



Special Rally Newsletter

May 1, 2009

Mini Rally & Georgia Mtn. Rally

Newsletter motto, "All the News We Can Find to Print"
Backup motto, "Carpe Viam" Seize the Road
Mission Statement (under construction)

Editor in Chief NeilJones@aol.com

SEVENTEENTH ISSUE BY NEW EDITOR!

Sources tell me that there are 2 readers of this newsletter who still haven't gotten their bikes out yet in 2009. This is the month. Now is the time.

Are we gonna ride?

Neil the Editor

We're on the Web at GCBMWC.org



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Club Breakfast and Ride (scheduled for) Sunday May 3

Club VP Tom Raybuck would say, “With nobody to lead a local ride next Sunday, come to the Original Mini Rally and we will go for a sunny, warm Sunday ride from Sturgis to Cincinnati.” (bring your rain gear. ed.)

Tom

Complaints? call Tom at (513) 759-0889



BMW Motorcycle Rallies

- ♦ **May 1-3 Mini Rally**
- ♦ **Sturgis Michigan**
- ♦ **Sunny and 70**
- ♦ *www.geocities.com/bcbmwclub/*

- ♦ **May 1-3 Georgia Mountain Rally**
- ♦ **Hiawasse Georgia**
- ♦ **New campground this year**
- ♦ **WWW.BMWMOGA.info**

- ♦ **May 21-23 The Great Chicken Rally**
- ♦ **Huntsville Alabama**
- ♦ **WWW.BMWMOAL.com**

- ♦ **July 16-19 BMW MOA National Rally**
- ♦ **Johnson City TN**
- ♦ **WWW.BMWMOA.com**

- ♦ **July 23-26 BMW RA National Rally**
- ♦ **Canaan Valley WV**
- ♦ **WWW.BMWRA.org**

The Mini Rally, Georgia Mountain Rally and Great Chicken Rally are all very popular among Cincinnati riders.

Follow the links for more details. Line up a fellow rider and pack your camera.

If you don't like these big rallies, plan your own get-away. This is a big and beautiful country. Pick the specialty you enjoy most and write about it, whether it be good eating places you found or the interesting people you met. Make notes and keep your friendly editor in mind as you travel.

May 11 Club Meeting to be held in Kentucky!



Yes, It is true. The May meeting will be held at the beautiful Covington home of Karen and Steve Thoerner

**3391 Sunbrite Dr.
Covington, KY 41015.
For a map Google this address.
For directions call Steve at (513)543-6516**

If you have never been to a club meeting in Kentucky, this is a good one to attend. If you are planning to join GCBMWC you have to attend 2 club events and pay a \$15 fee (\$18 for a couple.). After that its one big party!

Bring a veggie or a dessert to the meeting to share, or just show up.

Original Mini Rally

By Tom Raybuck

The "Original Mini Rally"! The mid-west riding season starts with the BMW of Battle Creek's "Original Mini Rally", held in beautiful Sturgis, Michigan, the first weekend in May. This year's Rally will be May 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. This is the 36th annual event and the location is the spacious Green Valley Campground on Fawn River Road in Sturgis. The campground has a large level grass field for tents, with several picnic tables set around.

It is a short walk to the showers and the covered pavilion. There are also sites in a wooded area for campers and tents. In the wooded area, you can have a campfire at the site, no fires in the grass field. The firewood is supplied by the Battle Creek Club as part of the Rally fee.

If camping is not for you, there are several local hotels within 3 miles of the Rally. Inside the large pavilion, the club has HOT coffee, HOT chocolate, and tea set up all weekend. There will be Hot Dogs available on Friday evening. There is a local Pizza/Sub shop that will come out to the site on Saturday morning and take lunch orders that they deliver back to the Campground. Sunday morning, the Club cooks an endless pancake and sausage breakfast, with hot coffee and juices, also included in the entry fee. All this and beautiful May weather in Michigan for only \$20.00!

There are usually several self-guided rides set up at the registration table. There is a very old covered bridge a few miles from the site with a loop of about 20 miles. The last few years there has been a ride up to Lake Michigan around the Saugatuck area. This is about a 200 mile round trip ride that stops for lunch in Fennville, MI, for Mexican food at Su Casa (very authentic). The ride leaves the campground around 10:00 am. There is an area that will be set up for riding games that start Saturday afternoon with prizes chosen specially for you! The Battle Creek Club has several awards that they give out for Oldest Bike Ridden, Oldest Rider, Largest Club and a 50/50 drawing along with many door prizes. Why not start the RALLY season off at one of the oldest continuous events held! Get the camping gear out, pack the bike, and head to sunny Sturgis, Michigan.

As a bonus, you can tell all your riding friends that you rode to Sturgis!

2009 Georgia Mountain Rally

Ride to the 2009 Georgia Mountain Rally at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds Music Park in Hiawassee, GA, just off Hwy 76. Held this year on May 1-3, 2009

Some of the finest and twistiest roads in the southeast US make this rally a must. The beautiful North Georgia Mountain location is in close proximity to Deal's Gap, the Cherohala Skyway, Wolf Pen Gap, Two Wheels Only (TWO), Brasstown Bald, Richard Russell Scenic Parkway, Blood Mountain (Hwy 129), Nantahala, Weyah Bald, the Blue Ridge Parkway, and much more. Also, the Fairgrounds are convenient to all stores, restaurants, and shops in Hiawassee.

What's included in your \$55 rally fee?

- ◆ Shady campsites and hot showers.
- ◆ Friday and Saturday night dinners are included.
- ◆ Friday night Tom Crain and the Crosstown Allstars
- ◆ Door prizes and awards.
- ◆ Rally pin to the first 400
- ◆ Vendors
- ◆ Poker run
- ◆ Seminars
- ◆ Vintage Bike Show
- ◆ Campfires
- ◆ Free coffee all weekend.
- ◆ Sunny and 70 degree weather guaranteed.

Waiting for EMS



**PROPER RIDING EQUIPMENT
IS FOR PUSSIES**

tuna_sammich 2008

The photo says it all. A helmet appears to have saved the rider's face from the fate of his elbow. Share your comments with an email to GCBMWC@yahoo.com

Your editor apologizes for the offensive text, which I can't seem to separate from the picture.

MINUTES OF THE GCBMWC MEETING

APRIL 11, 2009

HELD AT THE HOME OF DEANA & JIM SMITH

The meeting was called to order by Bob Ulrich at 7:40 p.m. The following members were present: Bill & Shelia Wright, Karl Perry, Steve Thoerner, John Fischer, Bob & Gail Ulrich, Henry & Mary Pierce, Joe & Chris Berry, Allen Leach, Bill Berry, George Nyktas, Mary Tholking, Tom and Cheryl Ritter, Jeff Lemkuhl, Allan and Debbie Smith, Jim and Deana Smith, and Neil Jones.

Guests present were Rosa and Frank Alfaro, Larry & Donna Oakley of South Bend and Derek Pierce.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read by Neil Jones and approved as presented.

Treasurer Debbie Smith reported on the club's financial position, including the closing balance in the checking account of \$1,721.59. The report was approved as presented.

After a unanimous vote, Frank and Rosa Alfaro were welcomed as new members.

Old Business

Bob Ulrich announced that the May meeting will be held on May 16 at Thoerner's house, September 12 at the Fischer's, with hosts still needed for the June and August meetings.

Bob Ulrich announced upcoming motorcycle events, including the Moonshine, Illinois event, the Mini Rally on May 1, the RA campout at Peebles, Ohio, and our own club event at the Iron Horse M/C campground on October 3 & 4.

There was a mention of a motorcycle museum near Red Boiling Springs, TN.

New Business

There was a mention of a couple of BMW bikes for sale locally. Debbie Smith announced a Honda auction of used (repo'd) Honda bikes, jet skis and ATV's on Crescentville Road near Tri County.

Karl Perry mentioned a TomTom GPS sale on Amazon.com.

A motion for adjournment met with general acceptance at 8:05 p.m.

After adjournment, Tom Ritter won \$36 in the 50/50 drawing. Members enjoyed Jimmy's Brunswick stew, cole slaw, desserts and other assorted treats.

Minutes recorded by Neil Jones

2009 BMW K1300S



2009 BMW K1300S in Hugger Orange

The K1300S isn't a brand new model, as the K line has been around since the early 1980s. Originally, the inline-Four was laid flat (longitudinally) and thusly dubbed the Flying Brick. In 2005 the K line was reinvented, now using an inline-Four transversely mounted and with cylinders canted forward to 55 degrees: the K1200S.

The first order of business in the '09 K bike was raising displacement from 1157cc to 1293cc via a 1mm overbore and 5.3mm increase in stroke. Additional changes include lighter pistons with thinner rings.



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The K bike's forte is excelling in landscape like this.

Harley Hurting In The US Economy

Could The Tanking U.S. Economy Sink The Motor Company? By Aaron Frank Photography by Harley-Davidson



Will Harley-Davidson itself ride off into the sunset? Doubtful, but times are tough in Milwaukee.

Detroit's Big Three aren't the only American vehicle manufacturers feeling pain from our nation's economic contraction. Harley-Davidson's fourth-quarter 2008 financial report revealed deep earnings drops and sinking motorcycle sales-sobering news from a company virtually defined in the last decade by soaring profits and seemingly unstoppable growth. Massive layoffs, cost-cutting consolidations and drastically reduced production were also announced, as Harley braces for another rough year-analysts are already predicting the company's '09 sales will decline another 20 percent or more.

Harley's fourth-quarter motorcycle sales slipped 19.6 percent in the U.S. (overall U.S. sales of heavyweight motorcycles decreased by 25.5 percent during that same period), contributing to a 58.2-percent fourth-quarter net income loss (down \$108.3 million from '07 levels). Those dismal numbers pulled Harley's full-year net income down almost 30 percent (to \$654.7 million), and its full year U.S. bike sales down 13 percent.

In response, Harley announced sweeping plans to reduce production, cut jobs and consolidate manufacturing operations. Bike shipments in '09 will be cut as much as 13 percent (to 265,000 units), in order to reduce dealer inventory levels that are already too high after last year's slow sales. The company will also eliminate 1100 jobs over the next two years by consolidating engine and transmission plants in Wisconsin, frame and paint operations in Pennsylvania, and closing some distribution facilities outright.

Harley also discussed efforts to stabilize its in-house lending division, Harley-Davidson Financial Services (HDFS), which posted a massive \$24.9 million fourth-quarter operating loss stemming from write-downs due to higher than projected credit losses. News from HDFS is alarming: To maintain record growth in recent years, it aggressively pursued subprime borrowers and now faces trouble amid rising loan defaults. HDFS has acknowledged that as much as 30 percent of the company's loan portfolio is subprime, and more than 5 percent of its motorcycle loans were delinquent 30 days or more at the end of '08.

As this issue went to press, Pennsylvania Senator Bob Casey was petitioning the FDIC on Harley's behalf for protection under the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program (TLGP). This bailout request is not without merit: Harley employs tens of thousands of Americans directly and, much like the auto manufacturers, supports a massive supply chain and dealership infrastructure. A failing Harley-Davidson would be disruptive to the American economy.

Just days before fourth-quarter financials were released, HDFS President Sy Naqvi announced his resignation-this just weeks after Harley-Davidson Motor Company President and CEO James Ziemer announced his intention to resign in '09. Replacements had not yet been named for either position, but clearly a change in leadership is being sought to bring new ideas and direction to meet these economic challenges.

Troubling as this news might be, it's hard not to be optimistic about Harley-Davidson's future. The 106-year-old firm has a strong core business, a unique brand, a loyal customer base and a long history. It's already survived two World Wars and one Great Depression. It should be able to weather this storm, too.

Lifted from MotorCyclist magazine (Motorcyclistonline.com/news)



BSA Is Marque Of The Year at AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days 2009

PICKERINGTON, Ohio -- One of Great Britain's most storied motorcycle companies, BSA, will be the Marque of the Year for AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days 2009, the world's largest gathering of vintage motorcycle enthusiasts, set for July 24-26 at the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in Lexington, Ohio.

"BSA's place in motorcycling history is impressive, with its well-known and well-raced BSA Gold Stars, Shooting Stars and more," said Tigra Tsujikawa, events coordinator for the AMA. "We're glad to showcase the marque at this year's AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days, and highlight the machines and people who made BSA famous."

Founded in the 1860s as the Birmingham Small Arms Co. to build weapons for the Crimean War, BSA branched out to motorcycles and was making machines entirely in-house by 1910. Originally aimed at the utility and recreational market, the bikes became well-known to racers the world over after the factory entered a team in the Daytona 200 in 1954, and BSA riders swept the top three places. Its Gold Star 500cc single, in particular, has become one of the most iconic bikes in all of motorcycling.

Not only will the weekend feature bike shows, vintage racing and North America's largest motorcycle swap meet, but a parade of classic motorcycles representing each year of the AMA's 85 years will celebrate the heritage of American motorcycling. Also on tap: demo rides of current production bikes, motorcycling seminars, the AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame auction, stunt shows, the new product Manufacturers' Midway, club corrals featuring marque and regional clubs, and guided rides through the rolling Ohio countryside.

AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days benefits the Motorcycle Hall of Fame Museum. The goal of the Museum, located on the campus of the American Motorcyclist Association in Pickerington, Ohio, is to tell the stories and preserve the history of motorcycling. For more information, call (614) 856-2222, or visit the Museum's website at www.motorcyclemuseum.org.

For more information about AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days 2009, visit www.AMAVintageMotorcycleDays.com.

GCBMWC Meeting Schedule for 2009

Month

May.....
 June.....
 July.....
 August.....
 September.....
 October.....
 November.....
 December.....

Hosts

Steve & Karen Thoerner

 Gail D. & Larry Lovejoy

 John & Barbara Fischer
 Allan & Debbie Smith
 Tom & Joni Raybuck
 Germania Society

If you would like to host the June or August meetings, please advise President Bob Ulrich or say so at a meeting. Thank you very much.

GCBMWC OFFICERS FOR 2009

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