



Motor City Beemers

Newsletter



BMW MOA Club #231

BMW RA Club #209

January 2017

Volume 26, Number 1

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

Immediately following the meeting is a Lunch Ride

We welcome owners and fans of all bikes

Our next meeting is January 14, 2017

Following Meeting: February 11, 2017

Web site: www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers

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1st Vice President
2nd Vice Presidents
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Greetings Beemers, and a Very Happy New Year! Here is a good resolution, to have a great riding season this year with many quality riding miles.

As a kid born in the mid 1900's, I remember trying to figure out how old I was going to be when the year 2000 came around. Well here we are looking at 2017, and looking back over the years I tend to think about my love affair with motorcycles. As a young kid, I used to stop whatever I was doing to watch a motorcycle pass by. Most of them were Harley's, BSA's, or Triumph's, and a couple Honda's. I don't remember seeing too many BMW's in Butte, Montana. I know there were a couple. Then came the day I got to ride on a real motorcycle not just one of those little

Briggs and Stratton mini-bikes (which I would have loved to own), but a real bike, a Kawasaki 750 that my sister's boyfriend had. He took me for about a half hour ride that I begged into an hour. We rode all over town, mom wasn't too please when we got back because she didn't like motorcycles. I was probably 10 or 11. Next came my own motorcycle, a '76 Yamaha XT500 (Thumper) with a SuperTrap tail pipe. This bike was beat up when I got it, so I didn't mind continuing the torture by riding it everywhere. Even followed my brother along the railroad tracks across two train trellises (not too bright, seemed to be fun at the time though). The mountains around Butte were a great place to play in the dirt until the Bureau of Land Management closed everything down. Sold it just before leaving Montana. It was about 4 years before I would buy another bike, an '84 Honda Silverwing GL500 Interstate. A nice bike but a little underpowered and would buzz at interstate speeds. Rode that around here in Michigan for a few years and took it over to Wisconsin for a long weekend. I don't think you can forget your first motorcycle trip through Chicago, wasn't sure I was going to survive that one. Been through there a few times since and really try to avoid it. I sold it just before meeting Lynn, didn't seriously look for about 8 years. Then started looking on line then my boss bought a BMW and got me looking at them too. Found my 2002 R1150R down in Virginia, borrowed a trailer and brought it home. My first ride was just around the block to see if I even remembered how to ride. Before I got to the second corner, it all came flooding back and I was having a blast riding it. I upgraded in 2010 to the K1200LT, loved how it handled, I even liked how it handled at slow speeds, I found it very predictable and easy to ride. My only problem was that my roots were riding dirt roads and every time I saw one on the LT, I would think, I wonder where that goes. I even tried to take the LT on a two track once (key work ONCE). That LT didn't seem to like the dirt too much, or at least with me on its back. So now came the 2013 R1200GS I bought in 2014. I really do think that it is probably the best all-around motorcycles out there. I really miss the LT's electric windshield and the true cruise control, but I love the ability to see a dirt road and find out where it goes. Here in Michigan, you tend to find out that most of them are filled with sugar sand and then you quickly find out that the even a Kawasaki KLT250S really does weigh as much or more than that LT after you have picked it up a couple (7) times within a two mile stretch of road.

Well that was a lot longer than I thought it was going to be. So onto what the club has going on in 2017. First off, the officers for this year are the same as last year. They are listed above here in the Newsletter. The next meeting is 14 January at the BMW Motorcycles of Detroit dealership just South of 15 mile rd. on VanDyke. Our meetings are the Second Saturday of each month at the dealership. Next up will be the MC Beemers Planning Meeting to be held during the February club meeting. This is your chance to bring ideas for events or lunch rides or anything you want the club to do this next year. Last year the officers got together and came up with a few new rides and the dates of the traditional rides. This year I want to open this up to the club membership to suggest what you want to do this year. We will still have the more

traditional rides such as the Picnic and the Chicken Dinner of which we will set the dates. Other clubs that I have belonged to have a planning meeting early in the year and they generally work very well, one even makes it a pot luck lunch to help maximize participation. So, in February, bring your thinking caps and ride recommendations and maybe other fun things to do with a group.

Also in February, is the Mid-Winter Banquet. You have probably seen a couple emails from Betty about this so far. The location is Louis' Chop House, South of 23 mile rd. on the West side of Gratiot. Same place as last year, we have a room reserved 18 February, the cost per member or associate member is \$15, costs for guests will be \$35, the club will pick up the remainder of the bill. We will have a TV and a couple Laptops showing slide shows of our riding adventures this last year. Please get your pictures to Nick so that he can make up the slide shows.

Don't forget, Club Dues are due now, for 2017 the cost has not changed, \$15 for members and \$10 for an associate member.

I am looking forward to serving as your President again this year. I am not going to make any other resolutions as I usually break them, but I will try to help Ives and Nick to keep the website and Facebook pages more current. I know a couple times I did not put up an event notice until two days before the event, that doesn't help anyone. Some help from you all would be great too, if you are looking at either site and don't see the various calendar events that we will develop during the planning meeting, please use the email and let Ives, Nick, and me know so that we can get them added.

There are a number of rallies coming up this year that several of us may be attending. One of the early ones is the first weekend in May down in SE Ohio. Also the RA rally is in Potoski this year.

So, I hope you had a great Christmas holiday and I will see you at the January Meeting.

Pat.

Patrick Kelley

President, MC Beemers

R1200GS

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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I found (and bought) something at Harbor Freight last month that might be of interest to fellow MCBeemers – their motorcycle dolly. The theory is cool – run your motorcycle up on it, set it on the side stand, and now you can push it around your garage as needed. Reality is a bit different, but for some of us, close enough that it still might be worth the \$100 price.

First of all, the wheels are small, so don't plan on going over expansion joints in your garage easily...if at all. And if you have big cracks or uneven concrete, forget it. My garage slab is not very flat nor smooth, but if I put the bike on the dolly NEAR where it was going, it gave me a the ability to push it in directions the bike wouldn't normally go to make a lot more space available for other

bikes.

The side stand appendage can be placed where your bike needs it, which is good, as there's no standard on that, however, assume you won't get it right the first time, you will have to pull the bike off and reposition it at least once. There's no provisions for center stand, for those of us with K bikes that prefer to keep them on the center stand. I figured I could tolerate the blast of oil smoke for the first start of the season.

I tried three of my bikes on it. The Harley, of course, worked just fine, though some people with really fat rear tires on their HD say it is too narrow. The '85 K100RT worked pretty well, other than having to be on the side stand. The K1200LT was, as is often the case for very low speed handling of an LT, exciting. Once Again, I remembered you can not see either wheel of an LT when either riding it or walking it by standing next to the bike. "Can't see wheels" means putting it on a narrow (?) dolly just won't be easy. Given a second person, might just work fine, but not a one person job unless you are into collecting Bent Beemers. So I'd call it a success on the K100 and the HD, and potential success on the K1200LT. In the end, the dolly ended up under the HD, and it allowed me to snug the Harley into position much easier than it otherwise could be done, leaving much more room for the K100 and LT than I had before. Worth the \$100 to me, and I could probably use at least one more. Though I must say, Harbor Freight doesn't understand Motorcycle Merchandise pricing – only \$100 for a motorcycle accessory?? Wow. Well, I'm not telling them! Assembly was straight forward, though the instructions were horrible, but if you play around with it for a few minutes, you'll figure it out.

While digging through bookmarks on one of my computers today, I came back across Harrison Specialties (no relations, I presume?) – a company that makes (get this) lawn strippers, wood turning tools, plans for DIY projects ... and Corbin compatible seat backs. So, if you have yourself a Corbin seat that accepts the square post backrest and want to pay a fraction of the Corbin cost for one (or just want to see what a lawn stripper is), see <http://harrisonspecialties.com/>. I bought a couple of their backrests a few years ago, turned out they didn't work well for my overweight physique on the K100, but nothing wrong with the product, and glad I didn't spend \$250+ to find that out (AND they work nicely one-up on my LT after getting a Corbin seat)

Mid Winter Banquet is coming up in February. For those that missed it last year, you missed some really good food at Louis' Chop House. They really did a great job hosting us, too, like they wanted us to come back. Part of the banquet is the running slide show...and that involves getting me your riding pictures of last year so I can put it together...so be collecting those pictures!

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
December 10	Club Meeting – Lunch at Azteca	
January 14	Club Meeting – Lunch at Great Baraboo	
February 11	Club PLANNING meeting!	

Wednesday Dinner Gatherings

The Wednesday dinners are a long-time, though less formal, tradition with the MCBeemers... 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!

January 4	Juan Miguel's	21342 Hall Rd Clinton Township, MI 48038 586.783.9751
January 11	Steiny's Tavern	55161 Shelby Rd Shelby Township, MI 48316 248.453.5376
January 18	Penne Lane	44905 Morley Dr Clinton Township, MI 48036 586.741.5583
January 25	Amore's Grill and Spirits	53100 Gratiot Avenue, Chesterfield, MI 48051 586.749.9262
February 1	Twisted Rooster	45225 Marketplace Blvd. Chesterfield, MI 48051 586.949.1470

Treasurer's Report

Jim Mick



Check book balance for the end of Nov:	\$2524.77
Check book balance for the end of Dec:	\$2681.77
Balance end of Jun:	\$2177.63
Balance end of Sep:	\$2144.77
PayPal balance for the end of Nov:	\$504.52
PayPal balance for the end of Dec:	\$518.78

I deposited \$207.00 into the check book and \$14.26 was added to PayPal:

- \$27.00 was received from 50/50. Jerry P won the other half.
 - \$95.00 was received from Bob H, Nick H & Paula E, Ives & Renee P, George Y, and Charles Z for renewal of their club memberships for 2017.
 - \$40.00 was received from Cathy B by BILL PAY for membership in 2017, the MWB, Picnic and Frankenmuth. You go girl!!!
- \$15.00 mailed in by Tom C for membership in 2017.
 - \$15.00 was received from Ken M by BILL PAY for membership in 2017.
 - \$14.26 was received from Peter B for membership in 2017. Fee of \$0.74
 - \$15.00 mailed in by Jim V for membership in 2017.

Betty W took a check for \$50 to the Louis Chop House to reserve a banquet room on Feb 18th for our Mid Winter Banquet (MWB). Did you notice that our MWB is a mixed up BMW?

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS for 2017

Membership stands at 34 for 2017 and the password for access to "Members" at the Yahoo Group will be changed after the February Club Meeting. If you do not renew your membership by February 11, you will not receive the new password for accessing the 'Members Only' information on the Yahoo Group.

All renewal dues for 2017 should be paid by the end of January 2017, 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.

ON LINE BANKING (You'll never regret the 10-15 min it takes!!)

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 paying 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 next Newsletter.

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



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

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
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