



# Motor City Beemers

## Club Newsletter



BMW MOA Club #231

BMW RA Club #209

November 2014

Volume 23, Number 11

All meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at 10:30AM at BMW of Detroit

Our *next* meeting is scheduled for November 8,2014

Following Meeting: December 13th

Web site: [www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers](http://www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers)

*Eat to ride, ride to eat!*

President	<b>Rhys Blair</b>	rhysb@att.net
1st Vice President	<b>Layne Stewart</b>	laynerstewart@gmail.com
2nd Vice President	<b>Betty Ward</b>	bettyward27@gmail.com
Treasurer	<b>Jim Mick</b>	Jim@RidingIsWonderful.com
Newsletter Editor	<b>Nick Holland</b>	nick@holland-consulting.net
Web Master	<b>Ives R. Potrafka</b>	ives@bizblvd.net

Many months, we have a “special ride” or event on the **THIRD** Saturday of the month

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## Prez Sez



November, what a rich history month. The first Tuesday of November, elections. Every four years it's to select our President and two years later we vote again for part of congress. As a naturalized citizen I have not missed an opportunity to vote since 1977. November 10, the Marine Corps Birthday, happy birthday to all the Marines and Navy Corpsmen in our club. November 11, the 11th hour, of the 11 month was the day and time the 1st World War was designated as coming to an end, Armistice Day it was called at first, now Veterans Day. Let me extend a heartfelt "thank you" to all my fellow veterans in our

club also. Then we have Thanksgiving, my favorite holiday. I get to have family over for a huge turkey dinner with all the trimmings and I do most of the cooking. We also make it a point to seek out someone we know that has no where to go for Thanksgiving and have them come to dinner and share the day with us. It also means another day to watch the Lions and hope they'll maybe win this year...you can always hope. Maybe this year will be the year.

I can't close this piece without saying thank you to Keith Harrison and all the work he has done in our club. This will be the first newsletter without his grubby little finger prints on it. He's down in Florida riding in Flagler Beach and being a pain in the "you know what to" Bobbi now they are both retired. However, he did have the good sense to seek out someone who can wear his mantel as newsletter editor pretty darn well. Please welcome our new newsletter editor Nick Holland. He's not new to this kind of stuff. Hopefully somewhere in this rag he has introduced himself and told us a little bit about himself and his motorcycling.

By the way, I think this month's ride, weather permitting is to Rose Buds up in Clifford for sticky buns and cinnamon rolls. Let's hope the weather cooperates. Let's see did I forget anything... oh yea, annual elections and mid-winter dinner preparations. I'll touch on them in another piece if there is room.

See you at the meeting, on bikes I hope and for a few more Saturdays before the snow flies.

Rhys B.  
The Prez

## **Editor's Corner**

*Nick Holland*



My first order of business is to thank Keith Harrison for his work of editing the newsletter over the last couple years, and providing me with a nice kit for taking over the production of it, lots of moral support and a few really good tips. I'd also like to thank Rhys and Jim Mick for their suggesting I take over for Keith.

As a relative newcomer to the MCBeezers and now taking over the newsletter, it would probably be good for me to introduce myself more formally. My day job is administering computers and computer security, which pays for my not-for-pay computer habits, including maintaining some of the

web documentation for the OpenBSD project, where I have had the interesting experience of having my spelling and wording corrected and improved by people who could barely speak English.

My Significant Other of soon-to-be eleven years is Paula Ellis, who, initially unknown to me, was a long-time biker-chick wanna-be, who encourages and participates in my expensive habits. Yes, I'm bragging.

I grew up in an auto industry family, and if it has an engine and wheels, I'm going to appreciate it, and if it was an open-air vehicle, I'm going to love it. In the summer of 1987, before my first senior year of college, I bought myself my first bike, a \$300 1970 Suzuki T500. With a bit of work, I got it road worthy and took it back to school with me, where I racked up quite a few miles running around the roads of Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula.

For various dull reasons, I ended up without a good motorcycle for a long time. A friend of mine tried to get me to look at BMWs, telling me, used, they were not as expensive as I thought. I did not believe his definition of "not expensive" and mine were in the same league, and dismissed his advice without even looking to see if it might be true. Finally, in 2007, he decided that he didn't need his '85 K100RT anymore, and made it available for me to purchase for a "cannot say no" price. I loved the K100 (Hildegard, or Hilde), and Paula and I quickly learned to enjoy short trips on the bike. This was my introduction to the Detroit BMW dealership; neither Don (service) nor Ron (then, parts) laughed at my 22 year old bike, and they were completely supportive and helpful, which was something of a new experience to me.

Paula and I enjoyed cycling together, but we didn't fit really well on the K100. This prompted me to buy Wolfie, our 2002 K1200LT. Ron gave us a nudge to join the MCBeezers group, which we have been ever so glad we did. Paula and I are happy to have met a whole new group of wonderful friends.

I've got a few ideas of things to make our newsletter even better, but I'll be needing your input and contributions. You will be hearing from me. In the meantime, look for my typos, they seem to be an unending source of entertainment.

## **Upcoming annual officer's elections**

*Rhys Blair*

Hey, it's that time of year again. Time to pick another slate of qualified, motivated, experienced motorcyclists with vision and energy to guide this club into another new year. Okay, so that's a bit of a stretch. What we really need are several warm bodies to fill a couple of spots so those of us who apparently need guidance the second Saturday of the month will have a place to go and someone to tell us where we are going for lunch on our motorcycles. All the spots are up for grabs except I believe the newsletter editor. Nick gets to keep that job since he just got it. So if you have a hankering to lead this 20 year old club of middle aged men and women into a new year, here is your chance. The positions available are President, First Vice President, Second Vice President and Treasurer. Like I said, newsletter editor is kind of locked up unless Nick really blows the job and webmaster is still lves. He's the only one who knows the secret handshake and password to get into the brain trust of this organization. If you are up to the task, let us know ASAP so we can put your name on the ballot for a December vote. How do you do that you ask, just send one of the current officers a note via email, or call them or text them even. We'll record your name and get it on the ballot.

Thanks, it's really not all that bad to be a club officer. When I look out over the membership that attends the monthly meeting I see a bunch of you that could do any of these jobs as good or better than those of us who are doing it right now.

Ride Safe,

Rhys

## **Mid-winter club dinner**

*Rhys Blair*

I know, Fall just got here and we're talking about the mid-winter club dinner. Where does the time go? The past two years we have held it at the American Polish Club at Dequindre and 15 Mile Road in February. Betty handled it all last year as part of her officer responsibility. Now we need some input as to what and where we'll do it in 2015. Normally we have about 34-36 members and significant others attend and the price runs about \$35.00 a person. We have been doing this for about 15 years or so. If you would like to see the venue change let us know where you would like it to be. If not, then we'll probably plan for it to be at the same place. The food is very traditional Polish, the bar is cash and we usually have some door prizes as well as a few "Bent Beemer Awards" and a video of some of the places we all rode to this year. So what I am saying is we need your input for a venue, candidates for Bent Beemer Awards and photos and video of your riding experiences this past year. We'll be taking a head count soon too. Betty will have more to follow on this.

Regards,

Rhys



## CLUB LUNCH RIDE

These rides take place immediately after our Saturday meeting. Plans subject to change based on weather, leader availability and popular uprising.

Date	Lunch Ride Destination	Ride Planner
November 8	Rose Bud's, Clifford – weather permitting	Rhys B.

The New Year is upon us soon, and we'll be looking for destinations for lunch rides for 2015, so start thinking of places that you enjoy to both *travel to* and *eat at*!

### October 18, traditional Color Tour to Legs Inn at Cross Village



#### **Color Tour Ride Report** by Ives Potrafka

Great Friends, Great Route (Yeah! Ken & Ives - LOL) and Good Weather. What more could anyone ask for than that?

We pushed up our departure time to 10:30AM from Junction of Hope Restaurant. This was a good decision as it put us at the tunnel of trees just before it started to get dark. While most of us thought we would be too late for good colors, we were

wrong. When the sun did shine, the colors were perfect. Besides the colors, I manage to see two different flocks of wild turkeys and a good size herd of deer.

The food was great at Legs Inn, and we only waited about one hour to be seated. I was running a little behind everyone walking up the hill to the restaurant from the cabins and a kind lady from Chicago saw me gimping along and offered a ride to the top. I wish I knew her name so I could thank her one more time. My leg is still giving me grief from last years crash and the ride was more than appreciated.

I had tried to convince everyone we should ride to the Turkey Roast for lunch on the way home, but was out voted 4 - 1. So we had a nice big breakfast at a small restaurant in Boyne City and was treated to a home baked cinnamon roll. The ride home was sunny and enjoyable, even if most of it was on the expressway.

Long story short, everyone had a good time and arrived home safe.

Can't wait until next year...

## Wednesday Dinner Gatherings



The Wednesday dinners are a long-time, though less formal tradition with the MCBemers, started and run by Betty Ward. She picks out a dinner location, lets us know...and we get together and eat. Food is usually ordered around 6:30pm, but some of us straggle in until close to 7:00pm.

Absolutely no agenda other than Good Food and Great People!

*Watch for emails giving the location each week.*

Note the dinner before Thanksgiving is on **TUESDAY**.

← dinner at CK Diggers, 10/15/2014

November 5	Amore's Grill and Spirits	53100 Gratiot Ave Chesterfield, Mi 586.749.9262
November 12	P F Chang's	17390 Hall Rd Sterling Hts, Mi 586. 623.0860
November 19	Ike's Family Restaurant	38550 Van Dyke Rd Sterling Hts, Mi 586.979.4460
Special day! <b>TUESDAY</b> November 25	El Patio	2891 E Big Beaver Rd Troy, Mi 248.528.0106

## Getting your battery through the winter

by Nick Holland

As many of us have discovered, motorcycle batteries need a little help to make it through a long, cold winter. A modern bike, like a modern car, has electronic devices which will be working to drain the battery over the winter, plus batteries naturally draw down after a period of non-use, and even more so in the cold. A fully charged battery is a happy battery, and one likely to bring you another season of riding.

While some people like to take their batteries out of their bike, I don't – it's too much like work, and I hate to pass up a freak warm January day because the battery needs installation.

Don has recommended against periodic starting of my K bikes, as he said all it really does usually is foul the plugs, as you don't get the bike warm enough to really do it any good, and you will do it some harm.

So...how does one keep their battery happy through the winter? My preferred solution is a "float charger" (or "battery tender"). These devices are NOT traditional battery chargers – they aren't designed to put a charge on a battery, just keep it topped up while in storage. Various devices are out there, but Harbor Freight sells one for about \$10, and a lot less if on sale. A standard charger is designed to run at a higher voltage to pump energy into your battery; a float charger runs at a lower voltage and low current just to compensate for power lost through accessories and leakage. Do not connect a standard charger to your battery all winter long UNLESS it is designed for this kind of use.

The Harbor Freight float charger comes with battery terminal clamps, but I replaced those with a \$12 Powerlet connector to my cheap float charger, though the charger does come with clamps to attach directly to the battery.

If you use the Powerlet connector, be aware that some connectors are only attached to the battery when the bike is on, or has the key in certain positions. For example, my LT's rear Powerlet jack is disconnected if the bike has its handlebars locked, so I use the one near the driver's foot, since that is always attached to the battery.

The first step is to plug the charger into the wall, and verify that the charger lights up. That shows that you have power going to the charger. Now unplug the charger (light will go off), and plug it into the bike. This should result in the light lighting up again – this shows you that the connector can get to the battery to charge it. Now, apply power to the charger, and leave it alone until next ride.

**Words of warning:** Batteries on cars and bikes store a lot of energy. While the voltage can't even be felt by your fingers, if shorted by something conductive like a metal ring on your finger or a tool, they can do a lot of damage and injury quickly. When charging, positive goes to positive (red), negative goes to negative (black), and verify which is which *two or three times* BEFORE hooking things up. If you don't know what you are doing here...DON'T. You can hurt yourself and your bike.

There are various kinds of batteries out there – I've done a bit of research on traditional, gel-cell and AGM style batteries – the float charge requirements for all seem to be basically the same, though some will claim otherwise (usually without explaining WHY).

## Treasurer's Report

by Jim Mick



Check book balance for the end of Sep:	\$1817.00
Check book balance for the end of Oct:	\$1878.00
Balance 3 months ago:	\$2417.00
Balance 6 months ago:	\$2401.89
PayPal balance for the end of Sep:	\$507.83
PayPal balance for the end of Oct:	\$507.83

John S. won \$40.00 during the 50/50 drawing at our October Club meeting. That left \$41.00 for the club, but George Yosin was reimbursed \$20.00 for the cookies and Cake so the net amount of \$21.00 was added to the checkbook.

Mike Parisek purchased a bike from the Dealership so he is welcomed as our newest member, bringing our 2014 membership to 85. Mike also paid his membership for 2015 and became the FIRST PAID MEMBER for 2015. Tim Perry followed suit and paid for his 2015 renewal. Those two added \$30 to the checkbook.

I received payment for one guest at Frankenmuth and deposited the \$10 toward 2015 membership for Lew Owen which added another \$30 to the checkbook. Our 2015 membership is 2 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>.

I was expecting a 5% discount paying the Frankenmuth bill with my credit card. I intended to pass that on to the club, but I only received a 1% discount... With coupons, tips, etc. the bill was \$900.00. A check for \$865 was reimbursed to me since I paid w/my credit card, but I subtracted \$20 from the checkbook deposit to partially reimburse me for part of that decreased discount.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS for 2015

by Jim Mick

Membership stands at almost 3 for 2015. It's not too early to renew your membership.

All renewal dues for 2015 should be paid by the end of January 2015, but we have no penalty for late renewals. We just want you back.

Sometime in early 2015, **Ives P. will change the Yahoo PASSWORD so those who have not renewed their membership for 2015 will lose access to 'Member Only' information and will no longer receive the monthly Newsletter.** It will only take you 10 minutes to renew your membership using PayPal – even if you don't have a PayPal account. Here's a refresher on that process:

Log on to <https://www.paypal.com>

Scroll down about half way to 'Send all over the place' paragraph and click on "Send Money"

Enter the Club PayPal E-Mail: [Jim@Ridingiswonderful.com](mailto:Jim@Ridingiswonderful.com) and the amount.

Click on "Send Money". Providing a bit more info and you're done.



I don't mind receiving just your money for club membership renewals, but someone needs to make sure we have the correct E-mail address, phone numbers and address on file. I would also like to update our membership list with your MOA and RA membership numbers (as appropriate).

If you give me a completed new application with your dues payment, I will be able to check that information against our master membership list. If you would rather do the 'checking' you can visit the club web site: <http://www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers/> Once there, find the "Club Directory" located on the left, about half way down the "Main Menu". Choose the format you desire, click there, find your name and verify all the information is correct. Send me an E-mail at [Jim@RidingIsWonderful.com](mailto:Jim@RidingIsWonderful.com) if you find incorrect information or if everything is current.

A third option is to renew at one of our club meetings and we can check all the info together. Once I receive your dues for 2015, and update the list, we can watch our enrollment membership numbers soar in 2015.

## **PayPal**

by Jim Mick

You are seeing more and more information in our newsletter about having the option to **use PayPal** for MCBeeomers dues and other payments. Since I didn't have a PayPal account until you elected me to serve as Treasurer, I thought I should share some information I am still learning. With the increased postage recently going from 46 to 49 cents, there are even more reasons to avoid sending checks.

If you have a PayPal account, neither you, nor the club pays a fee for any transfer of money –IF YOU CALL ME FAMILY/FRIEND rather than indicating that you are paying for product/service. The club's PayPal account is [Jim@Ridingiswonderful.com](mailto:Jim@Ridingiswonderful.com) ***That account is not for my personal use.***

If you don't have a PayPal account, you can transfer/send money to the club without YOU being charged a fee, but the MCBeeomers will be charged a small fee, which we have been willing to pay. You will need to choose your bank account or Credit/Debit Card if you don't have a PayPal account. We want you to have the convenience of being able to use PayPal.

For our Canadian members, It appears that there's not much difference ... other than a built in 'exchange rate' at the time money is sent.

If you have an E-mail address, you can set up a free PayPal account from which you can send money and also receive money.

( ... continued ... )

It's probably a wise suggestion that you use an E-mail address that you are not going to change. The process is free, if you link your PayPal account to a Credit/Debit Card. It's secure and if you already do some 'online banking', I can't imagine that you would have any difficulty. The process will take 2-3 days but only requires about 4-8 minutes of your time (more if you study all of their 'agreement'). Here's the process:

1. Log on to [www.PayPal.com](http://www.PayPal.com)
2. Click on "personal" in the top left
3. Click on "sign up" in the top right
4. You'll be asked to provide personal information, then to read and agree to their agreement.
5. When done, you'll be asked to provide Credit/Debit Card and/or bank info. Then you'll need to wait for a couple of days.
6. You'll be asked to check your bank statement within a few days. PayPal will make small deposits into your account. You'll need to know those deposit amounts in order to activate your account.
7. You'll also be asked to choose a few security questions and answers in case you forget your password.
8. From that point onward, you have a free PayPal account - touted as "The world's favorite way to pay and get paid".
9. There are limits to this personal, free account, but it should be sufficient for most of us.

## **MOTOR CITY BEEMERS NAME TAGS**

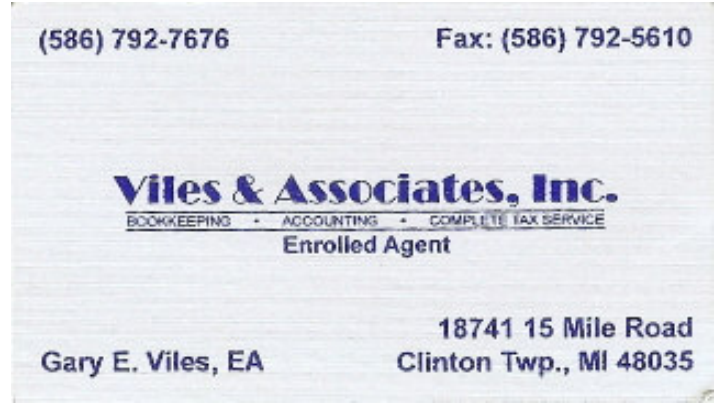
Motor City Beemer name tags are available for purchase at Highest Honor, Inc. Highest Honor, Inc is located at 34711 Dequindre Road, Troy, Michigan 48083. Their shop is just south of 15 Mile Road, on the west side of Dequindre. Herb and Jeff have a die set up with the club logo and can add your name 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](mailto: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. You can have two lines of text, the first your name, and you can add a nick name as the second.

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

*A tip of the MCBEEMER helmet . . .*

. . . goes to Viles & Associates, Inc., who have volunteered to print the free copies of the newsletter available at the dealership. They are also BMW riders.



**FOR SALE**

***"MICK-O-Pegs"***

*Expanding comfort*

*for more models*

Spring Loaded Highway Pegs for your K1200LT, pre-2010 R1200\_, R1150\_, R1100\_, R1200GSA and even the new 1600GT/GTL (if equipped w/engine guards).

Look at [www.ridingiswonderful.com](http://www.ridingiswonderful.com)

**Trading Post**

**2012 BMW R-1200RT**

One Owner, 8300 Pampered Miles, Radio. Extra options include: Michelin Pilot 3 Tires (1500 Miles), Cylinder covers, Garmin GPS/GPS Mount, Strut Lights - Clear/Amber Lenses, Top Case, Hyper Brake Lights Rear. Oil changes every 3000 miles, always serviced at BMW dealership.

Call Chuck (586) 484-3833



**ONE YEAR FREE MEMBERSHIP**  
with purchase of motorcycle from BMW MOTORCYCLES OF DETROIT

**MOTOR CITY BEEMERS  
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Club Web Site – [www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers](http://www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers)  
Club eGroup Email – [mcbeemers@yahoogroups.com](mailto:mcbeemers@yahoogroups.com)

Annual membership dues are \$15 per year for full membership and \$10 per year for each associate member and runs from January to January. Renewal payments are requested by January 31 of each year.

Please select 1 or more:  Membership (\$15)  Associate (\$10)  each Additional Associates (\$10)  
AND select one:  New  Renewal  Renewal following lapse of  years

(Please Print)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**National Motorcycle Club Membership Information**

Please check the appropriate boxes to signify current membership in the following national motorcycle clubs:

BMW Motorcycle Owners of America      No       Yes       #: \_\_\_\_\_

BMW Riders Association      No       Yes       #: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this application and payment to "Jim Mick" at:

Jim Mick  
56750 Fairchild Rd  
Macomb MI 48042

Dealership Use  
Only

OR send funds via PayPal to: [Jim@RidingIsWonderful.com](mailto:Jim@RidingIsWonderful.com)  
AND send completed form by e-mail to: [Jim@RidingIsWonderful.com](mailto:Jim@RidingIsWonderful.com)

REVISED 5-28-13