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

1923: Origins

For this year's coverpage theme, we'll be featuring a BMW Motorrad innovation timeline. We all know that BMW has been making motorcycles since 1923 - long before cars, but many may not realize that BMW Motorrad has been on the forefront of innovation and milestones having developed some "firsts" in motorcycling.

Innovation Timeline:
1923 Boxer Engine, Driveshaft, Rear Brake

Though BMW did not build the first horizontally opposed engine, that would be Karl Benz in 1887, BMW was the first production motorcycle with a flat-twin engine. The BMW R 32, launched in 1923, established the iconic layout with horizontally opposed cylinders and shaft drive that became a BMW hallmark. Developed by Max Friz, this model used an engine based on earlier aircraft designs and was BMW's first motorcycle, laying the groundwork for over a century of boxer-powered bikes.

Also, BMW started with a two cylinder motorcycle while most motorcycle manufacturers were using one cylinder engines. For reference, Moto Guzzi established two years earlier in 1921 (and know for their longitudinally mounted V twin and drive shaft configuration), would not build a production two cylinder nor drive shaft motorcycle until 1967.



BMW did not build the first driveshaft motorcycle, that would be a Belgian FN (Fabrique Nationale) motorcycle in 1903. But the FN company was mainly a small arms manufacturer that build (non assembly line production) cars and motorcycles.

BMW, familiar with driveshaft design having used them in their aircraft productions, simple crossed over when BMW began producing motorcycles. It's also worth noting that BMW manufactured, from the beginning, their own frame designs based on the engine and driveshaft configurations. Many early motorcycle were essentially modified bicycles frames.

The following year, 1924, upon beginning production of the R39, BMW uses an external foot brake for the first time to brake the rear wheel instead of the usual wedge brake or hand lever cable, enabling the rider to brake even more safely and effortlessly.

BMW MOTORRAD WELT, Berlin Germany

Over the holidays I was back in Berlin on vacation. Simply one of my favorite cities, but also a bonus that it is the home of BMW Motorrad.

New this last year is the BMW Motorrad Welt. This is a space built within the original BMW factory where BMW can present and celebrate their brand to customers and the public. Previously the brand was minimally highlighted in BMW's Automobile Welt at their headquarters in Munich.

In our October 2024 Newsletter I had done an article about the new Motorrad Welt. Below are some pictures from my visit just as they opened.

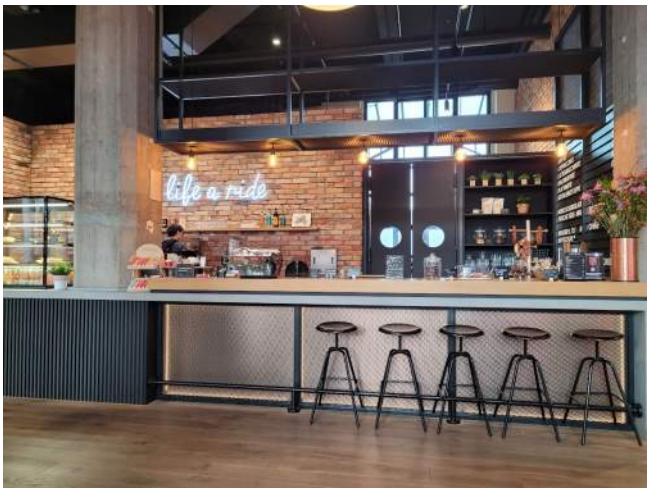
Having now visited the Motorrad Welt, I can report that though small it is a comfortable space to relax and meet. While their early in the morning to grab a coffee and light breakfast, I was pleasantly surprised at how it soon filled with groups of riders. A place for friends to meet and have coffee before going on a ride. And when I returned later in the evening it still had riders (with their bikes neatly aligned outside) socializing and enjoying a beer and food.



The space has a small stage for concerts and debut presentations, conference rooms, but is mainly an open area with old and new motorcycles featured throughout as well as branded riding gear and casual clothing items.

The barista at the counter told me that in the warmer months, the place is packed with riders and music guests and is a great atmosphere.





But what really caught my attention was some of the neat gear that they do not sell in the North American markets.

BMW Helmets we can't get

While looking at the various bikes, I spotted the beautiful R12S with its hommage to the 1976 R90S Daytona Orange paint. But it was the shelf above that had a matching helmet that really intrigued me.



I knew that BMW manufactures their own helmets, and though they have the safer ECE rating, they are not DOT and thus are unavailable in the USA, but I wondered if this helmet was just a show piece - a unique one off for the display.



However when I went to the retail section of the Welt I saw that not only was this an actual production helmet for sale, but that BMW had a whole line of helmets that reflect the various paint schemes of their motorcycles.

Below are just a few of the cool examples we don't get of helmets that match the motorcycle:



BMW M Race Helmet for your M1000RR Aniversary Sao Paulo Yellow



BMW Hertiage for your vintage bikes or R18s

BMW Carbon Evo for your R1300GS and Rallye





BMW Xomo R12 Sand Rover GS



BMW Assen and San Remo for R12s







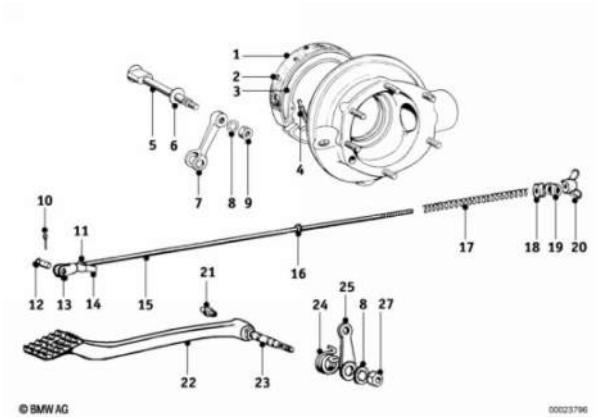




BMW Helmets we can't get

NUTS & BOLTS

General Announcements & Information



END OF THE YEAR DINNER

A huge thank you to Kristi for coordinating our end of the year meetup at Red Iguana. And thank you for those that came.

FOR 2026:

We had a few people offer some suggestions for group rides in 2026, so we'll be looking into some adventures this coming year.

We'd also like to organize a ride to the Top of the Rockies Rally in Colorado. They are still in the planning stages, but I will keep an eye on it as it is released. It would be great to have a group of us representing Utah!



FEBRUARY'S BRUNCH DATE

This year the second Saturday in February, when we typically have our monthly brunch, falls on Valentines day. Therefore, we are going to reschedule it for the following day, Sunday February 15th.

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.

January

10

Saturday Brunch
11:00am

The Break
South Jordan

11274 Kestrel Rise Rd, South Jordan, UT 84095

February

15

Sunday Brunch
11:00 am

The Corner Brew Pub Sugarhouse

2110 S Highland Dr, Salt Lake City, UT 84106

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.

END