

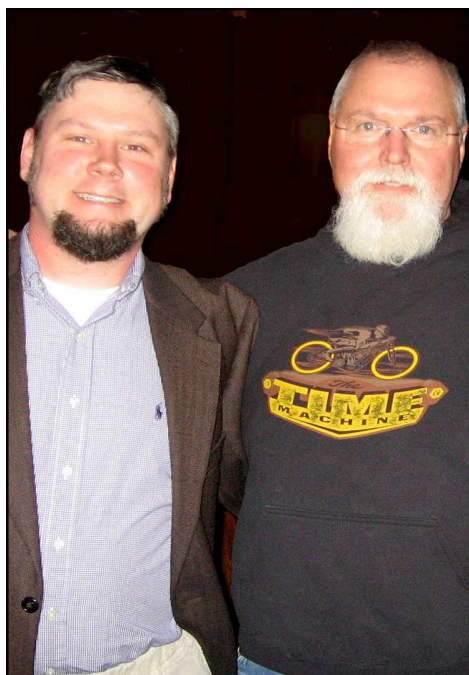
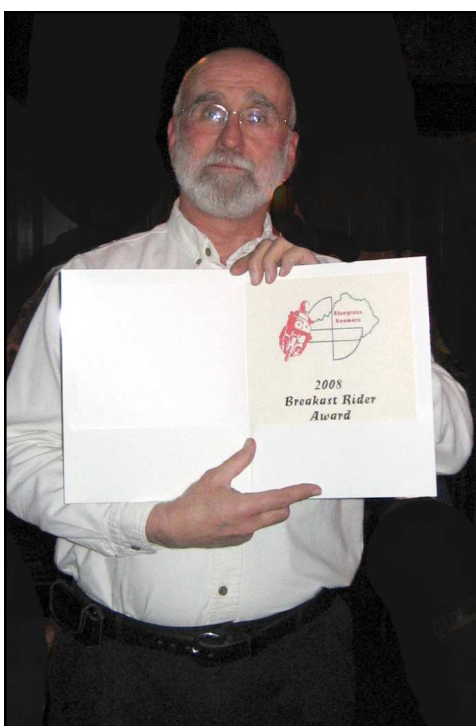
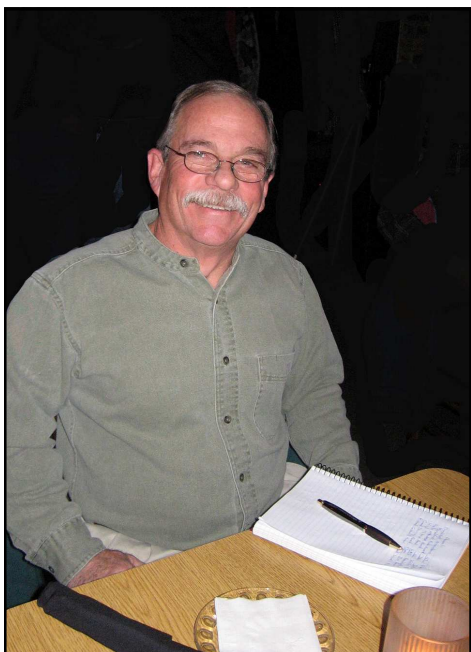
March 2009

# Apex

*Looking Through The Curve*

Official newsletter of Bluegrass Beemers, Inc. Lexington, Kentucky  
MOA #146 RA #4-49 <http://www.bluegrassbeemers.org>

## Record crowd attends Awards Banquet



Read about these winners and more inside!



# An open garage door and a hint of reflection

By Paul Elwyn

Finally, I was able to work with the garage overhead door open, yesterday! And I could paint without placing parts immediately in front of the electric heater to dry!

The custom bike builders on television manage somehow to knock out a complete show-quality "motorcycle" on schedule in their heated garage with a full machine shop, lift, and immediate access to specialty craftsmen including painters, engine suppliers, etc.

I'm lucky to have working lights when the air temperature in the garage falls below 25 degrees. My electric heater manages to keep a motorcycle-sized space at 40 degrees on a 32-degree day. I wear mechanics gloves for warmth as well as for protection from the grease, lacquer thinner, and the occasional knuckle crunch.

No, I'm not a professional bike builder, but I do labor under an anal attention to detail despite less-than-ideal working conditions, at least to the extent my eyes will allow. So when the many compromises come together, I bask in the dim light of the failure to attain a satisfactory build

standard on first attempt. I generally need three attempts at everything I do, then some repairs to the fixes.

Roy Rowlett, thankfully, has quickly assisted with mechanical issues such as rebuilding the transmission and transferring a low-mileage ring and pinion gear set from a late model bike to the '79 rear drive housing. He even stamped the housing with the new ratio. The 37/11 rear drive should offer quicker acceleration through the gears and more appropriate gearing for back roads where I spend most of my time.

So, all is moving along with the RT project, but the pace this spring will quicken



A photograph cannot capture the many details, but you're looking at *newer* gearing, a new wheel spline, fresh chassis paint, new transmission bearings, clutch friction disk and new related clutch bits, a fresh rear main seal, etc., all to see the light of day following the great thaw. Can you see how cold the floor has been?

with a warmer garage and an open door providing more light.

With milder temperatures and natural light streaming through the open overhead door so I can see what I'm doing, I hope to see a fairly complete RT in May ready for sorting, tearing down, and starting work all over on the many jobs I bungled during the cold winter months.

Man, this is fun!

It's been a long winter...beyond the weather.

Our awards banquet that ended with a snowy drive home provided opportunity to pause, again, to catch up and reflect.

At Hall's on The River we moved forward a bit more toward spring and all that the season holds, especially as we go forward in this non-cable-TV life to observe our breath in the cold, garage air, and as we visit old photos of warmer days, of real people.

Once more, I was reminded at Hall's that Bluegrass Beemers is more than motorcycles, and more than a breakfast.

It's what Randy said at the banquet, and more.



All that stuff on the floor *came off* with no problem.

# Awards Banquet at Hall's on the River draws largest crowd ever

**F**ifty-one members, spouses and friends of the club gathered at Hall's on the River on February 21 for the annual presentation of awards and rotation of leadership.

The evening began with presentation of custom patches honoring Boone Sutherland. Patches were created by Danville Police Officer Sam Butler who is a former patient of Boone's.

Incoming President Steve Little addressed the gathering prior to a nomination from the floor by outgoing President Mat Gafney of Ray Montgomery to serve as Vice President for 2009.

Dave McCord agreed to serve as Historian, continuing the LOG tradition established by Boone Sutherland.

Roy Rowlett continues as Treasurer, Rally Chairman, Awards Coordinator, and Club Technician.

## Awards Presented

Roy Rowlett proposed and is coordinating a new award presentation for recipients, a custom Polo shirt with embroidery on the shirt designating the award received. This award takes the place of plaque or trophy as presented in the past. Recipients at the banquet received a folder with the award designation. Roy requested sizing for the shirt to prepare an order.

### Saturday Attendance

**Pete Galski, 49 Saturday Club Breakfasts in 2008**, according to the LOG. Top attendees also included Lowell Roark, 47; Roy Rowlett, 46; John Rice, 42; Hubert Burton, 39; Paul Elwyn, 37; Tom Sutherland, 37; Steve Little, 36; Ron Atkins, 30; Dave McCord, 20; Randy Scott, 20; Jeff Crabb, 17; Jim Kouns, 17; Doug Searcy, 17; Heather Auman, 15; Lee Thompson, 15; Ken Perry, 14; Tom Rich, 12; Jesse Vaca, 11; Bob Walker, 11; Matt Gafney, 10.

### Saturday Attendance on Motorcycle

**John Rice, 39 Saturdays.** Top attendees riding a motorcycle to breakfast according to the LOG also are Steve Little, 33; Lowell Roark, 29; Hubert Burton, 26; Paul Elwyn, 26; Roy Rowlett, 22; Ben Prewitt, 21; Jim Brandon, 14; Jeff Crabb, 12; Lee Thompson, 12; Bob Walker, 11; Dave McCord, 10.



**Danville Police Officer Sam Butler and his wife, Trish** (standing), presented the club with a custom patch to honor Boone Sutherland. Sam, a former patient of Boone's and a motorcyclist, offered to provide additional patches on request. Anyone who did not receive a patch at the banquet and wishes to receive a patch can contact Paul Elwyn who will pass along the request to Sam for additional patches.

See Awards Banquet *continued on Page 4*

## Pictured on front page

**Award winners and officers pictured on front page** include (from top, clockwise) Dave McCord, Historian; Steve Little, President; Ray Montgomery, Vice-President; Heather Auman presenting a special award to Roy Rowlett, Treasurer & Rally Chairman; Randolph Scott, Mileage Award winner with 16,672 miles; Lowell Roark, Richard Caldwell Memorial Award with 21 motorcycle events for the year; Jim Haley, Grand Touring Award winner with 45,000 miles in 18 months; Pete Galski, Saturday Attendance winner with 49 Saturdays; and John Rice, Saturday Attendance on A Motorcycle with 39 Saturdays.

*Banquet photography by Pete Galski*



## Awards Banquet *continued from Page 3*

### Rally Attendance

**Kelly Ramsey, 10 rallies**

### Grand Touring Award

**Jim Haley, 45,000 miles in 18 months**

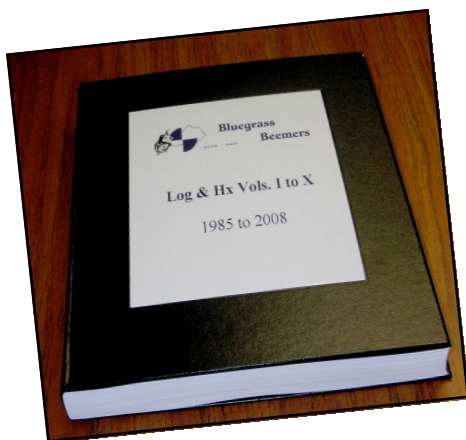
### Mileage Award

**Randolph Scott, 16,672 miles**

### Richard Caldwell Memorial Award

**Lowell Roark, 21 events, 9,359 miles**

One of the evening's highlights was the availability of a hard-bound collection and a CD of all ten volumes of the Bluegrass Beemers LOG, coordinated by Heather Auman to honor the contribution of Boone Sutherland over the past 30 years prior to his death on December 9, 2008.

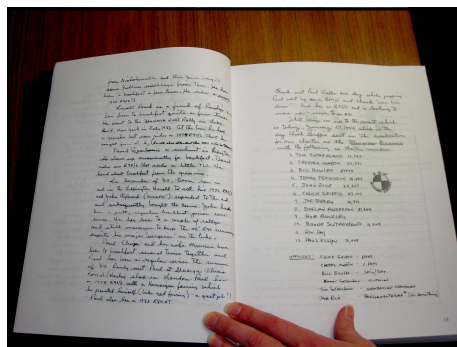


The book features 441 pages with 150 pages in full color, a handwritten history of the club by Boone, club bylaws, officers from 1985 through 2008, drawings and poems from 1987 through 2008, and all records kept by Boone.

The CD carries all that is in the book but with all attendance records. The book includes selected attendance records.

Also provided at the banquet were color paper copies of the e-mailed special issue of *Apex* produced to honor Boone.

In addition to the regular awards, Heather Auman orchestrated a keepsake

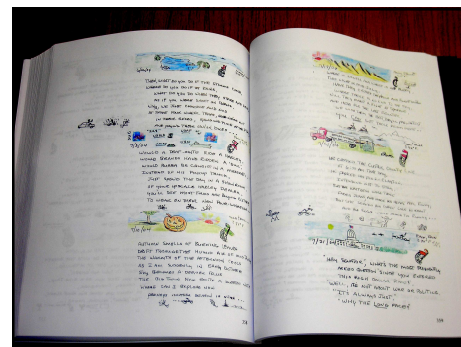


booklet for Roy Rowlett featuring tributes to Roy, along with articles and photos to say "Thank You" to Roy for all that he does for the club.

Following all presentations, Randolph Scott addressed the gathering to convey his thoughts related to the death of his good friend and riding partner, Boone Sutherland.

Randy asked that we not take our relationships for granted, advising that if we have a good friend, a riding partner, that we make sure that person knows how we feel.

Randy also announced a poker run to



honor Boone on the weekend of April 15, Boone's birthday. A \$10 hand to ride will benefit God's Pantry, an organization Boone regularly supported.

As in the past, Roy Rowlett pulled together the award data and arranged for the awards. Be sure to thank Roy the next time you see him.

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**Editor's Note:** Pete Galski graciously agreed to photograph the evening for us. Thanks, Peter!



Charles and Denise Norton, Danny Philips. Note Brenda Rice in the background.



# Banquet Images



Terrie and Tom Rich



Steve Little (incoming President), Steve Bishop,  
Matt Gafney (outgoing President)



Jeff and Kim Crabb



Matt Gafney, Jim Brandon, Gail and Ben Prewitt



Paul, John and Brenda Rice



Joy and Bob Walker (foreground) and  
Joyce and Lowell Roark



## Awards Banquet Images *continued from Page 5*



John and Karla Barnes, and John and Carol Keeling



Philip and Mary Baugh, and Paul and Maureen Elwyn



Roy Rowlett, Ray and Linda Brooks



Brooke Pohl (with Danny Phillips across the table),  
and Jim and Carol Haley

**Also present at the banquet but not pictured** were Mark Michael, Stan Horsley, Ray and Linda Brooks, Cindy Ferguson and Addison (with Paul Rice), Lynn Montgomery, Lee and Laura Thompson, Brian Sawyer and Dee Deakins.

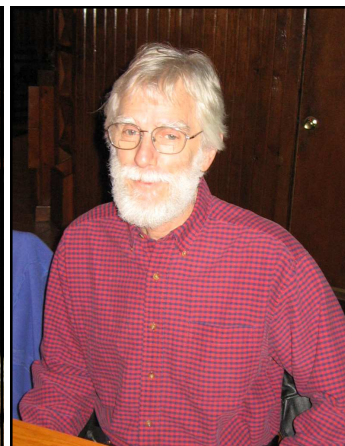
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Submit text in Rich Text Format,  
photos/art in jpg format  
to [paul.elwyn@gmail.com](mailto:paul.elwyn@gmail.com).

**Deadline: Last day of each month**



Marrea Mathews



Hubert Burton

# Roy's Book

Compiled by Heather Auman *reformatted to fit into Apex*



## In Honor of Roy Rowlett

AMA #365234

BB# 25

MOA 45832

RA 18342

Vintage 6984

February 2009

Roy,

There was talk to do something more special for you when we all chipped in to get your Kermit chair. It's more of a keepsake to show how much we appreciate you.

Here's our best attempt on capturing some stories, thoughts, photos, and comments.

We value your hard work in organizing the Beemers in the Bluegrass Rallies and volunteering to be Treasurer, which we realize takes incredible patience and effort.

Thank you again, Roy!

Heather Auman

Roy,

In life there are those who talk about doing things and those who actually make things happen. You make things happen.

Through the years you have done many jobs for the club, but the rally in my mind stands out because of what the event has done to engage other members.

I recall a day before you organized the first Beemers in the Bluegrass Rally when you expressed to me your concern regarding support from our club for a Kentucky rally that we would sponsor. I advised you to bring the subject up to the club and get their feedback, that likely the club would support such an effort, but that they could not without your raising of the issue and committing to the effort.

I also said that my only concern was that at some point the effort would become a strain and the club would struggle to sustain the rally. We know how the Indiana club finally discontinued the annual Shakamak Rally. They simply wore out the membership.

Not only did the club support the idea that you advocated, but members continue to support the effort after all these years. That continuing effort reflects on your leadership, your commitment, follow-through to the idea, and respect for those who have little interest or involvement in the rally.

I admire that quality in you, the ability to engender and sustain a commitment among others to the project.

You have every reason to be proud of what you have accomplished.

—Paul Elwyn  
08/19/08

I do not believe I know of a nicer guy than Roy. I have never asked anything of Roy that he did not go out of his way to help in any way he could. Roy is absolutely the best!

—tom s

Roy,

I want to express my gratitude to you over the last five years that you have worked on all three of my BMW bikes (including the infamous 280,000 mile K100 that caught on fire while you were riding it. 3 bikes, 3 clutches and 2 minor accidents later

I finally have a really nice K12 thanks to you! You know I started fooling with these Beemers in 2003 when Freddy sold me the first K. I think I stayed with

them because it was something Sheba and I could do together! We would not be riding them today if it was not for you. Thanks once again for your fairness and your help over the years!



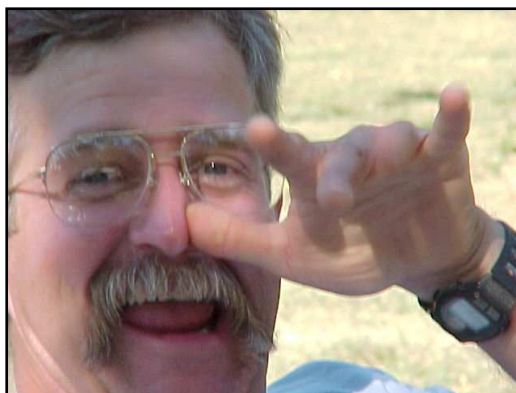
—Mark & Sheba



# Roy's Book

Compiled by Heather Auman *reformatted to fit into Apex*

Here are a few pixs of the 1998 Rally and a few of Roy and Fred at Bike Week 1999:



Chris N Johnny





## Roy's Book Compiled by Heather Auman *reformatted to fit into Apex*

Roy,

I am thankful that I am able to add something to this book for you.

I really appreciate all you help over the years with my motorcycles. I will never forget many of the things we have done together during all these years of motorcycling.

You helping me get my first toaster tank set up for touring.

All the rallying we did together.

Our first ride on a Kbike.

Our first trip to Bike Week.

Our leap year trip to Bike Week.

The first Bluegrass Beemers Rally.

Installing the Flexit on my Kbike.

And so many other things but I don't want to take up all your book.

My friend, let's start doing it all over again.

—Charles Norton



Roy was the first person that Paul Elwyn introduced me to upon arriving at my first Beemer breakfast. Roy's extensive knowledge of BMW's and motorcycles in general fascinated me so I was drawn to converse with him whenever possible and I am sure I always took away more than I contributed. I appreciate all that Roy has done for the Bluegrass Beemer's but the thing I appreciate most about Roy is his genuine kindness and caring for his friends and family.

Thanks Roy for all that you do!

—Ray & Lynn Montgomery

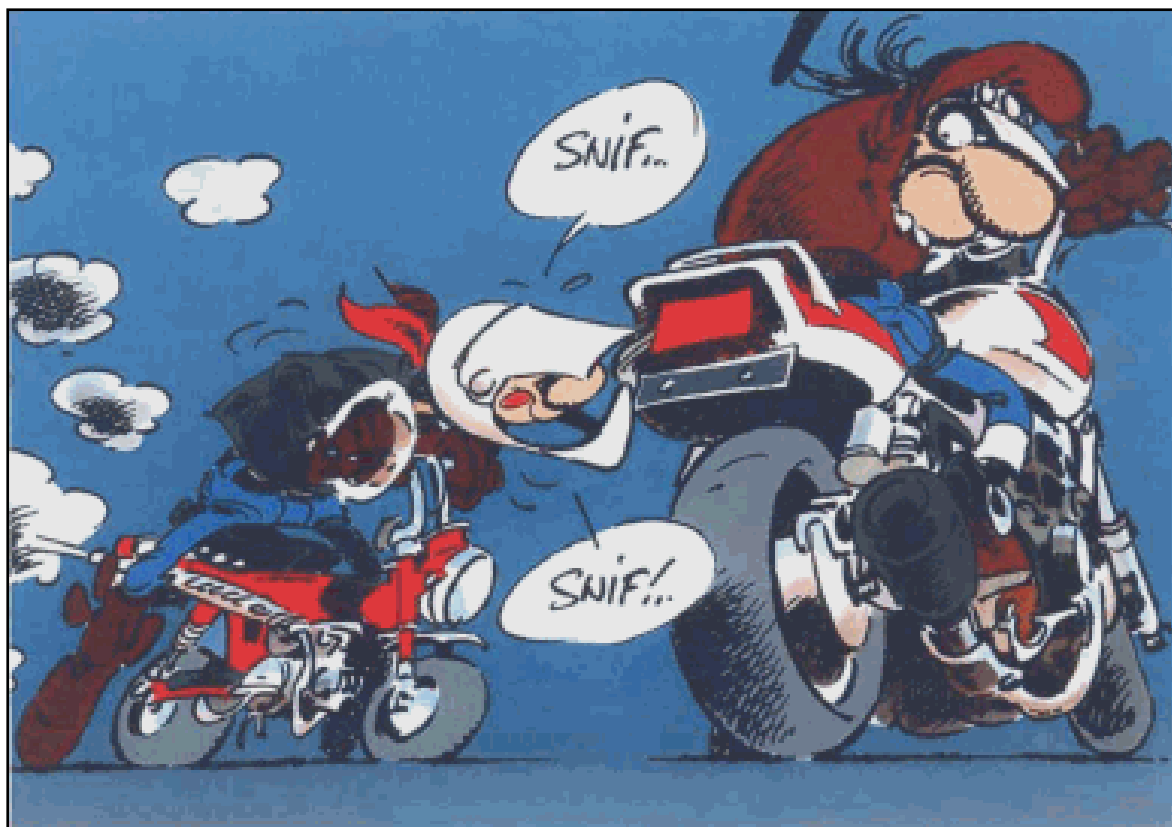




# Roy's Book

Compiled by Heather Auman

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You Ride, You ARE My Friend

There ONCE WAS A RIDER NAMED ROY  
AND HE WASN'T JUST ANY OL' BOY  
He LOVED to Ride Bikes  
He'd Ride 'em ALL NIGHT  
'CAUSE IT FILLED HIM WITH SO MUCH JOY !

LTRRTL Brother

Matt Galt



# Roy's Book Compiled by Heather Auman    reformatted to fit into Apex

August 22, 2008

Dear Roy,

When I heard of the surprise tribute to you from the Bluegrass Beemers I smiled and said to myself, this is way overdue and I am so happy you are being formally recognized. My dear friend if it were not for you I would mostly likely be walking! You know what I mean! All of your help, friendship, fairness and guidance throughout the past 20 years have meant more to me than you know. The countless times you were there to help me and keep my old rig going strong, the kindness you have shown me and to so many in need, the honesty and fairness in your dealings with others and your ever-present wit and mechanical competence are an anchor to our club and our community.

I have made the comment "if everything in my life worked as well as my 26 year old boxer BMW I would be kicking Bill Gates ass" Well at least on a couple of levels.

I have you to thank for keeping so much of my motorcycle fun rolling on.

This tribute to you Roy is so deserved. Thank you for your patience and good nature.

Congratulations on being appreciated and honored. You're the best and we are all lucky to call you our friend.

Keep on twisting wrenches because I don't want to start walking! Hey, by the way I think the valves need adjusting. Can I crash your garage next week? I'll bring the cigars.

Woosh



Roy;  
I have a hard time finding folks I can just ease with right out of the gate. Well I guess you & I rode Range Together in a past life; had to. Very comfortable to be around. Hanging around your shop is always good for a laugh & at the same time a learning experience. I look at Machinery to see the part that makes it work, the one essential thing!! You see it.  
Thanks for Being there Roy!  
Matt Gaffin

Dear Roy,

Although I am fairly new in the club I appreciate all you have done in the past to keep us all informed and pass along information to everyone. Keeping people in touch with one another keeps the club together and keeps us buying, selling, and trading. I am glad you enjoy doing it since it takes a lot of time and work. Thank you for the friendship, the mechanical help, and the Saturday morning conversation. I hope you are around for a couple of more decades of the same.

From one who appreciates BMW'S but rides a HONDA,  
DOUG SEARCY, 1984 Gold Wing 1200 GL



## Roy's Book Compiled by Heather Auman *reformatted to fit into Apex*

There are so many things I could say about Roy but I will keep it brief.

He has to be one of the nicest persons I have ever known. I love him dearly and am so glad we met. He is the most stable thing in my life and I hope he knows how very important he is to me.

But on the other hand don't ever go to a restaurant with him that has a clown act for children. He will embarrass you if he is left to his own devices.

We stopped at a local restaurant that has a clown for the children on "kids" nights. The clown must have been bored or he spotted a similar soul. I am not sure which. I turned my back for a second and when I looked back the clown had talked Roy into doing an act (that is Roy's story).

The clown made a rose of balloons and showed Roy how to strut on his knees and give me the rose. He got a round of very loud applause from the other patrons. He presented the balloon rose the same way he would present a dozen roses, with sincerity and a look of wonder.

He is truly a rare person (and sometimes crazy at that).

Fred

August 26, 2008



Roy,

Many thanks for the many years of advice, loaned tools, parts, work, and all of the other things you've done to keep my motorcycling habit alive. As I think back on the riding I've done over the time I've been a part of the Beemers, it's amazing how much of that time has either been the result of something you've done for my bike or it's been an event we've been to as part of the group. Most of all, thanks for being a good friend.

—James Street

Roy:

Your non-stop efforts have helped the club through many varieties of troubles, fun, calamities, great, and sad times.

Though Bob Beard did for awhile, you're our only club member who has "gone postal" for over twenty years. Great Job!!!

Thanks for all your contributions,

Pete

(Galskis - BB Member #18)

Roy,

I want to thank Roy for welcoming me into the Beemers of the Bluegrass Club when I moved to Lexington in 2003. Roy answered a ton of my maintenance questions at first and then helped keep my 03 R1150 GS going for 100,000 miles.

When I lived in Lexington, I always enjoyed spending time in Roy's garage (except the time I scratched Brian Sawyer's brand new truck with my bike).

Last year, I bought a new GSA 1200 and have put 36,000 miles on it so far. Needless to say, I could sure benefit from Roy's service work here in Columbus, OH.

Roy, if you ever get the urge to move north, I could sure keep you busy!

Thanks for keeping me in the club, and I hope to see you all at breakfast very soon.

Regards,

Jim Haley

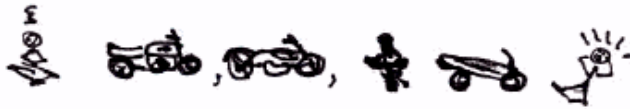


# Roy's Book

Compiled by Heather Auman *reformatted to fit into Apex*



WE STARTED WITH NOTHING BUT BEEMERS,  
THEN SOME "BRITS" AND SOME RICS BATHING SCREAMERS,  
THEN A "GOOSE OR TWO",  
SOME "DUCKS" FOR THE ZOO,  
WE EVEN HAVE SOME WANNABE DREAMERS...



THEN, WHAT DO YOU DO IF THE STORMS COME,  
WHERE DO YOU GO IF IT RAINS,  
WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN THEY STARE AND GRIN,  
AS IF YOU WERE SHORT ON BEANS,  
WHY, WE JUST CHUCKLE AND NOD  
AT THOSE FOUR WHEEL TRAPS, GLAD WE'RE NOT  
IN THEIR SHOES, SPENDING TIME AT THE PTA,  
AND PAYING THEIR UNION DUES...



—Boone Sutherland

Roy,

Words cannot express how wonderful it is to have you as a mechanically sound friend. Y

ou've been there for me and my 2001 F650GSA with the routine maintenance and even came to my rescue when my battery died.

I appreciate your knowledge and skills for bikes and your impeccable service!

I've only been a member for a few years but know you're truly valued as a key member of the Bluegrass Beemers.

It was an honor to serve as president for 2007.

Ride on Buddy!

—Heather Auman

## Roy's Book Compiled by Heather Auman *reformatted to fit into Apex*

I don't have a single story about Roy. There are so many that selecting one would be impossible. He is the "go-to guy" for all things motorcycle in the world of the Beemers. Not every group is lucky enough to have one, but every group needs one.

I first met Roy, in about 1974 at Tom Clark's farm near Berea, Kentucky. I was a newbie trials rider, showing up at an event where I didn't know anyone. Down in the creek that ran through the farm I spotted a tall skinny kid on a Honda TL 125 trials bike tackling a long stepped waterfall, going up each step slowly and precisely, then turning around, coming down and then doing it again. He introduced himself, then went off for more practice. Little did I know then that he would be part of my life....and bail me out of numerous motorcycle-related disasters...for the next 34 years. Neither of us is quite as skinny as we were then and there've been a few other changes for both of us, but the fundamentals haven't changed.

He's still an essential element of the Central Kentucky motorcycle family and we're all glad....and lucky...he's here.

John Rice

[www.johnricelaw.com](http://www.johnricelaw.com)

**There once was a club wrench named Roy  
Who kept us all ridin', oh boy!  
Changes filters and oil,  
Tho' summer does boil  
And doesn't charge like we live in Savoy!**

—JP Bark

At this time I'd like to offer my thanks to Roy Rowlett for helping to keep my old Airhead on the road. Without Roy's expertise I'm sure the R100S would've been parked in the garage a long time ago.

So far he's had the rear drive refurbished, a top-end engine rebuild, the installation of a new clutch, new rear shocks, fork seals a couple of times, plus numerous tune-ups and numerous tires as well as batteries and the like.

His work has always been top-notch and he's never broken me up on the cost, either.

So kudos to Roy for everything he does to keep my old bike running.

Then there's his devotion to the Bluegrass Beemers rally!!

I must admit that I'm one that's not much on rallies, but I always try to attend ours and am always impressed by the quality of the product offered.

Thanks Roy, I appreciate everything you do for me and the club.

—Dave McCord

Not in Roy's Book:

### **What I Learned while scanning 10 BMW logs:**

1. Learned who went to Maggie Mountain, Daytona, Natural Bridges and Rallies
2. Boone's first color drawing was on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1993.
3. A bike's color can be "look at me green." 8/17/96
4. John Rice and Joe Bark, you sure earned a lot of free breakfasts- not bad for a doctor and lawyer.
5. Assistant scribes have really bad handwriting, but don't we all compared to our main scribe, Boone.
6. Seeing, "Boooo, Boooo, Boooo" in the log book means it was a rainy day.
7. The weather one day was recorded as, "Momentarily clear with dark stuff to the west." 4/13/1996
8. The record for attendance was 37 on beautiful summer day on 07/07/07...a close second place was 35 on a 21 degree cold winter day on 12/13/08.
9. Recorded in the log book was, "Cool, except there was no Boone or Chester or Tom - it was quiet at that end of the table."
10. Creating a book was so much fun, we made another for Roy! Here's a thank you from the group for your many years of organizing rallies and being our trusted mechanic. It's a small book with kudos, pictures, and notes of appreciation from some of the Bluegrass Beemers members.

—Heather Auman