



Motor City Beemers



Club Newsletter



BMW MOA Club #231

BMW RA Club #209

March 2015

Volume 24, Number 03

All meetings are held the **SECOND** Saturday of the month at 10:30AM at BMW of Detroit

Immediately following the meeting is a Lunch Ride

Many months, we have a special event on the **THIRD** Saturday of the month

Our *next* meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2015

Following Meeting: April 11, 2015

Web site: www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers

Eat to ride, ride to eat!

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Well I heard that we had a fabulous turnout for our annual dinner and that a good time was had by all. Thanks to Betty, Rhys and the entire club board for making sure that everyone had fun.

I have lots to tell about my attendance with my son Matthew at the Chicago Motorcycle Show which I will share with everyone in more detail at our March meeting. This was the finest example of a motorcycle show that I have ever attended. Starting with the fact that it was six degrees below Zero with a 30 mile an hour wind when we arrived at the Donald E Stephens Convention Center. Thinking that parking was going to be a fiasco we were amazed that they immediately directed us to

indoor heated valet parking. We left them our car, received a parking ticket and walked about 50 feet into the lobby to find 4,000 people waiting to buy show tickets and get in. This was all about 20 minutes before the show was to open.

I went to the men's room while my son bought tickets. No more than 10 minutes later I met up with my son who had secured tickets for us and gotten in line to get into the show floor. Five minutes to go before opening 6,000 of us had our hands stamped and were ready to charge the doors. Promptly at 9:00 am we all walked right in with absolutely no delay. Watching this entire process was amazing as they could not have planned it out any better!

The Show is a real representation of what a manufacturer looks for to display their products with manufacturer's reps at every single display that we walked through. Some great things are coming in the way of technology to less expensive bikes and everyone is chasing BMW, Ducati and KTM with large comfortable sport touring bikes absolutely packed with technology. From crazy concepts that allow your bike to cross lakes to three wheel super car performance roadsters to the dozens and dozens of booths to buy everything from tools to custom clothing it was truly a worthwhile event.

I will have lot's more to share at the club meeting.

Maury

Editor's Corner

Nick Holland



First of all, with the exception of the restaurant not letting us use their big screen TVs for our slide show, the MCBeemers Mid Winter Banquet was (in my humble opinion) a rousing success and a whole lot of fun and good food.

I do hope people had some time to watch the slide shows we put on the “small screens” on a few laptops – Rhys and Ken's pictures were incredible, and there were a lot of fun pictures contributed by other members on the other screen, too.

Surprise highlight of the night for me was winning a Bent Beemer for dropping my bike LAST year. I was rather dreading what was going to happen when Paula found out she won hers, but someone slipped my name (and event) in “late”, which made it all the better that both Paula and I both had won the coveted(?) Bent Beemer. I think I owe someone a lunch or dinner.

I really have had a good time at the two Mid-Winter Banquets I've been to with the MCBeemers, and I want to thank all those that come to the gathering that make it fun. In a related topic, the MCBeemers club picnic is coming up in June. I'm looking forward to Rhys' cooking.

One newsletter change you may note is I've turned the “Club Lunch Rides” section into a “Club Events” section, a place where we can put *all* our club events and activities for the next several months, not just our post-meeting rides. I have also added a new section for non-club events that MCBeemer members may well be interested in knowing about and/or participating in. As always, I need your contributions, so if you know of a motorcycle-related event that should be listed, let me know what it is...and provide some comments about it.

Club member Jay Mick shares his story of how he has joined the group of Really Cool People (i.e., those who drive BMW K1200LTs – though I may be biased!), not only getting a “new” used bike (always an adventure), but buying it in Florida, then traveling to pick it up and drive it home. I've seen Jay's new bike – I love the way the LT looks, but Jay's bike is striking even for an LT (guess that could be a spoiler).

It's the end of February as I write this, and I'm hoping by the next time I'm writing this column, I'll have had a bike out for its first rides of 2015. We'll see.

Upcoming Rides and Other Things

Rhys Blair

The March meeting is right around the corner and hopefully it will be our very last club lunch we have to use our cages for. This month we are headed over to the Great Baraboo Brewing Company at 35905 Utica Road, Clinton Township on the corner of Utica and Moravian Roads. We have not been there in a very long time. Now this is not a breakfast place, but you certainly can find a great lunch item and wash it down with one of their micro brews. They are known for their pub atmosphere, excellent burgers and homemade micro beers made right on the premises. You can check out their menu and brews ahead of time by going to <http://www.greatbaraboo.com/> .

Our April ride should be on our two wheeled steeds, and should that be the case let's make it a decent ride on our bikes. Someone suggested we ride up to Clarkston and check out the BBQ place called Union Woodshop. Word has it they have slow-smoked BBQ, wood-fired pizza and craft beers that draw the crowds to this hip log cabin-style space. They are located at 18 S. Main St., Clarkston, 48346. Check them out at <http://www.unionwoodshop.com/> . Do we have someone to lead this ride?

That leaves us rides for May, June, July, August, September, October and maybe even November on our bikes. Give me ideas as soon as possible or we'll be riding to every Mexican or Tex-Mex joint within 75 miles of the dealership, you gringos.

On another note, for those of you who missed our Mid-Winter Dinner at Camp Ticonderoga arranged by Betty Ward, you missed a great evening out with like minded friends (I believe we had 32 of 35 attendees show up.) The food was very good, the Bent Beemer Awards were entertaining as usual and the door prizes were plentiful. Cliff and Pam Stallings purchased a bunch and I do mean a bunch of 50/50 tickets. So many so that they won both pots. We collected \$300.00 and split the winnings between two drawings. Pam won the first \$75.00 pot of which she donated back to the club. Not to be out done, the second pot was won by Cliff who also donated the entire \$75.00 back to the club. If that were not enough he donated 1 \$50.00 and 2 \$25.00 gift certificates from his dealership to the club for door prizes. Word had it that he was caught purchasing drinks for some members too. All that plus he allows us to call his dealership our club home and done so for 21 years. Thanks Cliff, Pam and Tony for everything you do for our club.

I know I stop into the dealership on occasion other than club meetings and hangout a bit, drink a coffee or two and eat a pastry that happens to be misplaced on the counter or table. If you have done that, maybe the next time bring a bag of your favorite java along with you and leave it for the next rider to enjoy, kind of pay it forward.

I stopped by the dealership February 28 and scheduled my bike for service the first week of April. I'm betting the snow is gone and the temps will be in the 40's or higher. You probably want to get it scheduled soon, because you know that once the snow is gone Don's schedule book will fill up faster than the basement full of water with a bumper sump pump. Get 'er done!

That's all I got. Rumor has it that our new President will be presiding over this March meeting. So come on out and make Maury feel welcome. I'm sure he'll have lots to say....he always does!

Rhys

Burkesville, KY European Riders Rally

John Saarinen

The European Riders Rally is May 15-17, 2015, in Burkesville, Kentucky. This is a small to middle size rally with approximately 300 attendees that is very well done. This is the only rally I have ever attended where the mayor and townspeople are genuinely happy to have the riders come to their town. The roads are curvy, lightly traveled and are in great shape. They offer free camping on the shore of the Cumberland River with clean built in facilities. Hotels are in the area but to get a room in Burkesville you have to act fast. They fill up quickly. Rally cost is \$45 if you pre-register on or before April 29th. After that date it will be \$55. Pre-registration ensures you a shirt and it will be in your size. When you register please use the club name, "MCBeemers". There is an award for the largest club in attendance and we've had the largest number of attendees from a club at several rally's but lost out because either our members did not enter a club name or use different wording.

A few highlights for this year's rally:

- Guided Rides: Kermit Chair Factory Tour, Makers Mark Distillery Tour, and a Dual-Sport Scenic Ride
- New Seminars: Suspension Set up; Mechanics Corner; Proper Cornering Techniques
- Road Riding School taught by a certified instructor (separate fee)
- Performance by singer/songwriter Chuck Jones
- The usual goodies: great food, camp fires, all the coffee you want, door prizes and camaraderie!
- Saturday is a steak or chicken barbequed dinner included in your registration fee.

For full rally information and to register, please visit <http://www.bmwmcon.org>. Some of us ride down a day early (on the 14th) to get in some additional riding. It is early enough in the riding season to work as a shake down ride. It is relatively close, approximately 550 miles each way. You can get to or from this rally in a day. Most of us who have attended use it to get our packing and bike worked out. We try to stay at the Riverfront Lodge, it is not highly rated but is close enough to walk to the rally site. This is a dry county so if you want to pop the top off a cool one at the end of the day, you will need to pick it up on one of your rides.

As we get closer to the rally we will organize groups to ride down. We will try to keep the groups small but still provide company along the road.

Club Events

Lunch rides take place right after the Saturday meeting, on the second Saturday of the month. Most other club events take place on the third Saturday of the month.

Date	Event	More Info
March 14 10:30am	Meeting: Maury went to Chicago Bike show! Lunch: The Great Baraboo on Moravian at Utica Road	http://www.greatbaraboo.com/
April 11 10:30am	Meeting: Lunch: Union Woodshop, Clarkston, MI	http://www.unionwoodshop.com/
May 9 10:30am	Meeting: TBD Lunch: TBD	
June 13 10:30am	Meeting: TBD Lunch: TBD	
June 20	Club Picnic	
Sept 19	Frankenmuth Chicken Dinner	

Non-club events

March 21-22: Custom Motorcycle Show and Expo at Gibraltar Trade Center. In past years, almost zero BMW presence, but still a lot of interesting motorcycles to look at. \$2 admission per car, \$7 per person for the show. <http://www.gibraltarttrade.com/motorcycleshow.php>

May 15-17: The European Riders Rally, in Burkesville, Kentucky. See John's article in this issue of the newsletter. <http://www.bmwcon.org>

June 27: Lake Huron / Three Bridges Saddle Sore 1K ride: Get Your Iron Butt Association number by looping Lake Huron and crossing the Blue Water (Port Huron), International Bridge (Soo), and the Big Mac bridges in a 1000 mile route in 24 hours! <http://members.triton.net/vandenbe/LKHURON1K.htm>

Aug 22: Yooper Madness II Saddle Sore 1k ride. Get your IBA number by looping around the U.P., and crossing the Mackinac bridge twice (and once at night!). <http://members.triton.net/vandenbe/2015YM.htm>

Recruit a new member! Cut-out and carry these cards!

Hi, I couldn't help but notice you also ride a
BMW Motorcycle!
 I'd like to invite you to join us, the Motor City
 Beemers, on the second Saturday, monthly, 10:30am
 BMW Motorcycles of Detroit
 34080 Van Dyke Ave
 Sterling Heights, MI 48312
www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers

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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 don't straggle in until close to 7:00pm.

Absolutely no agenda other than Good Food and Great People!

<- Dinner at Waves, 1/28/2015

March 4	Copper Penny	24975 Harper Ave St Clair Shores, Mi 48080 586.777.1112
March 11	CK Diggers	2010 W Auburn rd Rochester Hills, Mi 248.853-6600
March 18	Amories' Grill and Spirits	53100 Gratiot Ave Chesterfield, Mi 586.749.9262
March 25	Jimmy Dee's	43820 N. Groesbeck Hwy Clinton Twmsp, Mi 586.463.7500

How I became “Shiftless in the South”

Jay Mick

Riding Is Wonderful Inc, home of Mick-O-Pegs, had been without a BMW for a couple of years. Our first was an '02 K1200LT & the next was an '09 1200RT. Dad (Jim Mick) and I had been looking for another BMW for a long time. In December, I stumbled across a pretty blue 2002 BMW K1200LT-C on E-bay.

I placed a bid on it when it was only \$4,500 and thought I'd be willing to bid as high as \$7,500 since it had only 29,878 miles with well over \$10,000 in add-ons.

I contacted Keith Harrison at his FL retreat (near Daytona Beach), since the K1200LT was located in Miami. Upon telling Keith about the bike, he immediately offered to help in any way he could.



I ended up with the winning bid at \$6,400 ... which was the exact same out-the-door price I paid for my brand new 1996 Honda Pacific Coast (800cc V-twin) from Anderson's Cycle in 1998. I guess I was following in my Dad's footsteps. He bought a used Gold Wing for \$1951.40 (the same price he paid for a new BMW, many years earlier).



Now, totaling 95k smiles, my dearly beloved Pacific Coast might soon be up for sale.

Keith offered to drive down to Miami (~560 miles round-trip) to pick up the bike for me. Once the bike was at his place, I still needed to arrange pickup from him. After overnighting a Cashier's Check, the seller decided that the check wasn't sufficient payment (after I had paid \$19.95 to overnight the check!). Now, the seller demanded payment in cash, which, as you might imagine, threw quite a wrench into the works. The check was made out to the seller!! Now, rather than a \$6,400 lower bank balance, I had to manage a \$12,800 deficit.

Like the seller, who was having questions about the legitimacy of a guy in Michigan arranging a pickup for the bike through a 3rd party, I started having my own questions about the deal. How would I pay the seller in cash without being there, in person? What about a paper trail, in case this was a scam? Would I have any sort of protection? What if I show up in Miami with \$6,400 in cash and am mugged!?!?

After 2 or 3 days of mulling all this over, I finally told the seller I'd come in person to finalize the sale in Miami. At first, the plan was to fly into Daytona and have Keith pick me up and bring me back to his house, to stay the night. Then, drive down with Keith to Miami the following day to finalize the sale and return to Keith's the same day with the bike. So, I started making plans to fly to meet Keith.....

I soon realized that Keith's availability wasn't going to match mine. So, plans had to change ... AGAIN! To say my hair was getting greyer and thinner by the moment was an understatement.

At the December Christmas Dinner of the Walleye 101 fishing club that my Dad is a member of, I sat next to a man whose daughter attends college in Miami. Coincidence or divine intervention?!? He recommended checking the price of flights from Detroit to Ft. Lauderdale (1/2 hour from Miami). Just like he said, the flight to Miami was \$180 more than Ft. Lauderdale.

So, plans changed yet again. The weather forecast showed a 4 day break in the weather, which just might allow me to make it home from Florida if I didn't dilly-dally around ... which, of course, proved tempting, given the ideal 70s in Florida.

So, Friday, December 12 ...Up at 5 AM ... flew to Ft Lauderdale (1 ½ hr layover in Charlotte, NC). Greyhound bus from Ft. Lauderdale to Miami (\$13.50), arrived in Miami 4:30pm. Right up to this point, things had gone swimmingly smoothly. I recall having been quite concerned about being able to get all the transportation I needed to reach my final destination.

If you're still reading this, you might be asking yourself something like, 'Big deal, when's the excitement begin?' Hold onto your seat...

The plan was to meet the seller at the Miami BMW Dealership at 5pm. Caught a cab ride from bus station. Halfway to the dealership, I noticed I'd left one of my luggage bags behind. CRISIS! During rush hour, now, we're making our way back to the bus station in hopes of finding my bag (which had all my clothing/license plate/helmet/gloves/toiletries/etc.)

After 1 1/2 hours & a \$65 cab fare to get back to the station, I'm still at square one! Luggage bag not in sight, and hadn't been turned in. After much deliberation, the bus station attendant convinced me that my bag has been delivered to the 'Main' bus station in Miami and that I need to go there to retrieve it.

Though I couldn't confirm this was the case, this offered some comfort, which freed me up to continue attempting to meet up with the seller. THEN, a duh moment, I REALIZED I STILL HAD THE LUGGAGE CLAIM SLIP FOR MY BAG - I had forgotten to claim it, so my bag had stayed on the bus. This confirmed what the bus station attendant told me and provided me a large measure of relief. The Sellers agreed to meet me at the bus station, since it was getting so late in the evening by now, saving me a 2nd cab fare. However, the sellers couldn't find the bus station, despite having a GPS on the bike.

Things got a bit hot at this point ... the seller demanding I catch a cab to find the two of them (a married couple). I am practically refusing to catch another cab to 'try' to find this couple who didn't seem to really know their location. What a fiasco!

I ended up catching a public bus, but missed my bus stop by several miles before realizing it. The sellers came to my location about 15 minutes later at an Exxon station parking lot of all places ... PHEW! Enough difficulties, already, right? Well

By this time, Juan was late for work, so he says "Let's get this done quick". So, no test ride, just a very quick top-down look of the bike...attempt to make payment to seller via PayPal, payment not processing, UGH!...called Dad back in Michigan to have him make the payment to seller ... problems with login/processing payment. After struggling for almost ½ hour to make payment, finally successful...seller satisfied. Quickly, Juan familiarizes me with the LT's nuances and leaves me in the parking lot to repack the bike, while he heads to work. It's now 10:30pm ... AND I still haven't recovered my lost luggage!

Finally moving, I tried following the Garmin GPS, got lost, couldn't find the bus station (not in location GPS told me), ended up driving to a different location told me by a gas station attendant. Ultimately, I found my lost luggage. I'm now loaded for bear. At this point, I'm thinking "Miami is not my friend", and I want out of town...now!



So, I booked it across the Florida Everglades from midnight till 3 AM, 'dinner' at Waffle House (a.k.a. Heaven)...

... then checked into a motel.

The motel attendant says checkout is 11 AM, so wanting more than 6 ½ hrs of sleep, I paid for 2 nights, and was so exhausted that I slept 15 hrs. Remember that I had been up since 5AM Friday?!?



Leaving the motel, Sunday morning, I noticed a shifting issue. I had difficulty shifting out of 1st & 2nd gears, while the engine was cold, but once warm, the bike shifted beautifully. I stayed overnight Sunday with my Dealer, near Atlanta, GA. I experienced the same shifting issue the next morning – until the engine was warm, but it shifted fine the rest of the day. I made it home after a long 787 mile day, a total of exactly 1600 miles from Miami to home.

The day after arriving home, shifting was the same. As you might imagine, I'm thinking "Oh boy, a \$2500 transmission issue, no wonder I got such a 'good deal'". Dad, reminded me, as he has many times before to 'look for the simple fix first'. He quickly found the shifting issue cause: The seller had placed a larger diameter 'Peg' on the shifter, apparently requiring him to adjust the shifter up some, to make room for his foot to go underneath. This resulted in the shifter not being able to be lifted high enough to upshift, due to the shifter hitting the frame. Dad pulled out the side plastic to get at the shifter linkage, made an adjustment, bringing the shifter down enough to clear the frame when upshifting.

My \$2500 issue, solved! And, one more solid example of "Looking for the simple fix first". Thanks Dad!

I took the LT to Don at BMW Dealership for minor service interval. Don fixed the Brake Failure indicator light flashing issue, along with changing all 4 brake fluid systems as part of the minor service.

Don, turning over my keys:



I'm finally breathing easy. As the good book says "All things work together for good ..."

[ed note: Welcome to the LT-owning world, Jay!]

Treasurer's Report

Jim Mick



Check book balance for the end of Jan:	\$3060.00
Check book balance for the end of Feb:	\$2132.70
Balance 3 months ago:	\$1965.00
Balance 6 months ago:	\$2475.00
PayPal balance for the end of Jan:	\$ 751.80
PayPal balance for the end of Feb:	\$ 790.47

Rhys Blair won \$27.00 in the 50/50 drawing at our February Club meeting. \$23.00 was reimbursed to George for the cake, plates and plastic which left \$4.00 being added to the CkBk.

Mid Winter Banquet (MWB): Did anyone else notice that our MWB is just a mixed up BMW? Total bill for the night took \$1204.77 from the checkbook. 37 Members and guests had paid \$760. The 50/50 for the night added \$318.00 into the checkbook. Cliff and Pam (owners of the Dealership) were the winners of the 50/50 and they gave the winnings back to the club. \$100 was used to purchase gift cards from the dealership and \$9.53 was used to purchase a roll of tickets for the 50/50 drawing. Net cost to the MCBeemers: \$234.30. The officers went out on a limb this year to be willing for the club to pick up almost \$450 of the bill so we could offer the evening for just \$20/member and \$30/non member. With that type of success, we may see this being done again in the future.

Renewal of members and associate members added \$65.00 to the checkbook. PayPal increased by \$38.67 for membership renewals.

Mike Ecksein rejoined the club after a lapse of about 4 years so introduce yourself if you see him.

Our 2015 membership is 62.

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. 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.



Trading Post

Got something to sell or want to buy something you think your fellow MCBeeemers might be interested in? let Nick know, we'll get posted here!

For Sale: 2007 K1200LT. Gray, one owner. Less than 8,000 miles on meter. Excellent shape. All bells and whistles for that year. Currently set up for single rider but it has all the original equipment including double seat. Must see in person to appreciate. If you or a friend are interested please call **AI at 586-790-9100**. Asking \$10,500.00, OBO. A must see motorcycle for the up coming season.



(586) 792-7676 Fax: (586) 792-5610

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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

ONE YEAR FREE MEMBERSHIP

with purchase of motorcycle from BMW MOTORCYCLES OF DETROIT

MOTOR CITY BEEEMERS
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Club Web Site - www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers
Club eGroup Email - 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
AND send completed form by e-mail to: Jim@RidingIsWonderful.com