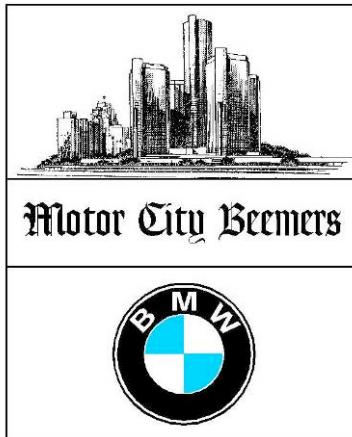




Motor City Beemers

Club Newsletter



BMW MOA Club #231

February 2007

BMW RA Club #209

Volume 15, Number 2

**Next Meeting; Saturday February 3, 10:30am @BMW of Detroit
Web site: www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers**

President - Ives Potrafka - ives@mygreyhound.com

Vice President - Dick Hautau - rhaulau@gmail.com

2nd Vice President - George Yosin

3rd Vice President - John Saarinen – jsaarinen@peoplepc.com

Treasurer – Sharon Saarinen-sssaarinen@peoplepc.com

Newsletter Editor – John Saarinen – jsaarinen@peoplepc.com

THE PREZ SEZ

Well here we are approaching February and I don't have anything planned...So maybe we will just meet and greet, tell a few stories and then go to lunch somewhere...If you got a location we can go that isn't too far and might be a little different, please drop me a note at ives@bizblvd.net

Sometimes telling and listening to stories are more fun than the real ride...

OK, so I am lying, but it ain't to bad.. but I rather be riding too....

and to that note..... I went to the MC Show this year and stumbled into the URAL dealers exhibit. Interesting, and the prices pretty good. and the darn things looks like an OLD BMW. That got me curious, so I looked it up on the Internet. Turns out back in 1939, just before WW II, the Russian smuggled 5 - 1939 BMW out of Germany and reverse Engineers the MC. As it turns out, there is a dealer in South Lyon, 2 miles form my house. According to the URAL web site, they were one of the top dealers for URAL in the nation.

Interested in learning more about the motorcycle: <http://www.imzural.info/crawfordsales/>

Long story short, the 2007's are supposed to be on the showroom floor sometime in February.... and I am very seriously considering by myself a late Christmas present, a "Winter Motorcycle".... My wife thinks I am loosing it, and I am not so sure she isn't right, but I sure do miss riding and the URAL comes with a sidecar. The top speed is only 60 MPH, but who cares

when the weather is a bit nippy. I am kinda thinking it might become my summer to and from work ride, as I often need to carry some equipment around too....

Hope to see you all at the February meeting, and if your riding on your MC instead of in you car...

Ride Safe....

Ives R. Potrafka
President - MC Beemers

2007 CLUB DUES DUE

Dues for 2007 are due. Remember that dues are \$10 for Members and \$5 for Associate Member (member's significant other). Please give Sharon Saarinen your dues with Membership Form at the next meeting, or mail them to:

Sharon Saarinen
6094 Whispering Oak Drive
Washington, Michigan 48094

Make checks payable to Motor City Beemers or Sharon Saarinen and include Membership Form. We need these dues to cover things like the doughnuts, Frankenmuth Chicken Dinner, and the steak picnic in the fall.

CLUB COFFEE CUPS

We still have plenty of club_coffee cups available at the low, low price of \$15. Help support the club. They are a good size, quality cup...and best of all they have the club logo boldly displayed for everyone to admire. As I found out at work...most people don't realize BMW makes motorcycles. One of those strange questions...So when did they start making motorcycles?...Ah, long before they made cars? Pick one up at the next meeting and save Ives from having to buy a Ural to carry them back and forth from the meetings!

JANUARY RIDE (DRIVE) TO LAFAYETTE CONEY ISLAND

Eleven members headed down to our annual Lafayette ride. Ride may not be the correct term unless you were referring to the passengers in the cars. This year's trip wasn't blemished by parking lot attendants or someone at the other table paying for our lunch and then realizing his mistake... That is another story. The food was great, the conversation lively. Hope you join us for our next adventure.

MANUFACTURERS INVESTIGATING ELECTRIC & FUEL CELL MOTORCYCLES

It is estimated that approximately 35 million motorcycles of all shapes and sizes will be made this year. China is the largest producer, followed by India, Indonesia, Thailand, and then Japan. Seventy percent of motorcycles produced are small displacement and could be classified as scooters. Only 20% of the world motorcycle production is classified as being midsize motorcycles or larger. Most of these midsize and larger class of motorcycles are sold in the

in the last few years. The United States is one of the largest markets for these motorcycles. The rest of the world is buying the scooter and small motorcycle class for fuel economy.

Some of us have kidded about electric motorcycles. It may not be so far in the future when we are passed by an electric motorcycle and start to think our bikes are loud. Motorcycle manufacturers are looking at alternate power plants. Motor scooters are the first to be powered by electric motors and hybrids with both electric and gas motors.

The Deinonychus concept motor scooter shown below left, is an electric motorcycle from Yamaha. The brushless motors are in the wheel hubs. It features variable wheel base and adjustable height.



The FC-me from Yamaha, shown above right is a production fuel cell powered scooter. It is powered by a methanol fuel cell producing electricity to drive an electric motor. The alcohol will not freeze at reasonably cold temperatures. These are currently available for lease by city governments. Units similar to this have already passed durability testing which included real life driving in city traffic.



Yamaha's HV-1 is a hybrid scooter concept shown above left. It is powered by both electric and gasoline motors. The scooter can be driven in a quiet mode on electric only. The electric motor can also be used to help park the bike in tight situations. The gasoline motor extends the cruising range of the bike.

Honda's concept fuel cell powered scooter shown above right was made from one of their 125cm³ scooters.



Yamaha's concept for midsize/full size hybrid motorcycle is shown above. It has a 600cm³ gas engine coupled with an electric motor. The electric motor can be used simultaneously with the gas motor to provide higher performance.

All of these bikes/scooters have Constantly Variable Transmissions (CVT) or an equivalent. Most of these bikes require no shifting. This allows the motors to turn at their optimum speed for both economy and power. The battery powered scooters have a cruising range of only 15 – 30 miles. No range was given for the fuel cell or hybrid power plants. This range should increase with advancements such as Lithium Ion batteries and fuel cell technology. This information was provided by Automotive Engineering Magazine.

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. 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.

Join the growing number of members who wear their ID tags proudly with their one of a kind moniker. It will help us to get to know each other. Works a lot better than "Hey you!".

