

THE SHAFT



The Journal of the Riders Association of the Mid-South



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



October, 2016

The November **RAMS** meeting will be Nov. 12, 2016

Joe's Restaurant

1410 W Market St,

Bolivar, TN 38008

[Phone: \(731\) 658-7255](tel:(731)658-7255)

Keep Shirley Lee and Robert in your Prayers.

Special thanks to Spencer, Herb, Robert, and Butch.
for there Trip reports. I was unable to get the Photos from
Herb and Robert transferred to this news report.

October 2016 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Craig on October 2, 2016 at 9:10 am under the big tent at Parkers Crossroads RV Park following the RAMS Rally. There were 19 RAMS and several motorcycles present.

New Business

- 1) We have 2 new members for October

Robert & Shelia Whitten of Iron City, TN who have assorted BMWs.

Daniel Hovater of Tuscumbia, AL who rides an R90/6.

- 2) We currently have 110 new and returning members for 2016
- 3) There were no guests for the meeting.
- 4) Larry extended Thanks to the meeting host: The RAMS
- 5) Officer Nominations for 2017 were opened. The nominations were:

President:

Larry Craig – Nominated by Steve Clark, seconded by Spencer Bennett.

Vice- President:

Jonathan Gifford – Nominated by Steve Clark, seconded by Larry Craig.

Donna Clark – Nominated by Teresa Craig, seconded by Joe Marshall.

Secretary/Treasurer: Spencer Bennett - Nominated by Larry Craig, seconded by Larry Craig,

Rally Chair: No nominations

Please remember that the nominations will stay open until the January Meeting when the elections will be held.

RAMS Rally Update

President (Larry Craig) did the 2016 RAMS Rally report:

1. Larry reported that we had total attendance of 117 people at this year's rally.
2. There were no major issues that came up other than the movie not happening on Friday night, and that was handled by the rally chairs.
3. There was a tie for the Largest BMW MOA Club in attendance between The Gateway Riders (St. Louis) and Gulf South BMW Riders (New Orleans). Spencer will get a second Award and send it to Gulf South.
4. The Poker Run and 50/50 drawing for Robert and Shirley Lee netted \$460.00 Thanks to the generosity of 50/50 winner Daniel Hovater who donated his winnings back to the fund. Herb Anderson will deliver the money to the Lee's on his way home.
5. The Poker Run was a success based on reports from all who participated and will likely be repeated next year. Thanks to Tony Lugo and Rodger Moring for their work in making this happen.

Old Business

- 1) If anyone still does not have their picture in the online directory, please see Spencer or Rosey.
- 2) A few 2016 RAMS Rally shirts in limited sizes are still available for \$15.00. See Spencer.
- 3) 2015 RAMS rally shirts are available for \$10.00 each. See Spencer.

For the Good of the Club

- 1) Check RAMS website for rally schedules
- 2) Bruce Ottway has kindly offered to host this year's RAMS Christmas Party at his home in Murray, KY. Because of the distance for some of us to drive, the Party/ Meeting will be at 1 pm December 10. Address information will be in the November Shaft or you can look in the Directory.
- 3) Larry Craig is organizing the January RAMS ride to the Northeast Florida BMW Rally. The Rally dates are January 13-15, 2017 and the group will likely depart on January 11 and overnight on the way down. Please get with Larry if you are interested in going with the group for a nice mid-winter break and a really good rally.
- 4) The November RAMS meeting will be November 12, 2016 at:

Joe's Restaurant

1410 W Market St,

Bolivar, TN 38008

Phone: (731) 658-7255

Lunch will be at 12:00 and the meeting will begin at 1:30. Host is Paul Rhodes

- 1) If you have an item you would like to see in the next meeting agenda, please get it to the Secretary by Wednesday prior to the meeting and it will be added to the next meeting agenda. This is not required for an item to be discussed, but it will make sure it gets in the mix. Send the information to:
officers@bmwrams.com

Treasurer's Report

- 1) No Treasurer's Report this month as the statement closing date is after the meeting
- 2) Preliminary Rally numbers show that we lost \$454.12 (\$3.88 per attendee) on the rally. Spencer will have the final numbers at the November Meeting.

Hank Widdop made a motion to adjourn, Spencer Bennett seconded the motion and the motion passed.

2016 RAMS Rally Report

Spencer Bennett

This is a report on the 2016 RAMS Rally and will attempt to capture the main events of the rally as well as thanking the folks involved in the production of the rally.

The Event:

The rally began on Wednesday with the arrival of the set up crews and the erection of the big tent, always an important part of the rally. Early arrivals were Hank Widdop, Steve Hamilton, Mike Dale, and Spencer Bennett. They began the setup on Wednesday with the assembly of the EZ Ups and the siting of the various rally departments (Swap Meet, Coffee Pot, Door Prize Hut, etc.). Porta-Potties were also delivered on Wednesday late, and sited around the campground.

On Thursday Paul Whitworth arrived with the RAMS Trailer and the setup was continued with the nuclear coffee pot going into place and the door prize hut being set up so as to be ready for business on Friday morning. Art Manchester arrived on Thursday to be in place as the Coffee Chair. The Registration Chair, Teresa Craig, got the booth set up and everything ready for registration and Rally Shirt Sales.

The firewood also arrived on Thursday as did a couple of the vendors. Hank and Paul and a couple of other RAMS also posted the locator signs for the Rally on the roads leading into PCRV.

Thursday night your RAMS President, Larry & Teresa Craig, and Cliff & Karen Whittington, fed all of the rally workers, and some of the early arrivals on burgers, dogs, and fixings at Larry's trailer. This was very much appreciated by those in attendance.

Friday morning found the rally opening at 0800 with registration ready to go, the Door Prize Hut manned by Chip Mann (get it?) and the coffee hot and plentiful. The rest of Friday went smoothly with nice weather, although a little cloudy, and a good flow of folks through registration.

Tony Lugo arrived on Friday afternoon and he and Rodger Moring got the Poker Run signs up and the registration set up for that so it would go smoothly on Saturday morning. Bruce Ottway had produced some signs for the Poker Run that were really nice and these were set up to locate the Poker Run Registration Table, which looked a lot like the Rally Shirt Sales Table.

The Day wound down with folks still coming to register until it was closed at 8pm and the community campfire being attended to by a large number of the campers, as the night promised to be cool and a little warmth was good before turning in.

Saturday morning was indeed cool, but Paul Whitworth and Mike Dale were up and cooking pancakes and sausage early, and the smell of sausage frying soon had folks rolling out of their tents and lining up for breakfast. Art Manchester and Greg Lie Van had the coffee on and plentiful so the waiting was pleasant and not as long as is usually the case. Paul and Mike seem to have this breakfast business down to an art form, both for quality and speed of service.

After breakfast the rest of the rally opened up for business. Poker Run Registration opened and folks began departing at about 9:45 or so. Door Prizes held the first drawing for prizes and posted the winners at 10:00. Vendors were getting a good perusal by everyone and Donna Clark began the set up for the Bike show that ran from 12 to 3 pm.

The Poker Run was closed at 2 pm with Larry making the sweep run. This was also the time for the second Door Prize drawing and the winners were posted. The stage for the musicians was moved into place about 3 pm, just as the bike show was wrapping up, and the music began at 4 pm, right on schedule.

The Rally Awards were awarded on the first band break at 4:30 (see winners below) and the door prizes and 50/50 pot were drawn at the conclusion of the music.

After the Grand Door Prize Drawings, conducted by Spencer & Rosey Bennett (ably assisted by Tony Siano), and the 50/50 drawing, and a few thank you's and remarks by President Larry Craig, dinner was served and it was well received as a full day of riding and rallying will develop an appetite. After dinner the movie began at dusk and was well attended as was the campfire. The evening cooled off and the movie lost some folks to the campfire, but that was not surprising.

Sunday morning dawned a little warmer than Saturday morning and the smell of Paul and Mike cooking breakfast soon had everyone up and stirring. After breakfast, Herb Anderson, assisted by Tim & Lolly Jones, conducted a brief church service that was both well attended and very well done.

The RAMS meeting followed, see the minutes elsewhere in the Shaft, and then the pack up began and another RAMS Rally was in the books.

The Rally Awards:

Long distance Non-BMW: John Markey (506 mi.)

Long Distance Male: Herb Anderson (1975 mi.)

Long Distance Female: Nancee Musto (836 mi.)

Long Distance 2 Up: Jonathan & Nathan Gifford (108 mi.)

Long Distance Sidecar: Mary Ackerman (310 mi.)

Oldest Combination (Rider + Bike ages): Art Manchester III (79+13=92)

Oldest Male BMW Rider: Karl Mace (86)

Oldest Female BMW Rider: Pattie Melik (68)

Oldest BMW Ridden to the Rally: Steve Clark (1961)

Youngest Male BMW Rider: Birendarjit Singh Madan (34)

Youngest Female BMW Rider: Allison Gifford (42)

Youngest BMW Passenger: Nathan Gifford (7)

Largest MOA Chartered Club: Gateway Riders & Gulf South (Tie at 6 each)

Other Awards:

Poker Run: Cookie Monster (3 jacks, King high)

50/50 Drawing (\$460): Daniel Hovater (Daniel generously donated his winnings back to the pot so we were able to have a total of \$585.00 for Robert & Shirley Lee.
Poker Run+50/50)

Bike Show Awards: (Note that the Awards for the Bike Show were all custom made by RAMS Members.)

Best Vintage BMW: Steve Clark

Best Classic BMW: Phil Timmons

Best Modern BMW: Paul Rhodes

Best Farkled BMW: Herb Anderson

Best BMW Sidecar: Cookie Monster

Best Rat BMW: Hank Widdop

Thank you:

Heartfelt Thank You's are extended to these folks and to numerous other RAMS who pitched in when needed to make the 2016 RAMS Rally happen.

Rally Co-Chairs: Larry Craig and Spencer Bennett

Shirt Sales: Teresa Craig and Karen Whittington

Band: Hank Widdop

Door Prizes: Rose-Anne & Spencer Bennett

Coffee: Art Manchester III

Swap Meet: Marshall Robilio and Fred Bradley

Trash and Sanitation: Joe Marshall

Bike Contest: Donna Clark (Hank working on awards for bike contest)

Awards: Spencer Bennett

Food: Paul Whitworth and Mike Dale (Breakfast & Fruit)

Signs: Hank Widdop and Paul Whitworth

Schedules: Hank Widdop

Poker Run: Tony Lugo and Rodger Moring

50/50 Drawing: Teresa Craig and Karen Whittington

Sunday Services: Herb Anderson

Rally Pins and Shirt Ordering: Larry Craig and Spencer Bennett

Financial:

We had 117 Rally Attendees this year. 47 Full Pre-Regs & 2 Day Pass Pre-Regs.

Income per att: \$50.31 (Total income includes shirt sale revenue.)

Cost per att: \$54.85 (Total includes all rally costs.)

Loss per att: \$ 3.88

Total Loss: \$454.12

Breakeven point: 138 attendees.

Seventeen States in Seventeen Days, By Herb

The ride started under clear blue skies with a few puffy white clouds. From our home in Delisle, Saskatchewan I headed south toward the American border. The customs official at Scobey, Montana was thorough but professional and courteous. My first night on the road was in Wolf Point, where I enjoyed a great visit with uncle Herb Toews, the man whose name I bear. He paid Dad five dollars and a dozen diapers for the dubious privilege of having me named after him.

I love riding in Big Sky Country. The terrain is rugged and unmistakably western. The roads are generally in good condition. Speed limits are generous and open to a good deal of personal interpretation, so it is possible to make good time while having a good time. The K1200S carried me over 900 miles the second day, through North and South Dakota, to Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Day three brought me to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, where Mark and Betty Martin made me welcome in their lovely home. Next morning I had scheduled service work done by Hank Beckor, master tech at Grass Roots BMW, my old dealership. While waiting for the work to be done I lunched with Sean Gardner at the Cup N Cork. Mark joined me for the ride to Murray, Kentucky via gnarly backroads the like of which I have not seen since moving back to Canada. After touching base with friends at Hannigan Motorsports I made my way to Parkers Crossroads and a joyful reunion with my fellow RAMS.

Each RAMS Rally evening I joined the friendship circle at the campfire where we told stories late into the night. A rally highlight was the Poker Run, which included a lunch stop at Drifters, aka Momma Judy's. The route took us over some great roads. What a treat to be back in a rider's paradise! At the closing ceremonies I was awarded two plaques, Long Distance Rider, and Farkled Motorcycle. At Sunday morning church, with the musical assistance of Tim Jones, I talked about the importance of being ready to meet God. At the close of a great rally, I was honored to carry the money gift from the RAMS to Robert and Shirley Lee.

Paul and Sam Whitworth have provided me with a meal and a bed many times over the past dozen years or so, and I am grateful. Well rested and well fed, I headed west on Interstate 40 and Historic Route 66. My pace was moderately brisk. I had to be careful, as there were multiple radar traps. I was passed by a car, something that didn't happen often. Printed on the door were these words: "State of Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment". Realizing that he had the freedom to speed and burn fossil fuel with impunity, I tucked in behind him and followed until he finally exited Interstate 40. The Beemer and I are happy riding beneath western skies. I don't know if I am American or Canadian (actually I am both) but I definitely know that I am a Westerner.

It is not easy to find a privately owned non-franchise restaurant along the interstate. I missed the Cowpoke Café in Oklahoma and rode another 150 miles before finding Mitchell's Café in Shamrock, Texas. Traveling west, the wind was a constant companion. Fortunately, even with a full load of gear, the K1200S slices through the wind neatly. I just relax and let the bike find its way, straight and true. Each evening I set up camp and watched "Caveman TV", aka a campfire. (At the RAMS Rally Larry Craig gave me a Chinese powder, which, when added to make the flames, changes them from yellow to blue and green. That would be "Caveman Color TV".)

Interstate 40 roughly parallels Historic Route 66, which John Steinbeck famously labeled America's Mother Road. Much of the old highway is unusable now, or buried under I-40 concrete. But parts of it, especially in the western deserts, are still rideable. I loved getting off the superslab to ride along with Steinbeck's Judd family on the crumbling asphalt of yesteryear. Crossing Indian Territory through scenes of magnificent desolation, I gazed out across flat high desert to distant buttes and mesas. At other times I ran along the base of red rimrock canyons.

From Tuba City, Arizona, I headed south through a moonscape of austere beauty. The lunar surface is an exciting place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there. There is no vegetation for even sheep or goats. The people who live in the scattered shanties, mostly native Americans, must be hardy folk indeed.

Before I left home Ruth gave me a gift card worth \$25 to be used for something special. I spent it all at once for a motorcycle pass to the Grand Canyon National Park, and it was worth every cent. The creativity of my God is overwhelming. The canyon itself is overpowering in its immensity. Without fear of contradiction I can affirm that it is one of the great natural wonders of the world. I poked along the South Rim, stopping at every scenic overlook. At one viewpoint I met Jason Russ from Washington state. He is in the early stages of a motorcycle adventure to the southern tip of South America.

At Seligman, Arizona I got back onto Route 66. This section of the old highway is in great shape, traffic is light, and the scenery is magnificent. There are even old Burma Shave signs with corny verses like:

If daisies are
Your favorite flower
Keep pushing up
The miles per hour
BURMA SHAVE

In Oatman, Arizona the burros roam at will. Among the several visits I have paid to this old mining town over the years, the night Ruth and I had dinner here with Larry and Carol Schultz is most memorable. A local barfly invited himself to join our table. He told us, "We don't have a town drunk in Oatman. We all take turns."

The guys at BMW Motorcycles of Las Vegas were fantastic. When they learned that I was on my way to California to lead a memorial service for my best friend Larry, they insisted on washing and detailing my road weary K1200S at no charge, and also resolved my lighting issue. I had arranged to pick up Carol from the Las Vegas airport and give her a ride to her daughter's home near Wrightwood, California. Within minutes of her arrival we were heading out of town in heavy weekend traffic, her carry on bag tucked neatly in the saddlebag I had reserved for her use. It was great to see Carol's daughter Amanda and meet her husband Kory, and children Evynn and Kannon. They own a toy hauler trailer, which they made available to me during my stay.

On Saturday evening, as the sun began to sink toward the horizon, I placed Larry's ashes into the saddlebag of my motorcycle along with mementos of his life, his pipe and his leather vest. Amanda rode with me to accompany her father's mortal remains on a final journey. With the rest of the family following, we rode up the mountain, through the town of Wrightwood to Inspiration Point. Inspiration Point was a favorite site for Larry. I had ridden the mountain curves to the Point with Larry on multiple occasions in years past.

As the setting sun slipped behind the mountain, and with a half moon almost directly overhead, I conducted a private service of memorial for the family. I shared a number of memories of life with Larry, and gave the family members gathered there an opportunity to do the same. I read Scriptures—Psalm 23, John 11, I Thessalonians 3—and shared a brief message highlighting the certain hope of eternal life that we have in Jesus. Larry never wavered in his faith, and faced death without fear. I opened the bag containing Larry's ashes and spread them over the side of the mountain at the base of a young pine tree. Before we left Amanda sang Amazing Grace. She has a beautiful voice, and after listening to her sing several verses, the rest of us joined in quietly.

After three wonderful days with Carol and her family, it was time to ride once again. On a picture perfect morning I retraced my route as far as Las Vegas, making an effort to freeze the desert scenes in my mind so I can call them up from my memory bank when the snow blows in Saskatchewan.

At Idaho Falls I put on my BMW long underwear for the first time on the trip. It was cold now, and getting colder. Heavy fog began to freeze on my face shield. And then it started to snow. Visibility became a real problem. Slush built up on the road surface at the Monida Pass. Bridges became ice covered and treacherous.

It was 10 degrees Fahrenheit when I left Havre, Montana that final morning. I needed a battery boost to get the Beemer started. The local paper proclaimed Heavy Snowfall and Record Cold Temperatures. There was only one thing to do: Ride! And so the traveler came home.

The VOID or 'Turned It Off' By, Robert

The VOID rally (think southeast USA scavenger hunt) was held 7-8 OCT 2016 or as I like to say Hurricane Matthew weekend! The Rally starts were from three locations, Reading, PA, Tifton, GA, and Columbia, TN. I started in Columbia on a beautiful cloudless Friday morning with pleasant riding temperatures. However, I knew that was going to change before the Rally Finish in Fredericksburg, VA, 31 hours later. But let's talk about the good times. In previous VOID Rally's I rode a more direct easterly route, But to avoid Hurricane Matthew I decided take a more northerly route, besides a more northerly route had been the winning route on several VOID Rally's, so what the hay, I'll score points and miss the rain, was my route planning thinking. As I said, a beautiful START day, following a delicious pre-rally dinner the night before with my fellow rally'ers. This year's rally theme was VOIDonopoly with President's so leaving Columbia my first bonus was the William Taft Post office in in Taft, TN. I modified the suggested route BaseCamp they gave me, and I found out later that was a wise decision because another rider said the BaseCamp routing took him down a gravel road. I had enough of gravel road riding the IBA Texas World Capital SS1000 the week before. Next bonus was the Lincoln Cemetery in Fayetteville, TN

Next it was on to the Van Buren County Line Sign in Rock Island, TN. Gathered that bonus and then on to Monroe County Post Office for a name legible photo. No problem, I was doing good and actually on schedule, because the next bonus was time sensitive, it required getting the National Parks Stamp at the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace NHS, visitors center. The visitors center supposedly closed at 1645. I said supposedly, because I got there at 1345 and the Rangers were telling the people the visitors center was closing at 1600. I also took this bonus photo of the NHS sign at the entrance. See Below, and note the NHS closing time change to 1630 versus the 1645. I hoped there weren't any riders counting on the published closing time, Next bonus was the Abraham Lincoln Mural in downtown Lexington, KY. And as you would expect I would be there on a Friday at rush hour traffic. I had accomplished all my first day bonus gathering, and it was time to head for my planned rest bonus in Wytheville, VA. With a planned ETA of 2230 and 6 hours of rest bonus. I had made a reservation earlier because the motel had said they were filling up fast with Hurricane Matthew evacuees.

This 160-mile leg between Lexington and Wytheville was my mistake, or heading southeast more specifically was my mistake. I was fine until Charleston, WV, until my turn onto I-77S. It was night and the rain bands of Matthew had arrived. I have a GPSMAP 478 with the Sirius Sailor NEXRAD Radar package and starting in Charleston the entire radar screen was bands of rain, yellow rain. After the rally another rider turned north, and he wasn't rained on at all until the next day! Normally when traveling I use the radar to guide me around troubling weather, But in this case I was committed. I kept looking at the GPS screen and I realized all I was doing was giving myself anxiety, so for the FIRST time ever I switched page mode i.e. 'Turned It Off', and didn't watch the weather I was going to have to ride through. I slowed down because of the night, and rain, but the roads never really got too wet, but slow and careful was the ride mode. Arriving at Wytheville, I treated myself to a great dinner at the truck stop near the motel, and fell asleep quickly. Awakening the next morning it was raining, but it was daylight and green, or light rain. New day, new bonuses to gather, first up was my old nemesis HHM at Washington and LeeUniversity. I had searched for this HHM before and it took me a long time to find it, because I was there during homecoming at VMI, and the roads were jammed with traffic and the GPS coordinates were off. Next bonus was the HHM of Jefferson's Birthplace in Charlottesville, VA Next up, Zachary Taylor's birthplace HHM Montebello This was my last bonus of The VOID 2016! It was a fun rally and the Rally Master's had a great theme "VOIDonolpy". It rained, but it also sun shined and the temps were wonderful even for the ride home. As always Ride Safe. Robert

Butch's Rally Pictures





**Stuff for sale or
Trade! **

I wanted to let everyone know that I'm selling my 2009 K1200LT. It is black with the chrome package, j-pegs with puddle lights, arm rest, heated seats and grips, cruise, AM/FM radio and CD player, a USB jack on dash, a RNC dash installed for farkles, factory GPS mount, PIAA lights up front with added LED tail lights. I have the Haynes manual to go with it. Also two deer whistles installed on front fender. Bike has 61,200 miles on it today. I have all the service and maintenance records on it. Just changed air and gas filter along with oil and filter 2,000 miles ago. Tires are Metzeler with 5,000 miles last set got 12,661 miles before I change them. Asking \$7,500.00 for bike and all. Anyone interested give me a call evenings 901-840-2373 or 901-619-5079. My day number at work is 901-523-8990 ext. 5043.

**Thank you
Larry**

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:** 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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Door Prize / Vendors:



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