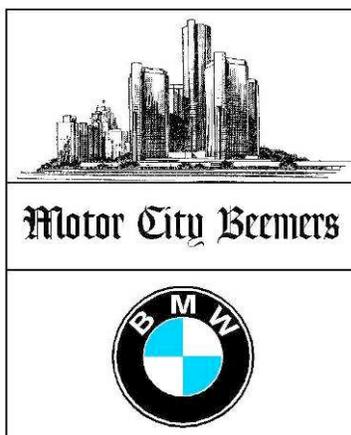




Motor City Beemers



Club Newsletter



BMW MOA Club #231

BMW RA Club #209

December 2007

Volume 15, Number 12

Next Meeting; Saturday December 1, 2007 @BMW of Detroit

Web site: www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers

President - Ives Potrafka - ives@mygreyhound.com

Vice President - Dick Hautau - rhautau@gmail.com

2nd Vice President - George Yosin

Treasurer – Sharon Saarinen-sssaarinen@peoplepc.com

Newsletter Editor – John Saarinen – jsaarinen@peoplepc.com

THE PREZ SEZ

This will be my last article as your club president. It has been fun and I have made many new friends. A few years back, after a long time of NOT owning a motorcycle I jumped back into it, much to my wives surprise and a little disappointment I think. I had ridden Honda in the 70's and 80's, then work and children took all my time and energy. I finally sold the gold wing after only putting on about 5000 in 3 years. So when I made the jump, it was on a 1988 BMW K100LT. That same year it grew up to a K1200LT.

Someone asked me if I knew about the riders clubs in our area. There are two - and I joined both and rode with both the first year. What I learned quickly was that the MC Beemers was the friendliest bunch I ever rode with. I was immediately accepted as a member, and more importantly as a friend. I went to rallies and other events with the MC Beemers and have had a great time.

Then Frank twisted my arm into running for President. I have held that position for 3 years now and while family matters are pressing now, I still hope to be actively involved in the club. I will continue to host and author the web site. It has been very rewarding for me and I encourage each and every member to become ACTIVE. Your officers need you. Volunteer to plan and lead rides. Attend the meetings and let your voice be heard. I twisted John's arm to take the Presidency just as Frank had twisted mine. John has some new ideas and needs your help. This club is what you make it and your officers shouldn't and can't do it alone.

and remember, RIDE SAFE!

Ives R. Potrafka - President - MC Beemers

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE BEEMERSHIP SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2007

There is going to be a Beemership / MC Beemers Christmas party at the Beemership. It is a pot luck affair. Bring a dish to share or donate \$5 at the door. It will be from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM, Saturday, December 15th. Come on down and hang around for a while get to know the other members and other riders that will drop in. You might find out that some of us are actually likable.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AT NOVEMBER MEETING & ELECTIONS IN DECEMBER

We accepted nominees for all positions. In fact we accepted a nominee for each position. Those people who were nominated are listed below:

John Saarinen – President
Peter Payton – Vice President
George Yosin – Second Vice President
Ken Mitchell – Third Vice President
Sharon Saarinen – Treasurer

We also need volunteers to take up the following activities:

Ride captains: Every month we need people to pick a lunch destination and leading the ride.
Maps or written directions in case the group needs to be split up or someone gets lost.
Organize annual trip to Frankenmuth (June): Get head count of attendees, make reservation.
Organize club picnic at Stoney Creek (September): Reserve shelter, arrange for steaks, chips, cole slaw, charcoal, chef to cook steaks and eating utensils.
Chef/Griller: Person needed to show up to picnic at 11:00 AM to start the fire and cook the steaks, mushrooms, and onions.
Edit and publish monthly newsletter: Edit existing newsletter format adding PRES SEZ, get someone to write or write articles for newsletter, maintaining For Sale section, and getting paper copies of newsletter to dealership.

We would like to see some new members step up and help guide the club. We welcome new ideas for everything from new ride destinations to how we run the meetings. Have you been on a ride you think the rest of us would find interesting or just fun? Send an article to the newsletter editor. It will help people come up with new destinations and widen their horizons.

2008 DUES DUE

Well it's that time of year again. Please pay your dues as early as possible so we know what kind of a budget we have for the coming year. Please remember that the dues cover the majority of the expenses such as donuts, Frankenmuth chicken dinner, and the annual picnic at Stony Creek in September. Dues remain at \$10 for member and \$5 associate member (wife, husband, or significant other). Please give your renewal form and payment to Sharon Saarinen at the next meeting or mail your renewal application to:

Sharon Saarinen
6094 Whispering Oak Drive
Washington, Michigan 48094

NOVEMBER 3rd RIDE TO The FRENCH LAUNDRY IN , MICHIGAN

This trip was lead by Ken Mitchell and he did a great job of avoiding expressways and still getting there. There were eleven motorcycles and 13 riders. Ken called ahead for reservations. It is a hopping place. Even with reservations we waited for a while before getting 2 tables for the group to spread out. To say the least it is an interesting place, just like the name would lead you to believe. I would have to describe it as a deli meets bar. The standard sandwiches were huge. Most of us opted for the small sandwich with soup or chili. Even after opting for the smaller portions I still wasn't able to finish the whole meal. We broke up into smaller groups for the ride home. Some of the groups planned on hitting Cook's Dairy for ice cream on the way home. Jerry, Sharon, and I opted for just a quick ride home. We broke off from the group and wound our way back towards Romeo. After about 20 minutes we found ourselves riding past the dairy. The lure of their ice cream got the better of us and we pulled in. One of the other groups pulled in just after we got off our bikes. We picked up some butter pecan and the old standard, cow pie. If you haven't stopped out there and tried some...you are missing great ice cream. This is the third time this year that our monthly ride went there on the return trip.

WE DO HAVE REASON TO BE THANKFUL – SUBMITTED BY JERRY POKORSKI

I give thanks for good roads that run straight through desert or field. For rolling roads that disappear over the horizon. For those that curve through canyon bottoms where golden aspens bend over fast-flowing streams and for roads that leap up the mountains in sweepers and hairpins to carry me high above and far away from daily life.

I give thanks for the smooth roads and the cracked, the perfectly banked and the off-camber. For roads well-known and those new met and soon loved.

I am thankful for the simple 90-degree turn at a stop sign out in the middle of nowhere. The ones that say, "pause a moment, smell the moist green of growing things and the rich soil beneath them, and think about how good it is to be alive."

I give thanks for the way the concrete sings beneath my tires, the crunch of gravel, the smell of rain on hot asphalt.

I give thanks for the way my leg feels as I swing it over the saddle, the supple strength of gloves sliding onto my hands, for my electric vest in the cold and jacket vents in the heat. The way the zipper slides up my jacket. The way it feels, later, when I take off my helmet.

I give thanks for the dawn rides when the sun finds me on the road while the cars sit still and cold in driveways and their owners turn over in bed and hit the snooze alarm. The empty roads where the mist still clings to the low spots and I can smell the sun starting to warm the air.

I give thanks for the long rides that stretch from morning to late afternoon and into the evening. For the miles and curves that vanish beneath my tires, those hours when time loses all meaning. For those days when I ride so long my throttle hand is sore and I walk a bit bow-legged when I finally park the bike.

I give thanks for the evening rides when the sunlight lays like marmalade across the landscape. For those rides when the sun sinks past the horizon and the world fills up with shadows until all the shadows meet and melt together and bring the night.

I give thanks for night-time riding when the streets once again are empty and silent and I feel as if they are mine all mine, and that only another rider could know the joy I do.

I give thanks for the wind and it's odd, irregular beat tapping on my visor. The feel of the wind against my body as I ride. The way it blows the stress, the pain, the uncertainties right out of me and blows hope and the belief that anything is possible into my heart in return. I give thanks for the freedom of the wind.

I give thanks for the lean, for that delicious, exhilarating sensation where I realize I am one with the great laws of physics. I give thanks that I feel the acceleration in every part of my body.

I give thanks for the machine beneath me, for the ability to be a modern-day centaur, for the power and throb of the engine between my legs, the way my hands feel on the grips, for the pull of the clutch and front brake levers. For the way the geometry of the bike makes the algebra of the turns so sweet.

I am thankful for hazards recognized, for dangers avoided, for skills and broken-in brake pads and good tread on the tires. I give thanks for the wise riding tips and techniques my more experienced brothers and sisters of the road have taught to me. I give thanks that I ride and live and live to ride again.

I give thanks for wrenching on my bike: For that moment when the oil filter loosens, the feeling when I dip my fingertip in fresh oil and slide it around the new gasket, or pouring in the clean, clear oil. I give thanks for the soul-satisfying act of adjusting the clutch just right and of tightening the last bolt on the frame. For that proper give in the belt and that tiny hiss when the tire pressure engages. I give thanks that I can change my pipes or the suspension or whatever else I want to do to make my bike my own.

I give thanks for road grime and the joy of washing it away. For the sensual way the soapy water washes over the tank and down the heads and slides off the fenders. For the way clean mirrors and windshield sparkle. For Simple Green and Mother's and Blue Magic, for scrub brushes and soft buffing cloths. I give thanks for that moment right after I'm done and I step back and look at my work. ***** the bike still looks pretty good, doesn't it?

I give thanks that I ride it enough too get it dirty again.

I give thanks for the gathering of riders, for being able to recognize friend's bikes approaching by their sound, for seeing good companions slow and turn into the lot. For the glad hugs and laughter, the banter, the growing impatience to be out on the road again. I give thanks for that good company as I see them ahead of me drift to the outside then dip into the curve, one-two-three-four, like seagulls banking and then straighten up, one-two-three-four and fly on down the road. I give thanks that I have had the opportunity to ride side-by-side in the pack. For long lunches and short breakfasts. For cold bottles of water and more laughter at a stop along the road.

I give thanks for the camaraderie of riders--those parking lot friends who become such simply because I have a bike and so do they. The fellowship of the road, the sideways wave, the circling back and stopping to see if there's anything they can do. The riders who gather at any old bar or restaurant or eatery that welcomes us. I give thanks for those I come to know and care about over the months and years of riding the same roads to the same places. I am thankful for those who I love and who love me simply because we love the same thing--to ride on two wheels in the freedom of the wind.

I am thankful for the sound of a motorcycle--any motorcycle at all--as I sit so properly dressed, so professionally employed, so occupied with other things. It's like hearing my favorite song drifting from a stranger's window as I walk along the street. I stop what I'm doing and listen. Joy. Then the growl of the bike is gone, but the happiness remains.

I give thanks for the sense of Being riding has given me, the freedom to be who I am no matter what others think. The sense of empowerment and control over my self and my life. The ability to take on risk and fear and triumph in challenge. To ride my own ride whether in that good company of bikers or by myself. I am thankful that I have found my voice in the wind. _____ "Never let the sun set on an angry heart"

Credit to FIREMAN1000 on easttnriders.com for this.

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!".

NEWS FROM THE BEEMERSHIP

We are having a year end "Must Go" sale. We need to clear out the 07 bikes to make room for the 08's. Also check out our '07 GS Back country adventure tour pack special, visit the store for more details. Our 2007 apparel line is also on clearance sale. We added the Scorpion line of motorcycle helmets and the new Rainier motorcycle jackets from First Gear. Come in and do your Christmas shopping early we have a lot of new stocking stuffer ideas in stock. Come on in and and check it all out!

Alaska Tour, July 14th -August 15th, 2008

Come in and Talk to Peter "Rockman" Payton Adventure Tour Specialist/Sales Manager about our Alaskan Tour scheduled for July 14th thru Aug 15th summer 2008. Some highlights of this tour include: (1) MOA Rally in Gillette, Wyoming, (2) Dawson City, (3) Halibut fishing in Valdez, Alaska with Fish Central, (4) Touring Alaska with Alaska Rider Tours, 7 days in Alaska, (5) Explore the world famous AL-CAN highway (6) Top of the world highway, (7) Kenai

River, (8) The Salty Dog Saloon, (9) wildlife viewing, (10) Seattle, Jackson Hole, (11) The Bad Lands...and more. The trip will be fully supported with a guide, mechanic, **and medic should the need arise**, a support rig for minor adjustments on the fly. Come in and see us for more details and trip registration. **(\$1100 non refundable deposit due at registration by Jan 10th)**. The Cost ~ \$8150 per person, includes registration for MOA Rally in Gillette, Wyoming, nightly hotel stay, most dinners, daily bag lunch on the fly, fishing trip, 2 banquet style meals, tour t-shirts, sticker ...and more. This tour is limited to 20 people

Check out our Tour/trip board
Stop by the shop and talk with Peter "Rockman" Payton.

We want to know what your summer tours were like~ we are putting together an in house display of BMW Tours ~ so if you have any pictures and a brief story to tell bring them in and we will add it to our Adventure Wall.

Watch the web page for our newly expanding apparel line coming soon!!!

Peter "Rockman" Payton
Adventure Tour Specialist
Marketing

MONTHLY CLUB RIDES

Dick Hautau has promised to lead a polar bear ride for the December meeting. However if the weather stops us from taking the bikes we can always make a run down to the Lafayette Conie Island by auto. Here's hoping the weather is with us.

We are still looking for ideas for the inclement weather meetings; usually January, February, and March.

Check the web site for planned rides.

FOR SALE:

For sale section of the newsletter is for all club members to post ANYTHING (legal) that they have for sale or wanted. 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. 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

K1200LT Champagne, 26K miles, 6CD changer, and Bailey windshield, MC BMW maintained, asking \$8900. Bill Meier 810-824-7382 or meierbj2@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