



# Motor City Beemers

## Club Newsletter



BMW MOA Club #231

BMW RA Club #209

December 2015

Volume 24, Number 12

All meetings are held the **SECOND** Saturday of the month at 10:30AM at BMW of Detroit

Immediately following the meeting is a Lunch Ride

Many months, we have a special event on the **THIRD** Saturday of the month

Our *next* meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2015

Following Meeting: January 9, 2015

Web site: [www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers](http://www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers)

*Eat to ride, ride to eat!*

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Happy Holidays to all! I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good spirits for the season! It's been a great year of riding and I personally am already making plans for the upcoming year.

I would say that I hope everyone is enjoying making lists of presents that they want for the upcoming riding season but I already know that we do that all year long anyway.

At the upcoming December meeting we will be electing our officers for the new-year so once again if you have an interest in participating please make it known and show up for the December meeting.

We are particularly looking for a Vice President to schedule and lead our rides. This is a very important

position in the club and can be a lot of fun.

I would like to thank everyone that participated in my email blog about the future direction of the club and particularly the 5 members that responded personally to me. I would like everyone to know that your comments have been noted and we will discuss them at the upcoming meeting.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the 12th



It's been an odd riding season for me – I used my “warm weather” mesh jacket only a few times this year – and one of those times was in November! However, all the bikes are now tucked into the garage, battery maintenance chargers attached, and waiting for spring. Or a sufficiently warm day before then.

The new year is coming soon, and with that, we will be selecting new officers for the club. It looks like I'm stuck having the honor of serving as your newsletter editor again, Jim's still going to be our treasurer, Betty's going to stay on as VP in charge of special events, Ives is staying on as webmaster. Pat Kelly is willing to take over as president, and we are still looking for someone to fill the ever-so-important position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and

Ride Director. For those new to the club, this may look a little non-democratic, in that we are telling you who will be our leaders, but that's because of lack of competition. If you are looking at any of these positions and think you could do it better than the person who is doing it now or the person who we are suggesting gets this position next year, PLEASE run against us! I suspect none of us will take it personally, we'd love to get some new blood in here. Remember, the club is what we ALL make of it.

One thing it seems that most of us are interested in doing is to make it clear to prospective members that we are open to owners of all brands of bikes. A lot of club members own more than one bike and most of us that do show a bit of brand diversity. After our November meeting, someone came up to me and suggested that we put something in the newsletter about what kinds of bikes are owned by club members. So, I'm going to ask that people drop me an e-mail telling us what kinds of motorcycles you currently have, and to make it interesting – a one or two sentence description of what is good or bad about the bike in your mind. So in my case, something like this:

- 1995 Yamaha Virago 535 – Over ten years old, so totally abandoned by Yamaha dealers.
- 1985 BMW K100RT (Hildegard) – Great first BMW, solid model of the BMW “Flying Brick”
- 2002 BMW K1200LT (Wolfgang) – Perhaps the finest two-up touring bike around, makes me smile every time I ride it.
- 2002 Buell Blast (Thumper) – Great starter bike, easy to learn, easy to fix, easy to maintain.
- 1990 Harley Davidson TourGlide FLTC (Thor, Bike of Thunder) – nice for commuting to and from work on slow freeways.

Send your list to me at [nick@holland-consulting.net](mailto:nick@holland-consulting.net), please! Got one bike? Tell us! Got twenty? Tell us! And, if you don't want to be identified by name, let me know (put “Newsletter” in the subject to get my attention)

And speaking of bikes...one thing I was expecting wouldn't be a problem was maintenance on my 25 year old Harley. So, took it into a shop which hadn't tossed me out when I mentioned owning a Buell, I figured they earned my business for that alone. They had a sign in the window promising, “While you wait \$40 oil changes”. Well, the \$40 turned into \$90, not entirely sure why, but since they let me watch, I'm not going to complain much on that. However, the mechanic, who looked like he had a fair amount of experience, couldn't find the drain plug, and even the oil filter took a moment for him to find. Apparently those things moved around a bit over the years, and he told me that my bike was the oldest he'd worked on by a good seven years. Meanwhile, Don has no issue working on my thirty year old K100. Well, that may not be an issue for those of you that are running around on new bikes, but for me, that's a reason I like BMW.



Greetings Fellow Riders,

December is here and usually means the riding season here in Michigan has started to slow down if it hasn't already come to a halt. As I look out the window this Thursday morning the ground is pretty much covered with a white blanket of heavy frost or light snow. The street is bare except for the puddles of semi-frozen water. This is pretty much what we can expect for the next four months around these parts. Yet, the long range forecast calls for sunny days, highs in the 40's and some low 50's, so go figure.

This will be my last article as an officer of the club. After some 21 plus years I'm going to take a break and do some reflecting, some traveling with Jill and whatever else strikes me as interesting. I will maintain my membership, volunteer when I can, but I pretty much think this is my last stint as a club officer. As I look around the club membership roles I see a lot of friends and acquaintance and people I have ridden all over the continent with. We've ridden from coast to coast, border to boarder, four lanes, two lanes, even cow trails. We've ridden mountain ranges, Death Valley, the Mississippi Valley from north to south. We've taken ferries that hold only two cars and two bikes across the Mississippi to ferries that carry semi-trucks, motor coaches and 60 bikes across the water to Vancouver Island and Newfoundland. Some of these luxury ferries have staterooms with showers and take reservations for dinner. We've crossed boarder stations with 15-20 guards to Podunk crossings with one old fat guy waiting, hungering for the next biker he can question about his travels, where he's been to where's he's going. I won't say I've done it all in the 40 plus years I've been riding, but I sure have done a lot of it with members of this club in 21 years. Heck, we've ridden in the heat in 3 digit temps to riding in the snow all in the same week.

We have had a lot of members pass through this club, but there are three of us who have been here from the very get go, Larry Turk, Dick Hautau and me. Besides these two guys, the dealership has been with us from the get go, too. It it wasn't for the dealership I don't know if there would be a club. They have been our home from day one. They have purchased at least a thousand dollars in 50/50 tickets over the years, provided thousands of dollars in door prizes for our dinners and provided discounts to our members. They have been right there with us. Thank you!

I guess I'll end it where it all started for our lunch stops, the Ham Center at Van Dyke and 12 Mile. So whether you rode to the club meeting today or drove your cage, come down and we'll have breakfast or lunch at the Ham Center.

It's been a hoot!

Rhys B. Blair  
2nd Vice President  
Ride Captain

## Selling your old Bike

Nick Holland

The time has come...you wish to sell your old motorcycle. Maybe you have too many, maybe you got a new bike, maybe the old bike just doesn't do "it" for you anymore. Here are some tips from a guy who has bought a lot of used vehicles. No guarantees these tips will work for you, but might be worth a try.

The usual process most sellers seem to go through is to figure out what a good price is, post it somewhere, and wait for the buyer. It doesn't work very well. It rarely happens that someone says, "I'm looking for a 2004 BMW K1200LT!" and goes to some source and pulls up yours, contacts you and ta-da, sale is made, the new owner rides off into the sunset, you ride off to your bank (or the dealership for a new bike), etc. No, just doesn't happen like that.

I have owned a number of motorcycles, all used

- Three were sold to me by friends (at prices I couldn't refuse)
- Three were purchased at garage sales.
- One was spotted alongside a major road with a "FOR SALE" sign
- One was purchased at a dealer.

Of the bikes that I gave serious thought to buying but didn't (or in one case, left a standing low-ball offer -- cool bike, but I JUST don't need #6!)

- One was on Craig's List
- Two were at garage sales

Ads and dealers have had little to do with my purchases. So much for conventional channels! Of those eleven bikes, precisely ONE was because I was deliberately looking for motorcycle ads on Craig's List -- and as you can see, that one did not take place. Every other bike I bought because it ended up in front of me when I was capable and interested in buying a bike, but not actively looking. Even the bike I bought at the dealership was an "impulse" buy -- I had a bike in for service, and wandered around the sales floor...and fell in love with the LT. That one I was interested in from Craig's List? I chickened out, and did not go to look at it, because I was fairly certain I was going to buy it if I did. If somehow I had SEEN that bike in person, I would almost certainly own a R1200RTP. It's easy to say no to an ad, it's hard when you are in front of it.

Personally, I'm a fan of the road-side display or the garage sale (doesn't even have to be YOUR garage sale -- plant it at your neighbor's house when they are having a garage sale, or even put it in the street near them). Church and mall parking lots are also popular places to put vehicles for sale.

Here's the neat part: by the time they have decided they might be in the market for a motorcycle, they have seen and checked out YOUR bike before they have done no comparison checking. No matter what else they find on the market, YOUR bike is a few steps ahead because they have already seen it, touched it, maybe sat on it -- the bonding has already taken place. At that point, it is your sale to lose.

If putting your bike out somewhere unattended, make sure you have some good information about the bike. Don't expect someone to call to find out the basics, like year, price, etc. They generally just won't call, all that info is needed to help "set the hook".

## **The Ad**

None of that is to say that placing an ad in a place like Craig's List is a bad idea. Here are some tips for a good Craig's List ad (or an info sheet you put your bike out someplace to be "discovered")

- **Accurate info:** You don't want to lose a prospective buyer because you misspelled a term they were searching for.
- **Good title/subject** -- year, make, model AND a few word description. For example, "2004 BMW



K1200LT Luxury Tour motorcycle” or “1973 Suzuki GT380 classic 3cyl two-stroke motorcycle” or “2002 Buell Blast – great first bike!” Remember, you want to catch people's attention that aren't looking for your exact bike...and some people think BMW only makes cars, and most people can't identify the make of a bike from just a few letters and numbers.

- **Good photos, lots of them.** If the photo sucks, don't post it, take a better one, ok? Don't even think of posting an ad without photos to Craig's List. Make it look good, but also photograph the “rough spots” so no one is fooled. Take it out of the garage so you have space and light.
- **Detailed information in the ad.** Do not expect someone to “call for details” – THEY WON'T. Mileage is expected to be in the ad by most shoppers.
- **Accurate condition information.** saying “Dropped a few times, cosmetically ugly” isn't necessarily bad, but will save you and the shopper a lot of time if they are expecting cosmetic perfection.
- **List features** that make this bike unique, but don't copy/paste an advertisement.
- **List (and describe) accessories you are including**, but don't bother listing how much you paid for them. No one cares how much you paid – if the thing is a must-have for the buyer, they already know what it is worth. “I paid ... “ doesn't belong in your ad.
- **Speak English.** The buyer isn't an expert on the bike you are selling. Cryptic buzzwords that “every LT owner understands” don't belong in your ad selling an LT – if the buyer already knows all those cool LT terms, they probably have one and aren't in the market to buy yours.
- **One item, one ad.** Don't combine unrelated, or not necessarily related things. Yes, this trailer might work nicely with this bike, but if the bike is my first tour bike, I'm probably not ready to ALSO invest in a trailer...whereas someone else who already has one of these bikes might just be itching for a trailer. Got three bikes to sell? Three ads, don't try to cram them into one ad (though referencing others can work nicely – “Also have Kawasaki dirt bike” or “matching trailer available” for those that might actually be looking for the combo.

A few other tips:

First thing I do when looking at a vehicle is check to see if the engine is warm (you may not notice me do this). If it is, I will assume it starts poorly when cold, and you are hiding this from me (I learned that at age 17). So, don't pull it out of the garage before I get there, don't start it for the guy who really isn't serious.

Make sure the title is transferred. The state of Michigan recommends that the seller and buyer go to the Secretary of State's office to transfer the title to make sure it is done. My family once sold a car to a friend of a friend who, rather than transferring the title, left it illegally parked for a few weeks, and when the police traced back the VIN, it went back to us, not the buyer. It is very hard to prove that you sold a vehicle! (fortunately, it wasn't used in a serious crime.) The last bike I purchased, I paid the owner, went to the Secretary of State office myself, did the paperwork, returned to the previous owner's house who then handed over the keys and bike AFTER I showed him the new title and plates.

Price: Keep in mind, “Blue Book” and anyone else who gives you a price for your bike aren't buying it, and thus, has little real relevance. If you are convinced your bike is worth \$10,000, but no one is willing to pay that, it isn't, at least to the people in your market. Most places you see prices to compare are the ASKING price – not the price it ultimately sells for. Unfortunately, value has nothing to do with the amount you have invested in the bike or amount remaining on the loan. Be expecting to take less than your asking price, but don't take a big cut in price immediately after putting the bike up for sale. Feel free to say, “Well, I don't want to take your price now, but let me take your name and number in case it doesn't sell. On the other hand, if you get a reasonable offer after two or three weeks, maybe you should take it.

Good luck, and enjoy your next ride!

## Get your 2016 Banquet tickets now!

Betty Ward

Limited to 50 guests

Our **2016 Mid -Winter Banquet** will be held at **Louis' Chop House**, 50355 Gratiot Ave, New Baltimore, Mi 48051. We have reserved their Big Room for **Saturday, February 20th, 2016**. Room includes TV and private bar. Social hour will be at 6pm and a plate style dinner to follow at 7pm. Cash bar and dessert on your own.

It's good food, great conversation, 50/50 raffle, a slide show and drawings of donated gifts. Renew club membership for 2016 (\$15 or \$10) and make an additional \$15 reservation for the banquet by Friday, February 12, 2016 and receive \$10 back at the banquet. Our club will pick up the remainder of the dinner, tax and gratuity. That's right, \$5.00 dinners for a member or associate!

A non member will cost \$35.00 per person for the banquet dinner. Our club treasurer will accept your payment at the meetings and Pay Pal.

I am looking forward to the banquet 2016 and hope you are as well. Great times await!

Yours truly,  
Betty Ward

## Club events

Lunch rides take place right after the Saturday meeting on the second Saturday of the month. Most other club events take place on the THIRD Saturday of the month

Date	Event	More Info
December 12	Club meeting / Ham Center Lunch	
January 9	Club Meeting	
February 13	Club Meeting	
February 20	Mid-Winter Banquet	See above!

## Non-club events

December 5-6 Gibraltar Trade Center Motorcycle Swap Meet and Expo (Expect absolutely no BMW specific anything, but there is a fair amount of generic stuff we can use...and sometimes some interesting stuff to look at)

Please send events to me at [nick@holland-consulting.net](mailto:nick@holland-consulting.net) !

## Recruit a new member! Cut-out and carry these cards!

Hi, I couldn't help but notice you also ride a BMW Motorcycle! I'd like to invite you to join us, the Motor City Beemers, on the second Saturday, monthly, 10:30am BMW Motorcycles of Detroit 34080 Van Dyke Ave Sterling Heights, MI 48312  <b><a href="http://www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers">www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers</a></b>
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## Wednesday Dinner Gatherings



The Wednesday dinners are a long-time, though less formal, tradition with the MCBeemers, started and run by Betty Ward. She picks out a dinner location, lets us know...and we get together and eat! Food is usually ordered by 6:30pm, but some of us don't straggle in until closer to 7:00pm.

Absolutely no agenda other than Good Food and Great People!

← Dinner at Juan Miguel's, 10/28/2015. Hey, I'm even in the picture!

December 2	<b>Jimmy Dee's</b>	43820 Groesbeck hwy Clinton Twnshp, Mi 586.463.7500
December 9	<b>Copper Penny</b>	24975 Harper Ave St. Clair Shores, MI 48080 586-777-1112
December 16	<b>Engine House</b>	309 Cass Ave Mt Clemens, Mi 586.468.2442
December 23	No Dinner	
December 30	No Dinner	
January 6	<b>Camp Ticonderoga</b>	5725 Rochester Rd Troy, MI 248.828.2825



## Treasurer's Report

Jim Mick



Check book balance for the end of Nov:	\$1947.39
Check book balance for the end of Oct:	\$1892.39
Balance 3 months ago:	\$2326.47
Balance 6 months ago:	\$2532.70

PayPal balance for the end of Nov:	\$896.00
PayPal balance for the end of Oct:	\$896.00

50/50 sold \$50 of tickets at the Nov Club meeting. Tom H. won. Nick H. brought the donuts, but didn't give me a receipt yet... so \$25 was added to the CkBk. I failed to bring the last 'super bag' remaining so let's see if I can remember to bring it in December and intend to give it to 'second draw' winner of our December 50/50 drawing.

Tom H and Don M. both renewed their membership for 2016 which added another \$30 to the CkBk.

Our 2015 membership stands at 85.  
Our 2016 membership stands at 5.

## ON LINE BANKING (repeat info from previous Newsletters)

**SAVE YOURSELF** (and the club) some **money** and frustration – send payments to the club for Membership renewal, Picnic reservation, Frankenmuth, Mid Winter Banquet reservations by using ON LINE BANKING. Almost all Banks and Credit Unions provide this **FREE** service. You don't even have to sign up online and they don't charge you for the postage. You can ask your local branch to set it up for you. Just tell your bank or credit union **when** and **how much** to pay **whom** (including address)... write it in your checkbook - without writing a check, or posting with your mail carrier... It's very easy to do on line - if you use a computer for anything. I know of no one who has converted to online banking and then gone back to the old (check writing) way. **Have your bank or Credit Union send all MCBeemers payments to Jim Mick, 56750 Fairchild Rd, Macomb, MI 48042** any you'll see verification of your payment in the Treasurer's report in the Newsletter.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS for 2016 (Repeat Info)

by Jim Mick

All renewal dues for 2016 should be paid by the end of January 2016, but we have no penalty for late renewals. We just want you back.

Following the February Club meeting, **Ives P. will change the Yahoo PASSWORD so those who have not renewed their membership for 2016 will lose access to 'Member Only' information and will no longer receive the monthly Newsletter.** Even more significant is that if you renew you membership later, yahoo will require us to send you an invitation again and you'll need to do a few things, indicated in the invitation, **to resume your "membership" with Yahoo.** It will only take you 10 minutes to renew your membership using PayPal – **even if you don't have a PayPal account,** but it may be even faster to use 'bill pay' at your bank/CU. Send me an E-mail ([jim@ridingiswonderful.com](mailto:jim@ridingiswonderful.com)) if you have questions on either using PayPal or 'bill pay' at your bank/CU.

## Trading Post

**2001 Suzuki SV650S.** Great shape. Repainted. Would be a great track bike for someone with that interest. Also have all the original plastic to put her back into her original shape. Any offer over \$1,600 seriously considered.

We also have some assorted riding gear that is available too. Call Rhys Blair at home 586-463-8117 or cell 586-216-3455



**BMW K1200LT** 62k loaded, runs great, new windshield \$4,900 for bike. Also, Unigo Trailer w/extras -- tire, wheel black powder coat, four trailer hitches. Complete \$2,000. Contact Larry Turk 313-563-0052



## 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](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



**FOR SALE**

***"MICK-O-Pegs"***

***Expanding comfort  
for more models***

Spring Loaded Highway Pegs for your K1200LT, pre-2010 R1200\_, R1150\_, R1100\_, R1200GSA and even the new 1600GT/GTL (if equipped w/engine guards). Look at [www.ridingiswonderful.com](http://www.ridingiswonderful.com)



**ONE YEAR FREE MEMBERSHIP**  
with purchase of motorcycle from BMW MOTORCYCLES OF DETROIT

**MOTOR CITY BEEMERS**  
**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Club Web Site – [www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers](http://www.bizblvd.net/mcbeemers)  
Club eGroup Email – [mcbeemers@yahoo.com](mailto:mcbeemers@yahoo.com)

Annual membership dues are \$15 per year for full membership and \$10 per year for each associate member and runs from January to January. Renewal payments are requested by January 31 of each year.

Please select 1 or more: ☐ Membership (\$15) ☐ Associate (\$10) ☐ each Additional Associates (\$10)  
AND select one: ☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Renewal following lapse of  years

(Please Print)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**National Motorcycle Club Membership Information**

Please check the appropriate boxes to signify current membership in the following national motorcycle clubs:

BMW Motorcycle Owners of America      No ☐      Yes ☐      #: \_\_\_\_\_

BMW Riders Association      No ☐      Yes ☐      #: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this application and payment to “Jim Mick” at:

Jim Mick  
56750 Fairchild Rd  
Macomb MI 48042

Dealership Use  
Only

OR send funds via PayPal to: [Jim@RidingIsWonderful.com](mailto:Jim@RidingIsWonderful.com)  
AND send completed form by e-mail to: [Jim@RidingIsWonderful.com](mailto:Jim@RidingIsWonderful.com)