



# Motor City Beemers

## Newsletter



BMW MOA Club #231

BMW RA Club #209

April 2019

Volume 28, Number 4

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: April 13, 2019**

**Following Meeting: , 2019**

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

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

**Cathy Beyers**  
**Paula Ellis**  
**Tim Skiver**  
**Jim Mick**  
**Nick Holland**

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### Inside:

Prez Sez ... page 2  
 Editor's Corner ... page 3  
 Beemer Blast Ride ... Page 4  
 Canada, Eh! Ride ... Page 5  
 Off the Beaten Path report ... page 7  
 Treasurer's Report ... page 11  
 MCBeemers Name Tags ... page 12

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

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

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Greeting!

April is here and so is spring, although the temperatures sure don't feel like it.

IT'S RIDING SEASON!!!! Be sure to complete a T-CLOCS safety check of your bike. More information is available on the Motorcycle Safety Foundation site ([www.msf-usa.org](http://www.msf-usa.org)) but here is the gist :

- T = tires and wheels
- C = controls
- L = lights and electrical
- O = oil and fluids
- C = chassis
- S = sidestand

If you need tires or service be sure contact Don and schedule an appointment.

Officer nominations are being taken at the April meeting or email your nomination to [mcbeemers.nominations@gmail.com](mailto:mcbeemers.nominations@gmail.com).

Lunch after April's meeting will be at Puzzler's Pub at 3498 E. Bristol Rd, in Burton Michigan. After lunch we will head over to Rocky's Great Outdoors, on the southwest corner of East Bristol and Saginaw. Rocky's has a good assortment of motorcycle gear.

Starting April 1<sup>st</sup> and going through October 31<sup>st</sup>, we have new "Off the Beaten Path 2019 Poker Run" destinations. This year is going to be based on points and the list will be handed out at the April meeting. It will also be posted on the website.

Sunrise / Sunset ride - contact Brian Boers to reserve your spot as soon as possible.

Canada Eh ride – Please contact Josh **by April 15** if you're interested in joining the ride so that hotel rooms blocks can be arranged before the end of the month. Deposits and due dates will vary by selected venues.

Frankenmuth – Be sure to reserve your room at the Blue Spruce Motel (989-738-8650) if you are planning on spending the night in Port Austin on September 21<sup>st</sup>

Betty is still working on the details for the "Betty's Beach Bums Baseball Bash"(B5) ride for this year.

Please check the Website, [mcbeemers.org](http://mcbeemers.org), the Facebook page, and the newsletter for the club events. Contact Nick to add events to the calendar.

Until next month, get out there and ride weather permitting!



It's been a long winter, but starting to look like our riding season HAS BEGUN! Wolfie, my LT, has had a couple rides, including a trip to visit Wolfie's favorite mechanic, Don, for his annual poke, prod and wallet-vac. Don's getting busy for the season, so if you are planning on a springtime checkout, might want to get in line soon!

This month, we got not one or two, but THREE articles from other than the usual suspects – Brian B. is sharing his plans for this year's Beemer Blast Sun-up-to-Sun-Down ride, and Josh is showing us his Canada Eh? ride plans. We've also updated the website activities page with all the planned and semi-planned activities we have worked out. So, time to start making your riding plans for the year! In the next couple days, I'll put these articles up on the MCBeemer's website, too. Josh is also telling us about he and Cathy's quest for the spots on Cathy's Off the Beaten Path Poker run. If you enjoy his article, how about writing up some of your favorite rides for us?

Our first planned "ride" of the year is to Rocky's Outdoors in Flint, a combination sporting goods, motorcycle parts and accessories store and motorcycle museum. It's a great place to just walk around. Where else can you see an actual BMW "C1" scooter? It was never even sold in the US...but there's one in Rocky's! If you have a shopping list, it's a great place to go. If you just go to look around, it's fun too. I like to do the Rocky's "ride" by car, so that if we buy anything of substance, we can get it home. Start making your list! I think I might need a new riding jacket. BEFORE Rocky's, we'll have lunch at Puzzler's Pub, which is some good food.

Officer elections are coming up. Get your nominations in for the April meeting, with voting to take place in May.

**YES, THE ACTIVITIES PAGE IS NO LONGER IN THE NEWSLETTER.** Use the website "Activities" page. <https://mcbeemers.org/activities/> Thank you.

## Stuff on the website

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

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

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

Club pictures: <https://mcbeemers.org/pictures/index.html>

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

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

# Beemer Blast (Sun up to Sun Down) June 29-30

Brian Boers

This ride will be like an observation ride. No need to feel like you need to stay with the group, route or schedule. Ride at your pace and enjoy the ride, it's not a race. Feel free to stop to see something or stop and take a break. I don't care for large group rides but I do enjoy visiting with others.

With that said here is my plan so far. Start at the end of M59 gravel parking lot. If you need an address for your GPS then use Selfridge Public Boat Launch 29028 William P Rosso Hwy, Harrison Township, Mi. 48045. I plan to arrive in time to watch the Sun Rise and depart shortly after.

I plan to have breakfast at the Junction of Hope Restaurant between 9-10. I plan on just taking 59 to 75 to 57. Junction of Hope Restaurant 4136 Peet rd, Chesaning, Mi. From there I plan on taking 57 across the state till it ends at Pine Island Drive. Then take Pine Island drive north to 46 west to 31 north. From 31 north to N Ocean dr to S. PereMarquette Hwy to 6015 W. Meisenheimer Rd, Ludington, Mi. 49431.

I rented a cabin and all the beds have been spoken for. Jim, Jay, Cathy, Josh, and Myself. They do allow setting up a tent so if camping is your thing your welcome. I plan to watch the Sun set at Ludington Pier 701 Maritime Dr., Ludington, Mi. 49431.

I just checked Orbitz for lodging for 8 and all were sold out. Most had just one room available so make your reservations early.

Lodging options are:

Bella Vista Inn \$125

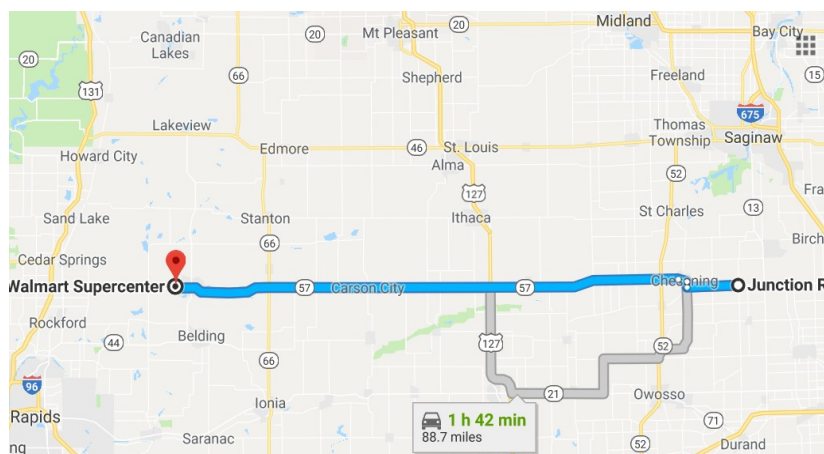
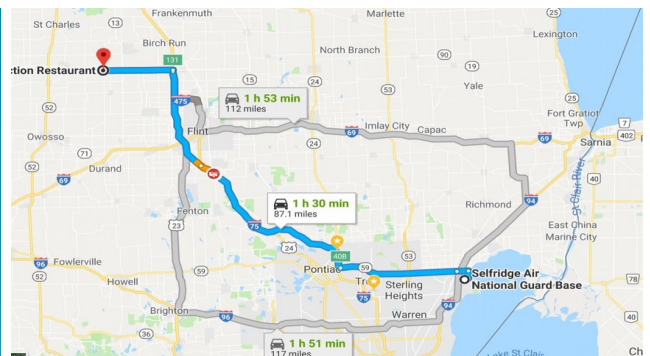
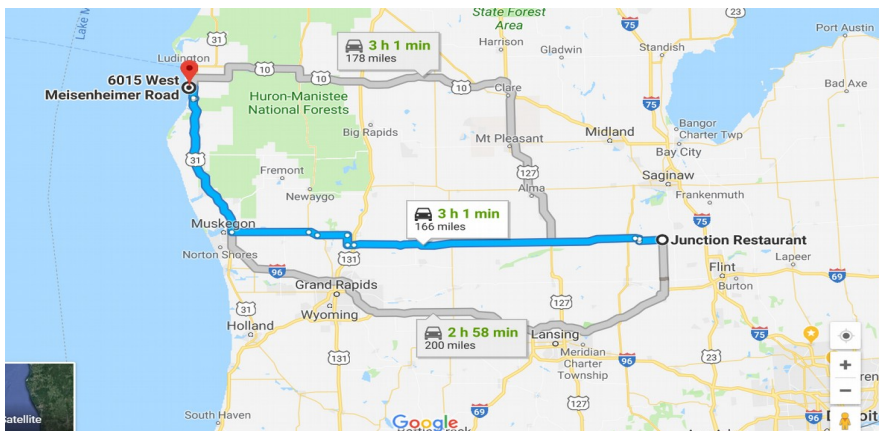
Days Inn \$178

Manistee Inn and Marina \$130

Motel Lakewood \$115

Comfort Inn \$195

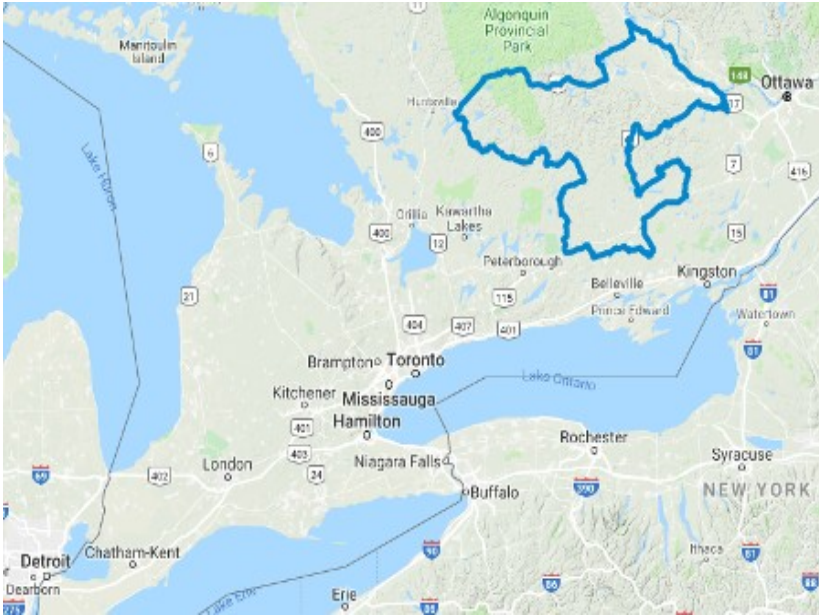
Holiday Inn Express and Suites \$195



## July 3-7, 2019 Ride the Ontario Highlands

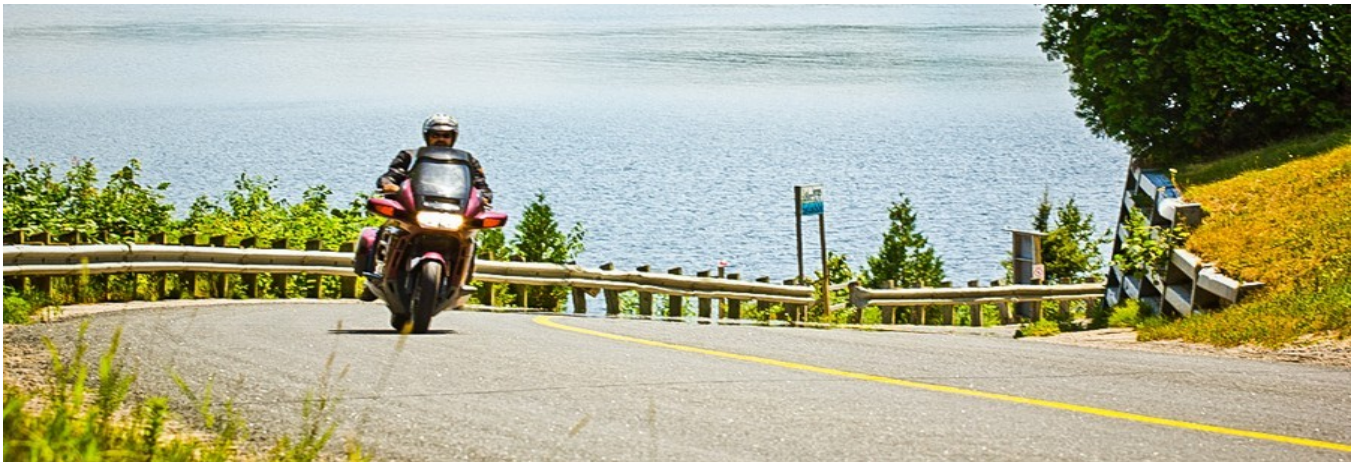
By Josh Grosse

**highlands** [hahy-luhndz] *noun*: a mountainous region or elevated part of a country



A single day's ride away, we can find some incredible roads. Northeast of Toronto and west of Ottawa lie the Ontario Highlands, an area with many wonderful roads. We'll be on most of them.

We'll find twisty roads, with many elevation changes. Gorgeous scenery. Food that's eclectic and fun. Numerous attractions, from glass blowing to breweries to old mines and even (if we cross over to Quebec) zip lines. The accommodation are varied, with dozens of choices along the way.



*Disclaimer: stopovers named below may vary due to hotel availability and group interest.*

### Wednesday: Algonac to Orillia

After meeting for breakfast at the Flaming Grill, we'll cross the street and take the Algonac ferry to *Bkejwanong*, the home of the Walpole Island First Nation, and then make our way to the mainland and north along the Lake Huron shore before turning east, passing Barrie.

North of our planned route are the Screaming Heads of Midlothian Ridge. The group may decide to see them on our way in, or on the return trip. The site is noted in the *Atlas Oscura*.



## Thursday: Orillia to Tweed



We may stop at the Dorset Tower Lookout to see what we can see. The brave may decide to climb to the top. Few do. It's 465 feet up from where we park our bikes.

Heading south, we should stop at the Artech Glass Blowing Studios in Tory Hill. It's considered a "must see" for visitors.

We'll pass by Marmora Mine, which was once a gold mine and is now a lake.

## Friday: Tweed to Pembroke

We might take a side trip into Quebec. It's just across the Ottawa River. Why? For the Chutes Coulonge Aerial Park. Some of us are willing to take the risk of a zip line across that gorge.



## Saturday: Pembroke to The Blue Mountains



We'll traverse through part of Algonquin Provincial Park on our way back to Lake Huron. We may stop in Burk's Falls instead of The Blue Mountains if the group elects to see the Screaming Heads.

## Sunday: The Blue Mountains to Port Huron

This last leg, we'll stop for fuel, rest, and food. And take the Blue Water Bridge towards our homes.

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*Hotel reservations will need to be made soon. Please contact Josh (248-396-0987 or [josh@jggimi.net](mailto:josh@jggimi.net)) by April 15 if you're interested in joining the ride so that hotel rooms b*

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# It's All About the Journey

## Off the Beaten Path

By Josh Grosse

The idea was simple. A participatory riding event that the club members could self-schedule over their entire riding season. And permit a flexible amount of participation, from just a little bit, to a whole lot. Busy people with many conflicts can't always participate in scheduled club rides.

Cathy's idea was to have a club Poker Run. Poker Runs are road rallies where participants collect tokens (such as playing cards) at each destination, and then compete for awards (such as via poker hands) at the final destination. For this self-scheduled event, Cathy had all participants take selfies at each destination, and submit the photographic evidence, receiving playing cards at the Mid Winter Banquet.



The state was split into five sections: a quartered lower peninsula and the U.P., each with two roadside attraction destinations. Cathy and I reached all ten "roadside attraction" destinations over three separate rides. Each had its unique pleasures.

### Ride 1: Local



Cathy and I rode through Emmett on our first ride in the spring. We'd been through the town before, but weren't sure we'd ever seen the "Duff Beer" roadside attraction we were looking for. While heading north through the town, we had to stop to wait for a passing train. And wait. And wait. Cathy glanced over her shoulder behind us and suddenly noticed the pair of object d'art in an otherwise vacant lot alongside the main road. There's a giant beer can you can see in our club photos, as well as the pack of cigarettes that Paula is leaning on here.

Emmett is on the way to a road that has some very pretty twisties: M-136. With Mill Creek to the south, a bridge over the Black River, and hills to the north, it's a very pretty ride, even though it is short. On that spring day, we stopped at the Dorsey House for lunch and continued on to Port Huron and took M-29 back along the St. Clair River. It's a great ride, and we repeated it again later with the club on a Saturday lunch ride, including a stop in Emmett for club members to take pictures.

## Ride 2: Westerly

Carrots in Ann Arbor? Really? *Yup*. They're on the northwest side of town, an art installation by Food Gatherers, whose headquarters are there.

The Potato Chip silo is near Portland, Michigan, which is just beyond Lansing. Cathy and I arrived there late in our day, and rather than hunting for the silo we stopped at a hotel. Our front desk clerk had never heard of it. So we were left to our own devices — our smartphones — to locate it just east of town the next morning.

Cathy and I managed to reach the southwestern-most destination on the Poker Run, the Sinclair Service Station in Cassopolis. It still has its rooftop dinosaur, but more interesting to me is that it has been restored into a museum, decorated exactly as it would have been in the 1940s. From what I can gather the museum is a joint venture between Cassopolis and the Cass Area Artists. It was closed when we were there, but we got to peek inside through the windows.



During this trip, we traveled through some towns I'd never been to, including Springfield and Homer (d'oh).

Of all the towns we passed through my heart goes out to Mason, as it had a simply brilliant town square with a beautiful court house, and it also has The Daily Scoop, which gets five stars from TripAdvisor. I rated it "Awesome."



## Ride 3: The Narrow Road to the Deep North

We rode through Alpena on our way to the Big Mac, and stopped to admire the beauty of the Presque Isle's harbor and its environs. A relaxing moment, before the crossing.



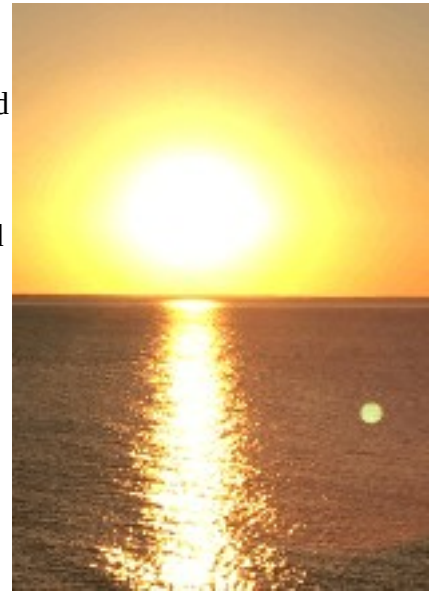
Nervous on the bridge,  
I ride only the paved lanes.  
Oh no! There's repairs!





There are good views of the Mackinac Bridge from the bluntly named Bridge View Park just to the northwest of it. We stopped to take a few photos, including this one of a Minnesota rider's careful motorcycle logistics — Cathy counted 13 bags.

Nick and Paula recommended we stay in St. Ignace while on the east end of the peninsula. It was great advice, as we were rewarded with some amazing sunrises. But even better, we discovered M-123, the road to Tahquamenon Falls. We're going back. That road is achingly beautiful. The Falls are nice, too. We rented a rowboat and went out to the island at the lower falls. But the road calls to me.



Heading west, we loved the alleyway art we discovered in Munising, and the concert the city had at the public harbor. But the roadside art show that is Lakenenland Sculpture Park just outside of Marquette was quite the surprise. We didn't really know what to expect when we sent people to take selfies with the Googly-eyed monster. Photos we'd seen online did not really do the sculpture park justice. There are many pieces, most whimsical — ask anyone working there for directions to the Googly-eyed monster and you get, "Which one?" in response.

*For our next U.P. ride, we'll include H-58, the road to Grand Marias. We've been told it should not be missed, but due to time and logistics we will have to ride it next time.*

Crossing back over the bridge, we traveled southwest, heading for our remaining destinations. I believe that everyone who stopped at the Tiny Church met its creator, or had the chance to. It began with a request from his wife for a contemplation bench in the woods behind the house, and he decided to build her a chapel instead. It grew from there. Though, not all that much bigger. He mentioned a roadside sculpture nearby — a chainsaw tree — that we'd not known about. It was a little off the road, so Cathy asked permission to take a picture there.

I was nervous going over the bridge for the first time. It was made worse chugging along for 10 or 15 minutes clutching in and out of first gear waiting in line for the northbound tollbooths. But the northbound crossing was very easy. There was no wind, and I stayed in the paved lane except when having to pass around several maintenance trucks. The return trip was in high winds, and that was not as comfortable. I expected to have a sudden change in wind at the suspension towers, but that never happened. Instead, the sudden changes took place as we passed the maintenance turnouts at each end.

*But I'd do it again. Ride that bridge. M-123 is worth it. And we're expecting that H-58 is even better!*



# Treasurer's Report

Jim Mick



Check book balance for the end of March	\$2707.37
Check book balance for the end of February	\$2661.37
(new) Balance one year ago	\$1766.25
Balance end of September	\$1377.47
Balance end of December	\$1992.47
PayPal balance for the end of March	\$83.85
PayPal balance for the end of February	\$43.85

- 68 members for 2018
- 52 member renewals for 2019
- 26 members paid for MWB
- 13 members paid for Picnic
- 12 members paid for Frankenmuth

- Mar 3, Paid \$15.00 to BMW Riders Association for renewal of our Club Charter. The RA has made some significant changes and may be worth considering if you are not a member. Annual membership is only \$20 if you choose their “discounted digital-only memberships (\$20 per year).”
- Mar 5, Received \$25.00 from Keith & Bobi H for membership renewal using PayPal.
- Mar 9, Received \$21.00 from 50/50 plus \$10 from Don M when he won. Also received \$15.00 from Prabhakar P for membership renewal.
- Mar 12, Received \$15.00 from Dennis K for Frankenmuth (friend?)
- Mar 25, Received \$15.00 from Bill H for membership renewal.

## 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](mailto: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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