



Motor City Beemers

Club Newsletter



BMW MOA Club #231

BMW RA Club #209

March 2012

Volume 21, Number 3

All meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of the month at 10:30AM at BMW of Detroit

Our *next* meeting is scheduled for March 9th

Following Meeting: April 13th

Web site: www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers

President	Betty Ward	crazybet@comcast.net
1st Vice President	Keith Harrison	theharrisonfarm@earthlink.net
2nd Vice President	Rhys Blair	rhysb@att.net
Treasurer	Allen Gigliotti	giglio@comcast.net
Newsletter Editor	Bob Hann	mcbnewsletter@bizblvd.net
Web Master	Ives R. Potrafka	ives@bizblvd.net

PREZ SEZ

Hello All,

Just a short note from the Prez. Spring is almost here and we have a lot to kick our riding season off. Let's remember to do those safety checks on our bikes, check your gear and if you need to get your bike serviced Don is now back at the shop. We have a few guest speakers for our next few meetings so I hope you will be able to attend. Some hot topics will be: The Ride for Kids, Trophy Cycle and Apparel, Powerlet and news about our yahoo group and website; great stuff for all of us! Hey, how about a Ride-n-Camp weekend?? Think about this...anyone up for this or a weekend trip and Hotel....Just options :) Suggestions??

Our Club memberships are a little low right now so round up your riding buddies and let them know about us. We have a great group of people and would be nice to have more! Personally I think we have a lot to offer. Hope to see you at the meetings or Wednesday's dinners.

Enjoy!

Betty

YOUR FIRST TRACK DAY

by Pete Lentini

Out of the question? Maybe not. You don't need racing aspirations to participate in such an event. A sport bike is not required and you certainly don't need to go "as fast as possible" to justify signing up. In my opinion, you should have only desire - the desire to learn and have fun. Many Motor City Beemers have enhanced their riding education by successfully completing advanced rider courses and some of us are even certified and experienced instructors. And to those club members who aspire to "doing" a track day, there's no better time than 2012.

Every year, the monthly magazine Roadracing World & Motorcycling Technology publishes a special guide dedicated solely to track days. This edition discusses preparation, both mental and physical, what to take to the track, what to expect when you get there, bike setup, gear and much more. I'm sure many members find the magazine in their mailbox alongside their copy of the BMW Owners News. OK... maybe just a few members. How 'bout two of you? Alright, alright...maybe just me. But it's a great mag and this issue is worth picking up at your local Barnes & Noble's if you are thinking about getting on the track. It's easy to spot - ingeniously labeled "Trackday Directory" against a bright red background and even features a silver S1000RR on the cover!



If you decide such an event is in your future, I suggest perusing the websites of the two Michigan racetracks that sponsor track days; Grattan Raceway just outside of Belding and GingerMan Raceway near South Haven. Yes, Waterford Raceway is closer to most of us but motorcycles are not permitted on this track due to, primarily, insufficient run-off area. So, back to Roadracing World; it also contains a comprehensive list of circuits around the country and which track day schools teach at each track. Attending a school at an out-of-state track requires more travel time and raises the question of whether you ride to, or trailer your bike to the track day - a topic in and of itself.

Also included in the issue are all the schools, their contact information, website and, a feature I think is most beneficial, a rudimentary list of requirements for your bike. Do I need to safety wire critical nuts and bolts? What do I do with my lights? Must I remove my side and/or center stand? These and other questions are answered in this issue. A complete list of all the requirements for a particular school will appear on its respective website.

Roadracing World is a long established and extremely professional publication that dedicates itself to covering both amateur and professional road racing in North America and around the world. As you read further into this issue, the articles focus on proper bike setup, riding gear for the track, loading your bike, some high performance modifications and more. It's great reading, especially if you have a sport bike and intent to take it to the track. But in any case and regardless of what you ride, you'll benefit from the information.

There's no need for me to describe what to take to the track, how to prepare, etc., as the magazine provides a ton of excellent information plus full color photos. I would like to impart, however, a few thoughts with a slant toward a Motor City Beemer who is considering a track day.

- Yes, most riders wear a full-leather racing suit and if you have one, I'd encourage you to wear it. Additionally, some track day providers permit one or two-piece Aerostich suits. Be sure to check out the school's website for details concerning what you must wear, what type of armor is required, etc. Some schools provide leather suits to rent so that may be an option for you as well.
- A school's website will also list the type of helmets permitted during their event. Most have no problem with the flip-up lids many of the club members wear, as the safety standards of these products have greatly improved over the years. If a helmet must display a specific DOT or Snell rating, that info should also be on their site. My experience shows any open face or traditional style helmet, even with a visor, is not allowed by any school on any racetrack.
- You don't need special racing boots, either. All the touring or sport-touring boots I've seen on club members would pass inspection. Some schools will even permit a heavy-duty, over the ankle work boot. Again, check their website for details.
- Although not positive, I would think each school provides information regarding the equipment that must be removed before you venture onto the track under their tutorage. I'm not referring to detachable hard bags, tank bags and the like as those items must be removed. I envision items many club members have on their bikes - GPS, iPod, cell phone, video camera, mechanical throttle lock, highway pegs, windshield extension, backrest and hand guards to name but a few. If no mention of your specific component appears, contact the school. Hundreds of riders and a myriad of bikes attend just one school every year. They've seen just about everything on a bike! On a positive note, most schools don't require major disassembly for a track day - especially on a bike that is street ridden and not a race bike or one dedicated to the track. But, in summary, my experience has shown if an item is not permanently bolted on or can easily be detached by hand, un-clipped or un-zipped, it must come off.

A track day is not a race. You don't need experience and you don't need to "beat" anyone. What you need, I feel, is an open mind encouraging you to learn new technique and apply it to your street riding. You need a mindset that says, "I'm going to start slow, try to stay smooth and ride within my limits." Keep in mind, you will probably extend and advance those limits by days' end. Don't forget; the folks that are going really, REALLY fast are in a different group - you won't have to ride with them. And last, but most important, you need to relax and have fun.



PHOTO SUBMISSIONS

Sorry I missed last month's meeting, but I understand that our new president asked everyone send pictures to me for to posting to the web site. That being said, I would like to explain the process for posting pictures and getting them up on the web site.

For each picture I receive it has to be scaled to 500 pixels wide and 50% quality. The web page then has to be updated by inserting the picture into the code, resizing it and then creating the hyper link. Finally, the picture and updated web page has to be uploaded to the web site via FTP. All this takes time.

On our web site we have two areas to place pictures. The first area is for "club pictures" which is our rides and events. The second area is for "member pictures".

I welcome submissions to both areas!

Just remember that it all takes time. If you want to submit pictures for the "club pictures" section I would ask that you review them and select a few good ones to post. If you took several pictures like most of us do, just send the best of the group, rather than everyone you took.

In the "member pictures" section I ask that you just submit 6 pictures or less.

Want to be even more helpful. It would be a huge help if the picture came sized or scaled to the following specs:

- 500 pixels wide / the height scale according to the width
- JPG format and saved to 50% image quality.

The goal of sizing the pictures to these specifications is to keep the size small enough to download quickly when displayed on the Internet. I try to keep all pictures 50 KB or less.

Don't know how to scale images or have the software to manipulate pictures. I have a answer for you. <http://www.gimp.org/downloads/>

GIMP is free software that runs on multiple platforms. It is very powerful and compares with Photoshop in features.

Thank You for Your Cooperation and I hope to see you all at the March meeting.

From the Webmaster's Desk...
Ives R. Potrafka

CLUB RIDES

CLUB LUNCH RIDES

Date	Lunch Ride Destination	Ride Planner
April 14 th	TBD	

GOING SOMEWHERE

Club Members,

Keith Harrison, Maury Feuerman, Steve Penczak and myself have planned on attending the 2012 European Bike Rally in Burksville, Kentucky the weekend of May 18-20. We will be leaving the general area of the Beamership early on Thursday, May 17 and returning on Sunday, May 20. We may also have another general pick-up area at Exit 15 (Monroe) for those out on the west side who plan on attending.

The ride is approximately 500 miles one way and mostly on I-75. It is a very simple and straightforward route we plan on riding in one way. Details will be discussed at the next meeting in March should you be interested in riding with us.

You will be on your own to register for the rally on line and make your own hotel reservations. Camping is available at the rally site. all the details for the rally can be found on line at www.nashvilleriders.com . Again, if you are interested let us know and we will discuss in more detail at our March and April meetings.

Ride Safe,

Rhys Blair and Keith Harrison

ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC; SEPTEMBER 15th

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 15, 2012! Keith Harrison has locked in our special picnic location at the Fort Gratiot Park. More details to follow, but the biggest detail is that if you are a paid up member you are in line for a free, grilled to order steak just for showing up. See you all at the next meeting, second Saturday in March at the Beemership! Make a note all you new members; you won't want to miss this party.

DINNER RIDES – *Arrive between 6:30-7pm and hungry,*

April 4 th		
April 11 th	Da Francesco's	49624 Van Dyke, Shelby Twp
April 18 th	<i>Watch the website</i>	
April 25 th	<i>Watch the website</i>	

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

It is that time of the year to renew your membership in Motor City Beemers. There is a form included in the newsletter to make the job of renewing easier. The dues stayed the same at \$10 for the primary member and \$5 for the associate member. An associate member must be associated with a primary member. This allows you to attend the Chicken dinner ride to Frankenmuth and steak picnic near Port Huron. The club picks up the cost of the chicken dinner and the steaks. The dues also cover the cost of donuts at the meetings. We need members to renew as early as possible so we can figure out a budget for the year. Send renewals to Allen Gigliotti; giglioa@comcast.net

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. 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!"

BMW Test Riders Needed

AKS Engineering is looking for local Michigan BMW Riders to test our new, instant-on & instant-off, throttle lock called the *Kruz Locker*.

The bikes we need riders for, include the following:

R1100 R '94 to '00
R1150 R '99 to '06
R1200 R '05 to '10
R1100 GS '94 to '06
R1150 GS '98 to '03
R1150 GSA '01 to '05

If interested, we would come to your home and install a production intent prototype on your bike. After 2-3 months we would like your opinion on it. If you would still like to have one, we would replace it at no charge with a new production unit.

You can see how the Kruz Locker works at: aksengineering.com.

They have been in production for the R1200GS&A, F6500GS & F800GS, for about 4 months.

We'll only need 1 or 2 riders per bike.

If interested please contact me at: steve@aksengineering.com

Please provide me your name, address and best phone number to contact you.

Thanks;

Steve Ruth
AKS Engineering
Holly, MI

NEWS FROM THE BEEMERSHIP

A tip of the MCBEEMER helmet . . .

. . . goes to **Viles & Associates, Inc.**, Ron's parents, who have volunteered to print the free copies of the newsletter available at the dealership. They are also BMW riders.

(586) 792-7676	Fax: (586) 792-5610
Viles & Associates, Inc. <small>BOOKKEEPING • ACCOUNTING • COMPLETE TAX SERVICE</small> Accredited Tax Professional	
Gary E. Viles, ATP	18741 15 Mile Road Clinton Twp., MI 48035

FOR SALE

PIAA Platinum "SuperWhite" Bulbs

- (1) H3 35W (performs like 60W)
- (2) H3 85W (performs like 135W)

All three bulbs are brand new, never used and still in their original containers.

. . . normally \$35 to \$40 each **on sale: \$20 each \$50 for all three!**

Pete 586.978.3956 petelentini@yahoo.com



BMW Logo is a registered trademark of BMW North America

FOR SALE

"MICK-O-Pegs"

Spring Loaded Highway Pegs
for your R1200RT or your
K1200LT.

Look at
www.ridingiswonderful.com to
find information.

FOR SALE

Motoport "Canyon" Pants - size small

- ✓ A few years old but worn about 3 times! - ***Absolutely like new!***
- ✓ 100% waterproof & breathable DuPont Cordura™ shell
- ✓ Full length mesh non-stick lining
- ✓ Stretch material behind calf for comfort
- ✓ Accordion pleats above knees for comfort
- ✓ Reinforced knees and seat
- ✓ (1) snap & (3) zippered pockets
- ✓ 12" zipper in calf for easy removal
- ✓ Removable armor in the hips and knees
- ✓ Elastic waist at sides and rear plus adjustable waist belt
- ✓ Similar to the new Cordura Light Pant only w/o the removable lining & full leg zippers.

Price reduced \$60
\$75

Link to website:

www.motoport.com/_product_35443/Ultra_II_Cordura_Light_Pant

Pete 248.842.8600 petelentini@yahoo.com

