

BMW Motorcycle Club
ASHEVILLE BMW RIDERS



The Blue Ridge Breeze

A Publication of the Asheville BMW Riders

BMWMOA Club #353 & BMWRA Club #339

November - 2011

Holiday Party

The Asheville BMW Riders will be holding a Holiday Party on Tuesday, December 13th, from 7:00 to 10:00 PM. The party will be hosted by Eurosport Asheville, and will be held at their dealership location on Bryson Street in Asheville.

The meal is being catered by 12 Bones. Their specialty - ribs will be accompanied by several of their famous sides. Our club will also be providing spirits for the evening, as well as the entertainment. Music will be performed by well known local artist Anne Coombs.

Members and their guests are invited for what we expect to be a very enjoyable social evening. Attire will be "Holiday casual"; in other words, "dress for eating ribs". Plenty of door prizes will be awarded from Eurosport and it's vendors. Great ribs, great friends, and great motorcycles coupled with live music can only add up to a great time.

Deadline for RSVP and Payments is November 30th. Please fill out the form at the back of this newsletter, and mail with check to address indicated. You may also bring the form, with check or cash, to our November meeting or give to any Board Member. Tickets are a very reasonable \$15.00 each - all inclusive. Hope to see you there!



GERBING'S SPECIAL

On Tuesday, November 8th, Gerbing's will be giving a presentation of their heated gear at Eurosport Asheville. For any of you that aren't familiar with the name, Gerbing's has been the standard of the industry for heated jackets, vests, and now about any other garment for riding. Based out of Washington State, their fine products are sold at Eurosport. Thomas informs us that the Gerbing's representation will be there much of the day, but will be giving a special presentation at 6:00pm. He also says that Eurosport will be giving a 10% discount on all Gerbing's gear sold or ordered the evening of the 8th. Although this isn't a club-only event, let's get over there to support the cause and maybe pick up some warmth at a discount.

KLIM at November Meeting

Come join us at our November 29th meeting, where Klim will be giving a presentation of their "Technical Riding Gear". Many of us have already been rocking their stuff for years, and we're anxious to see some of the new products they are bringing to the market. The "new generation of Klim Adventure Gear is here", so show up for our November membership meeting at 7:00 pm on the 29th and check it out. Look good on your GS! Rumor has it that pizza might also show up that evening.



The Tobacco Barn Ride

Photo by Jill Breaux

Asheville BMW Riders

Schedule of Events

- 11/6 Sunday** 11am Atlanta Bread Co.
Social Gathering
- 11/08 Tuesday** 6 pm Eurosport Asheville
Gerbing's Presentation interest to all
- 11/20 Sunday** 11am Atlanta Bread Co.
Social Gathering
- 11/29 Tuesday** 7pm Eurosport Asheville
Membership Meeting
- 12/4 Sunday** 11am Atlanta Bread Co.
Social Gathering
- 12/13 Tuesday** 7-10pm Eurosport Asheville
Holiday Party
- 12/18 Sunday** 11am Atlanta Bread Co.
Social Gathering

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

About Us

We are the Asheville BMW Riders, a relatively new motorcycle club formed in the Summer of 2011, and chartered by both the BMW MOA and the BMW RA. Although our club is based in Asheville, North Carolina, membership and participation from all surrounding areas is encouraged.

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.

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

Mark Your Calendars

[The Progressive International Motorcycle Shows](#) will be coming to the Southeast again in 2012 with two locations. Look for them in Charlotte February 24-26, and Daytona March 14-17. Road trip anyone?

ABMWR a Certificate Winner

The Asheville BMW Riders recently received a "Certificate of Accomplishment" for the "Most members from a single club" at the Beemers and Biplanes Rally in Virginia Beach this Fall. Nice Going, Dan Thompson, for leading this effort and helping put us on the map!

Featured Member this Month

Dan Falkenstein



I'm glad to have the opportunity to be the first featured rider just to prove that I really exist and I am in fact your Treasurer. In case you don't know the role of the treasurer, I'm the guy who collects and tracks our funds and keeps the roster of all members.

I missed the first two meetings because I am not yet retired unlike many of our board members so I have to travel for business, unfortunately in airplanes instead of motorcycles. I work for John Deere, the company that makes those green and yellow tractors. I am loyal to that company, just like I am to BMW Motorrad - both companies make the best products in their respective industries. Both companies make high quality products that aren't necessarily the lowest priced, but are the best value when you consider the complete package including the experience of owning them. I am a Quality Manager based out of the World Headquarters in Moline, Illinois. I support John Deere factories all over the world so I have the privilege of living in this beautiful area and working from my home office when I'm not traveling. I have 37 years with the company and have had the good fortune to have worked in several locations in the US and one expat assignment in Mexico. I have spent about half of my career working in engine and transmission design and manufacturing so I understand and really appreciate the engineering in BMW motorcycles.

I grew up on a farm in North Dakota and my first motorcycle was a 1965 Bridgestone 90 trail which my uncle purchased for me with his employee discount at JC Penney. Yes, I was too young to ride it legally but in those

days in rural North Dakota no one really cared. After I wore out my Bridgestone, I bought a Suzuki, X6 Hustler – it had a 250CC oil injected two stroke engine with a 6 speed gearbox. That was a great bike in its day and was my ride all through college. After college I became a Honda guy owning many variations over the years (CB350, CL450, CB650, CB750, VF700C, VT1100C2). Finally in 2006 I began to realize that I was better suited to own a sport touring bike so I looked closely at the Honda ST1300 and decided to also take a look at the BMW equivalent – the R1150RT. Both bikes were comparable in almost every way but I found one difference – I lived in the Charlotte area at the time and I found an active MOA chapter so I decided to buy the BMW so I could experience the social aspect. I purchased a used R1150RT and immediately joined the Charlotte club. I was welcomed warmly and had a great time becoming a member of a group of people who share a common interest in riding and having fun.

In 2010, my wife Jane and I completed a 5 year project of building a green home in the mountains near Waynesville. This home is gold certified to two green building standards. I love to talk about the project so be warned if you ask me about it you may be sorry. Speaking of Jane – she's the person who makes my life complete. She doesn't ride but she respects my love of riding and tolerates my absence when I take a trip now and then. She also gets credit taking such great care of our 18 year old Dachshund, Maggie. Maggie has been part of our lives since we started sharing our lives together 13 ½ years ago.

My biggest regret about leaving Charlotte was the loss of my club activities and a nearby BMW Motorcycle dealer. One day last winter I noticed in the Asheville Citizen times that a new BMW motorcycle dealership was starting up so I started searching the web for information. Once I found a website and e-mail address, I sent an e-mail message and received a phone call from Justin a few hours later. Justin and I met for lunch (at 12 Bones of course) and talked about the possibility of forming a club that would be connected to the dealership. I said that I would help in any way I could and I guess as they say, the rest is history.

I am really happy with how far our club has come in such a short time. The board of directors is a great team. We all share the same simple goal – to have fun and enjoy our passion of riding. I feel so privileged to not only live in such a great area, but to have a great group with which to enjoy my passion for riding.

Editor's Rambling's...

This month begins with a chill in the air, making us all think differently about riding. We're putting away the mesh gear, and starting to dig out that heavy stuff that's been tucked away all summer. And we're anxious to check out the Gerbing's and Klim presentations this month!

Don't forget that "black grease" syndrome when riding out there. It's that slick phenomenon that occurs in the mountains when ground moisture leaches up through cold pavement. Trust me, it's like ice, and will put you on our head in a heartbeat. Ride cautiously and ride safely, y'all.

It's also that time of year to consider a ride to Florida. The Sun Your Buns Rally put on by the SunBeemers on November 18-20 is a good one. The N.E. Florida Rally on January 13-15 is also a very popular event. Sign up early as there is a cut-off number. Check these out in the MOA rag.

Another riding note. The Blue Ridge Parkway will be closed from Highway 25 in Asheville down to Highway 191 near the Arboretum, for bridge repair over I-26. Closing begins on November 1st, and it's scheduled to re-open the second week of December.

The rides after our social gatherings have been fun. Does anyone have suggestions for future rides? We'd like to get a route planning committee together as time goes on. Please talk to me or Jim about this if you have an interest.

A few of us have also been getting together for impromptu little rides to a lunch destination on weekdays. For any of you that can break away on a week day for fun little rides with an opportunity to explore new roads and grub, let's network on the Yahoo site (and ultimately the new ABMWR website).

I'll close my rambling by saying how happy I am to introduce a new monthly article by Jim McMains and a profile of Dan Falkenstein in this issue. Jim and Dan have become friends of

mine though volunteer work with our club. I'm proud to hang with them, as well as so many others I've met so far in the ABMWR club.

Good People.

Happy Thanksgiving Everyone.

John Koenig, Editor

newsletter@ashevillebmwrider.org



Blue Ridge Parkway

Photo by Jill Breaux

Down the Road President's Message

I just wanted to take the time to thank Kent Skoug for his wonderful presentation at the October 25th Tuesday night meeting. Kent supplied us with some really interesting information on his recent Alaska trip which was quite an accomplishment. The pictures and story telling were appreciated by all in attendance and Kent knows how to present!

I also want to thank Phil Weinmann, our webmaster, for all of his hard work and the great introduction he provided to the Website. For those not in attendance, we will be sending out a mailing explaining exactly how to get up and running on the website, and we will need all of you to register on it in the very near future. The website will be a great resource for us with all of it's forums and interactions and I really look forward to using it.

I wish more of you could have made it to the meeting, but I am sure many of you had other obligations which kept you from coming. Turnout was less than expected, but this happens from time to time. We had

-Down the Road Continued-

approximately 14 members Tuesday night and our thanks to all who came.

I am hoping that in the future you put our Tuesday monthly meeting in your calendars and start making it one of your favorites for that night. Make it a habit and it will be hard to break :-)) and the fun will follow.

We are striving, with success, to have something of interest at every meeting for the members and we definitely want you to show up for that, but even more so for the social aspect. We just want to get to know each other and start enjoying the camaraderie that comes from belonging to a club of motorcycle enthusiasts that share a common appreciation for the sport. There is nothing better than kicking tires, telling stories and enjoying the company of friends.

We hope that everyone wants to participate and will step forward with any expertise that they can share with the group. We welcome this with open arms and encourage you to get involved.

Right now we have a group of 7 of us who are trying our hardest to make this club something very special, and I can tell you, the more help we have, the easier it will be. So please don't be a stranger, we are a family now and we want to keep growing.

So if you have any ideas or input for what you would like to see, do, or experience at our meetings or gatherings, please, please, please let us know. This is your club and we want it to meet your expectations. We can only do this with your help and suggestions. If there is some event or project you would like to get started with the club, let us help you facilitate it and assist you with bringing it to fruition. On the same line of thought, if there is something that bothers you about the club, let us know so we can take action to make a

change, no matter what the suggestion might be. I look forward to the 2 November gatherings and the Meeting on November 29th. I hope to see everyone there. I will send out the web info ASAP and want to wish you a happy Thanksgiving if I do not see you before then.

Please be aware that we are hosting a Holiday Party on Tuesday December 13th at Eurosport for members and guests. John will have all the particulars in this great newsletter you are reading. I hope you will make this one of your priorities and come join us for some holiday entertainment.

Thanks for Belonging,
See Ya Down the Road
Jim McMains, President ABMWR

Holiday Party RSVP

**RSVP Must Reach Us
no later than November 30th**
to be included...

Names of Attendees

Email address for Reservation Confirmation

Phone Number Contact

\$15 each x _____ = _____ Ck Total

Check Payable to

Asheville BMW Riders

Mail To

PO Box 5103

Asheville, NC 28813