

# THE SHAFT



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The Journal of the Riders Association of the Mid-South

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



**June, 2017**

The July Meeting will be on July 8 , 2017 and will be at:

OLYMPIC STEAK AND PIZZA  
10862 HWY 51 SOUTH  
ATOKA, TN 38004

From the south up HWY 51 North it will be on the right (EAST) side of 51 across the street from the McDonalds. Come in the door and let them know your there with the RAMS group in the back. Our host will be Teresa Craig, hopefully the weather will be great for bike riding. We know a lot of you will be gone to rallies so ride safe and for those of us here, come on out for a great meal and the meeting. Lunch will be at 1200 and the meeting will be at 1:30.

Prayers needed for Eric, Sevilla and their children.

Tim Jones eye sight.

Art #3 brain and shoulder and  
knee.

Pam would like to thank the RAMS for their continued support of the local triathlons.

Dragon Fly Triathlon  
Aug. 26 at 8am  
Sardis MS lower lake

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

Help Wanted ! Editor and Chief of the Prestigious publication, The Shaft. Start date is no later than Jan 1st 2018. The compensation package will be double the current scale. if interested, E-mail me at [art04rt@gmail.com](mailto:art04rt@gmail.com)

## **June 2017 Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Craig on June 10, 2017 at 1:35 pm at Hartwoods Campground in Waterloo, AL. There were 15 RAMS and 12 motorcycles present.

### **New Business**

- 1) We have no new members for June:
- 2) We currently have 98 new and returning members for 2017.
- 3) There was 1 guest for the meeting.

Larry Allen who was Haavi Morriem's guest. Robert Rehkopf got him signed up before the meeting was going but we needed a guest to fill this slot.

- 4) Larry extended Thanks to the meeting hosts: Michael Hart & Peggy Russell

### **RAMS Rally Update**

1. The Rally dates have been changed to September 29 – October 1, 2017.
2. The Rally Committee Chair positions that are filled and available are below:

Registration – Larry & Teresa Craig

Rally Shirt Sales- Larry & Teresa Craig

Coffee & Refreshments – Everett Blanchard

Food – Paul Whitworth

Door Prizes & Vendors – Spencer & Rosey Bennett

Awards (Distance, Age, etc.) – Spencer & Rosey Bennett

Poker Run – Tony Lugo & Rodger Moring

Trash/Sanitation – Open

Set Up – Open

Trailer – Tom Wolfgang

Bike Show – Donna Clark

Swap Meet – Marshall Robilio & Fred Bradley

Signage (Put Up and Take Down) – Open

Please get with the committee chairs to offer them your assistance in any area you feel you would like to work. If you wish to chair one of the remaining committees please let Larry Craig know.

## **VP's Corner**

1. Donna would like for anyone who would like to make a Bike Show Trophy for this year to contact her asap.

## **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 \$5.00. See Larry Craig.
- 4) 2015 RAMS rally shirts are available for \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00. Most sizes are available. See Spencer.

## **For the Good of the Club**

- 1) Check RAMS website for rally schedules. Highlights are:

The BMW RA National Rally will be in Petosky, MI July 6-9, 2017, the week before the BMW MOA National in Salt Lake City, UT which is July 13-16, 2017. Some RAMS are planning on trying to make both of them, with a ride around between them. See Robert Rehkopf if interested.

The RAMS will have a shelter tent and reserved camping in the Chartered Club Camping area at the MOA National in Salt Lake City. I do not know where it will be located but it should have our name and Charter Number (43) on it and out flag as soon as Jonathan Gifford gets there. We will also have tables and chairs as well as 2 tent walls in case of inclement weather.

The Iron Butt Rally will be held this year and the finish point will be Minneapolis, MN on July 7 at the Minneapolis Marriott West. If you are interested in seeing the finish of this rather unique event, Spencer Bennett will be riding up to see it on July 5. Contact him for departure time and location if interested in joining him.

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See you then

- 2) The monthly Saturday Donuts and Coffee at Performance Plus will continue as it brings out a lot of the RAMS to meet and then go for a ride. Watch your E-mail for dates.
- 3) There is plan afoot to organize a RAMS Eclipse Ride for August 21, 2017, probably to Hopkinsville, KY, to see the total Eclipse. Watch you emails for updates on times and locations.
- 4) Verla Price and Everett Blanchard are organizing a trip to Fairplay, Colorado for August 13-20, 2017. They have reserved a house for lodging and cost will be \$200.00 per person for the week. Sleeping is dormitory style but it is inside with showers and restrooms. Meals will be organized once it is determined how many are going. It is also possible that there will be a trailer going for those who might like to take a dirt bike, or those who have already crossed Kansas in August one time too many. Please contact Verla or Everett directly if you have an interest in this adventure.
- 5) Butch Turner asked for a vote of those who had ridden to this meeting with him the last two years as to which route they preferred. After some discussion, the vote was to do the Mountain Ridge Line Rd for 2018. Butch then produced an interesting electrical device and asked who knew what it was. New Member Larry Allen said it was a hot dog cooker, and it was! Who knew you could just plug wires into the wall and cook dogs? His prize for coming up with the answer was a Bob's BMW Shirt that had been supplied by Chip Mann as a door prize for the meeting.

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](mailto:officers@bmwrams.com)

## Treasurer's Report

- 1) Balance in Bank plus petty cash = \$6496.00
- 2) Petty Cash = \$90.00

Movement to adjourn by Robert Rehkopf, seconded by Haavi Morriem, approved unanimously.

Reno sent me some news

Sevilla is progressing - tracheotomy is out, feeding tube is out and surgery scars healed and neck brace is off. She is currently paralyzed from chest down, and in medical opinion will never walk again. (C6 spinal cord injury) She is waiting for a bed at a very good rehab hospital in Edmonton. If she works hard she may be able to feed herself and a few other things like that with special equipment and training.

Please pray for Erik, and their four children who struggle with many different issues to do with this new normal that they have to adjust to. Erik is back to work at his new job and the children are in school until the end of June, but Sevilla's sister and oldest son Ben are keeping her company on a daily basis. Herb's sister Cindy was laid off just before the accident and so is being housekeeper and nanny on the homefront. She is such a blessing.

Herb and I are taking a much needed break to Hyder, Alaska with riding friends. A group of seven of us are here including Bruce Ottway from Kentucky. I broke my toe and cannot get riding boots on so I am driving the support vehicle for which the guys all seem to be thankful to be able to put their luggage into. And Val Reynolds is riding with me. It is my first time in Hyder and the mountains are magnificent. Herb was smiling when he got off his bike yesterday in spite of the cool weather and rain. Finally some curvy roads again. Not many of those In Saskatchewan!

Say hi to all Rams there... we miss you all.

Reno

# Heart of Texas Rally 2017

Spencer Bennett

The Heart of Texas (HOT) Rally is a 12 hour Scavenger Hunt Rally that requires you to start within the boundaries of the state of Texas. This year you were allowed to start anywhere you wished as long as you could get to Bryan, Tx in 12 hours or less. This year the Rally Master was Paul Tong and the Ride Master was Troy Martin. The Rally was previously ran by James Stovall who has relinquished it to some very capable hands.

You get the Rally Bonus Book about two weeks before the Rally date so you have time to plot out your route to allow the maximum number of potential points in the allowed 12 hours. I say potential points because sometimes things intervene in your careful planning.

Since the Rally was honoring the El Camino Real this year, there was a requirement that you had to score five markers from the original route. These markers were put in place by the Texas Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in 1919-1920 to mark the original route and about 100 of them are still around and about 70 are accessible (not on private land). Of these, the Rally Master picked 52 and assigned card values to them so there could also be a poker hand side element to the HOT Rally, with the best and worst hand getting a free entry in the Big Tex Rally in October. These markers we usually easy to locate but some were cleverly disguised or in ditches. More on this a little further on.

I chose to start in San Augustine, Tx because it was near the terminus of the El Camino Real at the Louisiana border, it was an easy ride down, and the hotel had a Dairy Queen across the street.

I woke up on Saturday morning to a light cooling mist and 56 degree temperature. Just right for riding! I got off to an interesting start when the station I had selected for my start at 0600 had its computer clock off by 10 minutes or so. Luckily I found this out when I bought a coffee so the only downside was I had to wait 10 minutes to fuel so my Dated Business Receipt (DBR) would show 0600 or later. I did make up for this, accidently but I'll take it, when it turned out that the first bonus site I had selected had a DAR Marker located adjacent to it. Scored a twofer and I was off to the next bonus.

I should explain that you score a bonus by taking a picture of the object or location with your Rally Flag prominently displayed and then e-mail it to the scorekeeper. You still have to get DBR's for some things but the scoring process is greatly simplified by the e-mailing.

I was rolling along through East Texas and locating bonus points well but was not doing well in the DAR Marker game, so I lost some time scouting through the ditches and other areas where I thought they might be. We were given a list of their locations, but it was in coordinates and these do not always translate into addresses that you can see on a road so you may have to make a couple of passes to determine the general area of the marker and then zero in by visual. Oh, and the markers coordinates are the original locations according to the State Records





## Example of the DAR El Camino Real de Tejas Markers

In one case, I had circled around on a small two lane road about four times, certain that the GPS was losing its mind, when a lady came out of a house nearby to ask me exactly what I was doing. I explained my mission (and got that “they let this one out too soon” look) but she agrees to ask the person that she was the caregiver for about it. The gentleman, who was barely able to walk to his golf cart but was great once he got in it, came out to tell me that the marker had been located in his neighbor’s field at this address for some years but they had decided that, since it was a historical marker, it ought to be where people could find it easily. This resulted in them relocating it about a quarter mile up the road and across the ditch. He was glad to ride me up to it and show me, which was a good thing as the woods had taken over in the twenty or so years, he wasn’t really sure how many, since they had moved it. This allowed me to meet some nice folks though and probably gave them something to talk about as well.

Another DAR Marker had been relocated to the main square of a town that will remain nameless to protect the not so innocent, and is now the main door locater for a local insurance company. Another opportunity to meet the local folks and get some really strange looks and questions.

By midmorning I had collected my five required DAR markers and settled down to the business of finding the regular bonus locations and sending my pictures in to Rally Scoring. With the continuing rain and winds, some of the locations were interesting to reach and sometimes difficult to get a picture with the flag in view. There was also some flag chasing involved as I had not added enough weights to my flag to keep it in place in some cases.

The HOT, unlike some Rallies, encourages semi rational behavior in most cases. One of these cases is the lunch break bonus, which does require you to eat at a specific restaurant within a time window, but at least you get to eat and get some points. In my case, the restaurant was the TX Burger, which is a new chain to me but is really good. I recommend them to you if you pass by one in your travels. I suspect they are Texas only, but you never know these days.

## Mission De Tejas


Somehow the Rally Masters always know when the local festivals will be held and schedule around them, which in Rally Talk means you wind up right in the middle of them. In my case this occurred outside Grapeland, Tx. where I crashed a local festival being held at the Mission De Tejas State Park. The Rangers were very nice and after about 20 minutes I was able to convince them to let me ease through the crowd to get back to the Mission (located near the back of the park and about a mile walk). I managed to get in and out without hurting anyone or myself and headed out to the finish line in Bryan. There was a time limited (in this case 5-6 pm) high point bonus at a cemetery in Bryan and I swung in to pick it up, figuring I was close to the barn and had an extra five minutes. Remember what I said about the Rally Master's knowledge of things (and sense of humor)? It turns out the cemetery closes at 5 pm and to get the required photo you have to park, go through a small gate, and follow a path about 200 yards to the bonus. No big deal, except you have been riding in the rain for about 11.5 hours, you are tired, it's still raining, and the parking lot is gravel! Just another joyous moment on the rally trail.

I rolled into the LaSalle Hotel in Bryan with about 15 minutes to spare so I guess I was a little cautious. I did however have a great day of riding and got to see some beautiful country and meet some interesting people. I plan to do it again next year and would invite you to come with me if it sounds like something you would enjoy.

And you thought Spencer had stickers.....



Stuff for sale or  
Trade! 

  
*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@bmwrams.com](mailto:newsletter@bmwrams.com)

## Club Contacts



### RAMS Officers

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

**Email:** [officers@bmwrams.com](mailto:officers@bmwrams.com)

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



### Editor, *The Shaft*:

*Email your articles and submissions to:*  
[newsletter@bmwrams.com](mailto:newsletter@bmwrams.com)

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

### Webmaster:

[webmaster@bmwrams.com](mailto:webmaster@bmwrams.com)

**2017 RAMS Rally:**

Rallymeisters:

**WANTED !**

[rally@bmwrams.com](mailto:rally@bmwrams.com)

**BMW Club  
Motorcycle Owners  
of America**



[BMW Motorcycle Owners of  
America](#) (Chartered Club #43)

**BMW Club  
Riders Association  
International**



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(Chartered Club #1)

### Door Prize / Vendors:



**RAMS**  
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