

Motor City Beemers

Newsletter



July 2021

Volume 30, Number 7

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

BMW Motorcycles of Detroit

1301 S Rochester Rd - Suite B
Rochester Hills, MI 48307
(248) 402-4010

We welcome owners and fans of all bikes

“We got donuts!”

Our *next* meeting is: ... **July 10**

Following meeting is: **August 14**

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

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

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

BMW Logo is a registered trademark of BMW North America-

It's July! In June, I managed to get several state park photos for this year's Off The Beaten Path competition. More to come!

Our Sunrise to Sunset ride just took place. I couldn't join it, so I lived vicariously through the planning emails and the FB posts. Thanks go to Brian B. for planning and execution, and a special thanks to Jim M. for sharing his experience via a series of FB posts.

June meeting minutes:



- **2021 Picnic:** We discussed our lack of options, and agreed to hold this year's Picnic on September 11, the second Saturday of the month, our usual meeting day. Don M. will review our various park location options and let us know specifics once he has them.
- **BMW Logo and Branding:** Jerry P. informed us that his request to retain our heading font was denied, and showed us the RA-recommended logo that has now been forwarded to BMW AG for their consideration.
- **Upcoming rides:** Sunrise to Sunset and the MOA rally were both discussed. Please let me know if I'm missing something on the schedule which follows below, after the July Lunch Ride page.
- **June Lunch Ride:** We rode in two subgroups, but were never completely separated. It was a great selection of roads that took us through 3 counties. I particularly enjoyed the beautiful views along Abbotsford Road, which I don't recall ever riding before. Our lunch at Foxfire Fixins' was the usual eclectic fun to be had there. My thanks to Jeff A. and Rhys B. for the careful planning, organization, and leadership!

Our July Meeting – Saturday, July 10, 10:30am, Dealership parking lot, weather permitting: If the weather is inclement we'll meet online as a fall-

back option. *To meet online, be sure to use the smartphone app called "Jitsi Meet" or use a laptop or desktop browser and connect to <https://meet.jit.si> – type in our meeting name: **JulyMcbeemers**.*

July Meeting Agenda:

Frankenmuth Chicken Dinner: To be discussed: scheduling (3rd Saturday, September 18?), subsidized costs (\$5 per member?), parking, group ride planning, and the optional follow-on ride to Port Austin. *(For the Port Austin ride, the Blue Spruce Motel contacted Paula E. to let her know they are accepting reservations from us without a deposit, at the same rate as last year - \$119. Call 989-738-8650 to reserve a room.)*

Lunch ride: Jeff A. has planned a 30-mile lunch ride to our destination: The Celtic Knot at Lakeville Lake in Leonard. Details on the next page.

Until next month, when you have the opportunity to ride, have fun and stay safe!!

You can review the route on [Google Maps](#), you can download [this GPX file](#) for upload into your GPS, and you can print out the page and put it in your tank bag map holder or tape it to your tank.

We start from the Dealership and first ride to the U-Haul parking lot at Rochester & Tienken for staging, as downtown Rochester traffic patterns may separate the group.

U-Haul to Orion L

Orion to Atwater L

Atwater to M-24 (Lapeer) L

M-24 to Clarkston R

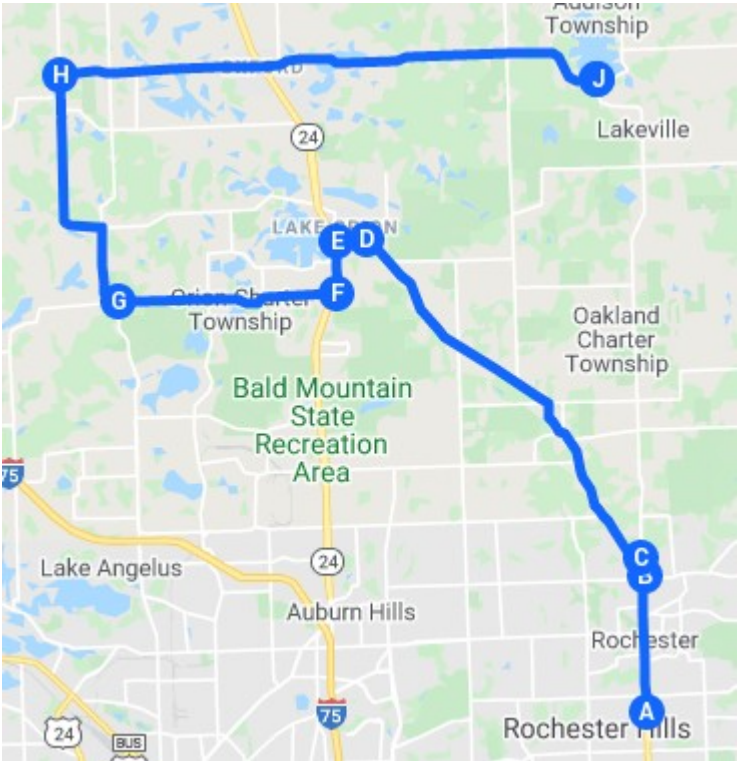
Clarkston to Baldwin R

Baldwin to Seymour Lake R

Seymour Lake becomes Lakeville

Lakeville becomes Rochester

Rochester to The Celtic Knot



Rides and Rallies

Ride	Destination or Base	Schedule	Club contact
Off the Beaten Path	Michigan Parks	April 1 – October 31	Josh G
3 U.P. SS1Ks,	Wakefield, MI	July 10	Jim V
RA National Rally	Waynesville, NC	August 12-15	
Where’s Waldo	Waldo, OH	August 21	Rhys B (assumed)
Frankenmuth / Port Austin	Frankenmuth Chicken Dinner and optional Port Austin overnight.	September 18	Don M, Jeff A
Color Tour	Irish Hills, MI	TBD	Josh G



For various reasons, it's been a bad riding year for me. I think I've managed about 20 miles so far on one bike. So don't be expecting a lot of personal riding stories here. And, not looking like it is going to be changing much.

As I mentioned last month, Jennifer Ott, BMW Motorcycles of Detroit's new salesperson has really been kicking butt and moving product. I talked to her after the last meeting about moving our meetings indoors, her answer was "no, not possible"...and it had nothing to do with COVID, but rather, Saturdays are her busiest day, she's busy closing deals and talking to walk-in customers, and in their small location, we would be very

much in the way. Well, how's that for a wonderful problem to have? Go Jennifer!

Jim Mick has provided us a report on the Sunrise to Sunset ride of last month, and some experience and lessons about riding in the rain.

Dinners: At our last meeting, there was discussion of restarting our Wednesday night dinners. One could assume our Wednesday dinners were canceled due to the COVID shutdown. While that did finish them off, we were already planning on suspending them for a while due to lack of interest. Attendance had dropped off to almost no one besides a few officers. However, at the June meeting, considerable interest was shown in resuming the Wednesday dinners. So – let's see what happens. Future dinners will be planned based on interest. As far as I am concerned, nothing is sacred – Is there a day better than Wednesday? Where should dinners be? How often?

AT THIS TIME, we are scheduling one dinner – Wednesday July 14, at Twisted Rooster in Chesterfield. Our gathering time will be the usual 6:30, and ordering around 7:00p. However, as staffing is difficult these days, we will be making a reservation and we will be needing a semi-accurate count of people who will be attending. More details to follow through the usual channels (Facebook, groups.io). Rumor has it that Bobby H. and her husband -- I think his name is Keith -- are in town, and are interested in joining us. As you will probably remember, Bobby (and Keith) were long time MCBeemers before they moved to Florida. Bobby is a wonderful person, of course, and Keith does something with motorcycles, so we let him join us. 😊

As Josh indicated above, it's not too early to be making reservations for the Blue Spruce in Port Austin after our Frankenmuth Chicken Dinner. They are holding our traditional block of rooms for now, but you need to call and make a reservation soon if you are planning on going. We already have our reservation!

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

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

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

Hosting Dealership: <https://bmwdetroit.com/>

Treasurer's Report

Jim Mick

40 Members for 2021 Membership is \$15.00 & Associate Member \$10.00 **per calendar year**

If your name is not here, you can rejoin at any time:

Jeff A, Mike B, Cathy B, Rhys & Jill B, Brain & Sheila B, Tom C, Ron & Tanya C, Walter D, Paula E, Eric G, Josh G, Bill H, Nick H, Alan & Jodi K, Mike & Sharon M, Don & Gail M, Jim & Jeri M, Nick & Pam N, Norm O, Don & Carolynne P, Mike P, Jerry & Margaret P, Tim S, Rob & Joan S, Curtis U, Jim & Debbie U, Mary V, Jim V.

15 prepaid for Picnic – Active member cost is \$5. The club decided to not have a picnic in 2020. Since nobody asked for a refund, I have carried forward payments to our 2021 picnic:

Cathy B, Rhys & Jill B, Paula E, Josh G, Nick H, Mike & Sharon M, Don & Gail M, Jim & Jeri M, Don & Carolynne P, Tim S.



Check book balance for the end of May	\$2718.41
Check book balance for the end of April	\$2785.41
Balance one year ago	\$2749.55
Balance six months ago	\$2440.41
Balance three months ago	\$2610.41
PayPal balance for the end of May	\$311.34
PayPal balance for the end of April	\$326.34.34

5 prepaid for Frankenmuth – Active member cost \$5

6/12 Received \$25 from Nick & Pam N for 2021 membership.

6/12 Received \$15 from Mike P for 2021 membership

6/12 Received \$27 when Josh G won the 50/50

6/16 Received \$15 in PPal from NEW MEMBER Eric Gierahn.

You can still send payments for any club functions using Pay Pal to 'jim@ridingiswonderful.com'. If you have a Pay Pal account (rather than using a CC/DC) and call me a "friend", neither the club, nor you, pay a fee. But if you use Pay Pal and a CC/DC, the club does pay a fee.

A very good way to pay is to use your Bank/CU 'Bill Pay' option. Most banks/CUs charge no fee, so at least you save postage. Just, have them send payment(s) to Jim Mick, 56750 FAIRCHILD RD, MACOMB, MI 48042. Once you input any payee name and address into their Bill Pay system, subsequent payments only require you to input the amount (and date). Please indicate in the memo for what you are paying.

MOTOR CITY BEEMERS NAME TAGS

Motor City Beemer name tags are available for purchase at Highest Honor, Inc., located at **34711 Dequindre Road, Troy, Michigan 48083**. The easiest way to get your ID tag is to send Jeff an e-mail at: www.jeff@highesthonor.biz or call Jeff at **248-588-7845**.

Sunrise to Sunset report (Riding in the Rain)

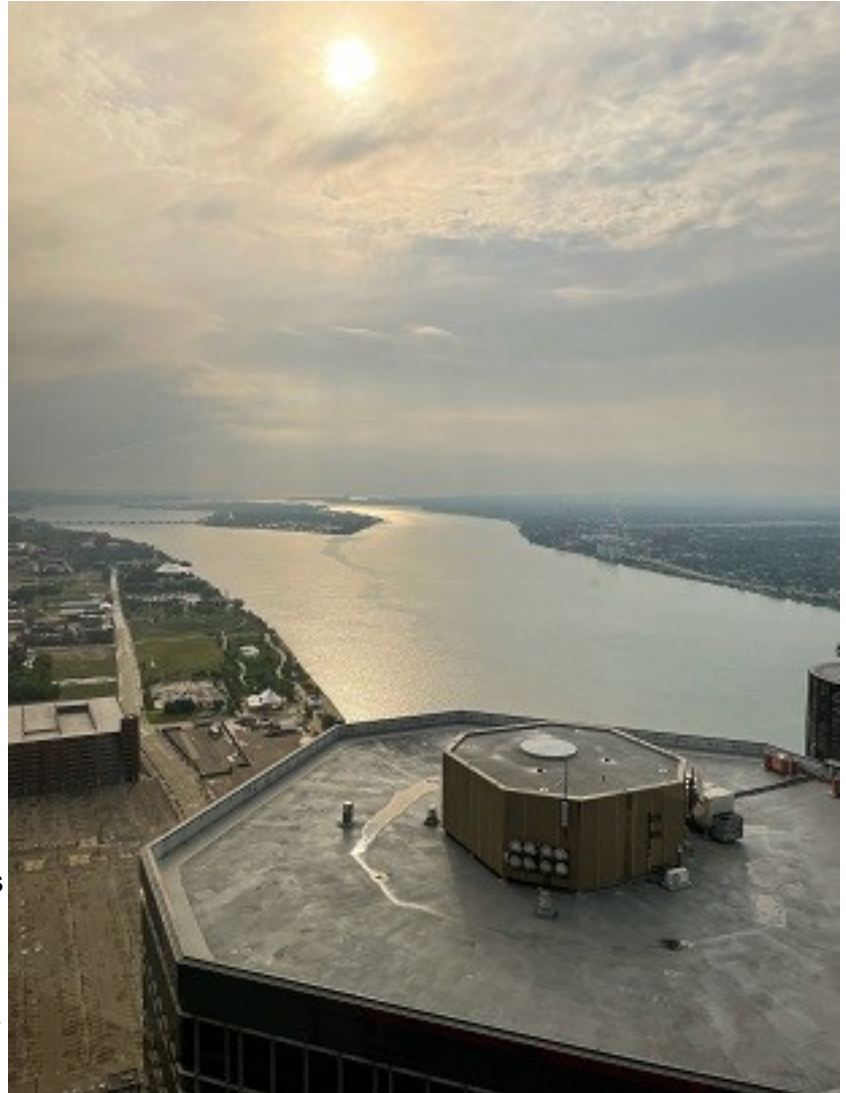
Jim Mick



The 2021 'Sunrise to Sunset' ride was an ideal time to test raingear and determine where improvements are needed.

There was no sunrise to be seen, but there was a break in the rain for our ride to, and while Brian, Jay & I met at, the SANGB boat launch on Saturday morning (6/26/21).

Alan & Jodi stayed, Friday night, at the RenCen celebrating their 37th wedding anniversary and got a partial view of a sunrise reflected over the Detroit River.



The ride to the '**Junction of Hope**' for breakfast was in and out of some light rain. Arriving while it was raining, just 10 min before they opened at 8AM, the fingers of my gloves were wet, but not above the fingers. Brian, Jay and I stood under the eve and planed the ride for the day. We decided it was worth the additional time and few extra miles to visit a state park before the two covered bridges. The thigh area of my rain pants was almost totally dry, but my butt started to feel damp from the small amount of rain that had settled on my bike's seat. My feet felt dry, but the outside of my boots was fully wet. So far, my water-resistant boots appeared to be doing their job.

All of our reports of breakfast were 'Excellent'. Every Saturday morning at 8AM there is a gathering of more than a dozen locals who sit together. We couldn't help but eavesdrop on some of their conversations, while having our own.

Leaving the **Junction of Hope**, we soon dropped down to State Route (SR) 21 to be set up for visiting a State Park. Heading south, we got our first (only) glimpse of blue sky and almost saw the sun, but didn't.



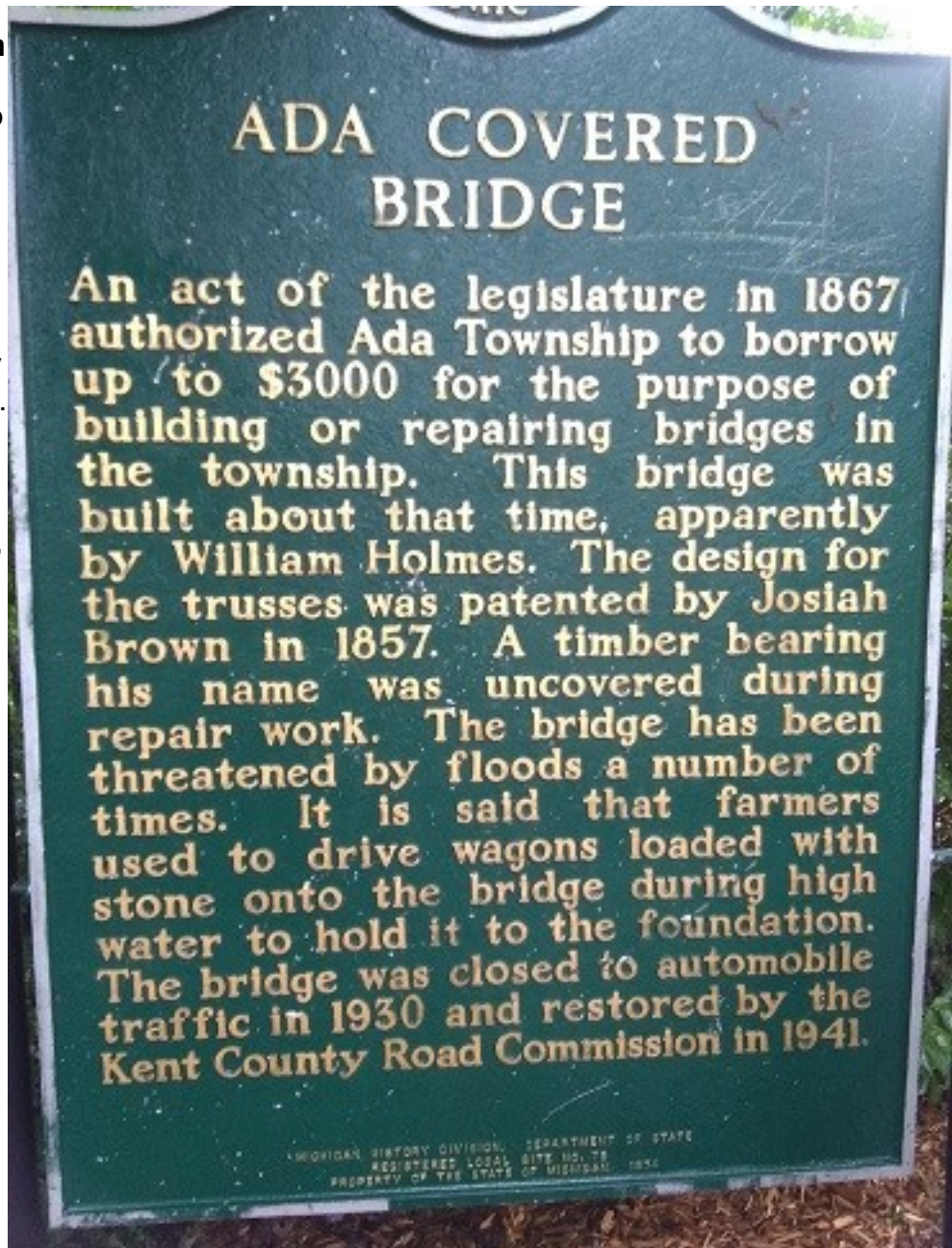
Brian had been to the **Sleepy Hollow State Park** with his father several years before, and almost had a break in the rain when we arrived. After taking pics at Sleep Hollow, we got into some raingear testing:

1. Water from helmet to shirt. I like having wind in my face so I usually ride with a $\frac{3}{4}$ helmet. Since the forecast was for mostly rain, I had installed my flip-up face shield because I don't enjoy rain pelting my cheeks. When it rains hard, you might like to have some way to prevent rain from getting inside the neck of your rain jacket. I like to have a bandana about my neck most of the time, but that can wick water to my shirt. When I anticipate very heavy rain, I will often put the hood of my jacket under my helmet. That does a great job of keeping

my shirt dry, but may make my head uncomfortable on warm days.

Between the Sleepy Hollow State Park and visiting our first **Covered Bridge in Lowell, MI**, we got into some heavy rain. My bandana was wicking water to my shirt. Having my shirt collecting water was not a problem since the temps stayed between 70 and 73 all day (according to my bike thermometer). 5 or 10 degrees colder or hotter would become uncomfortable to be wet. Being able to stay totally dry would have its advantages at any temp.

2. GPS. My GPS is not waterproof so I had a zip-lock baggie over it. That can collect moisture and get fogged up, making it almost totally impossible to see while trying to ride. When we visited our second **covered bridge in Ada**, we parked our bikes and walked onto the bridge. The heat from a parked bike can cause fogging problems for a GPS when it has been/is raining.



When we left the parking lot, Brian made a left, but was unable to see his GPS. Mine suggested “when possible, make a U-Turn”, so Brian asked me to lead the way to our lunch stop. Brian was expecting about one hour to lunch, but I had programmed into my GPS ‘no highways’ so it took us much longer. Brian remembered it was basically a short stretch on I-96 and then just two main roads from the second covered bridge to lunch, but he wondered if I led the group around in circles.

3. Water to your butt. Long before stopping for lunch, I knew the butt of my raingear was not keeping water out, I didn’t want to remove my rain pants when we stopped at **Lefty & Romos’ Bar & Grill**, Non-riders might not understand the two-tone jeans and riders who did understand would quickly realize my rain pants weren’t doing their job, so I just ate with my rain pants on. It’s probably the first place we will notice when our rain pants have exceeded their life. Being in wet clothes when stopping for lunch, where the AC is on and an overhead fan in moving the air, can be an unpleasant chilling experience. Jay was visibly shivering while we waited for our food.

By the time we finished lunch it was again raining ‘cats and dogs’, but at least it felt warmer outside. Where I had parked was a half inch deep stream flowing. We decided to skip the two State Parks we had planned and just arrive the Hotel early.

Check-In was allowed at 3PM and we headed for the pool. Brian, Jay and I marveled that the pool was on the second floor. The Manistee Hotel was OK, but even with the indoor pool here, we liked **Nader’s Motel & Suites**, in Ludington, better. We spent some time in the hot tub and the pool and then were able to connect with Alan & Jodi who had made the trip in their pretty blue 1995 933 Porsche. The forecast looked like no rain for a few hours so we put on dry clothes and shoes and headed into town. Alan and Jodi went into town ahead of us and were at the bar of the **Blue Fish Kitchen & Bar**, waiting for a table. Brian, Robb S. and I had visited that place on the 2020 S2S ride.



Meals with club members is not just about the food. It’s an opportunity to get to know each other better and I’m going to assume that Alan and Jodi enjoyed our couple of hours together as much as Brian, Jay and I did. I realized, too late, that we didn’t learn anything new about Jodi.

4. Sunset. The sky had a light area to the Southwest of Manistee piers, but the sun should have been setting more to the Northwest. It was so overcast, that none of us could identify exactly where the sun should have been setting, but we got some pics anyway.

5. Wet feet. I mentioned my ‘water-resistant’ boots earlier. I never did anything to keep them waterproof so they allowed my nearly knee-high socks to get wet. I had put my jeans inside my boots with my rain pants covering the top half of my boots. It’s obviously important to have the bottoms of your rain-pants lower than the top of any rain-proof boots. Since my boots were no longer able to keep water out, my socks wicked water up to my jeans so when I took off my rain pants, I found no water in my boots, but my socks were wet as well as the bottom 6” of my jeans.

6. Two more State Parks. After a brief stop just north of Manistee to 'bag' the **Orchard Beach SP**, Brian and Jay headed north after breakfast at the hotel and I headed east.

I stopped at the Wm Mitchell State Park in Cadillac and the Wilson State Park on the way home. I only had two short periods of rain after leaving Manistee.



Not too early to start making plans for S2S 2022... (or your next ride in the rain).

New Member: Eric G.

Jim Mick

We have a new member who has shared some info and pictures, Eric G.:

"I Started riding when I was a kid in rural Illinois on a Kawasaki KE100 (my parents both rode). After getting my endorsement in my teens on a Honda Nighthawk 750, I drifted away from riding after going to college, getting married, and having kids. Took riding back up around 10 years ago. First two bikes were Harley Davidson V-Rods. After doing Sturgis on the VRod, decided that a touring bike might be a good choice so I then purchased a Road King (see other picture). From there I picked up the Livewire last fall and started having fun on that. Most recently, I decided to get into the ADV space so just sold my Road King and ordered a new PanAmerica (after carefully considering a 1250GS and Multistrada V4S).

I currently work at General Motors in Finance/Engineering and in addition to motorcycles, I am a car nut (having owned quite a few fun rides - most recently a Corvette Grand Sport but recently sold that for a Jeep Wrangler Rubicon Diesel.) Track days and now off-roading are part of my hobbies.

My family consists of my wife Kim (a 1st grade teacher in Oxford) and my two boys who are attending Western Michigan University in their business school."

