

FEBRUARY 1, 2021

BMW MOTORCYCLE OWNERS OF NORTH EAST FLORIDA INC

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

A GREAT YEAR AHEAD FOR MOTORCYCLING AND THE BMWNEF!

January 2021 was a great month for the club. It started out with great Penguin ride to Ormond Beach, a well attended meeting on the first Sunday of the month with breakfast served at the Fleet Reserve in Jacksonville, a terrific speaker from SkyMed and and many working behind the scenes to prepare for the Annual Winter Rally.

Camp Weed and Cerveney Conference Center in Live Oak Florida was the venue this year, a departure from Camp Blanding due to extenuating circumstances. Thursday morning saw the well oiled machine go into motion, RV's settling into their cozy spots under the trees and campers filing in to a beautiful grass field backed up bu forest all around. Vendors, Garage Sale and Seminar rooms were being prepared around the campus.

Registration this year was mostly by early sign up. Those who signed early were assured a guest room and catered meals. Camp Weed, a retreat facility operated by the Episcopal diocese of Jacksonville, did not have the tight attendance restrictions of a military base and we were able to accommodate late entries.

Volunteers helped with registration, RV and camping, merchandise and garage sales, and vendor and seminar display setups. Friday's lunch was available from the Philly's Best catering truck . Different this year...the food was catered Friday night, Saturday morning and Saturday evening by Camp Weed's excellent culinary expert Ed and his fine



staff. If you were hungry when the rally wrapped up you may have a tape worm.

With Thursday night came the lighting of the ritual bonfire. The fire was kept alive for the whole weekend and succeeded in burning over 3 cords of wood by Sunday morning.

Rain dominated the local weather but just to the north and south was fine weather to ride. Many took advantage to ride to Cedar Key, Steinhatchee and other destinations. Many stayed around rally central, visited with the vendors and attended seminars. The large porches at the venue made it easy to stay out of the rain, social distance and still visit with new and old friends.

Volunteers and rally attendees were all instrumental in this very successful rally. The surveys were collected, results tabulated and are still being analyzed as I write. Camp Weed and Camp Blanding are

both great venues, both having many attributes. Ratings were high for Camp Weed but there was not clear consensus for the preferred location. Stay tuned!!

Steve Wishard, our new club Vice President, has been taking some great pictures and videos, helping with the website and has some great ideas in marketing the club. Phil Mule and Steve have both been experimenting with Facebook and by many measures it has helped with club recognition.

Any member can post pictures on the site. Just log in and click on your profile. We will have a short tutorial on the subject but in the meantime feel free to call, email or text me with any website issues.

Being President of the Club is an honor. I know my passion is to ride and I know others share that passion. I hope to ride much more this year and let club express help us remember our rides and record the fun. Bill Botkin and Larry Meeker (and so many others) have done a great job leading rides. Destination suggestions are always welcome.

Our sweetheart weekend will be coming up this month, We'll post it and send out a blast to members.

In the meantime we'll have a meeting on Sunday February 7th at the Fleet Reserve and Bill Peterson will give highlights of his presentation at Camp Weed about the history of Riding into History.

Shinny side Up!!

Jim Allen