



# AKRON BMW

Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle Club of Akron  
BMW MOA #21 BMW RA #361  
Volume 13 Issue 5&6, May/June 2016

## Editor's Corner

You can add this newsletter to your file of evidence for complaints about the newsletter not being on time. Another one that is late as I manage to get at least one or two per year out after the usual "due date". This time, I have no excuses other than just not getting myself to write one.

We had a decent, albeit not outstanding turnout for the Poker Run. Next club meeting, we may hear the details. Between some 90+ paying participants and \$240 worth of 50/50 tickets sold, we should have grossed a little over \$1000.- - not too shabby.

While the riding season is slowly getting in gear, the weather is still not quite playing and there have not been many "community" rides on Sunday. Some did their own trips, even went to an early rally - e.g.: the Georgia Mountain Rally.

BMW MC of Cleveland's Open House on May 14 was one of the weather casualties which could only be attended by driving a car there.

On the maintenance front, I got almost everything addressed to have all bikes fully operational. At this time, I am waiting for some parts to get the Ducati 916 back together after changing the timing belts. The old ones looked still perfectly fine, but I had to put some guys at ease who could not eat breakfast without worrying the thing would blow up on me. (Ed!!)

A word of caution for those who ever consider buying one of these things from Italy: Not only do the dealers NOT work on bikes older than 10 years (not uncommon), but they also may not sell you any parts you need to do the job yourself as they are no longer available.... Think twice before you think you want to "collect" rare bikes.

Mike

The month of May came and went without much happening other than our Poker Run and the Georgia Mountain Rally for a few. Going on are the **RA Iowa Rally June 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>** in Amana, IA, and the **Americade** in Lake George, NY **June 7-11**.

Plans are in order to make for **AMA Vintage Days** at Mid-Ohio, **July 8-10** and, then the **MOA International Rally** in Hamburg, NY on **July 14-16**.

One of the great names in Motorcycles, MV Agusta, is reported to be in trouble again! The plant is currently closed, workers are scheduled to be laid off and a new investor is being looked for. After Harley Davidson and Mercedes Benz AMG could not save them, rumor has it that Polaris may try their hand now. Hopefully, the success with Victory and Indian has not made them too cocky.



Another ownership change for a famous classic name brand: **Bell Helmets**, founded in 1954 by Roy Richter in a garage in Bell, CA was sold by BRG Sports, owners of the Riddell helmet and body armour brand to Vista Outdoor Inc., a major manufacturer of shooting sports and outdoor products.



Another challenger to the BMW R1200GS has emerged in Ducati's new Multistrada 1200 Enduro. To make it more suitable for off-road riding, the wheels are now spoked 19/17 inch f/r, a 7.9 inch suspension travel, up from 6.7 inch and 7.9 gal (vs 5.3) fuel capacity for approx 280 miles between fill-ups. So far, only available in Europe, however.

The German company Wunderlich, a BMW accessory manufacturer has revealed a BMW R1200GS LC with two-wheel drive, the front wheel with a 10 kW electrical gearbox. The front wheel can even be used without the GS motor running at up to 20 km/h (12.5 mph). Currently, the kit remains a prototype.



President: Jeffrey Summers Vice President: Dana McMahan  
Treasurer: John Bebout, Secretary: Leigh Summers  
BoD: C. Austin, B. Damron, J. Fetzer, M. York, F. Metcalf  
Newsletter Editor: Mike Simon akronbmwnews@yahoo.com



## A Presidential Address:

Hello Club Members!

Once again, I would like to thank everyone who dedicated his or her time and effort to help out with our Poker Run. While it is not one of the largest events in our area, many look forward to it every year and without the club volunteers it would not happen.

As a reminder and a follow-up to an earlier e-mail, I would like to ask you to think about everything that happened, from breakfast to closing ceremonies. Think about the flow - the processes - the comments both pro and negative - think about what bugged you - think about what made you proud to be part of the BMW Motorcycle Club of Akron - think about how something could have been better - think about how other poker runs are managed and how ours is better or worse - there are no boundaries here: Just seeking input to hopefully make future poker runs more successful. I would like to compile a list of comments both pro and con, both supportive and negative - and with anonymity. I WILL NOT use your name or identify the sender. I sincerely want this to be an opportunity to collectively gather our thoughts as a club on how to make this event one that people not only talk about in the future, but look forward to year after year.

Our next meeting is June 14th and at that time, I will be presenting my assessments of the Poker Run to the club and I would also like to include your thoughts at that time.

Jeff