



Motor City Beemers

“Boos!” letter



BMW MOA Club #231

BMW RA Club #209

October 2018

Volume 27, 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 13, 2018

Following Meeting: November 10, 2018

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

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

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Greetings Beemers! Well, the calendar says it is now fall but there is still a lot of good riding days left.

Well another successful Frankenmuth Chicken Dinner run in the books. I want to say thank you to Paula for making the dinner / parking reservations. I know I always feel special when I can pull up and find reserved parking for 15-20 BMW's. If you have ever been to the Bavarian Inn Restaurant; you know that parking can be quite an adventure in itself. A great big thank you Pat for leading a group of 6 bikes and a Mazda Miata from Teds Coney Island in Richmond to Frankenmuth. Just about 2 1/2

hours, what a nice little ride thru the twisties and country roads .

After dinner, Pat was gracious enough to lead a group to Port Austin for an overnight stay at the Blue Spruce Motel. I want to give many thanks to Bob and Sandy Hann for hosting a get together Saturday evening at their condo for all 12 of us. We went back to the motel for a bonfire and stargazing.

Upcoming Events:

Fall Color Ride – October 20th Weather Permitting the go/ no go notification for this ride will be via the Yahoo group and Facebook. This will be a 1 day ride looping thru the Irish Hills. If the weather allows we will meet at the dealer at 9am with kickstands up at 9:30am.

Don't forget to complete this year's new "Off the Beaten Path" poker run. I hope you have had the opportunity to pick a few more pictures before November 1st cutoff date. Please send your pictures to Nick!!

Winter Banquet is coming in February – more details later.

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



It's already October! That means (in my mind) the beginning of the holiday season.

I'm happy to tell you this month about a couple additions to the website, based on suggestions from Lincoln and Jay.

Lincoln told me he'd be more likely to show up for Wednesday dinners if there were "calendar files" published, so his favorite scheduling system would remind him of upcoming events. For those who haven't followed tech closely, modern scheduling apps and modern phones, tablets and similar devices allow one to send "calendar files" to people to add things to their

electronic calendars. Nifty, but, I figured this would be a pain.

My first thought was, "yech. Outlook. iProducts. Android products. That's a lot of different ways of sending out calendar invites. However, upon doing a bit of investigation, it turns out that once in a while, the computer industry sits down and comes up with a standard way of doing things...and calendar applications are one of those (few) places where this has happened. So...it was really just one problem, and it turns out, as a standard, it's documented, and it wasn't as hard to make happen as I was initially thinking. So, calendar files are on the website activities page for dinners now.

Then Jay says, "Can you add a website link to the dinners in the activities page?". And yes, that turned out to be simpler than I thought, too. So that's there now, as well. As the website becomes more useful, I'm considering discontinuing the "Events" page of the newsletter, which would simplify my life, and better and more up-to-date info is on-line.

So ... the moral is, if there's something that would make the website (or any other MCBemers resource) more useful, speak up. Just because "that's how we've always done it" doesn't mean that's how we have to do it.

Paula and I finally got some time on the bike, and managed to get through some of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and between that and the Frankenmuth/Port Austin trip, we spent nine of ten days on the bike. More on that next. Sure, I'm blabbing about my life in an article in the newsletter, but if you guys won't send me articles about your rides and adventures, I'll fill it with mine! (That's an invitation to write up your biking adventures!)

Or ten days, 1500 miles.

Our big vacation this year was to do motorcycle ride through part of the UP. We half-followed our advice about making reservations, and made reservations for our first couple planned stops, then figured we'd wing it the rest of the way. Goals were to get the UP and North Eastern LP to get our "Off the Beaten Trail" photos, and have fun. We have a few rules for our trips, most of which were broken on this one. One of the rules is to avoid chain restaurants, when someplace we usually aren't,

Day 1 (Friday) Detroit to Alpena:

Got our photos in Pinconning and Alpena, and as we have never been there before, we stayed in Alpena for the night. Rode I-75 to the Pinconning exit, then hopped over to M13. And as long as we were in front of Wilson's Cheese Shoppe, we stopped in for a package of cheese curds which provided us a snack...and snacks the rest of our trip. We then rode US23 up to Alpena, got our room, had dinner (Pompeyo's Mexican Grill), and went to get pictures in front of the Eagle's Head.

Day 2 (Saturday) Alpena to Grand Marais:

After breakfast, we piled back onto Wolfie and realized how close our motel was to the Eagle's Head, so we went back for some more pics, then started back on the road towards the bridge. Our destination for that night was Grand Marais, a small town on Lake Superior that Paula fell in love with a few years ago when we stopped for gas there on the way to H58. Crossing the bridge was windy, but fine (judging from Paula's grip on me, she may have had a different opinion). We decided to stop in St. Ignace for lunch, something we weren't planning on doing, but we were hungry, and we wanted to check out the new place one of our friends in St. Ignace opened this summer. Well, Joe's Diner was closed for the season, so we ate at Jose's Cantena (more Mexican), then headed out, got our pic of the leaping deer, and went on to Grand Marais for the night. Grand Marais is a beautiful tourist town, but somewhat more popular than their current restaurant and motel accommodations handle well, so reservations seem to be a must.

Day 3 (Sunday), Grand Marais to Houghton Marquette:

We got a late start, because the local breakfast place (West Bay Diner and Delicatessen) is ... well, as a Yooper friend told me years ago, "what's your hurry?". They had one cook/owner, and a lot more customers than they could easily handle. They did have an interesting menu, including what they called a "K.N.O.W. Omelet" – whatever the chef wanted to give you! We ended up sharing a table with a couple who lived in the area part of the year, and had a great time talking with them. After we checked out, we drove through downtown Grand Marais, checked out the local hardware store and a few other stores, then got back on the road – H-58, sometimes called "Michigan's Tail of the Dragon". Great road – basically runs from Grand Marais to Munising. We've developed a tendency to stop at the "Frozen Flamingo" in Munising for an ice cream, and we did this trip as well. Our plans were to pick up the sculpture garden in Marquette and then head to Houghton for a couple nights, allowing us to run M28 to Copper Harbor and Brockway Mountain. We pulled into the Lakenenland sculpture garden, parked the bike (one up, I could have rode the bike through. Two up? Not so fun on dirt trails. But these sculptures are intended to be touched and looked at from all angles, so just park it and walk). After we got our pictures, we got on the bike pulled out and the first sign of trouble hit – the bike scraped as I turned back on to M28. It just wasn't that hard of a curve to scrape. Hmm... So, watching for other signs of trouble, I quickly noticed the handlebars were vibrating badly, so I grabbed the first turn-off to inspect the bike. I quickly found our front tire was VERY low. Well, I was kinda hoping that maybe something about that turn or in the dirt lot caused me to pop the tire off the rim and lose some air. Ok, yeah, I know, that never happens, but at this point, hope is all we got. I see a big RV there, and figure, "I wonder if he has an air compressor". Of course he does...we inflate the tire and immediately hear air rushing out. Ah, ok, mystery will be resolved then...and I found the air was coming from the side of the valve stem itself. Seems when I got the tires replaced last year, the guy who replaced them used a very old stem to replace it. Well, I had some hope of packing it with glue and getting back on the road as far as Marquette for a more permanent fix. My new friends in the RV drove me to a gas station where I was able to find

some glue, but unfortunately, could not get it to hold in the time period I was willing to hold our friends with the compressor. So, we called a tow truck, and send our RV friends on their way with our thanks.

Sunday night waiting for a tow truck ... well, the scenery where we stopped was great, the weather was fantastic, and all things considered...it could have been a lot worse. It took a while for the Sunday on-call tow truck driver to go back to the station to get the bike dolly and then come find us. I've had a few opportunities to deal with tow truck drivers, and usually, they are really cool people, and Mario was no exception, and since we weren't overly stressed out, I dare say we even had a bit of fun. It was Mario's first time picking up a motorcycle, so the two of us worked together to figure out how to strap down Wolfie, and Mario gave him a great ride to Bald Eagle Harley Davidson in Marquette, and then a ride for all our stuff to a motel across the street. So, dinner and breakfast ended up being within walking distance of the motel, which basically boiled down to either the motel restaurant or the Big Boy across the street. We went for Big Boy.

Day 4 (Monday), Marquette to St. Ignace

jkbAt 9:00am, when the HD Dealership opened the next morning at 9:00am, I was there to explain the Germanic plastic-coated two-wheeled beast in their parking lot. They assured me it was no problem, they would have me take care of very quickly. I actually think we had a tiny communications error – they told me it would take about an hour. Sure enough, by the time we were at breakfast, Wolfie had moved in the parking lot, and I think they just figured I'd show up in an hour demanding it be done. About 11:00am, as we finished breakfast, they called to confirm that yes, my bike was done.

Time to assess damage to our vacation: \$125 for a tow. \$100 for a repair. Several \$20 bills spent thanking the tow truck driver and RV family for their assistance. Night spent 100 miles of where we hoping to be that night. Our plan was two nights in Houghton, then two nights in St. Ignace, then home. We discussed plans, and more or less both decided to scrap Houghton for this trip, and spend three nights in St. Ignace. So back we went to St. Ignace, but via a longer route – US-41 to US-2.

US41 South took us within a couple miles of Trenary, home of the famous (well, famous is relative) Trenary Toast – an amazingly simple and tasty cinnamon toast that has a shelf-life measured in years. The town is tiny – blink and you miss it kinda thing. Or more accurately, you see a few houses, a few businesses, and you think “we are getting close”, then you realize, no, you just drove through it.

When we saw the Trenary Bakery, we decided to stop in. Very worthwhile! In addition to the cinnamon rolls and beverages and of course, The Toast in various forms, we got to chat with the woman who worked the Bakery, and then the man who owned the operation, and he told us the secret to Trenary Toast. And we aren't telling you, find out for yourself! Paula asked about life in the small town, and she told us how things are really aren't that far away – Marquette, Munising, and Escanaba are all only 20 or 30 minutes away. While the MILAGE seemed a lot to me, I realized that with our roads and traffic, it can take me 20 minutes to go to the grocery store just a few miles from me. And besides, in the winter in Trenary, they have outhouse races. Top that, Detroit!

We rolled into St. Ignace got ourselves a room, and went back to Jose's for dinner.

Day 5: (Tuesday), day trip to Sault St. Marie and Soo Locks:

I like big boats and I can not lie (and I got the t-shirt). I always love to see if there is anything going through the Soo Locks if I'm near by, and we usually do a pretty good job of finding fun while there. Sure, enough, we got to see a couple big'uns go through, walked around the town. One thing we learned is that if you want the best fudge, you might do better AWAY from Mackinac Island, as the people there tend to push quantity over quality. Paula doesn't normally like fudge, and I can't have too much of it at once, so we got a very small block of fudge for me...which Paula found out she really liked, if made well, as these people did. We had dinner at the Lockview Restaurant, then headed back to St. Ignace.

Day 6 (Wednesday): Day trip to Mackinac Island:

Mackinac Island is one of the Jewels of Michigan, but honestly, it's not usually one of our regular stops. But it's been many years since we were last there (and that was only for about 30 minutes – all for the boat ride!), so we figured it might be time to go back. We were after a “classic” ferry ride we found out about (slow boat – more time on the water!), but that was done for the season. It worked out well, though, as that left us time to take a carriage tour around the island. If you go out to the island, it's definitely worth it to take the carriage tour. They are run by (generally) college students who really seem to love the horses they “drive” and take care of. Just remember, that puddle you are about to step in? It hasn't rained recently!

After the carriage ride, we kinda fast-walked our way back to the docks trying to catch our second-to-last ferry back to St. Ignace, figuring that the last one would be very busy. We were right, but it turned out the second-to-last was also very busy, and we were very nervous about the very long line to get on the boat. Fortunately, they ran a bigger boat for the return trips the last couple runs of the day, and everyone in line was able to get on the boat, and there was still room to spare.

Dinner was across from the St. Ignace dock at The Driftwood, one of our other St. Ignace favorites. Again, we got lucky, as we were seated just a minute or so before a busload of 50 pulled up – and then a second bus pulled up and started unloading 15 minutes before they were scheduled to arrive. But as they always do, they took good care of us (though seemed a bit appreciative when we didn't sit around after our meal and freed up the seat!).

Day 7 (Thursday): Home!

After a breakfast at our favorite St. Ignace breakfast place (Java Joe's), we packed up and hit the road for home.

Day 8 (Friday): Paula had to work. I got to rest.

Day 9, 10: Frankenmuth chicken dinner! Then, to Port Austin.

You know this story. If you don't, join us next year!

Total: 1500 miles in ten days, nine of them spent riding.

Met lots of fun people, including a tow truck driver and some really great people at Bald Eagle Harley in Marquette, and a family in an RV that really helped us out.

We loved our intercom so we could talk and discuss things on the road.

We still suck at packing light. We LEFT having to push hard to close the bags, and it only got worse.

Grand Marais is a great little town. We will be going back.

Paula will say I wrote too much.

Club events

The most up-to-date events list should be here: <https://mcbeemers.org/activities/index.html> Bookmark this!

Cathy's "Off the Beaten Path Poker Run" details are at <https://mcbeemers.org/activities/PokerRun.html>

Do we really need this page? Can I just send you to the website for the most up-to-date info?

Date	Event
10/13/2018	Regular meeting. 10:30am 1301 South Rochester Rd, Rochester Hills, MI.
10/10/2018	Regular meeting. 10:30am 1301 South Rochester Rd, Rochester Hills, MI.
12/8/2018	Regular meeting. 10:30am 1301 South Rochester Rd, Rochester Hills, MI.

Wednesday Dinner Gatherings

Usually, we order about 6:30pm

October 3	Copper Penny	24975 Harper Ave St Clair Shores, MI 48080 586.777.1112
October 10	Engine House	309 Cass Ave Mt Clemens, MI 48043 586.468.2442
October 17	Bath City Bistro	75 Macomb Place Mt. Clemens, MI 48043 586.469.0918
October 24	Thai Orchid	60 Cherry St Mt Clemens, MI 48043 586.783.1727
October 31	Halloween. No dinner	

Treasurer's Report

Jim Mick



Check book balance for the end of Sep:	\$1337.47
Check book balance for the end of Aug:	\$2041.97
Balance end of Mar	\$1766.25
Balance end of Jun	\$1968.25
PayPal balance for the end of Sep:	\$918.85
PayPal balance for the end of Aug:	\$918.85

68 member renewals for 2018
31 paid to attended Frankenmuth on 9/15 (but only 26 attended)

- * 9/8/18 Received \$84.00 at Club meeting: \$34 from 50/50 when Jerry P won; \$20 from new member Dennis Kulikowski for membership and Frankenmuth; \$25 for 2019 membership from Keith & Bobbie H; and \$5 from George Y for Frankenmuth.
- 9/15/18 Received \$25.00 from Dick & Sharon H, Mike & Sharon M, and Roy S for Frankenmuth. Also paid \$773.50 for 26 Family Style Chicken Dinners at the Bavarian Inn. (That included 17% gratuity and tax).

Your membership gives you that \$29.75 value for just an additional \$5.

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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