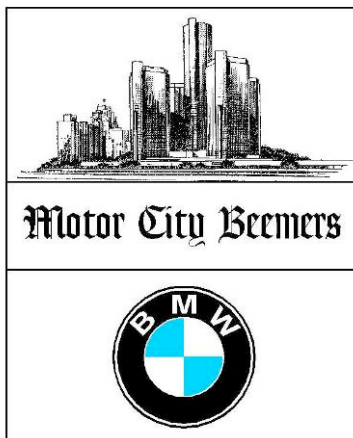




Motor City Beemers



Club Newsletter



BMW MOA Club #231

BMW RA Club #209

April 2007

Volume 15, Number 4

Next Meeting; Saturday April 7, 10:30am @BMW of Detroit

Web site: www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers

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THE PREZ SEZ

Wow..... I road the Ural almost 100 miles yesterday... The sun was shinning and the temp was cool. But it was still a great ride. AND THEN THIS MORNING.... Snow... what is that all about anyway. I WANT SPRING..... No salt on the roads and the riding season swings into full gear.... Don't know about all of you, but I am ready. Yes... I have been riding the past month since I purchased the Ural, but it is a sidecar rig and a DIFFERENT type of ride. What great fun and my riding season has been greatly extended, but I still miss the K1200LT and the longer, softer ride. (yeah I am getting older and softer is a good thing)

YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU.... We still have some wholes in the monthly club ride schedule, so check out the web site, and let me know if you can fill one of those spots. It is not all the hard to lead a ride and it is a chance to give something back to your club. If you nervous about leading a ride, we will be sure to have an experienced ride leader run second bike with you. APRIL is still open.

April is trailer month. We are requesting anyone who pulls a trailer to bring it to the April meeting, Weather permitting. This is your opportunity to talk to those that pull trailers and asked questions. So, we will have our regular meeting and then adjourn to the parking lot for a trailer tour. As it stands right now, we have a single wheel Unigo, a 2 wheel aluminum utility, a camper and possible a second camper. We will still have a ride, but plan on leaving closer

to noon. We will be taking the scenic tour to the South Lyon Hotel unless someone else comes forward.

DUES DUES DUES.... by now those who have not paid there dues should be noticing they are not getting newsletter notices. If you know of anyone who has not paid their dues, please asked then to get with Sharon ASAP... membership is way down this year.

So get the covers off those motorcycles and get ready to ride.

AND REMEMBER..... 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 Sharon Saarinen and include Membership Form. We need these dues to cover things like doughnuts, Frankenmuth Chicken Dinner, & 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 carry them back and forth from the meetings in his Ural!

MOUNT ARVON, MICHIGAN BY JIM MICK

Club members can read the book introduction and another chapter at:

<http://www.ridingiswonderful.com/id3.html>

The Introduction will help understand how this 15+ thousand mile trip in 6 weeks evolved.

I chose Chapter 48 because it is our state highpoint and may be a place some of our club members would want to visit on their way to or from the BMW MOA Rally in West Bend, Wisconsin in July. If I weren't arriving from the other direction (from Billings, MT) this year, I would offer to lead a ride from here to West Bend with a stop in L'Anse to hike to our state highpoint. Mount Arvon can be found on almost any state map, but it's not as easy to find on foot...

Mount Arvon, Michigan
(1,979 feet)

Mini-Family Reunion.

A triple birthday celebration was to occur along with the hiking to my last of the 48 highpoints on this trip. My brother Ted brought his wife Jan (birthday the day before), my wife Jeri, our Mom (birthday on that day) and dad. The third birthday was mine on the next day. After work on Friday, our youngest son Jason and his best friend Brian Boers left the Detroit area and joined "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere." That annual motorcycle fund-raiser ride left at midnight on Friday from Grand Rapids, Michigan, headed for the Mackinaw Bridge.

The mighty Mackinac Bridge connects Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsulas while it separates Lakes Michigan and Huron. It is one of the safest and most beautiful spans ever built. Thirty-three marine foundations support the 4-mile long uninterrupted steel superstructure. It was called the bridge that couldn't be built. The bridge bows or swings out to the east or west as much as 20 feet on windy days and the towers move north and south towards and away from each other as much as 18 feet, depending on the weight of the vehicles at different points across the bridge. As part of the Michigan tradition, an annual bridge walk is held on Labor Day each year, attracting tens of thousands to participate with the Governor. History buffs will want to spend the day in the area.

But is it MACKINAC or MACKINAW? You will see it both ways, and here's why. The area known as Michilmackinac was originally called MICHINNIMAKINONG by the Indians who were there when the French arrived from the north in 1715. The French corrupted the "n" sound with an "l". They also replaced the soft "sh" sound with the "ch". The ending was heard and pronounced, as "aw" by the French, but in their spelling it became the "ac". When the British came from the south and defeated the French, they heard the term pronounced as "aw" and also spelled it that way in English. Thus you will see on the map Mackinaw City and Mackinac Island, but whichever way you see it spelled – "ac" or "aw" - it is always pronounced MACKINAW!

At the end of "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere" Saturday morning, Jason and Brian left that police escorted group and continued to L'Anse, arriving about suppertime. They were whipped when they arrived, having only had a couple naps since the morning of the previous day. My sister Barb and her husband Roger caught up with me at my final highpoint. Remember that I had forgotten they had plans to meet me at Timms Hill in Wisconsin two days earlier. I had arrived early and was long gone when they arrived at Timms Hill. Their oldest son Mike with his wife Angie and their two children Ian and Mara were planning to meet us there also – COMING ALL THE WAY FROM NEW JERSEY!

The evening was getting late but Mike and Angie had not arrived yet. Our small caravan of vehicles drove into L'Anse where we visited briefly with Steve Koski at the Indian County Sports store. He has been very helpful in assisting others in the quest for finding the nearby highpoint, but since I had been there the previous year with three others, I thought I would be able to find the mailbox and marker with little help. He had not been up recently but was not aware of any problems. I didn't pay much attention to what he did say, and already had a copy of the map he provides at the store.

As we headed out of L'Anse on Main Street, which became Skanee Road, I recognized many sights. As we passed Sawmill Road (gravel) I considered taking that short cut to Roland Lake Road. Instead, we continued to the Zion Lutheran Church where we turned onto Roland Lake Road. I was very comfortable (but too cocky) with the route well past the Gravel Pit where the

old logging road gradually got more difficult to ride and drive on. Another car was now at the end of our little caravan. They didn't offer to pass when they had the chance, so I just continued on. When ruts were too deep to continue, I pulled to the side and parked the Gold Wing. Ted was unable to get off the logging road (more like a path by now). Roger was able to get partially off the path and then we discovered the other car that had joined us was Mike and his family.

Dad didn't feel up to making a hike. I wasn't sure how close we were to the summit – maybe a mile. He waited with the cars and Gold Wing while the rest of us began walking up the logging trail in search of the highpoint. That was Mom's 84th birthday and she wanted to reach Mount Arvon with her youngest son.

We were gone from Dad and the vehicles for one and a half-hours and never did find the summit. I had been too confident and not taken to heart the typical warning: "Due to logging operations, the roads in the Mount Arvon area are frequently changed. The roads S of Skanee Road become impassible in winter due to snow. During the rainy season, the roads become muddy and are often unfit for passenger cars." With darkness falling, we gave up the quest at 8:15 PM and returned to dad and the vehicles. Returning to L'Anse, we picked up a cake, ice cream, and all the fixings for our birthday party back at the motel.

I could tell that Mom was disappointed that we didn't make it to the summit, but not as disappointed if some of us made it and she didn't. Our Mom put a lot of effort into the hike that day. Her hip and back aren't as good as years gone by and a ¼ mile-hike is about enough to exhaust her. I have no idea how far we walked in that 90 minutes, but it was way beyond her comfort zone. It would have been one thing if I were alone and did not find the summit, as was the case with Virginia, but to have several others depending on my leadership -- I felt very bad. On my last highpoint I think I learned a valuable lesson to take the directions in hand and follow them.

For years, Mount Curwood in Baraga County was recognized as the highest point in Michigan. In 1982, however, the U. S. Department of Interior's Geological Survey team gathered new measurements and found Mount Curwood to be slightly lower in elevation than nearby Mount Arvon. Mount Curwood measured 1978.24 feet above sea level and Mount Arvon registered at 1979.238 feet above sea level. Mount Curwood was named for Michigan writer/naturalist James Oliver Curwood, a popular adventure novelist. The source of Arvon's name remains shrouded in mystery.

Within six months of our visit, Representative Greg Kaza reported to the Highpointers Club that Michigan has accepted a gift of perpetual easement to the peak of Mount Arvon. The gift of easement was granted by the Mead Paper Company, which has extensive land holdings in Michigan's Upper Peninsula where Mount Arvon is located. Mr. Kaza had introduced a bill in the Michigan House of Representatives in the fall of 1996 directing the DNR to open negotiations with the owner of the peak for the purpose of acquiring the land as a state park. Mead Paper quickly contacted his office and offered to spare the state the expense of purchasing the property by offering a gift of perpetual easement. Thank you Mead Paper Company and Representative Kaza!

Most of the state highpoints have been designated as county, state or federal parks. I'm not convinced that is always a good thing. I very much enjoyed several on private property like the Sterler's Farm in Iowa, White Butte in North Dakota , and the property for sale including

Charles Mound in Illinois, but when I consider the property owner in Rhode Island, I understand there would be benefit of state ownership in some places. One thing for sure, property owned by private persons or companies would be paying taxes. When land belongs to the county, state or federal government, no taxes are collected on it, in fact that probably adds to the burden and expense of the government to manage.

There were two sighting reports of a female black bear with cubs in the area during 1996. No problems -- just sightings. Make noise as you hike to let her know you're in her area. We made plenty of noise. It was like a mini-family reunion with 14 of us on the logging trails – looking for Mount Arvon, but none of the noise was Mom complaining.

ROUTE:

From Eagle Mountain in MN: SR61 to Duluth. US2 past Ironwood to Wakefield. Take SR28 to Covington. Take US141 to L'Anse. Visit the Indian County Sports store in L'Anse for an update on directions. From L'Anse head northeast on Main Street, which will become Skanee Road. About 16 miles out of town, turn right at the Zion Lutheran Church onto Roland Lake Road (365). Don't count on my directions to get you there from this point – remember I couldn't find it the second time.

SIDE TRIPS:

You MUST stop at the Hilltop Restaurant on the east side of US141 just south of L'Anse to have their world-famous cinnamon roll. When I stopped on a previous visit I couldn't finish the cinnamon roll in one sitting so I finished it the next day when I got to the Mackinac Bridge. It was still very good.

Copied with permission for MCBemers use only:

Joyfully,
Jim Mick

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 then "Hey you!".

MONTHLY CLUB RIDES

We are looking for ideas of where to go and what to do after our winter meetings. April 7th, Ives is leading us to the South Lyon Inn.

OTHER RIDING OPPORTUNITIES

Third Sunday of every month – Phil Aylesworth is trying to get a Windsor Beemer group started in Canada. For details contact Phil, purpleduck@gmail.com or go to the group's website: <http://SunParlourBeemers.org>

Charity ride June 10, 2007, for the Ozone House; helps run away children and homeless youth. Ride to Hell Creek Ranch, 10866 Cedar Lake Road, Hell, Michigan, or meet groups at noon for registration in downtown Plymouth or Town & Country H-D, in Cement City, Michigan. Cost \$20 per person includes lunch, entrance and entertainment. More information call 517-673-3513 or www.midwestwheelsofhope.com. This is primarily a Harley event but it is for charity.

FOR SALE:

For sale section of the newsletter is for all club members to post ANYTHING (legal) that they have for sale or wanted. Take advantage of a circulation of 90+ club members. You don't have to limit you postings to motorcycle items. The one thing that we ask is that once your items sells, please notify us so we can remove it from the newsletter. There are several items that have been posted for some time now. Please let John Saarinen know if they need to be removed.

PAINT PROTECTION FILM: Protect your bike's paint from stone chips and damage from your tank bag. Kelly, 248.312.0968 or graphixwerk.com

1995 K1100 LT: All stock (bags, trunk, radio with rear speakers, heated grips, elec. windshield, gauges, touring seat) heavy metallic gun metal gray paint, new battery, new tires and all servicing done, including spline lube.
\$5200.00 Dale & Denise 734-789-8249

1986 K100 RT: New Black paint, new seat, very good tires, new battery, all service done, bags. \$3500.00 Dale & Denise 734-789-8249

K1200LT Champagne, 26K miles, 6CD changer, and Bailey windshield, asking \$9600. Bill Meier 810-824-7382 or meierbj2@comcast.net

1999 R1200C Jens Schoening Jens.Schoening@hna.hella.com

1996 R1100R for sale, excellent condition, for details contact Allen Gigliotti, giglio@comcast.net

HIGHWAY PEGS FOR LT's: Gives you optional places to put your feet for those long trips. Note that this is a new web site address: www.ridingiswonderful.com Jim & Jason Mick

1995 BMW K1100LT \$5,500. Less than 18,500 miles. Dealer serviced. The Bike is located at dealership. It comes with hard bags, truck, waterproof liners and tank bag. It also has a Corbin seat, heated hand grips, radio, 4 speakers, and adjustable tinted windshield. If Interested contact Gary at the Beemership