

BMW Motorcycle Club
ASHEVILLE BMW RIDERS



The Blue Ridge Breeze

A Publication of the Asheville BMW Riders

BMWMOA Club #353 & BMWRA Club #339



February - 2013

February Meeting

On Tuesday, February 19th, please join us at 7:00pm for our monthly membership meeting of the Asheville BMW Riders. We will meet at Eurosport Asheville in Biltmore Village as usual.

For the February meeting, member Clark Luster will be giving a presentation of his experience with the Isle of Man races. Clark's a real BMW man at heart, but is as well a pure motorcyclist in general. His adventures at the Isle of Man have been colorful over the years, and we hope all of you will enjoy Clark's accounting of them. For more info on Clark and the mystique of the Isle, see our "Featured Member" article on Page 3.

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

Schedule of Club Events

- 2/2 **Saturday 10am Social Gathering**
South Asheville - The Green Sage Cafe
1800 Hendersonville Road, Asheville
- 2/17 **Sunday 10am Social Gathering**
South Asheville - The Green Sage Cafe
1800 Hendersonville Road, Asheville
- 2/19 **Tuesday 7pm Membership Meeting**
Eurosport Asheville
30 Bryson Street, Asheville, NC 28803
- 3/2 **Saturday 10am Social Gathering**
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Helpful Hint

By Kent Skoug

Just thought I would pass something along for anyone using Garmin GPS's, especially the Zumo 550. If your Garmin seems to die on you and won't turn back on, use a T-8 Torx drive (star drive) to remove the battery. Use the USB cable that came with the Garmin to plug it into a power source, such as a computer. It will probably come back on. While it's still attached to the power source, reinstall the battery. If the battery has lost its charge, leave the GPS attached to the power source until the battery is recharged. Remove from the power source, and turn the GPS off and back on to test it. You're good to go!



Zumo with torx bit in the battery

Over the years my Zumo has locked up twice on me and this has brought it back to life both times.

Note:
The small Torx bits are available from Harbour Freight for under \$4.00.



Mark Your Calendars Other Upcoming Events

February 22-24th, 2013

Progressive International Motorcycle Show

Charlotte, NC

Network with other club members for car pooling or group riding to this event.

www.motorcycleshows.com

April 26-28th, 2013

BMWMOA Weekend Getaway

Fontana Village Resort

Fontana Dam, NC

www.bmwmoa.org

Lodging, camping, events, rides, prizes, and fun for all. Take advantage of our close proximity to this national event.

May 3-5th, 2013

BMW Owners of Georgia

23rd Annual Georgia Mountain Rally

Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds

Hiawassee, Georgia

www.bmwmoa.org

Many of our members made this event last year. Fun event. Great venue, great riding. Pre-registration has begun.

June 20-23rd, 2013

BMWRA National Rally

Biltmore Estate, Asheville, NC

Too early for details,

but BLOCK OUT YOUR CALENDAR!

www.bmwra.org

July 18-21st, 2013

BMWMOA International Rally

Oregon State Fairgrounds

Salem, Oregon

www.bmwmoa.org

Featured Member February - Clark Luster

Clark Luster started his motorcycle career as a four year old. His family lived on a long hill in Nashville, Tennessee above Ewing Womack's Triumph shop. The shop jockeys would hit third gear right in front his house, and he was hooked. Forever.

Over the past sixty plus years, Clark has been everywhere and seen and done just about everything on a motorbike. Cushman Eagle, Ducati, DKW, Matchless, Whizzer, Indian, Zundapp, Vespa, dozens of Jap bikes, finally a new Triumph (1968) and 500,000 plus miles on BMW's. He went to Prudhoe Bay the first year the Haul Road was open to the public on an 1100GS. He kept a bike in Europe for a dozen years. Currently, there is a collection of bikes in his garage in Del Rio, Tennessee.

He has belonged to numerous BMW clubs and has been president of several. He currently pays dues to BMW Riders of Knoxville, East Tennessee Pterodactyls and the Asheville BWM Riders and participates as time allows. He is a BMW MOA Ambassador and was founder and first president of the BMW MOA Foundation. One of his goals has been to relocate the MOA National Headquarters to the Asheville area. But that is a story for another time.

About twenty years ago he started going to the Isle of Man for the TT and the Manx GP. He has been to the Isle of Man a dozen times and typically volunteers as a Race Marshall. He was crew chief for Dwight Mitchell's TT race Team USA in 1999 (Kawasaki) and 2000 (MV Agusta).

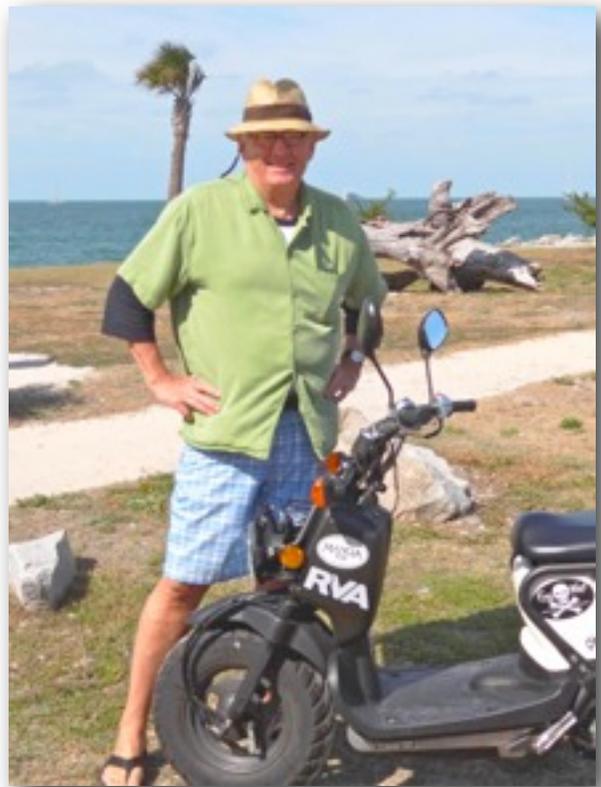
Two of Clark's three children have joined him on Isle of Man adventures. His wife June has been there several times and was there several months before she had a serious stroke three years ago. Her health condition has refocused the Luster family's priorities but motorcycling

and the Isle of Man will always be part of their lives. Ask Clark to show you his tattoo!



Clark and his wife June love the Florida Keys even more than motorcycles in mid-winter.

In addition to discussing the races, Clark will discuss the logistics of travel, cost, housing and daily activities and culture of the Manx people. Photos and videos of the races are available on YouTube. If any club members have been to the TT or Manx GP, you are welcome to join Clark with the presentation at the club meeting this month at Eurosport.



Ruckus! The wheels of choice in the tropics...

January 5th Gathering

Submitted by Kent Skoug



We had 10 or 11 people show up for the gathering. Some showed early and some drifted in a little later. Some were on bikes and some were on four wheels. But, by the time we got ready to start a ride we were down to four.

We pulled out about 11:15 or so and it was still only in the mid-forty's so I decided to keep the ride fairly short. Pulling out of the Green Sage we turned south on Hendersonville Road (Hwy 25) through all the stoplights until we got close to I-26, then I made a left turn on Howard Gap Road which is a somewhat twisty, scenic route which took us to the east side of Hendersonville onto Hwy. 64. Howard Gap Road is a wonderful road through residential areas, past schools but staying curvy and having only one stop light and one stop sign.

Then we worked our way west and south to Spartanburg Highway which we followed under I-26 winding our way to downtown Saluda where we turned right across the railroad tracks and followed Saluda Hwy. south-west to Old Hwy. 25 (also known as Hwy 225). Here we went left and followed the grade south into South Carolina. After hitting Highway 25 we only traveled another couple hundred yards before we turned west on Hwy 11.

After about four miles this road also becomes Hwy 276. In another seven miles 276 turns north following the switchbacks and the grade back up the mountains and past Caesars Head State Park eventually reaching the town of Brevard.

We had now traveled about a hundred miles and it was about 2:00 PM. We pulled into Dugan's Irish Pub for a bite of lunch and about three we split up to start for home. Like I said, just a short little ride heading south to stay a little warmer, but good company and a good time.

Down the Road President's Message

By Jim McMains

Hey Fellow Riders
(and wounded
members),

I am progressing
along very well after
my shoulder surgery
and should be back
just in time for our
February meeting,
(still have PT until
March and no riding until April).

I say just in time because it looks like we will be down two more Officers by then. Our VP Perry is going in for 2 partial knee replacements on January 29th and our great Newsletter Editor John got jealous of me so he also had shoulder surgery on January 16th. Please keep them in your well wishes for a speedy recovery. They both discovered the weight of the club while I was gone with Perry trying to carry it and John trying to shoulder it. Just look what happened ;-) ...seriously I hope they have an easy time of their surgery & recovery and get back with us ASAP.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that all of our Board of Directors/Officers keeps our Club moving along like a well lubed motorcycle. Nothing missed a beat without me and that is good. We have laid a great foundation for our club and are always looking to make changes for the better, based on "your" feedback, involvement and all of our needs. In the very near future we will be putting together a nominating committee for this coming fall's Officer Elections. President, VP, Secretary, and Treasurer are our official positions open for running. Some of our current Officers will likely seek re-election, some not, but please give thought to your desire to run for any of those positions and make it known to us.



After we get through this period of health issues, we want to devote some of our time in getting more involvement from the membership by forming some committees so that everyone can share in helping mold our club. Honestly, we need your help. If you have a suggestion for a committee you feel we need and would be willing to serve as a Chairperson, please step forward and let us know and we will work to get you the help you need to see it through. Charity and Donations is one already touched on but we will be trying to better establish it this coming year. Rome was not built in a day and neither is this club. We do what we can as volunteers devoting our time.

Our main goal was to get the club up and running, have some fun riding, build a member base, do some social events, get to know each other and then start building slowly towards improvement where needed.

I think we did a great job so far based on where we are at now and it shows by your smiling faces and the interest we get from the BMW organizations with their recognition of us. Most recently by the involvement of our club in the BMWRA National Rally being held at the Biltmore Estate this year. We are working quietly in the background at present and will ask the membership to step up and volunteer in some capacity at the rally. I thank those of you who have already accepted some responsibilities and for the rest who have given me their name to call on later. I look forward to hearing from more of you as we get closer.

We have some club changes already in mind and you will start hearing about them. Nothing is ever set in stone so we adapt as we go. Let us know what you like as well as don't like and hopefully we will find that happy medium for the majority of the club.

Thanks to John for getting this Newsletter set up while recovering from his surgery!

See ya down the road, oooops, I mean at the Physical Therapy center :-)

Jim

president@ashevillebmwriders.org

Future location of the GS rodeo at the upcoming Biltmore Rally. Bring out the backhoe and haul in some tires and rocks. Add water, and presto... GS track. Right next to the lagoon on Biltmore Estate.



Blueridge to Biltmore BMWRA Rally Update

Work is still progressing behind the scenes for the upcoming BMWRA National Rally at Biltmore Estate on June 20-23, 2013.

Rally Co-Chair Debbi Harbour from RA headquarters in Ohio is working to combine “national” volunteers with our local group. We can count on the “Ohio Crew” to really lend a hand.

If you’ve already volunteered to help work this important rally, sit tight. You’ll soon be hearing from our leaders. If you haven’t gotten on the list yet, but wish to volunteer for any time period or any particular area, let us know. Please contact both

Rally Co-Chair Jim McMains at

bmwgreenrt@aol.com and

Rally Volunteer Chairman Tim Wagner at

timwagner2012@gmail.com .

By the way, you can also now pre-register for the event at www.bmwra.org

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

New Gathering Schedule Starts in April

As warm weather returns, we will again be altering our Gathering and Riding Schedule. Days of the month will stay the same, but times and locations will change. Stay tuned for more information in next month’s issue.

Editor's Ramblings

By John Koenig

Hi Folks,

This past month has been a rough one for me. After an MRI on January 2nd, I went under the knife for rotator cuff surgery on the 16th, and have spent the rest of the month recovering. The shoulder will take another whole year to heal completely, but I hope to be back in the saddle by mid-May for casual riding. Enough about that, and on to better times!

I presently have a stable full of bikes up on stands, filled with Sta-bil, and hooked to battery tenders. Rather than park my trusty F800GS, I decided to place it for sale on consignment at Eurosport. Just as I've experienced with them in the past, the bike never made it to the showroom. While it was being cleaned up for sale, they immediately sold it! So, farewell old friend. I'll miss our times together. The good news is that my new R1200GS water cooled machine has been ordered and is due into the dealership in mid-Spring.

Like often happens in life, our plans change by the circumstances that surround us. Those plans of riding so many exciting GS events in 2013 are largely out the window (with my surgery) but it opens up the calendar for other



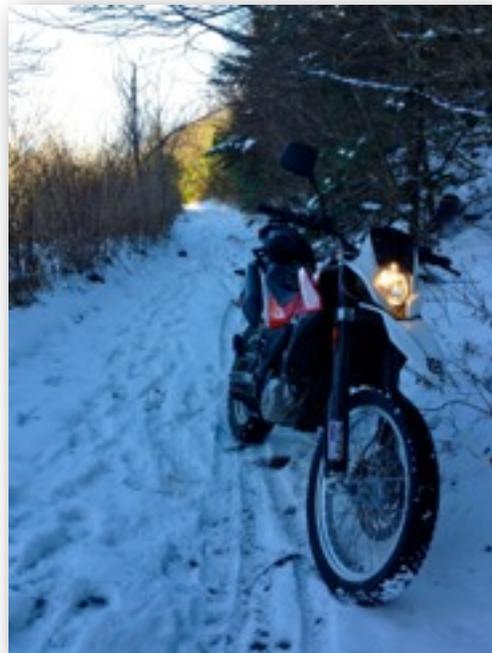
things. Getting to know my new GS. Dialing it in; personalizing it for my needs ahead. Helping with the Biltmore rally. Doing some casual travel this summer. Maybe attend the MOA rally and maybe drop down to being a "C" rider in the Big Dog in August. Definitely riding a lot of local ABMWR club rides as Spring and Summer progresses.

And one thing remains the same. The friendships I've developed through our club remain strong. I continue to enjoy the fraternity created among us riders, and look forward to good times on the road with many of you soon.

I may not be on two wheels yet, but I'll see you for coffee at the February Gatherings. I also look forward to Clark's presentation at our February Meeting.

John

newsletter@ashevillebmwrider.org





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