

# Motor City Beemers

## Newsletter



August 2023

Volume 32, Number 8

Meetings are held the **SECOND** Saturday of the month  
at

**Triumph Detroit**

47488 Van Dyke Ave.

Shelby Township, MI 48317

(586) 726-7400

*We welcome owners and fans of all bikes*

*“We got donuts!”*

Our *next* meeting is: ... **August 12, 2023 10:30 am**

Following meeting is: ... **September 9, 2023 10:30am**

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

President  
1st Vice President  
2nd Vice President  
Treasurer  
Newsletter Editor

**Nick Holland**  
**Don McIntyre**  
**Jeff Anderson**  
**Jim Mick**  
**Josh Grosse**

nick @ holland-consulting . net  
dfmcintyre129 @ gmail . com  
2andersons1989 @ gmail . com  
Jim @ RidingIsWonderful . com  
Josh @ jggimi . net

### Inside:

Rhys Blair ... page 2

Prez Sez ... page 3

Editor's Corner ... pages 5-7

Treasurer's Report ... page 8

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

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

As you have hopefully heard by now, long time member and founder of the Motor City Beemers, Rhys Blair, was killed in an accident at his home after the storm of July 20<sup>th</sup>.

There are a lot of people in this club who have known Rhys longer than me, and a lot that spent a lot more time with him than I did. But...there's just no way to write my column for this month without saying something -- probably a lot of things -- about Rhys.

I've known Rhys for maybe about ten years now. Shortly after buying my K1200LT and taking the advice of, "you should come by here on Saturday" from someone at the dealership. And of course, quickly, I ended up finding myself invited to ride with the group to lunch. I don't think I had ever rode any distance with another motorcyclist, much less a group, before, and I expressed my misgivings. Rhys managed to let me know that yes, he recognized I was an idiot on this topic, but that could be changed, and he'd help me change it. So he planted me where the new guy goes -- right behind him in the group (no pressure!) -- and off we went.

You can always tell the US Marine in a crowd -- yes, in part because they tell you, but you can often Just Tell. I'm honored to count a number of Marines as friends, they are all very different people, but but they all have a certain inner confidence that comes from knowing they have trained for harder and experienced more than most of the rest of us. Rhys saw more than his share of tragedy, and yet, almost always seemed to have a smile on his face and in his voice. He was always there for a friend, and often for an acquaintance, or even just someone who needed a hand.

If you look up "Family Man" in the dictionary, there should be a picture of Rhys. The love he showed for his wife, his son, his wife's kids, his grand kids and his friends should be an example for all of us.

And I can't neglect to mention Rhys Stories. Rhys was a story teller. He lived an exciting life, and he was eager to share it with people, and people loved hearing him tell the stories. His presentation in person was always a work of performance art. His written words were fun and educational to read as well, anything from his stories of his travels around the country and around the world, to the pictures and stories of the lake freighters passing in front of his house.

He was always a presence in any room he was in, but always in a good way. I will miss him, and I know a LOT of other people will as well.

<https://www.bcfh.com/tributes/Rhys-Blair>





Given a choice, I'd love to say not a thing more than talk about Rhys today. But ... there is business. And it feels a bit out of place, really. But ...

We have a couple events coming up soon – the annual Frankenmuth Chicken Dinner on September 16. For the last many years, we have had a less formal ride to Port Austin after the Chicken Dinner. However, the number of participants in that has been dropping over the years, and I know several of the regulars (including us) are going to be unable to make it this year. So ... we are NOT going to be reserving a block of rooms at the Blue Spruce this year. I'm really not sure that anything changed here, it was always a "pay your own way, make your own reservation" kind of event, and if you wish to ride to Port Austin

after the Frankenmuth dinner, you are certainly welcome to do so. The only thing that changes is the Blue Spruce has been great about giving us a set of rooms next to each other (they probably hear "motorcycle club" and get the wrong idea!), but we won't be asking for that this time.

We also have our picnic coming up. Hopefully, we will be getting details from Don on that shortly.

The officers of the club decided to make a \$300 donation to the charity, Vets Returning Home from the club, in Rhys' honor.

In happy news... Jimmy John's Field is going to be having a Motorcycle Night, Thursday, Aug 3. From Monica Kurjan of the United Shore Professional Baseball League who wrote us about that:

The week is finally here! This thursday, August 3 is Motorcycle Night at Jimmy John's Field!

Please plan to arrive around 5:30pm/5:45pm with your motorcycles ready to ride onto the field. We will line up at that time, and then all ride on the field together at 6:00pm.

We will stay on the field for all of pregame, and ride off together once the National Anthem is done. There will be specialty parking available behind the ballpark for your motorcycles, away from the general public.

Please remember to purchase your tickets using this link: <https://www.ticketreturn.com/prod2new/GroupPortalPEC.asp?HoldID=606&SponsorID=16309&EventID=333000>

This link is the only way to purchase the tickets that allow you and your motorcycle onto the field.

This sounds like it could be a lot of fun. More info at <https://uspbl.com/promotions/motorcycle-night/>

Stay safe. But don't forget to have fun.

## **Stuff on the website**

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

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

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

Club pictures: <http://mcbeemers.org/pictures/>

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

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

Hosting Dealership: <https://www.windycitymc.com/--triumph-detroit>

I'm processing my grief for Rhys by recalling his many stories, his many kindnesses to me, all the memories I was able to make with him, and his wonderful friendship. Rest in peace.

On to happier items:

I'm planning on attending the Frankenmuth dinner. In recent years, we have coordinated group rides starting in Richmond, using Ted's Coney Island as a meeting and breakfast spot. We could certainly repeat this trip, or, if members prefer, we could establish a different starting point for a change of route. This is something we can discuss at the August meeting, with updated information to be published in the September newsletter.

Speaking of the August meeting, Jeff noted that once again, Bullfrogs is the lunch ride destination. *Depart Triumph Detroit right on Van Dyke, left on 25 mile road, right on Mound, left on 32 mile road, right on Rochester road, left on Lakeville road, which turns into Seymour Lake road, left on Baldwin, right on Seymour Lake road and right on Ortonville road to Bullfrogs.*



© 2023 Alan Binder. Used with permission.

And, Jeff submitted two trip reports with photos, which are on the two following pages.

The first was to the Wauseon Antique Motorcycle Club of America meet. Jeff wrote, *“Great show with some really nice bikes for sale. This year 4 cylinder bikes from the 30's and 40's were HOT. Indian 4 going for \$85,000 and Excelsior Henderson for \$110,000! Several really nice examples of HD design from Willie G's early career, Super Glides & Sportster Cafe.”*

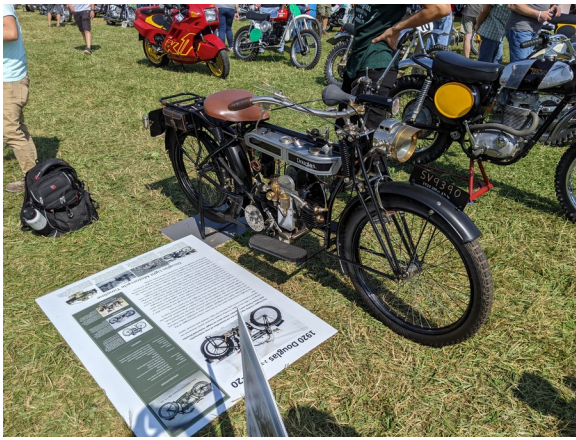
The second was to AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days at Mid Ohio. Jeff wrote, *“Huge event with more to see and do than you can imagine. The swap meet was about two football fields in size with stuff for all makes for sale. Vintage road racing, motocross, hare scrambles, trials and a great bike show! I was a volunteer for the AMA which was fun and allowed me to meet the Grand Marshall, Steve Wise, a factory Honda racer from the early 1980's who raced motocross, supercross, road racing and won the Superbikers event twice. The prices for bikes continued to climb and for reference a nice Yamaha RD 400 was going for \$10,500 and an RZ 350 for \$12,500. A great ride down but got caught in 2 downpours on the way home with no place to pull over safely. Still fun and 450 miles round trip.”*

I hope to see you at the August and September meetings, and on the ride to or at the dining table in Frankenmuth. Speaking of Frankenmuth, this gives me the opportunity to remind you – politely – to PLEASE let Jim know if you plan to attend, so that we have an accurate headcount for the event.









## Treasurer's Report

Jim Mick

Membership 36 for 2023:



Jeff A, Mike B, Cathy B, Rhys B, Brian & Sheila B, Tom C, Walter D, Dennis G, Linda H, Aaron G, Josh G, Nick H, Paula E, Pat & Lynn K, Alan & Jodi K, Mike & Sharon M, Don & Gail M, Jay M, Jim & Jeri M, Don & Carolynne P, Jerry & Margaret P, Tim S, Robb S, Chris V, Jim V, Mary V, Rob Z, & Charlie Z.

As 'the Prez' said in the May newsletter: "Membership requirements, for the most part, is just "show up!". If you like what you see, we'll ask you to fill out a membership form, so you can get our newsletter, club (e)mailing, and get you on our Facebook group which lets you know what is going on. We are not collecting dues. And as we have said for a long time, your brand(s) of motorcycle is NOT a criterion."

Check book balance for the end of May:	\$1772.13
Check book balance for the end of Jun:	\$1772.13
Balance one year ago:	\$2003.75
Balance six mo ago:	\$2011.94
Balance three mo ago:	\$1772.13

A check for \$300 was sent to Vets Returning Home as a memorial for Rhys Blair who died suddenly at his home. This will be reflected in the balance next month when it is posted.