

BMW OWNERS NEWS

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www.bmwmoa.org

RIDES4FUN EXPANDS RIDING SERIES TO FIVE EVENTS FOR 2025

After the success of its sold-out weekend riding retreats in 2024, Rides4Fun has expanded the schedule of events for 2025. The series will bring incredible motorcycle adventures to five breathtaking locations across four states. Riders of all brands are encouraged to join in on the fun.

"We got great feedback from the riders who joined us for the events held in April and September last year," said Rides4Fun owner and MOA member Fred Bramblett (#101458). "We offer numerous opportunities for guests to enjoy the weekend, both on and off the bike. In addition to quality lodging and dining, we provide our guests with several street and big-bike friendly adventure routes to choose from."

2025 Events Include:

April 25-27 – MOA Getaway at Breaks

Breaks Interstate Park, Breaks, Virginia

May 16-18 – MOA Getaway at Buckhorn Lake

Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park, Buckhorn, Kentucky

August 15-17 – MOA Getaway at Pipestem

Pipestem State Park, Pipestem, West Virginia

September 12-14 – MOA Getaway at Pine Mountain

Pine Mountain State Resort Park, Pineville, Kentucky

October 3-5 – MOA Getaway at Unicoi

Unicoi State Park, Helen, Georgia

Secure your spot today! Visit Rides4FunSeries.com for event details, email updates and registration.

"I'm looking forward to once again sharing all that Appalachia has to offer with my fellow riders," said Bramblett. "Rides4Fun events are not only fun, but they help support local economies in rural areas. Our series partner Backroads of Appalachia is also dedicated to that cause."

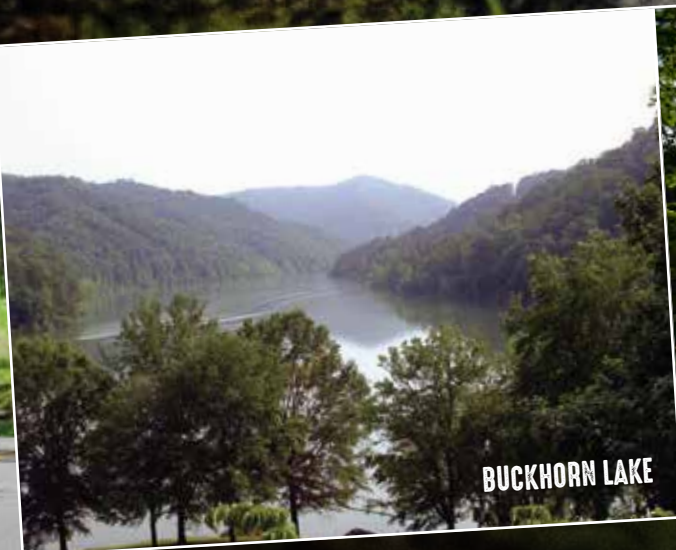
Rides4Fun offers motorcyclists a curated event experience through a partnership with the BMW MOA to simplify and increase the enjoyment of the trip to the event destination and back. Plus, select vendors will be onsite to interact with guests after they ride some of the best roads in the region.

Series partners include BMW MOA, Alpinestars, Backroads of Appalachia, Helmet House and Redverz. Marketing partners include Aerostich, Cardo, Continental Tire, Diamond Motorcycle, DP Brakes, Dunlop, Motion Pro, National City, Ogio, RoadRUNNER magazine, SkyMed and Torch Eyewear. To partner with Rides4Fun, please visit Rides4FunSeries.com/contact.

Join Rides4Fun in 2025 at one or all of the scheduled events!



BREAKS



BUCKHORN LAKE

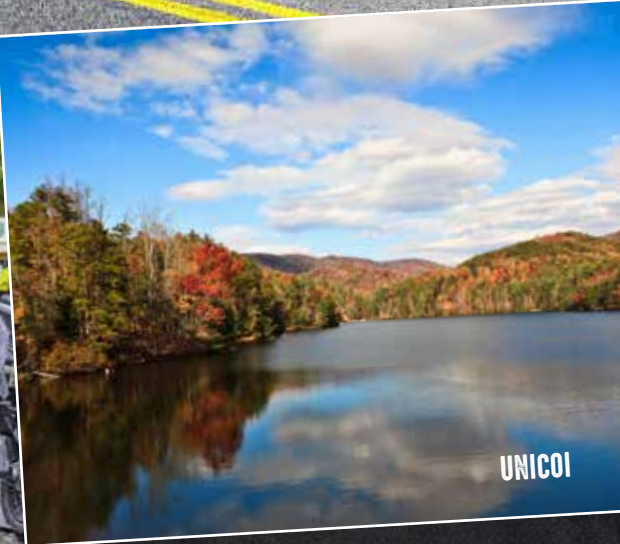




PIPESTEM



PINE MOUNTAIN



UNICOI

ALPINESTARS ST-7 2L JACKET AND PANTS

By Fred Bramblett #101458

I live in Kentucky and ride more than 17,000 miles each year, mostly on back roads of the central and southern Appalachian Mountains in all types of weather. I currently ride a 2023 R 1250 GSA and own Rides4Fun, a company that organizes and hosts several BMW MOA Getaway events. About two years ago, I began evaluating apparel, airbag protection and footwear for the Italian powersports company Alpinestars.

The ST-7 2L GORE-TEX jacket and pants is four-season touring gear targeted toward the rider who appreciates quality using technical materials built with a design allowing full mobility and all-day comfort that only an experienced rider appreciates. The 100% guaranteed waterproof and breathable GORE-TEX two-ply laminated construction of the ST-7 2L gives riders confidence knowing that when their ride is done, they are going to be as dry and comfortable as when they began.

The chassis of both the jacket and pants offers great comfort and fit thanks to their design. At 6'2" and 248 pounds, I appreciate that the products were engineered with stretch panels in the chest, back, saddle, knee and underarm areas. It is easy to see that the design of the jacket came from the desk of a rider. Small features like the jacket's straight collar with a direct closure by shock cord helps further seal out the elements.

Two large waterproof cargo pockets provide easy access both in the riding position and when off the bike. As a four-season touring outfit, the pants and jacket include a thermal liner for an extra level of comfort in cooler conditions. The liners have received the same attention to detail the outerwear garments do. To prevent bunching and restrictions, the jacket liner has multiple stretch panels built with 100-gram insulation in the torso and 60-gram insulation in the arms. This adjustment to the amount of arm insulation is a small but important detail and prevents an uncomfortable restriction of arm movement while in the riding position because of excessive bulk. The jacket and pants can also be connected via zipper.

The jacket is offered in three color combinations including Gobi Brown/Black, Black and Ice Gray/Dark Blue/Black, with the pants only available in black. The

jacket is also compatible with the Alpinestars Airbag Protection systems, allowing their AirTech vest to be worn inside or over the jacket to offer the rider state-of-the-art protection.

The jacket and pants both offer plenty of ventilation options when riding in the warmer temperatures of summer and are another example of rider-based design. Like the pockets, the vents can also be easily opened or closed with one hand while wearing gloves either when stopped in traffic or while riding down the road.

Using the size chart posted on the Alpinestars website, I found my size to be 4XL for the jacket (Room for my AirTech 3 vest under) and 3XL for the pants. I found the product fit to be roomy with the structure and design of the jacket and pants feeling equally good both on and off the bike yet still comfortable with the thermal liners installed in each item. The weight of the garment's fabric is a nice balance between comfort and protection. I believe the Alpinestars ST-7 2L gear offers riders a feel falling somewhere between KLIM's Badland Adventure and Kodiak Touring Suits or Aerostich's original Roadcrafter and Roadcrafter Lite.

For rider protection, the ST-7 2L includes CE Level 2 rated Nucleon Flex Armor in the elbows and shoulders, which offers good impact protection in the event of a fall. I currently have a little over 3,800 miles on the Alpinestars gear with my first trip a 200-mile ride to a business meeting in Tennessee last August.

Leading up to that ride, the weather forecast was for thunderstorms and much to the amusement of my neighbors, I left home in the middle of a heavy thunderstorm with the first 40 miles in heavy rain for a little more than an hour. Then bad luck hit when I had a tire go flat from a large cut in my tire. There was no way the plug strips I was carrying were going to repair the tire. While that trip was over, the waterproof test for the gear continued as it took three hours before my brother was able to rescue me with a trailer. Through that ordeal, I could confirm that the gear was indeed 100% waterproof.

Since that first trip I have used the gear in moderate and light rain on multiple occasions, with complete satisfaction. I have also worn the gear over a wide temperature range and found the ventilation offered in

both the jacket and pants working great when riding in the low 90s of the humid southern U.S. Last October, I was also able to test the thermal liners when my ride began with a temperature of 39 degrees. I started my 200-mile ride with only a thin base layer merino wool shirt fully expecting to stop after a few miles to add a mid-layer for more warmth. I was surprised to be comfortable all day with just my base layer on with the liners. Two hundred miles later, the temperatures had only risen to about 53 degrees. Regardless, I was comfortable and found the liners worn with the jacket and pants offering a comfortable ride. Additionally, the full zipper and on each ankle were greatly appreciated. I also found the magnetic buckle on the waist and full gusset fly on the pants to be nice features. Overall, I was pleasantly surprised with the micro rider-climate of the garment with the liners installed.

I will be sad when I have to return the gear to the R&D group at Alpinestars—yes, they always email at some point asking for the items to be returned after being used for several thousand miles to be examined internally at the R&D center.

With over 50 years of riding experience, I am a dinosaur and am all about using proven designs/materials like the GORE-TEX laminated construction used on the Alpinestars ST-7 2L gear. When I head out on a trip for an extended weekend or longer, I want confidence in my touring outfit. What is acceptable on a day ride close to home is not my concern. How something works when I am a thousand miles from home is my focus. I want to be confident I am not going to have a zipper fail or waking up on the third day hating to put the pants on because of their poor fit or construction. I want to be confident that I am going to be comfortable no matter what the weather and everything is going to work as planned. Alpinestars's new ST-7 2L jacket and pants give me all the confidence and comfort I desire.

With a retail price of \$699.95 for the jacket and \$549.95 for the pants, the Alpinestars ST-7 2L jacket and pants are priced to compete with other premium riding apparel brands like KLIM, REV'IT, Aerostich or Dianese.

Alpinestars began in 1963 in the small, northern Italian town of Asolo by Sante Mazzarolo, a leather craftsman. Mazzarolo's original products included boots for enduro and motocross riders. Today Alpinestars is owned and operated by Sante's son Gabriele and has become one of the largest technical safety products and fashion companies in the world with the Alpinestars logo found on helmets, apparel, airbag protection and footwear. They are considered the premier brand found in nearly every form of motorcycle, mountain bike and auto racing. The company's "Race on Sunday Innovate on Monday" mantra is what allows them to develop products for their customers.

For more information, visit alpinestars.com **ON**



Like many MOA members, I was introduced to my lifetime passion with a pull start minibike. My early days of riding consisted of me chasing my older and faster brother over trails and around tracks growing up. Eventually my passion for all things motorcycle evolved, into a career in the motorcycle industry. For 20+ years I owned OMS Sports, a full-service Sports Agency. Long before it was a marketing buzz word, Adventure Riding was simply touring by motorcycle. I have had the opportunity to enjoy touring on and off-road throughout North America, The Andes mountains of South America, Asia, Europe and Australia.

WHEN & WHERE

16 5/15/2025 - 5/18/2025
26TH ANNUAL EUROPEAN RIDERS RALLY

Burkesville, Kentucky
ridersrally@bmwmcon.org

17 5/16/2025 - 5/18/2025
MOA GETAWAY AT BUCKHORN LAKE

Buckhorn, Kentucky
fred@rides4funseries.com

18 5/17/2025 - 5/18/2025
NEW SWEDEN 450

Burnt Cabins, Pennsylvania
pjliskojr@gmail.com

19 5/30/2025 - 6/1/2025
48TH ANNUAL HIAWATHA RALLY

Houston, Minnesota
hiawatharally@gmail.com

20 6/6/2025 - 6/8/2025
MOTOMO RALLY

Crane, Missouri
kronie12@gmail.com

21 7/24/2025 - 7/27/2025
TOP O' THE ROCKIES RALLY

Paonia, Colorado
topotherockies@bmwmcc.org

22 8/15/2025 - 8/17/2025
MOA GETAWAY AT PIPESTEM

Pipestem, West Virginia
fred@rides4funseries.com

23 9/5/2025 - 9/7/2025
54TH WISCONSIN DELLS RALLY

Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin
rallychair@wiscbmwclub.com

24 9/8/2025 - 9/12/2025
SMOKY MOUNTAIN MAGIC TOUR SEPTEMBER 2025

Fontana Dam, North Carolina
becky.smith@bmwmoa.org

25 9/11/2025 - 9/14/2025
40TH ANNUAL LAND OF ENCHANTMENT BAVARIAN MOUNTAIN WEEKEND

Chama, New Mexico
rallychair@loebmwr.org

26 9/12/2025 - 9/14/2025
MOA GETAWAY AT PINE MOUNTAIN

Pineville, Kentucky
fred@rides4funseries.com

27 9/18/2025 - 9/20/2025
5TH ANNUAL LAUREL HIGHLANDS WEEKEND - SPONSORED BY THE BMW MOA

Somerset, Pennsylvania
gsjay@kaplitz.com

28 9/18/2025 - 9/19/2025
MOA PREMIER TRAINING AT THE BMW PERFORMANCE CENTER

Greer, South Carolina
membership@bmwmoa.org

29 10/3/2025 - 10/5/2025
MOA GETAWAY AT UNICOI

Helen, Georgia
fred@rides4funseries.com

30 10/6/2025 - 10/14/2025
ADV CANNONBALL GPS RALLY

United States
rm@advcannonball.com

31 10/23/2025 - 10/24/2025
MOA PREMIER TRAINING AT THE BMW PERFORMANCE CENTER

Greer, South Carolina
membership@bmwmoa.org



The graphic features a central banner with a blue and red background. On the left is the 'RIDES4FUN' logo, a stylized 'R' with a road leading to it. In the center, a large '50 YEARS' is written in white. To the right is a silhouette of a motorcyclist in a blue suit with 'MOA' on the chest, riding a motorcycle. On the far right is the 'BACK ROADS OF APPALACHIA' logo, which includes a map of the region. Below the banner, a black box with a white border contains the text '2025 Schedule' in white, followed by a list of events: 'APRIL 25-27 - MOA GETAWAY AT THE BREAKS, BREAKS, VA', 'MAY 16-18 - MOA GETAWAY AT BUCKHORN LAKE, BUCKHORN, KY', 'AUGUST 15-17 - MOA GETAWAY AT PIPESTEM, PIPESTEM, WV', 'SEPTEMBER 12-14 - MOA GETAWAY AT PINE MTN, PINEVILLE, KY', and 'OCTOBER 3-5 - MOA GETAWAY AT UNICOI, HELEN, GA'. At the bottom, it says 'FOR MORE INFO www.rides4funseries.com OR CALL 859-653-9585'.

50 YEARS

BMW MOA

2025 Schedule

APRIL 25-27 - MOA GETAWAY AT THE BREAKS, BREAKS, VA
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