

BMWRA #53 BMWMOA #216

ON THE AVENUE

Knob Mountain North Carolina Motorcycle Chapter

August 2008

Website: <http://knobbies.org>

2007/8 Officers: President-Gene Smith V. President-Dave Kiziah Secretary-Crystal Gibson Treasurer- Sam Aycock Activities Directors-Daryl & Penny Carswell Newsletter Co-Editors-Patsy Smith & Sharon Wilson

WEEKLY SUNDAY RIDES – 8:00 a.m. at Timberwood Restaurant, I-40 Exit 106, Morganton, NC for breakfast and a day ride. Even if you can't ride, join us for breakfast and fellowship! First Sunday in every month is "picnic Sunday."

NEWLETTER INFO – If you would like to submit an article, please give to Patsy or Sharon. Or, you can email to psmith1951@charter.net or sharondannywilson@charter.net. Be sure to put a subject title! We will be giving up the newsletter for the next term so a volunteer is needed! There is a place on the bottom of the nomination form if you are interested in helping. It is nice to have co-editors but not necessary.

WELCOME 2008 NEW MEMBER -- Joe and Bonnie Byers, Cleveland, NC sponsored by Ed Blackwelder. Heather Savarimuthu, Morganton, NC, sponsored by Josh Smith. John Nichols, Lenoir, NC sponsored by Bill Clayton. Paul Haynes, Granite Falls, NC sponsored by Gary Clark.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR 2009-2010 – It is election time for 2009-2010 officers. Danny Wilson, Dean Curfman and Norman Lowman have agreed to serve as our Nomination Committee. If you are interested in holding an office or would like to nominate someone, please complete the enclosed form and give to Danny, Dean or Norman by Sept 14, 2008. Or, you may mail the form to Danny Wilson, 3474 Icard Dairy Barn Road, Connelly Springs, NC 28612. The form is set up in the middle of the newsletter so that it can be torn away from the newsletter then folded and mailed to Danny. If you would like to nominate someone, please contact that person to be sure they are willing to serve. Once all the nominations are received, the Nominating Committee will contact each individual to make sure they are willing to be listed on the ballot. The ballot will then be mailed to everyone for your vote and you will then mail back to Danny. After all ballots are turned in, the new officers will be announced at the Knobbie Christmas Party. They will take office at the January 09 meeting.

MESSAGE FROM GENE – Sensory Overload. How in the world do you describe the trip I just came off of? I have read article after article, even written a few, some go day by day, some turn by turn, and if I did any of that I might not stop and start writing a book (that nobody would want to read!!) Or maybe?

I can best describe this trip as the trip that went as far as my master card. Folks, that is very close to the truth. For those who don't know, Patsy and I flew out to Las Vegas July 4th, rented a car. I had shipped my motorcycle out to Las Vegas BMW and was worried, since I had tried to start my motorcycle with a brand new battery and guess what? Yup, a

dead battery. So, here is the truck waiting on me to load up; jumped it off after burning up a set of battery cables (crossed them), called Las Vegas BMW, told them the problem and said simply, FIX IT!! Well, fix it they did!! We won't go into the charges, but let's just say; thank goodness I had not left home without my cards! AND BMW Las Vegas did a good job, so no complaints. They even opened on July 4th for me and Patsy to pick it up. Back to the hotel and off to Hoover Dam that day, next day an early rise to Death Valley, and the 3rd day over to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. Wow!! Where did those three days go! So I had to bid farewell to my great love, (no not the BMW) Patsy, early Monday a.m.

It's tempting to draw a map, but early Monday am after seeing Patsy to the airport, off I went across the Mojave Desert up to Yosemite Park. I wound up spending two nights there and then over and across San Francisco and the Golden Gate, UP highway 1, 101, then enough of that. Two days on Highway 1 and there were so many twisties and SO many RVers that I had bruises on the inside of my legs from squeezing the tank. I had never done that before.

I spent one night in Grants Pass Oregon, another on the Columbia River Gorge, up Highway 97 to the Grand Coulee Dam. Folks, the Grand Coulee was the third dam I had seen and was thinking about calling this the dam tour. The Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River gorge is quite unique in that you can see the fish swimming upstream through the fish ladders. Lampreys which look like eels just hanging everywhere it seemed. One place on Highway 97 North of the Columbia headed up Washington State is high on a mountain top looking down into the valley and from there you see four volcanoes, Mt. Hood, Mt. Ranier, Mt. Adams and Mt. Saint Helens. It is almost unbelievable to see four volcanoes and this huge fertile valley below. Don't ever miss Dry Falls, a huge dry waterfall six times larger than Niagara Falls, except it was formed during the great floods and is now literally dry.

I lucked out at Grand Coulee Dam. I used my GPS to find a campsite, and of course, everything is way out of town OR no showers as a state park. I set my GPS to the nearest campground which turned out to be a small RV park. For a modest fee, the owners let me stay in a shaded, nice grassy spot to pitch my tent, next to heaven! A nice shower facility and laundry. After washing clothes, taking a shower, to my delight the RV Park ran a bus down to see Grand Coulee movies and the laser light show. If you have never seen either, I have been amazed by what I learned and saw. Grand Coulee is a mile long and lasers going from one end to the other painting eagles, horses, whatever, with water cascading over the top. Awesome. These dams by the way are what have completely changed the West. Lake Mead is above the Columbia River basin, is huge and is used for irrigation and recreation. Pumps lift water from the Columbia River and distribute to Lake Mead and then throughout the west. Unbelievable! Before getting to the Grand Coulee, there are miles upon miles of irrigation ditches and canals.

From there I took off to Glacier Park and the Highway to the Sun, then down through Big Sky Montana. Here is the one thing that probably struck me more than anything. At Grand Coulee, they show a movie about the great western floods during the ice ages. Would you believe that Missoula Montana was once under a 1,000 feet of water!! Would you believe the gigantic rolling hills of Montana are the same as ripples of sand on the ocean or running water! Folks, these hills are as high as our High Peak AND formed by water!? I just cannot imagine that as I was riding south over and around these hills. When on top of these hills, there is no question why they call it Big Sky Country. What happened as the ice age was receding, it would cool then warm up, ice dams would break, completely flooding hundreds of miles, then refreeze only to break again. This happened thousands of times and explains these large plateaus and ripples throughout Montana

extending all the way to the coast. I was and still am totally amazed.

So on to Red Lodge, through Bear Tooth Pass, Chief Joseph Parkway and DO NOT MISS Cody Wyoming's museum. Again, I was going cross eyed by this museum. From there it was on through the Big Horn Mountains and Gillette Wyoming to the BMWMOA Rally.

I FLEW OUR FLAG TOO!! As far as I know I was the only Knobbie to show up. I was a little disappointed in the Rally, or probably spoiled by West Bend Wisconsin would be a better description. Western Rallies are just not as well attended and don't have the food vendors or "toy" vendors either. All in all an OK Rally. I attended several of the lectures, one on the future of BMW in North America and it seems as though BMW has quite a bit of new management. Good news or bad, I don't know.

Gillette is a boom town. Oil, gas, methane and shale oil have all been located in the general area. They said Gillette's population has doubled in just the last two years. That I can believe since I think every road in town was under construction and every place of business had "help wanted" signs. We could sure use some of that here couldn't we?

Folks, if you have not traveled these great United States, the best I can say is that I was on total sensory overload, maybe even had my eyes crossing for a grand total of about 3 weeks. How else can I describe cliffs, canyons, TREES even; bigger than my imagination can think of?

Thanks to all the free advice I asked of everyone. I think Gary Clark, Danny "MPS" Wilson, Dave Kaziah, Sam Aycock, all contributed to my itinerary. I could not have been more pleased. Just remember, if you travel by motorcycle across the US, please use our members. Someone has been there, done that in all probability.

Hank, Hal and Dean would all be amazed by something I did. I rode back in two days from Gillette. GPS said 1,874 miles. Still have not figured out actual mileage, but just kept the XM radio going and kept on hauling. (Missed mama didn't I!)

I did all that once I left Las Vegas in my two man tent, sleeping bag and of course my over packed RT1150, Lil Blu. I only spent two nights in a hotel. By the way, the only things I DIDN'T use were my emergency kits, like tire repair, first aid, etc. Only two other minor mishaps also. My poor Alpinestar boots decided to come unglued somewhere in the Mojave Desert (re-glued those) and in the Columbia River Gorge, the wind caught my bike cover and blew over my bike, breaking the right mirror. So I missed all but a half day of rain and ALL the fires going up through California. I also met a bunch of nice people at every single campground, which reminds me why I like camping so well.

So, folks, it was the ride of a lifetime, and once again, I always dedicate my trips to my Dad who never got to see these parts and hate my lovely wife did not get to go with me. Hope to rectify that next trip!

WHY WE RIDE: THE JOY OF MOTORCYCLING: What's the allure of motorcycling? One rider attempts to explain – by Stephen M. John of MSN autos. What attracts people to motorcycling? When faced with the numerous personalities of both riders and motorcycles, there may not be a single answer. Despite the differences between touring rider and hill climber, chrome-encrusted cruiser and nimble Grand Prix race bike, there are some universal attributes that get under the skin of the motorcyclist and feed the desire to ride.

Freedom is often cited as an attraction, but what does that mean? Compared to driving a car, riding a motorcycle offers freedom from the constraints of four-wheeled physics. When a car negotiates a turn, it leans to the outside of a corner, struggling to maintain its former direction of travel. A motorcycle leans into a corner. This may not sound like much, but until you've experienced both you can't understand the superior grace and simplicity of this mode of travel. Cornering becomes a symphony of precise movements instead of an awkward wallow, working in harmony with the road instead of fighting it tooth and nail. Once freed of your steel cage you are thrust into the world to experience a broader existence unfettered by HEPA filters and climate control. Your nose will get a vivid introduction to skunk road kill and diesel exhaust, but will also revel in bread baking and plants blooming. Your body will feel the thousand tiny impacts of raindrops and absorb the buffeting of the wind. Your skin will feel the gently warming temperature as you crest a hill and drop to the valley floor below. You are no longer huddled behind a wheel disconnected from nature. It's Lawrence of Arabia in Cinerama versus a daguerreotype of a camel. Wrap all this freedom in a lovely ribbon of performance, and you get what experts call fun. Not the fake hood scoop, chrome wheels and racing stripe school of performance. Picture instead a carrier launch and you'll be in the right neighborhood, and you don't even have to pledge seven years of service. Best of all, this astounding performance is dirt cheap. For less than half the cost of most commuter pods you can buy a stock motorcycle capable of 9-second quarter miles. Don't bother figuring the cost for a production car with matching performance, because you won't find one. AMG teamed with Mercedes to make the CLK-GTR capable of a 9.4 second quarter mile, and it's a steal at a measly \$1,000,000. Performance cars do have the edge in aerodynamics and top speed, but to use them you'll need lottery winnings and the Autobahn. All of this freedom and fun doesn't come without a price. First of all, you have to learn how to ride. Given the right training and the right attitude, the skills can be acquired by just about anyone. Want proof? One of my first forays was on my dad's 1975 Honda CB125S, a ride so mild it's hard to believe it could burn gasoline. I was so overwhelmed I couldn't remember how to stop, and ended up using a conveniently located pickup to do the job. Fortunately the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) runs well-organized classes where you can safely learn motorcycling in a pickup-free environment. What about practicality? Over the years I've carried a turkey, two-by-fours, a dozen roses, crutches and a bookcase on a motorcycle, but even I haven't tried transporting an infant or a major appliance. But how often do you really use the cargo capacity of a four-wheeler? Not often, judging by the throngs of single-occupant vehicles choking the roadway, wasting gas and time hauling around a sluggish, three-quarter-empty steel box. Finally, there's the favorite of mothers and fathers everywhere: danger. On a motorcycle you are more vulnerable and you'd better accept that fact and ride accordingly. I always ride as if I am invisible to the sea of cars around me, because all too often it's true. I wear a helmet, jacket, boots and gloves regardless of the temperature or length of the ride. You might think it's a hassle just to reach the corner store, and it does take more time than slipping on a seat belt. For me it is an important ritual, a reminder I am about to engage in an activity with a fair amount of personal risk. Donning my helmet triggers a pre-recorded message telling me I'd better be alert if I don't want to end up as a hood ornament. Risk is inherent in motorcycling, but it can be managed and turned into an advantage, one that I think is the real long-term attraction of riding. A new rider must gain experience, since at first everything you have is spent just keeping upright. Gradually, shifting gears and scanning for Dozy Joe Auto blowing through a stop sign takes less effort as your brain adjusts to a new sensory plateau. While motorcycling you are still fully engaged with the outside world, but the rest of your brain is free to explore paths otherwise unavailable. With your mind free of rigid supervision and self-awareness, all sorts of problems get solved in the background and tension evaporates. Exactly the opposite happens in an automobile. Driving makes so few demands on our minds and bodies we go on autopilot. How many times have you driven to a familiar location, and

arrived only to realize you don't remember large parts of the journey? Need another rationalization regarding the two-wheeled wonder? Motorcycling is a resounding social plus: reduced traffic and parking congestion, better fuel economy and fewer noxious emissions. Motorcycle ownership should be a Green party litmus test. Sadly, these benefits are lost on the majority of Americans, whose opinion of motorcycles seems to be forged solely by watching Marlon Brando tear up a small town in *The Wild One*. This shared sense of being outcast and knowledge of how much fun we're having leads to a sense of community among riders. Have you ever seen two automobile drivers wave to each other because they were driving? For me, waving to a fellow rider is nearly a daily occurrence. Freedom. Fun. A clear mind and a clear conscience. These are all powerful reasons for staying in the saddle. But an even simpler truth about motorcycling keeps me coming back for more: I always feel better after a ride than I did before. An avid bibliophile and lifetime motorcyclist, Steve John has raced in various motorcycle series and events, including stints in multiple classes at the Isle of Man TT.

KNOB MOUNTAIN MOTORCYCLE CHAPTER NOMINATION FORM FOR 2009-2010 OFFICERS

Please return by September 14, 2008.

2007-2008 Officers Nominations for 2009-2010

Gene Smith, President NOMINATE

Dave Kiziah, Vice President NOMINATE

Crystal Gibson, Secretary NOMINATE

Sam Aycock, Treasurer NOMINATE

Daryl & Penny Carswell, Activities Directors NOMINATE

Signature _____ Date _____

Nominate one person for each office. Please contact the person that you nominate to see if they are willing to be an officer. You can also nominate yourself. The only people that will know are Danny, Dean and Norman.

Please return your completed Nomination Form to Danny Wilson, Dean Curfman or Norman Lowman. Or, mail to Danny Wilson, 3474 Icard Dairy Barn Road, Connelly Springs, NC 28612. This form can be folded and mailed to Danny. Address is already on the back of this form.

If you have any questions about your nominations, contact Danny Wilson at 828-397-6419.

REMINDER: Please complete and return to Danny Wilson by September 14, 2008.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR OR CO-EDITOR (volunteer position)

I am interested in serving as editor or co-editor for the newsletter for 2009-2010.

Signature _____

Date _____

Danny Wilson_3474 Icard Dairy Barn Road, Connelly Springs, NC 28612

__ KNOBBIE FALL CAMPOUT – Don't forget our Knobbie Fall Campout is September 5-7 at Blue Ridge Motorcycle Campground in Cruso, NC. Telephone # is 828-235-8350.

RIDE FOR KIDS. If you are interested in helping with the annual Ride For Kids, it is Sunday, August 24. Meet at McDonalds off Exit 105, I40 at 7 a.m. for breakfast and we will then go as a group.

TRINITY CHILDREN'S CHARITY RIDE. Letter from Chris Jernigan, South Mountain Children's Home. Many of you have expressed interest in riding in the annual Trinity Children's Charity Ride to benefit South Mountain Children and Family Services and three other NC children's agencies but have told me that you just can't take the time to make the full three-day journey from Kure Beach to Maggie Valley.

Well, I've convinced the leadership of the ride to allow riders to "pick up" the last leg of the ride from South Mountain Children's Homes on Saturday, August 23 for a donation of \$150.00. That will cover the cost of your hotel room and dinner in Maggie Valley as well as any gas stops between the two points. We are also providing lunch on Saturday at South Mountain, so it will be free to all riders as well.

For more information about the ride, to sign up for the ride, or to purchase \$20 raffle tickets on a 2008 Honda Goldwing to be given away in Maggie Valley, call Chris Jernigan at 828-584-1105, 828-403-0862, or email wjernigan@hci.net. Hope to see you on the ride! Chris

NORTH CAROLINA FOUR CORNERS TOUR UPDATE. As of July 31st, 45 have signed up and 20 completed – Haskell Shealy, Bradley & Candy Richey, Hal & Bobbie Smith, P.O. Wilson, Dave & Cheryl Kiziah, Daryl Carswell, Jerry Rector, Crystal Gibson, Truman Walton, Robert Taylor, Pan & Mike McSwain, Danny & Sharon Wilson, Frank Whinkler and Maynard & Tina Annas. There are still stickers, t-shirts and sweatshirts for sale. Contact Candy or Bradley Richey at 828-495-4456 or email blrcdr@hotmail.com for information or to receive a tour packet. Cost of the tour is \$10.00 each per rider/co-rider. The Tour has made \$500 in proceeds which was donated to the Ride for Kids in Sept 07.

YOU KNOW YOU ARE A BIDER WHEN you don't even flinch when you are hit

by a bug when riding The sides of your tires are worn more than the center You know how and when to use your front brake.

2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug 14-17 Daniel Boone Rally, KOA, Boone, NC_Aug 24 Ride for Kids. Meet at McDonalds, Exit 105, I40 at 7 a.m. Aug 30 Gary Lackey 60th Birthday Cookout Sept 5-7 Knobbie Fall Campout. Blue Ridge Motorcycle Campground, Cruso, NC. 828-235-8350_Dec 7 Knobbie Christmas Party, Little Sienna Restaurant, Marion, NC

Knob Mountain NC Motorcycle Chapter Newsletter #3, August, 2008