

# THE SHAFT



The Journal of the Riders Association of the Mid-South



<http://www.bmwrams.com>



*I hope everyone has put on a lot of miles. Comfortable riding weather is about over with June behind us the heat of summer is coming up fast. Comfortable riding weather is about over. I have been working extra hours to get ahead so when I take the month of August off to ride the Trans American Trail I will not need to check in with work as much. As always, I am ordering new gear and gadgets I don't really need. I have been getting packages daily. It's like Christmas at my house every day when I get in from work and the porch is brown with boxes. The new Mosko Moto bags, camp chair, rack system for bags and some others have arrived. The Mosko bags are heavier than I expected but look and feel to be indestructible. I have been packing and un packing them trying to decide what I want to take. I will be going to Jackson TN with the DR over the 4th. I hope to get some dirt miles in before leaving for Colorado. Everett has graciously offered to do the pre-trip maintenance on the bike and add the "gadgets" that I want installed. Enough about my trip. The newsletter is filled with a lot of things this issue. Spencer sent the insertion from the ROK Rally and Butch Turner the insertion from "Naturally Beemers" newsletter. Thank you! Any help on the newsletter is always appreciated! Happy reading and safe riding.*

*Tula Price*

*"I turn my head to the inside of the curve, roll the throttle wide open, and break free from the world that affords me the passion to ride"*



## *The ROK Rally, May 24-27, 2018 by Spencer Bennett*

*The Riders of Knoxville host the ROK Rally every year over the Memorial Day Weekend at a private campground located near Del Rio, TN. Do not feel bad if you do not know where Del Rio is, as it is a small community that is 11 miles sort of east of Newport, TN and has a Post Office as its major industry. It is a great location for a Rally though, as it is right in the middle of some of the best riding in the country.*

*This year Larry Craig, Greg Lievan, and I decided to meet up with Jim Linneman and some of the Four Winds Riders (Pittsburgh BMW Club) in Birmingham, AL and take in the Barber Motorcycle Museum prior to the Rally. All went well until Greg's bike had a brake issue on Saturday (before a Monday departure) and he had to wait on parts which meant he would just skip Barber and join us in Del Rio.*

*Larry and I left from Holly Springs, MS about 1000 on Monday and had a great ride up until we stopped for lunch and had a very enjoyable ride down to Birmingham, arriving at the hotel about 3pm and were able to get a ground floor room with parking right out in front. The Four Winds Crew arrived about 4:15 and we were able to Uber off for dinner and back, which works really well if you don't want to deal with the traffic on US 280 in Birmingham at rush hour, and believe me, you don't.*

*Tuesday morning, we were off, in the rain, to the museum with a quick detour by Big #1 Motorsports, which is the local dealer, as one of the GS's had a weeping water pump seal that needed to be looked at. After the shop assured the owner that "they all do that when new" and we had consumed all their coffee we were on our way to the museum where we spent a really great day, made even better by the fact that it was raining on and off and we were dry and comfortable inside. The Barber Museum continues to add to their collection and every time I go there I find several things that were not there before.*

*Wednesday morning the Four Winds Crew was up and off at 7am or so while Larry and I were later out of the gate. We were taking a southerly route, so I could pick up some Tour of Honor Bonus locations in eastern Alabama and Georgia and Larry was kind enough to accompany me at the slower pace and longer route this required as none of them were near an interstate highway. While ordering lunch in Calhoun, GA, a gentleman asked us if we were on the motorcycles, and we said we were. He then said that one tire on the smaller trailer looked to be a little low. After lunch we checked and found he was completely correct, it was totally flat! Luckily, I had just bought a new spare after losing the previous one on a trip last year so we were able to swap out the spare, which was really handy as the valve stem had cracked and caused the loss of pressure, and we were soon on our way. I highly recommend having your flats in a Wendy's parking lot if you can as there is pavement to work on and cold drinks and a bathroom are right there.*

*Between the flat and the three TOH Boni we managed to get somewhat behind the planned route schedule and arrived in Del Rio about good dark. I was able to find the campground (thank you Garmin) but the gravel driveway in looks a lot different at night, especially if you are contemplating leading a K1600 towing a trailer down it. Much credit here goes to Larry who said nothing about the gravel or the lack of lighting, but simply followed me in. As soon as we got about 100 yards in, the road was fine and we were soon being greeted by Jim Linneman and Hank Widdop and quickly got to setting up camp. Did I mention that this was Larry's first motorcycle camping trip and the first time to put up his tent? With the help of Hank, Greg Lievan, and Bryan Leonard he was soon set up and ready for a great night's sleep.*



*Thursday morning was wet but warm enough and we were soon up and getting breakfast prior to heading out to pick up another TOH Bonus in Sevierville, TN and to tour the local highlights. The traffic in Sevierville was awful, just as one would expect in a tourist area on a holiday weekend, so after gathering the bonus, we set out on US 411 for the mountains. But first we stopped for lunch at the Bush Beans Gift Center and Restaurant which is a country cooking kind of place and serves up assorted varieties of Bush products as well as standard country cooking. It is well worth stopping in if you are in the area. After lunch, we set off for the Dragon (US 129) as Larry had not ridden it before and Thursday seemed like a day that would be minimally crowded, and it was (minimally crowded that is). We came on to the Dragon from the Tennessee end and had a great ride for the first 5.5 miles, and then the rain set in. As you may know, the Dragon can be a handful on a big bike in the dry, and it just gets more interesting in the wet, especially of the rain is so hard you can't see through the next corner. Hats off to Larry and Greg for running the rain-soaked Dragon in fine form and still smiling at the end of it! After the Dragon, we stopped at the souvenir shop area, where it had not rained, to dry out and watch the squids on the serious sport bikes and sports cars run through for a while then headed back to the Rally*

### **RAMS Campsite at ROK Rally**

*over some really great mountain roads with little or no traffic. Thursday night was quiet with folks continuing to roll in and the weather remaining dry most of the night.*

*On Friday I went over to Knoxville to visit an old family friend, Roger White, who has lived in the area for many years and recently retired. Had a great day with Roger and got to spend time touring his new six bay shop and motorcycle restoration center where he is working on bringing back the bikes of his youth, only better as he says he can now afford to do the maintenance right, which was not always the case when we were younger. After a late lunch and some more visiting I headed back to Del Rio, again avoiding the interstates and enjoying the beautiful and relatively traffic free roads.*

*As I was stopped in Newport, TN to pick up some supplies, I got a telephone call from Greg Lievan whose bike had quit on him in Newport. It was fortunate that I was in Newport as there is no phone service at the rally, other than the land line. I rode over to where Greg was and noticed that he had the good luck to break down in front of a distillery for the local moonshine that had a sales outlet on site. Of course, as soon as I arrived the rain returned. The owner of the distillery insisted that we bring the bike into their garage/warehouse where we found not only a dry work space but also a very nice selection of hot rods and race cars, and even a couple of motorcycles. After some basic troubleshooting we determined that the problem was beyond our field repair capabilities and I headed back to the Rally to muster some help, which they were happy to provide in the form of a trailer, a pickup, and a rescue crew. The ROK Rally Crew soon had Greg loaded up and back at the rally where discussions were held into the night about possible resolutions, but no solutions were found.*



### *Greg's Bike and Trailer Heading for Home*

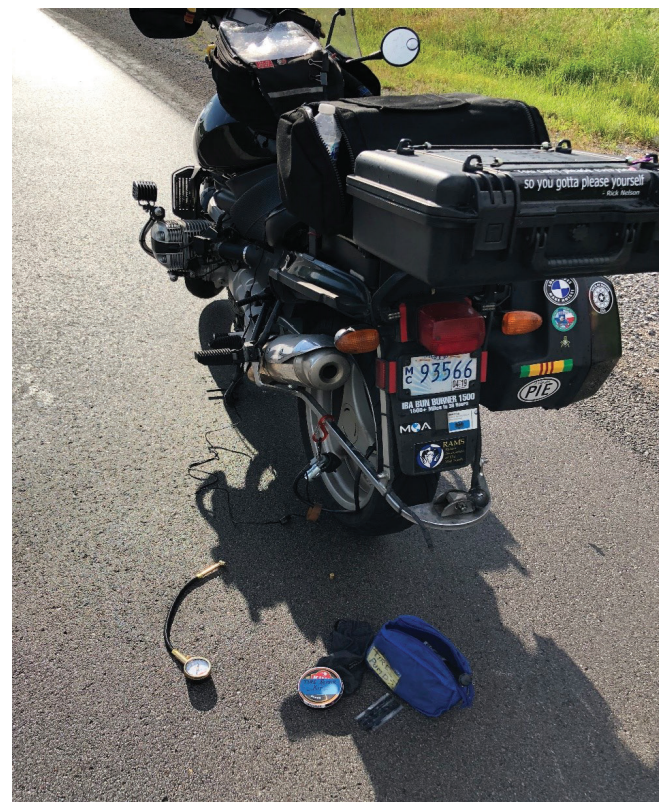
*and trailer back to Memphis. The ROK Rally Rescue Crew soon had the trailer and bike ready for transport and off they went to the U-Haul Center and ultimately to home.*

*After Greg got on the road we discussed the impending weather and the overall condition of the campground while watching a GS flounder in the mud and decided that it was probably a good idea to head out as soon as we could. Hank had already decided to leave and was mostly packed up by the time Larry and I reached the "Go" decision and Bryan Leonard was not far behind us. We got on the road home about 1200 and made pretty good time through Knoxville on I 40 and were doing well until I felt the dreaded "where did the air go shimmy" and subsequent flat tire near Lebanon, TN. The good news is that the hole was manageable with the "Stop-N-Go" flat kit and we only lost about 30 minutes to the flat and the rain had left us just east of Knoxville so we were in the dry when it happened.*

*Larry decided to push on home Saturday night and I spent the night in Waverly, TN but we both got home safely, as did everyone else. The weather apparently continued through Saturday night, but Sunday was absolutely beautiful at the rally site, as it was for my last 160 miles home.*

*This is a really friendly and relaxed rally with a small but very well-equipped campground in some of the best riding you will find. I highly recommend that you make it next year, and plan to do so myself if circumstances permit.*

*Friday night it began to rain in earnest, and we had a bit of a down-pour sometime in the night, as it woke me up but the tent stayed dry so I rolled over and went back to sleep. Saturday morning the rain was still spitting so we elected to stay close to camp and help Greg decide what to do. It turned out there were two dealers in the area, one who had what we suspected was the bad part but who could not work on it for several days and one who could work on it but had no parts. So Greg decided it was time for U-Haul and rented a truck to haul his bike*



*Spencer's Tire Maintenance Seminar*

# Interesting Rides/Road Trips



## TOURING BIKES

## SPORTS BIKES

## DUAL SPORTS

**AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days  
July 6-8, 2018**

*Mid-Ohio Sports  
Car Course in  
Lexington, Ohio*



[www.midohio.com](http://www.midohio.com) or by calling  
(419) 884-4000.

Des Moines, Iowa will be the site for  
our 2018 BMW MOA International Rally.



**UPDATE ON PRICING!!!**

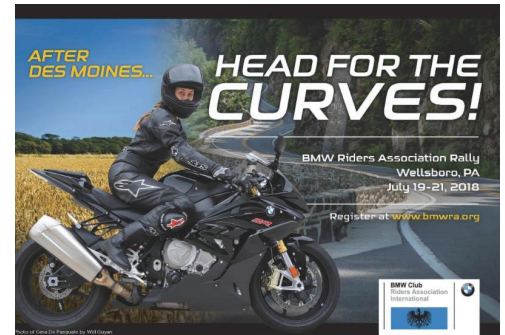
The Iowa State Fairgrounds will host  
on July 12-15.

The 2018 Rally fee for adults in \$85 until July 1.  
MOA Members receive a \$20 discount and pay  
only \$65.

<http://www.bmwmoa.org/page/rallyintro>

**The BMW RA National Rally**

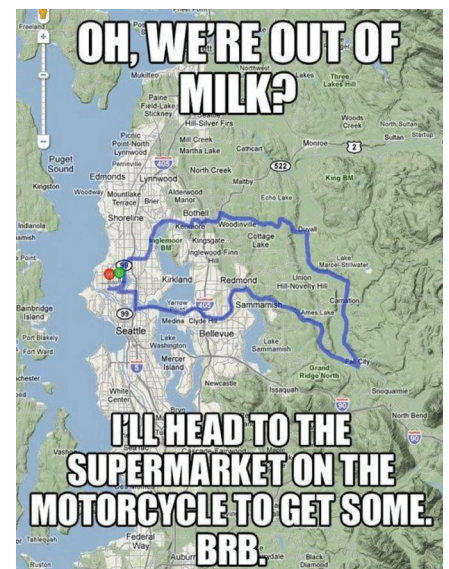
July 19, 20 & 21st, 2018  
Tioga County Fairgrounds  
in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania



<http://bmwra.org/news/national-rally>



*Just for Fun!*



## Ladies Corner



*Beautiful BMW Necklace Set, Ultimate Driving Machine, BMW Necklace, Silver Necklace Set, BMW Jewelry, PixieDust*



**\$25**

<https://www.etsy.com/listing/484843222/beautiful-bmw-necklace-set-ultimate>

*Womens Baseball Cap Hat Ponytail Mesh Outdoor Trucker Hat Adjustable Snapback*

**\$14.59**

On ebay



<https://www.ebay.com/i/173288928848>

## Widgets, Doohickey's &amp; Gadgets

*Nelson-Rigg Journey Mate Strap Mount*



**\$39.99**

<https://www.jpcycles.com/product/803-805/nelson-rigg-journey-mate-strap-mount>

**Advice for Women Motorcycle Travelers**  
(especially those who camp): **Packing**

Whether you are packing for a one week trip or for a six month trip, you pretty much pack the same things on a motorcycle! What you pack has a lot to do with whether or not you will be camping in a tent (as opposed to staying in motels and hotels), as well as how often you will be eating food someone else prepares (eating in restaurants and roadside stands) versus what you are going to prepare yourself.

Every person packs differently, both in what they bring and how they pack it, and you will discover what's best for you through trial and error.

You are going to forget something you need -- that's just how it is. Remember that, in the vast majority of places you go, even most developing countries, you can buy what you absolutely need. For clothes, go for durability and practicality. I think loose-fitting clothes are best as well.

Some general packing tips:

- ▶ Budget space in your luggage for things you want to buy and either use on the road (wine, beer, food) or have for after the trip (jewelry, a shirt, etc.).
- ▶ Put identification in every bag or pannier on your bike, and every satchel or purse within such. Include your name, email address, phone number and physical address, both where you are coming from and where you are going to.
- ▶ Don't take electronics, jewelry or other valuables that you would be heartbroken to lose, or that are easily broken.
- ▶ Regarding medicine: some things are easy to get anywhere, including other countries, like aspirin or antacids, but other things aren't, like prescription treatments for a yeast infection or any asthma medications/inhalers. Take a doctor's note affirming you have a prescription for such medication if you are going to have such while traveling - especially in other countries.
- ▶ I have a reason for every item I've listed below. When I try to do without one of these items on a trip, I end up regretting it. I reconsider this list only immediately after a trip, NEVER while packing.
- ▶ My list is my list. It will be different than yours.

Copy and paste this link into your browser to read more:

[http://www.coyotecomunications.com/travel/motorcycle/motorcycle\\_packing.shtml](http://www.coyotecomunications.com/travel/motorcycle/motorcycle_packing.shtml)

Minutes by: Spencer Bennett

### **RAMS Meeting Minutes –April 2018**

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Craig at 1:10 pm at Drifters Restaurant in Lavinia, TN. There were 15 RAMS and 11 bikes in attendance.

### **Call to Order**

1. We have no new members for this month.
2. We currently have 78 new and returning members.
3. There was 1 guest for the meeting. Larry Elliot was the guest of Bruce Ottway.
4. Larry extended Thanks to the meeting hosts: Thank you Everette Blanchard.

### **New Business**

1. Spencer Bennett reported on his survey of RAMS who planned to attend the RA National Rally this year. As of June 1, there were 2 RAMS who are planning to attend.

### **RAMS Rally Update**

1. Steve Clark is the 2018 RAMS Rally Chair and Paul Whitworth is Rally Co-Chair.
2. RAMS gave an Admit 1 to the RAMS Rally Certificate and a Red RAMS Rally T shirt to the ROK Rally for a door prize.
3. The question of Rally Pins vs. Rally Cups came up and Paul Whitworth said that he will refer it to Steve Clark, Rally Chair, for resolution.

### **VP's Corner**

1. No VP discussion this month.

### **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. 2015 RAMS rally shirts are available for \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00. Most sizes are available. See Spencer.
4. Larry Craig will send Hank Widdop a printed copy of the RAMS Directory.

### **Treasurer's Reports**

1. 2018 RAMS Dues of \$25.00 are due and payable.
2. Balance in Bank plus petty cash =\$6375.49
3. Petty cash = \$ 50.00
4. No Notable expenditures for this month.

**Next Meeting: July 14**

**Lunch 12:00 then  
Meeting 1:30**

**Off the Hoof Burgers**

**12013 US-70**

**Arlington, TN 38002**

**Tel: 901-867-3565**

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

1. Check RAMS website for rally schedules.
2. Larry Craig will send Hank Widdop a printed copy of the RAMS Directory. Hank Widdop made a motion that the RAMS print the Directory in black and white in limited numbers (25) and not mail them out, but rather pass them out to members who come to meetings. Paul Whitworth seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Directory will be printed as soon as it can be updated for 2018 and copies will be available from Officers at the regular RAMS Meetings. *(Note that I understand this should come under New Business but this is the part of the meeting where it came up.)*
3. Bert Fechner announced that Kermit Chair will be having a price increase in the near future and you should purchase one soon to avoid the increase.
4. Haavi Morreim is hosting a ride to Reel Foot Lake on Sunday, July 1 to take a boat cruise and see the Eagles. Please let her know (901-755-7479) if you wish to go on the ride. Cost of the boat ride is \$6.00 per person and a maximum of 15 folks can go.
5. **The July RAMS Meeting will be July 14, 2018 at:**  
**Off the Hoof Burgers**  
Lunch will begin at 1200 and the meeting will be at 1:30.  
**There will likely be a RAMS Ride to the meeting so watch for email updates.**
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](mailto:officers@bmwrams.com)

Movement to adjourn by Birenderjit Singh Maden, approved unanimously.

## Interesting Facts

Submitted by Butch Turner

BMW Motorrad's Concept 9cento points the way to a new model by Mike Hanlon

**BMW Motorrad's latest concept bike, shown at Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este on the banks of Lake Como in Italy last weekend, takes the company's mid-range parallel twin engine to a new level of style and more importantly, function.**

Extreme light weight and unprecedented levels of mass centralization combine with electromagnetically-attached panniers for a bike which crosses several class boundaries and, though not confirmed, is very likely to become a production model.

BMW has been steadfastly producing superbly balanced motorcycles with usable power for 95 years, only reluctantly joining the horsepower wars after its insistence on usability had earned it a staid reputation.



A decade after releasing the 200 horsepower S1000RR and laying that reputation to rest, the Concept 9cento (pronounced "nove cento") may well signify a new direction for the marque, which has been surging past its rivals with record global sales for the last seven consecutive years. BMW may still be a boutique manufacturer compared to the mass production giants from Japan and more recently India, but it now leads the chasing pack of low volume, high value specialist marques.

"It doesn't always have to be about 'bolder, bigger, brighter' nowadays: this concept bike focuses on achieving a sense of balance," says Edgar Heinrich, Head of Design BMW Motorrad.

"We've created a bike that combines the appropriate power with reliable sports touring properties and above all lots of riding fun, so it's an attractive overall package. It brings together the best of the sports, adventure and touring segments to produce an exciting concept – in a class which has not seen this kind of model from BMW before.

To Read More: <https://newatlas.com/bmw-motorrad-concept-9cento/54778/>

## 44,268 Motorcycles Were Stolen Last Year, But That's Good News

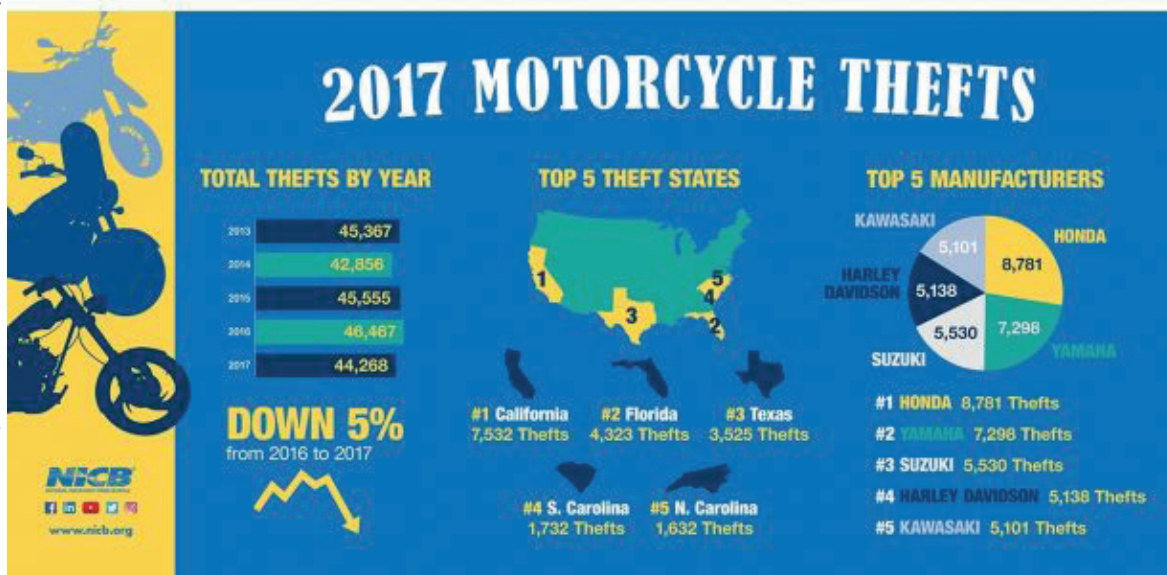
By Gary Gastelu

**Motorcycle thefts were down 5 percent across the U.S. in 2017, but there were still 44,268 reported, according to the latest National Insurance Crime Bureau report.**

**The five worst states for robberies in ascending order were North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Florida and California, where 7,532 bikes were stolen. At the other end of the list, Vermont led the way with just two reported thefts.**

**The average recovery rate nationwide was 42 percent, with riders in Washington having the most luck getting their bikes back at 58 percent.**

<http://www.foxnews.com/auto/2018/06/06/44268-motorcycles-were-stolen-last-year-but-thats-good-news.html>



**STUFF for SALE  
OR TRADE**

**Bike Trailer for Sale**

I have a single rail motorcycle transport trailer for sale for \$300. This unit is a proven performer for long distance or short distance rescues and has hauled R90, R1100, R1150, R1200 and K1100 s. Has secure tie downs and can be loaded by one person. Speed tested up to maximum legal limit of 85 mph (yes it did a rescue in Texas). Has 17/8 ball hitch and reasonable tires and spare. Available for inspection at most times. Call or text **Spencer Bennett at 901-626-2831**.

This a replacement pair of gloves from Gerbings for a pair I sent back for repair. My old ones were medium, so they replaced them with medium, but these are so small I can not wear them. \$200 dollar pair of gloves new in the pack I will take \$100 dollars for them.

[paulrhod@bellsouth.net](mailto:paulrhod@bellsouth.net)



Selling my '09 LT. 35402 miles with new tires. This Luxury Touring bike is in excellent condition. Ready to load up and cruise on down the road. Contact me with any questions.

Thanks, Bruce

[bruceottway@gmail.com](mailto:bruceottway@gmail.com)

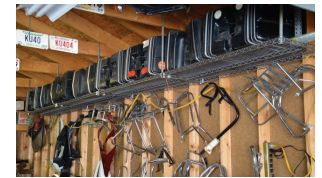
**Please let us know if your item sells!**

Selling! Bikes, shop equipment, parts and accessories. BMW's R90s, R69us, R100s (clone), R27 (250cc single) R90/6 (rolling chassis), '84R100RT (final edition), '70 SWB R75/5. 750cc Ducai, Oxy/Acc rig, A/C welder, comercial M/C lift. Detail pictures on request.

**Marshall Robilio**

**901-685-7367 H**

**901- 604-6884 C**



**STUFF WANTED**

**Anyone got a trunk bag for a Givi mono key system that they want to sell? Looking for a tank bag that will fit a 2002 r1150r tank also!**

**Paul Whitworth - [rams@lists.bmwrams.com](mailto:rams@lists.bmwrams.com)**

Webmaster:

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

Door Prize / Vendors

**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!

**The Shaft Editor:**

**Verla Price**

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

**RAMS Officers:**

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**Birenderjit (Bir) Singh Madan**

**Secretary- Treasurer:**

**Spencer Bennett**

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

**2018 RAMS Rally Chair**

**Steve Clark**

**Rally Co-Chair**

**Paul Whitworth**

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



BMW Riders Association  
(Chartered Club #1)

[www.bmridersclub.com/bmwra.htm](http://www.bmridersclub.com/bmwra.htm)



BMW Club  
Motorcycle Owners  
of America



BMW Motorcycle Owners of  
America (Chartered Club #43)

<http://www.bmwmoa.org>