



Motor City Beemers

Newsletter



BMW MOA Club #231

BMW RA Club #209

October 2019

Volume 28, Number 10

All meetings are held the **SECOND** Saturday of the month at 10:30AM at
BMW Motorcycles of Detroit
1301 S Rochester Rd, Suite B
Rochester Hills, MI 48307
Phone: (248) 402-4013

Many of our “major” club events are on the **THIRD** Saturday of the month

We welcome owners and fans of all bikes
“An eating club with a motorcycle problem!”

Our next meeting is: October 12, 2019

Following Meeting: November 9, 2019

Web site: <https://MCBeemers.org>

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Membership info: <https://mcbeemers.org/howdoijoin.html>

Activities: <https://mcbeemers.org/activities/>

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Greetings Beemers!

We're one member down. For those who may not know, Allen Gigliotti passed away after a sudden illness on September 15. Please keep his wife of 42 years, Terry, in your prayers. He will be missed.

We had a warm September, with some very good riding days, even if we had some cool mornings. The start of October has been very wet; let's hope for some sun and fair riding days for the remainder of our season!

This year's Frankenmuth Chicken Dinner run was a very good time for the 19 of us who were able to attend. Unfortunately, the restaurant was so busy they were unable to hold parking for us this year. I know I always feel special when they reserve it for us. To make up for it, they presented us with a wonderful strudel for dessert. For several years running, we've also had a morning group ride from Ted's Coney Island in Richmond to the Bavarian Inn. We started with back country and twisties, and then Josh's GPS decided to drop the group onto I-69 through to downtown Saginaw. We made a stop for fuel instead, and Rhys picked up the lead through Vassar into Frankenmuth. After dinner, a group of us continued on to the tip of the Thumb for the annual overnight stay at the Blue Spruce in Port Austin. Once again, I want to give many thanks to Bob Hann for hosting a get together Saturday evening at his condo for all of us. We went back to the motel for our annual bonfire. It was overcast, so we didn't have much stargazing, but Nick came equipped with entertainment – we had a light show and learned a lot about blue and green lasers!

Upcoming Events: The October post-meeting lunch ride is to the Dorsey House, just beyond the beautiful twisty section of M-136 in North Street, Michigan.

The low-displacement ride has been deferred to next season.

A fall-color ride is looking increasingly unlikely this year. A short-notice ride may be announced through the Yahoo mailing list and on Facebook.

Don't forget to send Nick any pictures you've taken for this year's "Off the Beaten Path" poker run. I hope you have the opportunity to pick a few more pictures before November 1st cutoff date.

Winter Banquet is coming in February – more details later.

Till next month be safe and get out there and ride!



Happy October, Motor City Beemers!

We ended up deciding to “cage it” for the Frankenmuth dinner. Still, we had a lot of fun, other than watching D.H. smuggle an *entire* plate of chicken out in his helmet. Not cool, dude. Yes, lots of people saw you, lots of people made sure I knew. Reflects badly on both you and the club.

We probably need to reconsider our “always third Saturday in September” policy for our Frankenmuth ride, as there is just too much going on in Frankenmuth that weekend – this year, we ran into their Oktoberfest celebrations and an art fair. Not too surprising they couldn’t hold spots for our bikes...there weren’t spots to

be had!

Those of us that continued on to Port Austin also had a nice evening, in part thanks to Bob’s hospitality. The motel we stayed at has a nice fire pit, and we sat around at the fire Denis (aka, “D2”) engineered for quite some time that evening, swapping stories, s’mores, cookies, and playing with lasers.

Those participating in Cathy’s 2019 Poker Run, make sure you have sent your pictures to me AND I have got them up on-line. Go to the website, click on the Pictures link at the top, and look at the 2019 Poker Run pictures. Only one picture per “target” counts for the contest, but additional pictures are always welcome, they will be added to the slide show at the Winter Banquet.

And ... yes, our riding season is rapidly coming to an end. Before putting it all behind you, make sure you dig out your pictures and get them to me, one way or another, for the Winter Banquet slide show. EVERY YEAR, I hear some sad story about someone who took some great pictures and then broke their phone, or lost their camera or whatever before getting them to me. Get your pictures somewhere safe, and get a copy to me!

Josh has provided an article on group riding – something that, well to be blunt, many of us in our group (including me) really ~~suek-at~~ could use improvement at. Now, I don’t really want to become one of those groups where all the front wheels are lined up and angled exactly the same in the parking lot, but improving our safety and style on the road would a good thing.

Stuff on the website

Main website: <https://mcbeemers.org>

Activities page: <https://mcbeemers.org/activities>

Newsletters, current and past: <https://mcbeemers.org/mcb-nl/>

Club pictures: <https://mcbeemers.org/pictures/index.html>

Club invite cards: <https://mcbeemers.org/mcb-nl/MCB-invites.pdf>

Membership info: <https://mcbeemers.org/howdoijoin.html>

I've been leading some group rides this year. Once, I led a group looking for breakfast to a gas station where my GPS promised a restaurant. Then past two empty lots where restaurants once stood decades ago, and finally, to a working hog farm where the thing insisted that a restaurant stood. It's still there on Garmin's maps: "Cookie Jar & Company".

Olfactory perils aside, every rider in a group ride – rider, lead, and sweep – bears some responsibility for the ride's fun, safety, and success. **The MSF recommends pre-ride meetings. We should hold them.** We should determine who will lead, who will sweep, what to do if separated at intersections, what to do to leave the group, and the signals the rider(s) may use.

The MSF also recommends:

- Groups of eight or more bikes should split into smaller subgroups, each with its own lead and sweep rider. Smaller groups makes it easier for the ride to stay together through intersections and for the lead to keep the group in sight in their rear-view mirrors.
- Groups should ride in staggered formation, with a 1 second gap between riders and a 2 second gap between riders directly in-line. It provides adequate space for the riders to move to avoid road hazards, while reducing the chance of another vehicle entering a gap in the group. The lead starts in the left third of the lane, the next rider 1 second behind in the right third of the lane, and so on.
An easy way to "see" a 1-second gap is to look at the staggered rider ahead of you in their rear-view mirror. If their helmet just fills the mirror, you're about 1-second behind. If you can't see their full helmet, you're too close. More than their helmet means the gap is too large.
- Riders should move from staggered to in-line formation with 2-second gaps when in curves or when the lead signals for a formation change, such as in construction zones, highway ramps, and low visibility.
- Riders should know the group's destination, any planned stops along the way, and who to call in the event they become completely separated.
- The last rider in a group is the sweep. Sweep riders ensure the safety of the entire group. If any rider pulls to the shoulder, only the sweep should join them to learn if the rider needs assistance or if they have decided to depart the group. If assistance is needed, the sweep should stay to support the stopped rider.
- Lead riders should know the planned route, the number of riders in the group, and watch for the group and sweep rider in their mirrors. During the planning meeting, leads should discuss how intersection separations will be managed to reconnect the group, and what the group will do in the event the sweep rider is separated, such as when a rider needs assistance.
- Each rider should ride their own ride.
 - Don't speed through intersections or run red lights to keep up with the group. Separations occur, so follow the group's separation plan. The lead rider should be watching their mirrors after every turn and every traffic signal.
 - Don't ride beyond your skill or your comfort level. If you need to leave the group, follow the group's plan, such as pulling to the shoulder to inform the sweep rider.

Coming in part 2: helpful signals.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Mick



Check book balance for the end of September	\$2582.55
Check book balance for the end of August	\$3060.37
Balance one year ago	\$1883.97
Balance end of March	\$2692.37
Balance end of June	\$3021.37
PayPal balance for the end of July	\$113.11
PayPal balance for the end of June	\$113.11

61 member renewals for 2019
22 members paid for Frankenmuth

Oops... Received \$10.00 by BillPay from Brian & Sheila B for Frankenmuth, but failed to report last month.

- 9/5/19 Spent \$15.00 to renew our Club Membership with the MOA which is now good until 12/31/2020.
- 9/13/19 Received \$5.00 by 'Bill Pay' from Donald W for Frankenmuth.
- 9/14/19 Received \$38.00 from 'the Pres' from last month's meeting (\$33 from the 50/50 and \$5 from George Y for Frankenmuth). Also received \$15.00 from Charles G for membership renewal, another \$22.00 from the 50/50 when Nick H won and \$5.00 from Jim M for Frankenmuth (total of \$80).
- 9/21/19 Paid Bavarian Inn \$557.82 for 18 Family Style Chicken Dinners (incl tax and gratuities).

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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