



Motor City Beemers

Club Newsletter



BMW MOA Club #231

BMW RA Club #209

July 2015

Volume 24, Number 07

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 July 11, 2015

Following Meeting: August 8, 2015

Web site: www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers

Eat to ride, ride to eat!

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Inside:

Prez Sez ... page 2
 Editor's corner ... page 3
 Rhys' Rants ends ... page 4
 Some of my favorite UP stops ... page 5
 Lake Huron Ride Report ... Page 8
 Club Events and Non-club Events ... page 9
 Wednesdays Dinner schedule ... page 10
 Treasurer's Report ... page 11
 Name Tags / Trading Post ... page 12
 Membership application ... page 13

Prez Sez

Maury Feuerman



A lot of people that ride motorcycles enjoy the sport for their own various reasons. Some riders enjoy the open road and the feeling of consuming mile after mile with the ability to enjoy their own thoughts. Others like to see the sights, feel the wind, the changing temperature and enjoy the smells. For me it's all about "TWISTIES".

Unfortunately our roads here in Michigan are rather straight and very flat so it requires a little bit of traveling to get to the really great country or mountain two lane twisty highways. However just a few hundred miles to our south in southern Ohio and West Virginia there are plenty of great roads and they are putting down new asphalt like mad men!

Last month Prabhakar Palaniappan was nice enough to spend a few days with me putting his California Superbike skills to good use riding some of the best twisties in the Midwest. The kind of riding that can be enjoyed on the roads that you will find in this area take a fair amount of practice and some time to really enjoy but once you develop a rhythm for the roads there is nothing like it! Prabhakar thanks for going with me it was a great time and you have become an outstanding sport bike rider!

Sorry we missed the picnic but using the excuse that riding got in the way seems reasonable! For July Keith is headed back to Kentucky with me at mid month for a week of their twisties.

Allen G. enjoy your new RT I have seen what it is capable of and know that it's a great bike! Keith enjoy your new 1600, clearly you needed something to ride that was more powerful than the Ducati. To everyone else, Get out and ride the season is short, enjoy it while you can!

Editor's Corner

Nick Holland



Welcome to July, and the second half of 2015. ARGH!!!!

I was talking to a coworker I was stuck at work with late one evening, fixing an unplanned problem, and mentioned that I had been planning on working on this newsletter. He laughed and said, "What's there to put in the newsletter, other than 'we rode somewhere, we ate, we rode back'?" Well, hopefully, we give you something a little more than that.

For those of you that missed the club picnic, you missed a great time. This is only my second picnic

with the group, so perhaps I should not over generalize, but Rhys is a fantastic griller and lots of other great food was brought by other members. And of course, time to spend with the great people of the club.



Look at that grill! I have a lot of respect for vegetarians who can look at a grill like that and not get hungry!



The day started out a bit questionable – as we were packing up and getting ready to

leave, the clouds were looking very thick and somewhat threatening. Sure enough, within 100 yards of leaving the driveway, the first rain drops hit the windshield. We had a brief discussion, and Paula said, "Keep going. If it gets too bad in fifteen minutes or so, we'll turn back and grab a car." Well, other than a few moments, it never got bad, and by the time those moments happened, we were on the freeway, and the LT did its wonderful job of keeping us out of the nasty part of the weather while still giving us the open air ride (I'll admit, that power windshield seemed to be a most absurd feature...until I got my LT with it). In about 15 minutes, we were out of the rain, and into what turned out to be a beautiful day.



There was no scheduled ride for July this year, and we missed the ride to the Dorsey House in June, so let's go there. It is about an 80 minute ride from the dealership through the countryside and the food is always good and fairly priced. I will not be attending this ride as I have a class reunion at Stoney Creek for Chippewa Valley, some ungodly number of years have passed since I graduated from there. We'll be looking for a ride leader for this ride.

The August ride is scheduled for El Mexicano Restaurant at 3593 Center Ave, in Essexville, Michigan. This is a nice ride weather permitting. I will be on vacation during this weekend so we'll need a ride leader for this lunch ride also.

Other news, there is the Waldo Fried Baloney ride the 3rd weekend in August which is August 15 this year. It is a nice 188 mile jaunt from the dealership for a great fried baloney sandwich and the highest piled cream pies you have ever had. It's an all day event for sure.

For those of you who have never tried an Iron Butt challenge there is another one coming up on August 22 called Yoopers Maddess II. I am registered for this one already as are a couple other club members. Just go to this link for all the details:

<http://members.triton.net/vandenbe/2015YM.htm>

They just finished the Lake Huron Iron Butt ride in June and some 39 riders and pillons started and finished all within the time limit to all become new members of the Iron Butt Association. I'm 63 and this will be my first official IBA event and I'm looking forward to it. I have ridden a few 1000 mile days, but purely by accident or poor planning. This one sounds like fun. Check it out.

In June we had our first Observation Ride coordinated by Pat Kelley. It was well attended for our first riding event that didn't involve a free meal. We look forward to many more such events. Thanks Pat, it was a lot of fun!

The MOA Rally is in July also, so by now you should have already registered, made plans and getting things packed and ready to go. Be sure your bike is in great running order and if not get it in to Don for that final check up.

That's all I have for now, hopefully we'll see you around somewhere on two wheels and enjoying a ride.

Rhys B. Blair
Ride Captain

Some of my favorite UP stops

Nick Holland

I went to school in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and as my father's family was from the U.P., I claim to be half-Yooper by birth. My first "long distance" motorcycling was done in the Copper Country of the Keweenaw peninsula, and we've done a fair amount of vacationing in the U.P., so I thought I'd share some of our favorite places in the Eastern UP. Inclusion in my list doesn't mean it is the best place in the world, not being on my list doesn't mean a place isn't worth of merit, these are just places that may not be obvious places to stop. One word of warning: these aren't usually "stop, look, go" places – our preferred travel pace is rather leisurely, not "rack up as many miles as possible".

One the way:

Westbranch, MI I-75 Exit 212: **Lumberjack Restaurant:** We enjoy this place enough that we tend to twist our vacations a bit so we either stop for a meal or stay the night here. It's not that far from Detroit, but we sometimes use it as a stopping point for vacations started in the evening after leaving work. Place is attached to the Quality Inn in Westbranch, which we also found quite nice. Food is good, decor is that of a lumber camp, fun gift shop.

Mackinaw City: I'm going to end up short-changing this city. I'll admit my bias: I don't consider it being "up north" until we've crossed over The Bridge. However, we have stopped at the Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse which is worth a tour, and the beach there. The beach extends UNDER the Mackinac Bridge, so if you take your boots off, you can stick your one foot in Lake Michigan and one foot in Lake Huron at the same time. The lighthouse tour was interesting. There is an extra-cost "climb the lighthouse tower" tour, which was fun, but it turns out I'm not a big fan of spiral staircases...so that was a bit more exciting than we perhaps anticipated.

Mackinaw Bridge: This may not be an attraction for everyone. I've gone over this bridge in some pretty nasty weather (in a four-wheeled vehicle), so doing it in a motorcycle wasn't a big deal to me, but be advised, if you haven't gone over it before: it's very long, very high, it tends to be a bit windy. However, only two vehicles have ever gone over the railings and fell off the bridge (and one was a deliberate suicide), and neither was a motorcycle. You will make it over!. Center lane are an open grating which will make your vehicle wiggle a bit, if you look down, you can see the water under the bridge. Outer lane is normal pavement, but closer to the guard rail. You may not get to decide – perpetual maintenance often has one or another lane closed. You pay a toll at the UP side of the bridge.

St. Ignace: We've made entire vacations in this town. Lots to do, lots of fun tourist traps.

Places to eat:

Driftwood: Nice general sit-down restaurant. We've always received great service, even when walking in 5 minutes before closing time.

Java Joe's: Much more than the coffee shop the name implies. Great breakfast, lunch and dinner. The cinnamon bread sticks are highly recommended. NOT a fast place – when busy, you may end up waiting an hour before your food hits your table. But we think it is worth the wait when you can. And the owner, Joe, is a character worth meeting. Open most of the time in peak season, drops off in winter. Note: Joe is a vegetarian ("Indian word for 'lousy hunter'", according to a bumper sticker on Joe's own car), so plenty to chose from if you wish to avoid meat, but plenty of good meat to eat, too.

Jose's Cantina: Owned and operated by Jose, who looks suspiciously like Joe from Java Joe's. As Jose says, "Best Mexican within 75 miles." Also the only Mexican food within 75 miles, but

really, it is great. We've had a small party there, and the staff bent over backwards to help us put it all together. Nice waterfront view (and violates our observation that "the better the view, the worse the food"). Again, great choices for both vegetarians and meat eaters.

St. Ignace Places to stay:

Our favorite is the **Quality Inn Lakefront**: They have a number of rooms with very nice hot tubs, all rooms have a small fridge, most rooms have a great view. Seasonal, closes for the winter. Easy walk to both Java Joe's and Jose's Cantena.

Driftwood: Small, simple and cheap rooms. Clean, but spartan. Open year round. Apparently popular with bikers and snowmobilers, and usually the first place in town to turn on the "Sorry, Full!" sign, and attached to the Driftwood restaurant and bar.

We've also stayed at a few other places, all have been fine.

St. Ignace activities: These are just some of the things to do.

Mackinac Island: I love the boat ride. I don't really "get" the island itself. Most people seem to like the charm of a town with no powered vehicles (except for emergency vehicles, construction vehicles, golf carts, airplanes and snowmobile after the tourists are gone in the winter), I find it a reminder of the charms of the modern motor vehicle. Primary source of transportation is horses. You may talk about the dirty emissions of motor vehicles, but I'd much rather be around the exhaust of my old two-stroke Suzuki T500 over the exhaust and emissions of an island full of horses (hint: don't step in a puddle, especially if it hasn't just rained). It's an island full of tourist traps. I do like the boat ride, we've actually done the ride out, went into one store, and been on the next boat back and enjoyed it. I've found it better to visit in the cool weather of early spring or late fall – cold weather keeps the smell down.

Evening Fireworks: Saturday nights through the summer, the city has fireworks.

Vesper Cruise: Some years ago, we found out a local church was doing free (keep reading) Friday sunset "Vesper Cruises" to and around the Mackinac Bridge. Bring a jacket! Yes, church group, but it wasn't too "in-your-face" with the religion, I find it hard to believe anyone of any faith would find it offensive. They do pass the hat to help pay for renting of the boat and staff, I think we put in \$20 each (which was more than they requested). Unfortunately, not sure if it is still being done.

Cut River Bridge: On US-2, 25 miles west of St. Ignace. I crossed this bridge dozens of times without realizing it was more than a way to get cars across a river. First of all, if you don't have an altimeter, you probably won't realize how high up you are – like me, you probably assumed you were right near Lake Michigan near lake level, but you are actually almost 150ft above lake level. Park on either side of the bridge in the designated parking spots, you can cross the river in the barricaded from the road sidewalks, get to the other side, climb down a stair case, cross UNDER US-2, come up on the other side, walk along the other sidewalk on the bridge, and cross under the bridge on the other end. All free. You can probably make it a 15 minute stop, or turn it into an all-day event if you are into hiking (there are trails down to and along the river).

Mystery Spot: Pure tourist trap. I'll give away the punchline that there's no mystery, it's all just a matter of playing with perspective. Still, even though I knew how it was done, it was fun. Staff was very nice, took good care of us.

Lake Michigan Beaches along US-2: Between St. Ignace and the Cut River Bridge, US-2 hugs Lake Michigan, with some very very nice beach front between the road and the lake. We are talking about TWO MILES of beach here...and you can pull your car over to the side of the road and get out and play in the lake or on the beach. These beaches have the water to the west, if you get a chance to watch the sunset over Lake Michigan, it's highly recommended. About 11 miles west of St. Ignace.

Lehtos' Pasties: This is one of the best and highest regarded UP Pasties around. On US-2, about six miles west of St. Ignace on the lake side of the road. They sell 'em warm, cold, frozen. Get a few warm, then eat on the beach...(don't forget the ketchup. While some like gravy on their pasties, supposedly ketchup is more authentic.). Note: you will find a variety of Pasty style in the area and across the UP.

Sault Ste. Marie:

Soo Locks: I'd consider this a "U.P. Must See". I've lived within a mile of water traveled by lake freighters almost my entire life, so they are not quite the amazing bit of transportation that many people might find them to be, but it is still amazing watching these big ships go through the Soo Locks.

Soo Lock Boat Tours: Just do this. Took us too long to get around to doing this. In addition to the locks themselves, you tour a small Canadian lock you may not have known existed, and some industrial ship docks.

Point Iroquois Lighthouse: You can hit this between Sault Ste. Marie and Tahquamenon Falls. It's another lighthouse tour, similar to the Mackinaw City lighthouse, but a lot less people there. What I said about the spiral staircase in Mackinaw City applies here..and then some, as this is a tighter spiral. Once you get to the top, quite a view. Then you have to go down the stair case again. Good news, no evidence of anyone ever getting stuck at the top.

Tahquamenon Falls: There are actually TWO stops -- the upper and lower falls. You want to go to both. If you paid the \$10 extra for your license plate, free admission to this state park. Tourist-trappy stuff at both, more at upper falls, iirc. Lots of walking, and good hiking opportunities, if you are into such things. Getting there by bike is fairly fun -- none of the roads are straight. First time we went by bike, Paula said she enjoyed the ride even more than the falls. I find the late afternoon sun less than optimal for viewing the falls (you end up looking into the sun), so my recommendation is to get there before the sun gets too low.

Again, this is just *some* of the things we've found to do in the eastern UP. One of these days, I'll write up the western UP...might look more like a book, though. Watch for deer when driving through the UP, and keep your speed close to the posted speed limits. In the evening, watch for swarms of bugs.

Lake Huron Ride Report

Jim VanDenBerghe

I hear that some MC Beemers may be showing for the Yooper Madness Ride, so I thought you also may be interested in how the Lake Huron Ride turned out.

We had 24 Riders and 3 Pillions departed Imlay City in drizzling rain. Before we reached Port Huron the rain became heavy. It had let-up a bit by the time we hit customs and had ended by the time we reached London. One vet IBA Rider had a split seam in his jacket and road for home after reaching Sarnia because he said not only his undies, but socks were soaked, too. He said he will be doing the Yooper Ride.

The weather was great for the balance of the ride, with temps in the low 80's up on the north shore of Lake Huron near North Bay & Sudbury. One group of Riders saw a young bear in the median near Sudbury (in the middle of the day, no less). And after getting our last mandatory receipt in Burton, we hit some rain before pulling into the Speedway in Imlay City.

The two rabbits, Jeff (ST1300) and Ken (R1200GSA) were the first in at 12:30 am. A few minutes later a Rider on an H-D EVO pulled in. Next in at about 1:45 were three new IBA Riders: A husband and wife from Marlette, Carl & Marcia, each on Victory Cross County's and Tom (ST1300). The balance of the Riders arrived at about 3:45 am, including myself. I had been riding with two new IBA Riders, Alan (FJR1300ES) from Quebec and Mike (GL1500) from Casco Twp. who I met in Sarnia. We made a few extra gas stops because of Mike's relatively lower range.

Crossing the Bridge was a snap; no wind, traffic, or lane closures and it was dark, so I couldn't see how far down the water is.

When we arrived at Harrison for a mandatory gas stop, our group combined with a group of about 9 other bikes and we all headed to Burton for our last gas stop. The weather was nice and cool, and traffic was nil. I was impressed by the riding skill of all the Riders that late in the game. It was like poetry in motion. We were doing about 68 mph but before we reached Flint, Mike decided to charge a bit and pulled around the pack and started cruising at 73, so the three of us reached Burton a few minutes before the balance of the combined group did.

There were 12 other Riders that did the ride, but started & ended at other locations along the route. We did see a few of them at some of the gas stops.

Ishii from Farmington Hills started & ended there, but made an appearance in Imlay City before we departed. Ishii rides a Burgman 400. He did 1,131 miles in 21.58 hours for an overall average of 52.4 mph. The rabbits had a moving average of 55.3 mph. Pat, Marcia and Tom had an overall average of 51.8 mph. Yes, less than Ishii's !! The balance of the Riders averaged about 47.6 mph. Once again Ishii demonstrated, "To go Far, Stop Quick".

30 new IBA numbers will be issued on the ride!!!

IMHO, we need more MC Beemers with IBA numbers and displaying that "Worlds Toughest Riders" license plate backer. Hope to see you in Houghton Lake August 22nd!!

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
July 11	Meeting: 10:30a Lunch: Dorsey House	See Rhys' article in May issue.
Aug 8	Meeting: 10:30a Lunch: El Mexicano Restaurant, Essexville	
Aug 15	Waldo Fried Baloney ride	
Sept 19	Frankenmuth Chicken Dinner	

Non-club events

July 23-25: MOA Rally: Billings Montana: See Jim Mick's article in the May Newsletter!

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>

Oct 1-4: BMW RA's 2015 rally: "Thrills in the Hills" rally in in Harrison, Arkansas.

Come on, people, I know there is more going on in the area than this. Let me know so I can add it! nick@holland-consulting.net

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

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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

July 1	The Raft	7707 Dyke Rd Ira, MI 586.725.910
July 8	CK Diggers Bar & Grill	2010 W Auburn rd Rochester Hills, MI 248.853-6600
July 15	Apple Orchard Inn	62840 Van Dyke Rd Washington Twnshp, MI 586.752.2188
July 22	Jimmy Dee's	43820 Groesbeck hwy Clinton Twnshp, MI 586.463.7500
July 28	Camp Ticonderoga	5725 Rochester Rd Troy, MI 248.828.2825

Treasurer's Report

Jim Mick



Check book balance for the end of May: \$2532.70

Check book balance for the end of Jun: \$2319.47

Balance 3 months ago: \$2307.70

Balance 6 months ago: \$3060.00

PayPal balance for the end of May: \$876.00

PayPal balance for the end of June: \$886.00

50/50 sold \$71.00 of tickets at the June Club meeting. Mike Madley won \$36.00, George Yosin was reimbursed \$18.00 for 2 dozen donuts and \$17.00 was added to the CkBk.

\$110.00 was received for the Picnic and the first \$5 for the Frankenmuth reservation which will add another \$115.00 to the CkBk. Also received \$10.00 into PayPal for the Picnic.

Pat Kelley was reimbursed \$82.31 for prizes purchased for the Observation Run on 6/6/15 and Rhys used the Club Master Card for picnic purchases of \$41.07 and \$206.85 which took \$330.23 from the CkBk.

On 6/8/14 the BMW MOA was paid \$15 from the CkBk for our club renewal which is valid until June 30, 2016.

Our 2015 membership is at 84.

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 MCBemers might be interested in? let Nick know, we'll get posted here!



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

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