

Motor City Beemers

Newsletter



September 2023

Volume 32, Number 9

Meetings are held the **SECOND** Saturday of the month
at

Triumph Detroit

47488 Van Dyke Ave.

Shelby Township, MI 48317

(586) 726-7400

We welcome owners and fans of all bikes

“We got donuts!”

Our *next* meeting is: ... **September 9, 2023 10:30 am**

Following meeting is: ... **October 14, 2023 10:30am**

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

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

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



Once again, I am going from “how did we end up on the year 2023??” to “what happened to 2023??”. But here we are.

I’ve been riding BMWs now for probably 14 years. So, yes, I tend to notice when I see a BMW motorcycle on the road. I’ve noticed it didn’t seem to happen very often – until recently. I now frequently see BMWs on the road. I got to believe it is due to Jennifer O. at BMW Detroit kicking butt and taking money. Good work! Of course, the other thing I see a lot more of lately is Triumphs. In this case, it could very well be due to the fact that Triumphs are now in my life due to our new host for our meetings. I’m a big fan of diversity in motorcycles, and honestly, I like the direction our club is heading – multi-brand.

This month, we have our annual Chicken Dinner at Frankenmuth planned. That will be Saturday, September 16, at Zehnder's. Sounds like it will be a fairly small group this year, but it isn’t too late to join in – be at our meeting Saturday, 9/16 and pay your \$5. Next month, we have the picnic. We should be getting details to you shortly on that.

On Sunday, September 10, there will be the Battle of the Brits motorcycle show and swap meet at Camp Dearborn, in Milford, MI. More info at <https://metrotriumphriders.com/page-1347868>

I still get asked occasionally what the long term plans for the club, which mostly boil down to these questions:

- **Are we going to stay at Triumph Detroit, or are we going to move back to BMW Detroit when their new showroom is complete?** I have no plans or desire to revert back to BMW Detroit. As long as Triumph Detroit is willing and seeming eager to host us, I consider them our home. Motor City Beemers has been around for a long time (over thirty years!), and is on at least our *fourth* physical location (not counting the period of no home!), and if I recall the history properly, at the *fourth* owner of our hosting dealership. SOMEDAY, we may need to hunt for a new home. “But what about the BMW Detroit’s new showroom?” What about it? Good for them, they needed a new, larger showroom. I’m glad they have that now. But in the time I’ve been with the MCBeemers, the staff at BMW Detroit has not had a lot of interest in the club. Triumph Detroit has shown us great support and participation. So until/unless Triumph Detroit decides we are no longer welcome, I’m not shopping around for another location for our meetings.
- **Are we going to change the name of the club?** (often phrased more directly as, “**What are we going to change the name to?**”) Short answer: I have NO plans or desire to change the name of the club from Motor City Beemers. I have significant desire to retain the established name. Long answer: Again, long term, things may change, but we have over thirty years as the Motor City Beemers. A group/business/club name, yes, reflects the purpose of the group, but it also reflects its history. As people, our parents chose names for us for various reasons, but by the time we have a few years behind us, our names reflect who WE are, not the original intent of our parents. I look at the club name in much the same way. Are we going to lose potential members because their favorite motorcycle brand isn’t in the club name? Perhaps. But as a multi-brand club, I’m not seeing this as a huge loss. If you only want to hang around with only Brand X owners, this probably isn’t your club. This will also make it easier for past members who drifted away from the club or away from motorcycles for a period of time to find us again. I see a lot of penalties in changing our name, I don’t see any real benefits in doing so. (I’ve got even longer answers, but I’ll spare you).
- **Are we still shutting down the club?** I’m not overly fond of the phrase “shutting down the club”, but technically, yes – we are still planning on eventually invoking article 10 of the bylaws and dissolve the group

as defined by the bylaws, but not as a group of people. My hope is that this will create a simpler group with less structure where people can get together monthly or more often if desired. So...change the structure of the club to a non-financial group. Now, if we have some people step up to put the time and effort into running the club, nothing is final. Heck, nothing is cast in stone if we do officially dissolve the club. As I have mentioned a number of times, we have a shortage of people willing and able to help run the club. It has been suggested we could amend the existing club bylaws to reduce the number of officers required, but that doesn't change the basic issue – there's a lack of people willing to put the effort in to help run the club. This seems to be a general problem, I've talked to a number of people in other motorcycle (and other!) clubs that are running into the same problem.

- **I disagree with your plans!** Great. Step up, accept an officer's position in the club, and lead us in your better direction. It's that simple.

As always, the recipe to success of the Motor City Beemers is to bring more people into the group. This isn't something we can rely on others to do for us – we need to be our own recruiters. I'm not going to say there's one answer to how this should be done, but I'd suggest printing out and carrying some of our Club Invite Cards with you (yes, they have been updated for our new situation). Link for the updates is elsewhere in this newsletter.

Stuff on the website

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

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

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

Club pictures: <http://mcbeemers.org/pictures/>

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

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

Hosting Dealership: <https://www.windycitymc.com/--triumph-detroit>

- I'm planning to ride to Frankenmuth for the club's annual Chicken Dinner on Saturday, September 16. If you would like to ride, join me at Ted's Coney Island, 67176 Gratiot Avenue, in Richmond. Breakfast at 8:00am, kickstands up at 9:30am. The route is simpler this year: north on M-19 out of Ted's, left on M-90, continue beyond M-90 through the town of Otter Lake, right on M-15, left onto Ormes Rd., right onto S. Main St., left into Zehnder's parking lot.
- Brian B. has planned a Sunrise/Sunset trip for Thursday, September 14. You're welcome to join his group for sunrise, for breakfast, or for the day. His map and additional info about his ride are on page 6.
- Jeff Anderson sent me [this link to a BMW Motorcycles web page](#) which has a 6-minute video highlighting the new *100 years of BMW Motorrad* exhibition at the BMW Museum. It's fascinating.
- John J. published a trip report of this year's – newly renamed from *Where's Waldo* to the *Rhys Blair Waldo* ride – to the club's Facebook Group. His report and some of the posted photos are on page 7.
- Jeff intends to try for the September lunch ride to Bullfrogs. Maybe this time, the club might make it there.

Ride safe, y'all!



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Brian's Sunrise to Sunset Thursday September 14, 2023:

Brian says:

“Feel free to join us for the Sunrise, Breakfast, part, or all day.

Departing Selfridge Boat launch around 7am. Stops are below and power point has routes:

Capac Rest area

Junction of Hope Restaurant 4136 Peet Rd, Chesaning, Mi. 48616 (9:00)

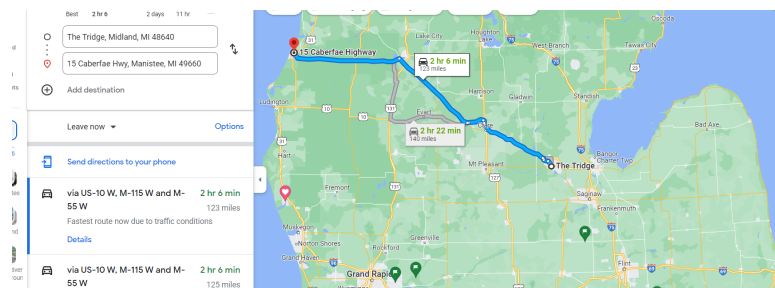
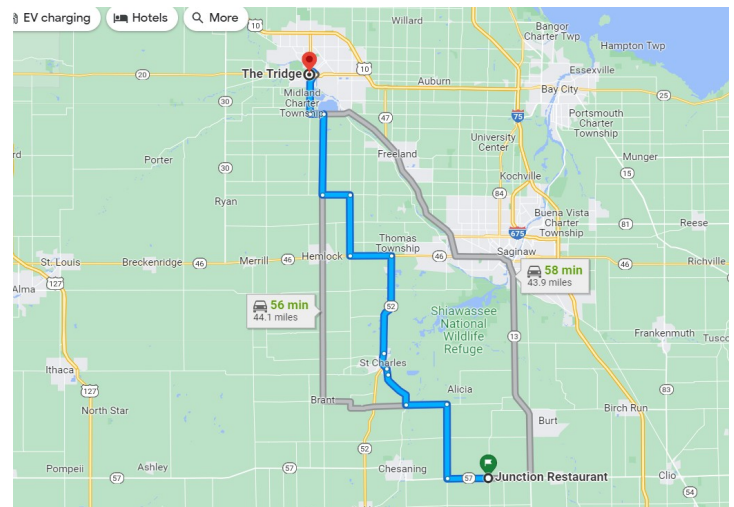
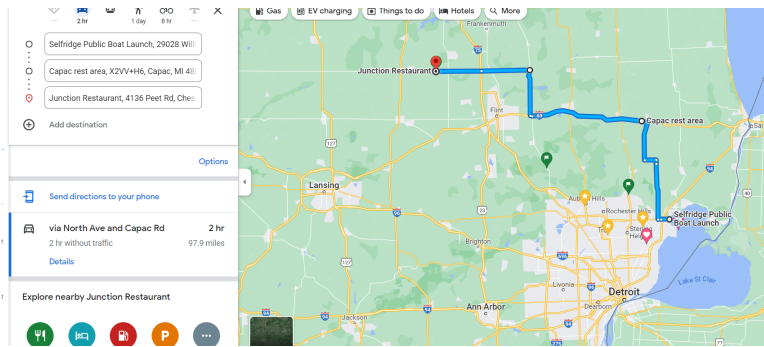
The Tridge, Ashman St., Midland (11-12).

Stop in Cadillac.

Stop in Manistee.

Platte River Campground 5685 Lake Michigan Rd, Honor Mi. 49640.

We will be returning home Sunday.”



John's Trip Report – the Rhys Blair Waldo Ride

John wrote (on August 20):

Yesterday was the annual Waldo Ohio ride to G & R bar for their fried bologna sandwich and mile high cream pie. This ride was started by Rhys Blair some time ago and he has led the ride as far back as I can remember.



This year was led by Jim Mick following was Jay, Pat, Nick and his wife and myself. The day started off a little chilly, especially the bulk of the group having to ride from the Macomb area meeting up at the BP station off of exit 15 in Monroe at 9:00am.

Leaving at 9:30 the ride down was pleasant with sunshine all day, arriving at G & R around 12:30. We were seated right away, unfortunately at that time we were informed no mile high cream pie. We still all enjoyed the fried bologna sandwiches.

After lunch we all decided to name this ride the annual Rhys Blair Waldo ride in honor of Rhys. Since there was no cream pie, Jim suggested we stop at Coons candy in Harpster, just off of 23. The place was loaded with all kinds of goodies, and we all acquired something to satisfy our sweet tooth.

The ride back was pleasant as the temperature was rising we stopped at the BP on 280 and filled our tanks, saying our farewells, we all headed out going our separate ways.



Treasurer's Report

Jim Mick

37 Members for 2023:

Frankenmuth reservations: Josh G, Nick H & Paula E.



Jeff A, Mike B, Cathy B, Jill B, Brian & Sheila B, Tom C, Walter D, Dennis G, Linda H, Aaron G, Josh G, Nick H, Paula E, Pat & Lynn K, Alan & Jodi K, Mike & Sharon M, Don & Gail M, Jay M, Jim & Jeri M, Don & Carolynne P, Jerry & Margaret P, Eli Shapiro (NEW MWMBER), Tim S, Robb S, Chris V, Jim V, Mary V, Rob Z, & Charlie Z. Mary V and Jill B are 'life-long members' of the club since they were active when their spouses passed away.

As 'the Prez' said in the May '23 newsletter: "Membership requirements, for the most part, is just "show up!". If you like what you see, we'll ask you to fill out a membership form, so you can get our newsletter, club (e)mailing, and get you on our Facebook group which lets you know what is going on. We are not collecting dues. And as we have said for a long time, your brand(s) of motorcycle is NOT a criterion."

Check book balance for the end of July:	\$1772.13
Check book balance for the end of Aug:	\$1487.13
Balance one year ago:	\$2023.75
Balance six mo ago:	\$2076.94

Balance three mo ago: \$1772.13

8/12 'Received \$5 from Josh G and \$10 from Nick H & Paula E for Frankenmuth. A check for \$300 was sent to Vets Returning Home as a memorial for Rhys Blair.

Welcome new member Eli Shapiro who was at the club meeting and it was good to see Pete L. at the meeting.