



Newsletter

BMW-MOA
Charter Club #277

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LV Beemers Club History

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

Club Monthly Breakfast and Ride!
President's Message
Recent Rides Summary - September
Upcoming Rides and Events – October-December, 2022
Club Business
Club Photos for the Month

Club Monthly Breakfast and Ride! – Cancelled due to Club Picnic on SATURDAY October 9!

President's Message

Dear LV Beemers Club Members,

This month the message is about rider safety. A couple of our club members have recently been injured – one when he was off road doing some adventure riding. The other rider was waiting at a red traffic light. When the light changed to green the driver behind him stepped on the gas and hit him from behind while still stopped. The impact knocked our club member off his bike and both bike and rider were a bit bruised. Nothing a rider can do about that?

Neither injury was life threatening. But they affect us and our life and loved ones.

In the news recently, PA State Senator Pat Browne was in a motorcycle crash in Colorado. He had significant injuries, but is expected to fully recover. Single vehicle crash. In the past few months, I've seen reports of several motorcycle crashes that included fatalities in the Allentown Morning call. Some are single vehicle crashes, others are not.

We all love motorcycling. It's in our blood. As we know, Motorcycling is also be a dangerous hobby. Most club members are very experienced riders - but still accidents can happen. Some accidents happen due to rider error, at other times it is motorist error – a vehicle hitting a motorcyclist like above. I follow news articles on every motorcycle crash I see to try to understand what happened, the cause, and identify what I can learn from it.

I researched recent motorcycle accident statistics on-line, and found these factoids:

- Motorcycles make up only 3% of the entire motor vehicle fleet on the roads, yet account for 14% of all traffic-related fatalities nationwide. Source: NHTSA.
- A review of data on ‘crash types resulting in fatal accidents’ show that 40% are single vehicle crashes, while 53 % are accidents involving 2 vehicles (including the motorcycle). Source: NSC.

Types of accidents: Source: Motorcycle Legal Foundation

- Rear End Collision (including sudden stops by the motorcyclist)
- Lane Change (including Lane splitting)
- Left Turn (42 % of all motorcycle crashes are left turn crashes)
- Head On Collision
- Side Swipes
- Impact with an Open Vehicle Door
- Intoxicated Drivers (motorcyclist and/or driver in vehicle). 33% of motorcycle deaths involve this.

Most Common Causes of Motorcycle Accidents

The most common causes of motorcycle accidents (all accidents, not just fatalities, and these causes include non-motorcycle rider causes): Source: Motorcycle Legal Foundation

- Alcohol and drug impairment.
- Distracted driving.
- Reckless driving.
- Speeding.
- Road rage.
- Poor or impaired visibility.
- Drowsy or sleepy.
- Improper lane use, including lane splitting.

Here are some reminders we should all take heed of when we get on our bikes (Source: MSF):

1. **Be visible.** Motorists often have trouble seeing motorcycles, so wear bright clothing and a light-colored helmet. Always have your headlight on, day and night, and avoid riding in blind spots of cars and trucks. If possible, flash your brake light when slowing down and before stopping.
2. **But pretend you are invisible.** If you assume others on the road can't see you, and any car that can hit you will hit you, you will tend to ride in a hyper-aware mindset and learn to notice every detail in your surroundings. Take extra responsibility for your safety and ride defensively.
3. **Gear up every ride.** Wear proper riding gear from head to toe. Full-face helmets provide the best protection, and jackets, pants, gloves, and boots that are made for riding will generally be made of abrasion-resistant material, include protective armor, and provide additional comfort.
4. **Use good riding strategies.** Constantly search the road for changing conditions and use the Search-Evaluate-Execute strategy (SEE) to assess and respond to hazards before you must react to an emergency. Ride Unimpaired. Stay within your skill level/limits. Be aware of your fatigue level and stop riding or take a break when fatigued. Stay Hydrated!
5. **Before you ride, check over your bike.** Make a habit of doing a pre-ride check, which includes looking over your tires and wheels, checking fluids, cables, your bike's chassis, lights and electronics, and the stands. Use the [T-CLOCS inspection checklist](#) to help you. I dusted off the T-CLOCS checklist and attached it at end of newsletter.

My perspective: I assume I may get into an accident every time I get on my bike. I wear heavy duty gear so that I can minimize injury – even if it's hot. My gear is year-round. I assume no motorist sees me because, frankly, they really don't. So that goes to the MSF reminders of being seen (and heard): I installed clearwater lights, and have flashing lights on the back around my license plate – to be seen. If I need to use my horn – I have a 140-decibel truck horn. I use it a lot when I am watching those potential Left-turn-in-front-of-me motorists (on a straightaway or in an intersection). I've used it many times. I purchased and placed on the back of my helmet the 'Brake Free' System – it flashes bright and annoyingly at motorists behind me using a built-in gyro when I brake (engine brake or motorcycle brakes). Lastly, I use the SEE strategy when riding - a 360 search constantly for dangers lurking out there. Front/sides/behind. Lastly, I try to ride within my skill level. Clint Eastwood once said, 'A man's got to know his limitations'. Be aware of yours and ride accordingly. I've done ok so far: started riding again in 2010 after a 30-year sabbatical, hit 100,000 motorcycle miles this year.

Bottom line: accidents can and do happen. So, think about what you can do to minimize the probability of an accident, or mitigate the outcome, when you ride. Let's all help each other prevent accidents by revisiting what we've learned in our past training, being aware and conscious of safety behaviors as we ride, and talking it up amongst ourselves when we get together.

I DO want to bring a safety training course to the Club. When MSF was the training program in PA, I'd take the ARC each year (Advanced Rider Course) as a refresher in the spring. Since PA DMV dumped MSF several years ago there are really no courses beyond the basic license course. Here are some training options for club members that are can be funded or co-funded by your BMWMAO Membership:

1. Sign up for the 'street skills' on-line course through the BMWMOA website ([see link at end of this section](#)). Cost is normally \$50, free for BMWMOA members. While it's not training through riding, we can all learn some tidbits to apply on the road from an on-line course.
2. Individually sign up for a motorcycle safety training course and apply for a BMWMOAF Paul B. Memorial Scholarship. The course could be anywhere. The purpose of the Paul B. Scholarship is to award grants to individuals in the motorcycle riding community to assist them in pursuing rider education and training opportunities. The Foundation will award grants of up to \$250 for MOA members (amount not to exceed the actual cost of the training), towards the cost of participation in an approved training course. See the form on the BMWMOA website to apply.
3. I will seek advanced rider training that we can bring to the Lehigh Valley. We would all need to apply for the BMWMOAF Paul B Memorial Scholarship. I would need to find a facility willing to host the training. ***I'd like your feedback on this option: Please let me know if you are interested in attending a day of training if I am able to coordinate something on a Saturday or a Sunday next year. Please email the club email address to let me know.*** I will also talk to nearby clubs to see if they have interest as well.

Thanks! RIDE SAFE!

Vince

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Cornering Confidence Online Course for Motorcyclists (thinkific.com)

Recent Rides Summary - August

- September 12 – breakfast at Powderbourn Sportsmen’s Club in East Greeneville, and post-breakfast ride. Powderbourn was a big hit! We will plan breakfast there periodically going forward. Thanks for making the ‘reservation’ Joe! For the post ride, Vince started things off going down to the Huff’s Church and Dryville area before Roger Sposili took the reins and ran the group through a very spirited ride! Thanks Roger. Great Ride.
- Ron Paret, David Dunn, and Roger Sposili posted other rides or events during the month, some of which Ron took. These rides scheduled by other groups that club members may be interested in joining if they have the time. We will continue to post other rides we are aware of that our club members can engage.
 - September 19 – 2 benefits rides, Angel Ride for St. Joseph’s Parish in Orefield (Annual event, nice ride), and Ride with the Blue – Hosted by Bushkill Township Fire Company.
 - September 25 – Emmaus Rotary Club Topless Poker Run, and Backroad carving ride in NY – Hosted by Roger Sposili. Dave Smith, Ron Paret, and Kris Skibicki were to join Roger on this ride.
- September 30- October 3: Vintage BMW Motorcycle Owners Club Rally in Harleysville PA. reference: <https://vintagebmw.org/rally-2021/>. If anyone is going down, please post that on the meetup event so club members can ‘meetup’.

Upcoming Rides and Events – October - December

These are known rides as of this writing of the club or for club members. We are looking to fill the calendar with at least 2 rides a month thru October (weekends) while also running some weekday rides for those who can make it or would want to take a day off from work to join in. Watch meetup for new ride events and sign up if you can make them. I will also be touching base with Bruce McKelvy and other BMWMOA Club Presidents (MAC-PAC, Skylands, Scranton, etc.) in the coming months to try and schedule inter-club rides.

October

- **October 9** – reminder for LV Beemer Club picnic at the Coplay Pavilion. Bring your appetite and let’s have a good time getting to know each other better and talking about where we want to ride going forward! Details:
 - Time – 12 to 5.
 - GPS Location: Coplay Pavilion: 100 Keefer Street at Front Street, Coplay PA 18037.
 - Club is providing: Burgers, dogs, sausages, drinks (water, soda), paper plates and plastic cups/utensils.
 - David Smith is bringing a grill; Jim Fortney is providing the gas! 😊
 - David Smith is also bringing cornhole and horseshoes. Jim is also providing his home-made versions of those games too, so we have plenty of games to go around.
 - Chef Dunn shall be grilling it up for us (we can all help a spell also). He insists his culinary delights will be WELL DUNN (you should see his garage wall...).
 - What you can bring:
 - soups, salads, desserts/sweets. There is electricity so we should be able to plug your hot stuff in. Please bring extension cords.....
 - BYOB – beer or other libations are yours to bring and enjoy.

- October 30 – Follow Up ride to Eagles Mere Inn and Motorcycle Museum – for those who were not able to make it on August 28 – for Lunch and to see Jim Fortney’s 1963 BMW R60/2 proudly displayed in the Eagles Mere Museum! Date is tentative based on Jim’s availability to travel to Eagles Mere.

November/December

Sunday November 14 – Breakfast at Superior Restaurant in Emmaus, followed by a Club Ride.
 Sunday December 12 - Breakfast at Superior Restaurant in Emmaus, followed by a Club Ride.

2022 Trip Rides

Friday May 20- Monday May 23, 2022: US ROUTE 6 – Port Jervis to Erie PA. Currently 4 riders signed up. May extend this a day to start on Thursday May 19.

Sunday September 18 through Saturday September 24 – Skyline Drive, Blue Ridge Parkway, Little Switzerland (stay at motorcycle lodge – I have rooms booked). Currently 1 rider signed up (Vince). Any more takers?

Club Business

Club Leadership Positions Update

Stuart McLaren of Lebanon PA has accepted the position of Club Vice-President. Stuart will work with myself, David Dunn, and Ron Paret on Events Coordination and the Newsletter. Ron Paret is lead ride coordinator, and Roger Sposili, David Dunn, and Jim Fortney are currently ‘event coordinators’ in MEETUP.

Open Positions: Club Secretary, additional events coordinators, Webmaster/Coordinator with BMWMOA.

Treasurer Update: David Dunn reports that as of end of September: No Changes in September 2021, there were no cash receipts or disbursements in/from the club account. At month-end our account balance is \$1,360.24.

GOAL: Grow Active Membership

Current Members at Beginning of Month:	32
New Members this Month:	0
Total Membership as of 9/1/21:	32 (plus guest members such as Bruce McKelvy)

Currently we have 28/32 members signed up on the MEETUP App.

And of the 16 new members that have joined the club this summer, all but four have engaged in a breakfast and/or ride event. So we have yet to meet them. You know who you are! Please join us in club activities. The more engagement, the better experience for all. See new members that participated in the 9/12 breakfast at Powderbourne in Club Photos for the Month.

GOAL: INCREASE Club Ride Opportunities (Day Trips, Overnight Trips, Long Distance Trips)

- Current Status – Working. Do we have club members interested in Winter Rides? If so – let me know and I can make you an event leader to post a ride on the meetup app.

GOAL: Grow Membership Engagement/Increase Social Activities

- Currently at 32 Members. Three people have recently expressed interest in joining but have not yet submitted the application. Since I am connected to BMWMOA now I will be seeing and interacting with new BMWMOA members in our area and will be inviting them to join.

GOAL: Club Web Presence / Increase Club Communications Ability

- Awaiting BMWMOA support on web site creation.
- Created a LV Beemers Facebook page where members can post info/photos/ride summaries to friends and family since they can't 'see' our meetup app and photos we post in there. Facebook URL is: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100071203273876> . Check it Out. Save the link for future reference. Request to Join or friend it.

GOAL: Education / Improve Rider Skills and Safety

- No Change this past month: *More development is needed, nothing to report at this time. See President's Message Above.*

CLUB-OWNED EQUIPMENT FOR USE BY CLUB MEMBERS

Previously I had requested a "Call for Club Equipment Inventory". Through discussions I've learned the club owns the following equipment that is available for club member use:

1. Tire changer: Craig and Geli have this at their place in New Tripoli. They offered to have the tire balancer moved to their place and could host some work there sometime. We can talk about that at the next breakfast.
2. Tire balancer. David Dunn has the Balancer, not John E Schleicher. David will move the equipment to Geli's and Craig's house in October – as they have offered to hold a 'wrench day' for the club. Once it's there, we can announce a date in MEETUP. I know Jim Fortney has two tires he'd like to put on his GS.
3. I have been advised that Mike Hopstock has a goPro (or equivalent) camera that the Club owns and that members could use for trips. If that is the case Mike – can you bring it to the next breakfast, and I will keep it for lending to the club members.

Club Photos for the Month

Here's a warm welcome to 'new' club members who attended the Powderbourn breakfast!



Roger Bollinger, Mertztown PA



Stuart McLaren, Lebanon PA



Brad Moulton, Nazareth PA



Tim O'Toole, Quakertown PA



Jason Peters, Wilkes Barre PA



Roger Sposili, Nazareth PA



T-CLOCS ITEM	WHAT TO CHECK	WHAT TO LOOK FOR	CHECK-OFF	
T-TIRES & WHEELS				
Tires	Condition	Tread depth, wear, weathering, evenly seated, bulges, embedded objects.	Front	Rear
	Air Pressure	Check when cold, adjust to load.	Front	Rear
Wheels	Spokes	Bent, broken, missing, tension, check at top of wheel: "ring" = OK — "thud" = loose spoke.	Front	Rear
	Cast	Cracks, dents.	Front	Rear
	Rims	Out of round/true = 5mm. Spin wheel, index against stationary pointer.	Front	Rear
	Bearings	Grab top and bottom of tire and flex: No freeplay (click) between hub and axle, no growl when spinning.	Front	Rear
	Seals	Cracked, cut or torn, excessive grease on outside, reddish-brown around outside.	Front	Rear
Brakes	Function	Each brake alone keeps bike from rolling.	Front	Rear
	Condition	Check pads and discs for wear.	Front	Rear
C-CONTROLS				
Handlebars	Condition	Bars are straight, turn freely, handgrips and bar ends are secure.		
Levers and Pedal	Condition	Broken, bent, cracked, mounts tight, ball ends on handlebar levers, proper adjustment.		
	Pivots	Lubricated.		
Cables	Condition	Fraying, kinks, lubrication: ends and interior.		
	Routing	No interference or pulling at steering head, suspension, no sharp angles, wire supports in place.		
Hoses	Condition	Cuts, cracks, leaks, bulges, chafing, deterioration.		
	Routing	No interference or pulling at steering head, suspension, no sharp angles, hose supports in place.		
Throttle	Operation	Moves freely, snaps closed, no revving when handlebars are turned.		
L-LIGHTS & ELECTRICS				
Battery	Condition	Terminals; clean and tight, electrolyte level, held down securely.		
	Vent Tube	Not kinked, routed properly, not plugged.		
Headlamp	Condition	Cracks, reflector, mounting and adjustment system.		
	Aim	Height and right/left.		
Tail lamp/brake lamp	Condition	Cracks, clean and tight.		
	Operation	Activates upon front brake/rear brake application.		
Turn signals	Operation	Flashes correctly.	Front left Rear left	Front right Rear right
Switches	Operation	All switches function correctly: engine cut-off, hi/low beam, turn signal.		
Mirrors	Condition	Cracks, clean, tight mounts and swivel joints.		
	Aim	Adjust when seated on bike.		
Lenses & Reflectors	Condition	Cracked, broken, securely mounted, excessive condensation.		
Wiring	Condition	Fraying, chafing, insulation.		
	Routing	Pinched, no interference or pulling at steering head or suspension, wire looms and ties in place, connectors tight, clean.		
O-OIL & OTHER FLUIDS				
Levels	Engine Oil	Check warm on center stand on level ground, dipstick, sight glass.		
	Gear Oil, Shaft Drive	Transmission, rear drive, shaft.		
	Hydraulic Fluid	Brakes, clutch, reservoir or sight glass.		
	Coolant	Reservoir and/or coolant recovery tank — check only when cool.		
	Fuel	Tank or gauge.		
Leaks	Engine Oil	Gaskets, housings, seals.		
	Gear Oil, Shaft Drive	Gaskets, seals, breathers.		
	Hydraulic Fluid	Hoses, master cylinders, calipers.		
	Coolant	Radiator, hoses, tanks, fittings, pipes.		
	Fuel	Lines, fuel valve, carbs.		
C-CHASSIS				
Frame	Condition	Cracks at gussets, accessory mounts, look for paint lifting.		
	Steering-Head Bearings	No detent or tight spots through full travel, raise front wheel, check for play by pulling/pushing forks.		
	Swingarm Bushings	Raise rear wheel, check for play by pushing/pulling swingarm.		
Suspension	Front Forks	Smooth travel, equal air pressure/damping, anti-dive settings.	Left	Right
	Rear Shock(s)	Smooth travel, equal pre-load/air pressure/damping settings, linkage moves freely and is lubricated.	Left	Right
Chain or Belt	Tension	Check at tightest point.		
	Lubrication	Side plates when hot. Note: do not lubricate belts.		
	Sprockets	Teeth not hooked, securely mounted		
Fasteners	Threaded	Tight, missing bolts, nuts.		
	Clips & Cotter Pins	Broken, missing.		
S-STANDS				
Center stand	Condition	Cracks, bent.		
	Retention	Springs in place, tension to hold position.		
Side stand	Condition	Cracks, bent (safety cut-out switch or pad equipped).		
	Retention	Springs in place, tension to hold position.		