

Airhead Central  
At  
MOA 2009 National Rally

I just attended my first National MOA Rally in Johnson City with a lot of anticipation but limited expectations. I knew riding in the Smoky Mountains would be good (SURE WAS!!!) and expected to learn a few new things from the various seminars but I really wasn't prepared for the event itself. The MOA did a super job in laying out the Rally site, vendor setup, seminar scheduling and general coordination during the event. The only complaint I heard from any of the attendees I talked to was that the traffic flow was wrong and I have to admit dangerous at times.

But this report is from the Airhead perspective. Kevin Reimer (substituting for the notorious Florida Airmarshal, Gator Balough) and I arrived from Florida early to help setup Airhead Central and learned that Al Sloan (Illinois Airmarshal) who had done all the preparatory work for the Rally had to cancel at the last minute and had turned the job over to Doug McGee (Ohio Airmarshal). That put a real load on poor old Doug who had already signed up with the MOA for other duties during the Rally but like always, Airhead adaptability and resourcefulness came through in a pinch. Because Al had done such a super job of setting up before having to cancel, all Kevin had to do was help Doug select where to put the ABC funded tent and generator and how to place the furniture in our lounge.

Local Airhead support was immediate and more than sufficient with Bob Potter acting as the local mail drop for the Airstore, Dennis Handley coordinating furniture and providing our own Airhead vintage bike display, and Jill & Howard Etkind providing a complete kitchen set up with propane burners, pots, pans and utensils. The club locals had it all figured out and even Pigeon Forge George Remick, the Tennessee Airmarshal, was amazed at how well it all worked.

Bottom line is we had a superb Airhead Central setup in a very visible area where the camaraderie we are famous for was seen by all the Rally attendees. That resulted in more than 25 new member applications and approximately 150 renewals. Not bad for a three day rally. Airstore Sales were over \$3000. I helped Bruce Spotswood run the Airstore and membership applications while Kevin was working the chief wrench position. Tod Parks, our fearless leader was there to make sure we didn't screw up too badly and I believe I counted 19 Airmarshal Flags.

We definitely had a few weird ones in the Airhead repair category. First into the slot was a new member from Pittsburgh who rolled in on a R75/5. He had stopped at Rally Registration and when he got back on the bike, his clutch was acting real funny. After getting off and looking at the actuating lever, he learned that one of the supports coming out of the transmission cover had broken off and the lever was only partly supported, he collected the broken piece and somehow got the bike up the hill to Airhead Central. The /5 got to decorate the lounge the first night while the case was discussed extensively during barley therapy. The transmission was pulled that night and, here again with the help of the local club members, a machine shop was

found the next day and a 2-3 mm cap screw splice was put in place to get him home. Crude but it worked.

Another situation started with a California R100 that “didn’t idle” well. First step that we Florida boys always do there is to check the valves since we like to avoid work. In this case, it revealed that the right exhaust valve was ready to be eaten by the engine. Kevin even attempted to shave with it after they got it out. Fortunately, Fred Rowland had another head and, after installing an intake valve, Ken Whitehawk was rolling again. Other repair jobs included clutch cable replacement, removal and replacement of a Valero starter that had lost its magnets and simple tune ups.

The real highlight of the Rally for Airheads had to be the chow. We were truly blessed in that arena because Barry Stockwell showed up to do the cooking. This refugee Louisiana Cajun lives in Florida now and has cooked (his passion after motorcycles) at a lot of rallies and our local get togethers. Spicy would be the normal description of his fare but there were definitely no leftovers. Somehow or other he always finds some willing hands in the audience and this event was no exception. He fed us dinner on Thursday and Friday nights as well as breakfast on Friday. The donation can took care of the food supplies as well as drinks so I think everyone was more than happy with the results. At one time, I counted over 50 people in line for food!!

Since I’m not an experienced “Rally Head” I can’t compare with others but I can easily say that Airhead Central was the place to be during this one. I think we will have a lot of “dark side” riders thinking about getting on an airhead so they can join the crew. A new member, Wolf Hans, rode his sidecar rig from Washington to claim the hack distance award and of course, the Airhead Beemer Club got the Most Attendees at the rally.

Bob Messer  
#9053



AIRHEAD CENTRAL



WATCHING GREG WORK ON AN AIRHEAD IS BETTER THAN TV ANYDAY



THIS IS WHAT AIRHEADS DO FOR FUN



HE TRAVELED FROM CALIFORNIA FOR THIS SHOW



BREAK TIME 1

