



# Motor City Beemers



## Club Newsletter

BMW MOA Club #231

BMW RA Club #209

February 2006

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### THE PREZ SEZ BY IVES POTRAFKA

I was late to the January meeting do to VERY icy streets on the West Side. The expressway was a sheet of glass until I got East of Telegraph Road. I almost turned around and went home and then thought to myself. NO, if only one other member was to show up, it would be worth. New 2006 BMW's would be on the showroom floor and that in itself is worth the trip. What a pleasant surprise to find 20 or so club members doing what we all do best when it is too cold to ride, talking about motorcycles and places to ride. What a great day.

I am very excited about the February 2006 meeting and I encourage everyone to spread the word. This is the first time since I joined the club that we have had a presentation at the meeting. Which makes a lot of sense being as we are a Riders Club, not a Meeters Club :). ANYWAY. I am very proud to announce that Helen 2 Wheels will be giving a packing demonstration using the bags she designs and sells. I personally have never seen this presentation, but understand from those that have it is well worth it. I had planned to attend the packing demo at the National Rally, but the joint was packed and there was no room when I arrived.

We are still in need of a Newsletter Editor, so if you have the time and energy, we can coach you along to do the job. It isn't all the difficult, but does take a little time and effort.

It is also time to be stepping forward to be a ride captain. Most months are still open. If your not comfortable leading the group down the roadways - if you plan it - we will find a ride leader. This doesn't have to be anything elaborate. Just try to find a location 1.5 - 2 hours away to have good lunch. We ride, enjoy a good lunch together, and then break up into smaller groups depending on the time you have left. Many will continue to ride for the rest of the day, while other need to go home to the list of Honey Do chores. So, step

forward and help the club by giving back just a little time and energy to plan a ride.

Finally - We had planned to all go to the International MC Show in Novi as a group. That didn't really pan out as planned, so I ventured out on my own, only to have the parking lot closed 5 cars in front of me after waiting 25 minutes to get in. Home I went and returned at 9:30 AM on Sunday and for a 10:00 AM opening. Parked up front and the floor was almost empty as I was one of the first 20 people in the door. I had an enjoyable time perusing the vendor's and all the new motorcycles. Managed to spend a couple of hundred dollars on a Condor MS Stand for the garage and trailering emergencies if ever needed. Still waiting for that to arrive via UPS.

Remember, the newsletter is going to be distributed using JUST the eGroup very soon, so be sure to sign up. Please take the time to visit our web sit at [www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers](http://www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers)

Be Safe and Hope to see everyone at the February meeting...

### **JANUARY MEETING**

Typical Michigan January weather still couldn't keep our club members away from the monthly meeting. Maybe it was hearing the words of our new President Ives Potrafka, or seeing if our new Vice President Dick Hautau would remember to bring donuts. Whatever it was we had a good turnout and discussion on the following issues:

- RA rally in Boise, Idaho. Dick Hautau is putting together a camping group to ride and/or meet at the rally. If you have any questions or contributions get with Dick. There are several members that are going for sure. Dick will also have information for those that prefer a motel to a tent.
- MOA rally in Vermont. George Yosin has volunteered to coordinate a club luncheon at the rally. This is something we have done for most of the MOA rally's in the past. This gives us a change to get together as a group for an organized ride and have a chance to eat lunch together, share some experiences, and maybe make plans for other activities during the rally weekend. George will determine a location and time to meet. He will have a route and restaurant planned. Just in case you wondered, no George isn't buying your lunch!
- As Ives mentioned in his article, we need to get our 2006 ride schedule filled out for the riding season, and an emphasis on getting your dues paid. All those donuts, the Frankenmuth luncheon, and club picnic need to be funded!

Frank...

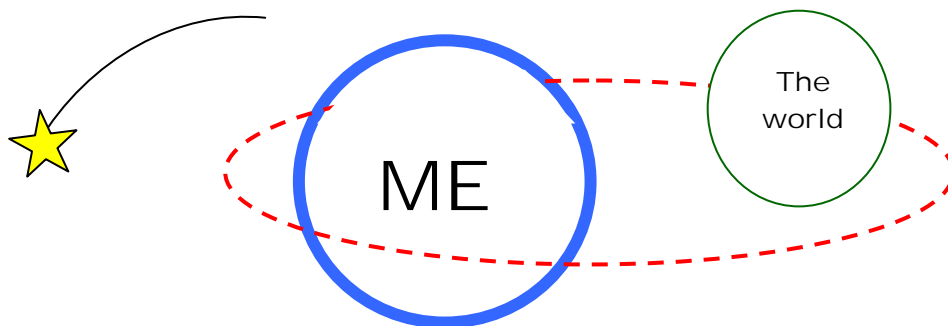
## STAMP COLLECTING

What does this have to do with motorcycling? Well your past President and current Newsletter Editor has been a stamp collector since he was a kid. (Go ahead and get it off your chest, you didn't know they made postage stamps that long ago). Stamp collecting has declined over the past many years for a lot of reasons. A form of stamp collecting is called "Topical Collecting". Pick a topic, do a tremendous amount of research and collect stamp only of your chosen topic. I have been collecting "motorcycles on stamps" for about fifteen years. My research has detected approximately 700 stamps world wide have been created and printed for postage. Some of these stamps are pure artwork. Beautiful images of motorcycles with scenery, people, accessory, safety, or political statements. The stamps from the Isle of Man are probably the most detailed in the world. Japan manufacturing is the country that really started the motorcycle craze in the United States with the Honda 750. From that point on motorcycling has blossomed over the years. I have stamps from Italy, Belize, the Congo, and some of the most remote places on Earth, but Japan has never issued a postage stamp with a motorcycle on it. I mention all this because commensurate with the Sturgis rally this year, the United States will issues a set of stamps commemorating the role of motorcycles in American's culture. They will be released at the annual motorcycle rally in Sturgis, S.D. in August. Shortly thereafter, you can purchase these stamps from your local Post Office. If I can get any advanced info and images of these stamps, I will include it in a future issue of our newsletter.

Frank...

**...from the BeemerShip**

*by Pink Linguini*



The latest scientific research has confirmed, the world really does  
*REVOLVE AROUND ME!*

(Thanks again to Mike & Trudy Nowicki)

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he BeemerShip hopes everyone safely enjoyed their New Year's celebration and wishes all a peaceful and prosperous 2006.

We're preparing for an exciting new season beginning with the arrival of nearly all the new 2006 models. Many folks stopped by before Christmas to see the new K1200GT, the GS Adventure and my personal favorite to no one's surprise, the new R1200S. A few folks indicated the only bad part about viewing the bikes months before their introduction was the need to wait until after the bike show to place a deposit!

Valerie and I had the fortune to spend New Year's Day with some good friends, almost all of whom are motorcyclists. Threatening skies did not stop us from arriving on the BMW, surprising everyone at the party. After many hours of enjoying great food, planning rides for 2006 and watching muscle cars selling for twice what they're worth on re-runs of last years Barrett-Jackson auction, we were ready to depart in some light rain. While stopped at a traffic light, I thought of a great place to enjoy the final hours of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> instead of riding directly home. I opened my visor, turned over my shoulder and said to my passenger "Follow me" - as if she had a choice.

Villa di Fiora is a very affluent housing development in Mt. Clemens. These homes start at the million \$ mark and go up from there. They may hold an annual neighborhood contest or maybe the residents just enjoy lavishly decorating their mansions but this is one phenomenal display of Christmas décor. I'm sure professional exterior decorators are hired to design and install the tens of thousands of lights on every tree, shrub, mailbox, squirrel's nest, as well as their actual home. Cruising through on the "SP" in a soft drizzle was quite enjoyable...we really didn't need the headlight with all the other illumination. Minivan laden admirers have caused many a traffic jam in years past but not tonight - not a cage in the place. A great way to close out the first day of the New Year.

Were you roaming around the Cycle World International Motorcycle Show in Novi? If not, you missed a great show in what I believe was a more accessible and user friendly environment than Cobo Hall. Parking was an issue, however, during the peak attendance hours. Next year, I understand the organizers will expand the floor space to accommodate the many vendors that were turned away due to space limitations. BMW assembled the same display as last year but with all the current models of course. The new for 2006 K1200GT, R1200S and R1200GS Adventure were there to slip a leg over and try on.

The latest Motorcycle Safety Program schedule is available and classes begin in March. If you reside on the east side, contact Macomb Community college at [www.motorcycle@macomb.edu](mailto:www.motorcycle@macomb.edu) for details. Fellow MC Beemer and MSF instructor Alan

Gigliotti will probably have the complete schedule in the very near future. If you don't already have an endorsement, please enroll. You'll be in line behind the "Governator" of California.

And finally, the Jan/Feb issue of *The Robb Report - MotorCycling* has a few interesting articles. Not an inexpensive magazine, nor one that typically conducts in-depth, hard number comparisons, it does provide an interesting overview of the subject bike. This issue features a description of the oft talked about but never seen Benelli Tornado TRE (which the author owned the "Limited Edition" all carbon fiber version of for a few months last year!), some really cool Ducati tennis shoes on page 74 and a quick comparo between the K1200S and R on their way up 6,300 ft. Mt. Washington in New Hampshire. A rather strenuous hike, by the way, even with good legs and about 8 hours for the round trip. ☺

### **FOR SALE:**

The for sale section of the newsletter is for all club members to post ANYTHING (legal) they have for sale or wanted. Take advantage of a circulation of 90+ club members. You don't have to limit you postings to motorcycle items. The one thing that we ask is that once your items sells, please notify us so we can remove it from the newsletter. There are several items that have been posted for some time now. If they need to be removed, please let Frank Emmerich know.

Pete Lentini offers a good source for motorcycle painting. John Diakonis is the owner and operator of Prism Motorcycle Painting. John has painted bikes, parts, and helmets for several club members. Check out his website: [www.prismmotorcycles.com](http://www.prismmotorcycles.com)

#### 1995 K1100 LT

All stock (bags, trunk, radio with rear speakers, heated grips, elec. windsheild, gauges, touring seat) heavy metallic gun metal gray paint, new battery, new tires and all servicing done, including spline lube.

\$5200.00 Dale & Denise 734-789-8249

#### 1986 K100 RT

New Black paint, new seat, very good tires, new battery, all service done, bags.

\$3500.00 Dale & Denise 734-789-8249

I would like to buy a used low drivers seat as I am too short for comfortable riding.

Bill Meier 810-987-4566 or [meierbj2@comcast.net](mailto:meierbj2@comcast.net)