



# Motor City Beemers



## Club Newsletter

BMW MOA Club #231

BMW RA Club #209

January 2005

Volume 13, Number 1

### FEBRUARY MEETING

Our next meeting will be held Saturday February 5th at 10:30am.

### WEB SITE

Our web master, Ives Potrafka, has our web site up and running. You can find it at [www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers](http://www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers), check it out. This will, eventually, replace emailing the newsletter. There are links for the newsletter, club directory, ride schedule, and a library of images.

### **Note from Ives:**

**MC Beemers now has a web site - [www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers](http://www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers)**

On this web site you will find:

- Monthly Meeting and Ride Schedule
- Newsletter Archive
- Ride Pictures (When you send them to me?)
- Club Member Pictures (When you send the to me? Thanks Pete for your submission!)
- BMW Links (I need your favorite web site to add to the list)
- Classifieds (When you submit them?)
- How to Join page so you can send all your NON member friends to the web site
- How to Join eGroups (More below on this one)
- **COMING SOON** - Password Protected Club Directory

**Mc Beemers now has a Yahoo eGroups email distribution list.**

- This is a email distribution list that **ONLY** club members belong to.
- Before anyone can join, they must be a member.

- To join the eGroups - send email to:
  - [MCBeemers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:MCBeemers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) -or-
  - [ives@mygreyhound.com](mailto:ives@mygreyhound.com)

So why join?

- Meeting Notices via Email
- Get your Newsletter via this distribution list - we hope to have this implemented by the Spring Riding Season
- Want to Ride and NEED a Partner - Post message to: [MCBeemers@yahoogroups.com](mailto:MCBeemers@yahoogroups.com)
- Planning a Trip and looking for company - Post message to: [MCBeemers@yahoogroups.com](mailto:MCBeemers@yahoogroups.com)
- Want you BWM's picture on they web site - post it here and I will move it to the web site

To Post a Message, send email to: [MCBeemers@yahoogroups.com](mailto:MCBeemers@yahoogroups.com)

When you post a message to [MCBeemers@yahoogroups.com](mailto:MCBeemers@yahoogroups.com) every member will receive it?

Ride Safe Everyone.... Spring is just around the corner....

Ives R. Potrafka

GEM - Web Site Committee Chair

MC Beemers -Webmaster

EMAIL: [ives@mygreyhound.com](mailto:ives@mygreyhound.com)

248-486-1413 (Home) / 888-309-1517(Pager)

### **RIDE AND EVENT SCHEDULE FOR 2005**

January 8 <sup>th</sup>	- No ride scheduled	- Lunch somewhere
January 29 <sup>th</sup>	- Annual dinner	- Pennas, Sterling Heights
February 5 <sup>th</sup>	- No ride scheduled	- Lunch somewhere
March 5 <sup>th</sup>	- Lunch ride to be scheduled	
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	- Ride to Tony Pacos', Toledo Ohio - Ryan Blair	
May 7 <sup>th</sup>	- Ride to G&R Tavern, Waldo Ohio - Rhys Blair	
June 4 <sup>th</sup>	- Ride to Frankenmuth for chicken dinner - Frank Emmerich	

- July 9<sup>th</sup> - Lunch ride to be scheduled
- August 6<sup>th</sup> - Lunch ride to be scheduled
- September 3<sup>rd</sup> - Lunch ride to be scheduled
- September 10<sup>th</sup> - Tentative date for picnic at Stoney Creek park
- October 1<sup>st</sup> - Lunch ride to be scheduled
- Mid October - Annual Blair color tour - Rhys and Ryan Blair
- November 5<sup>th</sup> - Lunch at Lafayette Coney Island in Detroit - Frank Emmerich
- December 3<sup>rd</sup> - No ride scheduled - Lunch somewhere

**ANNUAL DINNER**

Make plans for our 11th annual dinner on Saturday, January 29, 2005. Good food and fellowship. There might even be a few "Bent Beemers" to hand out. As in the past, the banquet room holds only so many. Please keep in mind "first come, first served". Ryan Blair is our coordinator. To confirm your seats he needs your money.

You are cordially invited to the  
 Motor City Beemers  
 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner

Saturday, January 29, 2005  
 At Villa Penna  
 43985 Hayes, Sterling Heights  
 (between 19 Mile and M59)

Social Hour 6pm      Introductions 6:45pm Dinner 7pm

Family style all you can eat dinner that will feature:

- |                             |                           |                |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Minestrone Soup             | Antipasto Salad           | Potatoes       |
| Beef Tips                   | Boneless Chicken Piccante | Vegatables     |
| Dinner Rolls / Garlic Bread | Ice cream for Dessert     | Coffee and Tea |

Motor City Beemers 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner

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

Number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35. per ticket for a total of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Ryan Blair  
Mail to: 25534 Maywood  
Woodhaven, MI 48183-4452

Questions: 734-692-3520 or rblair@wideopenwest.com

**RSVP by January 15, 2004**

**Motor City Beemer Name Tags**

Our Motor City Beemers name tags are available for purchase at Highest Honor, Inc. Highest Honor, Inc is located at 34777 Dequindre Road, Troy, Michigan 48083. Their shop is located on the west side of Dequindre Road, just south of 15 Mile Road. Herb and Jeff have a die set up already with our club logo on it. The cost of one name tag is just \$8.00. The Motor City Beemers picked up the cost of the die set back in August 2003.

The easiest way to get your name tag is send an email to Jeff at [www.jeff@highesthonor.biz](mailto:www.jeff@highesthonor.biz) and spell out exactly what you want on the name tag and when you would like to pick it up.

You can also call the guys at the shop at 248-588-7845 ask for Jeff and give him what you want on the name tag and they'll take care of it for you and let you know when you can pick it up.

So hurry up and get your special name tag engraved with **YOUR** one of a kind moniker. There will be special attention paid to those members that show up to the club meetings with their new name tag displayed proudly on their chests.

***...from the BeemerShip***

*by Pink Linguini*



- **CONGRADULATIONS TO.....JIM MUSGRAVE !!!!** Jim just received his "300,000 Mile Award" from BMW. Come on in, wish him the best and ask him if his butt is still sore.

- The Cycle World International Motorcycle Show will be at Cobo Hall Feb. 25-27. We have a limited supply of the regular admission price, coupons worth \$2 off compliments of:



- The North American International Auto Show here in Detroit begins Saturday, January 15. Jim and I had the opportunity to preview the BMW display, which included the new **K1200S**. See my article elsewhere in the newsletter for details & photos.



- **YES!!** Those Marsee Adventure jackets with a full sleeve length removable lining are FINALLY here! A great alternative to the Cycloak jackets we've sold for years. (We have about a dozen left, by the way.) The matching pants are equally well made and offer a great option for the cooler, cold and/or wet weather. Both are 100% waterproof and breathable. We have all the common sizes in stock for both jacket and pant.
- We also received a shipment of the new **Nolan X1002** flip-up helmets. They feature a revised and easier-to-use venting system, a more rigid construction, and the new, external, flip-up tinted visor. Nolan has made some significant improvements on an already good design.
- **NEW! NEW! NEW!** The "**Cheater**" eyeglass, as it's called, is a lightweight, comfortable eyeglass that features a wrap-around fit to protect your eyes while riding. A magnification feature is molded into the lower portion of the impact resistant polycarbonate lens, allowing you to read the gages, GPS or a map **easily**. These glasses combine the best of both worlds - a protective safety glass for riding or working, and a reading glass. They are available in both clear and a light smoke tint, with magnification starting at 0.5 up to 3.0. **The BeemerShip now carries** a complete assortment of sizes and tints. I've used them beneath both a full face Arai and the flip up Nolan helmets with no fit problem. This is a very nice, high quality product. Stop in and check 'em out.
- Check our website and call Joel for details on all the previously owned bikes on the floor.

*Good judgment comes from bad experience...  
and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.*

*I don't believe I can add much to all that has been written about the new K1200S. But I can say that I'm probably one of 2 people you know who has seen, sat on and thoroughly inspected the bike in person. Jim and I had the opportunity to preview the North American Auto Show during press week and spent a fair bit of time with the bike.*

*After just a few minutes studying the overall proportions and size, I think the bike is far more flattering and attractive in person than in the photos I've seen. My more in depth and typical microscopic analysis (old habits are hard to break), revealed many small, subtle touches that are not obvious in photographs. Details such as small flutes molded into the headlight lens, the shape and contour of the windshield in the front and side view and even the plastic trim all seem to contribute to a common design flow. This angular, arrow shaped theme is also replicated in the front fender, gas tank, seat and body cut lines.*

*Not unusual, considering they make both cars and bikes, BMW has even brought a bit of their automotive technology to the bike. Details like adding "soft touch" rubber coating to the passenger grab handles and the gas tank cover are thoughtful and functional.*



*How's the riding position, you ask? Well, as most of you know, I'm far more familiar with and comfortable on pure sport bikes with a race orientated riding position. I'm about 5'10" and could easily get both feet flat on the floor while on the bike. As you can see by the photo, I am leaned forward but not as radically as my Ducati 916. (Actually, not much is as radical as the 916!) The reach to the bars, the degree of leg bend and the degree I am pushed into the gas tank are about the same as my R1100S. If anything, the leg bend might be just a bit more on the new K1200S. The overall riding position is sporting but not too aggressive.*



Fit and finish? Excellent...and this particular bike has been a test mule to some degree. Some nice attention to detail, as well. Body panel gaps and openings are designed to look attractive and styled. I even noticed separate close out pieces attached to the inside of the tail section panels to augment the "finished" look.

Again, you have read much in the magazines and surfed the net no doubt, so I won't ramble on for pages. But if you get the chance to hit the auto show, I know you'll spend some time with the new K1200S.

Now let's see. ~~When I get one~~, Oops, I mean, if I had one, what would I remove, re-paint or re-graphic first? Like I say, old habits are hard to break.

### **Adventures in motorcycling by John Saarinen**

The trip went well, 5 days on the road; some very curvy roads and fall colors on the agenda. Headed to Blue Ridge Parkway and eastern West Virginia for a late October ride. The trip got interesting. Interesting is good...makes for a better story when sitting around with friends.



I left the house Monday morning for Cass, West Virginia. Something stopped traffic for an hour or so on I-75 south near the Gibraltar Trade Center. Shut off the bike and waited. Traffic started to move and about 3 miles up the road there was some sand spread on what appeared to be oil and a section of the concrete retaining wall was missing. Rest of the day was uneventful expressway driving until I got near Cass. Tuesday's plan had been to ride the steam trains at the Cass Scenic Railroad Museum. However at a gas station near Cass I found out that the railroad only ran on Thursday through Sunday in late October. Turned the bike south and headed to Bluefield, West Virginia. Pulled into town about 10PM. Followed the directions on the signs advertising various motels. An hour later still had not found the first motel. Saw some people standing in a closed shopping center parking lot and asked for directions. They all laughed. Turns out they built a bunch of new roads, renamed the highways and the motels were on the old highways which were no longer identified by names or numbers. They couldn't be that hard to find for the people with some knowledge of the area. I got the last room in the last motel I could find.

Next morning in heavy fog went down to the Blue Ridge Parkway and got on at Fancy Gap, Virginia. I planned to ride to the northern end of the parkway to Stanton, Virginia. This is the only stretch I hadn't ridden before. Didn't look that far on the map, plus I had ridden the southern end many times and didn't remember it taking that long. Not a straight stretch of road could be found. Great weather on the Parkway, rode in the clouds a bunch of times. Had to watch out for the wet leaves around almost every curve. Why do leaves collect at the curves? Sharp curves had more leaves, straight stretches (when they could be found) had no leaves. Met a lot of local bikers out for the day. Most thought I was nuts to ride down from the north for a couple of days on the Parkway. Rode all day and late into the night. Had a great time. Good weather until dark. At dusk the fog and deer came out. The wet leaves never left. Got off at a few exits and couldn't find anything...I mean anything. Started thinking about GPS units. Came to the Beuna Vista exit and got off. Came down off the mountain and out of the clouds. It was raining and I came to a T intersection, no sign. Question, turn right or left? Can't remember which way I turned but about 15 miles down off of the mountain on this very windy-twisty road with wet leaves, deer and fog (but luckily no guard rails) I found a AAA approved motel. How bad could it be?

That night almost got into a fight with the guy in the next room. The room on one side had a plumbing problem that created water hammer sound. You know when the pipes start to vibrate making all kinds of noise. The guy on the south side of my room (I assume it was south) turned on the water and couldn't turn it off. The pipes started the wall vibrating. After about half an hour the guy to the north (I think it was north) started beating on the wall and swearing. Ten minutes after that he started beating on

my door. He was kind of upset. Couldn't believe how big he was when I opened the door. He was bigger than the doorway. He had to duck to come into my room. Who was I to say he couldn't come in. Quick explanation showed him I wasn't running power tools in my room. He said "you got it worse than me" then walked out. Another couple of hours later they got the water shut off. Now none of us have water, problem solved!

Next morning I was pretty tired, but hit the road; fog, deer, wet leaves, occasional rain and dropping temperatures. Good thing for heated jacket liners. First time I ever had one, now considering the pants. I guess you don't have to be cold and uncomfortable to have fun. The view going up to the Blue Ridge was definitely prettier when you can see something. Looking down over the edge made me glad I didn't see the drop offs the night before. Found a few dry sunny sections of road above the clouds. Saw perfect examples of why they call it the Smokey Mountains. The peaks of various mountains stuck up above the clouds.

Got to the end of the Blue Ridge at Stanton before dinner time and cut up Hwy 250 into West Virginia. Left the last big town and rode for about 4 hours in the dark, fog, cold rain and deer. Visibility dropped to about 30 feet or less at times. The only time visibility improved was when the pick up trucks came at you in the center of the 2 lanes with their bright lights. Then you could clearly see what was about to happen. Bike started to run on only one cylinder when I let it drop to near idle. Had to keep my hand on the throttle...kept wanting to stall. This just made the sharp corners in the dark with the deer, wet leaves, fog and rain more interesting. Without this I may have fallen asleep. Plenty of tight corners, bike bogging/stuttering, wet leaves, rain and of course the deer kept my attention. Hadn't seen a light (except the occasional pick up truck) for about 4 hours. This all contributed to the whole adventure theme. Found a motel with a restaurant somewhere near Cass, West Virginia. Room looked good. Took the room and ate dinner in the restaurant. The restaurant had Lasagna for their specialty that night. A couple of locals and I ate and joked with the waitress and owner. Great time. The Lasagna had been frozen, but a few minutes in the microwave brought the outside to a boil...and the inside to luke warm. That night it was like a horror movie. Went outside to call home just to let Sharon know I hadn't driven off the side of a mountain. No signal on my cell phone! The room did not have a phone so went back to the restaurant to see if they had a pay phone. Yes they did, it was in one of the bushes near the road, no lights, not sure which bush. Wish I had brought that flash light I laid out while packing for the trip. Fifteens minutes of pushing branches aside on various bushes I found a phone. In the pitch black I tried to make a credit card call. No I don't know my card number from memory. After 4 attempts to get the number right while talking with the operator (wasn't very good at reading brail) I got a number that actually was a credit card number (and even under my name). Now for his killer question, what was the PIN number that is printed on the back of the card? You know the one in small print, lower right corner on

the back of the card. "Could you please hold on while I run over to my bike parked at the motel so I can read my PIN number in my head light?" He waited I got the number ran back and repeated it perfectly. I was feeling pretty proud at that point. Not that I raised any suspicions but; "what is billing address of the card? Is there anyone home to verify that you are who you say you are?" Luckily I was calling home. The call went through. Yes, I am still alive but bordering on insanity. Got in the room and turned on the heat. An hour later the first bug dropped on my head. Looked up and the ceiling was covered. The bugs were falling when they tried to climb over each other. They looked like lady bugs. Went to the office but everybody was gone. It was pitch black as far as you could see. Went back to the room and tried to go to sleep. Couldn't fall asleep. Killed a lot of them on my head (bed, walls, floor & TV). Couldn't see the picture through the bug guts. Dead bugs an inch or so deep in front of the TV. Dead bugs everywhere; 500 or so on the walls...2-300 on the floor...don't even want to think about the bed. Found out those little suckers bite. With the lights off you could hear them hitting the bed like rain drops. Had to kill them before they climbed too far under the sheets and started biting.

Needed to get them out of my hair so I went to take a shower. Opened the shower curtain and there was a ball of them on the inside of the shower curtain. It was the size of a baseball. Opened the toilet, grabbed the ball, threw it in and flushed. Looked like a cartoon with a solid sheet of them trying to scramble out of the bowl. Luckily got most of them. The survivors now were scattered all over the floor, walls, sink...everywhere. Decided not to take a shower at that time.

Slept (or tried to sleep) for about 3 hours. Got up and washed all of the bugs in the shower stall down the drain. Got in, showered, felt clean, dressed and got out of the room. Stood in the parking lot until a little before 6 AM. Starting the bike was difficult. Just didn't want to start, once started didn't want to stay running. Decided to wait until it got lighter. Small gas station/convenience store/grill across the street opened up at 6 AM. Went over got a fried egg biscuit and sat around. About 8 AM they asked me to leave (I was using their one and only table) and I hit the road.

Bike had a hard time starting. Had to keep the engine revved up to keep it running. Wasn't going to take the chance of having to stay in this motel another night while I waited for someone to come rescue me. Turns out Cass was only half an hour down the road. No motels there so it wouldn't have made a difference the night before. Stopped at Cass Scenic Railroad and waited until 10:30AM for the first tour. Had a great time. Ran into another guy who came over from Virginia by himself for the tour and we decided to hang out together. He rides but didn't think it was wise to ride over the mountain at that time of the morning, too much rain, fog and deer. Had a great time joking around and just talking bike and train stuff. The scenery looked like clouds and fog. It did make

for some great pictures and helped make it an adventure. Left there about 4:30 PM and rode for the next 6 hours looking for a motel. Surprising how early at night those small towns close up. Not a straight stretch of road anywhere. Got a lot of chances to be within 2 feet of deer. I don't know who was more surprised, them or me. Found a gas station while nearing empty. Tanked up and while paying for the gas they told me to be very careful if I was going west, there are a lot more deer in that direction. I didn't think there could be many more than I saw during the last 4 hours. They said it was about 30-40 miles to I-77 and a motel. Two hours (and a lot of deer) later I found the interstate. They weren't kidding about the deer.

Nothing worth noting that night...went fairly smooth. Got the room, found the closest place to get dinner was about 12 miles up I-77. Hit the highway, bike still running rough so I opened it up. Twelve miles just flew by. Got my burger and flew back to the room. Slept very well that night. Next morning bike started easily and ran perfectly. Headed north saw 6 fresh deer dead on the side of the road. Thought back to my exuberance the night before, not smart. The weather report said light scattered rain up to about Parkersburg then cloudy/partly cloudy skies the rest of the way. Put on my rain jacket, no rain pants. Hate to wear those things. They were partly right, light scattered rain up to Parkersburg. Kept my speed up and kept dry. Got onto I-80 (the Ohio toll-way) and it started coming down in buckets. I was drenched within a few minutes. No sense in stopping, wasn't going to get any wetter. It was running less than 100 foot visibility. Cruising about 75 MPH I came up on a car parked in the center lane without brake lights or flashers. Quick maneuver, I was around them and heading on down the road. Don't know what happened to them...., don't think anything good. Rain finally stopped and I pulled in to fill up one last time. Filled up and paid at the pump, couldn't go in anywhere....looked like I had a personal problem.

Crossed the Michigan border and opened it up a bit. Got into a rougher section of Detroit (...is there a not rough section?), bike started to stall and run on one cylinder again when I backed off on the throttle. Letting the clutch out after shifting brought the engine back to life. It was probably to make this part a little more of a challenge. Hit rush hour traffic just to mix things up a bit. Bike still having issues. If it was easy everybody would do it. Remember this is supposed to be an adventure.

Coming up Van Dyke I waved while passing the Beemership. Didn't stop, bike was starting to run smoothly, plus if the bike wouldn't re-start...I'd have to walk the last 18 miles. I was homeward bound. Turning into my sub-division the bike was running as smooth as silk. Must have known it was getting close to a nice warm/dry garage. Un-packed the bike as soon as I got home just to let everything dry out. At home Friday night I slept well, nice to be home. A few hundred miles more and it will be time for the 12,000 mile check up. Then it will be ready for the winter trips.

**DUES ARE DUE!!**

# Motor City Beemers

## Application for Membership

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

Annual membership dues are \$10 per year for full membership and \$5 per year for associate members. Annual membership runs from January to December and payment is required by January 31 of each year.

Please Select one:  New Membership     Associate Membership     Renewal

(Please Print)

NAME:		
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
PHONE:	E-MAIL:	
Home:	Work:	

### National Motorcycle Club Membership Information

Please check the appropriate box to signify current membership in the following national motorcycle club:

BMW Motorcycle Owners of America    YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE

Make checks payable to: Norm Ott

Mail to: Norm Ott

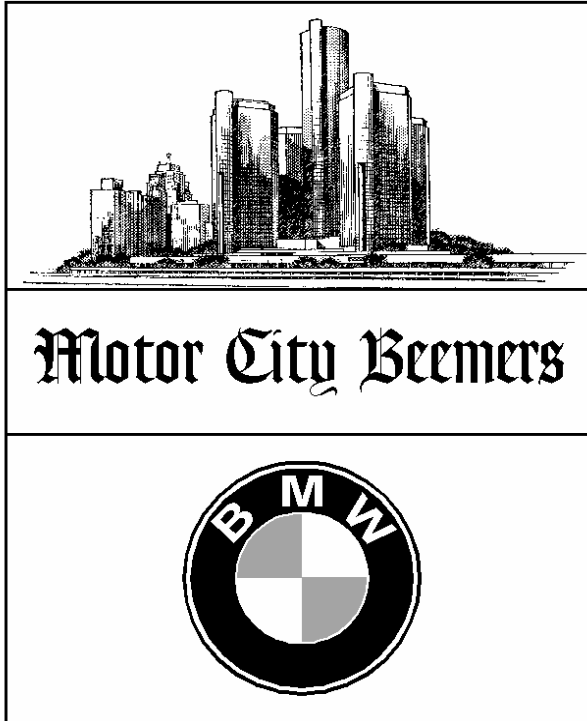
P.O. Box 2  
Sterling Hgts., Mi 48311-0002

**Ken Klosterhaus sends along this ride information**

FIRST ANNUAL PEACE RIDE, May 14th, sponsored by Peace Lutheran Church. The ride is NON-political! We leave Peace, in Shelby twp, Macomb, after a "Blessing of the Biker's" service, then a beautiful ride into the thumb ending at St. Lorenz Church in Frankenmuth. For a \$30 (and \$15 for two up) early registration fee you get a T-shirt, pin, map, and a chicken dinner. Music and prizes are included. For info (and a printable flyer) go to [www.peaceshelby.org](http://www.peaceshelby.org) or call 586/781-3100.

**FOR SALE:**

Arai "Astral" full coverage helmet, size "Small", silver, less than 1 year old, excellent condition, brand new sheild still in wrapper. DOT & Snell approved. \$150  
Pete...(586) 978-3956



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