

THE SHAFT



The Journal of the Riders Association of the Mid-South



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



January, 2016

I am typing this news letter very slowly because I know some of you cannot read very Fast. Also, Because I can't find certain letters on the stupid key board.

I would like to thank Bobby Bowden for his many years of contribution to the club. Many of us remember the club as small group of BMW riders who went to Rallies. Our club began to host its own rally in order to contribute to the BMW Rally Culture. We never thought of a News Letters or Membership Directories. The Shaft is a product of Bobby's Hard work and his dedication to this club. I will need everyone's help to continue this fine publication.

Here are minutes.

January 2016 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Herb Anderson at 1:30 pm at Fox Ridge Pizza in Cordova, TN. There were 31 RAMS and 1 motorcycle present (way to go Chip!).

New Business:

- 1) We have no new members for December:
- 2) We currently have 83 new and returning members for 2016.
- 3) Paul Rhodes brought guests Ann and Morgan to the meeting,
- 4) Herb extended Thanks to the Meeting Hosts: **The outgoing RAMS Officers**
- 5) Nominations for the RAMS 2016 Officers were re-opened by President Herb Anderson. There were no new nominations. Art Manchester proposed that the nominations be closed and the nominated slate be elected by acclamation. Hank Widdop seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Your RAMS Officers for 2016 are:

President: Herb Anderson

Vice-President: Larry Craig

Secretary/Treasurer: Spencer Bennett

RAMS Rally Update:

- 1) The Secretary/Treasurer reported that the 2016 RAMS Rally information has been sent to the MOA and the RA as well as to Motorcycle Consumer News. The information is posted on the MOA and RA web sites and is expected in the April editions of the respective magazines.
- 2) We are still looking for a 2016 RAMS Rally Chair.

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. Donna Clark encouraged everyone to get their 2016 RAMS High Mileage Contest starting entries in ASAP. The contest will run from January 1 to December 1, 2016 and that any brand of bike's mileage will be accepted. Note, however, that both beginning and ending numbers must be turned in for you to win.
3. Herb Anderson announced that Art Manchester IV has accepted the position of Editor in Chief for The Shaft, effective with the January issue. Herb also voiced the RAMS Appreciation to Bobby Bowden for his years of service as The Editor in Chief and for the excellent job he did over the years.
4. The matter of renting a RAMS Central Tent at the 2016 MOA National Rally was brought up for discussion. After some discussion, Spencer Bennett made a motion that the RAMS procure a tent for the memberships use at the 2016 MOA Rally. Art Manchester III seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously and the Secretary/Treasurer was directed to take care of the rental as soon as it becomes available.
5. The **February RAMS Meeting** will be Saturday, February 13, 2016 at:

Old Timer's Restaurant

7918 C St, Millington, TN 38053

(901) 872-6464

Your Hosts will be Larry & Teresa Craig

Lunch will begin at 1200 and the meeting will follow at 1:30.

RAMS Meeting Locations: Hosts for 2016 are:

February - Old Timer's in Millington: Larry & Teresa Craig

March - Open

April - Village Creek State Park, Ar : The Dale & Bennett Families

May - Open

June - Hartwood Campground, Waterloo, AL : Mike Hart

July - Open

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

September - Open

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

November - Open

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

If you would like to host one of the open meetings please let the Secretary/ Treasurer or any RAMS Officer know. If you would like to host the RAMS Christmas Party and Meeting in December at your home, please let any RAMS Officer know as we have reserved Old Timers but could not get our usual date.

If you have an item for the RAMS Meeting agenda, please get it to the Secretary (officers@bmwrams.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.

Please remember that the former Lavina Sunday morning Breakfast group has moved to Parker's Crossroads, TN (Crossroads Café north of I-40) due to Mama Judy's closing. Start time remains at 0800.

Treasure's Report:

- 1) Balance in Bank plus petty cash = \$6902.49.
- 2) Petty Cash = \$45.00
- 3) IRS Form 990-N has been filed for 2016.
- 4) **2016 Dues** are PAST DUE and must be paid by March 1, 2016 if you wish to be listed in the 2016 RAMS Directory paper document.

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Rhodes.

Vote was unanimous to adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned.

2016 NEF Rally

Spencer Bennett

The Northeast Florida BMW Rally takes place in January each year and has become something of a tradition for some of the RAMS. This year was no exception, so the usual suspects (Spencer Bennett, Jim Linneman, Chip Mann, Art Manchester, and Larry Craig, along with first time attendees Tony Lugo and Mark Postelle) made their plans to depart from the usual rendezvous at the Shell Station on Highway 7 in Holly Springs, MS at 0900 on Wednesday, January 13.

As the ride leader, a term of lose connotations in the RAMS, I arrived at the assigned location at 0830 so as to be able to gas the sidecar (they always need gas) and maybe warm up a bit in the store (it was 28 when I left my house). Right on schedule Larry and Tony came rolling in about 0840 followed by Mark at 0845. They fueled up and we stood around waiting for Art.

By 0920 or so we were beginning to be concerned so I called both his cell and his home phone with no results. Finally at 0940 I called his son to find out that Art had not had any problems as far as he knew but he did not know where he was. At this point we decided that Art was not coming so we loaded up and headed for Albany, GA where we were picking up Jim and Chip.

The ride down through Alabama was very nice except for the interesting fact that every gas station we stopped at did not have a functioning rest room. Thank heaven for McDonalds although I suspect that the extra coffee intake (due to the cold and the guilt induced requirement to buy something if you use their facilities) caused us to stop a bit more than usual. The result of the initial delay and the subsequent extra stops meant we arrived in Columbus, GA after dark. Columbus is usually a piece of cake as you just come in on Victory Parkway and follow it to hook up with the road through Fort Benning and you are on your way.



Unfortunately, as we were coming into Columbus with Larry in the lead, we (me) got separated at a long traffic light. The others went ahead at a slow pace, counting on me to catch up. Unfortunately, Victory Parkway had a good deal of construction going on, so much so that the road had been closed completely and traffic was being routed via a detour. I figured that this would be no big deal, but I had not counted on two things. The Georgia Highway Department apparently ran out of signs early in the detour marking process and, once I managed to figure out the route and get back down to Victory Parkway, the road had been closed again and this detour was even more poorly marked than the previous one.

I finally decided that I was not going to be able to locate the group, who had stopped to wait for me at some point on the first detour but I either took a different route or just did not see them, and just needed to get on to Albany. I found an 18 wheeler that looked like he knew where it was going and followed it, eventually winding up on I 185 which I followed down to the Fort Benning exit and back on to my route through the Fort.

At this point I still believed the group was ahead of me, so I was rolling pretty hard to catch them, but, it turns out, no matter how hard you push you can't catch someone behind you!

I got to the hotel about 7:45 or so to meet a worried Jim who had ridden down from Maryville and thought we would be there by 6 or so. At this point I noticed that I had a text from Art, which showed me he was OK, that basically said he had gotten caught up in something and missed the departure but would join us in Florida on Friday.

The rest arrived about 8:30 and we were able to find a nice English style pub in the Merry Acres Motel next door for dinner, so the first day ended well in spite of all our efforts. Chip arrived from Jackson right on his scheduled time of 9 pm so he was able to join us for dinner as the pub quits serving food “around 9”.

Thursday morning found us all together and ready for a nice day of riding. Since it is only about 4 hours from Albany to Starke, FL by the quick route we took the scenic tour and enjoyed a day of riding though south Georgia and north Florida, arriving at our hotel in Starke about 5 or so. After getting settled in we enjoyed a nice dinner at the Laredo Mexican Restaurant which has good food and the advantage of being within walking distance.

Friday morning brought a bit of rain, but after breakfast at Granny’s (not great but cheap, filling, and close to the hotel) we set out for the rally where we had a great morning of vending (did I mention that they have a great flea market at this rally?), coffee, donuts, and general rally foolishness the rain let up and the 60 degree temperature tempted us out for a lunch rode over to Middleburg, FL where we feasted at “Nicole’s in the Country” which is located in the town but has good food and good service.

This got us enough sustenance to make it back to the Rally for the Friday evening Brats and fixings and more wandering around the grounds. Art had arrived while we were at lunch so “the band was back together” and we had a pleasant evening at the rally.





Saturday dawned a beautiful day with temperatures forecast to make 70. We skipped breakfast to make plenty of room for our visit to “O’Steen’s” in St. Augustine which is a small but excellent seafood place with possibly the best fried shrimp I have eaten.

1030 found us in line at “O’Steen’s” (you have to get there early to get a group seated together) and we were soon enjoying some wonderful food and excellent service. After pigging out, we headed down the coast on US A1A to enjoy the scenery and spent a couple of hours riding in warm, dry conditions. We stopped for Jim’s annual Slurpy at a 7-11 (yea we all got one too) and then headed back for the rally and the Steak dinner at 5:30.

We managed to force the dinner, and homemade desserts, down and stay awake for the door prizes and awards. We managed to not win any door prizes or awards and headed home about 9 pm to pack for the trip home.

Sunday morning we had rain, but Jim had predicted that it would end at 7 so we waited until then to leave. Sure enough, at about 640 the rain stopped and we were able to ride out in the dry. We made it up to I 10 before the next rain passage caught us, and it lasted about an hour and with the temperature around 50 it was not bad. As soon as we got out of the rain the temperature started to go down and it would continue to do so all day. We waved Jim and Chip off at Lake City as they were going home via I 75 and we were going the southern route.

All was well until I noticed the sidecar was not pulling like it should. In fact, it was not pulling at all. Apparently I had short fueled it the night before and that, coupled with the 20 mph head wind had combined to limit my range on that tank to 142 miles. The good news is that Larry and Tony were able to make it to the next exit and return with 2 liters of fuel in about 30 minutes so we were not down for long.

We continued on to Tallahassee for breakfast and then back on I 10 to Cottondale, where we turned north on 231 and the temperature really began to go down. The further we got north, the cooler it got and when the sun dropped out of sight at Birmingham while we were eating dinner it really got cool. We pressed on, and with the help of electric gear and a lot of coffee we made it home the same day, arriving at 1135 to complete a very full day of riding.

While this may sound like a pain to do, it really is a good rally and the warm time in Florida is really great. Every year the weather is also different, with some years very nice and some not so. We will likely be heading that way again next year and would invite you to join us for "Florida's Coolest Rally".

Bad Jokes and Random Notes

As a Former Scoutmaster I have lots of Bad jokes.

You can spare the club jokes told by scouts by simply sending me good ones.

What has two legs and bleeds ?
Half a Dog.

And Now for a Random Note.....

We are very lucky to have two BMW Dealerships that support our club. It is Important that we support these shops. We need local dealerships though out the country for those inconvenient times when we need parts or service on the road.

A Message From Our President.

At the January meeting the slate of nominees was unanimously re-elected, including Spencer Bennett as Secretary-Treasurer, Larry Craig as Vice-President, and myself as President. I take this to mean that the RAMS membership is generally pleased with the direction of the club. I want to take this opportunity to express in writing, to the entire membership, the deep appreciation I feel for the excellent work done by Spencer and Larry over the past year. They have made my job a real joy. I also want to thank each RAM for the opportunity to serve you for another term as president.

Our club is strong, ending the 2015 year with a record membership of 108 riders. The volunteerism shown by many of our members is exemplary. Financially we are in good shape. Over the course of the year, we offer many opportunities to ride, wrench, camp, and eat together. And we continue to host a high quality BMW motorcycle rally each fall.


Our 2015 rally was co-chaired by Hank Widdop and Paul Whitworth. They and their team did an excellent job of creating a rally that was “More fun for RAMS”. The position of Rally Chair for 2016 remains unfilled. If you would like to explore the possibility of serving as our 2016 Rally Chair, please speak to one of the members of the club executive, or to one of the individuals who has previously served in that role.

I would like to challenge each RAM to consider what you can do to make our good club even better. The old axiom still rings true: “If you put more into it, you’ll get more out of it”.

Winter is not generally the favorite season for motorcyclists, but with the right gear, cold weather riding can be downright pleasant. And when road conditions are prohibitive, we can at least get together to talk about last season’s rides and make plans for the season ahead. Already the days are getting longer, so spring cannot be far away, right?

In conclusion, I would like to thank Art Manchester for taking on the task of editing the SHAFT each month. Let’s all make his task easier by providing stories and pictures for inclusion in our newsletter. Ride Safe, Think Fast.

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

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**



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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