

March 2018

# Apex

*Looking Through The Curve*

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



A Gathering of the Group for Pie



# Is Winter over, yet?

By Jeff Crabb

We only have warmer days coming and, as always, those days will allow us to shake out of the doldrums that many of us find ourselves in.

The cover photo was submitted by John Rice. Jim Brandon, Hubert Burton, Ben Prewitt & Paul Elwyn taking advantage of a warm February day.

We've got a story from John Rice ex-

plaining why we ride and how non-riders see riders and I threw in more photos from January's bike show in Cincinnati.

Please enjoy and remember, send all of your contributions to [apex@bluegrassbeemers.org](mailto:apex@bluegrassbeemers.org).



1963 Triumph TR6SS

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Lexington, Kentucky MOA #146 RA #49

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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**



## “Fear does not prevent danger”

By John Rice

While watching the movie "Sidecar Dogs", I picked up the above phrase during a discussion on whether it was "proper" to expose dogs to the risks of motorcycle sidecar travel. An ex-pat Frenchman, now living in the US, referred to what he described as a common saying in his country to explain the notion that one should go on and do things that may induce fear of harm, because life isn't safe for any of us and the fact that something bad might possibly happen shouldn't keep us from enjoying what living has to offer. I thought it was an interesting way of capturing the idea that being afraid of dangers, real or imagined, isn't by itself very useful. Understanding the actual danger and controlling the risks to the best we can manage, is.

I'm certainly not a "brave" person, not in the "storm the machine gun nest" or "face down the charging lion" variety, but in general, I'm not usually fearful for life's typical dangers. I've had my moments, the awakening at 3 AM, heart pounding, wondering if I had missed a statute of limitations or failed to do something I should have done for a client

(fortunately, those were all false fears) and some medical scares that leave a dark cloud over the world until the good news (so far, anyway!) comes through.

That said, though, I'm not usually afraid on a bike. Non-riders seem to feel that every moment on a motorcycle is fraught with unpredictable danger and the prospect that the thing will suddenly and without warning go out of control. (I recall watching a movie in which the protagonist crashed badly because he ran over a flattened dead skunk in the middle of a straight dry road). The uninitiated don't understand the physics of a two wheeled machine and cannot imagine that it is anything but unstable, prone to crash suddenly at any random moment for no understandable cause. They think we who ride either are too dim-witted to understand that level of risk or somehow "brave" enough to ignore it. Certainly I have scared myself through an excess of enthusiasm with a minimum of talent, and other drivers' dumb moves have left me momentarily contemplating my imminent de-

mise, but those are, in one sense or another, known risks.

When a new acquaintance learns that I ride motorcycles, I usually get the "wreck" stories ("I had an uncle once, had a Harley, and he had to lay it down. Yep, there was nothing left of him but his left pinky, and we used to bring that to all the family gatherings in a plastic bag") and the "daredevil" or "Evel Knievel" references and of course the "uncomfortable" stories ("I don't see how you ride on that thing all the way across town. Doesn't your butt hurt?") But most of the framework of the discourse has to do with the non-rider's concept of the fear of the uncontrollable danger these motorized contraptions induce and their pilots must endure. But overcoming fear doesn't seem to be first on the minds of long-term riders I know.

In the movie "Fastest", about the Moto GP series featuring Valentino Rossi and his contemporaries, the point is made that these young men and women are superior, not necessarily in "bravery", but in thinking, planning and execution of the plan. That is the part that the non-motorsport public never consider. I recall seeing a video of a Moto GP race several years ago in which two riders, I think Colin Edwards and Troy Bayliss, had pulled far away from the rest of the field (which con-

sisted of the rest of the best riders in the world!) and were all by themselves, mere feet or sometimes inches apart for the last few laps of the race. These two men were at the very limits of control at unimaginable speeds and lean angles.....but they never crashed or even looked like they could. What the non-riders see as raw bravery was in fact very skilled athletes calculating tire wear, traction, fuel, track surface, the other rider's position and just how far they could push their skills and their equipment without going too far to recover a mistake. I doubt that fear had much place in their calculations at the time.

Like with any passion that we humans can devote ourselves to, the uninitiated cannot relate to anything but the superficial stories that float to the top of the "common knowledge" and that gives them a one-size-fits-all version that they can use to put that thing, that activity in a box that eliminates the need to think about it in any analytical fashion. Every gun owner isn't a crazed killer, every lawyer isn't a Fenn-Phenn crook or an ambulance-chaser, and every cop isn't just out to harm people who don't look like him. I have an acquaintance whose passion is rock climbing, hanging by her fingers and toes, dangling over the abyss for the fun of it. I can't relate to doing it, but I



know she doesn't have a death wish. I know she plans every move and weighs every risk well in advance, knowing what she can do and what she can't get away with, and is always practicing, pushing herself to move things from the second category to the first. She loves doing it, getting better at it and feeling the high that only comes with mastery of a difficult skill with some risk involved. She probably thinks I'm nuts for riding a motorcycle.

## 1974 Moto Guzzi 850T

Balanced 977 cc motor producing 95 HP

Concept, design and mechanicals by The Guzzi Doctor—North Chicago, IL







## 1950 Ducati Cucciolo

Custom built by Analog Motorcycle, Waukegan, IL

A 1930's Iver Johnson bicycle frame and stem and a 1950 Ducati engine went into making this board track inspired machine

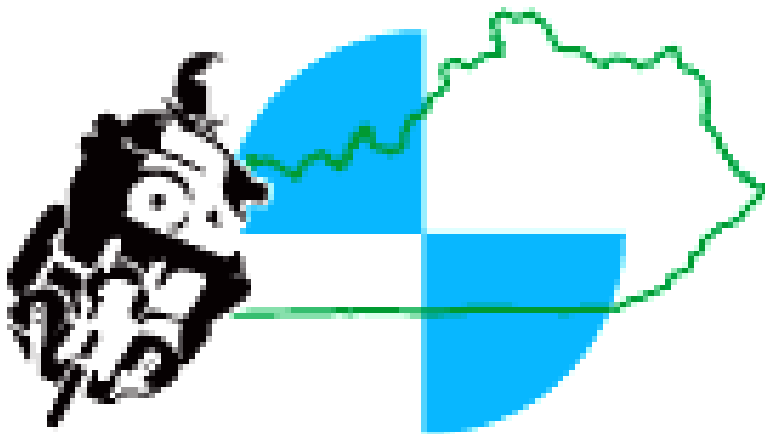


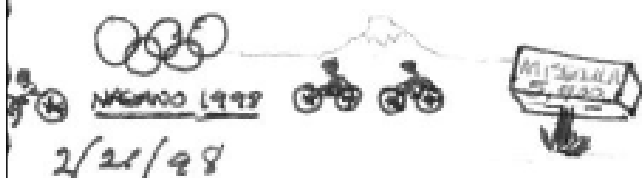
Announcing:  
Bluegrass Beemers Annual Banquet

Will be March 31, 2018 @ 6:30pm  
@ The Chop House restaurant  
on Richmond Road

If you plan on attending, please send a  
RSVP to Jeff O'dean at [jjodean@aol.com](mailto:jjodean@aol.com)

**BMW Club**  
**Bluegrass Beemers**





Cloudy, Drizzle  
= 40°F.

2/21/98

OL' JAKE STARTED SNEEZIN' ONE DAY WHILE 'A GREASIN'  
THE BEARINGS HE TOOK OUT TO PACK,  
HIS TASK WAS DIMINISHED 'CAUSE WHEN HE HAD  
FINISHED,  
HE COULDN'T FIND ONE TO PUT BACK ...



Here's the group for today:

- \* 1). Jim Bunlon
- 2). Dave McLeod
- 3). Rita McLeod
- 4). Ray Rowlett
- 5). Tom Sutherland
- 6). Boone Sutherland
- 7). Chris Warner
- \* 8). John Rice
- 9). Mike Bell
- 10). Pete Golek
- \* 11). Joe Bark
- \* 12). Paul Elwyn
- \* 13). Mitch Butler
- \* 14). Randy Kline
- \* 15). James Street
- 16). Steve Bishop
- 17). Jim Kousy
- 18). Darryl Sipe

*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