NEWSLETTER

Beehive Beemers Motorcycle Club of Utah
MOA 169 / RA 299

April 2026

Innovation Timeline: Hydraulic Steering Damper

The first hydraulic steering damper in standard motorcycle production ensures maximised riding safety. It was fitted in the R 69 S for the first time – the fastest German motorcycle at the time (175 km/h). Prior to the hydraulic damper, a manual tension "dial" was mounted at the top of the steering arm. The new hydraulic steering damper and the proven full-swing chassis provided good control for the BMW R 69 S even when it was being ridden with dynamic handling. The steering damper can even be switched off at lower speeds for improved handling.

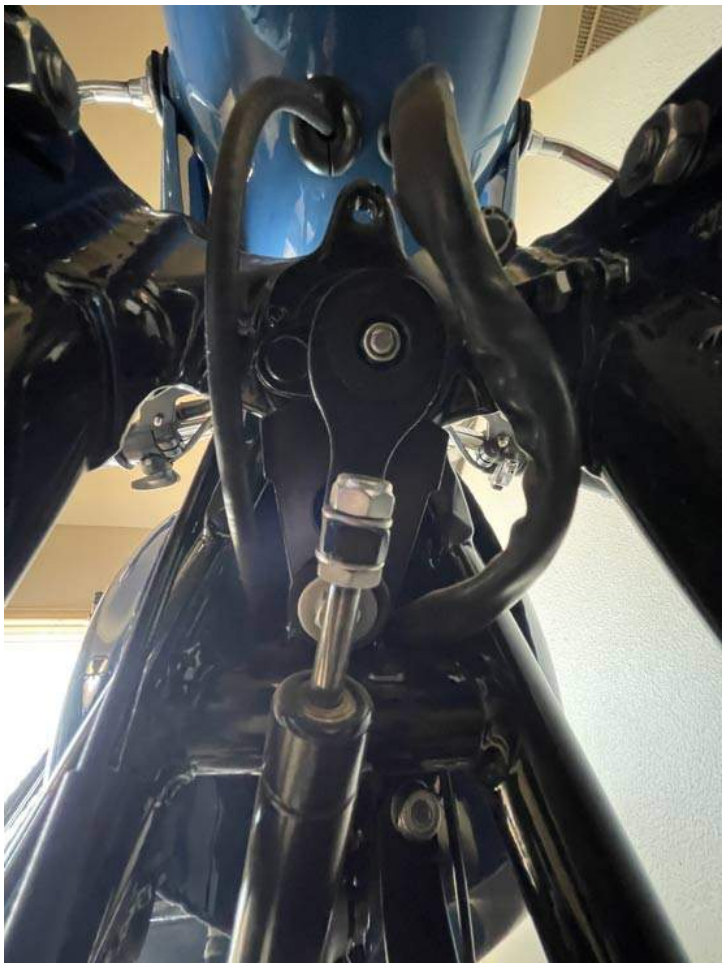
1923: Origins

1935: Hydraulic Telescopic Fork

1936: Kompressor

1960: Hydraulic Steering Damper





Hydraulic steering damper attached on a rotating bracket at the forks and hard mounted to the center bar of the main frame

SAFETY

It's beginning to look a lot like motorcycle season

Just a friendly reminder that as the weather warms up, and we find ourselves eagerly wanting to ride again - remember a few things:

Be hyper-aware.
Cars aren't accustom to seeing motorcycles on the streets again.

You're rusty.
Don't expect to jump on that seat with the same riding skills you had when you parked the bike for the winter. Hit those empty parking lots and practice your skills and emergency braking before heading straight out on the road. [You should do this regularly throughout the year anyway]

It's not summer yet.
Just because the temperature is warming doesn't mean there isn't patches of potential ice in the shade - especially where snow melt happens and refreezes over night.

The sun is out... kind of.
Be aware of the sun's location. Despite the days getting longer, the sun is still low in the sky. This can cause a blinding glare on drivers in the morning (or evenings) right at commuter times (unlike the summer when the sun comes up early and sets much later). Know that if a glare or sun in the eyes is hampering your view ahead, the car behind you also can't see you (who is even smaller than a car). Or if the sun is low behind you, the oncoming direction traffic may have a more difficult time seeing you (potentially turning in front of you).

Be safe out there!



We're looking to gain interest in group activities:

Rev Up for a Beehive Beemers Scavenger Hunt Ride!



Are you up for a little friendly competition? We're exploring the idea of organizing a scavenger hunt-style ride contest for Beehive Beemers members, and we want to know if you're in!

Here's the idea: participants will receive a list of locations to track down and snap a photo at each one. Prizes will be awarded to the top three to five finishers. It's a great way to explore some new roads and have a blast with fellow members — all while doing what we love most.

To make this happen, we'll need a minimum of 15 riders signed up, so spread the word! If there's enough interest, we'll get to work on the details and announce dates, locations, and prize information.

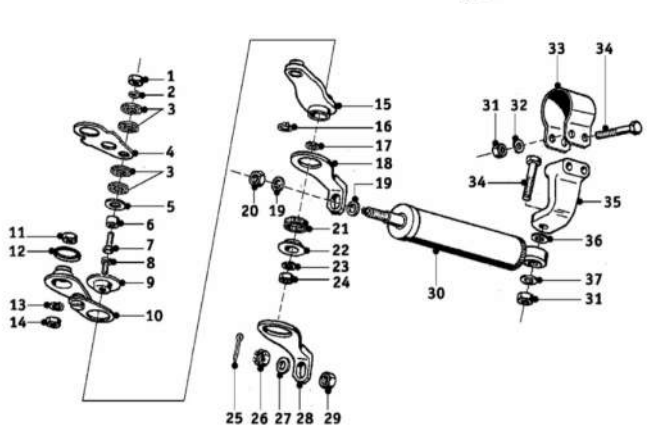
Think you've got what it takes to claim the top spot? We'd love to hear from you!

If you're interested in participating, please send an email with subject title, "Scavenger Hunt" to utahbeehivebeemers@gmail.com.

Let us know you're in, and feel free to share any questions or suggestions. The more riders, the better the adventure!

NUTS & BOLTS

General Announcements & Information



Changes coming to the Beehive Beemers

It has been acknowledged for sometime that the club has needed a shot of energy and leadership - and volunteerism.

Peter Balintine has been in talks with many of our original members in how to try to bring some life to the club, and he has volunteered to step in as President for the remainder of the year. At the last brunch we had a strong turnout of many members so that Peter could introduce himself and speak to the group regarding ideas he has for the club. This included group rides and trip opportunities, all of which still requires help from members. This summer there are many rallys in the region, and we would like to get a group of members to attend these rallys to represent the Beehive Beemers.

Regarding the open position of President, the club followed the Bylaws in filling the position. This has all been recorded by the Club Secretary, and those meeting minutes are included with this Newsletter.

As a brief description: Section 8.4 states vacancies in any office shall be filled by a regular member in good standing appointed by a consensus of the Board of Directors, and shall serve until the next regular election of officers (in December).

A discussion by the board was made regarding the proposition of a "special election", however that would require an amendment to the bylaws. It was felt that because we have a member (Peter) willingly volunteering, it was worth the expedited process already set within the current bylaws. Per the bylaws the position would then be on the ballot in November for member's to vote for the position to be officially filled.

Upcoming announcements of activities will be made via email and Newsletters - and we hope to see more attendance. Thank you.

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.

April

11

Saturday Brunch
11:00 am

Emigration Brewery

4170 Emigration Canyon Rd.
SLC UT 84108

April

18

EUROSPORTSUTAH

Bikes and Breakfast

Eurosports Utah

https://www.euroutah.com/ for Info

May

15-17

EUROSPORTSUTAH

14th Annual Spring Ride / Bryce Canyon

https://www.euroutah.com/ for Info and RSVP

UPCOMING EVENT

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.

May

30-31

EUROSPORTSUTAH

ADV Clinic with Shawn Thomas & Louise Powers

https://www.euroutah.com/ for Info and RSVP

END

Beehive Beemers Motorcycle Club
Monthly Meeting and Brunch

Porcupine Grill, Cottonwood Heights, UT
Meeting Minutes and Notes
March 14, 2026

The meeting commenced at approximately 11:25 AM

Meeting Attendance

Club Officers Present:

- David Ruster, Treasurer
- Kristi Brockman, Vice President
- Bryan Cody, Editor
- David Gellner, Secretary
- Club President – **Currently Vacant**

Club Members Attending (24 signed in):

Crit Swaner	Lynn Brockman
DeVern Gerber	Bill Swift
Peter Ballatine	Jon Beck
Claude LePendu	Alton Wagon
Bruce Kaplan	Ray Hunting
Hank Barber	Alberto de la Torre
Nicole Hillary	David Norcutt
Ted Twogood	Todd Ferrar
John Littlewood	Jim Prior
Larry Nilssen	Thomas O'Meara
Richard Dolan	

Interim Club President:

The role of Club President is currently vacant. Peter Ballantine, a member in good standing has volunteered to fill the role of President for the Club. Appointing Peter Ballantine to fill the role of President outside of the regular election cycle, is addressed by the following provision in the Club Bylaws:

> *ARTICLE 8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS*
>
> *Section 8.3 All officers must be regular members in good standing. Candidates for the various offices receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected for one year. New officers will be installed at the Annual Membership Business Meeting in December.*
>
> *Section 8.4 Vacancies in any office shall be filled by a regular member in good standing appointed by a consensus of the Board of Directors, and shall serve until the next regular election of officers*.

The following officers were present at the March 14, 2024 Meeting and voted in the following manner in regard to appointing Peter Ballantine as interim Club President

David Ruster – yes	**David Gellner – yes**
Bryan Cody – yes	**Kristi Brockman - yes**

By majority vote of the filled officer positions, Peter Ballantine will serve in the role of interim Club President until the next election cycle in December 2026.

Before the officer's vote we had a discussion regarding some reservations due to Peter's availability with out-of-country travel planned this summer. The ideas presented by Peter will require volunteerism from other Club members.

Treasurer's Report and Financial Report:

Financial report:	**AMCU**	**$ 7,690.85**
	Paypal	**$ 3,748.41**
Total		**$11,439.26**

Meeting Summary:

Peter Ballantine introduced himself to the group and noted that he is excited to step into a role with the Club and try to revive many of the Club activities. He outlined a desire to organize more group rides and some overnight or weekend campout trips in the coming year.

It was noted that Ray Hunting will be helping to lead and organize rides from May to August this year as Peter will be in Europe on a bicycling trip. Members are encouraged to join those rides as able. Dates of planned rides will be included in the newsletter if known far enough in advance.

In terms of various BMW Rallies, possible attendance as a group at various events was discussed. This could include the Top of Rockies Rally (CO), Beartooth Beemers (MT) and other events. Dates will be shared in the newsletter. Several expressed that this would be a good item and expressed a desire to have a Beehive Beemer. It was noted that order for this to be successful, the Club will need someone to help coordinate those efforts.

Ray Hunting noted that in terms of organizing group rides, mapping apps such as MyRide will be used as the routes are shareable and updatable if they need to change. Ray would like to expand our range of rides and welcomed input on planning those. He also noted that rides need to be planned in a way that they don't conflict with the monthly Beehive Beemer meetings. That has been an issue in the past.

Bryan Cody also noted that people are needed to help lead rides and other events.

Alberto de la Torre noted that there needs to be a consolidated way to communicate changes, dates and other information to Club members. The Club has a website but some items are also posted on Facebook. Updating the website might be the best option.

David Gellner noted that RSVPs are really needed for the monthly meetings so that we have an accurate head count for the restaurant where we are holding that event. More and more restaurants require a head count for any larger group to plan for staff, and we do not want to lose potential locations willing to hose us due to not providing that in advance. Emailing the RSVP would be the best way to communicate.

In terms sending an RSVP for the meetings, a suggestion was made to include the email address that the RSVP email should be sent to in the newsletter and emails reminders so that there is no confusion.

The meeting concluded at approximately 12:45 PM