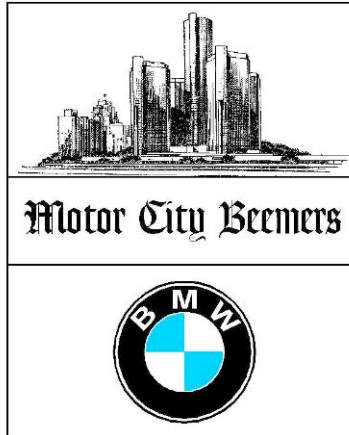




Motor City Beemers



Club Newsletter



BMW MOA Club #231

BMW RA Club #209

May 2008

Volume 16, Number 05

Next Meeting; Saturday, May 3, 2008, 10:30AM @ BMW of Detroit

Web site: www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers

President – John Saarinen - Jsaarinen@peoplepc.com
Vice President –Peter Payton - rockmanpete@yahoo.com
2nd Vice President - George Yosin -
3rd Vice President – Ken Mitchell, kpsacone@comcast.net
Treasurer – Sharon Saarinen- sssaarinen@peoplepc.com
Newsletter Editor – John Hooper, jvhooper@comcast.net
Web Master - Ives R. Potrafka, ives@bizblvd.net

THE PREZ SEZ

I am getting excited about this riding season. There was a terrific turnout for the first ride lead by John Hooper, our newsletter publisher. Approximately 34 people showed up for the meeting and 24 people went to the restaurant for lunch.

We kick it into gear with our club meeting May 3rd. The club ride will go to Port Huron to have lunch at the Bistro, under the Blue Water Bridge. The Beemership is having it's Spring Open House the same day. So now you have a choice; ride with me or hang around the Beemership for free food, drinks, door prizes, and demo rides of the 2009 models. As a result we will have our meeting off to the side of the main crowd so as not to get in the way of the party...however we will have our meeting as scheduled. I asked if we could help in any way. They would appreciate it if some of us would bring desserts or casseroles. Give it some thought and bring something if you can. The Beemership supports us by providing us a meeting place and turn around is fair play.

Following our May meeting, we have more great riding opportunities. On May 18th, at least 9 of our members will attend the MSF - Experienced Rider Class held at Macomb Community College. I am forwarding the names to the school to ask them to put our members in one group.

May 23rd - 25th, Jim Mick will lead a ride to Rolling Thunder in Washington, D.C..

May 26th - June 1st, Ken Mitchell is leading a group through the West Virginia Twisties.

The June 7th meeting and the ride to Grand Blanc for lunch and Rockies 10% off day, led by Ives Potrafka.

If interested in the Rolling Thunder or Twisties rides, please contact Jim Mick or Ken Mitchell directly.

Our Bavarian Inn Frankenmuth ride, organized by Jerry Pokorski, will be held on June 14th. Please contact Jerry to let him know you are going. He needs to make reservations by June 10th. Remember the club is only picking up the tab for the members and associate members. Guests can come along but must pay for their meals. Check out the website for the calendar showing all other scheduled rides.

This is going to be a great riding season. This is your club, come on out and join in on the rides.

Thank you for your help,
John Saarinen - President,
MC Beemers

2008 DUES DUE

Well it's that time of year again. Please pay your dues as early as possible so we know what kind of a budget we have for the coming year. Please remember that the dues cover the majority of the expenses such as donuts, Frankenmuth chicken dinner, and the annual picnic at Stony Creek in September. Dues remain at \$10 for member and \$5 associate member (wife, husband, or significant other). Please give your renewal form and payment to Sharon Saarinen at the next meeting or mail your renewal application to:

Sharon Saarinen
6094 Whispering Oak Drive
Washington, Michigan 48094

"WHO'S THE NEWBIES?"

Meet Kourtney Thompson

Early Years:

To know Kourtney is to love him, or at least that's what he is rumored to have heard people say about him. He attended Detroit Northwestern High School, the University of Michigan (Go Blue!) and Wayne State University. While at U of M, Kourtney was a member of the baseball team which won back-to-back Big Ten titles in 1986 and 1987.

Career:

After college, he played professionally in the St. Louis Cardinal organization. Since then, K.T., as he is called by friends both real and imagined, has been an educator. Kourtney resides in Detroit, enjoys traveling, mountain biking, softball, good conversation, and a good party. Kourtney teaches at Avondale High School in Auburn Hills

where, in his spare time, he coaches the JV baseball team and works as a Michigan High School Athletic Association basketball/baseball official.

Riding Experience:

Kourtney has been riding for less than a year. He took the Basic Rider Course in August of 2007 at Washtenaw Community College and then purchased his first bike, a 1981 Honda CB650 Custom, a couple of weeks later. After honing his skills in church parking lots and the neighborhood for about a month, Kourtney made the jump to the big leagues by purchasing a 2003 R1150R from a private owner in Port Huron. Kourtney has loved riding ever since. You can meet the Newbie at the Experienced Rider Course on May 18th at Macomb County Community College where he will be continuing to hone his riding skills for the road/many rides ahead.

Meet Fred & Tina Kraft.

Early years:

Fred grew up in NW Detroit, attended Redford High School, WCCC and NMU. In 1978, after leaving collage, he started a career as a car hauler. Fred and Tina married in 1981 and both of their (wonderful) children, Joseph and Caroline, reside in the Atlanta, GA area.

Career:

In 1978, Fred began as a driver transporting automobiles on specialized "car hauling" tractor trailer rigs. He has transported Cadillac's assembled at the Detroit - Vinewood Assembly Plant to dealerships throughout NJ & NY. Fred has been employed in the automobile transportation industry for his entire career, and has worked for most of the major company's that provide this specialized service to the auto industry. He continued to drive through 1996. During his tenure as a car hauler, he became very involved in the development of a specialized training program geared at specific safety behaviors to reduce the risk of personal injury and highway accidents. It is that career path that Fred has followed for the past 29 years and is currently the VP of Safety - N.A. for Allied Automotive Group. The potential bad news for MCBemers is that Fred may be in for another job transfer (back to Atlanta, where his family relocated after leaving MI in 1999.)

Riding Experience:

Like most of us, Fred has always been enamored by two wheel power. When he was 14, he and two friends, rode their mini bikes from the Irish Hills to OH & IN. That was his first experience of the road and it never left. By the way, yes all three of them got grounded. Beyond being grounded, he raced MX in MI, IN, OH and any place he could go. Fred's road riding started in the 70's with special love for all of his bikes (Honda 550 four, 1971 K1, 750 Honda, 1978 Kawasaki 1000LTD, 1983 Honda GL Interstate, 2003 Yamaha Road Star). Fred & Tina purchased their 2007 K1200LT from MCBMW last June. They have had some great times getting out and hitting the road, and are looking forward to a good riding season with some new and old friends. Fred enjoys attending Club meetings, the group rides, and is especially looking forward to the RA rally in Houghton during June19-22. Fred & Tina had a 'reason' last summer to have a very enjoyable ride with good friends on the Blue Ridge Parkway and Mile High Loop, 'cause they wanted to head down to GA to visit Joseph and Caroline.

MOTOR CITY BEEMERS NAME TAGS

Motor City Beemer name tags are available for purchase at Highest Honor, Inc. Highest Honor, Inc is located at 34711 Dequindre Road, Troy, Michigan 48083. Their shop is just south of 15 Mile Road, on the west side of Dequindre. Herb and Jeff have a die set up with the club logo and can add your name and/or nickname for a cost of only \$8.00.

The easiest way to get your ID tag is to send Jeff an e-mail at: www.jeff@highesthonor.biz. Spell out exactly what you want on your tag and when you want to pick it up. You can also call Jeff at 248-588-7845. Tell him what you want on your tag and when you want to pick it up.

Join the growing number of members who wear their ID tags proudly with their one of a kind moniker. It will help us to get to know each other. Works a lot better than "Hey you!".

BLESSINGS OF THE BIKERS (Jim Mick)

GWRRA, Chapter A has announced their annual 'Blessing of the Bikers' on April 27th in Clinton Township (on Harper). Here's a link to their flyer. As you may notice, they will have vendors so I have plans to be setting up a canopy and taking some Mick-O-Pegs. <http://www.gwrri-mi.org/chapter/a/newsletter/page19.html>

If you are available that afternoon (starts at 1 PM) and willing to let a few people sit on your bike to experience your Mick-O-Pegs, that would be greatly appreciated. It would be nice to have a big variety of bikes equipped with Mick-O-Pegs. I sold our GL1800 to Ted (brother) so I will probably just take our '94 Gold Wing. If your bike has Mick-O-Pegs on it, RIW will treat you to lunch there at the bike blessing. The church youth group normally provides burgers/ hot dogs/ chips/ and sodas to help raise money.

NEWS FROM THE BEEMERSHIP

The BIG NEWS this month is the OPEN HOUSE at the Beemership on May 3rd from 10:00 to 4:00 PM. It is the day of our meeting and we will meet, as President John says, "off to the side". We certainly do not want our meeting to interfere with the ongoing open house activities.

There will be Door Prizes, 50/50 Raffles and even maybe some ""Freebies""!! Food and refreshments galore! If you want to know how you can help out, one way is to bring a covered dish for all to enjoy. And be ready for as much fun and fellowship as you can stand !!

Vendors will be there showing their wares and offering exciting suggestions. Prism Painting will be demonstrating the latest in painting techniques, Mad Cow will show their work with seats and a number of quality leather items, Venture Shielding will show you their protective coatings for your bike.

Another way you might want to help is with the Demo rides. There is a desire to have experienced BMW riders going along with those taking Demo rides on the new Bikes. Since there will be a large number of Demo Bikes available, a lot of Demo rides are expected throughout the day. Club members are encouraged to participate and support the Open House. The Lunch ride to Port Huron might provide time to return and participate in some of the activities.

Other Beemership News:

Peter (Rockman) Payton has transitioned into a part timer. His Title is "*Outside Sales and Marketing*". He is participating in other working activities that involve large quantities of food and has cut his hours at the Beemership. You might want to catch up to him at the Open House or one of the Wednesday Night Dinner Rides and get him to give you the low down on the "large quantity of Food" part of his activities.

A new Sales person is Adam. Adam comes from a sales background and is excited about being with BMW of Detroit.

You certainly will want to meet Ivanka, (pronounced I –van- ka). She is the new apparel sales person and comes to the Beemership by way of Audi Automotive. From observation, she might just be the one to sell refrigerators to Eskimos.

Stop by the Beemership and introduce yourself to Adam and Ivanka. They would enjoy helping you.

BEEMERSHIP SPRING & SUMMER HOURS ARE:

Monday~ Friday 9:30 AM ~ 6:00 PM

Thursday OPEN LATE: till 8:00 PM

Saturday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

"Red Hot" Hot Dogs every Saturdays starting April 12. Stop in for a snack while you are out on the bike. It will be on Saturdays all summer long. Bring a friend by for a visit and a snack!!!!

Is your old riding coat worn out? Our summer stock pile of First Gear has arrived. Come in and check out the latest designs and technology. Loads of new inventory on hand to get you geared up and ready to ride all summer long.

Our Service Department is ready to help you get your bike ready for the riding season with certified BMW Mechanics.

We have a Special sale on 2007 BMW R1200GS~ in stock. Stop by the store for more details

Bill V.
General Manager,
BMW of Detroit

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY TRAINING

The Center for Continuing Education, Macomb Community College, has published their schedule of safety courses.

Learn to ride safely, master advanced riding skills, Become a coach/instructor, provide accident assistance, perform cycle maintenance or plan a trip.

The Motorcycle Rider and Safety Education Program is conducted with Michigan Safety Education funds from a grant administered by the Michigan Secretary of State.

Go to www.macomb.edu/cce and click on Motorcycle Safety to view schedules and other information.

For more information email motorcycle@macomb.edu.

Many Safety Experts advise Motorcyclists to take a refresher course each Spring to sharpen and re-focus their skills. If you are interested in attending a class, the best advice is to register now. All classes have a \$25 fee and fill up very fast!!

RIDING OPPORTUNITIES (Ken Mitchell)

Third Sunday of every month – Phil Aylesworth is trying to get a Windsor Beemer group started in Canada. For details go to the group's website: <http://SunParlourBeemers.org>

Monthly Meeting; May 3

Our very own Prez will lead us to "The 1896 Bistro" up near Port Huron this month. Keep your eyes peeled for mirrors on the road as you follow behind him. Please have your tank full when you arrive at the Beemership. It would also be a good idea to review the group riding hand signals and use them. The MSF website (http://www.msf-usa.org/index_new.cfm) has all sorts of additional useful information.

Rolling Thunder (RT); May 23-25

Jim Mick will lead us on this POW/MIA Memorial ride to Washington D.C. (<http://www.rollingthundermotorcyclerrally.com/upevents.html>). We'll start early and run about 550 miles to Winchester VA to join the Apple-Cade 2008 Rally (<http://www.apple-cade.org/home.html>). We will join them for a 300 mile scenic mountain ride on Saturday <http://www.apple-cade.org/rides/wvmountainstour.html> and end the day at their BBQ dinner event (<http://www.apple-cade.org/saturdaydinnerbbq.html>). Prepayment for the dinner is required.

An early start Sunday will get us into DC before noon for the RT demonstration ride to The Wall (<http://www.rollingthundermotorcyclerrally.com/upevents.html>). We will play it by ear (no pun intended) regarding staying for the evening concert or heading on out of town Sunday evening.

West Virginia Twisties; May 26-June 1

After Rolling Thunder, we will spend the rest of the week riding the great WV mountain roads and working our way back home. This will be very unstructured. I have lots of great looking roads identified but we will make daily decisions on which ones to actually ride. We will return no later than Friday, June 1st for a total trip of 9 days. If you are not interested in RT, or If you cannot make the entire trip, think about joining us in WV for that part of the fun. Let me know if you have interest in participating in either RT or both of these rides. kpsacone@comcast.net.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER RIDE

The Dealership is hosting a Dinner ride every Wednesday evening beginning in April. Please come and join the fun. Not only will you have great rides but you will eat at some equally great places! Peter would like this to be a club sponsored event along with the Dealership. Wednesday Dinner Rides will give every one a chance to ride together more often. Meet at the Beemership at 6:00 PM on Wednesday evenings and have a great time!!!

PICTURES ON THE WEB SITE

The pictures made during the March 1st and April 5th meetings have been placed on the web site for all to see. Take a look, some of them are fairly good. You might want to pull down a couple and print them out for posterity (or some other sinister reason).

The idea is to make this a common practice each meeting. The pictures may add to the flavor of the Club and be something we all enjoy. Take a look and let the President know your thoughts.

CLUB ROSTER IS POSTED ON THE WEB SITE

The Club Roster has been posted on the web site. It requires the password to access and available to all up to date Club Members. Only names, phone numbers, town and e-mail addresses are on the Web Site. If you are a current member, you have the password and can get to the Roster.

The hope is the Roster will help us contact each other for riding partners and bring the group closer together; making Motor City Beemers the kind of Club we all would like to see. Try it out and let President John know what you think would make it more helpful.

FOR SALE:

For sale section of the newsletter is for all club members to post ANYTHING (legal) that they have for sale or wanted. You don't have to limit your postings to motorcycle items. The one thing that we ask is that once your items sell, please notify us so we can remove it from the newsletter. Please let John Hooper know if they need to be removed.

PAINT PROTECTION FILM: Protect your bike's paint from stone chips and damage from your tank bag. Kelly, 248.312.0968 or graphixwerk.com

K1200LT Champagne, 26K miles, 6CD changer, and Bailey windshield, MC BMW maintained, asking \$8900. Bill Meier 810-824-7382 or meierbj2@comcast.net

HIGHWAY PEGS FOR LT's: Gives you optional places to put your feet for those long trips. Note that this is a new web site address: www.ridingiswonderful.com Jim & Jason Mick

CAMPING TENT – 8 x 8 Eureka – Used 1 rally – Cost \$120.00 new – sell for \$60.00 Ives Potrafka at 248-207-1575 (picture on web site)

DOUBLE HIGH TWIN AIR MATTRESS – Coleman 18 inch thick - Used ½ dozen times – very comfortable – Ives Potrafka at 248-207-1575 (picture on web site)

Don't forget to check the Club Web Site as well. You might find something you can't live without!!