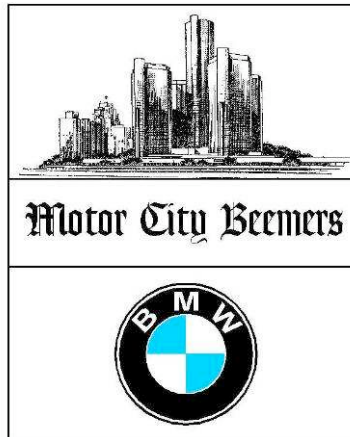




Motor City Beemers



Club Newsletter



BMW MOA Club #231

BMW RA Club #209

August 2007

Volume 15, Number 8

Next Meeting; Saturday August 4, 2007, 10:30am @BMW of Detroit

Web site: www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers

President - Ives Potrafka - ives@mygreyhound.com

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2nd Vice President - George Yosin

3rd Vice President - John Saarinen - jsaarinen@peoplepc.com

Treasurer - Sharon Saarinen - ssaarinen@peoplepc.com

Newsletter Editor - John Saarinen - jsaarinen@peoplepc.com

THE PREZ SEZ

I am sorry to announce that Ives father passed away Sunday, July 22, 2007. Memorial service was held Saturday, July 28, 2007 at Faith Community Church, in Houghton Lake, Michigan

Please remember Ives, his wife Renee, and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

2007 CLUB DUES

Remember that dues are \$10 for Members and \$5 for Associate Member (member's significant other). Please give Sharon Saarinen your dues with Membership Form at the next meeting, or mail them to:

Sharon Saarinen
6094 Whispering Oak Drive
Washington, Michigan 48094

Make checks payable to Sharon Saarinen and include Membership Form. We need these dues to cover things like doughnuts, Frankenmuth Chicken Dinner, & steak picnic in the fall.

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.

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

GRAND BLANC & ROCKIES - JULY 1, 2007

Twelve riders and 10 bikes headed north from the dealership for lunch in Grand Blanc and shopping at Rockies. One bike a rider broke off when we got near Grand Blanc to head home. After lunch we headed over to Rockies to find out what goodies we just had to have. We didn't buy much but it is nice to imagine.

Six of us stopped by Cook's Dairy on the way home. They raise their own cows and make their own ice cream. The ice cream is always great and their idea of a single scoop cone sets a whole new standard for size. Some went for more traditional flavors but if you like chocolate...cow pie can not be beat. Stop by some time out on Seymoure Lake Road and give them a try. You will not be disappointed.

MOA 35th ANNUAL RALLY West Bend, Wisconsin JULY 12-15, 2007

I know of at least 6 of our members who went to the National Rally at West Bend. This year's event was very well organized and went off without a hitch. The unofficial count as of Saturday morning was over 7400 attendees and counting. I heard that they may have set a record of over 9000 attendees. The facility provided a lot of good dry camp sites in case of rain...and it did rain. There appeared to be sufficient shower and toilet facilities. In fact the first morning I went into the permanent toilet facilities and found the one shower stall in that building was not being used. I thought this is my lucky day. Just as I went in to the shower area everyone standing in line for other facilities warned me that it only had cold water. It never got hot but it was far from cold. Who ever else might have been using that shower as their private shower stall must have started the rumor. This was our little secret...no wait showering at the rally.

To start out I didn't plan the trip very well. I like to fly by the seat of my pants and got a late start Thursday. I remembered that Ives was leaving Thursday morning, so I gave him a call when I finished my errands. I ended up meeting Ives and his wife Renee at the Howell rest area. They were kind enough to wait for me while I tried to catch up. When I got there, Ives reminded me that I should have called ahead for reservations on the ferry. The express ferry that Ives was taking out of Muskegon was booked. I was able to get a space reserved on the Badger out of Ludington at 7:55p.m. to Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Ives and Renee dropped off at Muskegon, and I continued up to Ludington. It was a beautiful day for a ride, slight chill in the air, blue skies, and a bright sun to keep you warm.

The Badger entered service in 1953 and now prides itself on giving passengers a sense of what cruising the Great Lakes was like in an earlier/kinder/gentler time. It is the last coal fired ship on the great lakes and is on the Historical Registry. It was originally built and served as a train ferry between Wisconsin and Michigan. There were Bingo games for the children...they included the young at heart. Movies were playing in the theatre area, and TV could be watched in either of the 2 TV rooms equipped with reclining seats. I would have watched a movie but was afraid I would fall asleep and not be worth a darn when we got to Wisconsin. They serve food and drinks in either of two eating areas. It is great to walk around the decks and take in the sunset unobstructed by buildings and trees.

The Badger loads heavy trucks first, motorcycles second and cars/pick up trucks last. While waiting to board I met a bunch of riders heading to the rally. Most of the bikers were traveling alone. We stood around talking about BMW's and other bikes we've owned until it was our turn to board. Just as we fired up our bikes waiting for the last truck to get on the boat a strong wind came up. A thick black cloud with a billowy white leading edge came over the top of the boat. The wind picked up and started changing directions about every minute. We scrambled to put on our rain suits. It started to rain hard and then turned into a thunderstorm. It was coming down in buckets when we rode our bikes onto the boat. The bikes park on an angle with their front tires against the ribbing of the starboard side. They asked us to use our side stands and secure our bikes using the deck surface which is an open grate. We were supposed to provide our own tie down straps. Luckily someone at the last meeting mentioned we should bring our own straps. I brought tie down straps just in case I took a ferry. Someone who didn't bring any straps found out they could buy them at the ticket office and at a reasonable price. They were a better quality than he had at home. The rain ended as we left port and the weather was beautiful for the trip across Lake Michigan. The waves were still running up to 5 feet high but this ferry handled them with ease. You couldn't even feel them. The sunset was beautiful.

On the way over we talked amongst ourselves and one of the riders was going directly to the rally site after leaving the boat. I teamed up with him for the ride to West Bend. It took us a bit longer than expected to find our way out of Manitowoc. The signage wasn't the best. After heading south on 43 we went west on 60. We stopped at a gas station that was closed but left on its lights for the self service pumps which they leave operating. We were trying to figure out how to proceed when a gentleman rode up, got gas, and stopped to ask if we were heading to the BMW rally. He volunteered to show us the way to the rally site. He took us most of the way and when he needed to break off to go home he gave us directions for the rest of the way. We had no problem finding the rally site.

It was pitch black when we got to the site. The guard let us in to pitch our tents after signing in. We drove around the campgrounds trying to find some friends of his that came in earlier. He found his friends and there were enough camp sites for both our tents at this location. Setting up tents in the dark made it an adventure. Just when you thought you had hooked everything up...you would raise the tent expecting the tent to stand on its own...only to have it flop over because as you connected the second side the first would undo itself in the dark. There must have been gremlins. Once the tent was up I was so tired that I didn't put in the tent stakes. I just threw my luggage from the bike inside, rolled out my sleeping bag, and crashed. I didn't even get undressed. In the middle of the night I had to get up and go to the bathroom...wandered around for about 30 minutes before bumping into someone coming back from the showers. Directions in hand, had short work of it and went back to bed.

This years rally took on a German theme. This is one of the most ethnically German areas of the country, West Bend, Wisconsin. Many Germans immigrated to Wisconsin from the land of BMW. Ives and I met up and toured all of the things we've come to expect at the rally. There were; vendors, BMW test rides, food, entertainment throughout the day, and beer tent. I hit the entertainment and beer tent that evening after Ives left. People at the rally and the neighboring communities were more friendly than usual. They were very glad to have us in the neighborhood. It was a great time. Hope you didn't miss it.

For me the rally site is only one small part of the experience. Early afternoon I headed north down country roads. This is a beautiful unspoiled area with large farms. The back roads are very lightly traveled. You could just sit back and enjoy the scenery. I got back after dark, showered and went down to the beer tent to wet my whistle, and take in the show at the entertainment tent.

That night about 2 o'clock in the morning the wind started to pick up. It started to lift the windward side of my tent...so much so that it woke me up. I woke up to see the entrance side of my tent lift up and almost wrap it self over me. I jumped up and placed my luggage at that end of the tent to hold it down. I started to regret not using my tent stakes the first night. The tent no longer acted like it was going to pick up and blow away, but the dome of the tent was stretched away from the wind. The tent was bent so far over that I was afraid that the tent poles were going to break. I went to sleep knowing that nothing I was going to do would do would affect the outcome in the morning.

The rain started shortly after I lay back down. One thing I didn't think about was that the wind and thus the rain was blowing against the door of the tent. My tent door does not zipper down to the floor. The screen door did nothing to stop the rain from coming into the tent. When I woke up in the morning I found that the floor of my tent is water proof, it didn't allow any of that water to get out of that tent. My clothes and valuables were in my suitcases that I used to hold down the door side of the tent before the water weighted down the entire floor. Unfortunately my maps, Map Quest directions, and tourist pamphlets were now one heavy brick of paper.

I decided this was probably a sign I should take down the tent, dry everything out, and hit the road. I stretched my tent over the top of the bike, sleeping bag over someone's trailer, towel that I roll up for my pillow over the front fender. Waiting for everything to dry I headed back to rally central to check my lottery tickets to see if I won. It would have been a waste of time but I ran into Norm Ott and had a good time talking with him about his latest adventure with his LT and his new addition to his bike family. Life for him is never boring.

Not having anything else that I needed to make room for, I went back and packed up my bike. I did need to find space for the 2008 Wyoming rally information. The tent, rain fly, and towel/pillow were dry. The sleeping bag was getting close; at least I could now pick it up with one hand. Packed everything onto the bike, however the sleeping bag was folded over the top of the luggage to give it some more time to dry as I rode home.

I hit the road, knowing I was going north, but with no map I was going by memory. Back tracked a few times. At one restaurant they gave me a route that would take me to Escanaba. With the side trips, really no good way to find my way on a direct route, and running out of time before I had to be home...I gave up on trying to find a quick way of getting to Copper Harbor in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. I went to Escanaba and headed east on U.S.2. I was shocked

to see that 75% of the family run motels, party stores, and gas stations between Escanaba and St. Ignace were closed and up for sale.

Darkness came quickly, and I looked for a place to bed down as I approached St. Ignace. The sleeping bag was still damp and it was pretty cold out. I decided that a motel sounded pretty good right about then. I had been warned about the number of deer coming out on to the road after dusk and the rising number of car/deer accidents and wanted to get off the road before the deer came out to play chicken. I grabbed a room at one of those no frills/low cost motels west of the Mackinaw Bridge.

The next morning rode through St. Ignace and found that many of the frills motels advertised prices comparable to, and even below the no frills place I stayed the night before. Things must be getting tough north of the bridge.

The ride across the bridge was nice as I got past the 5 or 10 minute Queue to pay the bridge toll. I haven't seen lines like that except for Labor Day when you can walk the bridge. I took my time and really wished I had a camera free that I could take picture of Fort Michilimac and Mackinaw City. It was beautiful, even with the long Queue of cars there was no one near me on the bridge.

Traffic was heavy and would bottleneck at some of the strangest places. I chose to take 127 south at Gaylord and try to avoid the bulk of the traffic. The rest of the trip was uneventful getting home just in time to go to a family barbecue in Livonia. I was supposed to be at the rally and they weren't expecting me. However it wasn't a surprise. I let something slip when I was talking with my wife Sharon during my stay at the no frill motel. We have traveled that stretch of road together more times than I can count; she recognized I must have been in St. Ignace, not Wisconsin.

It was still good to be back home. I covered a little over 1200 miles, spent 1½ days exploring the rally site, and attended a family barbecue in just 4 days. Life doesn't get much better than this.

LUNCH RIDE TO WHITIES AND OVER NIGHT AT FAIRVIEW AUGUST 4, 2007

Our lunch ride will be to Whities for fish. Anyone interested can continue further up north following George Yosin to over night at Fairview, Michigan. The cabin is 1 ½ miles north of Fairview off M33. The cabin sleeps 9 in beds. Shower and kitchen facilities are available. There is also room for tent camping if desired. Bring towel, toiletries, and bedding/sleeping bag. George has suggested picking food up at a local store and barbecuing. To reserve a spot or ask questions call George at 586-264-8625.

CLUB PICNIC AT STONEY CREEK SEPTEMBER 15, 2007

Our annual club picnic is coming up this September 15, 2007 at the Lakeview Pavilion in Stoney Creek Park. This picnic is open to all members and associate members. People start arriving at 11:00am and start eating at 1:30pm. Steaks will be cooked by our own Grillmeister Rhys Blair. Please bring a side dish, salad, or desert to pass. Pop, water, chips, cole slaw, steaks, and all (disposable) eating utensils (paper plates, plastic forks/spoons/forks, napkins, etc.) will be provided. We need to get a head count so we know how many steaks to buy; please call Ives at 248-207-1575, send him a note on MCBeemers@yahoogroups.com, on or before September 1st.

MONTHLY CLUB RIDES

We are looking for ideas of where to go and what to do after our winter meetings. Check the web site for planned rides.

OTHER RIDING OPPORTUNITIES

Third Sunday of every month – Phil Aylesworth is trying to get a Windsor Beemer group started in Canada. For details go to the group's website: <http://SunParlourBeemers.org>

NEWS FROM THE BEEMERSHIP

Alaska Tour, July 14th -August 15th, 2008

Come in and Talk to Peter "Rockman" Payton Adventure Tour Specialist about our Alaskan Tour scheduled for July 14th thru Aug 15th summer 2008. Some highlights of this tour include: (1) MOA Rally in Gillette, Wyoming, (2) Dawson City summer music festival, (3) Halibut fishing in Valdez, Alaska with Fish Central, (4) Touring Alaska with Alaska Rider Tours, 7 days in Alaska, (5) Explore the world famous AL-CAN highway (6) Top of the world highway, (7) Kenai River, (8) The Salty Dog Saloon, Moose nuggets (9) wildlife viewing, (10) Vancouver Island, BC, (11) Seattle, Jackson Hole, (12) The Bad Lands...and more. The trip will be fully supported with a guide, mechanic, and a support rig for minor adjustments on the fly. Come in and see us for more details and trip registration. (\$1100 non refundable deposit due at registration). The Cost ~ \$8150 per person, includes registration for MOA Rally in Gillette, Wyoming, nightly hotel stay, most dinners, daily bag lunch on the fly, fishing trip, 2 banquet style meals, tour t-shirts, sticker ...and more.

Check out our Tour/trip board

Stop by the shop and talk with Gary the "Road king" Latessa, we are planning a wed. night supper club. We will meet at the shop on Van Dyke at 6 pm on Wednesday evening and ride to a predetermined spot for supper. The rides will be to places located in the greater Detroit metro area. If you happen to be thinking about a new BMW this would be an ideal time to take the opportunity to ride one of our Demo bikes for the outing, contact Gary at 586-274-4000 for more details and to reserve your demo ride. The first ride will be this week Wednesday, June 27th. Come join us as we check out the sites and bites in Port Huron

We also have end of the month road trips planned for July, Aug, and Sept, stop by the shop or call "Rockman" for more information.

Also check out our '07 GS Back country adventure tour pack special, visit the store for more details.

Join us on Saturday July 21st @ 10:30 am. as we join teams with the staff of REI outdoor adventure gear supplies. We will be holding a class in back country basics~ survival skills and back country motorcycle camping techniques. Call "Rockman" for more information at the shop~586-274-4000. There is no charge class, free coffee will be available for all those who attend.

We want to know what your summer tours were like~ we are putting together an in house display of BMW Tours~ so if you have any pictures and a brief story to tell bring them in and we will add it to our Adventure Wall.

For those of you heading out to the national rally, have a safe trip, and we look forward to seeing you when you return.

Peter "Rockman" Payton
Adventure Tour Specialist
Marketing

FOR SALE:

For sale section of the newsletter is for all club members to post ANYTHING (legal) that they have for sale or wanted. You don't have to limit you postings to motorcycle items. The one thing that we ask is that once your items sells, please notify us so we can remove it from the newsletter. Please let John Saarinen know if they need to be removed.

PAINT PROTECTION FILM: Protect your bike's paint from stone chips and damage from your tank bag. Kelly, 248.312.0968 or graphixwerk.com

K1200LT Champagne, 26K miles, 6CD changer, and Bailey windshield, MC BMW maintained, asking \$8900. Bill Meier 810-824-7382 or meierbj2@comcast.net

1996 R1100R for sale, excellent condition, for details contact Allen Gigliotti, giglio@comcast.net

HIGHWAY PEGS FOR LT's: Gives you optional places to put your feet for those long trips. Note that this is a new web site address: www.ridingiswonderful.com Jim & Jason Mick