

# Motor City Beemers

## Newsletter



July 2024

Volume 33, Number 7

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: ... **June 8, 2024 10:30 am**

Following meeting is: ... **July 13, 2024 10:30am**

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

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1st Vice President  
2nd Vice President  
Treasurer  
Newsletter Editor

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

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

Greetings MCBeemers!

June's picnic was, as usual, great. Don brought us a fantastic tray of brisket, beans, coleslaw, and cornbread, and AND some friends from the Blue Knights club he is in. Great time and great food and we met some new friends.



Good news, your Fearless (but busy) president has managed to blow past the three digits for "number of miles rode for 2024" and is well on his way to 4 digits (assuming 20% can be stretched to "well on his way"). Lame, I know, but at least I am well past last year's riding.

Our next major event will be the Frankenmuth Chicken dinner. Details should be coming soon.

Maybe THIS weekend will be the one we make it to Bullfrog's. Or anywhere. Weather on the Second Saturday of the month just hasn't been very cooperative lately.

And...I've been sitting here staring at this page for way too long and not coming up with much to say.. So... don't be like me, get out and RIDE!

## **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>

Does anyone remember the club’s Bent Beemer awards? You certainly do if you ever got one. I’m one of the unlucky few who got two! Aside from being a reminder of a couple of personal mistakes I would like to forget, they’re each a brilliant example of humorous handmade wood burning art by John Saarinen. After stepping away for some years, John has rejoined the club! Not only is he back, he’s written a “short” introduction for us, which follows after Jim’s report, starting on page 6.



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I had a great time at the picnic! We had, as always, too much food and lots of fun. It was a lovely day and the venue has, I think, already been booked again for 2025.

Were you able to get to the BMW Detroit open house on July 5? The event was fairly short notice; Nick posted it to the Club’s FB page after it was announced.. I couldn’t make the event, but I hope some of you did.

I’ve been doing a little riding. Some commuting, some puttering around on days off. Not a lot of miles, but still, enjoyable!

Below is a list of the (non-meeting) events on the club’s activity page from our website. There are only two activities listed. As Nick noted, the next club-sponsored activity will be Frankenmuth, with specifics still to be determined and announced.

As always, when you can, get out there and ride!

8/8/2024	Motorcycle Night, Jimmy John's Field.
8/29-9/1	BMW RA National Rally, Fryeburg, Maine <a href="#">Website</a>

# Treasurer's Report

Jim Mick

## TREASURER'S REPORT 28 June 2024

41 Members for 2023:

Jeff A, Mike B, Cathy B, Jill B, Brian & Sheila B, Tom C, Walter D, Dennis G, Bob H, Linda H, Aaron G, Josh G, Nick H, Paula E, John J, Pat & Lynn K, Alan & Jodi K, Mike & Sharon M, Don & Gail M, Jason M, Jim & Jeri M, Jeremy N, Don & Carolynne P, Jerry & Margaret P, John Saarinen, Eli S, 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. John Saarinen has renewed his membership. Look for info about him elsewhere in the newsletter and introduce yourself to him when you next see him.

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 May:	\$808.68
Check book balance for the end of Jun:	\$523.52
Balance one year ago:	\$1772.13
Balance six mo ago:	\$1357.13
Balance three mo ago:	\$778.68

6/28 Picnic reimbursement check to Don M for \$285.16

June 17, 2024

Hi gang!

Thank you for accepting me back into the MCB club. Some have known me for quite a while, others will get to know me given enough time. I hope you find me an open book, I try not to step on anybody's toes, but at times the spirit rises up and gets me in trouble. I will try my best to respect everyone's point of view. I love to ride it is one of the last things in my life that gives me a sense of freedom and adventure.

I never thought about motorcycles when I was growing up. My biggest thrill was when I found enough parts in the alleys to assemble a bike that I could ride. Short time later the bike would be run over by one of my sisters who was in a hurry to go somewhere, or liberated by person or persons unknown. I should have learned to not park my bike in the side drive. I was obviously a slow learner.

My fascination with motorcycles started when an older kid two doors down bought a used Honda 50 or 65. He was so proud of the bike. He kept asking everybody if he could take them for a ride. I can remember the thrill as that bike would accelerate to 30 mph, and sometimes he could get it up to 35 mph! The seed had been planted. In high school a friend bought a used Honda Super 90. We were all green with envy. Four of the guys from our group, me included, found out we could rent Suzuki 80s. The five of us took a long trip, 20 maybe even 30 miles. All of us learned on the fly...and in crashes. Cost to rent them was cheap, the parts and service post-trip became another problem.

Fast forward to college. I went away to Michigan Tech. Had the crazy idea that I was going to ride down to Detroit every 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> weekend to visit my girlfriend. I bought a Kawasaki F9 which was a single cylinder two stroke 350cc enduro. The guys in the dorm convinced me that a 350 wasn't powerful. I went to the dealership in Calumet to pick it up. Slipped the clutch a lot to get me down the street and stopped at the stop sign at the end of the block. I started to feel confident and remembering what the guys at the dorm said, I revved it up and let the clutch out a little too fast. I was supposed to turn left but the front wheel came off the ground and the bike went on and angle across the intersection. Bike jumped the curb in front of the Chevy dealer and some how went parallel to the big glass window instead of through it. The rest of the trip back to the dorm was done at a much slower pace. First trip I tried was to Marquette which was only 100 miles. At 60 mph the handle bars vibrated so bad I lost the feeling in both my hands. After that I started riding in the dirt, following trails, foot paths, or just followed the front wheel. Four enduro bikes later I piled up 90,000+ miles in 8 years living in Houghton.

So started a life in motorcycling. Started riding a 1976 Kawasaki 900 LTD road bike. Started taking cross country trips and piled 65,000+ mile on it before a mechanic at the Kawasaki dealer talked me into getting the head reworked to avoid future issues. It turns out he damaged the head so badly that I could only ride short distances in case I needed to make more adjustments to the valves. Still have that bike. Added a 1973 Kawasaki Z1, 1976 KZ350, and 3 1972 & 1973 Yamaha DT2 250cc motorcycles.

My employer sent me to Europe for 3 years. My wife and I went to the "local" BMW dealer in Knoxville – only 2 ½ hours away – to buy a 1993 K1100LT BMW for European delivery. Rode Europe making all my company's technical or sales trips by motorcycle. Put 15000+ miles traveling to and through 13 countries. The company then shipped our



bike to Virginia where we lived for 2 years.

Living in Virginia I provided technical support to 5 plants scattered around North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Every week I would leave the house before 6am and stop at each of the plants, and getting home late Friday evening. Piled on tons of miles. Took off the top case and used the luggage rack on the back to carry piles of steering gears between the plants. It was my light duty pick up truck.

They moved us to the Detroit area. Before the move we shed the threeYamahas. The Kaw 350 was given to my nephew who wanted to learn how to ride. It was there that I found Don Lusk at BMW of Detroit who was finally able to fix problems that plagued the bike since the first day of ownership. However, passing through Detroit one day on my way to a customer, someone waited until I got to the intersection to turn in front of me. I went to the hospital by ambulance. The bike was not so lucky, it was pronounced dead at the scene. Poor bike only had 86,000miles + and was running like a Swiss watch. I miss that bike.

In December 2003 , when I could close my left hand and raise my right leg, we bought another BMW. This time is was an R1150RT BMW. With that bike I have almost completed the 49 continental states and most of Canada. It is running great and has about 147,000 miles. Jim Mick and I rode to Alaska one year. We rode west into Montana where we met my cousin Fritz and the continued to Alaska. Loved the trip and would like to do it again. I will tell you, even with two sheep skins, and one sheep skin gel pad, I couldn't sit down or lay on me back or sides. My backside hurt so bad, it felt like someone beat it with a 2-by-4.

Thank you for letting me back in.  
Respectfully, John Saarinen