

January 2015

Apex

Looking Through The Curve
Official newsletter of Bluegrass Beemers, Inc. Lexington, Kentucky
MOA #146 RA #49 <http://www.bluegrassbeemers.org>



Ian Rice wearing a Norton apron
services his TL 125 as Diana supervises
Photo by John Rice

Moving forward

By Paul Elwyn



Tis the season for more vigilant awareness of pavement conditions, for reflection, and for a little bit of club business.

Many of you may not have realized that I have now completed a year as president, my fourth term since 1984. I say you may not realize because I followed the tradition of imposing as little organization as possible, with no meetings beyond the necessary to ensure a good rally. Most "meetings" took place following breakfast on Saturday or via email.

I once said to another board of moto enthusiasts that this group provides a model of how to remain focused on what matters, having fun. That's a difficult concept for some people in other clubs to grasp.

We soon will plan our annual awards banquet when we recognize people and officially announce new officers. Next month will carry more information, so watch this space and your email for news.

Years ago we decided to open membership to anyone, regardless of what brand of motorcycle ridden. Some no longer physically ride but are riders in spirit, enjoying the fellowship and being around the machines. Some ride more than others, some spend more money than others, but all are equally a part



of who we are.

If you casually follow us via *Apex* but never attend a Saturday breakfast, regardless of whether you pay dues, you likely do so because you identify with some aspect of this group. We don't make a big deal out of paying dues, don't have a budget beyond the rally we sponsor in September, and we move forward handling "business" informally.

I didn't count, for instance, how much money we collected for our server at Frisch's, Debbie Barnes, but we did so out of pocket on the Saturday prior to Christmas, not from our treasury. Every once in a while, someone anonymously buys

breakfast for all gathered on Saturday. The bottom line is this a wonderful group of motorcyclists.

The club t-shirts we handed out to dues-paying members on January 3 we paid for from the treasury. If you have not yet received yours, let Roy or me know.

At the awards banquet, we will provide a financial report but the event is simply about seeing one another, in this case with significant others.

By the way, those who ordered *Leanings 3* by Peter Egan know that the book is out of print and we are waiting to hear from the distributor regarding a reprint and delivery

to the 15 members who ordered books. If this falls through altogether, I will refund money.

So if you have not been paying dues, it's not a big deal, but they are due at this time, \$12.00. You'll likely receive in turn something of value, if not a hat, a license plate frame, a pen, a bandana, or a shirt, at least this newsletter...if it still exists....and excellent company, if you can make it to one of our events. But you can get the excellent company, regardless of whether or not you pay dues.

Have a Happy New Year, and we hope to see you, soon!

—PE

Apex is the official newsletter of Bluegrass Beemers, Inc.

Lexington, Kentucky MOA #146 RA #49

Paul Elwyn, Editor paul.elwyn@gmail.com

Deadline for submissions is the last day of the month.

Back issues of Apex can be accessed at <http://www.bluegrassbeemers.org>

Join us at Frisch's on Harrodsburg Rd.

in Lexington, Kentucky on any Saturday, 7-9:00 a.m.

**BMW Club
Bluegrass Beemers**



My look back at 2014

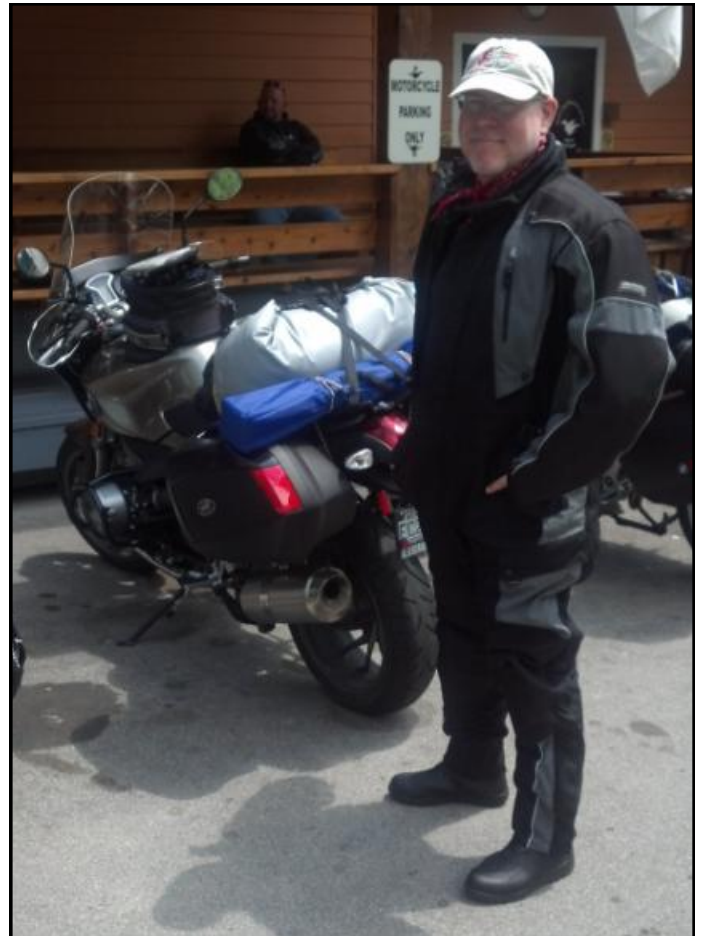
By Todd Fuller

2014 was an interesting year for me, both in and out of motorcycling. While nowhere near as exciting or adventurous as the likes of John Rice or many others, but I definitely learned many things to take forward with me into the new year and I'd like to share the top 8 things I've learned if for no other reason than to have a record that I can refer back to myself. These are in no particular order.

1. **Don't be too anxious to buy that new motorcycle.** Make sure you do a lot of research of what might be on the horizon regarding new models. I just recently found out about the new BMW R1200RS and S1000XR, both of which look very appealing to me. The new R1200RS is basically what I've turned my 2013 R1200R into with the fairing and luggage I added. If I knew that BMW was going to be adding the RS to the Roadster lineup, I might have kept the 88 R100RT a while longer instead of giving into spring fever this past February. Regardless, I'm very happy with my current R1200R and plan on putting many miles on it in the coming years.
2. **Heated gear is essential.** While at 48 I'm just in the prime of motorcycle riding, the older I get the farther the cold travels into my bones and chills my soul. This was particularly evident as Paul Elwyn and I headed out on an early May morning towards Georgia for the Mountain

Rally. While by 2pm the temps were in the 60's/70's, low 30's were the start of that day. The heated grips are good and the hand-guards do their job, but they don't keep the finger tips warm as the eddy's swirl around them. The cold eventually makes its way up the arms and into the torso as it starts bringing down the core body temperature, sending off signals to the brain to start searching for hot cheesy potato soup. My plan this winter is to acquire some nice heated gloves and a vest with arm chaps. We'll see if Santa decides whether I've been naughty or nice.

3. **More hamburgers equal better relationships.** Our year started off on a high note with the burger cook-out at Lee's place in Midway. Jonathan and Lee were gracious enough to host this event which was well attended and was NOT at 7am on a Saturday! Many of us gather every Saturday morning for breakfast and I really enjoy that, but there are also many who just aren't able to make it at that time of the day/week for whatever reason. I thought a monthly get together other than Saturday morning breakfast was a good idea and I was under the impression that many others at Lee's place on that Thursday agreed, but the idea sort of fizzled out. I would propose we create an alternate monthly meeting, other than breakfast, where the many others in our group can gather and



Todd taking a break at Deal's Gap on the way to the Georgia Rally in May

congregate. It can be a cookout at someone's house, meeting at a bar or restaurant for either just drinks or dinner or both, or an UNORGANIZED ride route TO a meeting place....such as Miguel's Pizza in the Gorge. If we want to keep this Club going, we need younger members, and younger members don't only want to have breakfast on Saturday morning.

4. **Listen and learn from your elders.** I've always been an easily excitable lad and sometimes get caught up in what is going on around me, and it's no different with motorcycling. It's easy to get caught up in the flow of traffic, the sweetness of the curvy

road, or in meeting a deadline of when you need to arrive somewhere. The problem with these motorcycles we ride is that while they are much more maneuverable than cages, they are also much more vulnerable. Even with all the gear on, things can turn dangerous and deadly if we don't take time to respect the conditions, others, and ourselves on the road. When Paul I and went to the Georgia Mountain Rally I followed most of the time and was amazed at both his riding skill and the safety precautions he took. The lines he chose in those curves and his safety protocols are imprinted in my mind and come to the forefront when I feel myself

My look back at 2014

By todd Fuller



getting a bit too excited out on the road. I try to learn all I can from my elder's stories and situations they've been in. One that comes to mind always when taking a curve thru sun / shadows, is John Rice's meeting with some ghostly gravel on his GS I believe. I welcome all the wisdom my elders have to impart on me and look

forward to riding with more of you.

5. **If you're going to commit, commit fully.** I finally made it to our rally this year!...albeit for a few hours on both Friday and Saturday. Due to some family issues this was not a rally I was able to stay the whole weekend and camp, but from everything I heard 7. at the rally and subsequently, it was one that I

probably should have. I will start much earlier in 2015 to make all the moves I need to be able to attend the BGB 2015 Rally fully. This is one that, like many others, applies just as much in our everyday lives as it relates to the club. I've always been a man with many interests...many of you know about these runs and races I do that take up a lot of training (many on early Saturday mornings), but I'm also a singer/songwriter and have put out 2 CD's, try to maintain a small part-time massage business so that I can keep my license, and of course my full time job as a Project Manager. Throw motorcycling and dating in there and well....you can see it gets rather convoluted.

6. **Unless its life or death....it's not worth getting too upset about.** With the recent quick and untimely passing of my father, I've tried to take this one to heart...literally. Stress is a major factor in many of our lives and can be a killer. Whether at work or at play if something doesn't fall in your favor or the way you've planned it, just chalk it up to the universe is still trying to teach you something. You may not know what that is at the moment, but if it keeps happening over and over, you'll eventually figure it out. The universe does not let us go onto the next lesson until we've learned the current one.

7. **You may love your motorcycle, but it isn't going to love you back.** Basi-

cally, I've learned that I need to make more time in my life for the people I care about and those that care about me. It may be your ultimate joy being out on your steel horse on a quiet sunny afternoon, but if when you get home there's no one to get home to....those joyous hours of knee dragging curves and drag-strip straightaways mean nothing.

8. **Follow your heart.** I've gotten drawn back into the concrete world, this time as a Project Manager, and it's been a terrible decision. My heart was never in this move, I was lured back in by the dollar signs. By making this decision...I've lost the love of my life, become much more short tempered, lost almost all of my massage clients (you have no idea how hard it is for a male massage therapist to build a clientele), and my health has suffered, even with all the running as my blood pressure has risen back up to an unacceptable level as well as my weight. This seems to be a life lesson that I'll need to correct somehow in 2015.

—TF

Mr. Tanner's Motorcycle

By John Rice



While mowing grass this summer, I was listening to my hand-me-up iPod (my grandson's device, passed up to the older generation when better ones, that only young people can understand and operate, came along) and an old song from the 1970's came up on the shuffle.

"Mr. Tanner", by Harry Chapin is the story of a dry cleaner from the Midwest who "also was a baritone who sang in local shows".

In the story, Mr. Tanner is convinced by his admiring friends to use his gift professionally and it goes sadly wrong, with the critics unimpressed, leaving him to return to his shop and his friends a defeated man.

When "questioned by his friends," he smiled and just said nothing, but he never sang again..... Excepting very late at night, when the shop was dark and closed, he sang softly to himself, while sorting through the clothes".

The chorus, the message of the song went,

"Music was his life, it was not his livelihood.

It made him feel so happy, it made him feel so good.
He sang from his heart and he sang from his soul.

He did not know how well he sang, it just made him whole."

Being who I am, I immediately began contemplating the connection to motorcycles. (Not the one where I sing loudly in my helmet. Unlike Mr. Tanner, I know my voice is far from professional grade and I won't foist it off on anyone else.) The connection I had in mind was the part where it did not matter to him how well he sang, "it

just made him whole". No matter how well he sang, whether it was professional quality or not, it completed something in him, something that just couldn't be suppressed or denied and without which, he wasn't fully himself.

Motorcycling does that for me and, I know, for many around our Saturday table. We range greatly in our skills, for riding and working on and understanding motorcycles. Very few of us, if any, would qualify as consummate profes-

sional quality riders. No one in their right mind is ever going to confuse me with Malcolm Smith or Kenny Roberts or whoever that stunt guy was who jumped the BMW cruiser over the helicopter in flight. (My jump would have been **much** more spectacular than his, as wafer-thin slices of rider and motorcycle rained down on the spectators below....but it would have been a one-take shot with no chance for a repeat performance.) My lack of stellar talent doesn't change the

way it makes me feel when I'm operating a bike, be it on or off road.

I knew the first time I took a ride on the back of a running motorcycle, at the age of 10, that this was meant for me to do, to be a part of, much as Mr. Tanner must have done when first he let fly with his baritone notes in the shower. I cannot imagine life without it.

—JR

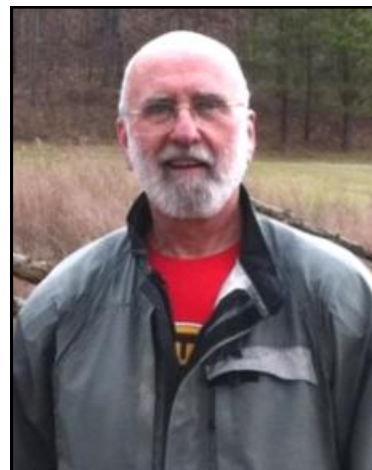


Books available on loan

The following books are available on loan. Email me when you want to borrow one, and I will bring it to breakfast (or whatever other arrangements need to be made...I can deliver within reason) and I'll put your name beside it on my list.

I don't mind if people keep them a while (it takes me forever to read a book now....I keep falling asleep and then have to re-read the last 10 pages or so) but I don't want to give them away for good. At least not yet.

John Rice
Rickey@aol.com



Bahnstormer By LJK Setwright
Streetwise By Malcolm Newell
The Bart Markel Story By Joe Scalzo
Mann of his Time By Ed Youngblood
Yesterday's Motorcycles By Karolevitz
The Scottish By Tommy Sandham
This Old Harley By Michael Dregni
Racer: the story of Gary Nixon By Joe Scalzo
All But My Life: Bio of Stirling Moss By Ken Purdy (OK, not a motorcycle book, but who doesn't like and respect Stirling Moss?)
Investment Biker By Jim Rogers
Obsessions Die Hard By Ed Culbertson
BMW Twins & Singles By Roy Bacon
Bitten by the Bullet By Steve Krzystyniak & Karen Goa
Cafe Racers of the 1960's By Mick Walker
More Proficient Motorcycling By David Hough
Tales of Triumph Motorcycles & the Meriden Factory:
By Hancox
Sport Riding Techniques By Nick Ienatasch
Total Control By Lee Parks



Smooth Riding By Reg Pridmore.
A Twist of The Wrist (Vol 1 & 2) By Keith Code
Triumph Tiger 100 and Daytona By J. R. Nelson
This Old Harley (anthology) By Dregni
Side Glances By Peter Egan
Mondo Enduro By Austin Vince
Big Sid's Vincati By Matthew Bieberman
101 Road Tales By Clement Salvadori
Riding with Rilke By Ted Bishop
Legendary Motorcycles By Luigi Corbetta
Lois on the Loose By Lois Pryce
Red Tape and White Knuckles By Lois Pryce
A Man Called Mike By Hilton (bio of Mike Hailwood)
The Perfect Vehicle By Melissa Pierson
One Man Caravan By Robert Fulton (first known circumnavigation of the world by motorcycle)
Monkey Butt By Rick Sieman
Ariel: The postwar models By Roy Bacon
Short Way Up By Steve Wilson
Endless Horizon By Dan Walsh
Leanings (1 & 2) By Peter Egan
Into the Heart of Africa By Jerry Smith
The Last Hurrah By Des Molloy
(Autographed copy, with DVD of the trip)
Whatever Happened to the British Motorcycle Industry
By Bert Hopwood
Down the Road By Steve Wilson
Motorcycling Excellence
By Motorcycle Safety Foundation
Leanings 3 By Peter Egan
Ghost Rider By Neal Peart

Saturday @ Frisch's 7-9 am and other bits



“And apparently he is not crashing.” John Rice

For Sale



1998 BMW R1200C

- Cream color, blue seat hard bags
- Windscreen
- Under 17,000 miles
- New front tire
- New battery
- 60% on rear tire
- Never been down, no scratches or dents.

\$5000.00

Brady Ratliff
859-619-5493
brady.ratliff@icloud.com



For Sale

**1975 Bultaco Sherpa T
trials bike, Model 151**

\$250 OBO

(No, it doesn't look quite this
good now, but it still runs.)

John Rice
Riceky@AOL.com
859-229-4546



1999 Honda Ace Tourer
23,000 miles

Fine condition with Corbin leather seat with driver
and passenger backrest, Cobra floorboards front

and back, driving lights, fresh tires, windshield,
new gel battery, and leather covers for the crash
bars that keep the cold air off of your legs. No
problems that I know of. My wife and I have not
ridden it as much as we thought we would.



\$4000 OBO

Tim Riddell,
Lexington
859-806-8466

For Sale 2003 R1100S Boxer Cup Replica



22,356 miles

- BMW system cases
- Suburban handlebar risers
- tank bag
- fresh Metzeler

I purchased this lease bike in 2007 from Louisville BMW with only 3,500 miles registered.

This bike is always maintained according to book, garaged kept, in excellent condition and ready to ride.

Price Reduced!

~~\$7,900~~

\$6,900

Lee Thompson

leetlex92@gmail.com

859-475-7029



For Sale



New Mexico 2008

1986 BMW K75

41,929 MILES, GARAGE KEPT

TIRES ARE GOOD, 41,929 MILES

GARAGE KEPT, ALL FUNCTIONS WORK

AUX FLASHERS ON REAR BRAKE

TOURING BAGS, REAR TOP BOX

\$2,800

859-229-4496 or bob.biker1@gmail.com

For Sale 2008 BMW K1200S



- This bike has just over 7400 miles on the odometer.
- Tires have less than 1000 miles on them.
- Bike is in immaculate condition, always kept inside.

\$10,000 or reasonable offer

Roger Perry
859-489-6232

For Sale: 2009 R1200GS ESA.
Approx 16,000 miles, heated grips, vario topcase
Contact Saloman Levy
at salomon.levy@gmail.com
or phone 786-218-7071.

For Sale: R1100RT 1996
Contact John Harter at 859-684-8217

For Sale



- Brembo ABS brakes
- K bike close-ratio 6 speed
- HyperPro shocks
- Throttlemeister cruise
- nearly flawless OEM paint
- heated grips
- head guards
- stock clip-ons and LSL superbike bar conversion
- stock and custom (pictured) seats
- stock and touring shields
- rear seat cowl
- headlight protector shield
- BMW side cases
- cat eliminator pipe plus stock catalytic converter
- 50% left on Metzlers

1999 R1100 S

65,362 miles

\$4,750 obo

Paul Elwyn
859-583-0205

For Sale



2002 BMW R1150RT

Titan Silver
21,000 miles
garage kept

Extras include:

- Black BMW top box
- Oversize side box lids (in addition to regular lids on bike)
- fork mounted High Intensity lights
- flashing stop lights
- back rest
- Elf highway pegs
- Wired for Sirius radio
- bracket with wiring for GPS

Bike is located
in Perryville, KY.

Serviced by Roy Rowlett
Email kr4mo@yahoo.com
for additional pictures.

Asking \$5700.00.

Contact:

John Gentry
859-583-6969





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**WE'VE MADE
OUR MOVE.
NOW IT'S YOUR
TURN.**

**Get one before your friends do or
you'll be on the couch this Spring!**

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New Year Greetings

NEW YEAR

NEW GEAR

COME SEE US!