



Motor City Beemers

Newsletter



BMW MOA Club #231

BMW RA Club #209

November 2019

Volume 28, Number 11

All meetings are held the **SECOND** Saturday of the month at 10:30AM at
BMW Motorcycles of Detroit
1301 S Rochester Rd, Suite B
Rochester Hills, MI 48307
Phone: (248) 402-4013

Many of our “major” club events are on the **THIRD** Saturday of the month

We welcome owners and fans of all bikes
“An eating club with a motorcycle problem!”

Our next meeting is: November 9, 2019

Following Meeting: December 14, 2019

Web site: <https://MCBeemers.org>

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 1st Vice President
 2nd Vice President
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Membership info: <https://mcbeemers.org/howdoijoin.html>

Activities: <https://mcbeemers.org/activities/>

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Greetings Beemers!

I hope all of you had a good time finding and taking pictures at this year's "Off the Beaten Path Poker Run 2019." Nick would appreciate the pictures as soon as possible. Please send them via email to nick@holland-consulting.net or copy them to a USB stick and deliver to Nick at one of the meetings. If you've submitted pictures, check to ensure that Nick has received and posted them at:

<http://mcbeemers.org/pictures/2019PokerRun/>

We haven't been able to schedule a Fall Color Ride. It's still possible that we'll have an opportunity this month, but the odds are low.

At the time I write this, a location for the November lunch has not yet been set. We went to the Dorsey House for lunch after the October meeting. Rhys rode, the rest of us braved the elements from inside our cars.

Winter Banquet is coming in February – more details later.

It's never too early for Xmas ideas. Contact the dealer for accessories, gear, and maintenance items for your friends and family.

Till next month be safe and get out there and ride!



I remember as a child, thinking how five minutes was an eternity. Now I've been the newsletter editor / communications person for the club for five years and it seems like last week. And now it's November, and probably past time to be putting my bikes away for the winter, and I'm wondering where the year went.

For what its worth, my usual routine for winterizing my bikes is...putting them in the garage. I try to put an incandescent flood light on them to keep them just a little warmer than the surrounding air, and I put them on \$5 Harbor Freight battery maintainers. And that's about it. Don warned me long ago that the K bikes like mine like to be warmed up completely – if you just start them and run them a few minutes, you will just foul the plugs. It is

better to just leave them until you can ride them again.

Yes, this newsletter is going out late. Sorry.

In the last week, I've had a couple opportunities to appreciate this club beyond the usual "someone to talk bikes with". There are a lot of cool people in our club with a lot of knowledge and skill in various areas, not just food and motorcycles. One was providing assistance to a member of the group, another was getting assistance from someone for a friend of mine, completely not-motorcycle related, but a great person I only know because of this group.

I have all the pictures I am aware of for the Off the Beaten Path Poker Run up on the web site. Please make sure yours are there! If they aren't...probably my fault, but make sure I get your pictures posted.

Related, but separate, get your riding pictures together for the Winter Banquet slide show. If you got just a few, e-mail them to me, if you got a lot, get me a CDR, DVDR, USB stick, whatever at any upcoming dinners and meetings. I'll try to remember to bring a computer with me for extracting them. If it is biking or bike trip related, please collect your best pictures for the slide show.

Got a few contributions this month to the newsletter – Josh is continuing his very important notes on "Group Riding", and Jim's telling us his story from one day of his OTBP picture quest.

Stuff on the website

Main website: <https://mcbeemers.org>

Activities page: <https://mcbeemers.org/activities>

Newsletters, current and past: <https://mcbeemers.org/mcb-nl/>

Club pictures: <https://mcbeemers.org/pictures/index.html>

Club invite cards: <https://mcbeemers.org/mcb-nl/MCB-invites.pdf>

Membership info: <https://mcbeemers.org/howdoijoin.html>

Last month, I wrote about group riding: pre-ride meetings, the roles of lead, sweep, and rider, and general recommendations for safer, easier, more fun group riding. This month, I'm writing about signals: non-verbal communication. Headsets with intercoms make communication between riders easier. Not everyone has one. Advance setup is needed, and batteries can run out of power.. Cathy will turn hers off if she gets annoyed with me.

There are signals for many purposes. When the rider ahead of me opens and closes their hand repeatedly, it means three different things to me::

- “You turn signal is still on, Josh.”
- “You left your signal on again, Josh.”
- “Again? Have Don install an automatic turn signal cancel thingy on that bike.”

Here then, is my very short list of **helpful** communication signals, as described by the MSF:

The group should enter single file in curves, on highway ramps, and in any zone where the lead rider indicates:

Single File - arm and index finger extended straight up



Double File - arm with index and middle finger extended straight up



We normally ride in staggered double file, at the left or right sides of the road lane. Signaling hazards to the riders behind us is a kindness:

Hazard in Roadway - on the right, point with right foot; on the left, point with left hand



Lastly, and most importantly I have ridden with a group than managed *lane changes* with hand signals. They used the standard DOT hand signals: left arm straight out for left, or with a 90 degree bend at the elbow with the arm straight up for right.

The lane change would be signaled from the lead back, then the lane change would be initiated by the sweep, who would turn on their bike's signal, shoulder check, and when clear move into and secure the new lane for the group. With the lane blocked, the riders would turn on their bikes' signals, shoulder check, and change lanes from the back to the front, starting with the rider immediately ahead of the sweep.

It worked with great ease and safety on I-75 and on US-23, and I think we should try it on our next group ride when lane changes are needed.

Be 'flexible' when bagging OTBP photos

By Jim Mick

Brian B and I took advantage of a perfect day for riding following the club meeting and lunch at the Foxfire Fixin's, on M-29 south of Marine City. Brian had already bagged his pics of the 3 in SE MI, but he had some free time set aside to enjoy the weather on his RT so he joined me heading for Dundee to bag a couple of Bears.

The plan was a straight shot down I-94 to US23 into Dundee but we hit stop and go traffic well before getting to I-75. WB I-94 was closed... When 3 lanes go down to 1 lane I wish people would not drive in the ending lane unless they DON'T PASS because they are in essence 'taking cuts' and everyone has to 'back up' to let them in... Anyway, we decided to take I-75 to Monroe and then cut west to Dundee.

Exit 15 off of I75 took us through Monroe, along the river. Because of construction, we were detoured across the river a couple of times. It was a nice ride through town but we should have stopped for gas when we saw a station with a cash price for regular at \$2.359.

Arriving in Dundee, about 30 min later that I was expecting to arrive, my GPS would have taken me right to the bears, but Brian was leading. After my pic, we went inside, but not until we had looked at a couple of boats. Restrooms were first priority and then a walk among the aquariums – both sides. If you haven't been there to get the bears pic, make sure to look at the aquariums.



Initially, Brian was going to return home from Dundee, but he changed his plans to be home for supper and followed me to 'UofM's Big House' WHICH IS NOT A HOUSE, it's their stadium. While taking my pic there, a couple stopped and he said: "I'll take your pic, if you'll take ours" so we did. Then she got in our pic... What guy in his right mind would refuse her injecting herself in our space?

The road from 'the Big House' to the 'Dressed Up Chicken' was an enjoyable change from the slab of I-94 and I-75. When we arrived there, I was on empty. We had passed several stations, but after seeing gas for \$2.359, I saw nothing under \$2.799 (some as high as \$2.999). After my pic with the chicken, we went another 0.6 mi to a BP whose sign said \$2.799, but the pumps read \$2.699. We decided to just get a couple of gallons to get us home and headed there.

Brian logged 278 miles for his round trip from home, to club meeting, lunch, 3 OTBP poker stops and back home. My GPS recorded 270 miles from the dealership, lunch... and back home with an average moving speed of 50 mph.

We didn't get home until a little after sunset. Perfect weather, good friend and new places to visit... I guess that's the idea of getting Off The Beaten Path, but be flexible and do it with a friend or two. 'Wish Jay would have felt up for the ride!!

[editor's note: bigger picture is at <http://mcbeemers.org/pictures/2019PokerRun/ExtrasSlideShow/48.html>]

Treasurer's Report

Jim Mick



Check book balance for the end of September	\$2587.55
Check book balance for the end of October	\$2587.55
Balance one year ago	\$1377.47
Balance end of April	\$2824.37
Balance end of July	\$3060.37
PayPal balance for the end of July	\$113.11
PayPal balance for the end of June	\$113.11

- 61 Members
- 0 prepaid for MWB 2020
- 0 renewed membership for 2020

A very convenient way to pay for ANY MCBeemers membership or function, is to use your Bank/CU 'Bill Pay' option and they pay the postage... Send payment(s) to Jim Mick, 56750 FAIRCHILD RD, MACOMB, MI 48042. Once you input any payee name and address into their Bill Pay system, subsequent payments only require you to input the amount (and date). Please indicate in their memo for what you are paying.

If you intend to participate in all club subsidized events in 2020 (MWB (\$15), Picnic (\$5), and Frankenmuth (\$5) when you renew your 2020 membership (\$15), the annual cost for all is \$40. A member AND associate is \$75.

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 \$9.00.

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 print the free copies of the newsletter available at the dealership. They are also BMW riders.



to



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