



Motor City Beemers

Club Newsletter



BMW MOA Club #231

BMW RA Club #209

April 2004

Volume 12, Number 2

From the Editor

I hope this newsletter finds everyone healthy and happy. I'm sure many of you were able to get out and ride during the recent good weather. Great wasn't it!

Starting with next month's newsletter I'm going to try and get on a schedule to publish between the 12th and 15th of each month. This means items to be included in the newsletter should be sent to me by the 11th of each month. Items received after the 11th will appear in the following month's newsletter.

I'd also like to remind those of you who take trips or just Saturday afternoon rides to write a note about your ride and I'll include it in the newsletter. If you don't have the time to write something, give me a call or drop me a note and I'd be glad to help get something written up.

Your officers met recently to talk about a few things, one of which is club membership. Paid membership in the club is down to 52 this year. We are glad to give out free memberships to introduce people to our club. Paid memberships however, are a big part of what keeps the freebies like the lunch run and annual picnic just that....free. If you know people who have been members in the past, talk to them and see if they would like to continue in the club. Sometimes with all that is going on in our lives things like paying dues to a club get forgotten. Also, if you have friends that ride, even if they don't ride BMW's, invite them to attend a meeting to see if they would like to join a group of people whose passion is motorcycles. We'd like to have them. After all, as I have said so many times, where else can you socialize with wonderful people and have so much fun for \$10 a year.

From the Vice President

Just a few thoughts from your new Vice President. The VP position has been open since the beginning of the year. I'm really surprised that nobody volunteered to help out. It's not that much work! Okay so why did I get back into being one of the club officers?

I pretty much retired from motorcycling two years ago due to family responsibilities. That condition will last for another couple of years. Last year the club floundered a bit. Matt and Ryan gave it their best, but both got caught up with work and other personal stuff that took up most of their time. I am still thankful that they tried their best to keep things going. This year John Ethier volunteered to be President. I think John will be active and keep us moving along as a successful club into the future. I have a lot of faith in John and believe his will do a great job.

Early this year I received my 20 year BMWMOA pin. I figure I'm pretty close to the 100,000 mile mark. Okay so most of that mileage was 10 year ago. I've done everything I ever wanted to do on a motorcycle, even that. Started riding when I was 12 with a Cushman Husky. Over the years I had one Harley, a Vincent Black Shadow, several English bikes, then followed by years of Jap bikes. Bet you didn't know I was in the Highway Men until the St. Clair Shores Police suggested I try the Marine Corps instead.

In 1984 I purchased my first BMW. I have enjoyed all of my motorcycles! The first guy I met with BMW was Gary (Vern) S. He's been a friend ever since. Met Jim at his first dealership. We've been getting into trouble since then. We worked together at keeping the dealership and the club together and helping both be successful.

But what I missed over the last two years was being with all of you. The club meetings are generally short and sweet. But I am greeted with lots of hand shakes and hugs. Conversation, general b.s., and just spending time with each other is great. The club lunch rides and the time we spend together at the table conversing about what ever. The "freebe" June lunch at Frankenmuth what a great time. The Picnic. Me and Dr. Phil Euchre champs, Rhys's good cooking, the fellowship of the couples and singles that attend. The annual dinner with all the roasting that goes on, the Bent Beemers Awards, Jim Musgrave throwing out his zingers. The list goes on and on. I enjoy all of it.

Please note I didn't mention riding. Sure I like to ride a motorcycle. Almost 45 years of riding so far and more to come. But what brought me back was being around all of you. I really have a great time when we get together. Rhys mentioned a couple of years ago at one of our dinners when thanking Jim Musgrave for his support of the club, that the dealership was like a club house. A place to hang out with friends with a common interest and just enjoy each other. That's what I missed.

So all that being said, I intend to stick around the club house for awhile. I'll try to help out John Ethier as much as possible so that the Motor City Beemers keeps rolling along, and when possible get in a few rides and enjoy the hand shakes and the hugs.

By the way, I purchased a R1150RT last week.

Frank Emmerich the V Prez...

Monthly Club rides

Rhys Blair is coordinating our monthly club rides for the calendar year of 2004. Rhys will not lead all the monthly club rides, merely COORDINATE them. If you have a favorite ride you would like to share with your fellow club members on the first Saturday of the month let Rhys know preferably a month, but at least a few days, in advance. He can help you plan it, make maps and copies of maps, get mileages and distances as well as estimate the time it will take to make the ride. So clear your schedules and lets ride!

Ride schedule for the remainder of the 2004 riding season:

Saturday, May 1

Saturday, June 5 (**free lunch in Frankenmouth**)

Saturday, July 3 (this one may be moved to July 10)

Saturday, August 7

Saturday, September 4

Saturday, October 2 (Rhys will be unavailable, riding Route 66 to Santa Monica)

Saturday, November 6 (weather permitting)

Saturday, December 4 (wishful thinking)

April club ride Saturday 4-3-04 by Rhys Blair

Well it was announced during the meeting we would have a club ride on Saturday, and true enough the weather cooperated and there were riders both ready to ride and hungry to eat.

The ride was led by yours truly, Rhys B. Blair and true to form left at the announced time of 11:15 a.m. sharp. We headed north on Van Dyke Ave to the M53 freeway up to the I-69 freeway. The going was slow as there was construction on the M53 bypass and we did get behind one car that did not go one mile over the speed limit. In fact, once the driver caught sight of the 12 motorcycles behind her she even slowed down some. Well the day was bright and sunny and the temperature wasn't bad at all so we made the most of it.

As we rode north of Almont you could tell the riders were getting anxious to get on the freeway (well one rider was anxious.) As soon as the entrance ramp made itself available the throttles were given a healthy twist and the purring engines all came to life as we entered the empty highway going east. I apologize to anyone who didn't quite figure out what was going on as the tachs and speedometers raced up into those higher end numbers. I heard rumors that a couple of riders had to hit triple digits to keep up to the

lead bikes and I even heard that one bike elected to drop out of the pack. Again I apologize if I offended anyone on that stretch of highway.

We exited the interstate at M19 and continued north after we established everyone who was coming with us was in fact with us then. Up through Emmet to M136 and Brockton where we cut off to head toward Avoca and North Street. This is my favorite part of the ride. About 3 miles out of Avoca, M136 creates a couple of real wide right handed sweepers that make for peg dragging approaches and the real fun is accelerating out of each of these big old turns. As you reach some decent speeds after the second sweeper you have to slow down considerably to make a left turn down into the river valley. As you venture down along the river bed the road takes some serious left and right bends as well as changing elevation. It's a lot of fun, especially when you have a K12GT nestled nicely in your right side blind spot. You can hear the motor hummin, but without turning your head you can't see it next to you in the mirror.

Right out of the last turn we head up to the Dorsey House Restaurant parking lot. It actually sneaks up on you if you're not familiar with it. Two bikes went zooming by only to catch the left turn at Wildcat Road.

I believe we started out with 12 bikes and actually had 10 bikes and 11 diners start lunch with the group. Our treasurer showed up fashionably late with some excuse about maintenance. I think the problem was there are way too many gadgets and doodads on her new set of wheels that she gets side tracked. It's a good thing she had a good set of directions with her to follow. Anyway we all had a great meal, from soup to ribs and all kinds of sandwiches in between. While we were in dining the sun warmed things up and I noticed it was 60 degrees.

The Dorsey House is one of my favorite destinations. The new restaurant has been in business 7 years now. The old road house was over 100 years old before they tore it down for the new one. Either way the food has always been good and the drive up, all 70 or so miles can be a lot of fun too.

Another one of my favorite eating establishments is next months ride to the Pickle Barrel in Willis. It too is an old converted Inn that serves great food at reasonable prices and can be a nice ride. So now you know what we did on the April ride and where we're going on the May ride. And remember this for club rides: Bring a full tank of gas and an empty bladder to the dealership if you plan on riding and keeping up the gang.

We'll be looking for someone to lead this ride in May as I will be at the AMA Museum in Ohio for the weekend. We're having our own club ride to Waldo, Ohio for fried baloney burgers. See you all in June. Rhys

May club ride

Rhys will not be able to attend the May meeting and so we need a volunteer to lead the ride to the Pickle Barrel Inn. Also don't forget the June ride to Frankenmouth with a free lunch.

Motor City Beemer May Club Ride, Saturday, May 1, 2004

Pickle Barrel Inn, 10256 Willis Road, Willis, Michigan 48191
(734)461-2391

South on M-53 Van Dyke Avenue to Chicago Road.

West on Chicago Road/13 Mile Road to Mound Road.

South on Mound Road to I-696 Walter P. Reuther Freeway.

I-696 Walter P. Reuther Freeway to I-275 Freeway.

South on I-275 Freeway to I-94.

West on I-94 to Rawsonville Road.

South on Rawsonville Road to Willis Road.

West on Willis Road to the Pickle Barrel Inn which is on the south side of the road just over the railroad tracks before getting in to downtown Willis.

This is about a 50-55 mile ride. The food and service are both very good at this establishment. They serve deep fried pickle chips as appetizers.

Motor City Beemer Name Tags

Our Motor City Beemers name tags are available for purchase at Highest Honor, Inc. Highest Honor, Inc is located at 34777 Dequindre Road, Troy, Michigan 48083. Their shop is located on the west side of Dequindre Road, just south of 15 Mile Road. Herb and Jeff have a die set up already with our club logo on it. The cost of one name tag is just \$8.00. The Motor City Beemers picked up the cost of the die set back in August 2003.

The easiest way to get your name tag is send an email to Jeff at www.jeff@highesthonor.biz and spell out exactly what you want on the name tag and when you would like to pick it up.

You can also call the guys at the shop at 248-588-7845 ask for Jeff and give him what you want on the name tag and they'll take care of it for you and let you know when you can pick it up.

So hurry up and get your special name tag engraved with **YOUR** one of a kind moniker. There will be special attention paid to those members that show up to the club meetings with their new name tag displayed proudly on their chests.

If you have any questions concerning any of this call me.

Rhys B. Blair

586-466-6303 - office

586-463-8117 - home

From the BeemerShip...by Pete Lentini

- There's a new face in town! Jim has hired John Diffin to help out with motorcycle sales. John is recently from the San Diego area and has a background selling motorcycles. Next time you're in the shop, introduce yourself and make him feel welcome.
- We now have our first new R1200GS and restyled K1200LT on the showroom floor. Stop by and swing a leg over these two new beauties. And they're demo's to boot!!!
- *Flash...this just in.* We are now selling a limited quantity of 50 cc, 4 stroke scooters made by Legend. A great little gem for grocery store trips, squirting around the marina back and forth from your 60 ft. yacht or loading in the top box of your LT as a spare.
- We have also obtained a very limited quantity of the last of the Cycloak jackets, a brand we have successfully carried for the past 5 years. This particular style is a black, waist length, fully waterproof Gortex item with a removable liner. Another great product from Cycloak.
- Our shelves now hold the latest style BMW Motorrad T-shirts and Marsee tank bags, tail bags and storage pouches.

- And last but not least, our beloved parts manager and part time fire fighter Larry Folkerts celebrated a significant birthday recently. He already has 2 Buicks and is contemplating purchasing a UPS brown 1987 Gold Wing. Be sure and extend your congratulations (or sympathies) to him the next chance you get...and don't forget to bring a stuffed animal for back of his Wing!

Annual Blair Color Tour

It's never too soon to mark your calendar for a bike ride. So mark your calendar for Saturday, October 16 and Sunday, October 17, 2004. Yes, you guessed it! It's the Blair's Annual Color Tour along M119 and Legs Inn at Cross Village, Michigan. We promise everyone that comes along, a lot of riding, great food, the best Michigan riding road in the entire state and good company.

It's a mere 240 miles from the dealership to the Blair's cottage. Then 50 miles to Legs Inn for dinner. A free nights lodging and some kind of entertainment at the cottage. Sunday it's anybody's guess, but we manage at least another 300 miles to get home so you are guaranteed at least 600 miles of great riding from one side of the state to the other and from the bottom to the top.

As usual we leave the dealership at 8:00 a.m. sharp and brunch in Standish. By 2:00 p.m. we have reached the cottage and settle in for a short while. Then by 6:00 p.m. we are usually up at Leggs for dinner. Sometime around 10:00 p.m. we are back at the cottage playing cards, watching a John Wayne movie or getting ready for bed. Sunday morning we're on the road by 10-11:00 a.m. making a breakfast stop somewhere on the road home. One year we had as many as 14 folks on the ride and other years as few as 5. So if you are inclined to join us mark your calendar and let Rhys or Ryan know your intent.

The ride is open to both singles and couples. Usually Jill rides along with me and it's not unusual to have one or two couples ride along too. So mark your calendars and plan on joining us this year in October. It may be your last big mileage ride before the end of the riding season!

See ya at the dealership.
Rhys and Ryan Blair

Detroit MSF class schedule

Mike

I've attached a copy of the 2004 Detroit MSF Class Schedule. The way our

funding is looking, we think we may run out of money in June or July, so anyone interested should plan on attending a class SOON. Also, most of the BRC classes and many of the PB's and ERC's are already booked. If anyone is interested in attending, we often have no-shows. So, show up EARLY and talk to the instructor about joining as a walk-in. If there are any questions about the classes, your members can feel free to call me at 248.723.2630 (Home) 313.578.7074 (Office), 313.218.7435 (Cell).

Allen Gigliotti

Basic Rider Course (BRC) A 15-18 hour Motorcycle Safety Foundation course for the inexperienced rider. Motorcycles are provided. Course graduates will have the state riding test waived. One weekend courses are very demanding and not for the totally inexperienced student. The Weeknight course is for the totally inexperienced student and provides extra range time on basic skills.

Basic Rider Refresher Course (BRC Refresher) Have you successfully passed a motorcycle safety course in the past 3 years, but feel the need for a quick riding skills refresher before getting on the road? Take this short 4 hour class on a closed range, practicing riding techniques and maneuvers that will enhance your ability to ride safe all season. You must show a motorcycle safety foundation class completion card to the instructor. The card cannot be older than 3 years, or issued more recently than 30 days prior to the class date. Motorcycles are provided.

Performance Based Course (PB) A one-day course for the experienced, but unlicensed, rider to become licensed and legal. Also, many experienced, licensed riders use the PB as an annual refresher and skills tune-up. Students must provide their own motorcycle with a clutch (no scooters). This course teaches braking, turning, countersteering, speed judgment, and other techniques. All students will take a riding skills test at the beginning of the class. If a student fails this test, then he/she must enroll in the novice motorcycle course (BRC). All students must provide proof of insurance for his/her bike, and the bike must pass a safety inspection before taking the skills test.

Experienced Rider Course (ERC) Emphasis is on advanced riding skills. Students must provide the motorcycle. All participants must provide proof of motorcycle endorsement, insurance for the motorcycle, and the motorcycle must pass a safety inspection.

All students must furnish protective riding gear: helmet; full-finger gloves; sturdy, over-the-ankle boots, (NO TENNIS SHOES); heavy-duty pants; heavy-duty long-sleeved shirt or jacket; eye protection; and rain or cold weather gear as needed. Weekend classes start Friday night at 6 p.m. and run all day Saturday and Sunday, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Weekday classes run 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. or 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., depending on location. Weeknight classes run 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. PBs start at 8 a.m.

THE FEE FOR EACH CLASS IS \$25.00

The College may change the date or location of a class. Please call for current information

Macomb Community College South Campus, (586) 498-4000, 14500 12 Mile Road, west of Groesbeck, Warren

BRC 1-WEEKEND	APR 2-4.	May 21-23.	JUN 25-27.
	AUG 20-22.	AUG 27-29.	SEP 24-26.
BRC 2-WEEKEND	APR 16,17,18,23,24,25.	MAY 7,8,14,15,16.	JUN 11,12,13,18,19.
		JUL 9,10,11,16,17,18.	SEP 10,11,12,17,18,19.
BRC WEEKNIGHT	MAY 4,5,6,11,12,13,18,19,20.		JUN 1,2,3,7,8,9,10,14,15,16.
BRC REFRESHER	APR 4.	MAY 23.	AUG 29.
PB	Sun APR 25.	Sun MAY 16.	Sat JUN 19.
	Sat AUG 14.	Sun SEP 19.	Sun JUL 18.
ERC	Sat MAY 1.	Sun JUN 6.	Sat JUL 10.
			Sun AUG 15.

Monroe County Community College, (734) 384-4127, 1555 s. Raisinville Road, 1 ½ miles south of M-50, Monroe

BRC 1-WEEKEND	APR 30, MAY 1,2.	MAY 14-16.	JUN 4-6.	AUG 13-15.
PB	Sun APR 25.	Sat MAY 8.	Sat AUG 7.	

Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus, (248) 522-3509, Orchard Lake south of I-696, Farmington Hills

BRC 1-WEEKEND APR 2-4. JUN 4-6. JUN 25-27. AUG 20-22. AUG 27-29. SEP 10-12.

BRC 2-WEEKEND APR 16,17,18,23,24,25. JUL 9,10,11,16,17,18.
PB Sat MAY 8. Sat JUN 12. Sat JUL 17. Sat AUG 14.

Sat SEP 18.

Schoolcraft College (2 locations)

Livonia Campus, (734) 462-4452, 18600 Haggerty Road, between 6 and 7 Mile, Livonia

BRC 1-WEEKEND APR 2-4.

BRC 2-WEEKEND APR 16,17,18,23,24,25. SEP 10,11,12,17,18,19.

PB Sun APR 18. Sun MAY 23. Sat JUL 10. Sun AUG 22.

Sun SEP 19.

Radcliff Center, (734) 462-4452, 1751 Radcliff, south of Ford Rd. between Wayne Road & Merriman Road, Garden City

BRC 1-WEEKEND APR 30, MAY 1,2. MAY 21-23. JUN 4-6. JUN 25-27.
JUL 9-11. AUG 20-22. SEP 24-26.

BRC 2-WEEKEND MAY 7,8,14,15,16. JUN 11,12,13,18,19.

BRC WEEKDAY JUL 12,13,14,15,16.

BRC WEEKNIGHT JUN 14,15,16,17,21,22,23,24. JUL 12,13,14,15,16. AUG 9,10,11,12,16,17,18,19,23,24.

BRC REFRESHER MAY 2. JUN 27. JUL 11.

ERC [Sun APR 18.] Sun APR 25. Sat MAY 22. Sat JUN 5.

Sun AUG 15.

St. Clair County Community College (810) 989-5540, 323 Erie Street, Port Huron

BRC 1-WEEKEND APR 23-25. APR 30, MAY 1,2. JUN 4-6. AUG 20-22.

PB Sat MAY 8. Sat JUN 19. Sun AUG 15.

Wayne County Community College (2 locations)

Northwest Campus, (313) 496-2739, 8551 Greenfield Road south of Joy Road, Detroit

BRC 1-WEEKEND APR 23-25. MAY 21-23. JUN 11-13. JUL 16-18.

Western Campus, (313) 496-2739, 9555 Haggerty Rd., Belleville

BRC 2-WEEKEND MAY 14,15,16,21,22,23.

BRC WEEKNIGHT MAY 3,4,5,6,10,11,12,13. MAY 17,18,19,20,24,25,26,27.

JUN 1,2,3,4,7,8,9,10,14,15,16.

BRC WEEKDAY JUN 14,15,16,17,21,22,23,24.

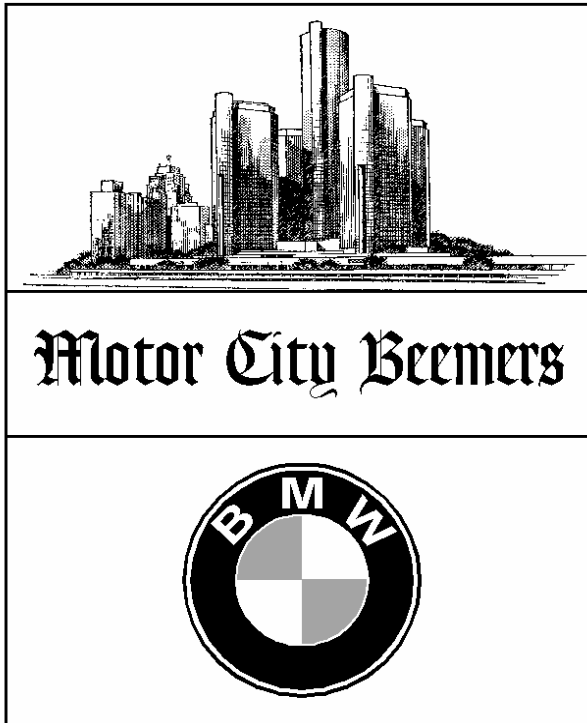
PB Sun APR 18. Sun MAY 23.

The College may change the date or location of a class. Please call for current information.

Next Meeting

May 1, 2004 at 10:30 am; see you there.

Pete Lentini sent along a nice piece on motorcycle license plates but it is in Powerpoint. Pete give me a call and help me figure out how to get this into the newsletter. Thanks, Mike



Motor City Beemers
2202 Vernier
Grosse Pointe, MI 48236

President

John Ethier
jethier@comcast.net

Vice President

Frank Emmerich
bmwfrank@comcast.net

Treasurer

Diane Owen
dmno@aol.com

Newsletter Editor

Mike Picraux
Bigdog03@comcast.net