

THE SHAFT



The Journal of the Riders Association of the Mid-South



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



November, 2016

The December **RAMS** meeting will be Dec. 10, 2016

Bruce Ottway has kindly offered to host this year's

3646 Speaker Tr,

Murray, KY 42071

Tel: 270-226-3472

Keep Shirley Lee and Robert in your Prayers.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season

November, 2016 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Craig on November 12, 2016 at 1:32 pm at Joe's Restaurant in Boliver, TN. There were 21 RAMS and 16 motorcycles present.

New Business

- 1) We have no new members for November
- 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: Paul Rhodes
- 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. No additional nominations were made. Please remember that the nominations will stay open until the January Meeting when the elections will be held.

RAMS Rally Update

- 1. Spencer Bennett, RAMS Secretary/Treasurer and 2016 RAMS Rally Co-Chair gave a financial report on the 2016 Rally.**
- 2. The Rally lost \$3.88 per registered attendee this year for a total loss of \$421.41. Spencer reported that he felt this was an acceptable loss, given the overall financial position of the organization and that it could be sustained into the foreseeable future.**
- 3. Several members suggested that the 2017 information should be posted in the MOA and RA Magazines ASAP so as to get maximum publicity for next year. Spencer responded to this by pointing out that we do not know what the registration fee will be for next year as we are due to re-negotiate the contract with PCRV this year. He said he will submit the Ads as soon as the 2017 Rally price is set.**
- 4. Spencer stated that he felt we should have a Rally Chair in place for 2017 rather than having the RAMS Officers act as Co-Chairs as it would relieve some of the work from the Officers and insure one point of contact for all Rally issues. The other officers concurred with this view at this time.**
- 5. Spencer concluded his report by asking the RAMS Members to consider whether, given the reduced attendance, lower attendance by RAMS Members, and the general lack of support that has developed for the various rally chair positions and their staff, the RAMS wish to continue to conduct the RAMS Rally? Every year, he said, it becomes harder to recruit help and there are many times when folks just let things go until, this year, the officers stepped in to take care of the issue. He also pointed out that the 20 or so folks doing the work are getting a little weary and some have even said "I am not doing _____ next year". If it is the will of the organization, he said, to continue the RAMS Rally, then some of the members need to come forth and support it more than in the past, both to help the current workers and to learn what each job entails so they can take it on at some point. There was some discussion of this matter and some members felt that perhaps we could do parts of the rally (Bike Show, Poker Run) without having a rally and others felt that moving the rally to somewhere else might improve the attendance. There was the question asked "Why do we even need the rally?" Spencer asked everyone to consider the matter and perhaps we can discuss it further at the December or January Meeting**
- 6. Some 2016 Rally facts;**
 - a. Attendance 117**
 - b. Pre-Registered 47 full and 2 Day Passes**
 - c. Total Rally Expense \$5499.15**
 - d. RAMS in attendance 41**
 - e. Break Even Point 138**
- 7. Tom Wolfgang volunteered to pull the RAMS Trailer to PCRV for the 2017 RAMS Rally.**

Old Business

- 1) If anyone still does not have their picture in the online directory, please see Spencer or Rosey.
- 2) If you would like a RAMS patch (old logo only), decal (old and new logos) or need RAMS business cards, please get with Spencer.
- 3) A few 2016 RAMS Rally shirts in limited sizes are still available for \$15.00. See Larry Craig.
- 4) 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, 2016.

Bruce's Address is: 3646 Speaker Tr, Murray, KY 42071

Tel: 270-226-3472

The "Sneaky Santa" gift exchange will again be part of the festivities so be sure to bring a motorcycle themed gift to the party. RAMS will provide the entree and you are asked to bring a side dish or dessert. Soft drinks will be provided and adult beverages are welcome. Please follow up with Bruce so he can coordinate the side dishes.

- 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) Robert and Shirley Lee attended this meeting and Robert took a moment to thank the RAMS for their support during Shirley's illness and asked for our continued prayers. Shirley is recovering well but slowly and it was great to see her at the meeting.
- 5) Rosey Bennett reported that magnetic name tags may be ordered from "Engraving 4 U" through the link on the RAMS web site for \$15.00.
- 6) 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) Balance in Bank plus petty cash = \$5364.95
- 2) Petty Cash = \$65.00

Spencer Bennett made a motion to adjourn, there were several seconds and the motion passed.

The 2016 "Not In It To Win It" or NIITWIt Rally

Spencer Bennett

The NIITWIt rally is a 12 hour or 36 hour riding rally that, for the 12 hour version, allows you to start anywhere you wish as long as it is within 12 riding hours of the finishing point at Mt. Magazine State Park Lodge in Paris, AR. The 36 hour version started at Vicksburg, MS this year but ended at the same location and time.

Since the 12 hour NIITWIt allowed me to start from home, and had many bonus sites in northeast Arkansas, it seemed a natural fit. I departed Hernando at 0603 on Saturday, October 22 for what turned out to be a very pleasant day of riding with the weather cooperating nicely for a change.

My first bonus site was the Sultana Memorial in Marion, AR and I found that one of the disadvantages of a rally in late October is that you have to wait for sunrise to get your picture, or light up the bonus with your headlight.



I did some of both and was soon on my way to the next stop in downtown Walnut Ridge, AR where there is a memorial to the Beatles (who knew?) to commemorate their visit to the community in 1964. The monument is a replication of the Abbey Road Album cover. Full details are available at the monument.



I got this photo with the help of a local who happened to be walking by when the crazy motorcyclist rode up, although I suspect from his demeanor that this is not the first time someone has asked for help with a picture here.

The ride continued on, stopping at assorted points of interest ranging from lakes to veterans monuments to military mistakes (one of the Titan II silos that blew up during the cold war). One of the nice things about this particular rally is that dawdling and flower sniffing is encouraged and they actually reward you for taking lunch breaks so I stopped in Heber Springs and took the 30 minute lunch break.

The latter part of the ride got a little bit more interesting as the bonus sites were located closer together and more were in town, so you had to spend more time riding in traffic, although most of the drivers were courteous when I had to make u turns in streets because I had ridden right past the library or the marker and had to get back and get the photo.

By 5:30 I found myself exiting Danville, AR after getting a photo of the first iron bridge in Yell County, erected in 1880 but no longer in service, and rolling on to the Mt. Magazine State Park.



The ride through the park up to the lodge is absolutely gorgeous with a wonderfully curvy road network and breathtaking views of the valley and the Petit Jean River below.

I arrived at the lodge and checked in by 5:45 so my scheduling worked out well and I apparently got as many points as I could have without going outside the time window, which is important (don't ask me how I know). Rosey joined me at the Lodge and we had a very good dinner there and the ride back on Sunday was almost as nice as the one over, with the weather continuing to cooperate.

If you get a chance, I would recommend trying one of these 12 hour rallies as they are challenging enough to plan that they keep your interest and short enough (most under 300 miles) that you can fit them in. All that is required is a street legal motorcycle, a map, and the ability to read and understand the directions.

**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 Metzellers 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 something to sell you must include a contact phone number.

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:

newsletter@bmwrams.com

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

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2017 RAMS Rally:

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