



Welcome all to 2014 in the BMW Motorcycle Club of Akron!

It is with sad news that we have to begin this year: The club mourns the passing of our long-time member Fred Johns. As many of you may know, Fred battled an illness for quite some time and finally lost the fight!

We will miss him and the growl of his Ducati riding with us.



We somehow dropped the ball on the Christmas Party and unfortunately did not get together as a club to celebrate, but some of us – those who are addicted to socializing with each other – got together for some food, drink and hot Sake anyway! In spit of being only a small group, we had a lot of fun!



Other news:

The 2014 BMW MOA (Inter-) National rally is not even here yet, and they have already announced the location for the 2015 event: **Billings Montana!**

The new liquid cooled R1200GS (LC) has barely arrived and Bill Mayer Saddles (BMS) has already announced a new aftermarket seat for the model.

The Progressive Motorcycle Show will take place January 31, February 1 and 2 at the IX Center, Cleveland Airport. BMW will be present big time!



BMW Motorcycle Club of Akron, BMW MOA Charter No 21. 1972

President: Dana McMahan Vice President: Fred Meyer

Treasurer: John Bebout, Secretary: Allyn Orlando

BoD: C. Austin, B. Damron, J. Fetzer, G. Martin, F. Metcalf

Newsletter Editor: Mike Simon akronbmwnews@yahoo.com



A Presidential Address:

Hello Club Members

Here we all are with a whole new year ahead of us.

If I am not mistaken, 2014 will mark the 42nd year the club is in existence. Not a round number to celebrate (somehow we missed our 40th anniversary) but still something we can be proud of.

However! We are suffering from the same illness that most motorcycle clubs, including our “umbrella” organisation suffers from: Stagnating or, even worse, declining membership levels.

I am hopeful, that many of our members will renew their membership and the fact that not many have, is, because it is just January and most have not thought about it. Not having had a Christmas party with a reminder to send in the dues is probably part of the reasons for the slow response.

In any case, we need to think of ways to get the message across, that we are a bunch of nice people who like to ride and hang out together and that it is worth looking at joining the

BMW Motorcycle Club of Akron.

I would like to address this particular one and other issues in the upcoming club meeting and hope you will provide your input.

We have already started the event planning for 2014 with selecting a date for our Poker Run (May 17) and providing that info to the Akron Motorcycle Club for them to include it in their calendar.

Come to the mneeting on Tuesday January 28!

Dana

Editor's Corner

I was just reading the latest issue of *Rider* magazine and the column of **Clement Salvadori**, is worth mentioning!

He is writing about weight – of people and motorcycles. He titled it “Size Does Matter”.

He says that the heaviest bike he rode in 2013 was a hefty 901lbs! Not a tourer- It was the Triumph Rocket III.

O.K., the thing has a 3-cylinder 2.3 liter engine that would do one of these cars, that are smaller than one of Shaq’s shoes proud. But over 900 lbs?? Add two people, a little luggage and you are almost at 1,300 lbs. Wowser!

That’s not something, I want to have to push around in the parking lot or in and out of my garage. Actually, the weight to push is one of the biggest issues I have with my K1600GT.

You would not believe the difference between that and my 99 R1100RT. And the RT is really not a small bike!

I am not sure where we are going with all this, but there is an eerie parallel between the evolution of cars and motorcycles.

All the nick-nacks and electric this and that, that seems to be necessary adds weight.

Much like cars, where the amount of wiring would be half the total weight, if they wouldn’t have come up with fiber-optics!

There can be a limiting factor to the fun of navigating an 900lbs behemoth on two wheels through traffic.

I wonder if this is the reason, why the corners of my mouth move uncontrollably towards my ears on each side when I ride my little Honda GB500 or my Kawasaki 500 Triple?

Mike