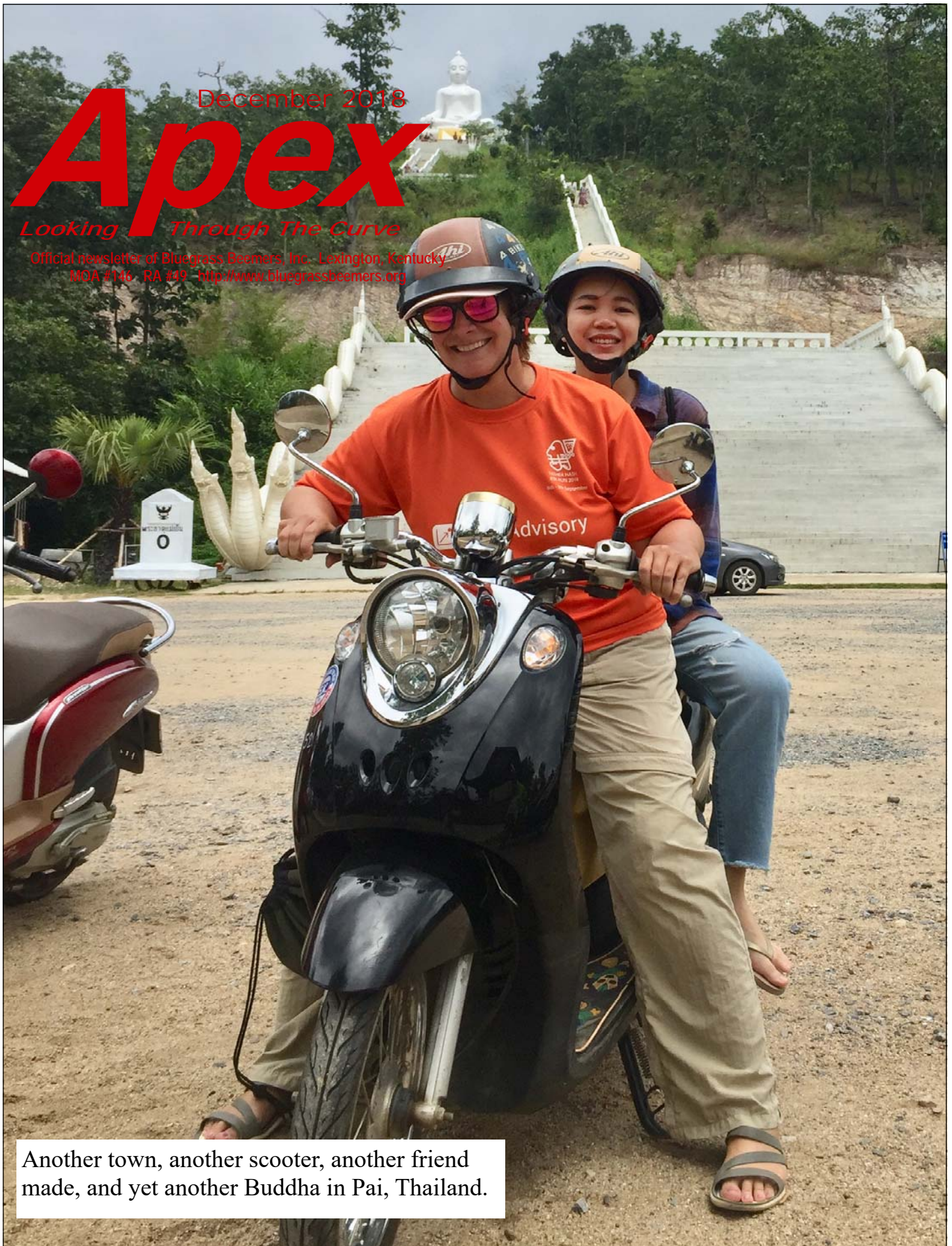


December 2018

# Apex

*Looking Through The Curve*

Official newsletter of Bluegrass Boomers, Inc. - Lexington, Kentucky  
MOA #146 RA #49 <http://www.bluegrassboomers.org>



Another town, another scooter, another friend made, and yet another Buddha in Pai, Thailand.



# Scooting Around SE Asia

By Heather Auman

This Fall, I had the opportunity to make a regional trip in Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Myanmar. I rent my house and it was nearly booked for three months so I wanted to take an opportunity to travel to this inexpensive area of the world while being "homeless." Getting around these areas has changed drastically the past few years with opportunities to rideshare and the use of smart phones. Moto taxis in these areas are common and with the digital age.

## Vietnam and Thailand:

Vietnam and Thailand are well saturated with tourism in the cities with many interconnecting transportation methods. Renting a scooter anywhere is about \$6 USD/day. Those who do not want to be big city daredevils can hop off the back of a Grab motorcycle or jump in a Grab taxi car to get to your destination. Grab offers ride-hailing, ride sharing, and food delivery services through its app and is found in Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, and Cambodia. When not renting transport, I prefer this method. You

can enter your exact pickup, drop off, and you get a fare estimate so there's no haggling (and likely not getting the extra tourist rip-off) of fares. You can view your location on your smart phone's map as to ensure you're getting to your destination. WiFi is EVERYWHERE and SIM cards are cheap, so you can be connected with technology much of your travels. Much of the time you just smile and acknowledge your driver, jump on the back, put on the spare helmet, enjoy the ride, jump off, and pay without saying a word besides "khup kun ka/krap" (Thai), or "cảm ơn" (Vietnamese).

Once out of the large cities like Bangkok and Hanoi, I prefer the freedom and mobility of my own rental bike. The large cities, I prefer to be at less risk and leave travel to the professionals. Be entertained and watch for tourists sporting a "Bangkok Kiss!" The exhaust pipe is exposed and uncovered, leaving the lower leg vulnerable to the extremely hot metal.

I had the opportunity to rent a 500cc Honda Rebel and ride with two ex-pats currently living in Chiang Mai. It was a joy to ride with them as they knew how to ride the delightfully

**Apex is the official newsletter of Bluegrass Beemers, Inc.  
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**Deadline for submissions is the last day of the month.**

Back issues of *Apex* can be accessed on our website

**Join us at Frisch's on Harrodsburg Rd.**

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

**BMW Club  
Bluegrass Beemers**





Well marked road intersection. I forgot where, but in Thailand near the Laos boarder

curvy back roads! They both had Thai wives and were capable in communicating our needs for when we're eating, sight seeing, and getting lodging for the evening. Our journey started from Chiang Mai, Phayo, Nan, paralleling next to the Laos border, Chiang Rai, then back to Chiang Mai for a total of five days. These views were spectacular and looked like a Jurassic Park set when riding along the mountaintop ridges and river valleys. I happened to be the oddity when stopping for fuel in the villages. A few were bold enough to approach me and were touching the back of my hand and giggling at my pale skin color and eyes.

### Malaysia:

No motorbike needed here as the public transportation in Kuala Lumpur is world class! Kuala Lumpur is cheap, clean, efficient, and also has Grab car taxis. Motorbikes are not common in this first world city.

### Myanmar:

By far, this country was the most exciting part of this trip. Visas fees are drastically dropped to \$50USD and there's no need for a personal tour guide at all times which was a requirement in the past. Tourism is still fairly new in many cities, so patience and acceptance are key for enjoying your trip.

The ancient city of Bagan, Myanmar was interesting because foreigners could not rent gas powered scooters but can rent electric bikes, or e-bikes. This city is known for its ruins, totaling about 2,000 temples and stupas in the city alone. Hiring an English speaking guide will cost about \$10USD/day and well worth the history lessons and sharing of their beautiful culture. The e-bike I was riding was thrilling with its instant acceleration but didn't want to go too fast because of the pothole ridden dirt roads. The battery charged lasted all day





Elephants share the bicycle lane in Ayutthaya, Thailand. Y'all know NOT to ride the elephants, right?



The norm for carrying a child or three. Kanchanaburi, Thailand.



Tiger place  
where you can  
look fierce  
while with a  
half-sedated ti-  
ger. Just no



A typical Street scene  
in Kanchanaburi. I got  
my first ever pedicure  
for \$2USD here.

Bangkok traffic, not  
rush hour.







Bangkok Beemer

and got me thinking how much I'd enjoy a bike like this for errands around Lexington.

Yangon was the largest city in Myanmar I visited on this trip and Grab worked wonderfully since English isn't spoken much here. Motorbikes are completely banned in this town for all since traffic can be congested at times.

This is one of the reasons we travel. It's a good reason we ride our motorcycles, to feel alive and step out of our comfort zone. To learn how to deal with different situations and to challenge ourselves. South-East Asia is truly a paradise whether you're backpacking on a budget or staying at a five star resort. From the amazing food, culture, beaches, and people — traveling through this region can be a life-changing experience.



Coffee break in Phayo, Thailand





Off we go in Bagan, Myanmar on our e-bikes to visit the ruins for the day.  
Daily rental was \$3USD.

Bagan on a dirt side road. Only one main road was paved. It was nice not to hear the engines of gas scooters and only the peace and tranquility of the historic sites.







A gem of a bike in Nha Trang, Vietnam



Police ride two up on these scooters in Chiang Mai, Thailand.





Riding through the clouds in the mountains was a bit concerning with all the construction trucks taking wide turns.

Chiang Rai and its famous White Temple. This temple has lots of creepy hands and skulls reaching for you at its entrance.



Phu Chi Fa, Thailand overlook.



Four people with a pick axe demolishing a building in Yangon, Myanmar.



Some areas have a shack like this Gassoline which takes only paper money with the old king on it. The new king money has too many security features in it for the money feeder to handle.

Sign outside where I got my Thai massage.



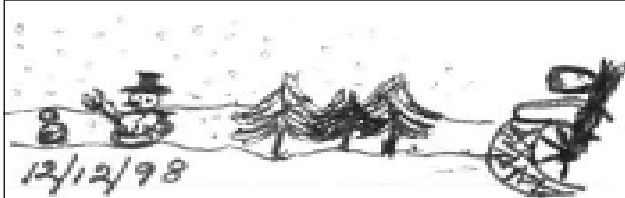


A member of the BMWMOA board of directors came to our breakfast on November 24, chauffeured on the back of President Kelly Moore's BMW. Chad Warner, from Columbus Ohio. A nice fellow with interesting stories to tell of GS rides in the mountains, crash videos and some plans for future articles in the ON magazine. Perhaps we Bluegrass Beemers will be in one of them.

-John Rice







Kenny's Cold  
39°F

SOME DAYS ARE COLD AND LONELY,  
SOME DAYS ARE SUNNY AND BRIGHT,  
BE TRUE TO YOUR ONE AND ONLY,  
DON'T WEAR YOUR LEVIS TOO TIGHT,  
KEEP YOUR RIGHT HAND FIRM ON THE THROTTLE,  
KEEP YOUR EYES WAY AHEAD THROUGH THE TURN,  
DON'T MIX A BIKE AND A BOTTLE,  
YOUR ASH COULD END UP IN AN URN...



Here's the group for today:

\* 1). Jim Brandon

\* FREE BREAKFAST

2). Dave McCord

3). Boone Sutherland

4). Mike Gill

5). John Rice

6). Paul Elwyn

7). Pete Galbis

8). Chir Warner

9). Tim Koury

10). Joe Banks

11). Tom Sutherland

12). Drey Neal

13). Flan Root (ex policeman - New Recruit)

14). Chester Martin

15). Ron Atkins

16). Jeff Crabbe

17). Darlene Huffman

18). Gary Huffman

Boone



# 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



***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  
***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  
***Revolutionary Ride*** By Lois Pryce  
***How to Drive a Sidecar Rig*** by David Hough