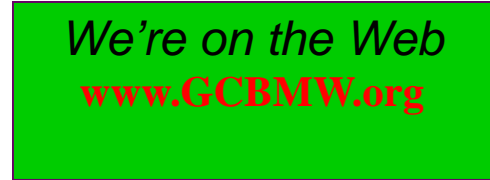




"Carpe Viam" - - - "Seize the Road"

GCBMW e-letter — neiljones@aol.com

April 1, 2008



Trivia question....

Back in the olden days (1980's) GCBMW along with 2 other Ohio BMW clubs, sponsored our first rally. Where was that first rally held?
Answer on page 2

In this Issue:

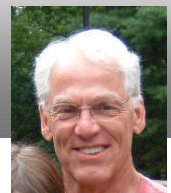
- April meeting details page 3**
- Rally listings on page 4**
- Mini Rally - read all about it on page 5**
- Membership List - page 9**
- Bill Wright Writes - page 10**

Fourth Issue by New Editor!

Now it is April, the month best known for producing showers. How's your rain gear? I remember thinking I had good stuff till water started dripping down the back of my neck. At another time I got a good price on a pre-owned one-piece Aerostich Roadcrafter suit, but in a heavy rain my crotch got wet. Not fun and not pretty. My current rain gear is not much for looks, but it hasn't failed to keep me dry, a tradeoff I am happy to make. Frog Togs are popular, for less than \$100.

I have a theory that on sunny 70 degree days there are 20 Harleys on the road for every Beemer. On rainy days there are 20 BMW's for every Harley. Anyone want to test my theory?

Neil the Editor



Greater Cincinnati BMW Club 2008 Officers

President	Bob Ulrich	rulrich@ameritech.net
Vice President	John Fischer	JBFischer@fuse.net
Treasurer	Tom Ritter	tritter5@cinci.rr.com
Secretary	Neil Jones	NeilJones@aol.com
Web Master ...	Mike LaBar	LaBrew@gmail.com

New Members are still welcome!

Bring cash or check to a meeting or mail a check to
Tom Ritter, 9881 Voyager Way, Cincinnati, OH 45252
Single member \$15. Couple \$18.

Club Breakfast & Ride Sunday, April 6

John Fischer, Vice President of Rides says: April 6 is the date for the next breakfast ride. Thanks to a suggestion from Tom Raybuck, aka Mr. Sturgis Mini Rally, we will meet at the Golden Corral in Fairfield. Switching to summer schedule we will eat at 9 am and ride at 10. I'm thinking of going west and passing through Oxford, slowing for that notorious deceptive turn.

The Golden Corral is just north of exit 39 on I-275. the address is 470 Kolb, Fairfield, and the phone is (513) 682-6400. Hope to see everyone on Sunday which will be sunny and pleasant Spring day, just as it always is in Sturgis.

John F. (513) 385-1497

Answer to trivia question on page 1 If you guessed Lake Snowden Campground, like I did, you are wrong, like I was. Old Timer Bill Berry says it was held at Camp America, College Corner, Ohio, north-west of the Heuston Woods State Park.

Next Club Meeting Saturday April 12!

At the home of Steve & Karen Thoerner!
In Kentucky!



The theme for our March meeting will be, "We're goin to Kentucky!" The meeting is at Steve and Karen Thoerner's home, 3391 Sunbrite Lane, Covington, KY 41015. Steve says to take I-275 to KY Route 16, (Taylor Mill Covington exit) go south on Rt. 16 about 4 miles, turn right on Sunbrite Drive (Country Garden Estates) till you start seeing motorcycles. Don't expect to see the one in the photo above. Bring a snack or dessert if you can, or wear a grin if you can't.

Rallies & Events

2008

- **April 4-6**
- **16th Dogwood Trail Rally**
- www.BMWRidersofMississippi.com

- **May 2-4**
- **35th Original Mini Rally**
- **BMW MC Club of Battle Creek**
- *Green Valley Campground, Sturgis, MI*

- **May 2-4**
- **Georgia Mountain Rally,**
- *Bald Mountain Park, Hiawassee, GA*

- **May 22-25**
- **The Great 'Chicken Rally' in Rocket City**
- *Huntsville, AL www.BMWMOAL.org*

- **June 19-22**
- **BMW RA International Rally**
- *"RA in da U.P., You Betcha"*
- *Houghton, Michigan*
- www.BMWRA.org

- **July 17-20**
- **BMW-MOA 2008 International Rally**
- *Gillette, WY*
- www.bmwmoa.org

Georgia Mountain Rally

May 2-4-2008

Traditionally popular with Ohio motorcyclists, this rally is sponsored by the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Georgia. The GMR takes place in Hiawassee, Georgia, in the North Georgia Mountains just south of the NC state line, and smack dab in the middle of thousands of miles of wonderful, woodsy, twisty mountain roads.

This rally is well-endowed with sponsors and vendors and features a magnificent giveaway of prizes. The rally site includes a variety of camping environments, from creekside to pine trees to open fields. Motels are also available.

Georgia Mountain Rally tradition includes a Saturday night cookout featuring T-bone steak, cooked to perfection.

If you have never ridden to a big BMW rally, this is a great place to begin. Plan on a full day's ride to get there, or take the back roads for a more leisurely approach.

*"Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm."
Sir Winston Churchill*

35th Original Mini Rally

May 2-4-2008

*Sponsored by the **BMW Motorcycle Club of Battle Creek**. This rally is held at the Green Valley Campground in Sturgis, Michigan. Attendees get free coffee, donuts, tea, hot chocolate and hot showers all weekend. Nice restaurants are nearby, plus food is available at the campground. Saturday night features Live Music and a Pig Roast . Sorry, lip-synching and break dancing are not permitted due to local ordinances. The Sunday morning sendoff breakfast features pancakes with melted butter and syrup, plus hot coffee.*

*Sturgis is an easy 4 hour ride from Cincinnati. To find the Green Valley Campground from the Indiana Toll Road, go north on MI 66 (exit 121), then west on Fawn River Road. For more information, seek out GCBMW member **Tom Raybuck**. (Bucksinohio@aol.com) Tom is a member of the Battle Creek club and an enthusiastic supporter of the Mini Rally.*

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 9, 2008 Location: Home of Chris & Joe Berry

Officers Present:

Bob Ulrich, President; Tom Ritter, Treasurer; John Fischer, Vice-President; Neil Jones, Secretary

Next meeting: March 8 at home of Tom & Cheryl Ritter at 7:00 PM

- I. Minutes of Prior Meeting:** Meeting called to order at 7:50 by Pres. Bob Ulrich (sitting on a wooden throne). Reading of the Minutes of the prior meeting by Secretary Neil Jones. A motion to accept the Minutes as presented carried.
- II. GCBMW members present:** George Nyktas, Mary Tholking, Tom & Cheryl Ritter, Bob & Gail Ulrich, John Fischer, Larry Lovejoy, Merrill & Diane Glos, Jim & Deana Smith, Joe & Chris Berry, Bill & Shelia Wright, Bill & Nancy Berry, Pete Wilton, Neil Jones.
- III. Guests:** no visitors or guests.
- IV. Treasurer's Report:** Tom Ritter presented the Treasurer's report. The balance in the checking account as of January 1, 2008 was \$1721. January revenue was \$210, Disbursements were zero. The checking balance as of the Feb. 9 meeting date was \$1931.

Tom reported 26 paid memberships for 2008. A copy of the treasurer's report is available by contacting Tom Ritter.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented by voice vote.

- V. Old Business:** **Logo Redesign:** Sample logos were reviewed, along with the Guidelines for inclusion of the BMW Roundel. A lengthy discussion of the alternatives followed. No decisions were made.

Club Rally in North Carolina: By show of hands, the club decided to hold the 2008 Rally at The Iron Horse Motorcycle Campground, on October 3 & 4, 2008. Tom Ritter will ask that a number of cabins be held for our members.

Club Outing in Hocking Hills Bob & Gail looked over the Burr Oak State Park and cabins, brought photos to share. The cabins have large screened porches overlooking the lake. Nancy Berry commented, "if its not Burr Oak, don't fix it." A committee of retirees will be formed to review the options.

2008 Riding Contest. International sounding cities will be the focus...finding towns with names such as Paris, Auckland and Beijing in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky. Take a photo showing your bike with the town name in the background. Jim Smith and Mike LaBar will make up the rules.

Minutes of the Feb. 9 meeting...continued

VI. New Business:

1. Bob Ulrich noted that **MOA Rally** Leaders have asked for volunteers to staff the Registration tables at the National Rally to be held in Gillette, Wyoming.
2. Tom Ritter suggested a few ways to encourage members to **pay dues** more closely to the beginning of the year.
3. Tom Ritter raised the issue of **privacy** in regards to our membership contact information. In the past, membership lists have been available in printed form to members at club meetings. After discussion, no proposals to change this policy were made.

VII. Announcements:

1. Bob Ulrich read an email from Tom Raybuck reminding members that the original **Mini Rally** is only a few months away.
2. Chris Berry noted that **Golden Corral** on Winton Rd. has a separate meeting room we could use for a Club event.

VIII. Adjournment by unanimous consent at 9:00 PM

Schedule of 2008 Club Meetings

Date	Location/Hosted By
April 12	Steve Thoerner
May 10	Merrill & Diane Glos
June 7	Shelia & Bill Wright
July 12	Gail Deatherage & Larry Lovejoy
August 9	Allen & Debby Smith
September 13	Moto GP in Indianapolis
October 11	Tom & Joni Raybuck
November 8	
December 13	

If you are willing to host one of the remaining available meetings, please advise Club President Bob Ulrich, or make your interest known at a club meeting.

"When you step on the brakes, your life is in your foot's hands."

George Carlin

2008 GCBMW Membership List

*Jack & Arlene Basham
George Becker
Woody & Tena Benson
Joe & Chris Berry
Bill & Nancy Berry
Mike & Barbara Crum
Alan Disher
John & Barb Fischer
Ken Francois
Gary & Sue Franklin
Merril & Diane Glos
Neil & Jackie Jones
Mike & Kim LaBar
Allen Leach*

*Chris & Anne Long
Larry Lovejoy & Gail Deatherage
Curt Nichols
George Nyktas & Mary Tholking
Karl Perry
Henry & Mary Pierce*

*Tom & Joni Raybuck
Tom & Cheryl Ritter
John Sires
Jim & Deana Smith
Allan & Debbie Smith
Steve & Karen Thoerner
Ralph & Terri Todd
Bob & Gail Ulrich
John Wharton
Pete Wilton
Bill & Shelia Wright*

Thanks to all who have renewed their club membership for 2008.

If your name is missing from this list, contact club Treasurer Tom Ritter at Tritter5@cinci.rr.com

Here's an interesting site you can hook up to and spend hours. John Sires got this from his son.

<http://turbo.discovery.com/beyond/?playerId=245988601&categoryId=1418496841&lineupId=1454906888&titleId=1454865186>

The Great Chicken Rally

By Bill Wright

As spring teases the calendar with promises of warm, sunny days and the sweet smells of an earth rejuvenated, thoughts turn to riding. Not everyday, commuter type riding but substantial,

journey worthy riding. Hopefully with friends and hopefully leading to an adventure. My favorite, early season, get-out-of-town ride is “The Great Chicken Rally” held every year just outside of Huntsville, Alabama. This rally is put on by the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Alabama #5 and is traditionally held on Memorial Day weekend.



This year is the 20th anniversary of the rally and will be my 4th visit. My attraction to this rally is its relatively close proximity to Barber Motorsports Track & Museum located in Leeds, Alabama (90 miles south of Huntsville, 15 miles east of Birmingham). For those of you who haven't had the pleasure of visiting, put this on your must see list. It is, perhaps, the finest collection of restored and running, motorcycles in the world. As a motorcycle aficionado, I consider this place as Mecca - a spiritual place to be revered.



There are also many great roads in the area to explore which I've used in the past to indulge my passion for undiscovered roadside eateries. The cuisine in this part of the country is diverse with a distinct "deep south" influence, strong on barbeque and smoked meats. My rule of thumb: if the parking lot is full of pick-up trucks at meal time, the locals consider the place a favorite and therefore it must be sampled.

As for the rally food itself, well, let me just say ... WOW! The food is cooked on hardwood fired grills 24 hours a day throughout the entire rally. The chicken is served several different ways and is available anytime. At mealtimes, there are also sides (the grilled onion is truly remarkable) and are prepared by volunteer club members under the direction of club president Connie Reaves (truly remarkable in her own right). For breakfast there are excellent pancakes with all of the expected trimmings. All meals are eaten at large picnic style tables under a pavilion that also doubles as a bandstand, dance floor, and awards ceremony area. The facilities are top notch with clean, hot water, showers and plenty of sinks. The campground is one of my favorites, tucked beneath a pine grove and partially encircled by the Tennessee River.

I feel it's one of the best rallies available for relaxation, close proximity, wonderful food, clean facilities, and great friends. Plus it's an easy way to bang off a thousand miles over three or four days in the saddle. If you've not yet committed to plans for Memorial Day weekend, consider The Great Chicken Rally. You won't be disappointed. Don't forget those cool little rubber chickens to hang from your bike!



***“Don’t let’s forget our brotherhood, oh you riders. We’re every one of us dealing with hurdles; mechanical, legal, and damn cellphonedriverical just to keep our beloved pastime alive!”
-Knuckles in Urban Moto, August 2006***