

BMW OWNERS NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE BMW MOTORCYCLE OWNERS OF AMERICA



NOVEMBER 2024
www.bmwmoa.org

GETTING AWAY AT PINE MOUNTAIN

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Riders from 17 states and Canada on all brands and styles of motorcycles traveled to southeastern Kentucky during the first week of September. Their destination: Pine Mountain State Resort Park for the BMW MOA Kentucky State Rally, hosted by Rides4Fun.

As riders arrived in Pineville, Kentucky, and turned off Highway 25E, they rolled past the Wasioto Winds Golf Course. Wasioto means "Valley of Deer," so riders were warned to keep a close eye on wildlife. The ideal weather for this year's event was a bonus to the already existing natural wonders. While rolling through the park's rhododendron plants and hemlock trees, riders could not help but be in awe of the natural beauty surrounding them. After enjoying stunning scenic views, riders arrived at the oldest of Kentucky's 44 state parks.

The Herndon J. Evans Lodge was the first stop for riders as they arrived for this MOA Getaway. The lodge's masonry and wood craftsmanship using local stones and native hemlock must be seen in person to be fully appreciated. At check-in, guests picked up gift bags loaded with information about the area and enjoyed cold, refreshing beverages from the Mountain Top Tavern, as well as warm, fresh cookies from the Mountain View Restaurant. The relaxing schedule provided riders time to unload and explore the parks many amenities after checking in.

By the afternoon, guests began to gather in the park's conference center and banquet room, where they enjoyed private bar service while visiting the

vendor displays. As the crowd started to build, the welcome reception sponsored by Medjet Assist began. Appetizers were provided, and Daryl Casey, along with representatives from the MOA, welcomed everyone before conducting a short riders meeting. The vendors were introduced, and Dunlop announced that every guest that visited their booth would be going home with a \$100 coupon toward their next purchase.

Next, Daryl introduced Rides4Fun's event marketing partner: Backroads of Appalachia. Jay Fryman provided a short program highlighting all of the great work the organization is doing in the region. For those not familiar with the organization, Backroads of Appalachia is a nonprofit founded by Erik Hubbard, a resident of the area. Erik has focused on the organization's mission of developing motorcycle tourism in the Appalachia Mountain region. He is using the area's great riding opportunities to provide a positive economic impact to the local communities. Each Getaway guest was provided with the opportunity to download the organization's free app featuring more than 5,000 miles of motorcycle routes. Backroads of Appalachia staff hopes that events like the BMW MOA Kentucky State Rally will introduce riders from all over America to the wonderful riding in the region and that they will decide to return to the area for their own riding vacations in the future.

After a good night's rest to recover from the ride in, guests were greeted with a complimentary breakfast in the lodge. Guests then decided which of the five street





routes they would ride, or if they would explore the very scenic big-bike friendly adventure route. The routes were designed to provide guests with some of the best motorcycle riding in the area, along with great local points of interest and sights. With some riders traveling distances of 400-plus miles on Friday to arrive at the event, the routes were designed to give the guests options including a couple hour ride with a great lunch stop and an epic several hundred mile ride for those wanting more saddle time.

One street route took riders to Cumberland Gap National Park—America’s first portal to the west. The route was nothing more than a game trail for bison traveled by Native Americans until explored by the legendary Daniel Boone in 1769. After word of Boone’s discovery spread, more than 300,000 pioneers used the gap to cross the Appalachian Mountains and settle the frontier west of the mountains. To fully appreciate how difficult it would have been to find the gap in the wilderness, riders took in the view from Pinnacle Overlook. At an elevation of 2,440 feet, the overlook offers the guests a splendid view of the gap and surrounding mountains of Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia.

Even with all the history to absorb in the area, riding was still the focus of the MOA Getaway. Any rider that has ever made the climb through the challenging switchbacks up the mountain to the overlook will tell you that the riding to arrive at the site is as special as the view.

Many guests selected a route named the “Kentucky Sampler.” This was an excellent choice for riders who wanted a lot of variety. Riders enjoyed taking in Cumberland Falls, coined the “Niagara Falls of the South.” The stop at the falls was followed by lunch/trivia stop at the very birthplace of one of Kentucky’s most famous brands. The original Kentucky Fried Chicken may not have gotten a foodie excited, but it still qualified as a bucket-list stop for many. Before the end of the route, everyone’s history teacher would have approved of the visit to Dr. Thomas Walker’s historic home. He was as important as his much more famous neighbor, Daniel Boone, in the settlement of Kentucky. There were still many more riding options that included points of interest for guests.





Just up the road from Pine Mountain State Park, riders visited the famous Harlan County; which area folklore often describes it as “Bloody Harlan County.” For many years, it was the home of the famous Hatfield-McCoy feud.

The riders that selected the adventure route utilized an abundance of primitive roads. These roads are often only used for local traffic. The route was designed to be experienced on a big bike, as there is never a focus on trying to challenge or test a rider’s ability, but rather just to provide enjoyment.

After a full day of exploring the area’s roads, riders gathered back at the park’s banquet hall. The event’s private bar was open to greet the guests with cold beverages and allow them to share stories of their travels, meet new friends, share their passion for riding and talk about the day’s rides.

Happy our flowed into a wonderful buffet dinner. The Appalachian favorites, like the Mountain View Restaurant’s famous fried chicken and warm banana pudding, deserve their own banquet. As has become a tradition at this event, Daryl and Becki Casey and the “Kentucky Beemer Crew” kept everyone entertained, while handing out thousands of dollars in door prizes to the lucky guests.

If you have not attended a MOA Getaway event hosted by Rides4Fun, you owe it to yourself to see what all the fun is about. The next opportunity will be April 25-27, 2025, at the BMW MOA Getaway at Breaks Interstate Park in Virginia. Visit bmwmoa.com or rides4funseries.com for more information. You can also subscribe to Rides4Fun’s emails on the website to stay updated about upcoming events. **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 to 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.