

BMW Motorcycle Club
ASHEVILLE BMW RIDERS



The Blue Ridge Breeze

A Publication of the Asheville BMW Riders

BMWMOA Club #353 & BMWRA Club #339

March - 2013

March Meeting

Please join us for our next ABMWR membership meeting, on March 19th. At this meeting Jeff Reid of Continental Tires will give a presentation. In addition to showing us the Continental product range for BMW's, Jeff will cover basic tire technology and how to read the markings on the tire sidewall.

Jeff says Continental has a couple of exciting new products for 2013, including a revolutionary Radial tire for older BMW's that would normally use bias type tires. And to cap the evening, he has "a cool video by Motorcyclist Magazine from a press launch last year". Come on out on the 19th to support our club and enjoy the Continental Tire Show.

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

- 3/2 Saturday 10am Social Gathering
South Asheville - The Green Sage Cafe
1800 Hendersonville Road, Asheville
- 3/17 Sunday 10am Social Gathering
South Asheville - The Green Sage Cafe
1800 Hendersonville Road, Asheville
- 3/19 Tuesday 7pm Membership Meeting
Eurosport Asheville
30 Bryson Street, Asheville, NC 28803
- 4/6 Saturday 9am Social Gathering
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



Photo by Perry Hebard

Mark Your Calendars Other Upcoming Events

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. For more information, see Kent's article on Page 4 of this newsletter.

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. Contact BMWMOA for more information.

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 has begun.

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

**Welcome New Members who
joined at last month's
membership meeting...**

Robert Lee Camp - Leicester, NC

Jeff Reid - Zirconia, NC

Bryan Lambert - Asheville, NC

Jack Burden - Asheville, NC

Dominique McCabe - Sarasota, FL

Photo below was submitted by Kent Skoug from the BMW RA Rally 2007 at the Biltmore Estate... Register now and be a part of the photo this year to be taken in June at the Rally.



The BMW RA Rally

June 20th – 23rd

By Kent Skoug

The article below is on the BMWRA website Rally page. Kudos to Kent for pitching our wonderful riding area to RA members nationwide. (Editor)

In 2007 my wife, Ursula, and I decided to retire from twenty-five years in the Seattle area. I have one of the best wives in the world. She flat out told me I WOULD retire while I was still able to ride. We started to decide on places to retire to (the Seattle area has great scenic routes and I can tolerate the rain, but not the tax structure) so we started to look around. Our children and grandchildren were just north of Atlanta, but there was no way in He** I was going to return to Atlanta and the congestion and traffic in that area. So, we decided on the mountain area of North Carolina in the Asheville area.

Now, I once read that you cannot explain real mountains to an Easterner and you cannot explain hot and muggy to a Westerner. That is probably true. Out west the mountains are almost twice as high as they are in the east. But out west the climb is gradual and there are lots of sweepers. On the east coast you go up quickly and down just as fast. My friends, those are called switchbacks! Much like what you find in the Alps. But in the Alps you usually have twenty-five to fifty meters of straight road between the switchbacks, here it is one after the other and you do have to watch for gravel in the turns. It is a lot more challenging.

I mentioned 2007 because that was the year we had decided to fly east and look at the Asheville area. Shortly after Christmas 2006 I was reading some of my magazines and I saw the BMW RA was having their national rally that year in Asheville at the Biltmore Estate. I yelled to Ursula, "Guess when we are going to Asheville and guess how we are traveling!" She was able to guess! We were impressed with the area, the tax structure, the cost of housing, and the roads! In 2009 I sent her ahead and told her to buy us a home and in July I followed her. Other than totaling the R1200 RT in Kansas while heading to NC, I have had no regrets. However, that's another story.

There is no state, other than Hawaii, that I haven't ridden in many times and I have never found riding that I have enjoyed as much as the North Carolina mountains. Many of you have heard about the Tail of the Dragon, believe me, it's overrated! I could show you a hundred routes with more curves, switchbacks, elevation changes and just plain fun, with less highway patrol and no 35 MPH speed limits!

In fact, if you come to the BMW RA rally at the Biltmore in 2013 I'll show them to you! Since moving to the south-east I have joined four BMW clubs, the Upstate BMW Riders of Greenville, SC, the Knob Mountain BMW Riders of Morganton, NC, the Asheville BMW Riders of Asheville, NC and the BMW Riders of Knoxville of Knoxville, TN as well as becoming a Regional Representative for the BMW RA while still remaining a member of the Washington State BMW Riders. Currently I am an officer in the Asheville Chapter and for the rally I will be laying out the on-road rides. So, like I said, come on down and I'll show you!

The cost for the rally this year for pre-registration is \$65.00 per person for RA members and \$75.00 for non-members which is really inexpensive because it allows full access to the Biltmore Estate (camping will be on the grounds) which is usually a \$50.00 charge by itself for a single day, and the rally fee is for the full three days. If you don't know about the Biltmore, look it up on line. It is the largest single family dwelling in the United States with 250 rooms, 33 family and guest bedrooms, 43 bathrooms, 65 fireplaces, 3 kitchens and an indoor swimming pool. They also have a hotel on the grounds and their own winery. The RA is the only organization that the Biltmore has ever allowed to camp on the grounds. They are also allowing us build a GS track fairly close to the camping area.

The rally is June 20th to the 23rd. By the way, the trip and the rally can easily be done in a two week vacation period from anywhere in the continental United States. Ursula and I did it in 2007 from Seattle with a two day side trip to visit our children north of Atlanta after the rally and on our way home. Hope to see all of you in Asheville this coming summer.

Pre-register at www.bmwra.org

April Campout at TWO Creeks

By Kent Skoug

Come One, Come All



When I assumed the responsibilities of a BMW RA Regional Representative, someone told me, “Don’t just be someone who sits around with a title, do something, like have a campout!” Well, I don’t know about just sitting around with five chapters meeting each month, six dealers to see, the national rally coming to Asheville this summer, and the M/C Show in Charlotte this coming weekend, I haven’t been having too much spare time.

However, saying all of that, we are still going to have a campout. The dates will be April 26th to the 28th and it will be held at Two Creeks Campground in Del Rio, TN. It will be \$25.00 per person and that will include camping, Coffee, tea, cocoa and water all weekend, continental breakfast and dinner on Saturday and probably a ride on Saturday. Take note, this is a dual sport riders mecca. The campground is just off of Hwy 25 after crossing the Tennessee border after going north from Hot Springs, NC. Use the link below for maps and GPS information you may need.

The campground has lots of shady totally flat areas and is all grass. There are inside toilets and showers and a large fire ring for sitting around in the evening. The campground is owned by Jerry Dobrianski and his wife, Cindy, who are members of the BMW Riders of Knoxville.

I would hope to have a nice turnout from all of the BMW chapters in the area and have everyone get to know each other.

I would give you one warning, if you try to look up information on the campground, Google two creeks campground, Del Rio, TN. If you just look up Two Creeks Campground you will probably get some nudist camp up in the northern states somewhere. Instead use this link: <http://twocreeks.shutterfly.com/>

Hope to see you there (in Del Rio, not the northern states). This will be the same weekend as the MOA Weekend Get Away in Fontana, NC, so if you would rather have a weekend of great camping...

Down the Road President's Message

By Jim McMains

It's been a long winter of shoulder recovery, and I hope to be given the OK to ride by the end of March. So, I finally go out to the garage to look at the bike I have been avoiding to look at since December.



I know, had I looked at it over our warm winter, I would really have been depressed not being able to ride. Didn't need "that" reminder. I get close to it and then notice a small puddle of oil under it. Hmmm, the bike is pissed at me for not riding and decides to get even...great, just what I need now.

Alright, so here I am 11 weeks into rehab and feeling pretty good, why not tackle the project. I figure should be easy, pull the bike apart and fix whatever is leaking at the front of the engine. Go back in the house, inform the wife of my plans and then get hit with a reality check by the better half. "You really think you can handle those wrenches, how about opening this jar of pasta sauce"...no problem, hand it over...arghhhhh, grrrrrr, damn!! Honey can you help me open this... so reality came back, gotta build the strength back that I lost.

PT, PT, PT, Shoulder Surgery really Sux!

On a brighter note, I can go out and about, use two hands to type again, our rally planning is at a high, and our club is keeping me busy. We are getting set for our April Gathering Schedule with the first Saturday of each month at a new location, Eurosport, and third Sunday at Green Sage with an earlier start time of 9:00 am.

Thomas and Justin have agreed to extend the meeting night discount on Parts and Accessories to also include the Saturday morning Gatherings.

So keep that in mind when you show up. The gatherings will be more of a social event now. Show up, shoot the breeze and decide where we might want to meet-up for lunch. We will still occasionally have a preplanned route, but those will be far fewer than last year.

We got the impression that more of you enjoy the camaraderie of just getting together and then deciding your own day of riding with others. It was a lot of work for our Ride Captains to come up with something enticing twice a month, and they did a wonderful job of it deserving of many accolades. Rob stepped down recently. So we can twist Kent's arm once in awhile for that special ride.

So come on out on those days and get to know a few new faces, talk shop and hopefully we can do a nice lunch ride somewhere. I am betting each and everyone of you have some favorite little gem of a road that can be shared with the rest of us.

Now I have to get back in shape so I can do a little wrenching and have the bike ready for April. See ya'll down the road...

Jim

president@ashevillebmwridders.org

NEW Schedule for Warm Weather Gatherings

**All gatherings
will be held at 9am April-November
1st Saturday, 3rd Sunday each Month**

Saturday Rides @ 9am

**4/6 5/4 6/1 7/6 8/3 9/7 10/5 11/2
will meet at Eurosport Asheville
30 Bryson Street, Asheville, NC 28803**

Sunday Rides @ 9am

**4/21 5/19 6/16 7/21 8/18 9/15 10/20 11/17
will meet at Green Sage Cafe
1800 Hendersonville Rd, Asheville, NC 28803**

Photos from the February Membership Meeting at Eurosport Asheville



Photos by member Perry Hebard



Editor's Ramblings

By John Koenig

Hi Folks,

It's March 2nd, and I can tell Spring is just around the corner. I drove to the Gathering this morning with an inch of fresh snow on the ground. For just the second time this Winter, everyone there at Green Sage had driven in; not a single bike in the parking lot. Once inside, thought, there was no talk about cars. Just motorcycles. Everyone was discussing plans and events.

It seems that there has been a lot of activity behind the scenes this Winter. Many of us have had medical maintenance or repair done on ourselves, and many of us have been prepping our bikes for Spring. At the gathering, I heard buzzing of tires, oils, suspensions, and even painting. And talk from the medically disabled about what dates they'll be ready to get back on a bike.

And there was also a lot of talk about new bikes, both at the Gathering and among ABMWR members in general. The Charlotte show probably helped this along a little, not to mention the fact that BMW is debuting a few new models. Some folks are "trading up", while others are planning to add a new bike to their existing fleet.



I stopped by Eurosport on a weekday this past week. It was a brisk, but sunny Winter day and activity at the dealership was brisk as well. John H. mentioned that they had sold two new BMW's off the floor so far that day, with good prospects for two more. After a recent shortage of new units, they are finally able to get bikes again and customers are coming in the door. Thomas is still over in Africa with top dealers across the nation, test riding the all new 1200GS K50. While he's doing that, the first four of these new machines are on a boat, eventually headed for Asheville. And did I mention the service department? For a change, customers seem to be thinking ahead and getting their bikes tuned, oil changed, and a pair of new sneakers installed prior to the first day of Spring.

Our monthly membership meeting this month (19th) will continue on the same theme. Jeff Reid from Continental will be giving a presentation. I'm sure tire talk will be everywhere among the group.

Yes, Spring is on the way. Kent Skoug has many folks excited about the multi-club campout next month near Del Rio, and the Georgia Mountain Rally is next behind that in early May. June will be consumed with the Biltmore Rally, and the calendar goes on from there.

So "get your motor running" and hit the road soon. And be safe out there.

John

newsletter@ashevillebmwridders.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

Photos from a February Gathering at Green Sage





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