

THE SHAFT



The Journal of the Riders Association of the Mid-South



<http://www.bmwrams.com/>



JULY, 2016

This year is flying by. This July was the 8th hottest in history. When You are riding in the summer heat, Keep yourself Hydrated. Plan your ride for the cool mornings and try to be at your destination before the heat index gets you. Carry extra water incase you or another rider brake down. The pavement and Sun can make it much hotter than the weather apps are reporting.

I hope you all will attend the Rams Meeting on August 13th. This is great meeting to attend. We normally have a good turn out and have information concerning the Rally.

I will see you at:

My Favorite Place on 8/13

880 N Germantown Pkwy

Cordova, TN 38018, United States

Lunch will be at 12:00 and the meeting will begin at 1:30

Your hosts will be: Art Manchester

July 2016 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Craig at 2 pm at the RAMS Tent, BMW MOA National Rally, Hamburg, NY. There were 11 RAMS and 9 motorcycles present.

New Business:

- 1) We have no new members for June:
- 2) We currently have 107 new and returning members for 2016.
- 3) Matt Barnett of Murfreesboro, TN was a guest of Ray Moss.
- 4) Larry extended Thanks to the Meeting Host: Hank Widdop who could not be with us.

RAMS Rally Update:

The Secretary/Treasurer (Spencer Bennett) did the 2016 RAMS Rally report:

1. Spencer Bennett brought examples of proposed 2016 Rally Pin and Rally Shirt artwork to be viewed and discussed. It was decided by a voice vote that the pins would be the 38.1 mm size and Spencer was directed to order them. Cost of the pins will be approximately \$3.75 ea. The shirt artwork from last year's vendor was approved and will be ordered as soon as the Rally Team decides on the number to be ordered.
2. Spencer and Rose-Anne made a Door Prize Committee report. 55 letters have been sent out and one door prize has been received to date.
3. Spencer Bennett had rally flyers for all who wanted them.

Old Business:

- 1) If anyone does not have their picture in the online directory, please see Spencer or Rose-Anne Bennett to get it made and posted.
- 2) RAMS Patches (old logo only), decals, and business cards are available from the Secretary.
- 3) 2015 RAMS Rally shirts are available for \$10.00 ea. From the Secretary.

For the Good of the Club:

1. Check the RAMS Website for other rally schedules and locations.
2. The **August RAMS Meeting** will be Saturday, August 13, 2016 at:

My Favorite Place

880 N Germantown Pkwy

Cordova, TN 38018, United States

Lunch will be at 12:00 and the meeting will begin at 1:30

Your hosts will be: The Manchester Family.

3. **RAMS Meeting Locations: Hosts for 2016 are:**

September - TBD: The Clark Family

October - At the RAMS Rally on Sunday, Oct. 2: No Host

November - Joe's Restaurant, Boliver, TN: Paul Rhodes

December - Old Timers in Millington (December 17): Larry & Teresa Craig

More stuff:

1. If you have an item for the RAMS Meeting agenda, please get it to the Secretary (officers@bmwrams.com) by Wednesday prior to the meeting. This is not required for an item to be discussed, but it will insure it gets in the agenda.
2. The former Lavinia Sunday morning Breakfast group has moved back to Lavinia. The Buffet is also back and the food is reported to be “much better” but still no chocolate gravy.
3. Robert Rehkopf and Donna Clark were door prize winners at the National with Robert scoring ROK straps and Donna winning a book on “packing light”. Congratulations to both of them!

Treasure’s Report:

- 1) Balance in Bank plus petty cash = \$5667.30
- 2) Petty Cash =\$55.00.
- 3) No significant expenses (over \$100) this month.

Spencer Bennett made a motion to adjourn, Jonathan Gifford seconded it, and it passed unanimously.

A Note from Herb

Ruth and I are settling into our new home in Delisle, Saskatchewan, living large and loving every minute of our new life. Long summer evenings under big western skies are this rider's delight. New friends and new challenges make life exciting. There is great satisfaction in knowing beyond a shadow of a doubt that we are exactly where we are meant to be at this time in our life.

Now, in the interest of full disclosure, I must tell you that Saskatchewan is not exactly a motorcycling paradise. The winters are long and cold. The roads are long and straight. Many roads are gravel, and those that are paved are frequently in poor condition due to the harsh winters. I'm pretty sure there is another GS in my not-too-distant future. In the meanwhile, I fear that my tires may fall victim to DST (Dreaded Saskatchewan Profile), flat in the middle, like new on the sides.

Dealing with SGI (Saskatchewan Government Insurance), which also handles the issuing of driver's licenses, was not without the typical government red tape. Initially they insisted on giving me a Novice 1 motorcycle endorsement. Being labelled as a beginning rider means no passengers, no riding after dark, and no travel on roads with speed limits over 90 kph (55 mph) for a period of three years! (This boondoggle has now been made right, but not without some serious hassle.)

My first long(ish) ride since arriving in this part of the world was to the neighboring province of Alberta to visit a friend in the hospital. I rode my 2008 K1200S via Saskatchewan Hwy 14 and Alberta Hwy 13, and was thrilled to discover that the route was both scenic and in good condition. I was surprised to find myself traversing rolling hill country between grain fields lush from above average rainfall. There were no curves to speak of, but at least there were some gentle bends and undulations to add interest.

While in Alberta I was able to attend the installation of my son Erik as the president of the Red Deer East Rotary Club. As the proud father of the incoming president, I was seated at the head table between the incoming and outgoing district governors. (Erik rides a 2003 R1100S which was once mine.)

The first friends to visit us from the south country were Ross, aka “World Famous Junkyard Dog” and Lloyd, residents of the St. Louis area. Ross rides a K1600GTL with a Hannigan trike conversion, and Lloyd rides a Honda trike. At my suggestion, they were making their way to Hyder, Alaska, where they graciously delivered a note to my friend Carolyn, who operates the first store on your left as you cross the Alaska border.

Another afternoon I rode my 1977 R100RS to the nearby city of Saskatoon to meet a church friend at the Dairy Queen. I was about to leave the parking lot when I was approached by two men and a boy. The older man looked at my antique motorcycle and said, "I had a friend who used to sell bikes like that in Toronto years ago, but I have no idea what happened to him".

"What was his name?", I asked.

"Dave Hannigan".

I handed him my old business card and said, "I worked for him in Kentucky until three weeks ago". The man's name is Hardi Kubassek and he runs a mission for children in Romania where he has lived for the last twelve years.

Surprise turned to incredulity when his companion offered, "I just had breakfast with Dave's father Albert and brother Brian in North Battleford this morning". North Battleford is a city located 90 miles north of Saskatoon.

Don't tell me there's no God!

Land of Oz Rally (June 10-12, 2016)

Spencer Bennett

The 2016 Land of Oz (Kansas) Rally was held the first weekend of June (June 3-5) at Warnock Lake Park in Atchison, KS. I had not been to this rally since they relocated to Atchison so I thought this would be a good opportunity to become acquainted with the new site.

I left Hernando on June 9 with the idea of having a nice leisurely ride to Kansas and camping in the park on Thursday night. The ride up with “Snackbar” the trailer in tow went very well until I got to Just south of Kansas City where the rains were waiting to ambush me. The rain stayed with me through Kansas City, which made the rush hour traffic just that much more fun, but quit as I approached Atchison and the rally.

I was able to set up in the dry and then take in the new Land of Oz Rally site and I must say it is excellent. The Kansas City BMW Club rents the entire park from the city of Atchison and has use of 20 acres or more of rolling area with a lake and assorted shade trees for camping. Not quite to Georgia Mountain Rally standards but close.

RAMS Campsite at Land of Oz.

Thursday night we were fed hot dogs cooked on the grill with condiments at Rally Central and then left to our own devices for the evening. I personally took this as an invitation to turn in early and enjoyed a peaceful night that comes after a full day of riding. Sometime in the night the rain found me but I was dry and comfortable and only aware of it because the thunder woke me up and the bike cover was wet on Friday morning.



The Sun greeted us on Friday morning and the campground was soon stirring. Breakfast was provided by the Girl Scouts who were asking for donations to pay for a trip to Europe, and pancakes and bacon/sausage (your choice) were just too good to pass up.

After breakfast I got a shower at the indoor restroom and then set out to explore the local area. The first place I went was the birth place and childhood home of Amelia Earhart, who I knew was from Kansas but I had no idea where in Kansas. The home has been restored to the time when she lived here and also features some of her clothing and memorabilia and is well worth taking in to get a perspective on another time and the forces that molded her. It was interesting to note that she and her mother lived with her mother's parents while her father travelled extensively as a railroad attorney.

After Amelia's tour I got some lunch at a local café and then took in the Atchison County Historical Museum/Railroad Museum in downtown Atchison. The Atchison County Historical Museum is really well done with lots of information not only about the railroads but also about the history of the local area. The Railroad Museum consists mostly of old rolling stock from the railroads and is interesting, although not well maintained. It turns out that Atchison has had a very interesting and historic past, from Lewis and Clark to the railroad era, to Amelia Earhart. The city is somewhat in decline today but is still a very pretty town on the banks of the Missouri River that is working to bring itself back.

Back to the Rally in time to take in the Friday night Dinner of Burgers followed by movies, but someone forgot to bring the movie so we were regaled with the CD's from a vacation in Branson, the ones they sell at the performances. Not "The World's Fastest Indian" but OK to sit under the stars with.

Saturday is the big day at the Rally and starts with more pancakes and then the Rally Bike show, which is held in downtown Atchison at the Farmer's Market. This has the dual benefits of letting the locals see the motorcycles (and their riders) and getting the Rally Attendees a chance to shop at the Farmer's Market which had some great food vendors as well as the usual nic-nacs and of course vegetables of all kinds.

After the Bike show I headed back to the Rally as they still have Field Events and I wanted to take them in and see if they were still as much fun to watch as I remembered. The usual events (slow race, put ball on cone, drop balls in bucket) were still fun to watch although they seemed to suffer the same issue of getting folks to participate. Most of the participants were either Airheads, of which there were a fair number in attendance, or GS types, which were also well represented.



By the end of the Field Events it was time to get back to Rally Central for the BBQ Dinner and then the Awards and Door Prizes, both of which I managed to avoid. Then back to the campsite to do a little early packing up to be prepared for the departure on Sunday, conversations with the neighbors, and then to bed.

Sunday morning dawned sunny and clear and I was soon packed up and headed down the road with good, but hot, weather all the way home. I found the "Land Of Oz" rally to be very enjoyable and their new rally site is, in my opinion, better than the previous one both due to the space they have and the location near a major town. I plan to return and would urge you to consider it for the first weekend in June next year.

Bad Jokes and Random Notes

Special thanks to Spencer, Herb, Butch and Robert.
Who continually submit reports, pictures, and stories to the shaft.

Any one who would is interested in supporting the Dragon Fly
Triathlon on August 27 can contact Pam at 901- 550- 2114

Below is an image from the BMW warp drive division.



Club Contacts



RAMS Officers

- **President:** Larry Craig
- **Vice-President:** Steve Clark
- **Secretary-Treasurer:** Spencer Bennett

Email: officers@bmwrams.com

**BMW Club
Riders Association
of the Mid South**



Editor, *The Shaft*:

Email your articles and submissions to:
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**Deadline for submissions to The Shaft is the 25th of
each month with publication shortly thereafter!**

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2016 RAMS Rally:

Rallymeisters:

WANTED !

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