

# THE SHAFT



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The Journal of the Riders Association of the Mid-South

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



**AUGUST, 2017**

The next Meeting will be on Sept. 09, 2017 and will be at:

The Clark Family Home

1800 Black Bear Cr. E

Cordova, TN. 38016

901-757-2279

Your hosts will be Steve & Donna Clark. Lunch will begin at 1200 and the meeting will be at 1:30.

The entrée will be provided and you are asked to bring a side dish. Please call Steve or Donna to see what they need you to bring.

Prayers needed for Eric, Sevilla and their children.

The Shaft news letter will cease to exist in December unless a member takes it over.

## The resurrection of my K1200LT

First, to let you know, that this note is long overdue. However, since I belong to an International Organization called "Procrastinators Lets Unite" (I believe that I am a charter member), therefore I am not doing too bad. But here is my story:

May of 2014, we had our RAMS meeting at the HUB in Arkansas, after our last fuel stop, I noticed a noise coming from the rear portion of my BMW K1200LT (LT i.e. light truck). But it was raining and therefore I did not stop but kept going (our fearless leader and president (Jim Linneman) of the RAMS looked at the weather map at the gas station told me that the rain was going to stop shortly. Boy, was he wrong! Next morning, with the bike on the center stand, I was trying to see if I could detect anything. No such luck. I asked one of the other RAMS' member to see if they/he could detect anything. Same result. Someone suggested I let Herb Anderson test drive my bike and see what he could come up with. He did, and found the problem. The rear inside brake pads were gone which also made at that time metal to metal contact with brake disk.



It was difficult to see but one could feel it with a finger and finding some ugly grooves. Herb suggested not to drive the MC until the brake pads had been replaced. This was on Friday. Kevin Mayfield had his CLYMER repair manual with him, Spencer Bennett and the manual we figured out exactly what I needed. My wife Shirley, came in her Mustang and so Saturday, early in the morning we drive to Rogers, Arkansas to a BMW MC dealer and we arrived there just as the opened the store and purchased new brake pads. After we returned to the HUB, Spencer Bennett did not go on the Saturday ride but installed the pads on to the Bike with my assistance (very, very little on

On my part) and made it drivable once more . The upper brake pad is the outside one but has very little of the pad left, maybe 0.5mm

The lower one was the problem child - metal to metal contact-

Well thanks to all involved, especially Spencer Bennet.

On the way back I hit a pothole and lost my left mirror. - Burt

## Club unity

We have 100+ members with different ideas of what a club should be. We join because we like BMW motorcycles. We have members who are Distance riders, Restorers, Racers, Rally enthusiast, Collectors, Mechanics, Side car folks, and Off road tourist. Most of us fall into multiple categories.

Our club serves one purpose and that is to serve the BMW community. To do this task, We host a rally, a web site, 11 club meetings and a christmas party. We have people who donate their time and expertise to keep our club functioning. A \$10 raise on our annual dues will go toward expenses like maintaining our trailer, dealing with the ever increasing insurance cost, web site hosting fees and a printed directory. The days of showing up to a field, starting a fire, and drinking beer for little to no cost to a club are long gone.

We could get rid of our rally culture to save money, But Lets be honest, We don't ride bikes to save money. We ride to enjoy our money with our bikes and our friends.

We have separate Issues. 1) Dues is for Annual expenses and we vote on how to spend it. 2) The National rally expenses are voted on each year. 3) The Rams rally expenses are also voted on each year. So enjoy your bike have some Donuts and enjoy this Awesome Club for less than 7 cents a day.

Editors note : if you where the editor you could present your point of view. This Fake News Empire could be yours. All you gotta do is ask.

## **RAMS Meeting Minutes –AUG, 2017**

### **August 2017 Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Craig on August 12, 2017 at 1:35 pm at My Favorite Place in Cordova, TN. There were 24 RAMS and 8 motorcycles present.

#### **New Business**

- 1) We have three new members for August:

John Holliday who lives in Memphis and rides an R1200 R.

Casey Harvell who lives in Memphis, TN..

Lovell Pratcher who lives in Memphis, TN.

- 2) We currently have 104 new and returning members for 2017.

- 3) There were no guests for the meeting.

- 4) Larry extended Thanks to the meeting hosts: Thank you Manchester Family!

- 5) Hank Widdop made a motion that the RAMS Annual Dues be increased to \$25.00 from the present \$15.00. His rational for the increase were:

- He has noticed the RAMS Treasury has been going down about \$800.00 per year.
- Other BMW Clubs in the area have dues ranging from \$20.00 to \$50.00 per year.
- The increased income will allow the RAMS to reinstitute some things such as the printed Directory and to purchase some needed Club property such as a PA System for the RAMS Rally.

- The increase in Dues will require a Bylaws Revision which will require a 2/3 vote of members at two consecutive meetings following written notification of all members by mail.
- Bryan Leonard seconded the motion and the President opened the floor for discussion of the motion.

Robert Rehkopf stated that the club should live within its means and that no dues increase should be made until the current price/expense situation has been examined. He also stated that he felt that the RAMS Rally eats up all the energy and resources of the club and that the club should not be do anything that does not return a profit.

Hank responded to this by stating that he understood the purpose of the RAMS Rally was to be a social “payback” to the other Clubs that hold rallies that we attend and that there was an understanding that the cost of the rally would be structured so that it broke even at best.

Marshall Robilio pointed out that there has not been a Dues increase since at least 2003 and that depreciation and rising costs require that we raise dues to keep even with the expenses.

Rose-Anne Bennett stated that the Dues have not increased since she joined in 1996 and that she suspects the current dues rate was set in the late 1980’s, so the need to increase them is reasonable given the 30 year run at the present rate.

Butch Turner concurred with Marshall on the matter of raising the dues to keep even with cost increase and to keep the club solvent.

Robert stated that we do not know if an increase is needed as we do not know the actual operating cost of the club (without rally expenses) and he felt that we should have that information prior to determining what the dues should be. He also stated that he did not want the club to subsidize the Rally from the dues income as he felt it was being conducted for non-RAMS and the dues should go for RAMS Members only.

Larry Craig pointed out that the Rally has been focused toward being an event “For the RAMS” for the past two years, with others invited to attend if they wish.

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Robert asked how many RAMS attended the last Rally and Rose-Anne stated that 51 RAMS registered for the Rally. Robert questioned whether this amount of Rally support indicated that the “For the RAMS” program was working.

Larry asked if the additional dues cost would have an effect on families with multiple members and suggested that there be a “family rate” of some sort to ease this burden.

In answer to a question from the floor, Steve Clark stated that the cost of printing the Directory was about \$8.00 each and this had been a major cost item.

Jonathan Gifford noted that the Rally is the major activity of most BMW Clubs and provides a focal point for their activities during the year. He then suggested that we use this Bylaw revision process as an opportunity to revisit the current office holder positions of the RAMS with the idea of setting up a board of directors to oversee club operations. (I do not believe that this revision received a second but I include it here in the event it comes up at the September Meeting.)

At the conclusion of the discussion the motion was tabled until the September meeting when the first vote to begin the revision process. The Secretary/Treasurer was directed to make the mailing via post cards to all RAMS Members in accordance with the RAMS Bylaws and to prepare records that show the current yearly operating cost of the BMW RAMS without the RAMS Rally expense for the September Meeting.

The Motion that will be presented at the September Meeting will be to raise the current yearly RAMS Dues to \$25.00 via a revision to the RAMS Bylaws. This motion will be open to discussion and possible revision by those RAMS in attendance at the meeting.

## **RAMS Rally Update**

- 1. The Rally dates are September 29 – October 1, 2017.**
- 2. The Rally Committee Chair positions that are filled and available are below:**

**Registration – Larry & Teresa Craig**

**Rally Shirt Sales- Larry & Teresa Craig**

**Name Tags/Schedules – Hank Widdop**

**Coffee & Refreshments – Everett Blanchard& Art Manchester III with Steve Hamilton  
as Coffee Chair Emeritus**

**Food – Paul Whitworth**

**Door Prizes & Vendors – Spencer & Rosey Bennett**

**Awards (Distance, Age, etc.) – Spencer & Rosey Bennett**

**Poker Run – Tony Lugo & Rodger Moring**

**Trash/Sanitation – Open**

**Set Up – Open**

**Trailer – Tom Wolfgang**

**Bike Show – Donna Clark**

**Swap Meet – Marshall Robilio & Fred Bradley**

**Signage (Put Up and Take Down) – Open**

**Please get with the committee chairs to offer them your assistance in any area you feel you would like to work. If you wish to chair one of the remaining committees please let Larry Craig know.**

**Spencer and Rosey Bennett announced that this will be their last year to be Door Prize Chairs and asked that anyone interested in seeing what is involved in this position please contact them.**

1. Spencer Bennett made a motion that the RAMS purchase an audio system for use at the RAMS Rally as a speaker system and also for the movies by the lake. Spencer had located a suitable system, with the aid of Hank Widdop, for \$500.00 and proposed it be purchased. This motion was revised to make it state: "To spend no more than \$500.00 for a suitable audio system for the RAMS Rally" by Larry Craig and seconded by Bert Fechner. The motion carried by a 23 to 1 majority. Steve Clark then volunteered to take care of purchasing an appropriate system and the Secretary/Treasurer was directed to provide funds when needed.

## **VP's Corner**

1. An Editor for the Shaft is needed ASAP. Art Manchester IV has agreed to continue as Editor until January but the new Editor will need to come up to speed on the layout process so it would be good if they could work with Art before they take over. Art said it takes about 4 hours to prepare the Shaft each 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) A few 2016 RAMS Rally shirts are still available for \$5.00. See Larry Craig.
- 4) 2015 RAMS rally shirts are available for \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00. Most sizes are available. See Spencer.



## For the Good of the Club

- 1) Check RAMS website for rally schedules.
- 2) The tent for the BMWMOA Rally was set up in the Chartered Club Camping Area and was well appreciated by the RAMS in attendance as there was apparently a shortage of shade at the National.

- 3) The September Meeting will be September 9 , 2017 and will be at:

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- 4) 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. Watch your E-mail for dates.
- 5) 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)

## **Treasurer's Report**

1) Balance in Bank plus petty cash = \$5370.90

2) Petty Cash = \$130.00

3) Notable Expenses for this month:

Donation to the Humane Society of Memphis in Memory of LaRue Hart =\$51.50.

**Movement to adjourn by Art Manchester IV, seconded by Robert Rehkopf, approved unanimously.**

Stuff for sale or  
Trade! 

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*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:** Larry Craig
- **Vice-President:** Donna Clark
- **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:*  
[newsletter@bmwrams.com](mailto:newsletter@bmwrams.com)

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

### Webmaster:

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

### 2017 RAMS Rally:

#### Rallymeisters:

WANTED !

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

### Door Prize / Vendors:

**BMW Club**  
Riders Association  
International



[BMW Riders Association](#)

(Chartered Club #1)

**BMW Club**  
Motorcycle Owners  
of America



[BMW Motorcycle Owners of](#)

[America](#) (Chartered Club #43)



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