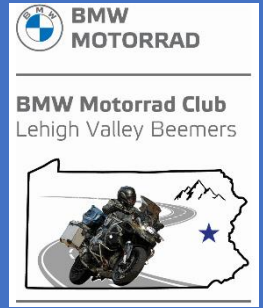




The Call of the Road Newsletter

BMWMOA Club #277, BMWRA Club # (tbd)



March 2022

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Club Monthly Breakfast

The March LV Beemer 'Breakfast Club' meeting is at Chris' Family Restaurant on Tilghman Street in Allentown –Sunday March 6 at 0800.

Please sign up on MEETUP to get a head count for the restaurant prior to Sunday. If anyone wants to do an unplanned ride after breakfast, please let Ron Paret know to create a ride event in MEETUP

President's Message

Dear LV Beemers Club Members,

Spring begins March 20! In this newsletter, I've asked Tim Otoole to provide us with his perspective on getting our bikes back on the road after winter. Thanks Tim!

Club leadership continues to build the 2022 ride schedule in Meetup. A number of day rides – including post breakfast rides on the second Sunday of most months – and several trips are in the schedule. In addition, we are inputting motorcycle training opportunities into Meetup to keep you informed of available training that you can sign up for to improve riding skills. We will continue to input day rides through the summer months when we can identify a ride leader for those rides. Please provide Ron Paret, Stuart McLaren, and me ideas for rides or trips you'd like to participate in. Consider volunteering as a ride host/leader to plan and lead rides.

Website Goes Live! Not....It's a work in progress and I'm working with BMWMOA to complete it and stand it up. Still some development work to go. Targeting April now. Stretch goal is end of March.

If anyone is interested in contributing to the newsletter – please let me know!

RIDE SAFE!

Regards!

Vince

Vince Kelly
Lehigh Valley Beemers Club President
BMWMOA Regional Coordinator (NE PA and NJ)
LVBEEMERS@GMAIL.COM, 610.704.7611

February Recap

- Sunday February 13 – Breakfast at Superior. A raging snowstorm couldn't keep 14 club members from coming out for breakfast and talking riding. Tim and Vince compared new farkles they've recently had installed (not on their bikes). New(er) members Randy and Liza Miller attended again and met a lot of club members. I posted a couple of photos in MEETUP, but include them here for those not in Meetup. Note that Club Treasurer Mr. Dunn (As in – He gets it DUNN) implemented the first breakfast voluntary contribution collection (\$5 per member requested), in order to build up the club bank account for future training opportunities, and to subsidize future social activities such as a Holiday gathering. David collected \$60 and deposited it in the Club's Bank account.



Breakfast at Superior Restaurant 2/13/2022

- Feb 17: Vince and Tim attended the Wyoming Backcountry Discovery Route (WYBDR) film debut at Cross Country BMW in Metuchen, NJ. Looks like a tough one. We also enjoyed drooling on some GS's and GSA's. Tim is thinking his next bike is a GS.
- Feb 23: Vince, Stuart, Ron, Tom attended the Hermy's Wyoming BDR film event at the Strand movie theatre in beautiful downtown Hamburg. Bobby Brown announced 115 people attended the event. At the end of the film, Bobby called Jocelin Snow – who has been riding the BDR's, for a Q&A. Bottom Line – it's a very remote ride, with two sections having about 150 miles between gas stations. Recommendations from Jocelin: Ride in July/August (weather concerns), bring gas, and even if you want to 'motel it' bring camping gear since some towns are totally shutdown and you may just have to rough it – you're in the wild wild west. BTW, Ron and Vince made a stop at Westy's in Hamburg for some pre-movie dinner. 👍

March – May Events Summary

March

- Breakfast meeting moved to Sunday March 6 (First Sunday) and venue changed to Chris' Family Restaurant on Tilghman Street in Allentown. Currently 14 are signed up to attend.

April

- April 9 - Change your tires at Craig and Geli's Garage in New Tripoli. Note the date change to Saturday April 9! Sign up if you want to change some tires. You can have them shipped to Craig and Geli's. Contact Craig for his address.
- April 10 – Club breakfast at THE COOP – Coopersburg Diner. Sign up in MEETUP!
- 28th Gathering of the Nortons, at Washington Crossing. Breakfast at Lori's in Newtown early. See details in Meetup.
- April 30 – Soldiers of the Law Memorial Motorcycle Ride. Meetup in Kutztown, ride to Hershey. KSU 0900. See Meetup and sign up. Talk to Ron for any questions.

May

- May 14 – Reprise of Eagles Mere PA Ride, lunch at the 1887 Inn, and personal tour of the motorcycle, auto, and air museums by bike museum mechanic Mr. Joel Hess. We had a great time in August 2021 and all attendees recommended to make this an annual ride. The ride has been opened up to other local BMW riding clubs. Please sign up no later than 2 weeks before as these are special arrangements – I need to advise the Hotel General Manager of the head count (they are not normally open) and Joel Hess also for the museum tours.
- May 15 – Powderbourne Sportman's Club for breakfast – weather permitting as we will need to sit outside as we did last September.
- Thursday May 19-May 23/24 – Cross-PA ride on Route US 6 from Port Jervis to Presque Isle, Erie. Mapping is pretty much done – in final comment stage now. GPX Files will be provided and also uploaded to the club website (when complete!) for posterity. Includes designated lunch stops, dinner stops, and hotel layovers. I'm thinking we MAY shorten the ride to 5 days (Thursday to Monday) as riding in western PA is not very exciting. Currently 6 are signed up for this trip. **PLEASE SIGNUP NO LATER THAN MARCH 6 FOR THIS TRIP SO WE CAN LOCK IN HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS.** Note: Total round trip expected to be **1,800 miles**. Which includes a 370 slab day on Rts 80 and 476 (the only highway that is planned). Daily average over 6 days: 300 Miles.

- Tuesday May 31 – Non-Sportbike training Day sponsored by Bob Spine of the NJ Skylands Club. See Meetup for details. Get in touch with Bob if you want to attend. He has a crew of more than 20 attending this training event from Skylands alone!

Website Goes Live!

Just Kidding. Work in Progress per the president's message above. April Fools a month early. 😊

Other Club Business

Membership Update:

Current Members at Beginning of Year:	35
New Members in 2022:	4
Total Membership as of 2/1/22:	39

New members in February: None.

Treasurer Report

- Thanks to all who voluntarily contributed \$5.00 at our February Club Breakfast. We collected \$60.00 and if we continue the trend we should have plenty of savings to contribute to a training event, holiday get together or picnic. As of end of February, the bank account is \$841.78, which includes new memberships, the breakfast contribution and, astoundingly, \$01 in interest. We are making progress!
- *(From January Newsletter)* In order to increase our fund balance, I have recommended that the President ask members to voluntarily contribute \$5.00 at each breakfast attended. The goal is to develop sufficient funds to support a club sponsored training event and subsidize future social events such as a picnic or Holiday Dinner at end of the year. President's Note: *I agreed with David's Recommendation.*

LV Beemers Website, MEETUP, and Facebook

- The Club Website will be at www.LehighValleyBeemers.com. It's not there yet. I will post an email and meetup notice when we put publish it on the web.
- FACEBOOK: I've 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.
- MEETUP: The LV Beemers currently use www.meetup.com to schedule and document our events. You can get an App for your phone as well. New club members can sign up for our MEETUP Group using the following link. Warning: you must first have a meetup account. Signup at www.meetup.com (create a user ID and PW – it's free). Then tap this link. www.Meetup.com/lehigh-valley-beemers

Motorcycle Safety Training

I continue to work with David Dunn and Mark Pederson to review available training courses and inform club members about them. Here's what we have so far:

a. PA DMV Offers American Motorcycle Training (AMT) Training - ARC

- The Advanced Riding Clinic (ARC) is a motorcycle training course and is available to licensed motorcycle riders with intermediate skill level operating any street-legal two-wheel motorcycle that meets safety requirements. It is a nine-hour course consisting of approximately four hours of classroom activities and five hours of riding instruction. There is no formal skill evaluation (test). You must have your Motorcycle License and at least 3,000 miles of riding experience to participate in this course. And your own motorcycle. You can have an adult passenger with you for the course if you ride with a pillion. The ARC is FREE to Pennsylvania residents with a valid Pennsylvania Class 'M' driver's license.
- Course offered at:
 - Philadelphia County - Bartram Training Center:
 - Classroom: 76 Industrial Highway, Essington, PA 19029 (The Clarion Hotel)
 - Range: 9162 Bartram Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19153
- Full Day Course Offered Sunday March 27, and Saturday May 28 (0800-1700)
- Their website is at the following link: [AMT \(teamamtusa.com\)](http://teamamtusa.com)
- The two training dates were added to the MEETUP App, with all information needed to sign up. Those who want to take the training need to take the action and sign up under their own AMT account. (Vince Note: I May attend the May 28 event).

b. BMWMOA Foundation Training Information

- David Dunn is continuing to monitor MOA Foundation activities and will provide the club a list of other motorcycle training providers locations, dates, and costs for our use as well. The MOA Foundation has a \$250 'Paul B Scholarship' for motorcycle training that every member can tap into to offset training costs. David Dunn and I will update on those courses and process for applying for scholarship 'free money' in an upcoming newsletter. David provides this update for February: BMWMOAF has not yet completed the list of training facilities for distribution. My sense is this is hitting the wall because there has not been any specifications - credentials, certification, etc. to say who should and should not be on the list. I will know more over the next few weeks, as I have several Foundation Zoom Committee Meetings to attend.

c. Mark Pederson has been researching other motorcycle training that may be available within a 2–3-hour ride from Lehigh Valley. Mark Provides this update on these types of Rider Training Opportunities:

- An extensive search for rider training with actual on-road seat time reveals COVID has impacted the available training offerings by well-known schools / coaches. Most have suspended, eliminated or substituted DVD's or web streaming videos instead of offering in-person regional courses. Training opportunities that remain are far from Pennsylvania – MA, VA, IL, CA.
- Locally, there is a half-day Motorman "Ride like a Pro" class on May 1 in Leesport, focusing on parking lot/low speed handling. Bob Spine of Skylands BMW Riders Club (NJ) has coordinated with Shane Eckert of Ride Like a Pro to offer this class at the Classic Harley-Davidson

dealership in Leesport, PA on May 1. The Leesport location is only 11 miles south of Hermy's BMW Motorcycles, in Port Clinton, PA. The course is 4 hours in duration (9am-1PM). The cost is \$150 per person. Class size is limited to 10 people and the morning class is FULL. Shane is offering an afternoon class on 1 May that may still have openings. If May 1 doesn't work for you, other dates for this training in 2022 are as follows (follow the links):

[Training schedule and Registration \(ridelikeapropa.com\)](#)

Details of the training can be found at:

[Class description and cancellation policy \(ridelikeapropa.com\)](#)

- In addition, in Millville NJ (115m) there is a series of "track days" offered by the NJMSP facility through the fall. I believe these require you to modify your bike temp for their track. More information on this can be provided if there is club member interest. Please let Mark know.
- d. BMW and the BMWMOA is also offering three types of training classes – both road rider training and off-road/adventure rider training. The BMWMOA events webpage provides details of the many training events offered. Each of these training classes is offered several times in 2022. Look at the BMWMOA website events schedule for one that may interest you (d.4 below). These include:

(1) Premier Training at BMW Performance Center (On-Road and Off-Road) – Greer SC. 2 days.

(2) Adventure Training at Westmoto38 in Borrego Springs CA and Globe AZ and Death Valley CA. 4 days.

(3) BMW MOA Street Fleet Smoky Mountain Tour with the BMW Performance Center! BMW Performance Center and Roads. 2.5 Days.

(4) CHECK OUT BMWMOA-OFFERED TRAINING EVENTS AT THIS LINK: [When & Where - BMW Motorcycle Owners of America \(bmwmoa.org\)](#)

BMW Riders Association

In early February I inquired with the BMW Riders Association (BMWRA) about obtaining a club charter. No response yet. I've placed the national BMWRA Rally at end of September in the Club's Meetup Ride schedule. Currently David Dunn and I are planning to attend, and the ride will include a layover in Little Switzerland on the BRP.

2022 Club Leadership

President, Newsletter Editor: Vince Kelly ~ LVBEEMERS@GMAIL.COM, 610.704.7611

Vice President: Stuart McLaren ~ smclaren253@gmail.com

Treasurer and Membership: David Dunn, davidvdunn@gmail.com

Ride Coordinator: Ron Paret ~ reparet@aol.com

Ride/Event Organizers (in Meetup): Ron Paret, Vince Kelly, Roger Sposili, Jim Fortney, David Dunn.

Secretary: Open.

Merchandising Coordinator: Open

Webmaster: Open

Newsletter Editor: Open

From Otoole's Barn: Getting your Bike Back on the Road

Input from Club Member Tim Otoole

Waking up my bikes is a lot more fun than putting them to bed but just as important. The first thing I do is wash the bike. It's either been collecting dust or if you've been riding it, even worse...salt!. Washing and detailing the machine is one of the best ways to find any issues you missed in the Fall or popped up over the winter. T-CLOCS is a great acronym for remembering what to inspect before that first ride. Vince included a detailed T-CLOCS checklist from the MSF website on the last page but here are the basics:

Tires: condition, tread depth and pressure.

Controls: move freely and operate normally.

Lights and Electrics: operate normally with no obvious wire chafing. The battery should be inspected and replaced if necessary. We can debate this one over breakfast but most motorcycle batteries last between 3 and 5 years. *(Editor's Note: I change it out every three years. Got stuck on the road twice with a battery that was 4 years old).*

Oil and Fluids: check levels of oil, coolant and brake fluids front and rear. Unstabilized fuel can start to go bad in as little as 30 days. Even though I store all my bikes with stabilized ethanol free gas that should last between 6-12 months >> I still syphon the old fuel out and replace it with fresh gas.

Chassis: Inspect the swing arm, suspension and if you have a chain, clean and lubricate.

Stand: Inspect both center and side stand for proper operation and damage. I removed my BMW's center stand this winter and repainted it due to chipping and rust. I was surprised how beat-up it was after just one summer of riding.

I also ensure my registration and insurance cards are current and under the seats. If your bike requires any dealer service get it scheduled ASAP. If you wait until the first warm weekend (most people) you'll find your dealer backed up 3-4 weeks.

Now that your bike is ready to go, ensure you are as well. I know my riding skills have eroded over the winter so I take a very conservative approach to getting back up to speed. ATGATT (All the Gear, All the Time) and several local rides prior to any big trips have always served me well in getting back on the step.

It may be a good idea to sign onto a spring Advanced Rider Course by PA DMV – offered by the American Motorcycle Training Group. See details of classes offered this spring in this newsletter.

Ride safe,

Tim

T-CLOCSSM Inspection Checklist



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.		