NEWSLETTER
Beehive Beemers Motorcycle Club of Utah
MOA 169 / RA 299
August 2025

MEMORIAL: Thane Beckstrand

from his daughter, Heather Beckstrand Lowry

It is with great sadness and joy that I share with you the news that my dad, Thane M Beckstrand. passed away on Monday June 23rd. He wanted me to let you know. We will miss him dearly, but believe that he is experiencing a joyous reunion with our family in heaven. We invite you to join us in celebrating his life at his memorial on August 2nd, 2025.

Services will be held at the Midvale, UT chapel:
7825 South Olympus Street
Midvale, Utah 84047-7426



We will not have a viewing according to his wishes. But we will have a friends and family gathering beforehand from 11:30 to 12:45 then the memorial will begin at 1PM.

We'd love to see you there!
Love, his daughter,
Heather Beckstrand Lowry

Here is the link to the memorial on Zoom.
Topic: Funeral for Thane M Beckstrand
Time: Aug 2, 2025 01:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

August's BMW Enthusiast: Harrison Ford





When not crashing helicopters or landing planes on the taxi way, Harrison Ford can be seen riding around in Jackson, Wyoming on his 2009 BMW R1200GS (as recent as last year). Mr. Ford is known for his collection of airplanes and vintage British cars, but he has two motorcycles: a 1993 Triumph Daytona and a practical "everyday" ride on his BMW.

SnowWiesn Oktoberfest: Snowbasin Utah

Join us for a ride and afternoon at Snowbasin's Oktoberfest Saturday September 13
(More detail provided in September's upcoming Newsletter)



Parking is free, but a season pass or ticket is required for entry. Our Premier Season Pass Holders have free access, with several ticket options available for others to join the fun.

Tickets:
Each of the following options provides admission into SnowWiesn Oktoberfest. Tickets on sale later this summer.
Single-Day Event Ticket: $10

Utah's newest Oktoberfest is back! Join us for SnowWiesn Oktoberfest, a German-themed fall fesitval in the mountains.

Named after d'Wiesn, the local nickname for Oktoberfest in Germany referring to the fairgrounds, SnowWiesn is one of the most anticipated festivals in Utah. This traditional German-inspired beer festival showcases local Utah breweries, offering a variety of craft beer and drinks served in authentic beer steins. Visitors can enjoy Bavarian food, live music, a local market, and fun activities.

Bavarian music from the Park City Polka Players takes place on the plaza throughout the event, followed by the headline music act on the concert stage at 4pm.

SnowWiesn takes place every Saturday and Sunday from August 30th through October 12th from 12pm to 6pm. For quicker and easier access into the event, purchase tickets in advance online.

Beehive Beemers' September Brunch will be held at the Snowiesn Oktoberfest. We will create a ride-to-the event route and times so that members can join us.

Festive Eats
Our events include a festive array of dishes to indulge on. Choose to eat in the grand setting of Earl's Lodge, or outdoors on our mountainside patio.

Mountain Market
SnowWiesn features a local market of artisan crafts, jewlery and other unique items you wont find anywhere else. We're currently taking applications to join our market for the 2025 event series.

Scenic Gondola Rides
Enjoy a 12-minute ride to the top at 8,700 feet where hiking and biking trails await. Needles Gondola is open from 9am to 4pm on weekends.
Scenic Gondola Ticket: $19 to $29







BMW R51/2 & 3

1950-55

Milbertshofen plant, Munich, Germany

Following World War II, Germany was precluded from producing motorcycles of any sort by the Allies. When the ban was lifted, in Allied-controlled Western Germany, BMW had to start from scratch. There were no plans, blueprints, or schematic drawings. Company engineers had to use surviving pre-war motorcycles to create new plans. In 1948, it introduced the 250 cc R24, which was essentially a pre-war R23, complete with rigid rear end.



When larger machines were permitted, BMW introduced its first post-war twin-cylinder model. This was the R51/2 based, as its designation suggests, on the pre-war R51. Introduced in 1938, the latter was an updated version of the R5 of 1936, which had represented a new departure for BMW by virtue of its method of valve actuation, adopting two chain-driven camshafts that permitted shorter pushrods and higher revs. The R51 deployed the R5-type engine in new cycle parts that featured a telescopic front fork and plunger rear suspension, while improvements incorporated into the post-war R51/2 included a two-way damped front fork, a gearbox main-shaft damper and a strengthened frame.

The R51/2 in 1950, a model that was in production for only one year, was essentially a pre-war BMW R51. The R51/3 was then introduced in 1951 for a production run of four years. These R51 variations were essentially updated versions of the trusted and war tested machines of 1939 to 1945; this included the fender and body parts, as there was no money to create new framing/body form work and presses.



In 1951, at the Amsterdam Motor Show, BMW released two motorcycles that featured a newly developed engine, the 500cc R51/3, and the 600cc R67 models. The chassis featured by the R51/3 model was taken over from its predecessor, and the newly developed engine had the valves controlled by a camshaft.

In the 500cc class, the R51/3 model once enabled BMW to set benchmarks for handling, smooth running, and sportiness. At the Six Day Race in 1951, the model passed the sporting test and proved its endurance qualities.

The 494cc air-cooled four-stroke twin-cylinder boxer engine with an output power of 24 hp at 5,800 rpm, impressed visually with its smooth surfaces and the one-piece valve cover. The 1951 BMW R51/3 tipped the scale at 190 kg (396 lbs) without a sidecar and 320 kg (705 lbs) with an original BMW sidecar. The maximum speed of the model was 135 kph (83 mph).





The model retained the proven design used in 1938 with a telescopic fork on the front and a straight suspension on the rear. The brakes mounted on its wire-spoked wheels consisted of a 200 mm half-hub drum unit front and rear in a reinforced form.

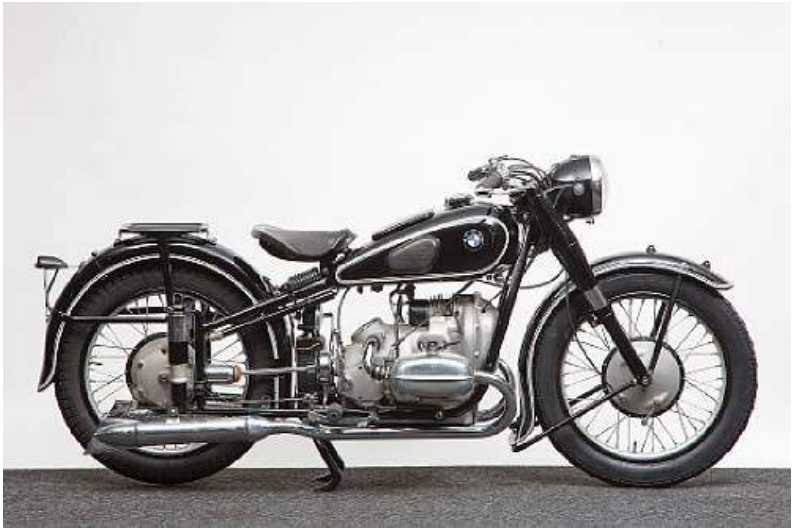
The model found its customer primarily among solo sporty drivers but also proved its long-distance qualities on extended tours on two or three wheels.

As standard features, the bike came with full fenders, a round headlight, a single seat, a rear luggage rack, a dual exhaust system, a blacked-out steel frame, a small taillight, and a center stand.

Newsletter Editor's note: I believe the 1951 R51/3 to be one of the most beautifully designed BMWs with its pre-war Art Deco styling and innovated and updated post war engineering (for that time). But I might be a little bias.

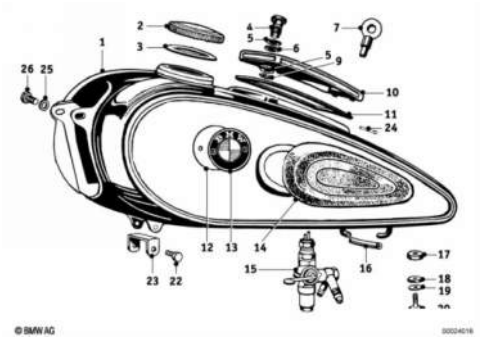


For Reference (right):
A 1939 BMW R51



NUTS & BOLTS

General Announcements & Information



LEADERSHIP for 2026:

We have a couple of members who have reached out with some interest, but we would like to still remind everyone that we are looking for Leadership positions for our club next year.

The two open positions that must be filled are: President and Vice President.
If you are interested in stepping into these roles, please reach out to Bryan Cody at utahbeehivebeemers@gmail.com for details.

The main role of the Presidency is understanding and following the Charter's bylaws and helping the Treasurer maintain the accounts. It would also be helpful for anyone that has experience in organizing group event – as there has been a desire to expand to something more than monthly meetups.

I'd like to thank those who have reached out with interest - and hope to hear from more.



BUSINESS AS USUAL

Membership Renewal

Club renewal membership can be obtained via the club's website: https://beehivebeemers.org/

Click on the “Join/Renew” tab, fill out the renewal information on the form and use PayPal for payment. You should receive a confirmation from the Treasurer.
Of course, you can always print and mail your membership renewals, along with a check, to our mailbox.

Beehive Beemers Motorcycle Club of Utah
P.O. Box 521683
Salt Lake City, UT 84152-1683

EUROSPORTS UTAH / BMW Motorcycles of UTAH

Eurosports Utah (formally Harrisons) generously offers a 10% discount to our club members on parts, accessories, and apparel.

Check out their ever expanding apparel and gift items. If there are licensed BMW items that you would like to see added to the sales floor, please let them know, as they would appreciate input from their customers.



Share your trips!

I am encouraging members to get involved by sharing their stories that I will publish in the Newsletters. Reach out to me about your trips and rides. Let me help share your adventures and photos with our members as well as those interested in joining our club.
(re: 2023 Spring Q/2 Quarterly for examples)

You can either write the story - or send me the bullet points and I'll be happy to create the narrative.

Things I know people like to see: route map, points of interest, and fun unique places to eat/drink/lodge.

August 9

Saturday Brunch
11:00 am

Billy Blancos

8208 Gorgoza Pines Rd.
Suites A & B Quarry Village
Park City, UT 84098

August 17

EUROSPORTSUTAH

WEST TRACK EXPERIENCE

https://euroutah.com for more information, pricing, RSVP

Utah Motorsports Campus
Grantsville, UT 84074

September 13

SnowWiesn Oktoberfest: Snowbasin Utah

Departure Ride times and meet at Snow Basin times to be announced in Sept. Newsletter

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly club meetings are the second Saturday of each month (unless noted otherwise). Recommendations are welcomed. Reminders and RSVPs will be emailed to members one week prior to breakfast/brunches.

Please note that event dates, locations, and times are subject to change. Any changes, additional information, and updates will be emailed to club members, updated to website, and announced in the monthly Newsletter sent by the 1st of every month.

September 14

EUROSPORTSUTAH

EAST TRACK EXPERIENCE

https://euroutah.com for more information, pricing, RSVP

Utah Motorsports Campus
Grantsville, UT 84074

END