Bike Night on the 21st. Call an existing member to make sure they are going. Bring a checkbook or cash to renew (or you can, of course, use PayPal on our website). Tell any bike friends you have why they need to join. And by all means, just show up for the club photo!

Please fill out a renewal form (last page of this newsletter), update your information, and bring it with you to the Pizza Night.

## PayPal is Here

Our club website, [www.ABMWR.org](http://www.ABMWR.org), is now set up for membership renewal using PayPal. We will also be using PayPal in the near future for ordering club merchandise like short and long sleeve t-shirts. Look for it soon, and thanks to webmaster Phil Weinmann for making this happen.

**Adventure group met up  
and rode 7/29**



**A gathering spot before heading out**

**Just another  
great day  
hanging out!**

**Good Friends  
Good Fun**

**Renew or  
Join the Club  
and Do  
Something  
Different.**





## 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**