

THE SHAFT



The Journal of the Riders Association of the Mid-South



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



MARCH, 2017

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

The Doo-Dah Sidecar Rally and Tax Revolt

Village Creek State Park, Campsites 10 & 11

Wynne, AR.

Lunch (supplied by your hosts) will be served at 1200 and the meeting will begin at 1:30. Please bring any adult beverages you may desire and your chair as the Park is a little short on seats.

Hosts are the Bennett & Dale Families. If you come over early, we will be serving breakfast in Cabin 1 until about 9:00.



Paul "Icy" Rhodes Passed away.

We have lost a BMW Rally Cultural ICON. You cannot go to a BMW Rally and not notice The Kermit Chairs. Some chairs are truly vintage treasures and may even feature embroidery work done by Shamu.

The days where people would rebuild carburetors in their campsites are long gone along with the truck full of parts, tires, cables and even sometimes a mechanic that would work for beer, weed, or money. We were all broke, young, and willing to experiment on our machines that somehow would get us home or to the next rally. The Rallies were cheep, simple, and basic. But one thing that amazed me was that the kermit chairs always knew where to go. In the afternoons the Kermit Chairs would assemble along a field where the Entertainment would consist of field games designed to improve riding skills. At night the kermit chairs would magically circle the fire as the whiskey would make its rounds to warm its occupants from the inside. Kermit invented the rally chair and the magic and memories that they each possess.



Kermit Easterling Passed Away

RAMS Meeting Minutes –MARCH, 2017

submitted by Spencer Bennett

March 2017 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Craig on March 18, 2017 at 1:45 pm at the home of Spencer & Rose-Anne Bennett in Hernando, MS. There were 29 RAMS and 22 motorcycles present.

New Business

- 1) We have no new members for March:
- 2) We currently have 88 new and returning members for 2017. Larry noted that members who have not paid to this point will be dropped from the roster and mailing list.
- 3) There was 1 guest for the meeting.

Jim Bennett, son of Spencer Bennett.

- 4) Larry extended Thanks to the meeting hosts: The Bennett & Coffman Families.

RAMS Rally Update

1. The Rally dates have been changed to September 29 – October 1, 2017 and this information is on the RAMS Web Site.
2. Any meal entre revisions may affect the meal price we pay, and therefore the rally price. A motion was made and unanimously approved to have the rally committee contact PCRV and get pricing for three entre selections: the current Brats, Chicken breasts, and Steak.

VP's Corner

1. Performance Plus will be having an Open House on March 25 and everyone should try and go by to support them.
2. Paul "Icey" Rhodes is currently in Hospice Care at Collierville Baptist.
3. Donna would appreciate it if RAMS could get some reviews of equipment they use for trips, camping, or maintenance for the SHAFT.

Old Business

- 1) If anyone still does not have their picture in the online directory, please see Spencer or Rosey.
- 2) Larry Craig had samples of the proposed RAMS Member Shirts that he passed around for review and comment. Prices are projected to be \$20.00 for the polo shirt and \$15.00 for the T Shirt. Long sleeves will be available for \$5.00 more in either style. Please let Larry know if you are interested in one.
- 3) If you would like a RAMS patch (old logo only), decal (old and new logos) or need RAMS business cards, please get with Spencer.
- 4) A few 2016 RAMS Rally shirts in limited sizes are still available for \$15.00. See Larry Craig.
- 5) 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. Highlights are:

The European Riders Rally will be in Burkesville, KY May 18-21, 2017. This is the rally for the Nashville BMW Club.

Jim Linneman invited all RAMS to the ROK Rally in Del Rio, TN May 25-28. Please go to the Riders of Knoxville web site to get full details.

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 for details.

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- Wynne, AR.

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If you come over early, we will be serving breakfast in Cabin 1 until about 9:00.

- 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.
- 3) There was a presentation scheduled to present the RAMS 2016 High Mileage Award to Robert Rehkopf but he was out riding someplace. We will try to get it to him at some point.
- 4) Butch Turner brought some copies of the Shaft from the 80's to be placed in the RAMS Files. It was interesting to note that the big issue for the 1983 Rally was whether we could borrow a folding table for registration.
- 5) Everett Blanchard received the Door Prize (provided by Hsnk Widdop who has gotten out of the tubeless tire business) which was a Dyna Plug Patch Kit. Everett was selected as he rode the longest distance to get to the meeting.
- 6) Hank Widdop proposed a Saturday ride with overnight campout to visit Bench Mark Werks Shop and Museum in Sturgis, MS. The date is fluid at this time and Hank asked anyone interest give him a call or an e-mail.
- 7) Butch Turner conducted a Seminar on the use of inverters powered by a 12 volt battery (think motorcycle battery) to operate lighting and other electrical devices in your campsite. Thank you, Butch, for a well done program.
- 8) 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 = \$6151.00**
- 2) Petty Cash = \$45.00**
- 3) 2017 Dues are past due.**

Movement to adjourn by Jonathan Gifford, seconded by Hank Joe Marshall, approved unanimously.

RAMS March 2017 Tech Session

Spencer Bennett

The RAMS March Tech Session was postponed from March 11 to March 18 due to bad weather and this turned out to be a very good thing as the weather on March 18 was beautiful and allowed inside and outside work at the same time.

The Tech Session got off to a good start with Greg LieVan showing up at 8:00 sharp with his K1100 LT to do a valve check and adjust. This insured him a spot on the lift and he was soon deep in the dis-assembly process. Just as that was going well, Jonathan & Nathan Gifford arrived with an R1200 GSW to get an oil change and valve check done, followed by Jimmy Bennett with his K1100 RS for a BarBak install.

With the maintenance tasks well under way and the weather cooperating by being warm and sunny, Rick Coffman and I proceeded to try and make ourselves useful and learn something by assisting wherever needed. Greg soon had the valve train open and he and Rick were right in the middle of checking them out and seeing what additional cups would be needed.



Jim Bennett and his K1100 RS.

Jimmy and I had attacked his BarBaks and spent much of the day proving that we could not get them to fit without modifying some of his plastics, and he just did not want to do that as he has spent a lot of time getting his RS very clean and original. He ultimately decided to stay with the original set up and sign up for a good Chiropractor.

Jonathan, meanwhile has changed his oil and exposed his valves (not a good image) only to find out that the valves were within spec. It was good to see what the insides of a waterhead looked like in any case.



The session broke for Lunch and the March RAMS Meeting at this point and then reconvened after the meeting to reassemble Jimmy and Jonathan's bikes. Unfortunately Greg's bike had to stay over as we were short the particular valve cup he needed for the number 1 cylinder. The good news is that it could stay on the lift (and it got finished the next Saturday by Rick and Greg).

A good day of maintenance, food, and fellowship that are typical of a RAMS Tech Session. Keep an eye on the calendar as they get scheduled from time to time and are always a fun day.

Our Club has provided Motorcycle support for the Memphis in May Triathlon for many Years. This event is managed by PR events. We will need 2 Riders that can carry a judge and other Riders to monitor the course.

There are 4 events that could use your support. they are.....

Memphis in May Sprint Triathlon - May 20, 2017; 8am race start
35th Annual Memphis in May Olympic Triathlon - May 21, 2017; 7am race start
Casper Lake boat ramp
Edmund Orgill Park, Millington, TN

2nd Annual Annie Oakley Buffalo Bill Sprint Triathlons June 24, 2017; 6:30 am race start
Shelby Farms Park, Memphis, TN

1st Annual Horseshoe Lake Sprint Triathlon July 22, 2017; 7am race start
Horseshoe Lake, AR

28th Annual Dragon Fly Triathlon Aug. 26, 2017 8am start
Sardis Lower Lake, Cypress Creek Point swim and picnic area
Sardis, MS

we will need 2 motorcycles to carry the officials and others will monitor the bike course segment.

If you have family they can also come out and volunteer during the race.

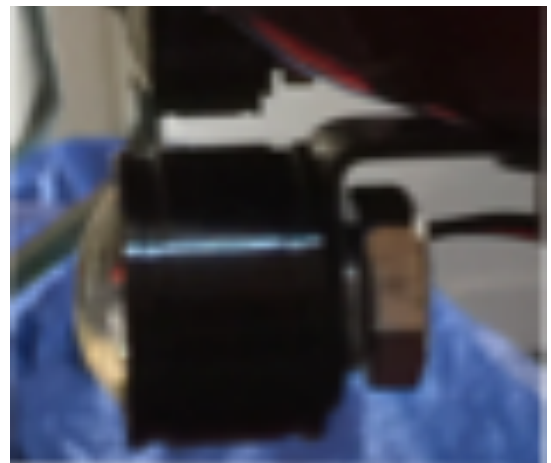
Coffee and a snack, lunch and T shirt for volunteers.

Thanks for the BMW-RAMS and your help!

Pam 901-550-2114

Greg Lievan sent this in.

While reading my February issue of BMW ON and came across a review discussing Aerostich's LED Mini-Lights (pg 30). As I read the review it became apparent that these lights were design more for identification than road illumination. I have believed for a long time that motorist are conditioned to see two head lights, ie: the front of a car. When they see only one headlight it doesn't register in their brain. Over time I have read several articles written by academics that validate what I have suspected for a long time. Early on in my motorcycling carer I got in the habit of mounting auxiliary lights around the front of the bike, trying to make the bike look more like a car, at least to the opposing divers mine. I have used different sizes that have used 55w halogen bulbs, which are bright but burden the electrical system. When you start to look at the auxiliary lights offed for motorcycling they are, in my view, horribly expensive. While well made, they are just were out of my budge. So, in looking for a lower cost option; I found driving lights from Wall-Mart, just as functional, but significantly less expensive. And when they go bad, they are cheap enough to just throw away and replace. About a year ago it was time to replace my existing auxiliary lights, so I stoped by Wall-Mart to pick up a new set. Looking at the choices I decided to go with a four elements LED unit. However, over time, I was not overly happy with their performance. While they worked, just not as ideally as I would have liked. So, when I ran across the review of the Aerostich LED Mini-Lights, it caught my attention. The review was very positive but, I must say, I became further intrigued when I saw the price, \$23 for a pair (they are only sold in pairs). So, on an impulse buy, I ordered a set.



The lights arrive about five days after my order was placed. I had them shipped straight USPS first class. Upon opening the package the first thing I noticed is that the lights were SMALL. They measure 1.18" x 0.8" and are available in solid white, red or flashing red. I chose the solid white. As to power, that is one of the advantages of LED, they only draw 3W. The lights are comprised of three LED elements with a lens that spreads the light over a large area, don't be fooled by their definitive size. After I installed the light and had a chance to see them in operation, they were brighter than their size would suggest. The lights come with an "L" bracket for mounting and a bolt with a lock washer to secure the light to the "L" bracket. I mounted the lights just below my headlamp on the bottom of the fairing just above the front wheel fender. Having used this same location for my previous lights the wire was already in place, as well as, the hardware to mount the "L" bracket to the fairing. I used reusable Posi-Lock connectors to complete the wiring installation. It was there that I ran into a small problem. The wires leading from the Aerostich LED Mini-Lights are a grade or two smaller than typical 12V auto/motorcycle wiring. The Posi-Lock wouldn't properly grip the wires leading from the LED Mini-Lights. I ended up soldering a pigtail to the LED Mini-Lights wiring. That worked great and the Posi-Lock connectors gripped perfectly. Now having ridden with the new lights for several weeks I am really happy with them. While it is rather difficult to observe them, as drivers would see them, while riding. I have noticed their reflection from vehicles in front of me. They show up very nicely, which was their purpose in the first place.... TO BE SEEN. All and all, if you are looking for auxiliary lighting the Aerostich LED Mini-Lights are worth a look.

Stuff for sale or Trade! ➡

For Sale: 1995 Time Out Motorcycle Camper Trailer with upgraded tent

Price: \$2,000

Location: Hernando, MS

Contact: Spencer Bennett @ 901-626-2831

We purchased this camper in 2011 but have used it less than five times. It's time to find a new home. Always stored indoors. We have towed this camper using our sidecar rigs without problems. It can also be easily towed by small cars. General information is available on the Time Out Trailer website: <http://www.timeouttrailers.org>



Features:

- Sleeping platform is 54" wide – can accommodate a full-size air mattress or 2 sleeping bags;
- Previous owner replaced original tent with a newer version that allows use of an in-wall air conditioner;
- Three large zip-open windows with screens in the sleeping area for comfort;
- Sitting area has two large zip-open windows with screens plus zip-out tinted plastic windows for those cool mornings;
- Front door includes zip-open screen;
- Sitting area is large enough to allow chairs indoors;
- Zippered pass-through to allow access to cooler from inside the tent;
- Bearing Buddies;
- Spare tire under tongue;
- 1 7/8 ball coupler with safety chains and 5-wire flat trailer side plug;
- Old style non-LED light bar.

Accessories include:

- Igloo Marine Cooler (25 quart) and Cooler Cover;
- Remote-controlled 6500 BTU Frigidaire AC with owner's manual. NO WARRANTY!
- L-shaped awning with adjustable poles;
- Custom luggage cover for items carried on top of camper;
- Two AC stands (metal and PVC versions);
- USA Map Table top included; mounting pole still missing. We preferred folding tables instead.

Issues:

- Small wear mark on carpet;
- Rub spot on fiberglass from previous owner's cooler which is covered when cooler and cooler cover in place.

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@bmwrms.com

Club Contacts

RAMS Officers

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

Email: officers@bmwrams.com

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



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

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