

# THE SHAFT



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The Journal of the Riders Association of the Mid-South

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



**March, 2016**

Rally Meister Wanted !

Triathlon Volunteers Wanted !

The Memphis In May Triathlon will be returning to the Edmund Orgill park in Millington, TN. This event needs Motorcyclist in order to give the Referee's access to the Race. Other riders provide an increased level of safety by calling in crashes and getting help to the athletes with broken bikes.

May 21, 7am we need 4 volunteers

May 22, 6am we need 6 volunteers

If you are interested in Participating email me at.  
art04rt@gmail.com

### **March 2016 Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by President Herb Anderson at 1:30 pm at the home of Spencer & Rose-Anne Bennett in Hernando, MS. There were 21 RAMS and 12 motorcycles present.

#### **New Business:**

- 1) We have 5 new members for March:

Jackie Manchester who lives in Germantown.

Michael Burrage who lives in Germantown and rides a 2015 R1200 RT.

Harry DeYoung who lives in Hernando and rides a 2016 R1200 RT.

Eddie Perkins who lives in Memphis and rides a 2007 R1200 R.

Allison Gifford who lives in Collierville and rides an F800 GS.

- 2) We currently have 93 new and returning members for 2016.
- 3) There were no guests at the meeting.
- 4) Herb extended Thanks to the Meeting Hosts: **Spencer & Rose-Anne Bennett and Rick & Susan Coffman.**

## RAMS Rally Update:

1. The Secretary/Treasurer (Spencer Bennett) did the 2016 RAMS Rally report:

- The RAMS Officers met with the PCRV Owners on March 13, 2016.
- The RAMS Officers will be the 2016 Rally Chairs with the duties divided up among them as they see fit.
- 2016 RAMS Rally Dates are September 29 - October 2, 2016. Spencer commented that, as of this date the RA Does not have anything scheduled on these dates.
- The “Big Tent” will be available from the city and will be set up at the same location as last year.
- RAMS Officers will attend the Parkers Crossroads City Council Meeting on May 5, 2016 at 6 pm to discuss any issues that the Council may have about the Rally.
- The RAMS will not rent any cabins this year.
- The Rally Dinner Meal will be the same as last year.
- Thursday night (pre-rally) Larry Craig will host a meal for RAMS Rally Workers at his camp site.
- There will be five individual bathrooms (with showers) available plus the current Men’s Restroom. One of the new bathrooms will be in the RV Repair Center and the other four will be in the main building.
- The RAMS will get four portable restrooms and two wash stations for the rally. We will approach the City Council to see if they can help us negotiate a better price for this year.
- We will need some extra signage to better direct rally attendees to registration when they arrive at the campground.
- We will need as many “pop-ups” as we can get for housing some of the Rally activities (coffee, Flea Market, Registration, etc.) Please let one of the Officers know if you can help with this.
- Breakfast will be the same as last year (pancakes, sausage, fruit ).

- Larry Craig will contact the Tennessee Highway Patrol about the Safety Seminar.
- We plan to do movies on Friday and Saturday nights but we will need to supply a sound system to support them.
- Firewood will be available as last year.
- Planned attendance is 150.
- On line RMAS Rally registration is OPEN!
- **We need Rally Committee Chairs:**
  - Registration and T Shirt Sales - Teresa and Larry Craig
  - Rally Schedule and Name Tags - Hank Widdop
  - Band - Hank Widdop and Paul Whitworth
  - Door Prizes - Rose-Anne & Spencer Bennett
  - Coffee - Art Manchester III
  - Flea Market -
  - Trash and Sanitation -
  - Bike Show - (Doc Lilley will build a trophy for this and Hank suggested we might want to build all of the trophies for this year)
  - Awards - John McWhorter
  - Food - Paul Whitworth
  - Signage -
  - Pins and Shirt ordering - Larry Craig and Spencer Bennett
  - Chaplain for Sunday Worship Service -

2. There was discussion of the Styrofoam versus plastic Rally Cup issue and the RAMS Voted to go with the usual plastic cups.
3. The RAMS Rally Pin design will be the same as last year (see February minutes for a discussion of this) except for the Date and the color. Tan was selected as the color for 2016.
4. Larry Craig discussed the 2016 RAMS Rally T Shirt and said the design will be similar to last year. He is working to incorporate a recognition of BMW's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary into it as well as adding a "Moto-Man" logo somewhere. RAMS Members will be able to order shirts early through Larry and will be able to get their choice of color, sleeve length, and pocket or no pocket. The basic shirt will be \$15.00 with long sleeves, Pockets, or XXL costing extra.
5. Joe Marshal made a motion that the RAMS give an "Admit 1 to the 2016 RAMS Rally" Certificate as a door prize to every rally that a RAMS Member attends. Bryan Leonard seconded the motion. Hank Widdop moved to amend the motion to include a past RAMS Rally T shirt as well, and Jonathan Gifford seconded that motion. After some discussion the motion was passed unanimously and the Secretary/Treasurer was directed to come up with a certificate design. It will be the responsibility of the RAMS Member going to a rally to get a copy of the Certificate and a T shirt from the Secretary/Treasurer and to give the name of the winner to the Registration Chair.
6. The Secretary/Treasurer presented the 2016 RAMS Rally Budget and discussed the overall budget. The projection is that we will lose \$234.73 (or \$1.57 per attendee) if we register 150 folks and sell all of the T shirts. The Secretary/Treasurer noted that some of the Rally costs are variable based on attendance and the on-line registration will be for \$35.00 so the numbers are at best a rational projection. Membership discussed this and felt it was still a good idea to do the rally per the budget.

## 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. Larry Craig announced that he will be hosting a post breakfast ride from Dino's Restaurant in Mid Town out to Performance Plus on Saturday, March 26. Meet at Dino's at 0800 or at Performance Plus about 0930.

3. The **April RAMS Meeting** will be Saturday, April 9, 2016 at:

Village Creek State Park

Co Rd 754, Wynne, AR 72396

[\(870\) 238-9406](tel:8702389406)

The Meeting will be at the RAMS Campsites in the first loop unless it is raining, in which case it will be in Cabin 1. Lunch (Brats) at noon (bring your own beverage) and meeting at 1:30.

4. **RAMS Meeting Locations: Hosts for 2016 are:**

May - TBD: Herb Anderson will be host.

June - Hartwood Campground, Waterloo, AL : Mike Hart

July - Open

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

September - Open

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

November - Joe's Restaurant, Boliver, TN: Paul Rhodes

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.

5. If you have an item for the RAMS Meeting agenda, please get it to the Secretary ([officers@bmwrams.com](mailto: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.
6. Please remember that the former Lavinia 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.
7. Hank Widdop brought Door Prizes for the Meeting and Spencer distributed tickets to all present. Ed Perkins won a road worthy copy of Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance and Jonathan Gifford won a nice riding gear specific coat hanger.

#### **Treasure's Report:**

- 1) Balance in Bank plus petty cash = \$6838.86.
- 2) Petty Cash = \$45.00
- 3) The 2015 RAMS Rally Insurance invoice finally showed up from MOA and has been paid.

John McWhorter made a motion to adjourn and it passed unanimously.

A TALE OF TWO RIDES  
NEVER, NEVER, NEVER, NEVER QUIT, UNLESS YOU SHOULD, AND “10 MINUTES”

Every year the Iron Butt Association (IBA) holds what is called the Pizza Party in Jacksonville, FL. Long Distance (LD) riders come from all over to meet and greet. During the event the IBA sponsors two LD rides, a SaddleSore 1000 (SS1000), and a Bun Burner Gold (BBG). The SS1000 equals riding a 1000 miles in 24 hours, and the BBG equals 1500 miles in 24 hours. However, the rides at the Jax event are not ‘normal’ SS1000 or BBG rides, because they have required stops or bonuses that you must gather.

Tale ONE: actually it begins last year. Last year I signed up for the BBG ride which had a theme called ‘Full Court Press’. It entailed riding the perimeter of Florida with a few extra bonuses along the way. My troubles started the Monday before I was leaving. I was sick, my body ached all over. I went to my doctor on Wednesday and they said you’ve just got a cold, etc. Well Wednesday and Thursday I got sicker and sicker, so Friday I went back to the doctor and I had the flu, both strains A and B. Not deterred because I had already committed to the BBG ride, I left for JAX with a group of Southern Thunder HOG Chapter members who were heading to Bike Week. After arriving in JAX I knew I wasn’t up to the BBG so I backed out, knowing I had two years to complete the ride.

Fast forward to February 2016. I was going to ride the 2015 BBG ‘Full Court Press’ with prior approval to start and end in Pensacola, FL versus JAX. A good plan to start and end closer to home. Looking at the route and talking to the previous year’s riders I determined the choke points were the University of Florida and Miami American Airlines Arena bonuses. I research the events and schedules of each and that determined my ride dates. I also added each bonus stops weather to my iPhone and was checking the weather daily. Doing my homework.

My first indication of ill-will started in Pensacola. As I was riding to my motel the day before I was to start I rode by the first bonus only to see a flashing sign saying the streets were going to be closed the next day for the Mardi Gras Parade! What that meant was I had to leave Pensacola much earlier than I planned which meant I would be in Miami traffic. I also looked on my phone apps and the weather at each bonus was either clear or ‘light rain’. I felt I was good to go and my only issue would be in Miami.

I left the next morning, the beginning portion of the ride was uneventful, U of F bonus went perfectly, but between Gainesville, Bradenton and Naples those light showers became torrential rain showers. I-75 was under construction with lane closures, and wrecks caused by rain and bad roadways. The FDOT had milled the inside of the inside lane and the outside of the outside lane leaving 4’ on each side of the center line rideable, otherwise you rode in about 1” of water in the milled areas. It rained so hard my waterproof satellite tracker stopped working! Stopping at the Naples bonus I looked at the NEXRAD weather to discover the whole southern portion of Florida to Miami, and then up the entire east coast showed Yellow and Red rain on radar. Between the wreck delays and construction delays I determined the ride was a bridge too far and quit in Naples. It hurt to fail, but it was the safest thing to do. This was the first ride I never completed, but as stated in the title it was a ride I should quit.

Tale TWO: Present day: Returning to the scene of the crime so to speak, I again signed up for the Jax BBG ride, this time the theme was ‘Plane Crazy’ (see Below, yellow daylight, black night).

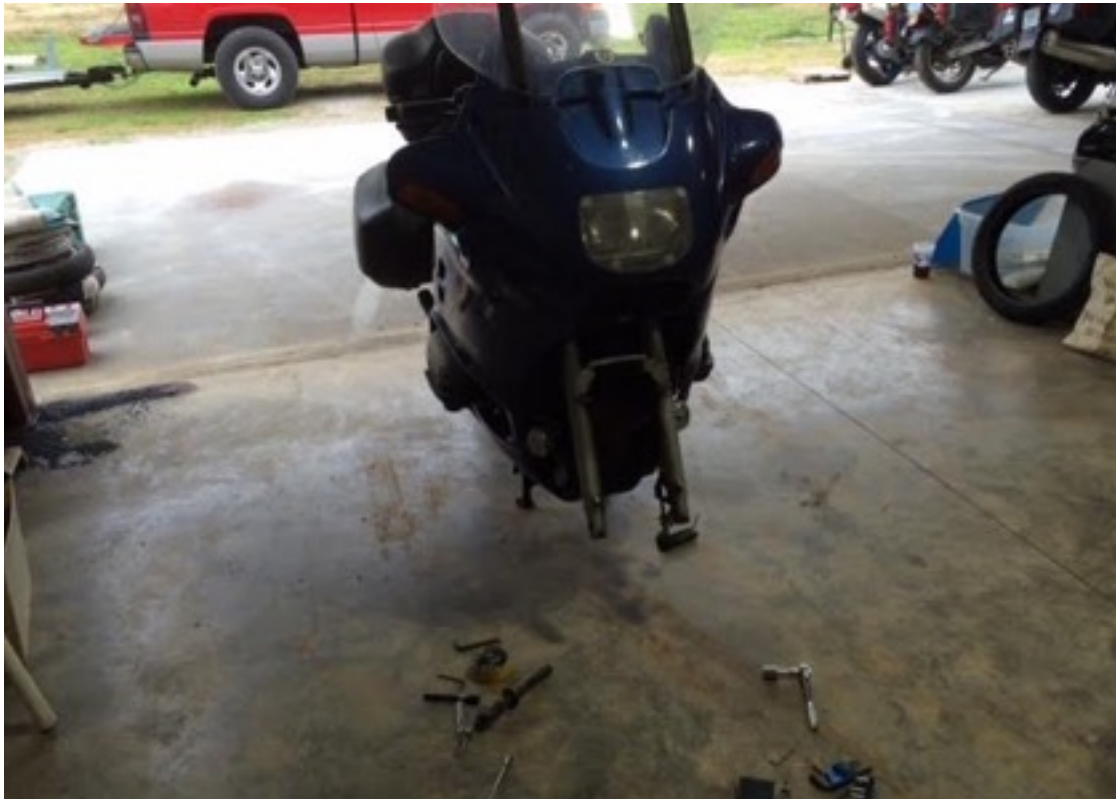
I was determined to do better. Before the ride I was worried about the Bike Week crowd, hoping the traffic would be OK. However, Bike Week wasn’t the worry, it was a wreck on the east side of the Tampa I-275 bridge. Riding toward the Pinellas Park bonus (east to west) I noticed that the west bound traffic was stopped, all 4 lanes and was backed up for miles and miles and miles. At the bonus there were two other riders there, and we all ask the same thing, how do we get off this peninsula? disqualified. And that was without any time allowed to gather 3 more bonuses and at least 2 more fuel stops before the finish.



I asked a couple walking in the Park and they sent us to another bridge. This did turn out to be the fastest way, but 'fast' is a relative term. At mile marker 14.5, I picked my feet up for the final time! We did 14.5 miles about 20' feet at a time. Once I finally picked my feet up it was bumper to bumper traffic to basically Orlando. End result: Time lost 1.5 hours, my GPS said my ETA was '10 minutes' before I would be disqualified. And that was without any time allowed to gather 3 more bonuses and at least 2 more fuel stops before the finish.

I knew I could make up some time, but this was stretching it to the max. This was a never, never, never, never quit time. My normal riding style is 110%, ie if the speed limit is 70 I don't ride more than 77. I had been radar'd all day long and 77 so it was a no ticket speed. I rode 700 miles at 110%, gathered 3 bonuses and 2 fuel stops and finished with 28 minutes to spare! During the 700-mile last leg there were numerous 60 mph construction zones, some lane closures, me getting disoriented/lost in Miami, etc. BUT the main takeaway was never, never, never, never quit, unless you should!

Ride Safe,  
Robert



## March 2016 RAMS Tech Session

Spencer Bennett

The first Tech Session of the 2016 season was held at the home of Spencer & Rose-Anne Bennett on Saturday, March 19. The Tech Session was held in conjunction with the March RAMS Meeting and was scheduled to begin at 0800, with coffee and donuts, and go until Lunch/Meeting break with a finish up period after the meeting.

John McWhorter got the honor of being the first maintenance bike to arrive and was soon set up in the hangar where he got his tire change underway with the assistance of several RAMS. The tire change was well in work when Paul Whitworth and Hank Widdop showed up with Hank's R75/5 on a trailer. They planned to do a timing chain replacement and were not sure they would get it done in the allotted time if it had to cool down, so the trailer was added insurance.

The R75/5 was soon on the lift and in process of being taken down to the cases, at least the front cases. For those of you who have not done this work, it is considered to be a major task and usually takes a shop about 6 hours. Hank and Paul soon had help in the person of Harry De Young who was interested in learning, although he does not have an airhead, and this too is part of the benefit of the tech sessions. We get to see and work on machinery that we may have only heard about and come away wiser and hopefully more skilled.

The timing chain change out was going well when Marshall and Chris Robillio showed up with some tires to mount for one of Marshall's projects. They arrived just as John was finishing up on the tire machine (furnished by Tom Wolfgang for the Tech Session) so they were able to get right to work on the tire mounting while John reinstalled the front wheel on his R1100 RT.

About this time I heard an "Oh No!" from the timing chain crew and found that Harry had dropped the new master link lock pin through a very small hole in the front engine case and into the oil pan. The oil pan was soon off and the errant lock pin located and placed in the proper position, just in time for lunch!

Lunch was provided by the meeting hosts, Spencer & Rose-Anne Bennett and Rick & Susan Coffman and consisted of three types of Chili (regular or red Chili, white chili, and red vegetarian chili), corn bread (regular, jalapeno, and bacon), chips, desserts (brownies and applesauce/walnut cake), sodas, and tea.

The meeting was held right after lunch and ran for a while as there were several rally related discussions.

During the lunch break, Steve Browning had talked to several RAMS about his R90 S and it's rough running and high idle. As soon as lunch was over, it went on the other lift and the airhead gurus not directly involved with the timing chain replacement went at it. Seems that the major problem was that the carburetors (remember those?) were out of sync and the throttle cables were a bit frayed. Rick Coffman was able to get the carbs synced and this got it running much better. The cables will be replaced when they can be ordered and Steve can get back to Hernando.



By this time the R75/5 Timing chain replacement was coming to a close so we were able to call the Tech Session a success as all the bikes were able to go home at the end of it, nobody was hurt, and a good deal of fellowship was enjoyed by all. We will likely have another Tech Session in the Fall and I would encourage you to attend, either to do some of your own work or to help someone else. The worst thing that can happen is you get some coffee and donuts and spend some time in the garage, which is a nice way to spend a Saturday morning.

A Perfect Ride by Herb C. Anderson

What are the ingredients that make a perfect day? Weather, friends, food, roads, scenery, and motorcycles. An actual destination is an optional extra.

The forecast indicated that a mid-February Saturday was going to provide springlike temperatures. On Thursday evening I decided to call a couple of my RAMS riding buddies to see if at one of them could join me for a ride.

I was delighted when both Sean Gardner and Bruce Ottway said yes.

Things got started on Friday evening when Sean arrived at my office on his new Yamaha Super Tenere. It was covered in mud, indicating that he had spent the day playing off-road. Back at our Hazel home, Reno grilled steaks for dinner, and later we sat around a fire on the patio, enjoying a lovely evening.

Saturday morning Dave Hannigan called to invite us to join at the Wild Mountain Cafe in Murray. Dave arrived on a waterhead R1200GS with custom paint. After consuming a delicious bagel and a cup of aromatic coffee, Dave rode with us as far as Bruce's farm. Bruce lives in a rustic home built with his own hands from timber and stone harvested on his property near Kentucky Lake.

I led the way on my K1200S, with Sean behind me on the Yamaha, and Bruce bringing up the rear on his R1200RT. What a fine day to be on the road with two of my best mates. We headed north along the Trace through the Land Between the Lakes. This parkland, known to locals as the LBL, features miles of scenic beauty with virtually no vehicular traffic, although running into Bambi is always an unwelcome possibility.

Our first destination was the Ohio River ferry crossing at Cave In Rock, Illinois. Ferry crossings are fun. Especially free ferries like this one. There is something magical about taking a motorcycle across the water on a purpose-built boat. There were several other motorcyclists on the ferry, including a Hannigan trike.

Arriving at Cave In Rock State Park we walked along the river bank to the cave that was once a lair for river pirates. Many early settlers lost their possessions, and some lost their lives, to these predators, but today the park is peaceful and serene.

Lunch in the quaint river town of Elizabethtown consisted of barbeque and pie. Then it was off to the Garden of the Gods. There were many, many visitors present on a lovely afternoon. The towering rock formations upon which we clambered and scrambled are a wonder of God's creation.

From the Garden of the Gods we headed homeward, Sean going west toward Murphysboro, Illinois, while Bruce and I turned south toward Murray, Kentucky. Crossing the Ohio River on the ferry once more, we admired a mature bald eagle in a tree next to the ferry landing. Bruce took the lead at this point, guiding me homeward via a delightful network of bucolic backroads. I couldn't keep the smile off my face as our motorcycles dipped and dived along the tree-lined asphalt.

All in all, pretty much a perfect day.

## 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. You were warned last month.....

What is dumbest Animal found in the rain forest?..... A Polar Bear

knock knock.... Who's there ?  
Europe..... Europe who ?....  
No Your A Poo !!!

And Now for a Random Note.....


Special Thanks To:

Spencer Bennett, Herb Anderson, and Robert Rehkopf.

Performance Plus BMW and Larry Craig for hosting and catering The  
Saturday ride.

Our Club Volunteers who make our Club what it is..... Awesome !!!

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:** Herb Anderson
- **Vice-President:** Larry Craig
- **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:*  
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**Deadline for submissions to The Shaft is the 25th of  
each month with publication shortly thereafter!**

### Webmaster:

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

**2016 RAMS Rally:**

Rallymeisters:

**WANTED !**

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

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of America**



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### Door Prize / Vendors:



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