

THE SHAFT



The Journal of the Riders Association of the Mid-South



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



May, 2016

Another month is in the history books. I know many of you are traveling around this great nation of ours attending rallies, making new friends, and finding new roads to ride. I wish you all safe travels and good health this Rally Season.

Pam from the Memphis in May Triathlon would like to thank the club for its continued support.

She has other events that the BMW-RAMS members could help with this summer:

June 25 Annie Oakley Buffalo Bill Wild West Triathlon Shelby Farms 6:30 am -4 mini triathlon

Aug. 27 Dragon Fly Triathlon Sardis MS lower lake - long time event your guys have helped

If you would like more information about volunteering you can contact Pam at (901) 550-2114

May 2016 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Herb Anderson at 1:32 pm at the campsite at Bruce Ottway's home in Murray, KY. There were 15 RAMS and 12 motorcycles present.

New Business:

- 1) We have 3 new members for May:
 - Haavi Morriem of Memphis who rides a C650 GT.
 - David Dines of Memphis who rides an R Nine T and an F800 R.
 - Lois Sandusky of Little Rock who rides with Steven Hitt.
- 2) We currently have 106 new and returning members for 2016.
- 3) There were no guests at the meeting.
- 4) Donna Clark modelled the new Performance Plus Shirt which is very well done. Stop by the shop and check it out if you get the chance.
- 5) Reno Anderson brought up the topic of how to get more members out to the meetings and it was discussed with no real resolution or new ideas. Seems that no matter where we meet, only a few people are able to fit it in.
- 6) Herb extended Thanks to the Meeting Hosts: **Bruce Ottway and Herb & Reno Anderson**. Spencer took this opportunity to present Herb with a Plaque recognizing his service to the RAMS as President and how much he will be missed as he goes on to the next chapter of his life. Bruce Ottway then presented Herb and Reno with a very nice "Anderson" sign for their new home.

RAMS Rally Update:

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

1. Spencer Bennett and Larry Craig went to the May Parkers Crossroads City Council Meeting to thank them for their continued support. The Big Tent has been secured in writing for the Rally. The tables and chairs provided by the city last year will be provided again.
2. RAMS Rally Flyers have been delivered to the Parkers Crossroads Visitors Center for distribution to visitors and to businesses around the area.
3. Porta-Potties have been arranged for from a new company in Parsons, TN. Cost is \$400 for 4 units but no wash stations as they do not have them. Last year's cost was \$575.
4. Rally Pins have not been ordered but are on the docket for June action.
5. Spencer Bennett had rally flyers for all who wanted them.
6. Steve Clark proposed that the officers send out a "blurb" about the RAMS Rally to all local BMW Clubs and ask them to put it in their newsletters. The officers indicated this would be on their list of things to do.
7. Hank Widdop moved that we give sidestand pads instead of pins this year as they are much more useful and probably not much more expensive. Donna Clark seconded the motion. During discussion it was pointed out that the ads all promised "pins to the first 150" and it would be too expensive to do both. It was decided that this still might be a good idea and the officers were directed to get prices for the sidestand pads and bring it to the next meeting. The officers indicated this would be on their list of things to do.
8. Officers were asked to bring Pin Prices to the next meeting as well for discussion.
9. Bruce Ottway volunteered to make some RAMS Rally signs for use at the MOA National Rally and Spencer agreed to get him the Logo and Copy for the signs,
10. Herb Anderson volunteered to conduct the Sunday Morning services at the 2016 RAMS Rally.

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. Spencer Bennett brought the 2016 RAMS Directories for distribution and also announced that the online Directory now has “hot link” capability for both phone and e-mails if you load the pdf on your phone. This web upgrade was provided as part of your membership package by your RAMS IT Staff at no additional cost to you.
3. Spencer Bennett Moved that there be an election to fill the unexpired portion of the Vice-President’s turn in office that is coming about because of Larry Craig assuming the job of President. Larry Craig seconded the motion. There was discussion of the pros and cons of the motion and then a voice vote that approved the motion. If you have any interest in becoming the RAMS Vice-President please let one of the officers know (officers@bmwrams.com) or come to the June Meeting as we will have an election at the Meeting.
4. The **June RAMS Meeting** will be Saturday, June 11, 2016 at:

Hartwoods Motorcycle Campground

2830 County Road 90

Waterloo, AL 35677

Tel: 901-831-0855

Your host will be Michael Hart. Lunch will be at 1200 and the meeting will be at 1:30.

1. RAMS Meeting Locations: Hosts for 2016 are:

June - Hartwood Campground, Waterloo, AL : Mike Hart

July - RAMS Tent at the MOA National Rally: Hank Widdop

August - My Favorite Place Restaurant, Cordova, TN: The Manchester Family

September - TBD: The Clark Family

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

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

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

2. If you have an item for the RAMS Meeting agenda, please get it to the Secretary (officers@bmwrms.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.
3. 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 no chocolate gravy.

Treasure's Report:

- 1) Balance in Bank plus petty cash = \$5758.54.
- 2) Petty Cash = \$55.00
- 3) Significant expenses this month were the Tent Rental for the MOA National (\$340.00) and the 2016 RAMS Directory printing (825.55). The directory printing cost prompted some discussion on the part of Steve Clark and Herb Anderson as to possibly moving to an "on line only" directory with the ability to self-print or order print copies for a fee next year. This was tabled at this time but will be discussed at a later meeting.

Bryan Leonard made a motion to adjourn and it passed unanimously.

A Note From Herb

The RAMS club continues to be a very important part of my life, as it has been for well over a decade. Many of my closest friendships have been formed within the RAMS motorcycle fraternity. Reno and I have 11 years of perfect attendance at RAMS Christmas parties. The annual RAMS Rally each fall is a highlight of the year for me, and I have missed only a couple times when I was out of the country. I estimate that I have attended about 100 monthly meetings over the years, typically riding 300 or more miles round trip in order to attend. That works out to 30,000 miles just to attend meetings. This is my fourth year as an officer of the club, my second as president. It has been a joy (mostly) and an honor (always) to serve in this capacity. Reno and I have now arrived at a point of major transition in our lives. On June 15 we will leave our home in Hazel, Kentucky to begin life's next great adventure in Delisle, Saskatchewan, Canada.

For more than two decades I have been blessed to make a living in the motorcycle industry, working around motorcycles and the people who ride them. Now the time has come to return to church ministry. I have accepted a call to serve as pastor of the Delisle Community Chapel, and will be installed on Sunday, June 19.

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for my fellow officers. Spencer Bennett gives a great deal of time and energy to the duties of secretary-treasurer, and is largely responsible for the behind-the-scenes work which keeps the club apparatus operating smoothly. Larry Craig is a very active vice-president who has organized rides and events, and built a stronger relationship between the club and Performance Plus, the local BMW motorcycle dealer. I am confident you will give Larry the same support and encouragement which I have enjoyed, when he assumes the role and duties of president at the June 11 meeting. A new vice-president will be elected at the same meeting.

My thanks also to all those who have worked, and continue to work, to make the Riders Association of the Mid-South one of the premiere BMW motorcycle clubs in America. Special thanks to Rosey Bennett, web mistress, and Art Manchester, Shaft editor, and to all those who make the RAMS Rally a great event. I plan to return for the RAMS Rally September 30-October 2. I have been asked to lead a church service on Sunday morning, and hope that many of you will choose to attend.

Thank you, my fellow RAMS, for the commemorative plaque presented to me at the May meeting, recognizing my service as president of the club. Bruce Ottway, thank you for the hand-painted metal sign bearing the Anderson name, which will be mounted on the front door of our new home.

I never expected to return to the land of cold winters and straight roads. However, sensing a divine call to ministry, I am excited to take up the challenge. Reno and I hope that some of you will come see us in Saskatchewan. If you plan to ride, come in the summer.

Reno and I will always have a special love for the United States of America, this great nation which has welcomed us as citizens, and which has provided more freedom to more people than any other in the history of the world. And we know that the best way to experience it is on a motorcycle.

I leave you now with the words of Allen B. West, who writes:

“There’s something about being on the open road on a motorcycle in America that puts you in touch with this nation and the people...On a motorcycle you become one with the grandeur and beauty of this place, of America.”

Ride safe. Think fast. Herb

Butch Has sent in Pictures from a past RAMS meetings at Michael Hart's HartWoods Motorcycle Campground at Waterloo, Alabama. Once again, Michael is hosting the June club meeting and campout at his campground.



Heart of Texas Rally 2016:

Spencer Bennett

The Heart of Texas Rally is a road rally/scavenger hunt where you collect pictures of specific bonus locations or items rather than birdcages or crutches. This rally has, in the past, been centered around Brady, TX (the geographic center and thus the “Heart” of Texas) but this year had moved to a more convenient (for me) program of finishing in Marshall, TX and a shotgun start at several locations. One of these locations was Burkburnett, TX, where I have family and so I was able to combine a family visit and a rally in one trip, what a deal!

My start point was the Whataburger Restaurant in Burkburnett at 0600 on Saturday, April 30, 2016. The usual crowd at a Whataburger on a Saturday morning are not your usual long distance motorcyclist, so the group that gathered there sort of stood out from the ranchers and oil field workers. I had thought that I would likely be the only starter from Burkburnett, as had nine of my fellow rallyers! It was comforting in a way to come riding around the corner from the closest gas station with a clear printed receipt to see several folks standing around in dayglow yellows and oranges. Sort of like recognizing an old classmate at the reunion.

We were soon all inside the restaurant and waiting for the witching hour of 0600. Someone asked the manager if they could print off a bunch of “no sale” receipts right after 0600 and the manager said “Sure”. (Gotta love these Texans.) At 0600 the receipts started and mine was for 0600:41. There was a bonus for stopping for 30 minutes to eat breakfast, and since I had family who had come to see me off, I took advantage of it so I did not leave until 0631(to make sure I was 30 minutes past the 0600:41 time).

The route I had planned went from Burkburnett to Graham to Mineral Wells to Granby to Corsicana to Canton to Gilmer to Gilmer to Mt. Pleasant to Marshall. Sounds reasonable given it is about 350 miles as the crow flies and you have 12 hours to cover it. Therein lies the “fun”.

It seems that there is more than one way to report GPS Coordinates. In fact two are in popular use, the usual degrees, minutes, second format and the less usual degrees, minutes, decimal second format. You may ask, “What difference does this make as both will take you to the same place?” This is not necessarily true as the data must be entered in the format you have selected on your GPS.



This difference first showed up at the third bonus in Graham, TX when I found myself searching in a city park for a monument to the Loving-Goodnight Cattle Trail that was supposed to be on the grounds of the courthouse. After a bit, I gave up on finding it and headed out, only to cross one of the streets listed on the description and turn left to ride up on it. While checking my GPS Coordinates for the bonus entry I figured out the problem, or so I thought, and went on with my ride.

The rest of the ride went well and I was making good time against my personal time schedule until I came to Corsicana, TX where I had to get a picture of the Veterans Monument on the courthouse Lawn. I had never heard of "Derrick Days" which is the Corsicana equivalent of Memphis in May only crammed into one weekend.

The traffic was awful, the crowds were all over the streets, and the police were stopping everything for foot traffic. You can bet the Rally Masters knew this would happen and sent us into the melee in good humor.

I got through Corsicana and headed for Canton, TX where I needed to pick up the Van Zandt County Veterans Memorial, only to realize that it was the first weekend of the month and that is a huge trade day in Canton, equivalent to First Tuesday in Canton, MS. Knowing you are going into a bad situation does not make it any easier, so I forged ahead. I got the Van Zandt Memorial and headed out to the next stop in Gilmer, TX.

On the way to Gilmer and the Upshur County Veterans Memorial, there was a major wreck that blocked the roadway for about an hour. Luckily it was close to a gas station so I was able to duck in, refuel, and grab a cold drink and a snack. Unfortunately, while eating my snickers and sucking down my Gatorade, I realized that I was not going to be able to make the other bonus locations after Gilmer. I resigned myself to this and moved out smartly (limit plus 10) to Gilmer and then headed to Marshall with a projected ETA of 5:56 PM against a 6 PM deadline.

You remember that issue with the GPS coordinates that I mentioned earlier? Well, it seems that I had entered the coordinates for the finishing hotel into the GPS in one format and was running in the other, having not realized my error at the earlier bonus point as being self induced, so I was running along following the GPS to a destination that was not where I needed to be. To cut to the chase, by the time I realized that there was something wrong, the rally clock had ticked to the point where there was no way I could get to the hotel under the wire and in fact I was four minutes over and so was a DNF. Rally Masters are a cold breed.

The lesson here is to read the Rally Master's instructions carefully and do not get bonus greedy. In any case, I had a great day of riding in East Texas, saw some sights and roads I had not seen, and met some interesting and fun folks who really enjoy motorcycling. We also had a nice dinner following the scoring, so the day was not a total loss as any time a RAMS member gets a good meal it is a good day.

If you have ever thought about riding in a rally and been reluctant, I would advise you to re-think it as the folks who do it are very welcoming and the experience is a challenge to both your routing abilities and your thinking on your feet abilities as the situation alters as the ride develops. I plan on doing more and would encourage you to consider it.

Stuff for sale or
Trade! →



Bob is no longer able to ride and does not want to let his bike deteriorate, It is in top condition and has low mileage (65182). It would make someone a very nice vintage bike. He is asking \$5000.00. You can contact him at patg6060@comcast.net
I was not given a phone number or a last name.

← *If you have anything you want to sell, trade or give away to a good home, email your pictures and description to:*

Editor, The Shaft:

newsletter@bmwrms.com

Club Contacts



RAMS Officers

- **President:** Herb Anderson
- **Vice-President:** Larry Craig
- **Secretary-Treasurer:** Spencer Bennett

Email: officers@bmwrams.com

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



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Email your articles and submissions to:
newsletter@bmwrams.com

**Deadline for submissions to The Shaft is the 25th of
each month with publication shortly thereafter!**

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