



# The Call of the Road

Newsletter

## Lehigh Valley Beemers

BMWMOA Charter Club #277

BMWRA Charter Club #369

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## March 2023

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### *Club Monthly Breakfast Meeting (NOTE NEW LOCATION)*

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The Next LV Beemer 'Breakfast Club' meeting will be **Sunday, March 12, 2023 @ 0900-1030** at the Nazareth Diner in Nazareth of Course. Please sign up on MEETUP by Friday March 10 so we can finalize the reservation.

No Post-Breakfast Ride is Planned. The long-term weather crystal ball says snow showers in the am with a high of 41F. Chance of snow 40%.

Address: **581 South Broad Street, Nazareth, PA 18064**

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## President's Message

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Dear Club Members,

It's been a busy month! Let me fill you in on what's happening with your Club.

Though teased with a couple of warm days during February, spring beckons. I was able to get a couple of one-hundred-milers in and hope you've experienced some riding as well. During the month, all 2023 Ride Plan 'rides' were input into MEETUP for your choosing. Please peruse these and sign on before your calendars fill up. We have scheduled MANY day, weekend overnights and multi-day trips out through October. I'd like to see all members join us in a breakfast meeting and ride this year!

When we ride, **our goal is that every rider arrives home after each ride.** This is achieved by safe riding behavior, and by having the commensurate knowledge and skills to ride effectively and efficiently. In the Rider Safety and Training section, Safety & Training Director Bruce Dimon advises us to stop making excuses and sign up for a rider safety class. Exhibiting leadership - Bruce is traveling from Virginia to attend the April 1 Advanced Rider Clinic class. Andrea Jonaitis, Statewide Regional Administrator of the PA Motorcycle Safety Program, made a special class for our club at my request. The class is filled, with 9 riders from the LV Beemers signed up and 3 from the Del-Val BMW Club. I'm looking forward to spending a day with my mates to practice riding skills I know in a non-threatening environment, and new skills. If you still think you may want to go, please sign up to be waitlisted, there are bound to be 1 or 2 riders that may have a conflict as we get towards the date. See links in the newsletter to register at AMT – and let me know your intent. I've taken the ARC three times, but not since 2015. I am attending and I will learn to be a better rider on April 1. Every time I've taken training I've become a better rider: you learn from the instructors, and from other riders in the training.

The Club Merchandise Webstore opened on February 16 to much fanfare. We have four styles of hats (including a camo hat) - each with our logo, 'BMW~~MOA' logo, 'BMW~~RA' logo, and 'BMW MOTORRAD' embroidered on them. We have short sleeve T's (7 colors), Long-Sleeved T's (5 colors), Fleece Vests (3 colors), Men's Polo (golf) Shirts (6 colors), Women's Polo Shirts (6 colors), and a fleece quarter-zipper pullover (6 colors). Click the link below and use access code 0213. The Store is OPEN until March 5. After that date, club members will need to wait until next January to order Club Merchandise. **Link: [LV BEEMERS MERCHANDISE STORE](#). Only 5 more days to Order!**

We are now at 57 members with renewals, and one new member in February: Chris Eugster. Welcome to the Club! Chris is the parts manager at Hermy's. He's an experienced rider with a 2022 R1250GS-ADV, and a 2021 Suzuki DR650. A dirt devil, he's got a lot of routes on roostlocker.com. He rides about 20,000 miles a year. Next time you're at Hermy's, please stop by the parts desk and welcome Chris to the Club! I'm looking forward to riding with you Chris! See Chris on his GSA in the *Member New Bike/New Club Member* Section.

The 50<sup>th</sup> (!) BMWMOA National Rally is June 8-9-10, with Sunday June 11 as getaway day. It's only a little more than 3 months away. Planning is well underway for the Rally. Eight club members and two 'friends of the club' are riding to and attending the Rally. Since it's so close – just outside Richmond VA – please consider joining us at the Rally. It's a great time: Meet new and old friends, ride, listen to great music, ride, enjoy great camaraderie with fellow club members, ride, and enjoy good food and good beer. Did I mention, ride? Here is the Registration Link for the 50<sup>th</sup> BMWMOA Rally: **[2023 BMWMOA 50th National Rally](#)**. I recently sent out information for hotels to those signed up in Meetup. If I see any additional signups, I'll forward you the information.

As mentioned last month, we are a club with no bylaws. "Most" Charter Clubs have bylaws. I am looking to add some structure to club operations going forward by instituting these. Utilizing several other clubs' bylaws, as well as the bylaws of BMWMOA and BMWRA, we will develop a draft set for club review. I initiated a committee to develop bylaws, I am the Chair and Randy Miller has volunteered to be on the Committee. I am looking for two additional committee members. If you are interested in becoming an active member of this committee, please let me know by March 15. My stretch goal is to have the bylaws voted on by the club this year, adopted, and have club leadership elections in 4Q 2023.

Several members have talked about designing and developing a club banner to show our colors proudly when we join with other clubs and at Rallies. The 'banner committee' needs a volunteer leader and 2 additional members to see it through this year. Please advise Vice-President Ron Paret of your intent to lead or participate on this committee by March 15, as Ron will oversee the committee actions.

As mentioned in February, Webmaster Chip Richardson has taken actions to enhance our website, so that it provides more information and the ability to interact with other club members. There are now links to newsletters dating back to 2021, a club merchandise link, current month and three month look ahead for monthly breakfasts, and a chat forum for the club. You'll need your UserID and Password to access it. Topics added so far are the MOA Rally, General Topics, Upcoming Rides and Activities, and Technical Topics. Jump on and get the conversations 'kick-started'!

The *Webmaster* Needs Your Help!. Chip asked if members with web development/WORDPRESS experience could step up on a very part time basis and work with him to update/enhance our website. Please reach out to Chip or me if you are interested.

Recently I've asked for Club member input on your own personal journeys on a motorcycle, a special motorcycle you cherished, or a trip where you had the time of your life. In the *Members' Stories From the Road* section, Randy Miller shares with us his very personal story of his first love (sorry Sweet Pea) - a 1978 Triumph Bonneville 750. I read this love story with much interest – you will too!

David Dunn and I are *thinking* about fitting in a short motorcycle trip to Spain/Portugal this year, kind of a last-minute thing. If anyone is interested or has info on a great motorcycle tour company or rental company over there, please reach out to me. I put a placeholder in MEETUP for the trip, but dates are not firm at this time.

I hope you can join the club for the Monthly Breakfast on Sunday March 12 at the Nazareth Diner – Sign up Now in Meetup! Roger and Jim Sposili are hosting.

Ride Safe!



Vince Kelly  
Lehigh Valley Beemers Club President  
BMWMOA Regional Coordinator (NE PA, NJ)

**"ONLY THOSE WHO RISK GOING TOO FAR CAN POSSIBLY FIND OUT HOW FAR THEY CAN GO".**  
T. S. ELLIOT

### Reasons Not to Take Advanced Training

Most riders have their reasons to not take training after the beginner licensing course. Are they good reasons or poor excuses? Here are some that I have heard.

#### ***"I don't ride fast so I don't need better skills".***

Even if you ride slowly, the car drivers are maniacs. They will cut you off and pull in front of you regardless of your speed. According to the Hurt Report published in 1981, "The median pre-crash speed was 29.8 mph, and the median crash speed was 21.5 mph." That means half of the people who crashed were going slower. Swerving and quick stops are as essential for the slow cruiser as for the fast sport biker because crashing at 14 MPH hurts too. Best to avoid the collision by being well-trained. This is a poor excuse because slow riders, as well as fast riders, need better skills to avoid the cars.

#### ***"I ride in a group, so I just have to do what the guy in front of me does".***

I'm sure your buddy is a great guy, but is he a good rider? Are you repeating his mistakes? If he is not trained, he's teaching you nothing. Multiplying the number of beginners on a ride does not increase safety. If he makes a mistake, good skills can save you from the accident he caused. If the guy in front of you is a good rider, do you know what you're looking at? Why is he smooth when you are not? Trained instructors learned to observe so they can explain. You're right behind him trying to do the same thing but getting different results. Just because he's safe at that speed does not mean you are skilled enough to be safe following him. Many beginners have crashed because they pushed themselves to keep up with the group. This is a poor excuse because you need an instructor to point out what the guy in front is doing wrong or how he is doing it right.

#### ***"I don't want to embarrass myself if I'm not as good as the other guys".***

Only one or two riders in the class will get their egos boosted. The rest of us will get humbled. The first time on a track, everyone is surprised by the fast, smooth riders passing us. Watch them and learn. See their lines, where they brake, where they turn in, and roll on. Instructors will point out what the better riders are doing right and explain how you can improve. You won't be as fast as they are, but you can get smoother, and speed will follow. This is a poor excuse because there will always be somebody better due to innate skill and training.

#### ***"I'm afraid I might drop my bike".***

Yeah, that could happen on the course just like on the street. But improving your skills on the course will reduce the chance of it happening on the street where traffic could turn your embarrassment into a crushing defeat. Accepting the risk of dropping your bike in the course will reduce the chance of a worse error on the street. This is a poor excuse because you have probably already dropped your bike on the street or in a parking lot. I dropped my R1200RT in a Virginia State Police class called "Ride 2 Save Lives" which teaches maneuvering around tight cones. I pushed myself to go a little faster on an exercise and made a mistake. I was really embarrassed picking up my bike but learned from that drop how not to use the throttle and clutch. At the end of the day, the cops timed us through their course, and I was fastest. I improved because I took a little risk and it felt good when they recognized my improvement.

***“I cannot afford it”.***

Um, you live in a state that subsidizes the cost so that many courses are free! If you take a course that is not subsidized by Pennsylvania, you can get \$250 from the BMWMOA’s Paul B Foundation. This is a poor excuse because you can get the MSF ARC or Total Control’s ARC for free. If you’re riding a newer Beemer, you can afford a few hundred to learn how to not crash it.

***“I already know how to ride because I took the beginner course”.***

The Basic Rider Course (BRC) teaches basic skills but there is so much more to learn. Trail braking will allow you to adjust speed and line in a curve. The BRC does not teach it. Body position will reduce motorcycle lean and avoid scaping in a curve. The BRC does not teach it. Where should your elbows be for better cornering control? You did not learn that in the BRC. How can you use your knees and feet to stabilize your cornering control? BRC did not teach that either. Beginners crash more than advanced riders. Training turns beginner riders into advanced riders. Untrained riders remain beginners for their entire lives. This is a poor excuse because BRC riders do not know that there is more to learn.

***“It does not sound like fun”.***

If you worry about not doing well and looking like a newbie, you won’t have fun and you won’t learn. Relax, you’re among friends and you know enough embarrassing things about them to offset any comment they make about what you did in class. If you relax and open your mind to new ideas, learning can be fun. Don’t feel pressured to be the best, just listen to the instructor and try new things. On a training range, there are no cars or traffic jams. It’s a playground and bikers, like children, learn from play. If there is a test at the end, it’s just for fun. This is a poor excuse used by uptight people who don’t know how to have a good time.

*I’m sick of excuses, let’s sign up for a class and have a fun day doing cool things with our motorcycles. See you in class!*

***Bruce Dimon***

## [Rider Training Information and Links](#)

Here is the latest information on rider training that is available, and also a monthly training video for your review.

### **1. BMWMOA Foundation Training Information**

The BMWMOA Foundation has Spring Premier Training available in Greer SC. There are 4 lots remaining for March 23/24. The other two Spring sessions are SOLD OUT. There are 34 slots available (combined) for the sessions scheduled in September thru November. See details at the following Link:

[2023 Premier Training \(regfox.com\)](#)

### **2. Ride-Like-A-Pro Training ([Home \(ridelikeapro.com\)](#))**

The Skylands Club in NJ has periodically taken this training. This trainer provider states this is an advanced motorcycle training class designed to teach riders the techniques that Motor Police Officers use for total control of their motorcycles: It teaches riders to lean their bikes at slow speeds without fear of dropping it. Classes are offered periodically during the year at Leesport PA, (Classic Harley-Davidson). Classes are offered April 1, May 7, June 11, July 9, September 17. Class length is 4 hours, there are 4 riders per class, and the fee is \$150. This fee would be reimbursed by the MOA Foundation Paul B Rider Safety Grant ([Paul B. Grants – BMW MOA Foundation](#)).

### 3. PA DMV Offers American Motorcycle Training (AMT) Training – ARC ON APRIL 1, 2023!

Your Club has negotiated with the PA DMV American Motorcycle Training group, to hold a group-specific ADVANCED RIDER CLINIC (ARC) on Saturday April 1, 2023 at the below location! As the email I sent out to all club members stated, I created a MEETUP event for club members to sign up for the training.

HOWEVER, If you plan to attend you MUST complete an AMT Student Profile at this weblink BEFORE I CAN GIVE OUR NAMES TO AMT FOR THEM TO SIGN US ALL UP IN THEIR ROSTER (We will not need to sign up for the course in their website – they will do it for us). When you hit the green link, click on 'REGISTER FOR AN ACCOUNT' – top right of page.

[American Motorcycle Training \(timetap.com\)](https://www.timetap.com)

Details of the Advanced Rider Clinic (ARC) class can be found at this Link:

[American Motorcycle Training \(timetap.com\)](https://www.timetap.com)

- Course is offered at this location Only at this time:

**Philadelphia County - Bartram Training Center:**

**Classroom:** 76 Industrial Highway, Essington, PA 19029 (The Clarion Hotel)

**Riding Range:** 9162 Bartram Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19153

**Note that AMT has other ARC courses listed on their website and club members can sign up for these training sessions as well. See their website in the link above.**

### 4. PRO RIDER TRAINING: Police Motorcycle Skills Training For All Riders

Fee-based training course, in Sharon Hill PA – near Philly. This course will allow riders to learn how to better handle their personal motorcycle on the road and at low speeds. This program will incorporate the techniques learned and mastered by police motorcycle officers, and will improve the riding abilities of even the most seasoned rider. At the end of the course, participants will receive a successful completion certificate, as well as a refined skill set and newfound confidence. Some of the exercises practiced in this course include: Slow Cone Weave, Lane Change, Off-Set Weave, Single & Double 360, Iron Cross, Straight line braking, Brake & Evade, Rear End Crash Avoidance.... Plus More! Checkout the link. Fee costs can be recovered by applying for a Paul B Grant with the BMWMOA Foundation. Here's the Link: [Paul B. Grants – BMW MOA Foundation](#)

[Home | ProRiderPhiladelphia | motorcycle training class](#)

### 5. This Month's Video Link for Motorcycle Training

#### ***How To Sit Correctly on a Motorcycle***

Moto Control Channel – YouTube – refresher on proper riding body position, keeping arms bent, proper interface with the handlebars, and what to do (and not do) with your feet. 9 minutes.

[How To Sit Correctly on a Motorcycle -](#)

### 6. Motorcycle Safety Facts – Motorcycle Accidents are on the Rise. Becoming a better rider can prevent us from becoming a statistic. **DATA THAT SUPPORTS OBTAINING TRAINING.**

[Motorcycles - Injury Facts \(nsc.org\)](#)

[Dangerous States for Motorcycle Riders - QuoteWizard](#)

## February Recap

**February 12, Sunday** – The FEBRUARY BREAKFAST MEETING was @ The New Country View Diner & Family Restaurant. Jim Fortney hosted. Great pick Jim! We had some first timers: Dave Baechle and his lovely wife Karen! Twenty members enjoyed a great breakfast and comradery ! Rob Banwart picked the 50-50 Winner! Here Ron, Club Vice-President, seems really happy giving someone else's money away!







**February 21** – The Oregon BDR Documentary Film Showing at the Hamburg Strand Movie House – Sponsored by HERMY’s – was fun! 12 members attended. Several club members attended a pre-screening dinner at Logans Run near Cabela’s. Good times! At the Strand, about 100 riders were there to get the scoop on the newest BDR. At the end of the movie, we spoke with the EMCEE – Marc Axelberg – Retired ARMY – who is now a BDR Ambassador. He lives in Carlyle, and is an expert on the local BDR’s. I mentioned I’d like to connect with him when we ride the BDR-X later this year. He said sure – to look him up!

For more information on BDR’s, follow this weblink: [Backcountry Discovery Routes \(BDR\) for Adventure Motorcycling \(ridebdr.com\)](https://ridebdr.com)



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## March Look-Ahead

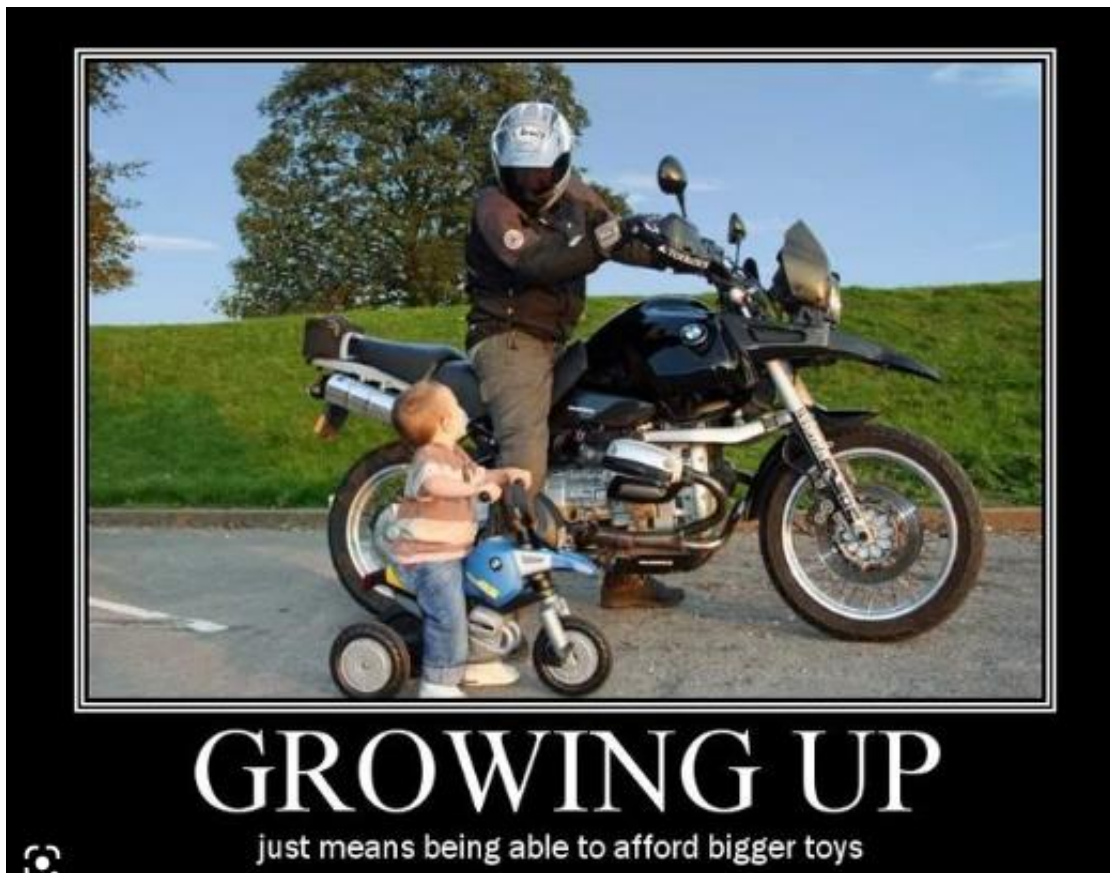
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**Sunday March 12 – Monthly Breakfast Meeting** at the Nazareth Diner. Roger and Brad are hosting (Since they live in Nazareth).

**Sunday March 25 – Tire Changing Event** at Craig and Geli Haviland's Place!

**Friday March 31 – Travel to Essington PA** for pre-Training Dinner.

**April 1 – PA AMT Advanced Rider Clinic** in Essington PA. Class is full. Considering creating another class. Is there interest.....? See MEETUP for details and to sign up.



*"You see, when I was a boy, every morning was an adventure and a new beginning, but when we grow older, a little of us dies every night; killed by what ifs and if only, by mortgages and bills, dry rot and rising damp.*

*We are buried under the weight of all possessions we gather around us, thinking that they define what we are.*

*When we travel, though, we are children again. And when we travel by motorcycle, we have nothing to think of when we wake but throwing a few belongings into our panniers and riding off down the road, unencumbered by regrets and concerns.*

*On a motorcycle, every day is still an adventure and a new beginning.*

*On a motorcycle, I am still a boy on a bike."*

*- Geoff Hill*

How True, Contributed by Roger Sposili

## Members' Stories From The Road – Randy Miller

Back in the day (1983) the first road bike for this Beemer was a 1978 Triumph Bonneville 750. I still remember taking her to college on Monday mornings. Sunday afternoon was spent spiffing her up by waxing the chrome accoutrements and high gloss black paint. Rockers and jug fins always sported motor oil bleeding from gaskets and tired O-rings yet that was the nature of a 70's era Brit bike. What I loved about that bike was the "thump, thump" note she shared, all resulting from twin pistons operating from the same crank node in perfect unison. The trip between Fitchburg Mass to the University of Lowell was about 45 minutes to an hour and began along rolling green hills out Rt. 13 from Lunenburg and into Townsend. From there I shot south on Rt 119 through Pepperell and into the then quaint Groton Mass. A left hand turn onto Chicopee Row (aka Rt 40) was where the real thrill began. Adorned with broad sweeping turns it was a country road I could spy the tree limbs passing by through their reflection in the chrome head light housing. Black Angus beef cows were near the road grazing in gorgeous green pastures. A twist of the throttle and the strong 750 surged with a gurgle and a bark. How I loved that bike, loved the sound, the vibe, the comfortable spongy hand grips and the old-time sound of a tapping and dancing valve train. The road eventually turned into Groton St. where it would drop me onto Route 113 in Dunstable. After a short stretch I would cross the bridge in Tyngsboro Mass and turn right onto Pawtucket Blvd. Pawtucket Blvd was the final segment and the fastest. Pretty and open it followed the Merrimack river. It was this road that delivered me to U Lowell. By the time I got there the book bag was darned heavy on my back and I was ready to dismount. The parking spot at the time was right adjacent to the UML Nuclear reactor. As is customary for a biker, I would take about ten paces and turn to back to inspect my parking. Was the kickstand in a good spot? Was she too close to another ride? Was she too close to a Jap bike that ran a sewing machine motor? LOL. Those were the days.



Where's  
Waldo  
(RANDY) !?

*If YOU have a tall tale about a motorcycle ride, trip, or Bike that was memorable please submit your write-up to the Editor and we will Publish it here. It could be when you started riding as a teenager, or a recent trip. It could be about a first or favourite bike you had. What about it made it special to you? Or your first ever motorcycle trip. Please try to provide photos also if they are available.*

## **Club Business**

### **Membership Update:**

Members as of 02/01/2022 (New & Renewals):	53
New Members and renewals in February	4

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Total 2023 Membership as of 02/28/2023: **57**

### **Treasurer Report – Month Ending January 27, 2023**

Everyone must be itching to get out on their bikes. To those who put their ride away for the winter (not me), it's time to blow the dust off and getrrrr ready.

Financially, our war chest grows as February saw a large number of club renewals and a couple of new memberships. We had a good turn out for breakfast and put a bit of \$\$\$ away from the 50/50 raffle.

Opening Balance 2/1/23	\$2,739.39
Less graphic design work - hats, T-Shirts:	(\$ 106.00)
Plus 50/50 proceeds:	\$ 40.00
Plus renewals and new members:	\$ 275.00
February month-end balance 2/28/23:	\$2,948.39

See you soon,

David Dunn

LV Beemers - Treasurer

### **LV Beemers Website, MEETUP, and Facebook**

- The website is found at URL: [Lehigh Valley Beemers BMW Motorcycle Riders Club](#)
- FACEBOOK: The LV Beemers Facebook page is a public space 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. The 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 the Meetup App (and website at [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com) )to schedule and document our Rides and other Events. 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](http://www.meetup.com) (create a user ID and PW – it's free).
  - Then tap this link. [www.Meetup.com/lehigh-valley-beemers](http://www.Meetup.com/lehigh-valley-beemers)

## CLUB BANNER COMMITTEE STATUS

Updates will be provided when the Committee starts work.

## BYLAWS COMMITTEE STATUS

Updates will be provided when the Committee starts work.

## BOARD MEMBER LIST

### 2023 Elected Officials

**President, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Membership Chair, Merchandising Chair, Social Chair:** Vince Kelly ~ [LVBEEMERS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LVBEEMERS@GMAIL.COM), 610.704.7611

**Vice President:** Ron Paret, [reparet@ptd.net](mailto:reparet@ptd.net)

**Secretary:** **VACANT**

**Treasurer:** David Dunn, [davidvdunn@gmail.com](mailto:davidvdunn@gmail.com)

### 2023 Board Members

**Ride Master:** Roger Sposili, [sposilirj@msn.com](mailto:sposilirj@msn.com)

**Safety and Training Director:** Bruce Dimon, [brucedimon@hotmail.com](mailto:brucedimon@hotmail.com)

**Webmaster:** Chip Richardson, [RichardsonF@PTD.Net](mailto:RichardsonF@PTD.Net)

**The Call of the Road Newsletter Editor:** **VACANT**

**Membership Chair:** **VACANT**

**Merchandising Chair:** **VACANT**

**Social Chair:** **VACANT**

**Ride Leaders/Event Co-Organizers (in Meetup):** In addition to four above – Rob Banwart, Randy Miller, Bob Nelson, Tim Otoole, Todd Poole, Dave Smith

### Trustees (Past Presidents)

Floyd Keim

Mike Hopstock

*If any of our members are interested in Joining the Board, please get in touch with Vince or Ron. Thanks.*

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## Current Member New Bikes ! And New Member Bikes !

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### Current Member – New Bike!

***None Reported during February. If you got or are getting a new bike- please share a photo of you and your bike with Vince and get your 15 minutes of fame here!***

### New Member in February – Chris Eugster

Bikes: 2022 BMW R1250 GSADV, 2021 Suzuki DR650



Here's Chris on gravel somewhere on his GS ADV. Sans panniers.

Three things to know about Chris (you will be tested sometime):

1. Chris is the author of Roostlocker ([Roostlocker – A GPX File repository for gravel grinders](#)), a website which is a repository for gravel rides in PA. Tim – We gotta get moving on these.
2. Chris is Parts manager at Hermy's. [HERMYS BMW](#)
3. Chris owns a coffee roastery and coffee shop: Four Monkeys Coffee in Kutztown PA. Who wants to go for a coffee with me? [Four Monkeys Coffee Roaster and Shop](#)

I don't really feel like going for a ride today.

Said no motorcycle rider ever.



**MOTORCYCLIST**  
noun (moh-ter-sahy-klis-t)

A person willing to take a container of flammable liquid, place it on top of a hot engine and then put the whole thing between their legs



**ADVENTURE**

Remember, it's not a real adventure until things stop going as planned...



**BMW** 100 YEARS

Celebrating 85 years of adventure touring

