



Motor City Beemers

Club Newsletter



BMW MOA Club #231

BMW RA Club #209

August 2016

Volume 25, Number 08

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

Immediately following the meeting is a ^{Shopping or} Lunch Ride

We welcome owners and fans of all bikes

Our next meeting is August 13, 2016

Following Meeting: September 10, 2016

Web site: www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers

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Inside:

Prez Sez ... page 2
Editor's Corner ... page 3
Our First Time Leading a Ride ... page 4
Frankenmuth Chicken Run ... Page 4
Club and non-Club events ... Page 5
Wednesday Dinners ... page 6
Treasurer's Report ... page 7
MCBeemers Name Tags ... page 8
Membership Application ... page 9

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Greetings MC Beemers!!! August doesn't have very many rally's because it is generally too HOT to ride for long periods of time. But we do have a couple events planned for this month. The meeting is on Saturday, the 13th at 10:30am. The following weekend, Saturday the 20th is the annual ride to Waldo, OH for a fried Bologna sandwich. If you are interested, please contact Ives Potrafka. Then the following weekend from that, Saturday the 27th is the 2nd annual MC Beemers Observation Run that I am putting together again. I have a route and am finalizing the questions, and have an ending location picked out. Now I have to put it all together with mileage reset points and make it easy to follow. Hopefully everyone will have a good time with this.

This is generally an individual event and is NOT a race. I will see about some door prizes again this year. There is nothing for finishing first or last.

Some of you know that I was not able to attend the MOA Rally this year. Perhaps I should have simply driven over to the rally in which case some other unfortunate event may not have happened. Anyway, my GS is in the good hands of Don at the dealership for a needed 12,000 mile checkup and diagnostics of an odd sound. I am sure he will get it back to full running order. Anyway, hopefully those that did make it to the rally will provide a ride and rally report here in the newsletter and at the next meeting.

We have had some members attending track days, so those of you that have, could you go through a typical track day as to what to expect for a first timer. Please write one up and put it in the newsletter. I am sure several would like to do a track day but don't even know what to expect so they don't go. I know most of the track days are during the week so a lot of us would have to take a day off work to attend, and then not knowing what to expect mostly within the first hour of arriving at the track, keeps a few from trying the experience. Where do you go, how do you register, what do you have to wear, what do you have to do to your bike for a track day, etc...

I noticed in the MOA Owners News (ON) magazine that the Touring Club of Detroit has listed the Color Tour as a ride in back of the magazine. Again, this one is open to all. I have been contacted by a few of the other clubs in the last two weeks to get a status on the date in October. The weekend is the 14th, 15th and 16th of October, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. If you only want to do the Saturday, and Sunday that is fine too. Hopefully there will be great weather and a bunch of riders from all the clubs here in Michigan and since it is in the ON, perhaps some riders from other states as well. If you are going to hotel it, you will want to get your reservations in soon. There are several hotel/motels in the greater Traverse City area. The location for the weekend is Cycle More Campground just West of Interlochen, MI. I am not sure how much camping is now but it is still less than the state parks and it is a great place to camp. We will have campfires both Friday and Saturday nights. Lots of good riding in the area, both paved and dirt for those that like to play in the dirt. Should be a great weekend.

Betty Ward is working on the September Chicken Dinner Run. That will take place on Sept 17th and if you want to, there are a few that are staying in the Port Austin area for the night. So, if you are going to the Chicken Dinner, please reserve your spot with Betty and pay your 5 dollars to Jim Mick. For more details, I am sure Betty will be letting everyone know. I did see an email with some of the details so far.

Well, that is about it for this month, I will see you at the meeting and hopefully a Wednesday night dinner or two.

Patrick Kelley



Life is about new adventures and experiences.

I'm a cheapskate, I'll admit it. Rather than getting a \$600+ motorcycle GPS, I've got a \$120 car GPS on my motorcycle. Is it as rugged or weather proof as a real motorcycle GPS? Of course not, but I can go through probably six of them for the price of one "motorcycle" GPS, and each time I get a new one, I'll be getting new and better features. And so far, I've yet to have one fail.

Last month, I wrote about my new, rebuilt sound system in Wolfgang, my K1200LT. I'm loving it, but one thing lost when my aftermarket unit was pulled out was my USB power jack that I used for my GPS. It was creatively cobbled into the third-party stereo unit's wiring harness,

but when Don returned my stereo to me, there was my GPS's power source in the box, too.

I love GPSs. I always loved maps, and having a real-time show of exactly where I am relative to the rest of the world is something I really appreciate when driving. Honestly, I rarely use them for navigation, it's just the little extra navigation information they provide I like. Even when I do use them for navigation, I rarely follow them blindly, and almost always with the volume off.

So, last month, when Paula and I got volunteered to lead the lunch ride, I found myself somewhat stuck. My bike GPS was lacking a power supply (ok, it still exists, I have no idea where it is). The printed instructions I had didn't fit nicely in my tank map pouch. And I was completely unfamiliar with the area we were heading.

I have a confession to make: group rides are not my favorite form of riding. I enjoy going places with the MCBeemers because of the trip and the people at both ends, but I find riding in a pack is somewhat stressful (in fact, I'd never done it before joining the MCBeemers, so special thanks to Rhys and all the others who got me started and didn't laugh at me like I am sure I deserved early on). So, not only am I riding in a group...I'm LEADING the group, leading for the FIRST TIME, and I have no idea where I am going, no GPS for general guidance OR specific instructions, and violated all my self-rules about testing before presenting. I'm lost, and we haven't even started the engine yet.

However, Paula came through as a navigational champ, providing patient and clear guidance at every step of the way. Ok there was that dirt road we weren't expecting, but that was fine (hey, we are BMW RIDERS, not chrome polishers, right?), and I bet no one even noticed the turn I missed, unless you heard Paula yelling, "THAT'S OK, THAT'S OK, MATT SAID THE NEXT STREET WORKS, TOO!". There is life without GPS.

Needless to say, my GPS has power again. Paula's perspective on the ride is coming up next.

In unrelated topic, be saving your photos you take on your travels this summer, as once again at the Winter Banquet, we'll (hopefully) have slide shows running again. Like in past years, I plan to have a "big" display, plus a number of laptops telling individual people's stories.

I'm *just* back from a four day bike trip with Paula to the Upper Peninsula. No time for a full writeup now (story next month!), but in case you are thinking of doing the same, two words of advice: **MAKE RESERVATIONS**. The UP is experiencing a historic travel boom, often nearly every motel room north of West Branch is filled. Same apparently goes for camper parking, and even tent camp site space is getting tight.

Also next month: follow up on my HID headlight replacement article. Can't wait? Just do it.

Nick.

Our First Time Leading a Ride

Paula Ellis

Nick and I recently had the pleasure-and terror-of leading the Lunch ride after July's monthly biker meeting. The destination was the Fenton Firehall, in Fenton, of course. I've never been to Fenton, but this was a recommended ride from a dear friend of mine.

Did I tell you that Nick and I did not know we were going to lead the ride until the time came to leave??

Being one of two in charge of the rides, I figured I'd better get some idea of where this place was before the meeting. Nick helped me plot out the course that "I" wanted to go. We've been on many nice rides with the biker group, and being a passenger, I have the advantage of mentally documenting certain roads that I like more so than perhaps a driver does, since he/she needs to pay attention TO the roads. So we played with Google Maps or whatever Nick was using and we came up with a decent plan-I thought anyway.

As we're leaving to go to the meeting, Nick said, "We probably should have tested this route out". Famous last words. The meeting comes and goes. Approximately 7 bikers were interested in going on the ride to lunch, along with Cathy riding in her car-and Nick has been picked to lead! Now, I believe we did not have the GPS with us and Nick didn't know where we were going.....so picture this.....I'm on the bike behind Nick yelling out directions and pointing left and right(most of the time anyway!). Yes, the talking helmets would have helped tremendously here, but we don't have them. This is how we normally communicate on the bike-or not at all. I'm usually too busy zoning out!

Well, all in all the ride was a delight! It was cloudy and not too hot, with a nice breeze. Van Dyke was immediately backed up for miles, Dick Hautau recommended we take Mound Road, but we went to Dequindre instead because we needed to end up there anyway. We cut through Rochester, took Orion Road, which I like a lot. Then some other roads I don't remember. Next, we were heading to Clarkston Road, another favorite road of mine-EXCEPT-some of it isn't paved!!! Yikes!! I could feel the glares behind me, but we all got through without any mishaps, and Clarkston became paved pretty quickly. Once we hit Clarkston (the city), we made a couple turns and eventually ended up on Dixie highway and Grange Hall Road, which finally got us to Fenton-and a main street art fair! It was packed! Parking was tough, but we got the group to the restaurant and enjoyed to good meal together. No one seemed to want to kill Nick or myself, and I even got some "good ride" compliments, so I consider this first lead to be a success!!! Will Nick and I do it again? Stay tuned!

Frankenmuth Chicken Run

Betty Ward

It is now time to look forward to our ride and dinner to "Michigan's Little Bavaria"! Yes reservations have been made for our club at the Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn for Saturday, September 17th, 1:30 pm I was also able to reserve at least 10 parking spaces in there south parking lot ;) I will see if I can reserve a few more. Our club buys the dinner and non-alcoholic drinks. It requires a \$5 copay paid prior to this special event. Any one attending who is NOT a member or associate member must pay for their meal

I will be booking rooms in Port Austin for that Saturday night so if you care to make a Weekend out of it please let me know. We will stay at the Blue Spruce! There's also a campground nearby if anyone cares to camp!

Looking forward to this club event with a lot of wonderful people! So mark your calendars, watch for more info, and I will need a final count by our September club meeting.

Betty

Club events

Lunch rides take place right after the Saturday meeting on the second Saturday of the month. Other events as we can make them happen!

Date	Event	Alternate local lunch
August 13	Club Meeting – Lunch at Pompeii – Port Huron	Azteca (Utica)
August 27	Pat's Observation Run	
September 10	Club Meeting – Lunch at Tavern 109, Williamston)	Great Baraboo
September 17	Frankenmuth Dinner	
September 17/18	After Frankenmuth Port Austin overnight Ride	
October 8	Club Meeting – Lunch at White Horse Inn	El Patio
November 12	Club Meeting – Lunch at Zukey Lake Tavern, Pinkney	(tbd)
December 10	Club Meeting – Lunch at Azteca	
January 14	Club Meeting – Lunch at Great Baraboo	

Rallies

July 14-17	BMW MOA	Hamburg, New York
Sep 30-Oct 2	RAMS Rally	Parker's Crossroads, TN.

Other events:

Stockbridge All Clubs Day has been announced for Sunday September 18, 2016. Fliers have been uploaded to the Facebook group (Thanks, Pete!)

From BWM RA:

Dear BMW RA Rider,

Instead of our usual rally this year we are joining in the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the BMW Company. There are multiple events and venues starting with the Legends of the Autobahn on August 19th and carrying through with the BMW RA's hosting of activities from August 25th and ending August 28th at Laguna Seca:

- BMW Car *and* Bike Demo Fleet
- N8 Kern and his HP Display
- Peter Nettesheim's world class collection of Historic BMW bikes and vehicles
- Q&A sessions with experts from BMW Headquarters in Munich
 - Fred Jakobs, BMW AG Chief Archivist
 - Thomas Tischler, Head of Service, BMW Group Classic
 - Georg Blumoser, Head of Parts Sales, BMW Group Classic
- Custom & Racing Bikes
- GS Giants on the Land Rover Off Road Track
- and much more

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 around 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.

August 3	CK Diggs	2010 W Auburn rd Rochester Hills, MI 48309 248.853-6600
August 10	Juan Miguel's	21342 Hall Rd Clinton Township, Mi 48038 586.783.9751
August 17	Steiny's Tavern	55161 Shelby Rd Shelby Township, MI 48316 248.453.5376
August 24	Amore's Grill and Spirits	53100 Gratiot Avenue, Chesterfield, MI 48051 586.749.9262
August 31	Thai Orchid	60 Cherry St Mt Clemens, MI 48043 586.783.1727
September 7	Twisted Rooster	45225 Marketplace Blvd. Chesterfield, MI 48051 586.949.1470

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

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Treasurer's Report

Jim Mick

Check book balance for the end of July:	2177.63
Check book balance for the end of Jun:	\$2177.63
Balance end of Jan:	\$3020.39
Balance end of Apr:	\$2228.11
PayPal balance for the end of July:	\$549.52
PayPal balance for the end of Jun:	\$544.52

Having missed the July club meeting and I have received no money or report... only the following change since last month:

The \$5 Ives P paid for the Picnic last month was added to our PayPal account.

Our 2016 membership stands at 69.

[Jim's excellent information about on-line banking and using PayPal to pay for club membership and activities is available as a document on the Facebook group, and in past newsletters, for example, the February 2016 issue]

Bavarian Inn Perks Card

John's Bavarian Inn card has helped reduce the cost to the club of our Frankenmuth chicken dinner for a number of years now.



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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ONE YEAR FREE MEMBERSHIP
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MOTOR CITY BEEMERS
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Club Web Site – www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers
Club eGroup Email – 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
AND send completed form by e-mail to: Jim@RidingIsWonderful.com