



Editor's Corner

So! Here we are in July and some of us are left back home, while the *Rally Rats* have left town to converge on Hamburg, NY for the annual MOA rally. It looks like the weather will be decent and all the campers will stay dry and there will be no wading around in a muddy fairground. That was also the situation at this year's edition of Vintage Motorcycle Days at Mid-Ohio. For the first time in (maybe) 10 years it did NOT rain on at least one of the days and it was rather pleasant to walk around in the swap meet without having to navigate around puddles and deep muddy tracks. Funny enough, the organizers had taken precautions and thrown out plenty of gravel to keep the service roads in decent shape.

It was a great event, some of you went there. One thing that caught my eye was the unusual amount of classic and vintage BMW bikes. Not necessarily for sale – (except one R100RS, that has been there before) but ridden by visitors and present in the show area. It seems like the /6 and /7 bikes have been discovered by the custom bike crowd.



If nothing else, it will further boost the value of the later "Airheads", which have already become quite pricey, with the R90S leading the pack reaching five figure numbers some time ago. That means, my R100S pictured on top was a significantly better investment than anything that Edward Jones or Fidelity had to offer in the same time-frame.

Now, let's take advantage of the great weather these next few weeks and do some riding while we wait for the travelers to come back from the National with their stories of what we have missed not going!

Mike



BMW announced the planned changes for 2017 models. Most of them on the "R" lines of bikes. The engines of the liquid-cooled boxer models will be subject to supplementary technical changes as well as the application of EU4 measures and the addition of side lights as required by law. Like the R 1200 GS Adventure, all liquid-cooled boxer models will now be fitted with a judder damper on the transmission output shaft. New features also include a revised selector drum actuator, transmission shafts and transmission shaft bearing. An OBD indicator lamp in the cockpit has been added to meet EU4 requirements. The R 1200 R, RS and RT will not only be supplied in new paint finishes, but will have technical enhancements as well. With a view to enhanced motorcycling safety, its range of optional equipment features is extended to include the banking-optimized ABS Pro and the dynamic brake light (both in conjunction with the Riding Modes Pro option). The instrument panel of the R 1200 GS Adventure features a revised design. The color Ocean Blue metallic matte is no longer available. RS package change: "Style 2" is now called "R 1200 RS Sport" and has the color combination Light White metallic/Magellan Grey metallic matte.

The price for the R nineT Scrambler was announced at the BMW Motorrad Days 2016. The second model of the BMW Motorrad "Heritage" world of experience will be available at the price of EUR 13,000.00 incl. 19% VAT in Germany. That's about US\$14,500. Back out the tax and you have approx. \$12,000 plus tax in the U.S.

Harley Davidson seems to be in trouble. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said it would investigate some motorcycles made by HD after complaints of brake failure without warning. The investigation involves 430,000 motorcycles of model years 2008-2011, with anti-lock braking systems, the NHTSA said last Friday. Rumors surfaced that there may be a private equity buyout of the company in the works. The suggestion making the rounds was that private equity firm **KKR** was sniffing around the big bike maker. While both Harley-Davidson and KKR refused to comment, there could be some sense in KKR or some other hedge fund making a play for the business



Michelin introduced a new tire for dual-sport applications. The Anakee Wild. For the time being, it is available only for "big" bikes like the R1200GS, KTM1190 and Yamaha Super Ténéré in sizes 110/80- or 120/70-19 front and 150/70- or 170/60-17 rear. The four/five alternating knob pattern is inspired by Michelin's Paris-Dakar rally tires. First feedback was good performance in the dirt and a noticeable amount of hum from the aggressive treads and a bit of squirm under hard braking

on the pavement. "Over-all an excellent compromise for a dual-sport tire that's this aggressive"

It is time to start getting ready if you want to attend the **Sturgis Motorcycle Rally**. This year marks the 76th event and it runs from **August 8-14**. With all the new **Indians** added to the **Harleys**, it has the potential to be one of the largest gatherings of all time.

For friends and lovers of Vintage and Classic motorcycles, **Motorcycle Classics** magazine puts on a "weekend of riding and sightseeing" in the Laurel Highlands of PA, **Aug 5-7**. Seven Springs Mountain resort. This event may be sold out at the time of this writing.

BMW Motorcycle Club of Akron

President: Jeffrey Summers Vice President: Dana McMahan
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Newsletter Editor: Mike Simon akronbmwnews@yahoo.com