

The Monthly NEWSletter of the WEST MICHIGAN BMW RIDERS

JANUARY 2012

www.wmbmwr.com

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:	Bill Hankinson _____	616-786-3645
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TREASURER:	Phil Nellis _____	231-733-4619



CHARTERED CLUB: BMW MOA-#230.....BMW RA-#109

January 11, 2012.....Well I'm back at doing the newsletter again. I am still at the Inn at Mary Free Bed, doing continuum therapies until the end of February. My progress is coming along great. I have been attending the club breakfasts along with Barb who drives me places. We manage well with all the latching down and unlatching of my chair in the vehicle. It's good to get out and the weather has been cooperating for this as well. I hope to get a handle on the newsletter and sending it out to you in a timely manner with all the information you expect. Please bear with me for a few months as I get settled into the routine. Also I wish to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, calls, visits and help.
Bill Dirkmaat

PREMISE for the CLUB: There are a number of local riders who would like to get together with other riders once in a while. Most everyone is "busy", so a local club is not intended to be the focal point of anyone's social life.

The CLUB'S GOAL: To provide an occasional opportunity for area riders to get together for conversation and to ride with other BMW enthusiasts.

CLUB EVENT DATES TO REMEMBER:

BREAKFAST/MEETINGS: All Breakfast/Meetings are held on the second Sunday of the month unless otherwise notified. We meet at 9:00 AM at: **NEW BEGINNINGS RESTAURANT**, 4735 Lake Michigan Dr., Standale, Mi. ¼ mile west of Wilson Ave. Their phone number is 616-735-4902.

Upcoming dates: **Feb. 12, 2012 (2nd Sunday), March 11, 2012 (2nd Sunday), April 15, 2012 (3rd Sunday), May 20th, 2012 (3rd Sunday) Please note that April and May will be the third Sunday.**

CLUB RIDES: We will have seven scheduled club rides for 2012 starting in April of next year. We'll be looking for you then. If you have any favorite routes or destinations let us know and we'll try to incorporate them into a ride.

MICHIGAN DESTINATIONS 2012 – Watch this spot, coming soon.

CLUB NEWSLETTER: Mailed or emailed on a monthly basis. If you have any concerns or contributions you may contact me, William Dirkmaat at: 11801 Hoskins NE, Cedar Springs, MI. 49319. Phone: 616-263-9110, cell-616-340-4440 or WMBMWRIDERS@charter.net

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST: Please note that you may obtain more information in the BMW MOA ON and BMW RA OTL magazines for some of these events. More local events can be found posted on the bulletin board at the shop.

Mark your calendars for these Events of interest for 2012

Lakeshore Blessing of the Bikes, Apr. 29, 2012, Holland, MI.

Mini Rally, May 4-6, 2012, Sturgis, MI.

BMW-RA, June 14-17, 2012, Copper Mountain, CO.

BMW-MOA, July 19-22, 2012, Sedalia, MO.

Falling Leaf Rally, Oct. 12-14, 2012, Potosi, MO.

We received the following info via email. If anyone is interested in the room rates for the resort contact Bill Hankinson and I will forward the information to you.

I have received many requests for information about lodging at this fantastic BMW RA Grand National Rally site that is located in Cooper Mountain, Colorado. This rally site is above the 6000ft mark in the rocky mountains of Colorado for cool night sleeping with pleasant days to go exploring the surrounding area. The RA has 3 designated camping areas. The main one is at the base of the resort. It is a soccer field and totally flat. At the soccer field is also a big parking lot for RV's or trailers that do not require electric. Bathrooms are located here. Camping will be allowed here no earlier than Wednesday before the rally. On Thursday, camping is also available inside the ski resort. I have attached the room rates for the resort to give this information for your club members.

Michael Johnston
BMW RA Chartered Clubs Coordinator

CLUB T-SHIRTS and SWEATSHIRTS: Thinking about a present? Need to replace a tattered or torn one? The available shirts and sweatshirts are as follows: Contact Bill D. at 616-263-9110 or 616-340-4440

- T-Shirts:**
- ASH** (blue & red printing); (no pocket); 1 – Large, 9 – X-Large; @ \$8.50
 - (with pocket); 3 – X-Large; @ \$9.50
 - BLACK** (white printing); (no pocket); 3 – X-Large; @ \$8.50
 - (with pocket); 2 – X-Large; @ \$9.50
 - WHITE** (blue & red printing); (no pocket); 1 – Small, @ \$8.50
- Sweatshirts:**
- ASH** (blue & red printing); 1 – Large, 3 – X-Large; @ \$16.00
 - BLACK** (white printing); 3 – X-Large; @ \$16.00

More Random Musings.....by Bill Hankinson

Here we go again, another brand new year to enjoy. I hope you all had as much fun as I did in 2011. Just a few statistics on our last year are probably in order. We had our breakfast/meeting every month with a total of 224 participants attending, which averages out to about 19 a breakfast/meeting. We completed 5 of the 7 planned club rides, our first two got canceled due to weather. We had a total of 47 bikes that took part in those. We had two charity events for the year, the MOA Rally Charity and the Bud & Geri Hamilton Memorial Run, for which we raised \$360.00 and \$190.00 respectfully with a challenge contribution from the club treasury and matching contributions from our individual members.

Our memberships dropped a couple this year, we now have 46 memberships, some of whom we see every month and some whom we would not recognize if they showed up. Come on down and share a breakfast with the rest of us, it is always a fun event and we would love to see you. We are always interested in adding new members to our group, so if you know someone who is riding a BMW and is not a member, invite them to come and join us. If you would like a couple copies of the Club Brochure to carry with you and give to a fellow BMW rider that you encounter when you are out and about just ask one of the club officers and we will see that you get some.

As much as I hate to rub it in, we arrived at our winter destination, Manzanillo, MX., on January 5th and were welcomed by 83 degrees and sunshine. The normal temps for us here are low to mid 80's in the daytime and high 60's, low 70's at night. Short sleeves, shorts and sandals are the uniform of the day. Motorcycle sightings to date are as follows; one metric twin and lots of the small 125cc/150cc utility bikes. No BMW's in evidence yet but I will keep my eyes peeled.

Thought for the Month: He who laughs last, thinks slowest.

Historical Note: Gas price, January 2011 \$ 2.989/gal.

Gas price, Jan. 2012, Mexico\$ 10.10 pesos/liter= \$2.80/gal USD

January 8, 2012, Breakfast/Meeting.....by Bill Dirkmaat

It's a cool morning but dry for the most part, not your typical January weather. As Barb and I go to the restaurant I comment that if there were a motorcycle there it would be one of the Hankinsons. I know Bill and Joanne are in Mexico and my best guess would be Mike. As it turns out, it was Mike that rode in. He informed us that Gordon had also left this week for the warmer climes. We have a small turn out of 11 people. They are:

John and Diane Obermeyer, Phil Nellis, Allan Dewey, Bill and Virginia Lane, Mike Hankinson, Larry Schwallier and Kristy Hollingsworth, and Bill and Barb Dirkmaat. The breakfast is excellent as usual and we all greet in the New Year with each other. Not much for plans for the next riding season, just getting through the winter first, (not to hard to do yet). A few more will be heading south also. We will remain and hold down the fort. Next month we will meet on Sunday, February 12, 2012, at 9AM. Hope that you can make it.

Club Dues: Our annual club dues are due in January and we mailed out the dues notices in November. The notice will advise you of your dues status. That form also has areas for you to update any of your personal information if required. You can return the form with your payment at our breakfast/meeting or mail to WMBMWRiders, 11801 Hoskins N. E., Cedar Springs, MI. 49319

Member Want Ads:

Do you need to find a new home for some of those neglected or unused items? Let me know what you would like to list here and I will put it in on a monthly basis. Please call me at 616-340-4440 or email at wmbmwridders@charter.net and we will be glad to list it.

FOR SALE: Two chrome plated steel rims for early "R" bikes. Brand **NEW**, still in factory wrappings.
One complete generator system off 1981 R100: Rotor, stator, diode board, and wiring harness.
(Replaced with a 450 watt EnDuraLast System) **Contact John at 616-301-4298.**

WANTED: A left side battery cover for an "85" to "95" R100RT, BMW Part # 46 631 452 435, contact Bill Hankinson, 616-786-3645 or billandjo09@yahoo.com

WANTED: Looking for a GPS that will work on my motorcycle, Garmin?
Call or email Phil Nellis at, 231-733-4619, prn.31251@verizon.net

BMW MOTORCYCLES of GRAND RAPIDS
5995 S. Division – Grand Rapids, Mi. 49548
Phone: (616) 530-6900 Fax: (616) 530-8421
E-mail: bmwmcgr@bmwmcgr.com
Website: www.bmwmcgr.com

WINTER HOURS

Mon.	Closed
Tue. – Thru.	9:00 to 6:00
Friday	9:00 to 7:00
Saturday	9:00 to 3:00

EVENTS: Check out the shop's website for the latest happenings

The Last of the Last Page:

* As I had said in the beginning of this newsletter, it's great to be getting back into some of the things that I had done in the past. Doing the newsletter helps me to stay in touch with you and the things I loved to do. I have not yet figured out how or what I will do to replace the motorcycle. There are many possibilities out there and I am checking them out online. My involvement in motorcycling will be steering into a new direction that will be suiting my needs, but still fulfilling all the requirements that I've enjoyed in the past. I will keep you informed of my findings and discoveries as they come.

* As I've had some time to play around and look over the changes for the club logo and name, I've got a few thoughts. I know that Bill Hankinson has diligently done his best to comply with BMW's request for the changes they want and I appreciate everything he has done in my absence with taking over the newsletter and seeing that the club's needs are taken care of. Thank you Bill for doing this in this eye-opening situation.

Now back to the club logo and name issue. Here are my concerns:

1) As far as the club name goes, I know we must delete the "BMW" part, but I felt something was missing with just having it WEST MICHIGAN RIDERS. My thought was to put motorcycle in place of BMW and have it become; WEST MICHIGAN MOTORCYCLE RIDERS.

2) The logo to me would then incorporate MOTORCYCLE into the name and in the inner circle I would leave the state and motorcycle with the two riders just as it was with the original logo. Next I thought to use the roundel location as a wheel with a roadway wrapping around it from the motorcycle's front tire to the top part of the state to signify the west portion of the state.

3) We would still use the blue and white background field in the BMW required log specs.

Thank you for listening to me sound out my thoughts and please let me know what you think.

Bill Dirkmaat..... [wjdbmwr100r@charter.net](mailto:wjdjbmwr100r@charter.net) or 616-340-4440 or mail to:
11801 Hoskins NE
Cedar Springs, Mi. 49319