

BMW Motorcycle Club
ASHEVILLE BMW RIDERS



The Blue Ridge Breeze

A Publication of the Asheville BMW Riders

BMWMOA Club #353 & BMWRA Club #339

August - 2013

Upcoming Meeting It's our Anniversary!

Please join us on Tuesday,
August 20th at 7:00 pm for
our club's 2nd Anniversary Party.

As the ABMWR turns two, look for a fun
Pizza party at Eurosport Asheville. Many
of your Board are still on the road, so
Perry Hebard, Phil Weinmann, and Dan
Falkenstein will host this meeting.

Bring your bikes. Perry is planning
another photo op in the parking lot. Line
them up at 7:00 sharp for a 7:10pm
photo... then enjoy the food and
friendships. Come rain or shine.

Schedule of Club Events

- 8/3 **Saturday 9am Social Gathering**
Asheville - Eurosport Asheville
30 Bryson Street, Asheville, NC 28803
- 8/18 **Sunday 9am Social Gathering**
South Asheville - The Green Sage Cafe
1800 Hendersonville Road, Asheville
- 8/20 **Tuesday 7pm Membership Meeting**
Eurosport Asheville **Anniversary Party**
30 Bryson Street, Asheville, NC 28803
- 9/7 **Saturday 9am Social Gathering**
Asheville - Eurosport Asheville
30 Bryson Street, Asheville, NC 28803
- 9/15 **Sunday 9am Social Gathering**
South Asheville - The Green Sage Cafe
1800 Hendersonville Road, Asheville
- 9/17 **Tuesday 7pm Membership Meeting**
Eurosport Asheville
30 Bryson Street, Asheville, NC 28803



John Grover lines up to lead a
race during the French Broad
Cycling Classic last month.

Mark Your Calendars

Other Events Worth Noting...

August 8-11th, 2013

Horizons Unlimited
Motorcycle Travelers Meeting
(Eastern United States)
Stecoah, NC

www.HorizonsUnlimited.com/events

Great People, Interesting Bikes, Fantastic
Stories, and Loads of Tech Seminars.

August 8-11th, 2013

Daniel Boone Rally
Boone, NC KOA
Boone, NC

Carolinas BMW

www.carolinasbmwmoa.org

High elevation summer rally

September 6-8th, 2013

ROK Rally
T.W.O. Creeks Camp Area
Del Rio, TN

www.bmwrok

This is a close-by rally hosted by the BMW
Riders of Knoxville. Pre-registration only to first
100. You may register at gate if spots are still
available.

September 13-15th, 2013

Beemers in the Bluegrass
Stillwater Campground
Frankfort, KY

www.bluegrassbeemers.org

John Rice 859-229-4546

September 20-22nd 2013

Ride the Blue Ridge
Morganton, NC

www.knobbies.org

GS Rides, Cruiser Rides,
Onsite Change Rooms & Showers.
Knob Mountain Motorcycle Chapter
Gene Smith 828-439-9754

September 20-22nd 2013

Twin Valley Rally
Willville Motorcycle Camp
Meadows of Dan, VA

twinvalleyriders.com

Sorry, this event is now full.

October 4-6th 2013

1st of the RAMS RALLY
Parker's Crossroads, TN

www.bmwrams.com

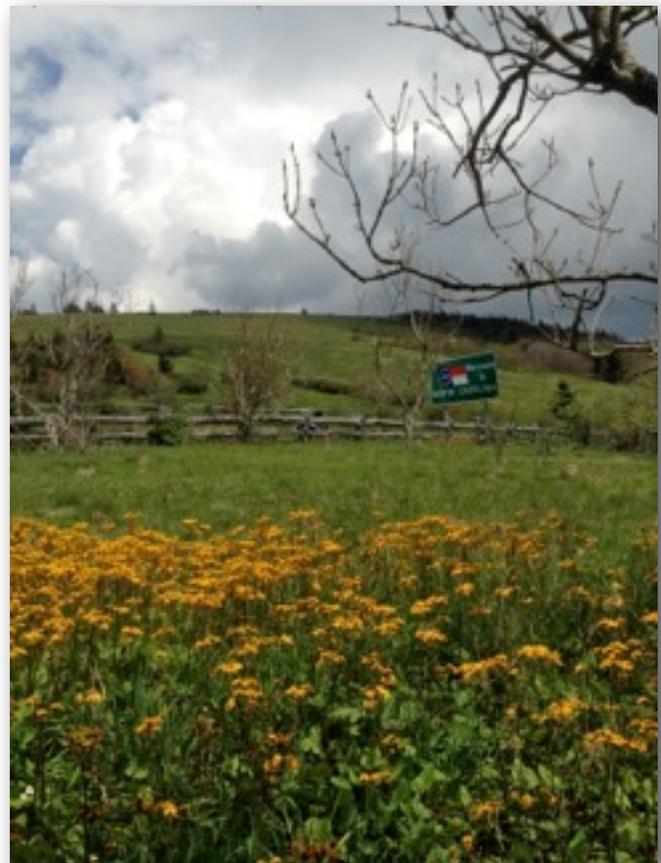
Riders Association of the Mid-South
Formerly the Return to Shiloh Rally

October 11-13th 2013

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

www.bmwchr.org

Carol Beals 757-548-3381



Hats Still Available

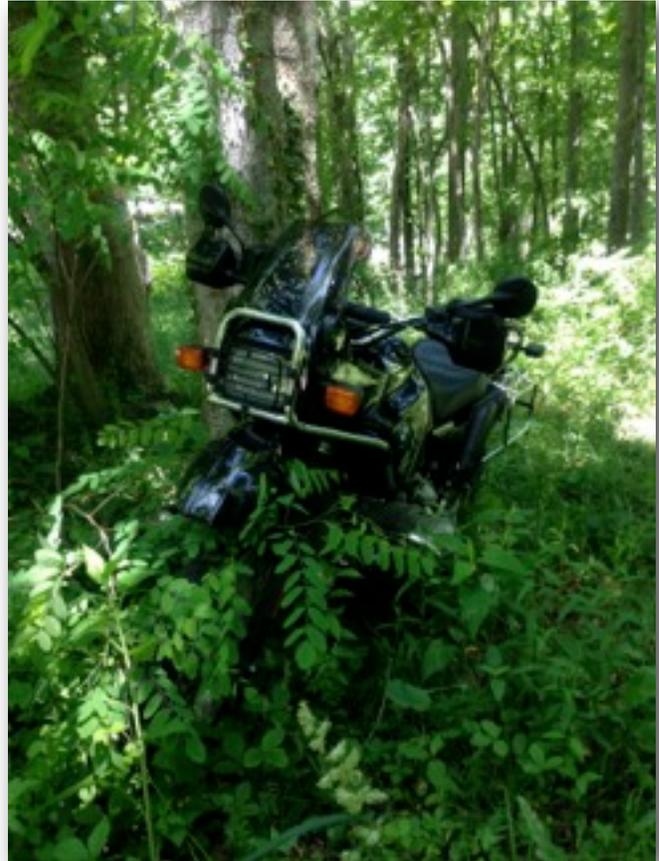
ABMWR Ball caps are still available while supplies last. Price is \$15. for members, \$18 for non-members. See Dan Thompson at our August Anniversary Meeting.



Renew Now!

Fiscal year annual membership in our club expires September 30th. Please renew soon for the 2013-2014 upcoming year. You can complete the new/renewal application on Page 10 of this newsletter, check the "renewal" box, and mail with check to address on app. Or, if easier, renew using the PayPal feature on our website at www.abmwr.org . Or, just bring the app with cash to our August Meeting.

For new applicants, any applications received after June 1, 2013 will be applied for the upcoming 2013-2014 year.



Blue Ridge Parkway Updates

Just when we thought we had it made... along comes another closure. Structural damage to the BRP due to the recent heavy rains has forced the National Park Service to shut down our parkway from MP 376 at Ox Creek Road to MP 355 at Mt. Mitchell State Park. The actual road damage is at MP 374.5 and our Mother Road will be closed in that area until further notice.

Oh well. We can still ride up to Mount Pisgah for breakfast, or take some other fun twisties up to Mount Mitchell for lunch. Even with summer traffic, early morning parkway rides in mid-week are still very special for us motorcyclists.

President's Message

By Jim McMains

Happy Two Year Anniversary my fellow club members!



I can't believe it has been two years already since we started this motorcycle club. We have great members, A phenomenal Newsletter, T-Shirts, Hats, Banner, Flag, membership cards, meetings where we have learned a lot about the products that keep us going, Parties, BBQ's, a National Rally and just about everything else you would want from belonging to an organization...and we have done all of this in just "two" short years. Just imagine what we can do as we keep growing and maturing.

Our social media encompasses a Website for others to model themselves after, a Facebook Page, a Yahoo group for staying in quick touch, that great Newsletter, and I am sure down the line with some younger members coming in we may have an Asheville BMW Riders Twitter following. Our Photographer Perry keeps us up on the latest and greatest rides and events with those candid shots he takes so eloquently and posts to our media, as well as to his own account online that he so freely allows us access for viewing. He was the man at the Rally when they escorted him to the top of the Biltmore Estate to capture those closing ceremony shots. Please make sure you take the time to look at all his pictures, we are blessed to have him doing this for us!

As you read this I am preparing to ride in the Western part of our great country two- up with my wife and hopefully will enjoy what I hope is good weather. As you know I have dedicated this ride to the Hotshot Firefighters who lost their lives in Arizona in June. Though we had planned this ride for quite some time I saw a greater purpose for it by dedicating it to them. Tragedy can strike at anytime and anywhere and I am thankful everyday for the great lives we lead in our special part of the country with the friends I have made in this club in the last two years. I look forward to every day we share and to many more years of riding, socializing and just doing what we do as a club. I hope you all feel the same and I hope you are enjoying a celebration of our anniversary this month. I will miss this monthly meeting but will be with you in spirit... and maybe even by cell phone if we can get someone to call me from the meeting :-)

Be Safe, participate in your club events and I will see you down the road when we return, Jim
President Message August 2013

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
Rick Capps

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

Upcoming Elections

Our bi-annual election of officers is coming up in November of 2013. In keeping with the club Bi-Laws, our Board of Directors has chosen a nominating committee, consisting of Harry Wilson, Elwood Miles, Dan Thompson, and Perry Hebard.

Present Officers Jim McMains, Dan Falkenstein, and Kent Skoug will be running as incumbents for their respective offices. Perry Hebard has chosen not to run for re-election, and BOD member John Koenig intends to run for Perry's vice presidential position. There is at least one person running for each position at this point, but we would love to see involvement from our general membership. If any of you would like to run for any of the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer, please make your intentions known to any of the four nominating committee members, prior to October 15th. Additionally, there will be "nominations from the floor" at the November election meeting.

New Members

Just prior to our 2nd anniversary as a club, our active membership roster has officially hit the 200 mark! Congratulations to all... We welcome the following new members:

Chris Parker - Greer, SC

David Hourdequin - Hayesville NC

Ray Lund - Asheville, NC

Antonio Grion - Asheville, NC

Will Knight - Asheville, NC



Perry Hebard Photos



Featured Member Jim McMains

(Written by Jim with photos selected by Maggie)



Well, our newsletter editor finally cornered me into doing a Bio. I typically do not like doing these kind of things, so I will attempt my best rendition of Jim's life without all the boring stuff. Motorcycling life for me started with an Alexander Reynolds 3.5hp Mini bike purchased new from a Pep Boys Auto Store in 1967, I quickly moved up to a Honda Trail 50 which I used not on trails, but on the streets of my city in New Jersey. We didn't have much in the way of woods, so the sidewalks became my trails and the streets were used whenever a figure of authority in a Black and White vehicle was not around. I did pretty good in not being detected and was never caught! I had that bike until 1972 when I graduated to a Honda CL350, the same year I got my motorcycle license. After High School graduation in 1973 I had a few "covert years" not up for discussing and finally came back home and to motorcycling where I proceeded to go through a few Japanese bikes and BMW's. These included a Yamaha XS500, 500 Kawasaki H1 Mach III, 750 Kawasaki H2 Mach IV, KZ650 Kawasaki, Kawasaki 900Z1, BMW R90S, BMW R75/5, Honda CX650 Turbo and BMW R1100RT.

I learned that BMW did this strange thing of tracking your mileage and before you know it I was getting this medallion from AMOL BMW in NJ for 100,000 miles. Then just a few years ago I received my 200,000 medallion. I wish the other manufacturers had this program because I know I have accumulated so many more miles on bikes. I cannot even guess how many.

My early riding years had me chasing that "high" for speed, but the past 10 years I have actually started enjoying the ride and no longer really have that "need for speed". I guess that is called maturing? Even though I know we still have that desire deep down inside. I like long distance touring the best, but any ride is a good ride!

After those covert years, I pursued a career in the Fire Department in 1979, and worked up through the ranks from Firefighter to Lieutenant, then Captain and finally Battalion Chief. It was an exciting and humbling career helping those in need and sharing the camaraderie in the Fire Service, which I still enjoy to this day. It is a wonderful brotherhood that you never leave.

In 1983 I met my permanent riding partner at the Jersey Shore and in 1985 we were married. Maggie has been riding with me Two-up since then and we have logged quite a few miles



together with 4 cross country trips, one trip to Alaska, and a bunch of other long distance trips. We have another coming up this August. She definitely deserves a medal!

My former Fire Department, North Hudson Regional Fire and Rescue is the 3rd largest Department in NJ and sits just across the Hudson River from NYC. I retired 12/31/1999 at the old age of 44, and finally in 2003 we made the move to this great part of the country. We could not think of any other place we would want to live.

You will probably note that when I ride I am always wearing a Fire Department shirt. Like people in

Featured Member - Continued

many other areas, such as sports, some of us develop superstitions or rituals we perform that we feel may benefit us. After purchasing my present bike in 1998, I was riding home from work in uniform, under my riding gear, and after the 45 mile trek, and just a half mile from home, a Deer ran out in front of me. I was doing about 45 mph and did not even have time to hit the brakes. I hit the 160 pound Deer broadside killing it and splitting the fairing on my Green RT, this along with other damage brought a repair bill totaling \$4500 dollars. The bike and I stayed up and finished the ride home. From that day forward, I felt that having my FD shirt on had been my saving grace. I promised myself to always wear one when riding as my lucky charm and that is what I do.

Fortunately I have a whole wardrobe of Fire Department shirts and should never run out. You will probably never see me riding without one. Although I did feel a little funny at the BMWRA rally when I wore my Club shirt up to closing ceremonies. I had belonged to 3 motorcycle clubs in NJ (all BMW) and was very active in Skylands NJ BMW Riders as an officer. I also joined two online communities called BMWRT.COM and Adventure Riders. I was active in BMWRT and started a regional rally called Mayhem in the Mountains. Along with 4 other close friends, we did 5 of these, Winchester, Va., Saratoga Springs, N.Y., Roanoke, Va., North Bend, W.V., and finally Asheville, NC after I had moved here. We actually had the big wigs from BMWNA attend our Saratoga Springs rally and they came bearing gifts! Attendance was capped at 100 or less.

Through the online community I formed friendships which last to this day and I also ran some Tech days at my home in NJ where we learned much about our bikes. In those first years of retirement Maggie and I were planning our move and the day finally came in September 2003. I rode the bike down here during Hurricane Isabel while following Maggie in the car. That was an interesting ride for sure, but we made it!

When we moved here the only thing missing for me was a motorcycle club. I had a few failed attempts at trying to organize a few local people to form one, then I fell into a small group of friends here in my neighborhood to ride with. When I learned of the dealership opening I saw the opportunity to form a club and made contact with them. You know how that played out and here we are.

Starting this club was the best thing I have done since moving here and is a focus of my life now. I am fortunate to have made so many new friends with this great club and I look forward to many years of enjoyment with it. This about covers the basics and should keep our editor at bay ;-).



This feature on Jim wraps up the present BOD members being showcased. Many of them are having so much fun that they are running for re-election in November. To give appropriate space, I would now like to showcase any and all other club members that are considering running for a position this Fall. If you wish to be featured, please submit your profile, along with photos, to me at newsletter@ashevillebmwrider.org no later than August 23rd. In addition to possible officer candidates. I am also looking for other members to profile. Please consider sending me your information; I'm sure your fellow club members would love to read about you. Editor

My Ride for the Fallen Firefighters in Arizona

By Jim McMains

I felt compelled to write this request at a sad time for the brotherhood of Firefighters and for all those who care for them. It was a great loss and it affected me. I would like to dedicate my upcoming motorcycle trip to the memory of these young, "Granite Mountain Hotshot" Firefighters from Prescott, Arizona, who gave their lives on June 30th, many leaving behind wives and children. They were doing a job they loved and payed the ultimate sacrifice for it.

Maggie and I had been planning this motorcycle trip for some time now, with a departure date of August 7, returning home sometime in late September. We were going to leave our home to roam the Pacific Northwest then south along the coast, returning home when we get here. I had hoped to do somewhere between 5,000 and 10,000 miles depending on where the days took us.

I was reading an article in a motorcycle magazine tonight about a ride that was done for a children's charity and they asked for pledges of money per mile. It was successful for the children's fund. This gave me the idea to try and do the same for the families of the fallen Firefighters by tying in my upcoming travel by bike.

There is no pressure or expectations in my request, but for those interested I would ask that you consider a pledge of maybe one cent per mile of the traveling that we do, for the Firefighters families. Any donation is appreciated but the pledge makes it a more involved process for all those who participate. At one cent per mile, if I were to accomplish the 10,000 miles it would amount to a \$100 donation...of course less miles would be less donation, and a donation of even one half cent per mile still helps in the long run.

I have a PayPal account that I will use for collecting, and all monies generated will go to the fund.

If you are so inclined to participate, please email me back with your intentions and please place whatever limit you would like on the pledge for miles. Just email me your name and amount per mile you would care to give which will be strictly confidential.

I will document and email everyone the odometer reading on the day of departure and finally on the day of return and inform everyone of the total miles so that you can figure your donated pledge to contribute.

I thank you in advance for any participation, and if you cannot participate that is still fine, just say a prayer for the families of the fallen and for the safety of their fellow firefighters who are still there battling this blaze. I thought this would give a little more meaning to the ride I am going to take and I also plan on visiting some Fire Stations along the way.

My PayPal account is:

Ride4FallenFirefighters@gmail.com

Please be sure to include your name and to state what the donation is for.

If you do not use Paypal, please let me know and we can make other arrangements.

Thanks everyone for pledges or prayers :-)

**Sincerely, Jim McMains Retired Firefighter
President Asheville BMW Riders**

The article above is a plea our President put out on several websites a few weeks ago. I'm running this again in case someone didn't get this piece. Good fortune to you on your travels, Jim. I hope to see you when our paths cross in Montana later this month.

(Editor)

Editor's Ramblings

By John Koenig

By the time this newsletter issue hits the stands, I hope to be in the wind somewhere west of the Mississippi. The road's been calling my name for a while now, so I'll see you in the fall.



The past month was a hectic one for trip preparation. Dialing in a new rig is always a challenge, but readying an all-new model has been a huge challenge. Particular parts not available yet, aftermarket availability being sketchy, and mate-up of many items for the 1200 GSW has been interesting. Add to that the teething problems of a new model on the market. And try packing for a trip when you don't even have bags yet!

Now the good news, After two different tight-faced moments that threatened to abort the whole trip (due to bike issues), I was miraculously made whole and sent out on the road by the great folks at Eurosport Asheville! I don't intend for this article to be an advertisement for our local dealership, but a personal testimonial is in order here. Without going into technical detail, I'll just say that there was a moment when I was just ready to pack it all in; I had had enough. Justin, Thomas, Lee and Peter all kept their heads in the end, and did whatever necessary to get me rolling. I've been a loyal customer of theirs all along, but I'll say that their actions in a crunch time like this will keep me loyal. Thanks guys.

And more good news. Despite the initial minor glitches of the new water-cooled boxer, it is one fantastic bike. You GSA and

RT guys considering a new water-boxer really have something to look forward to next year with this new design.

Have fun this summer, everyone. The more of you that I meet and get to know, the more I realize what a diverse group of motor heads we are. We may all live for different strokes, but we all seem to find joy in twisting the throttle. As the old saying goes, "don't postpone joy." I look forward to hearing your tales of adventure when we meet up again.

newsletter@ashevillebmwriders.org



The ABMWR team was out in force on Saturday, July 20th to assist with the French Broad Cycling Classic in Marshall, NC.



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