



# Motor City Beemers

## Club Newsletter



BMW MOA Club #231

BMW RA Club #209

February 2016

Volume 25, Number 02

All meetings are held the **SECOND** Saturday of the month at 10:30AM at BMW of Detroit

Immediately following the meeting is a <sup>Shopping or</sup> Lunch Ride

*We welcome owners and fans of all bikes*

**Our next meeting is February 13, 2016**

**Following Meeting: March 12, 2016**

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

President  
1st Vice President  
2nd Vice Presidents  
Treasurer  
Newsletter Editor  
Web Master

**Pat Kelley**  
**Betty Ward**  
**Paula Ellis & Cathy Beyers**  
**Jim Mick**  
**Nick Holland**  
**Ives R. Potrafka**

pakel62 @ gmail.com  
bettyward27 @ gmail.com  
mcbvicepres2 @ bizblvd.net  
Jim @ RidingIsWonderful.com  
nick @ holland-consulting.net  
ives @ bizblvd.net

**Inside:**

- Prez Sez ... page 2
- Editor's Corner ... page 3
- My First Road Trip: Nick Holland ... page 4
- 2016 Banquet, Club Events ... page 5
- Non-club Events ... page 6
- Wednesday Dinners ... page 7
- Treasurer's Report ... page 8
- MCBeemers Name Tags ... page 10
- Membership Application ... page 11



Howdy Beemers; I just got back from Montana visiting my dad. January in Montana normally is between 0 and -25 degrees but this time it was warmer there than here in Michigan. Temps were about 40 each day and high 20s at night. Anyway, I am back and so to the first order of business, the mid-winter banquet is only a couple weeks away, February 20th at Louis' Chop House, South of 23 Mile Rd on the West side of Gratiot. For those that have not been to a banquet, it is a lot of fun. Great Company, Great Food, and Great Awards. Give it a try, did I say it is Great fun? The end cost is going to be \$5 for a member if you show up, \$15 to reserve your space and you get \$10 back at the banquet. You can't even go to Mcky D's for 5 bucks. Then there are the Bent Beemers (or

other steeds). If you don't know what one is, you have probably been rather fortunate or you can come to the banquet and find out what they are.

On the subject of Bent Beemers, John Saarinen needs the nominations and particulars for them ASAP. For those that don't know, a bent beemer is a unique honor award for having some part of the motorcycle being in contact with the ground other than the normal parts that are supposed to contact the ground such as the tires, center or side stand. These are light hearted awards to those that have or will recuperate from their ordeal. Is that cryptic enough to spark your interest?

Next order of Business, What would you the members like to see the club do this year. I have a few ideas, Cathy and Paula are working diligently on ride locations. Last time I saw Cathy she had about 86 napkins full suggested locations. Maybe not quite that many, but it was a lot. I am planning on doing another observation/fun run again this year, with many of the comments from last year incorporated. Not sure yet when that is going to be, I am hoping June timeframe. I would like to propose a club camping trip perhaps to Tawas Point state park, that way there are some hotels very close in East Tawas for those that don't camp. How many would like to do that is my question to you all? I know several of our members are also members of the Michigan Sport Touring Association and have offered rides up to us. I know a few people in the Great Lakes Road Riders that also open their rides up to others. I can get a schedule of their rides if anyone is interested. I personally am planning on going to the Mini Rally in Sturgis, Michigan the first weekend in May, and to the BMW Motorcycle Owners of America (MOA) rally the third weekend in July located in Hamberg New York, just South of Buffalo.

So, if you would like the club to do an event of some sort, please drop me an email.

See you at the meeting, 13 Feb.

Pat



As of our last newsletter, we were still looking for someone to be our VP in charge of rides. I had been kidding Paula that she should take the job of Ride Captain VP role with the club, after all, she loves telling people where to go.

Imagine my surprise when during the January meeting, Cathy Beyers and Paula Ellis volunteered to jointly take the position! This works out great, as Cathy can tell people how to get there.

For those that weren't there, there were immediately some semi-joking comments about instead of riding to stuff our bellies, we may also be riding to drain our wallets. It seemed Paula and Cathy liked this idea. Our

new motto may be Ride to Shop, Shop to Ride.

First thing Paula said to me after we left the January meeting: "I out-rank you in the club now, right? Half a VP outranks editor?" You always did, dear...

I can report that Cathy and Paula have been taking their roll seriously and discussing plans for the riding season of 2016. One idea they have mentioned to me is having TWO lunch destinations each meeting Saturday of the riding season, so that those who can't do a long ride (weather, "on-call", afternoon obligations) can still get together with other MCBemers.

Banquet is coming up. Pay up, join up, it's a lot of fun. And I'll be curious to see what Louis' Chop House does for us – if you have never been there, the food is great, and it is quite an experience.

Also a blast at the banquet is the "Bent Beemer awards". Drop your bike? Let John know. Even better, are you aware of someone else dropping their bike? Submit them to John! It's not just a cheesy, factory-made award, it's a cheesy, hand-made award, that John Saarinen lovingly/laughingly makes just for the winners. And while it may sound strange to "celebrate" what we generally consider horribly embarrassing events, everyone already knows, might as well get a laugh about it!

Get your Bent Beemer nominations to John Saarinen at [jsaarinen @ peoplepc.com](mailto:jsaarinen@peoplepc.com).

I'm collecting pictures for the slide show at the banquet. If you have just a few personal motorcycling related pictures, e-mail them to me. If you have a lot, drop them on a CD-R or a thumbdrive, and either give it to me or let me copy them off at the next meeting or any of the dinners (I'll try to make all the Wednesday dinners dinners between now and the banquet with a laptop)

I'm are collecting a few things for future Newsletter articles.

- 1) Tell us your *First Motorcycle Road Trip story!* See Rhys's story of last month for the idea. My story, which follows, is a lot duller than I suspect most of your stories are. Write them up and send them to me!
- 2) I'm still collecting rosters of bikes you have, and a one or two sentence description of what you like or dislike about the bike. Again, this is to show prospective members that we are friendly to ALL bike owners.
- 3) Events! Events! Events! Tell us what is going on of interest to motorcyclists!
- 4) What interests you? What SHOULD interest us?

Nick.

## My First Motorcycle Road Trip

Nick Holland

Ok...as far as "First Motorcycle Trips" go, mine is pretty boring. But no one else sent me one this month, so here's mine. In fact, mine is so boring, I'm going to tell you two and a half stories...

First the half-story, End of July/Aug 2010: This trip wasn't a proper "Road Trip", in that we figured the two of us wouldn't be sufficiently comfortable on the K100 to do a long-distance trip on just the bike, so we planned to trailer the bike to various base camps in the UP, and bike around from there. Targets included St. Ignace, Houghton, and maybe Marquette.

So, I bought a Harbor Freight trailer, and set it up to be a pretty decent motorcycle trailer. Spent a few weeks of weekends and evenings building it up (a much larger task than I anticipated), the week we were planning on leaving, I put Hilde up on the trailer, and dragged her around and even to-and-from work one day just to get the feel of the vehicle with the trailer and shake down the trailer and restraints on the bike before committing to a 600 mile trip.

And then the disaster happened, two days before our departure, I realize Hilde's key is missing. Yeah, I never actually got around to making a spare copy of my one key for the bike. I called the dealer, and they could get me a new key based on the VIN number, but couldn't get it in just one day. Now, you can imagine Paula's reaction when I told her. However, we ended up having a pretty good vacation, just without the bike (and Paula has a spare key for all my bikes, now!).

Next story: first week of October, 2010: Monday, I look at the weather, and the forecast for the weekend is looking GREAT. So I call Paula and ask if she can get Friday off to make a three day vacation, she can, I can, so we decide to try to try a mini-motorcycle tour, trailer to St. Ignace, then ride to Tahquamenon Falls. Friday afternoon, we drive to St. Ignace. Saturday, we had a great ride to the falls, we managed to hit the peak color weekend. Paula summed it up as "the falls were great, but the ride to and from was even better!". Ride was a little cool in the evening, but we did get our first warning of potential problems when I stopped for gas. I discovered the handlebar clamps had worked themselves slightly lose, and if I put too much pressure on them downwards, they'd slide down. No big deal, I thought – one doesn't put much vertical pressure on the bars, Usually.

Sunday, our day we were returning, was not so good. Before putting Hilde back on the trailer, we took her for a little ride around St. Ignace, where we came across a group of three dogs that were very interested in the front wheel of the bike. After finally shaking off the dogs (no harm done to either dogs or us), we pulled into the parking lot of the motel, and prep to put the bike on the trailer. Error 1: I didn't have Paula get off before low speed positioning of the bike. Error 2: remember the lose handle bar? Yeah. Low speed positioning of the bike, turned the bar, put some pressure on it, it folded up, and the rest of the bike followed suit. Well, we are both a little bruised (Paula: "LITTLE???"), but I get the bike back up. Now...to get bike on the trailer. There are two ways to get a bike on a trailer – walk it up the ramp or ride it up. Both suck. Up to this point, I had walked the bike up the ramp. For some reason, I decide (Error 3) this is a good time to RIDE it up the ramp. Error 4: I do it with insufficient gusto, and the bike comes to a dead stop mid-way up the ramp, with the inevitable slow-motion tip-over. And unlike laying flat in the parking lot as it was doing a few minutes earlier, now it is part hooked on the trailer, part on the ramp, and part on the ground, and MORE than 90 degrees over from where it should be. This story is being ended here, as the rest basically consists of freeing the bike and trailer, finding all the broken bits of plastic, getting the bike back on the trailer, and driving home with a broken bike staring accusingly at me in the rear-view mirror of the tow vehicle the rest of the way home.

In 2014, we did a our first REAL motorcycle trip to Traverse City, St. Ignace, Sault Ste Marie and Tahquamenon Falls on Wolfie, our LT, but the trip was absolutely perfect, and thus isn't overly entertaining.

## Get your 2016 Banquet tickets now!

Betty Ward

Limited to 50 guests

Our **2016 Mid -Winter Banquet** will be held at **Louis' Chop House**, 50355 Gratiot Ave, New Baltimore, Mi 48051. We have reserved their Big Room for **Saturday, February 20th, 2016**. Room includes TV and private bar. Social hour will be at 6pm and a plate style dinner to follow at 7pm. Cash bar and dessert on your own.

It's good food, great conversation, 50/50 raffle, a slide show and drawings of donated gifts. Renew club membership for 2016 (\$15 or \$10) and make an additional \$15 reservation for the banquet by Friday, February 12, 2016 and receive \$10 back at the banquet. Our club will pick up the remainder of the dinner, tax and gratuity . That's right, \$5.00 dinners for a member or associate!

A non member will cost \$35.00 per person for the banquet dinner. Our club treasurer will accept your payment at the meetings and Pay Pal.

I am looking forward to the banquet 2016 and hope you are as well. Great times await!

Yours truly,  
Betty Ward

## 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
January 9	Club Meeting – lunch at Great Baraboo Brewing Company	
February 13	Club Meeting – lunch at El Patio	
February 20	Mid-Winter Banquet	See above!
March 12	Club Meeting	

## **Other events:**

**Motorcycles of Charlotte First Annual Spring Rally:** <http://tinyurl.com/ztj6b6s> There are no private or semi-private rooms remaining at The Iron Horse. Remaining accommodations are limited to: 2 bunk house beds, 2 RV sites with water and electric, 6 tent sights with 110 power, Lots of free range tent sights. We have been asked to cap this event at 150 participants to ensure we don't exceed the capacity of the dining services. If you (or others in your party) haven't registered yet, especially if you have already made lodging reservations, please do so!

**BMW MOA Getaway** is in Fontana, North Carolina, **April 22 to April 24, 2016**. Jim M. tells us it's 9 hours by I-75, and 10 hours by I-71, and there are golf course, marina, camping and resort motel, and not far from Tail of the Dragon. More info at [http://www.bmwmoa.org/events/event\\_details.asp?id=751007](http://www.bmwmoa.org/events/event_details.asp?id=751007)

**2016 Camp and Ride/Charity event** is at Romney Cycles, Romney, West Virginia, **April 29-May 1**. In the last two years our group has raised more than \$4,300 for the WV School for the Deaf and Blind. Romney has selected the school again for 2016. It's a school that really cares about the kids and puts the money directly towards helping the kids. Let's plan another huge year for the kids! More info: <http://tinyurl.com/jkw4dr2>

**31st Annual BMW Motorcycle Flea Market and MotoExpo** is at the Winnebago County Fairgrounds, Pecatonica, IL, **April 30 1pm-6pm, May 1 8am-3pm**. Parts, gear, bikes and apparel for BMWs. Jim reports the most direct route is 400 miles or 7 hours, but that involves going through Chicago [ick]. Largest event of its kind; Saturday night camping, Serving lunch and supper on Saturday, breakfast and lunch on Sunday, More info: <http://blackhawkbmwclub.org/>. To register, contact Earve Brauer 815-962-8911 or [rockbmw2000@yahoo.com](mailto:rockbmw2000@yahoo.com) OR Steve Frank 815-761-0048 or [skynut69@yahoo.com](mailto:skynut69@yahoo.com). If you begin making plans to go, please share with the club and you may have others want to join you.

## **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  
  
**[www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers](http://www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers)**

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



## Wednesday Dinner Gatherings



The Wednesday dinners are a long-time, though less formal, tradition with the MCBeemers, 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 by 6:30pm, but some of us don't straggle in until closer to 7:00pm.

Absolutely no agenda other than Good Food and Great People!

← Dinner at Juan Miguel's, 10/28/2015. Hey, I'm even in the picture!

February 3	<b>Thai Orchid</b>	60 Cherry St Mt. Clemens, Mi 586.783.1727
February 10	<b>Waves</b>	24223 Jefferson Ave St Clair Shores, Mi 586.773.327
February 17	<b>Poncho and Ciscos</b>	36942 Jefferson ave Harrison charter township , mi 586.465.6161
February 24	<b>Bad Brads</b>	6525 23 Mile Rd Shelby Township, MI 586.254.7010
March 2	<b>Amore's</b>	54100 Gratiot Ave Chesterfield, Mi. 48051 586.749.9262

# Treasurer's Report

Jim Mick



Check book balance for the end of Jan:	\$3080.39
Check book balance for the end of Dec:	\$2516.39
Balance 3 months ago:	\$1892.39
Balance 6 months ago:	\$2335.47
PayPal balance for the end of Jan:	\$ 980.26
PayPal balance for the end of Dec:	\$ 940.26

50/50 sold \$111 of tickets at the Jan Club meeting. Ives P won \$56. Nick H. brought the donuts, and was reimbursed \$16 so \$39 was added to the CkBk.

These Members renewed their membership before, during or after the Jan club meeting: (mbr \$15, associate \$10) for 2016 and purchased tickets for the (Mid-Winter Banquet – mbr/associate \$15, non-member guests \$35):

Brian B 1; George & Lori D 2 (2); Walter D 1; Maury F 1; David F 1 (1); Bill H 1; Bob & \_\_\_ H 1 (2); **Doran & Julia H 2**; Don & Gail M 2 (2); Ken M 1 (1); Lew & Darlene O 2; Jerome & Margaret P (2); **Ives P (+1)**; Ronald R 1; John & Sharon S 2 (2); Roy S 1 (1); Jim V 1; Gary & Mary V 2; Donald W 1; Carol W. 1 (1); George Y 1.

The above membership renewals and tickets for the Mid-Winter Banquet added \$525.00 to the checkbook and \$40 to Pay Pal. **Expect a free RA membership to be given away at the Mid Winter Banquet – a gift from the RA.**

Our 2015 membership ended the year at 86  
Our 2016 membership stands at 52  
Mid Winter Banquet Reservations: 31

## ON LINE BANKING (repeat info from previous Newsletters)

**SAVE YOURSELF** (and the club) some **money** and frustration – send payments to the club for Membership renewal, Picnic reservation, Frankenmuth, Mid Winter Banquet reservations by using ON LINE BANKING. Almost all Banks and Credit Unions provide this **FREE** service. You don't even have to sign up online and they don't charge you for the postage. You can ask your local branch to set it up for you. Just tell your bank or credit union **when** and **how much** to pay **whom** (including address)... write it in your checkbook - without writing a check, or posting with your mail carrier... It's very easy to do on line - if you use a computer for anything. I know of no one who has converted to online banking and then gone back to the old (check writing) way. **Have your bank or Credit Union send all MCBeemers payments to Jim Mick, 56750 Fairchild Rd, Macomb, MI 48042** any you'll see verification of your payment in the Treasurer's report in the Newsletter.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS for 2016 (Repeat Info)

by Jim Mick

Membership stands at 29 for 2016 and the password for access to "Members" at the Yahoo Group will be changed soon. If you do not renew your membership by February 14, you will not receive the new password for accessing the 'Members Only' information on the Yahoo Group.



All renewal dues for 2016 should be paid by the end of January 2016, but we have no penalty for late renewals. We just want you back. The BEST (and cheapest) way to pay any dues, reservations, etc. to the club is to use your Bank/CU "Bill Pay" service – at no cost to you.

## **PayPal** (REPEAT INFO)

by Jim Mick

**As of 1/25/15, 12 members have used PayPal to pay the club for membership renewals and club events.** If you have a PayPal account, the club pays no fee for any transfer of money –IF YOU CALL ME FAMILY/FRIEND rather than indicating that you are paying for product/service. You will, however pay a small fee (<\$1). The club's PayPal account is [Jim@Ridingiswonderful.com](mailto:Jim@Ridingiswonderful.com) ***That account is not for my personal use.***

If you don't have a PayPal account, you can transfer/send money to the club, but the MCBmembers will be charged a small fee (>\$1), which we have been willing to pay. You will need to choose your bank account or Credit/Debit Card if you don't have a PayPal account. We want you to have the convenience of being able to use PayPal.

For our Canadian members, it appears that there's not much difference ... other than a built in 'exchange rate' at the time money is sent.

If you have an E-mail address, you can set up a free PayPal account from which you can send money and also receive money.

It's probably a wise suggestion that you use an E-mail address that you are not going to change. The process is free, if you link your PayPal account to a Credit/Debit Card. It's secure and if you already do some 'online banking', I can't imagine that you would have any difficulty. The process will take 2-3 days but only requires about 4-8 minutes of your time (more if you study all of their 'agreement'). Here's the process:

1. Log on to [www.PayPal.com](http://www.PayPal.com)
2. Click on "personal" in the top left
3. Click on "sign up" in the top right
4. You'll be asked to provide personal information, then to read and agree to their agreement.
5. When done, you'll be asked to provide Credit/Debit Card and/or bank info. Then you'll need to wait for a couple of days.
6. You'll be asked to check your bank statement within a few days. PayPal will make small deposits into your account. You'll need to know those deposit amounts in order to activate your account.
7. You'll also be asked to choose a few security questions and answers in case you forget your password.
8. From that point onward, you have a free PayPal account - touted as "The world's favorite way to pay and get paid".
9. There are limits to this personal, free account, but it should be sufficient for most of us.

## 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!"

*"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



**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](http://www.ridingiswonderful.com)

**ONE YEAR FREE MEMBERSHIP**  
with purchase of motorcycle from BMW MOTORCYCLES OF DETROIT

**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 \$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](mailto:Jim@RidingIsWonderful.com)  
AND send completed form by e-mail to: [Jim@RidingIsWonderful.com](mailto:Jim@RidingIsWonderful.com)