

THE SHAFT



The Journal of the Riders Association of the Mid-South



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



JANUARY, 2017

The February **RAMS** meeting will be Feb. 11, 2017

The location is Southern Eatery. It is located at:
130 East College Avenue, Holly Spring, MS 38635.

Lunch will be at 12:00 and the meeting will follow at
1:30. Your hosts are Jonathan Gifford and Birenderjit
Singh Madan

January 2017 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Craig on January 7, 2017 at 1:45pm at Old Timer's Restaurant in Millington, TN. There were 29 RAMS and no motorcycles present.

New Business

- 1) We have 1 new member for January

Ted & Sharla Brechbill who live in Byhalia, MS and ride an R1200 GSA.

- 2) We currently have 111 new and returning members for 2017. Larry noted that 2017 Dues are payable at this time.

- 3) There were no guests for the meeting.

- 4) Larry extended Thanks to the meeting host: Larry Craig and the Staff at Old Timer's.

- 5) Officer Nominations for 2017 were opened. The nominations were:

President: Larry Craig

Vice- President: Jonathan Gifford

Donna Clark

Secretary/Treasurer: Spencer Bennett

There were no additional nominations from the floor. Tab Gillihan moved to closed nominations, Hank Widdop seconded and the vote was unanimous to do so.

- 6) Voting was conducted for the 2017 RAMS Officers. Since there were single nominations for the offices of President and Secretary/ Treasurer, these were elected by voice vote acclamation on a movement by Hank Widdop, seconded by Fred Bradley followed by a unanimous voice vote. The voting for Vice-President was done by show of hands with Donna Clark getting the most votes. Congratulations to the incoming RAMS Officers for 2017!

RAMS Rally Update

- 1. The RA and MOA have been sent the information for the 2017 RAMS Rally without pricing information as the Officers have yet to meet with the PCRV Campground about the prices for this year.**
- 2. The Rally dates are set for October 6-8, 2017 and this information is on the RAMS Web Site.**
- 3. Spencer Bennett has RAMS Rally flyers for distribution and to take to the Northeast Florida Rally next week.**
- 4. The need for RAMS Rally Committee Chairs is great with the following positions available:**

Registration -

Food -

Door Prizes – Rose-Anne & Spencer Bennett

Swap Meet - Marshall Robilio & Fred Bradley

Rally Shirts -

Awards -

Bike Show- Donna Clark

Poker Run – Tony Lugo

Coffee -

Signs -

Trailer – Tom Wolfgang

Sanitation -

There are job descriptions available for each of these positions and the Officers would be pleased to share them with you or answer any questions you might have about them. If you wish to volunteer for a position, please let any RAMS Officer know.

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) The February Meeting will be on February 11 and will be at:

Southern Eatery
130 East College Avenue

Holly Springs, MS 38635

[662-551-8350](tel:662-551-8350)

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthernEatery/>

Planning for 25 - 30 people. Lunch will be at 1200 and the meeting will follow at 1:30. Your hosts are Jonathan Gifford and Birenderjit Singh Madan

- 1) Robert Rehkopf mentioned the Ride to Eat at Reelfoot Lake on April 1, 2017 as well as the Moonshine Store Hamburger Run on April 8-9, 2017 as good opportunities to get some riding in and eat some good food, both issues close to all RAMS hearts.
- 2) Long time RAMS Member, LaRue Hart is having some health issues and continues to be in and out of the hospital. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.
- 3) 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. The breakfast rides will be started again in the spring, per Larry Craig.
- 4) 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 = \$5476.01
- 2) Petty Cash = \$50.00
- 3) 2017 Dues are due.

Movement to adjourn by Greg LieVan, seconded by Hank Widdop, approved unanimously.

2017 Northeast Florida BMW Rally

Spencer Bennett

The Northeast Florida (NEF) BMW Rally that takes place the third weekend of January has become something of a tradition for the BMW RAMS. It gives one a chance to get away for a few days and to test their cold weather equipment and abilities in a real world environment, at least most of the time.

This year the group was somewhat divided, with Hank Widdop leaving a day early, Chip Mann going to Dothan rather than Albany, and Robert Rehkopf going by way of Bay Minette, AL and other points. Wednesday morning found me, Art Manchester III, and Larry & Teresa Craig meeting up in Holly Springs and launching for Albany, GA where we would spend the night and pick up Jim Linneman.

The ride down through Alabama was nice, with temps in the 60's and light rain from time to time, but nothing worth slowing down for. We had gotten some routing advice from Robert and took AL13 to 82 so as to bypass Birmingham. This was a beautiful motorcycle route that ran us through Tuscaloosa, where the town was in mourning and on down to Montgomery and across the Chattahoochee River at Eufaula, which was much better than crossing at Columbus. The only down side to this route was the number of small towns, with their lower speed limits and stop lights, that it goes through.

Since Hank was ahead of us, he was scouting for good eating opportunities. He called me while we were at lunch in Tuscaloosa to report that he was having Buttermilk Vanilla Ice Cream over Peach Cobbler at sweet Cream Farm Market just east of Montgomery and we should try it if we could. Unfortunately we were getting a little behind the power curve so we elected to roll on to Albany where Jim and Hank were waiting for us at the Red Roof Inn.

Since there are not a lot of restaurants in the area, we took the Desk Clerk's advice and ordered pizza. Larry, ever the good President, had cold beer stashed in his cooler on the trailer and so we were all set, although hearing about the cobbler and ice cream again was painful.

Thursday was a short day so we lingered over Breakfast and got on the road about 1000. Hank was helping the NEF Rally folks with set up, so he went ahead of us and the rest of us dawdled along on the scenic route, arriving gin Starke at America's Best Inn at about 4 or so. Chip had arrived ahead of us and we were soon set up in our rooms and ready for the traditional Mexican Dinner at the Laredo, which is within easy walking distance of the motel and has good margaritas.

Friday morning we were up early to head over to the rally, but as always with RAMS, food came first. Jim has been somewhat worried about our breakfast selections in the past at Stark (Grannies all fried breakfast has been the go to place) and found us a healthier alternative, the Call Street Café. It is located in the older part of Starke and has a sort of “health food” vibe but he was spot on in that the food was both healthy and delicious and the portions were generous. We will definitely be back next year!



Breakfast at the Call Street Cafe

Then on to the Rally, with the check in at the main gate going well this year and the rally central moving back to the old location, the Armory, which has been renovated and is now truly a great place for rally central with lots of indoor vendors and a big parking lot that also houses a few vendors. We got registered and hit the Vendors and Garage Sale and then lapsed into rally mode for a while (drinking coffee and eyeing bikes).

I had to ride over to Ocala to pick up an auxiliary fuel cell I had purchased for my sidecar and most of the group elected to ride over with me as it was a beautiful day (70 degrees and sunny). Due to poor planning on my part, we headed down 301 and through most of the traffic in the area. Seems 301 is a main feeder road for Ocala and has lots of shopping centers and the attendant congestion. We fought through it and soon found ourselves in a beautiful gated community which we were admitted to because a parade of three BMW's is a common sight there.

We located the right house, easily picked out by the R1200 RT in the driveway, and picked up the tank. While there, the seller showed us around his garage and pulled out a few other things he had left over from his LT and I would up with three additional front wheels and several small items. Truly a generous and well equipped person. Good thing I was on the sidecar.

He also had a pristine Vincent Rapide that appeared to be ridden regularly and a Brough Superior on the lift getting an oil change and Spring Service. To say I was enthralled would be an understatement.

Once we left to head back, Chip took the lead as he had little patience with my traffic intense routing and I must say he was able to find us a great route back to the rally where we arrived just in time for dinner and the Friday Door Prize Drawing. We broke the RAMS door prize tradition by me and Teresa winning something, but the booth was closed so we had to wait until Saturday to pick them up.

After dinner we headed back to the motel as Larry was having some issues with his trailer wiring on the K1600 and we needed to look at it. Once back we soon had the K1600 partially disassembled and the problem isolated, we thought, and started on repairs. There were several other rally attendees at the hotel, and in true BMW form, they showed up as soon as the first panel was opened with chairs, beer, and advice. Some things are a constant. We got the wiring sorted but could not figure out why the brake lights on the trailer were staying on, so we elected to call it a night about 10 pm and continue the troubleshooting later.

Saturday morning found us skipping breakfast as we had an early lunch scheduled for O'Steens Seafood in St. Augustine and wanted to be in good form for it. We did stop by the rally where I picked up my Bob's BMW T Shirt (size XL) which happened to be a fit for Chip's son, so he won too! We then headed out to St. Augustine and had a beautiful ride over, again with warm temps and clear sky.

O'Steens was all we have come to expect. If you get there, try both the shrimp and the scallops. Both are delicious with generous serving sizes. After lunch we rode down to the beach and walked around a bit, just enjoying the Florida ambiance. Really a beautiful day!



The group arrives at the Beach (Larry & Teresa in front, Jim waving, Art at the back)

Once we arrived back at the rally, we decided to try to figure out the K1600 trailer wiring issue again. This time with daylight and, hopefully, less assistance. Eventually we figured out that we had a couple of issues, one was a blown fuse in one of the trailer circuits and the other was a mis-wiring of the socket for one of the trailer lighting control relays. We got the fuse replaced and elected to save the relay wiring for the March Tech Session as all the lights were working but the trailer brake lights were staying on. This turned out to be a good thing as we were to run through some fog on Sunday morning and it made the trailer easy to track.

The door prize good karma continued as Teresa picked up a set of BMW GS gloves and Jim Linneman won a Bob's T Shirt, which I had to go claim for him as he insists he has enough shirts. Since Teresa wears a men's large, it became her door prize and, since they do not own a GS, she gave me the GS gloves which were brought home to Rick Coffman who has a red GS (the inserts on the gloved were red). So we had five RAMS benefit from Door Prizes at this rally, I think this may be a record.

After the usual, and very good steak dinner, which was delayed for an hour or so because someone forgot to get the baked potatoes on in time, we settled in for the Awards and major Door Prizes. We, and they, were surprised when Larry and Teresa Craig were awarded the Long Distance Two Up. This Rally did not give a plaque for the distance and age awards this year, but instead gave free admission to next year's rally and a nice certificate. Unfortunately, it was decided that all of the small door prizes not claimed would be given out at this time so we sat through another hour of drawings. This did give dinner a chance to digest so I guess it was OK. After the awards, we headed back to pack up and get ready for Sunday morning's 0600 departure (Memphis time).

Sunday morning we were up and packed quickly, even me with all of the wheels and other parts and actually pulled out on time. We made good time except for the sections that were foggy, and there were several of those in the Florida lowlands, and soon found ourselves in Tallahassee for our usual breakfast at Cracker Barrel. By this time the fog had abated and the temperature was warming up so we had a great day of riding up through Alabama, with a stop at the Sweet Cram Market for an early dinner, and the ice cream/cobbler was as good as Hank had said it was.



Art at the Sweet Cream Farm Market (waiting on the cobbler)

If you find yourself on US 82 just east of Montgomery look for it on the north side of the road, you will not regret it. After dinner we rolled on to Jasper, AL where we elected to spend the night as we were in no hurry to get home and the Comfort Inn was calling to us after s rough section of I 65 traffic had about beat us to death.

Monday morning we rolled on into home after a really good break and a good weekend spent with friends in a warm climate. If you can find the time, you might want to join us next year. I am sure we will be returning as Larry & Teresa have free admissions!



Moto-Skiveez Review

Spencer Bennett

I received a pair of Moto Skiveez riding shorts as a gift after the RAMS Christmas Party where I had tried to score a pair in the Sneaky Santa. The Northeast Florida Rally Trip provided the first opportunity to try them out in a longer ride format, so they made the trip. I will confess that this review ride was only about 400 miles in length, so your results may vary.

The initial impression of the shorts is that they are well made and fit comfortably. The material of the shorts is lighter in weight than the LD Comfort shorts I usually wear but this might be a good thing in warmer weather. It does not provide the compression effect of the LD Comforts however, and this may or may not be an issue for the individual rider. I suspect, although I did not try it, that they would dry nicely overnight affording multi day usage on a trip.



The pads are made of a neoprene like material and remind me of a “wet suit”. They are located in the seat area and are about 30% of the thickness of a typical pair of bicycling shorts pads, which serves to reduce the feeling of “fullness” in your pants when you are off the bike. Overall they were comfortable enough to walk around in, although I do not think I would choose them for hiking duty.

The initial on bike impression was good, with the padding serving to raise you somewhat from the seat and allow for weight to rest on them. The pads are soft but compress to a firm set after a bit. For the first gas stop (150 miles) they seemed to provide more than adequate support and the lighter material was comfortable.

Later in the day, after the second stop (300 or so miles) the edges of the pads began to irritate the skin and caused a feeling not unlike a seam in a glove or shorts that chafes just enough to be irritable, but not truly painful. By the end of the day this chafing had gotten uncomfortable enough to make me want to get out of them as soon as I could.

It may be that you would adapt to the pad patterns after wearing them for a while, and they do provide much better comfort than riding in regular BVDs or regular bicycle shorts. I would suggest you try them and judge for yourself as they may fit your needs better than they did for me.

They are available at Revzilla, Cycle Gear, and Rocky Mountain ATV for \$59.99 and may be ordered from the manufacturer at <http://motoskiveez.com>.

**Stuff for sale or
Trade! **

Art #3 needs to find a home for a Small trailer. This trailer is suitable to haul a john boat or to modify it to suit your needs. \$100 OBO,

Call Art #3 (901) 412-2883 or (901) 737-1736

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@bmwrams.com

Club Contacts

RAMS Officers

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

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**BMW Club
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Email your articles and submissions to:
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**Deadline for submissions to The Shaft is the 25th of
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