

BMW Motorcycle Club
ASHEVILLE BMW RIDERS



The Blue Ridge Breeze

A Publication of the Asheville BMW Riders

BMWMOA Club #353 & BMWRA Club #339

December - 2011



Important Changes!

👉 Meeting Night

3rd Tuesday of Month
effective January 2012

👉 Gatherings of the Bikes

1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday
effective March 2012

👉 Change in Gathering Location

TBD, effective March 2012

Please Note these changes to our schedule,
and see our President's Message (page 5)
in this issue for further information.

Happy Holidays Everyone!



Jerry Robinson at November Meeting Photo by Perry Hebard

KLIM at November Meeting

We had a great turn-out for our November 29th membership meeting, with about 30 hardy folks braving the not-so-great weather.

Jerry Robinson, the Eastern Regional Sales Manager for KLIM riding gear came up from Atlanta to give us a very interesting presentation. KLIM is a relatively small company in Idaho which started producing snowmobile riding equipment about 12 years ago. They have since expanded into motorcycle wear over the last 4 years or so, and are becoming one of the most respected names in adventure touring.

Jerry discussed KLIM's R&D work, in conjunction with Gore-tex. He gave us a live demo of some of Gore-tex's newest products. ABMWR member Kent Scoug was the designated volunteer, and with Jerry showed us some amazing Gore-tex characteristics. Later, many of us were turned into models, showing off KLIM's three levels of jackets and pants (Traverse, Latitude, and Bad Lands). Also shown were the hand made "Adventure Rally Jacket" of Superfabric, and KLIM's various models of gloves, underwear, and socks.

Eurosport Asheville extended it's "10% off on meeting night" deals on all KLIM products, as well as all other parts, accessories, and apparel in the shop, to ABMWR members. We thank them for their generous offering.

Asheville BMW Riders Schedule of Events

- 12/04 Sunday** 11am Atlanta Bread Co.
Social Gathering
- 12/13 Tuesday** 7-10 pm Biltmore Lake
Holiday Party (see page 5 for directions)
- 12/18 Sunday** 11am Atlanta Bread Co.
Social Gathering
- 1/1 Sunday** 11am Atlanta Bread Co.
Social Gathering
- 1/15 Sunday** 11am Atlanta Bread Co.
Social Gathering
- 1/17 Tuesday** 7pm Eurosport Asheville
Membership Meeting

Membership Meeting Location

Eurosport Asheville
30 Bryson Street
Asheville, NC 28803

Social Gathering Location

Atlanta Bread Company - South Asheville
484 Hendersonville Road
Asheville, NC 28803

Your 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

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.

Mark Your Calendars Upcoming Events

February 25th 2012

Progressive Int'l Motorcycle Show Charlotte, North Carolina

Any ABMWR members interested in riding, carpooling, or meeting up in Charlotte, please post in the "forums" section of our website (www.abmwr.org).

March 10-17th 2012

Daytona Speedweek Daytona Beach, Florida

Ditto for networking with club members if you want to hang out with the clan.

June 14-17th 2012

BMWRA Rally Copper Mountain, Colorado

Let's try to represent our club at this event! For those of you that choose lodging over camping, the Best Western in Frisco, CO is becoming the un-official hotel for the ABMWR contingent. Several of us have already booked rooms before they sell out. Contact Prez Jim or Editor John for info, or just contact the hotel direct. Again, let's network on our site, and make a showing out there.

July 19-22nd 2012

BMWMOA Rally Sedalia, Missouri

Need another National rally to fill your schedule? Let's head to Sedalia for the largest BMW get-together in the country. Just 790 miles west of here. An easy day's ride for you Iron Butters out there!

Featured Member this Month

Robert "Stew" Stewart



Stew Stewart

Photo by Perry Hebard

When meeting with Stew on his home turf, it's quickly apparent that he is a family man first, and cares about people in general. Among family, neighbors, friends, and employees, His actions and philosophy seem to be the same. But, it's also obvious that Stew's love of bikes, and the extended family of motorcycling is deep in Stew's heart as well.

Growing up in Clearwater, Florida, he often visited the Mars Hill, NC area for various Boy Scouting activities. He always loved the western North Carolina mountains and moving there was even one of the "conditions" when vetting a bride! The plans obviously worked well.

Stew has been on motorcycles for quite some time. He started out many years ago on a 1971 Kawasaki 100 Enduro. After several dirt and street bikes (he once owned 23 motorcycles at one time.), he has evolved completely to the BMW Marque. His first Beemer was a 1977 R100S. After many years of Airheads, what does the stable look like today? Four bikes. Three slash fives (from the 70's) of various models, and a newish 2009 R1200GS Special Edition. He's a modern guy with a lingering addiction to the older airheads. Perfect. Stew is a member of RA, ABC, AMA, and a lifetime member of MOA. When asked how motorcycles have affected his life, he jokingly quipped, "They're the only other girls my

wife will let me have". After a little interaction with his wife, Chris, he becomes more serious. They both iterate how much enrichment, peace, and enjoyment bikes have afforded him. Motorcycling seems to keep him centered in the other aspects of life. Stew also quickly adds how wonderfully supportive Chris has been over the years, letting him pursue his passions such as motorcycling.

Stew has been married to Chris for 20 years and they have 2 children, Adam and Kelli.

We're fortunate that Stew is able to make time in his life to support our club with volunteer work. He runs his own Heat & Air business, which includes installations and maintenance. If that doesn't keep him busy enough, he's also a volunteer firefighter with the Conestee Fire Department. That's another field he takes very passionately and another place he serves others.

The Stewart family lives in Cedar Mountain, which is along Highway 276 about 10 miles south of Brevard. This area has some of the greatest motorcycling roads around and we're looking forward to Stew showing our club some rides down there in the year ahead. Their property is likewise a labor of love; absolutely gorgeous. A great home they built, pond, trails, pavilion, and maybe best of all, his "museum", as he calls it. Call it a museum, shop, garage, man cave, or whatever... it's pretty special. In addition to the necessary bar, flatscreen, and pool table, you'll find a line-up of antique Beemers along with endless walls of motorcycle memorabilia (each piece with it's own story). Truly amazing.

And how did our club come together with Stew? He and his friend Joe were going to start a club, the "Scruffys", to share their passion and love of riding. They were excited when they heard a new dealership was opening in Asheville, heard about our club, and came to a meeting to check it out. The rest is history. Stew's involvement with our club has been to help us immensely with incorporation (LLC), and work hand in hand with Joe and Phil in Website development. Although we so much appreciate Stew's work and convey our gratitude, Stew humbly doesn't seek glorification. Instead he asked us to use his involvement as an example to inspire others. For others to step up to the plate. Again it says a lot about Stew's character, and we thank him for that.

Editor's Ramblings...

What a trip it's been so far, from a small steering committee of 6 riders this summer to a membership of over 75 riders in less than 6 months! Thirty members at our November meeting. New faces at almost every social gathering. And over 60 folks signed up for our holiday party (including guests). Absolutely amazing. I'm proud to just be a part of it!

Great meeting in November. It was "KLIM kind of weather", with a great turn-out. My thanks go out to our chief, Jim McMains, for his continued hard work and leadership. And thanks also to Thomas Montgomery and his crew at Eurosport Asheville for hosting us and continuing to provide programs for our meetings.

I'd like to mention that we will soon be forming as many as five new committees. For any of you members that would like to contribute, we will have a great need for more volunteers. These committees may include membership, ride planning, event planning, rally co-ordination, and seeking of sponsors for various purposes. We intend to have some of our Board members serve on these committees, but not chair them. Keep all this in mind, as you will be hearing more about it in January.

One additional riding note; at our Gatherings folks are confused as to when to eat! Through February, we'll be meeting at 11:00 for socialization, coffee, and food if someone likes. But keep in mind when riding out at noon that we'll be making a LUNCH stop at a destination about 1:00 or 1:30pm. Don't be surprised.

Happy Holidays Everyone.

John Koenig, Editor

newsletter@ashevillebmwriders.org

Down the Road President's Message Change is in the air and Change is coming to the Club.

Well here it is December already and hopefully we will be enjoying one of those great WNC winters where the daytime temperatures are made for riding. Our club is in it's early stages and still adapting to the wants and needs of the members. We are making some changes based on feedback from "you" the members. Your participation and voice is what guides the club in implementing what you want. The more of you that get involved, take an interest and give some input, the better our idea of what you want.

Moving forward, the club will be making a change to the meeting night and do a little change up on our twice monthly gatherings which I will detail a little later in this message. Changes to the monthly gatherings will have to commence after the winter months, since we cannot be assured of how the weather will really be in January and February. This will also give us the time we need to work out the changes for the start of our spring riding. In the meanwhile, we will maintain our "2 Sundays" a month social gathering at Atlanta Bread over the winter. If weather is not conducive for riding on these Sundays, please attend by other means and do a little story telling over a cup of coffee. Even without riding I enjoy talking about bikes with my club friends and it is still a nice way to socialize and get to know each other.

Our First change, beginning in January is to move the meeting night to the Third Tuesday of the month with the time remaining at 7pm.

Our Second change beginning in March is to our gatherings. We will begin a "First Saturday - Third Sunday of the month" Club Gathering. These will be the monthly offerings from the club to socialize, but we also encourage you to try and get together at other times for rides utilizing the "Ride Forum" of the Website. We are making this change to give everyone the

opportunity to attend a rider gathering. We have heard from some of you about Saturday obligations and many with Sunday obligations that would keep you from attending, so we will offer one Saturday and Sunday of each month and hope that this will allow those members a chance to participate at least once a month.

Our third and biggest change, which will also begin in March, is that we want to hold our gatherings at different locations rather than coming to the same place each time. To start with, we felt it easiest to designate a few locations. So we will be Keeping Atlanta Bread as the Central one, Panacea Coffee House Cafe in Waynesville, to the West, and the Mustang Cafe in Hendersonville, to the South. We will rotate these locations over our Saturday and Sunday meets and set up a schedule in advance. This schedule will be in a future newsletter.

This is where "you" the member come in to play. We all live in different areas and know the roads around us. We want to be able to explore all these great roads within our riding range. So we are going to ask each of you to try and contribute by coming up with some nice rides around these areas to hopefully share with us. We want to recruit "Two Ride Captains" to be the contact people for arranging these routes to be used from the locations. You can coordinate with them ahead of time and from that point the Ride Captain should be able to post this info on the Ride Forum of the Website. A reminder from the Yahoo site will also come out, as usual, for where the gathering will take place. We still have to work some kinks out, but that is the general idea.

Part of the fun in doing this will be the ride from home to these new locations. It is no different than organizing a little ride with friends and having a place to go eat as your destination, telling some lies, then riding back home.

We want to keep it simple, have fun, see some new roads and have a chance to kick tires and do some talking. These are just some of the ideas we are tossing around, and the best way to organize this is by you participating, so let's hear your ideas.

I am asking that you all please Register on our Website, www.abmwr.org, if you have not already done so, and then begin using it. Go to the Forums section and use all of them, but please start by going to the Ride Forum and giving us your suggestions on some rides you would like for our gatherings. This is also the place to announce you would like to get together for an additional impromptu ride. Just come up with a time, place and date and see if you get any takers. With around 70 members it should not be too hard. We would love to have rides set up every weekend and also during the week for those that have the time.

We need our members to help mold this club into something we all want to belong to. I have said it before, this is your club and you will only get out of it what you put in to it, so please help out.

Have a Great New Year,
"See You Down The Road"
Jim McMains, President ABMWR



Jim McMains at November Meeting Photo by Perry Hebard



John & Kent with their GS's Photo by Steve Jarrell

The Non-Gathering Gathering

By Kent Skoug

It wasn't a regular gathering day but I met up with John Koenig at BP/McDonald's on Long Shoals Road about 10:00 AM and went down Highway 191 to Highway 280 towards Hendersonville where we met Steve Jarrell on a brand new F800 GS (hadn't even had the 600 mile break in yet!) Steve knew most of the local back roads so we followed him through some really pretty countrysides eventually coming out just north of Caesar's Head state park on Highway 276. Then it was south to Highway 11 and further points south. I believe now John was leading.

We eventually worked our way through Pickens to Walhalla and made a stop for a bite of lunch along this stretch and all had Bar-B-Q, each with various sides, and then turned north on Highway 107. This area had some great leaf colors and we made a stop at one of the overlooks to take it all in.

Then we angled east and south and got back onto Highway 11 and east to a fuel stop at the junction of Highway 178, and then turned north until we almost got to Rosman where Steve knew some different roads through great valleys eventually landing us back on Highway 276 south of Brevard where John and I headed towards Asheville and Steve turned towards Hendersonville.

It was a cool morning when we left (about thirty degrees at my house). It was in the mid-sixty's about 4:00pm when we got back. All in all, it was a another great ride.

Holiday Party will be held:

Tuesday, December 13, 2011 7-10pm

The Biltmore Lake Clubhouse

80 Lake Drive

Biltmore Lake, NC 28715

For those of you

who have prepaid for the Party...

Here are the directions...

Directions:

From I-26 to exit 33, heading west. Turn right on Sardis Rd. take to the end, then left on Sandhill Rd., and left on Lake Drive, (which is the first light past the little strip mall on the left). Clubhouse will be on the right, approx. 1/4 mile, next to the lake.

From I-40, take exit 44 (Enka-Candler), at the bottom of the ramp turn right on 19/23 (aka Smokey Park Highway, toward Candler). Travel 1.6 miles and turn left on Sandhill Rd. (Citizens Bank will be on your right). Proceed 0.5 miles and at second light turn right on Lake Drive (Not Enka Lake Drive which will come first). Proceed 1/4 mile to clubhouse on right, next to the lake.

Parking is available along Lake Drive, or you can continue straight through the circle, just past the clubhouse, and a Parking lot will be on the right side.

Important: In the event of inclement weather and the possibility of a party cancellation, please check the club website forum and also look for a cancellation email from our Yahoo Group.