



THE SHAFT

The Journal of the Riders Association of the Mid-South

<https://www.bmwrams.com>



Welcome!

Hello Everyone,

This is your VP and new editor of the monthly newsletter. I would like to thank Verla Price for producing the Shaft over the past few years. She has done a fantastic job, as you are aware. She has set the bar really high and I am very sure I will not get even close to her skill level at this task. That being said, and with your help, I will give it a try. On a monthly basis I will include the meeting minutes from our meetings so as to inform those who cannot attend of what we discussed. I will include upcoming events. This will primarily list things that will be going on in the coming month or so. I will include ride reports. This is your part of the newsletter. I am well aware that we are not all good at writing, as you bear witness to this now. However, when you attend an event or just a good ride, write it up and send it to me. I can't promise you that it will be in the next addition, but it will be in one for sure. Please feel free to include photos as related to your article. I can't emphasize how important the ride reports are to the quality of the newsletter. I will include the RAMS photo gallery. This will showcase our members and friends, good moments or a good laugh. Snap a shot with your phone and send it in. Last, but not least, I will include the RAMS marketplace. This is the place where you can offer your items for sale to the club - motorcycles, riding gear or anything. Always try to include photos if possible.

Well, there you have it. Let us see what happens to this monthly newsletter with my lack of skill and a little help from RAMS members.

Note from editor:

We are in need of a Rally Chair. Our Rally is set up very well and fairly easy to manage. Think about giving it a try. This is our club and one of the most important things we do is put on a Rally to welcome our fellow riders and friends to spend some quality time with us.

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.

Best Regards,
Paul Whitworth

MEETING MINUTES: January 2020

- *Spencer Bennett*

The meeting was called to order by President Art Manchester IV on January 11, 2020 at 1:04 pm at Fox Ridge Pizza in Memphis, TN. There were 21 RAMS and 1 bike in attendance (Chip Mann from Jackson, TN).

Call to order

1. We have no new members for this month.
2. We currently have 40 new and returning members for 2020.
3. There was one guest for the meeting. Or at least Barry Phillips claimed to be a guest.
4. Thanks to Meeting Hosts: RAMS Officers

New Business

1. We still need Volunteers to host Donut Saturdays. Art III and Jackie Manchester are bringing them on January 25, 2020.
2. Officer Nominations for 2020 were opened along with the following nominations:

President: Art Manchester IV

Vice-President: Paul Whitworth

Secretary/Treasurer: Spencer Bennett
3. All the nominated candidates have indicated a willingness to serve in the nominated position. There were no additional nominations from the floor and the nominees listed above were re-elected by unanimous voice vote of the assembled RAMS.

RAMS Rally Update

1. A RAMS 2020 Rally Chair is still needed.
2. The 2020 RAMS Rally dates are: September 25 – 27, 2020.
3. The RAMS Rally information for posting in the RA and MOA magazines and on their respective web sites has been sent and the Rally is on both web sites.

VP's Corner

1. Paul thanked Chip for riding so we could continue to say that we are a motorcycle club.

Old Business

1. If anyone still does not have their picture in the online directory, please see Spencer or Rosey. We need these for the 2020 on-line directory. The following RAMS do not have pictures in the directory.
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. Some previous year RAMS Rally Shirts are still available for \$3.00 each or two for \$5.00.

For the Good of the Club

1. Check RAMS website for rally schedules for other Club's Rallies.
2. RAMS Meeting hosts are needed for 2020.
3. **The February Meeting will be held on February 8, 2020 at :**

Bazar's Bakery & Breakfast

210 E. Commerce St (next to the railroad tracks on north side)

Hernando, MS 38632

Tel: 662-288-1600

Your Host will be Spencer & Rosey Bennett.

Lunch will begin at 1200 and the Meeting will be at 1:00.

If a Pre-Meeting Ride is scheduled it will be communicated by e-mail

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 = \$6495.42
2. Petty Cash = \$50.00
3. No Major Expenses for the month:
4. RA Charter Renewal has been submitted.

Movement to adjourn: Rosey Bennett, Second: Greg LieVan, Vote: Unanimous to adjourn

Upcoming Events:

DATE:	EVENT:
Feb 8 12N-2PM	February RAMS Meeting Bazar's Bakery and Breakfast / 210 E Commerce St /Hernando, MS 662-288-1600
Feb 14-16	MOA Getaway, Orange Beach, AL Check Rams Calendar for details
Feb 29 9AM – 11AM	Donuts at Performance Plus / 5312 Pleasant View Rd, Memphis, TN Join your fellow Rams for coffee, donuts and fellowship and show support for our local BMW motorcycle dealership
Sundays Weekly (except holidays) 8AM – 10AM	Drifters Restaurant (formerly known as Mama Judy's Country Kitchen), 80 Levina Gate Rd, Lavinia, TN 38348 Opens: 6:00 AM Ride: After breakfast Check Rams Calendar for details

Ride Reports:

The Chicken or the Egg?

Spencer Bennett

Robert Rehkopf posed the question “Which came first, the chicken or the egg?” as the lead in teaser for his “Eggsanity Saddlesore 1000” ride that was held on September 21, 2019. He hosts a no host (yeah I know) dinner at Gus’s Fried Chicken the night before the ride to let the various riders get to know each other and to answer the question and make sure that the chicken does come before the egg. This is a Motorcycle Touring Forum sponsored event which was accredited as an IBA Gold Certificate ride so it was a chance to try something that was a little more difficult than the standard SS 1000.

This particular ride requires you to stop and eat an egg dish of some sort at four different Waffle House style restaurants, the Waffle House, the Royal Waffle King, the Omelet Shoppe, and the Huddle House and document the event with a dated business receipt and a photo with your ride flag and the dish in it along with your smiling face.

What could possibly be hard about that?

There were two RAMS Members who signed up for the event, myself and Chip Mann. The event starts at 0415 or so with the assorted paperwork and final instructions at the Waffle House on Germantown Parkway in Cordova.



Chip Mann at the start in Cordova, TN.

We departed more or less on time at 0504 headed to Dickson, TN for the first gas receipt of the ride. The ride up I40 was pretty much of a familiar one with no surprises and no deer! We passed another Eggsanity rider, Mike Garrett, about halfway to Dickson and we were to eventually team up with him later in the day as it seemed that we turned up at the stops at the same time, intentionally or not. We did have the most beautiful sunrise as we were approaching Dickson but we were in the hilly part of the state so there was actually very little sun glare to bother us.

Got the receipt in Dickson and headed for Murfreesboro, TN for receipt for the second gas receipt and found I 840 to be absolutely free of traffic and the best way to get around the Nashville Metro Area. The stop in Murfreesboro went smoothly and we jumped on I 24 for a while, getting off just before Chattanooga and heading south on I 59 to Fort Payne, AL where we would get the second egg receipt and picture at the Royal Waffle King. We pulled up to find that Mike had arrived just before us, so we sat down with him and had another breakfast.



Spencer Bennett, Mike Garrett, and Chip Mann at the Royal Waffle King in Ft. Payne, AL.

The next stop (third egg receipt) was the Omelet Shoppe in Sumiton, AL, which required us to go through or around Birmingham. For anyone who has been to Birmingham recently and seen what they are doing to the Interstate System there the choice of going

around was obvious. We scooted around to Sumiton and got the required Egg meal and receipt but found the restaurant to be “interesting” in several ways. It obviously was a family type operation and the service was not the quickest, the food was OK (the grits were actually good) but the receipt situation required a call to the ride coordinator to make sure that what they could give us would work for IBA documentation purposes. It would, and we were soon back on the road, with Mike about five minutes ahead of us on departure.

The ride back down I 22 to get on I 20 was interesting in that it dumped us off into a part of Birmingham we had not seen before. It appeared to be a section of town that had been abandoned and was waiting for the next phase of its life. No people, boarded up buildings, and very little traffic. Sort of like the lead into to a Zombie Apocalypse movie. We scooted through there and were soon on I 20 headed for Laurel, MS and the Huddle House. The ride down I 20 and on to I 59 at Meridian was uneventful although it did require a gas stop (no receipt required) as it was 224 miles and we were on R bikes with small (4.5 gal) tanks.



Chip Mann at the Huddle House in Laurel, MS.

We arrived at the Laurel Huddle House (part of a Pilot Gas Plaza) and were surprised to find that Mike was not there. He came rolling in before we had ordered though and said he had stopped at the Mississippi Visitor Center to grab a map, or something. The Laurel Huddle house was quick and good and we were soon on our way for the final gas receipt at Brookhaven, MS with Mike in the lead as it was getting on to dusk and his

Goldwing has some awesome lighting.

We got our gas receipts in Brookhaven (and added a layer due to the coolness of the evening) and then set off on the final 280 mile leg back to the Waffle House in Cordova. The run up I 55 was pretty much uneventful except for Mike almost missing a turn in Jackson and getting an opportunity to show his Goldwing's ability to correct a course quickly. This did wake us up a bit and we motored on with a gas stop (no receipt required) in Grenada and no excitement until we got to the Tennessee state line where there had been a major accident involving what appeared to be several cars and a motorcycle. The riders were up and moving and appeared OK and there were people assisting them, so we continued on to Cordova and the Waffle House. Where we had yet another egg meal complete with receipt.

We then assembled our package of receipts that we had been sending in to the Ride Coordinator, got our finishing witness sign off and were done. It was an interesting day and a great day to ride with high temperatures in the mid to upper 80's and the morning and evening sections likely in the 60's.



Spencer at the Cordova Waffle House and the last Eggsanity Meal.

Robert will likely be doing this ride again and I would recommend it if you have any interest in joining the Iron Butt Association as he does all of the planning for you and all you have to do is ride and remember to collect your receipts. Oh, and eat the eggs of course.

[RAMS Photo Gallery:](#)

Our January 2020 monthly meeting was held at the recently moved Fox Ridge Pizza on Brookhaven Circle in Memphis. Thanks to Marshall Robilio for these wonderful photos





RAMS Marketplace:

No submissions this month.

The Shaft Editor:

Paul Whitworth
newsletter@bmwrams.com

2020 RAMS Rally
September 25-27

RallyMeisters:
rally@bmwrams.com

Door Prize / Vendors-
vendors@bmwrams.com

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newsletter@bmwrams.com

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RAMS Officers –2020:
officers@bmwrams.com

President:
Art Manchester IV

Vice-President:

Paul Whitworth

Secretary-Treasurer:
Spencer Bennett

Webmaster:
webmaster@bmwrams.com

Established 1975

Chartered Club #1



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