



# Motor City Beemers

## Club Newsletter



BMW MOA Club #231

BMW RA Club #209

December 2012

Volume 21, Number 12

All meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at 10:30AM at BMW of Detroit

Our *next* meeting is scheduled for December 8th

Following Meeting: January 8th

Web site: [www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers](http://www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers)

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PREZ SEZ

Hello Members,

The New Year is almost upon us. This brings lots of new club ideas and riding adventures to look forward to. Also, it's time for club officer election and club membership renewals.

Please if possible attend this meeting to help us on our upcoming riding season.

BMW Motorcycles of Detroit will host there open house/customer appreciation day Saturday, December 22nd. More information on this at our meeting. I hope you will be able to attend.

Again our winter banquet is soon to arrive and more information to come soon.

Hope to see you soon.

Betty Ward

## CLUB RIDES

### CLUB LUNCH RIDES

Date	Lunch Ride Destination	Ride Planner
December 8 <sup>th</sup>	TBD	

### GOING SOMEWHERE

#### *Caught in the act . . .*

. . . those of us that made the club lunch ride to the Dorsey House after our meeting on Saturday, November 10

#### *An impromptu ride . . .*

*. . . Saturday, November 17th*



As the garage door slowly opened the cold morning air swept in like a cold steely dagger. Now I am having second thoughts about leading this impromptu Saturday morning ride. Let's check and make sure we have everything, hot coffee in the cup holder, long underwear, neck scarf, fleece, silk glove liners, ski socks, heated grips and seat on high, check. OK, I think I have everything. Out I ride into the chilly, Michigan late November morning, I'm having second thoughts. The garage I left was 68 degrees when I notice the instrument cluster, mainly the ambient temperature gage is dropping like a lead balloon, now as it dives past 37 degrees a snow flake starts to flash, it keeps flashing all the way down until it rests at 27 degrees, and I haven't even gotten to the end of my street. What was I thinking?

I merge out into northbound Groesbeck traffic and head for Cass Ave to go north to 32 Mile Road where I am supposedly going to meet up with some other idiots who thought this was going to be a great idea. Approaching Hall Road on Romeo Plank I think my eyes are playing tricks on me in the cold air, for there ahead of me stopped at the light looks like another motorcyclist. Sure enough as I slowly creep up on this biker I realize who it is and that he doesn't know I am behind him...it's Layne on his 650 all bundled up like the Michelin Man. The light changes to green and he eases forward with me in tow. Several hundred yards north of Hall Road Layne notices me and gives me the high sign. We ride together to the Mobil station at the corner of Romeo Plank and 32 Mile Road and I'm thinking to myself, self you aren't the only idiot out this time of morning in below freezing weather. I had already topped off the day before and I wait for Layne to do the same. From there we ride over to the agreed meeting place at El Joe's and wait for the others...yea who else would join us, it's still only 28 degrees.

Within minutes Roy shows up from Harper Woods, then right after that John from Flat rock rides in



and we all greet each other and make comments about how warm we are and ready for this ride. It's now 9:00 a.m. and we wonder where Pete is, after all it was his idea and going to a Mexican restaurant was a sure hook I thought. I take one more look westward along 32 Mile Road because I think I hear another bike; sure enough there is another one headed our way. Pete has arrived; it must be Pete on his Ducati, because it was not a Beemer. As the bike wheels in we all realize it is not Pete at all, it's my neighbor Tom Artis on his 650 Monster. Wow, what a surprise! We do introductions all around, review the route and saddle up. Its 9:10, I'm late!

West to M-53, north to through Imlay City to Lum Road where we turn west again to M-24. As we ride north I ask myself again why on such a cold morning we are riding north, we should be riding south, the gage is still flashing that darn snow flake and the temperature now is a balmy 32 degrees, at least the sun is trying to make an appearance. I'm monitoring both my GPS and my highlighted map on my tank bag making sure I get to northbound M-15 in a timely fashion. We're actually making pretty good time on these back roads, but to our surprise there are a lot of county mounties out this morning. We have seen at least three squad cars and two of them were issuing green stamps to drivers. We come around a left hand curve and we enter the town of Otter Creek or something and the VFW is having a pancake breakfast and the smell of bacon and sausage wafts through the frigid air. I don't remember this town on my map and it doesn't show on the GPS. I see a sign that points M-24 is this way and I'm thinking yes, we're on our way! Two miles up the road I realize, WTF...we were just on M-24, I'm going the wrong way! Quick, U turn before the 4 frozen guys following me decide to dessert me for another leader or better yet stop at the VFW for pancakes. I blow through town as quickly as possible so I don't lose anybody to pancakes and head to M-15 and Otisville. It's 10:15 and I am still 23 miles from Arthur and the gas station where I promised to meet Maury and Larry at 10:30...I ain't going to make it by the designated time. Up through Vassar and across the river we go slightly exceeding the speed limit, now only 9 or 10 more miles to go. The next town is Richfield and then only 3 miles to Arthur and the other 2 riders. It's now 10:40 and I see in the distance the gas station, one bike and two riders. Sure enough it's Maury on his bike and Larry chatting with him, his bike is over at the gas



pumps. We all turn in to the station and Tom stops at the pumps too to top off. I pull up next to Maury and he starts on me about being late, and getting lost and I don't remember whatever else, but I just remember he's only an insurance guy and he can't help himself. We all get off our bikes, stretch our legs and make small talk, mostly about me and my wrong turn, getting lost and being late...no big deal. We are only 20 minutes from the El Mexican Restaurant in Essexville and I still had a chance to make it by the designated time.

We arrive on time and park all seven bikes out front of the restaurant. The sun is out and the temperature has gotten up to 47 degrees, oh yea, we're having a heat wave on Saginaw Bay...now let's eat. There is a table set in the back by the restrooms and an exit all ready for us. As we all undress, we take turns going to the bathroom and finding our places at the table. The waitress tells us about the lunch specials and the buffet, takes our drink orders and brings lots of chips and salsa. We placed our orders, munched on chips and talked about the ride up. Lunch took about an hour and we had a great time. After lunch we posed for a photo and dressed up again for the next 100 plus mile ride home.

In the parking lot it was decided that Maury and Larry would go their way, Roy was out for the rest of the day on his own and John, Layne, Tom and I would ride together for a while in a homeward direction. We headed east to Unionville, south to Mayville and then southwest to Marlette and to Peck, Yale and Armada. Along the way Layne and John dropped off and went their separate ways. Tom and I rode the rest of the way home together and arrived about



2:30 p.m. and 25 degrees warmer. It turned out to be a great ride, with good weather, good food and best of all some really good friends. And Pete, thanks for the idea!

Rhys Blair

## How 'bout Dinner at a Diner!

*by Pete Lentini*

Taken approximately 10 years ago, these Motor City Beemers devoured some delicious grub at what was once a quaint little 50's style diner. Located on M83 just north of Birch Run Rd. (a few miles south of Frankenmuth), the Varsity Diner featured a simple but tasty menu in an authentic, stainless steel clad edifice. The back corner even displayed an extensive collection of period Coca-Cola collectables like bottles, glasses, magazine ads and other timely trappings.



The building was built in 1955, the zenith of diner construction throughout the east coast, and originally resided in Yorkville, New York. After considerable fire damage in 1992, the 34-ton

building was purchased by Patrick Martin, transported to its present location, refurbished and renamed The Varsity Diner. The eatery was christened "Ken's Diner" in 2004 and four years later was used in the filming of the movie *Whip It* beneath the guise of a seemingly more charming name; The Oink Joint. Following filming, the diner reopened retaining its distinctive pig-like appellation. A culinary metamorphosis occurred in 2010 resulting in the "El Indio de Tijuana" restaurant. My route to our annual Frankenmuth lunch passed north of this intersection so I can't be sure if El Indio still boasts its shiny stainless steel skin or, for that matter, is still in business. Fortunately, the MCB's enjoyed a brisk ride and a hearty meal while this stylishly retro cafe still

*frt row, l to r: the author, Rhys Blair, Dick Hautau, Bob ?, back row l to r: Leslie Lafer, Tom Devine, Diane Owen, Chris Messenger, Matt McGuire and Sharon Hautau in the white helmet*



bore its original namesake.

As you might surmise by the insulating garb in the photo, it was a bit on the nippy side that Saturday afternoon. It still amazes me how all 10 of us clad in thick winter coats crammed into that white SUV. Ah yes, a warm and cozy bunch we were! ;-)



Nearly a dozen years ago, The Varsity played host to regular cruise-in's which were very popular and well attended. One particular late afternoon I blasted up there on the 916. There were other sportbikes, all right, but I was the sole Ducati. The deep, bellowing thunder of the full competition exhaust system coupled with that distinctive dry clutch rattle attracted quite a bit of attention, especially from the cruiser crowd! Looking back on that night, I was fortunate to nab a commemorative T-shirt; a souvenir evoking some great memories whenever I wear it. Now... certainly a collector's item!

While we're on topic, you've probably parked your sidestand at a diner or three but I don't believe there are many remaining in southeast Michigan. Here are a few that may evoke a ride from your past or plant the seed for a future one.

"George & Sally's Blue Moon Diner" was built in the 40's and operated in Meriden, CT. until 1997 as the Blue Moon Diner. A complete restoration took place in Cleveland, Ohio in 2003 and the diner moved to the Gilmore Car Museum the following year.



"Lamy's Diner" was built in 1946, originally resided in Marlboro, MA and was purchased by the Henry Ford Museum in the 80's for display. Last year, the museum announced plans to begin serving food but I can't confirm if this has occurred.



Built in the 60's, then opening around 1968 in South Haven, MI., "Ma's Coffee Pot" could undeniably boast of a delightful name. Sadly, as is the fate of most of these eateries, Ma perked her last pot in 2011.



"The West Bay Diner" in Grand Marais, MI. was constructed in 1949 and came from Matamoras, PA. The diner was stored for many years in Cambridge, NY., then Rockford, MI., until it moved to the relatively remote southern shore of Lake Superior in 1997.



The 1952 built "Pal's Diner" from Mahwah, NJ., moved to Grand Rapids in 1993 and is still operational as far as I can determine. Considering the building bears your author's initials, we may need to strafe west (along the back-road twisties at the posted speed limits, of course) for a lunch ride next year.





Constructed in 1955 and originally located in Wilkes-Barre, PA., Alpena is the current home of “Nick and Ivy’s Country Diner”. It moved there and then underwent restoration in the late 90’s. A



bit confusing; it operated as “Al’s Diner” until 2001 when Nick and Ivy assumed ownership six years later. Despite the new owners and name, the “Al’s Diner” sign still resides atop the roof.

“Dinerland” consisted (yes, passed tense - another casualty of fast food take-over) of four similarly styled buildings plus a distinctive treat, a miniature golf course. Buildings scattered around the eastern seaboard were purchased and moved to create this small complex in Rockford, MI. Following a complete restoration, one structure became a studio and art gallery.



Another, shown above and originally built in 1946, operated beneath the banner of the Silver Dollar Diner for nearly a quarter century. It was renamed Rosie's and the new title preserved when it was transported from Little Ferry, NJ., and reopened in 1991. The other two buildings (not shown) boasted a sports bar motif and accommodated private parties. In 2011, just after this photo was taken, Rosie's unfortunately closed and the complex and property have been for sale. I can see some of you scratching your chin musing, “Rosie’s? Hmmm. I wonder if....?” Well my friends, you’re more correct than a period greasy cheeseburger with overdone fries and a chocolate malt in a 20 oz. stainless steel tumbler. For those MCB’s let’s say, ugh,

mature enough, this was indeed the building featured in the Bounty paper towel television commercials starring Nancy Walker as Rosie the Waitress. Bring back a few memories of your parents' 14" black and white RCA in the living room? The set with the tubes that took an eternity to warm up before Art Linkletter finally became visible. Since you got me started: why exactly was it called a television "set"? Could our parents not purchase just one TV? Did Sears & Roebuck force all their customers to buy televisions in pairs?

So now, after all this diner diatribe, you're considering opening one of your own. There's actually a Michigan based company specializing in diner construction resplendent in stainless steel veneer, spinning stools and even a jukebox. Starting at about a hundred grand, the buildings are not large, ranging in size from microscopic as in 200 sq. ft., to miniscule, slightly over 500 sq. ft. Not huge, but easily manageable. You could relive those adolescent years of elbows on Formica countertops, head in hands, dreaming of that pig-tailed girl in your geography class that never stopped smiling at you.

Let's get on the bikes and ride out to Pal's... you can tell me all about her.

DINNER RIDES – *Arrive between 6:30-7pm and hungry,*

*Watch for emails giving the location each week . . .*

December 5 <sup>th</sup>	Alibi of Troy	6700 Rochester Rd, Troy
December 12 <sup>th</sup>	Bahama Breeze	539 East Big Beaver Road, Troy
December 19 <sup>th</sup>	Waves Restaurant	24223 Jefferson Ave, St. Clair Shores
December 26 <sup>th</sup>	Grand Azteca	40300 Van Dyke Ave, Sterling Heights

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

It is that time of the year to renew your membership in Motor City Beemers. There is a form included in the newsletter to make the job of renewing easier. The dues stayed the same at \$10 for the primary member and \$5 for the associate member. An associate member must be associated with a primary member. This allows you to attend the Chicken dinner ride to Frankenmuth and steak picnic near Port Huron. The club picks up the cost of the chicken dinner and the steaks. The dues also cover the cost of donuts at the meetings. We need members to renew as early as possible so we can figure out a budget for the year. Send renewals to Allen Gigliotti; [giglioa@comcast.net](mailto:giglioa@comcast.net)

## **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.

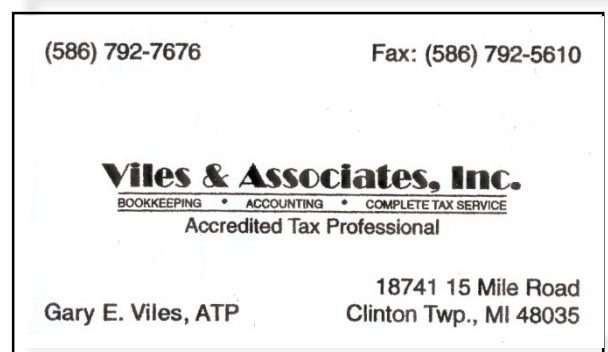
The easiest way to get your ID tag is to send Jeff an e-mail at: [www.jeff@highesthonor.biz](mailto:www.jeff@highesthonor.biz). Spell out exactly what you want on your tag and when you want to pick it up. You can also call Jeff at 248-588-7845. Tell him what you want on your tag and when you want to 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!"

## NEWS FROM THE BEEMERSHIP

### *A tip of the MCBEEMER helmet . . .*

. . . goes to **Viles & Associates, Inc.**, Ron's parents, who have volunteered to print the free copies of the newsletter available at the dealership. They are also BMW riders.



### *For Sale . . .*



1 FirstGear Hypertex Collection 3XL 3/4 length jacket with removal liner.  
Worn only twice by owner.

1 Matching FirstGear Hypertex Collection 40x34 pants with zippered legs to waistband, also only worn twice.

Together they were a \$600.00 plus combo, but will let go at a very, very reasonable price.

Call Rhys at 586-216-3455 or email me at [rhysb@att.net](mailto:rhysb@att.net)





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## **FOR SALE** **"MICK-O-Pegs"**

Spring Loaded Highway Pegs  
for your R1200RT or your  
K1200LT.

Look at  
[www.ridingiswonderful.com](http://www.ridingiswonderful.com) to  
find information.

## ***For Sale . . .***

2-piece (comfort seat) for my 2009 R1200RT

Also my 2007 R1200R is for sale at the dealership with all the extras  
Price?? We can talk. [crazybet@comcast.net](mailto:crazybet@comcast.net)

## ***For Sale . . .***

Recently acquired Corbin front and rear seats, with front seat backrest, for a K12LT.  
If anyone in the group is interested, I will let you pop a squat on it before diving in,  
and cut a member discount if you decide you want the set. If you are interested,  
email me, [laynerstewart@gmail.com](mailto:laynerstewart@gmail.com) and we will set something up.

## ***FOR SALE***

### PIAA Platinum "SuperWhite" Bulbs

- (1) H3 35W (performs like 60W)
- (2) H3 85W (performs like 135W)

All three bulbs are brand new, never used and still in their original  
containers.

. . . normally \$35 to \$40 each **on sale: \$20 each \$50 for all  
three!**

Pete 586.978.3956 [petelentini@yahoo.com](mailto:petelentini@yahoo.com)



# FOR SALE

## Motoport "Canyon" Pants - size small

- ✓ A few years old but worn about 3 times! - *Absolutely like new!*
- ✓ 100% waterproof & breathable DuPont Cordura™ shell
- ✓ Full length mesh non-stick lining
- ✓ Stretch material behind calf for comfort
- ✓ Accordion pleats above knees for comfort
- ✓ Reinforced knees and seat
- ✓ (1) snap & (3) zippered pockets
- ✓ 12" zipper in calf for easy removal
- ✓ Removable armor in the hips and knees
- ✓ Elastic waist at sides and rear plus adjustable waist belt
- ✓ Similar to the new Cordura Light Pant only w/o the removable lining & full leg zippers.

Price reduced \$45  
**\$75**

Link to website:

[www.motoport.com/\\_product\\_35443/Ultra\\_II\\_Cordura\\_Light\\_Pant](http://www.motoport.com/_product_35443/Ultra_II_Cordura_Light_Pant)

Pete 248.842.8600 [petelentini@yahoo.com](mailto:petelentini@yahoo.com)



## **For Sale . . . 1985-K100**

- \* 52,000 miles
  - \* New Battery (sealed)
  - \* Very good tires
  - \* hard cover side bags
  - \* Corbin custom seat (needs tlc)
  - \* accessory outlet
  - \* Maintenance through BMW
- Detroit
- \* Asking \$2,000



*Call* 810.794.9797 . . .

*. . . ask for Vickie*