

BMWRA #53 BMWMOA #216
ON THE AVENUE
Knob Mountain North Carolina Motorcycle Chapter
November 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 - Daylight savings time is Sunday, November 2 so our
Sunday morning meeting time is now 9:00 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."

WELCOME 2008 NEW MEMBERS -- 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. Joe and Bonnie Myers, Cleveland, NC
sponsored by Ed Blackwelder. Seth Purdy, Hickory, NC sponsored by Hal Smith.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED. This is your last newsletter by Patsy and Sharon. A
volunteer is needed for the 2009-10 newsletter editor and/or co-editor. Please let one of
the club officers know if you are interested in helping.

2009-10 NEW OFFICER BALLOT. A ballot is enclosed for the election of the 2009-10
new officers. Please mark your vote and give to Danny Wilson, Dean Curfman or
Norman Lowman by November 23rd. Or, you may mail to Danny Wilson, 3474 Icard
Dairy Barn Road, Connelly Springs, NC 28612.

2009 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL. It's that time of year again for your Knobbie
membership renewal. A copy of the renewal form is enclosed for your convenience.
Remember, if you don't send in your renewal form, you will not continue to receive the
newsletter. There is no renewal fee. No need to complete the entire form if there are no
changes in your information. You can just "check renewal, no changes from last year"
and write in your name. Please give to one of the club officers or mail it in to the
address at the bottom of the form.

MESSAGE FROM GENE - IT'S ELECTION TIME!! And Thanksgiving, and Christmas,
and let's all thank goodness that by the time you receive this, our national elections will
be over!!

I want to thank all who volunteered this year to run for office. It seems we all stay so
busy in our lives that making even a small commitment can just be overwhelming at
times. So, once again, many thanks.

We do have one major position open, treasurer, so if anyone would like to volunteer, we will sure take the help! If we could get a lady for the position, we will just rename the position to "money honey". We have to keep those in small caps since that position is legally copyrighted, believe that or not.

Now, please make sure you vote in the election. Although we all know our positions are nowhere near as important as national elections, just don't complain about anything if you don't vote. How's that for being upfront. As I like to say, "just kidding" sorta!!

Once again, it is my honor and I accept to run for President of the Knobbies, and what an honor to be asked. Maybe I did like Hal Smith recommended, "just don't screw it up", at least I would like to think I did? If elected, let me be up front with my continuing goals. First and foremost is to have a great website, which is well on its way thanks to our unofficial webmaster, Darryl. Once again, many thanks Darryl. Second and just as important is our newsletter. I really place importance on these two because I sincerely believe these two items are the lifeblood of our club. First, is to bring in new members and secondly is to keep all our members informed of not only our activities, but the lives of our members. Remember, we are family and I truly want to keep that going.

Now, having said that, my lovely wife Patsy is going to hand over the newsletter to anyone who will volunteer. So, anyone interested, please let me know. Along with that, I would like to submit our letter to the national clubs to let these people know we have not disappeared. With all the members we have and all the great trips and tall tales, we should have enough articles every newsletter to fill a book! SO, anyone with a great trip, please write up a short article and submit. We all enjoy.

Another goal is to recruit new and younger members. As we all know, our club is "graying out" just like all our fellow BMW members. I think nationally, BMW riders average age is north of 54 years young! I know the average age of BEGINNING Harley riders is now 56! I would like to suggest that as long as we can afford it, any new member under the age of 30, maybe our club could spring for an MC motorcycle safety course? It goes without saying that we have one mentor after another that could help any aspiring young motorcyclist. This would also tie directly into what the National BMW MOA club is trying to accomplish. Gosh, we may even have some help now that BMW is building smaller and therefore easier to afford motorcycles. And of course, don't let me forget we are an all brand club, just affiliated with beemers.

REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Paul and Sara Phillips for the loss of their son, Kelly. Also to Bradley and Candy Richey for the loss of Bradley's mother. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with these families.

CHRISTMAS PARTY - The Knobbie Christmas Party will be Sunday, December 7, 2008 at Little Sienna Restaurant located at the intersection of US 70 West and NC Highway 80 in Marion. The meal will be served about 12:30. The cost is \$13.00 per person which covers your food, beverage, dessert, tax, and tip. Please send or give your money and reservation to Sharon Wilson by November 23 so we can get a head count for the restaurant. Sharon's address is 3474 Icard Dairy Barn Road, Connelly Springs, NC

28612. Her telephone # is 828-397-6419. The gift exchange (\$5.00) is always fun, so don't forget your gift if you are interested in participating. Try to bring something that would be suitable for a male or female. A couple other notes:

* Our new 2009-10 officers will be announced at the Christmas Party. * Bring your total 2008 miles for the club mileage contest. * Be thinking of your nominations for the Knobbiest Knobbie.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING - Our annual business meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Jan 18th in the back left dining room at Timberwood Restaurant, I-40 Exit 106 at 9:00 a.m. There will be a breakfast buffet set up for us and the meeting will follow. Our new officers will take office for the 2009-10 term. The long distance riders for the year and the Knobbiest Knobbie will also be announced. Plans will be made for the 2009 Knobbie Campouts.

KNOBBIE FALL CAMPOUT REPORT -- Everyone had a great time at the Knobbie Fall Campout at Blue Ridge Motorcycle Campground in Cruso, September 5-7, and the weather was beautiful! We had a great turnout of 40+ folks. Everyone took home a prize and Sara Mims won the 50/50 drawing. Great riding, great food and lots of great fellowship! Another fun campout for all!

NORTH CAROLINA FOUR CORNERS TOUR UPDATE. As of 10-28, 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 and Truman Walton, Robert Taylor, Mike & Pan 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. As of this date, the Tour has made \$500 in proceeds which was donated to the Ride for Kids in 2007.

CURRENT GAS RATES - KNOW BEFORE YOU GO! As you head out on (or off) the road, it's good to know how much you can expect to pay for the fuel you'll be pumping into your ride. As a service of TravelingBikers.com, they offer a link to the Energy Information Administration Web page on current U.S. Retail Gasoline Prices. In addition, if you are interested (or just curious) on how much you'll spend on gas getting from here to there, there is a "gas cost calculator" on the web site. There are lots of other interesting and beneficial information on the website including accommodations, attractions, events, maps, road and weather conditions, food and drink, rentals, shipping/transport and many other categories. Please check it out - TravelingBikers.com.

MOTORCYCLE TIP - HOW TO TELL THE AGE OF YOUR MOTORCYCLE TIRES. Ever wonder just how long that tire you bought for your motorcycle sat on the shelf before you bought it? Or, maybe you're wondering just how old the tires are on the motorcycle you just bought. Here's how to tell. * Look on the sidewall of the tire for the DOT symbol. Follow the line of text and numbers after the DOT symbol until you reach

the end. If the tire was manufactured in the year 2000 or later, the last 4 digits give the age. The last 2 digits give the year and the preceding 2 digits give the week of manufacture. For example, the code 3606 means that the tire was manufactured in the 36th week of the year 2006. * If the tire was manufactured before the year 2000, the code is 3 digits long. Thus 366 would indicate the 36th week of the 6th year of the decade. Thus, before 2000, you had to make a judgment on which decade was intended. For example, 366 could mean the 36th week of 1996 or 1986.
motorcycleviews.com

COLD WEATHER RIDING. As we take to the roads in winter, it's essential for motorcyclists to consider the colder weather conditions. In the interest of rider comfort and safety during the colder months, let's consider the following: Your Motorcycle. Whatever make or style of bike you ride on (or off) the road, there are some essentials for maximizing your comfort and safety in the cold: * Windshield - As clunky and unromantic as they might appear, good windshields do exactly what their name implies. Your summertime "shorty" windshield may help with aerodynamics, but will it protect you when the mercury drops? * Battery Check - Cold weather will likely ask more of your battery, make sure it is up to the task and keep it charged! * Correct Oil - 10W / 40 oil for motorcycles is usually sufficient. * Coolant Levels - Liquid-cooled bikes need to have adequate anti-freeze for the expected temperatures. * Everything Else - Having a breakdown is never fun, but you'll really come up with some colorful interjections if you're stuck in freezing weather! Make sure your bike is running at best possible performance. Yourself as a Rider. If you intend to ride during the winter months, whether it's across town or through several states, bear in mind: * Your Clothing - Think of your body as a motorcycle. Like a bike without an alternator, a rider without proper clothing will lose energy (heat, in the rider's case) quickly. Even when well-dressed for walking in a winter wonderland, riding a motorcycle requires a bit more protection, because: (1) You're sitting still on a bike. Since your body is burning very few calories, it will be more susceptible to cold. (2) You're subject to wind chill, a perceived temperature drop due to the body's inability to warm the air around it. Dressing warmly will slow your body's heat loss, but not eliminate it. Like your bike's radiator, your exposed skin releases heat. Every breath you exhale radiates heat only to be replaced by cooler air. Finally, your body experiences cooling due to evaporation of its own humidity through breathing and sweating. Hypothermia (abnormally low body temperature) and frostbite (injury or destruction of skin and tissues due to cold) can occur in temperatures as high as 55 degrees Fahrenheit! If you're going to be riding in extremely cold temperatures and/or for extended periods, it is a good idea to add an "alternator" to replenish your body's heat in the form of electrically heated clothing. Low wattage vests are popular as they provide "just enough" heat to keep comfortable without restricting movement. * Your Experience - The extra layers provide more protection, but how much winter riding have you done? All those extra clothes will restrict your mobility and full-face helmets make that head check a little tougher. Remember, drivers don't expect to see motorcyclists in the cold weather! * Your Ride. Never climb onto your bike without knowing as much as possible about the trip ahead. In winter, the "need to know" is even greater, so remember to check: 1. Weather

Forecasts - We all laugh about the dubious accuracy of our local TV weatherperson, but it pays to look at forecasts and prepare for the worst. 2. Road Conditions - Even if the weather forecast calls for clear (if cold) riding conditions, you'll want to know about construction, high-traffic areas and other potential hazards on your route.
travelingusa.com

TRIPPING A TRAFFIC LIGHT Every motorcyclist has pulled up to a red traffic light and waited and waited to get the bike to trip a sensor to activate a left-turn traffic light or a green traffic light. Often they just do not trip and the rider has to come up with an answer to a question that a motorist never has to ask: How do I get the light to change? The average underground traffic sensor used to work by the weight of your vehicle. Most newer sensors use magnetic conductivity to monitor when there is a large mass of metal on the road. Some newer cities have also been using laser spotters installed on the lights themselves. The following tips on how to get your motorcycle to trip a traffic light are taken from discussions in the Motorcycles and Harley-Davidson forums. There are many solutions. Pick the one that is legal in your area and works for your bike. *

- * Get off your bike and push the "walk" button if it is safe.
- * Sometimes you may just have to look both ways and run the light, but with video cameras at intersections now to catch red light runners, you run the risk of a fat ticket in the mail. In some places it's OK to "proceed with caution" after 15 minutes, in some places after 2 cycles. You need to find out what the law is in your area. Also carrying a copy of the law with you can be beneficial.
- * If you fail to trigger the switch, wait at least one more cycle and then proceed when it is safe.
- * Sometimes it helps to kill the motorcycle and restart it just to get the magnetic fields going over the tripping device. Put yourself right over the detector if you can still see the grooves in the pavement. Give the bike a couple of good revs.
- * Turn right and then do a "U" turn when you can.
- * Threaten legal action. Start by calling the street department and complaining. Every week re-check the light. If you get no action, send them a nice professional letter threatening them with a lawsuit for any damage or injury you might suffer if you are involved in an accident because you had to run this defective light. Often, they will immediately dispatch a crew to fix the faulty sensor.
- * As you approach the intersection, there are lines cut into the pavement where the sensor was put in. The sensor pad is octagonal or square. Put the most metal over the intersection of two sides. Cover two intersections if you can. The center of the engine would be a good place.
- * Some lights trigger because of weight. They don't use "scales", but an electronic device called a strain gauge. It puts out an electrical signal proportional to the force applied to the device.
- * What usually works is to stop your ride on top of either the right or left side edge of the sensor cut outs. Sometimes there are two sets of sensors so the light can stay green long enough for traffic to go through. If traffic permits, stop on the back sensor as this will sometimes change the light faster.
- * Another trick is to put out your kickstand. The loops in the road are simply metal detectors like they use at the airport. So if you can get the kickstand out, there is more of a metal area to detect. Don't forget to retract your kickstand when the light finally changes.
- * Rig your bike with an electro-magnet under the frame. This is wired into the brake lamp circuit and induces enough of a field to trip most lights.
- * Consider the purchase of a device that will trip the light for you. One such product is the

GreenLight Trigger.TM * A possible new trend is the introduction of special motorcycle boxes that show you where to stop your bike to trip the light. The front-most "box" has a couple of additional diagonal lines, with an icon of a bike painted in the box. * Roll forwards and back in an effort to trip the sensors. * If you are waiting for a left-turn signal light to change, you can always proceed through the intersection on green and make three successive right-hand turns. This only works with regular city blocks. One diagonal road messes up the works. motorcycleviews.com IF MOTORCYCLE WERE LIKE COMPUTERS. . . * For no reason whatsoever your bike would crash twice a day. * Every time they put new trail markings up, you would have to buy a new bike. * Occasionally your bike would die on an uphill for no reason, and you would accept this, restart and ride on. * Occasionally, executing a maneuver such as a left turn, would cause your bike to shut down and refuse to start, in which case you have to reinstall the engine. * The bike would say "Are you sure?" before applying the brakes. * You would press the "Start" button to shut off the engine. * Macintosh would make a bike that was powered by the sun, reliable, five times as fast, and twice as easy to ride, but would only run on five percent of the trails/roads. * Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your bike would refuse to run until you simultaneously grabbed the plug wire, held the rear valve stem, and used the kick starter.

KNOB MOUNTAIN MOTORCYCLE BALLOT FOR 2009-10 OFFICERS

Please return this ballot form to Danny Wilson, Dean Curfman or Norman Lowman by November 23rd. Or, mail to:

Danny Wilson 3474 Icard Dairy Barn Road Connelly Springs, NC 28612.

Vote for one person for each office below.

President

_____ Gene Smith

Vice President

_____ Dave Kiziah _____ Sharon Wilson

Secretary:

_____ Crystal Gibson

Treasurer:

_____ No nomination

Activities Directors:

_____ Hal & Bobbie Smith _____ Bill Clayton

Signature _____

The new 2009-10 officers will be announced at the Christmas Party on Sunday, December 7th.

KNOB MOUNTAIN MOTORCYCLE CHAPTER NEW MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL FORM

CHECK ONE: ___New Application ___Renewal ___No changes from last year DATE _____ (be sure to list your name below under renewal and any changes)

A one time fee of \$10.00 is required for each new member. This includes the cost of a name badge and the club newsletter. All members must renew membership yearly (no renewal fee) to remain an active member and to receive the newsletter.

Renewal for self

Name _____

Email _____

MailingAddress _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Home/Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Renewal for spouse Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

New Member Name _____

Email _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Home/Cell Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Name of Knobbie Sponsoring you _____

New Member Spouse Name _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Other persons at same address Name(s) _____

Print name(s) you want on badge(s) _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ (NOTE: \$10 for self and \$10 for spouse and any other additional persons)

Waiver of Liability - All members and guests of Knob Mountain NC Motorcycle Chapter shall acknowledge by signature on either this Membership Application/Renewal Form or appropriate form that they and/or their families will participate in all club sponsored activities at their own risk. Minors may participate with the express written consent of a parent or legal guardian. All participants in a KMMC activity agree to release and hold harmless KMMC and its officers and members for any accident or injury sustained during travel or other participation in any KMMC sponsored activity. Signature(s)

Date _____

Signature(s) _____

Date _____

Supplemental Information (optional)

Membership in all other Motorcycle Clubs/Organizations:

Member's Name _____ Member's
Name _____

____ AMA Member # _____ AMA Member
_____ _____ BMWMOA Member # _____
____ BMWMOA Member # _____ _____ BMWRA Member
_____ BMWRA Member
_____ _____ Other Member # _____
____ Other Member # _____

Motorcycle(s) owned _____

Occupation _____ Other
hobbies/interests _____

Return this form to one of the club officers or mail to: Gene Smith, 3821 Laurelwood Road, Morganton, NC 28655

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 7 Knobbie Christmas Party, Little Sienna Restaurant, Marion, NC. Eat at 12:30.

Jan 18 9:00 a.m. Annual Meeting and Breakfast, Timberwood Restaurant, Morganton, NC.

Smith □ 3821 Laurelwood Rd. □ Morganton, NC 28655

Knob Mountain NC Motorcycle Chapter Newsletter #4, November, 2008