

# BOXER SHORTS

**Yankee Beemers Motorcycle Club  
March 2019**

**Upcoming 2019 events**

**YB WINTER BASH Photo review**

**Ride west-east with Jeff Stein**





Wonderful time at the  
Yankee Beemers  
Winter Bash in Ashland



# 2019 Yankee Beemers Officers

**President: Duncan Cooper**  
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## **Board of Directors:**

DL Nevins, B Cusack, J Gamel, S Martin, TTruex, D Walton  
Eric Kugler, John Shields, Bill Cusack

## **Rally Masters**

Vermont Campouts: Bill Cusack and Jim Sanders  
Holiday Party: Bill Cusack  
Damn Yankees: Ken Springhetti  
Pemi : Eric Kugler



# Prez Sez

Duncan Cooper

Prez Says:

The club just finished a great event, Winterfest on February 9, 2019. Ken Springhetti did a bang up job as always. At Winterfest I observed what makes the YB the club so active and fun to be a member. It is the volunteers getting the job done.

Excuse me while I daydream about what the YB has done to increase my enjoyment of the sport. The memories from last season make the winter seem shorter. It is the experience I gained from volunteering that made me want to run for Prez. It is a lot of fun being a volunteer. Volunteering has taken me from being a loner to a member of an awesome Motorcycle Club. In short, it is more enjoyable to do activities with others.



Being assistant Rally Master for two years, then becoming Rally Master of Pemi has allowed me to get to know a group of 10 people I never would have known. If I had not volunteered Greg W. would not have let me borrow his gear while I took Ken's Kawasaki up Route 112 in Woodstock. What a gas! It made the weekend. Peter Nicholson allowed me to bunk with him and enjoyed good cigars; good scotch around the campfire and discussed solving the world problems through the US legal system.

My comfort zone would never have been stretched to throw a dinner for 100 or so people. I would never have gotten to know Dan Walton and Scott Clark, my personal shoppers. Believe me when I say, I am not a foodie. The people that made Pemi the success it has been are great people like John Gilmore, Paul T., Brad Barrus, Ken Struble, John Van hook, Ken Springhetti, Todd Truex and others. Friday night I observed two of the greatest arm twisters the YB have, Jim Sanders and Brad Barrus. The entertainment value was worth volunteering as they tried to get 50/50 money out of many of the members. This will be my third year working the Pemi Rally. Maybe this year at Pemi, I will actually be able to ride more, I plan to bring my airhead.

The YB is a collection of people who love to ride, talk, and eat and other things. Hopefully I have wet your appetite and you will consider volunteering and getting to know a great group of people who share a common love of riding. Contact me at [Cooper.Duncan@icould.com](mailto:Cooper.Duncan@icould.com). I can share some of the opportunities to get involved in the club.



Winterfest would never have happened if it were not for the Volunteers. A debt of gratitude to the relationship the Vendors have with the club is owed to Mark W. and Bill C. This year the vendors were very supportive. Thank you, in no specific order, OSBMR, Carl S. for the gift certificates to one of the truly great rallies on the East Coast, Gathering of the Clams. Wagner Motorsports, Dave Duplin, for bringing the bikes and outstanding SWAG. Max BMW, Kerri G. and Joe W., for making us scramble to find the one gift card at each table and SWAG. Dunbar Eurosports, Tom F., thanks for the SWAG and the sage advise, we do listen Tom. Vanson Leathers for the vision into the future on Motorcycle Safety Technology, Mike V., what a wild jacket you brought. Josh from GBM who rode all the way from Boston to bring a bike and SWAG. Elaine, from Razee Motorcycle Center, that supported us with gift certificates. Tom from the Kermit Chair Company, he sold me a chair at the RA last year. Finally, Lynn W. from Aerostich, who only knows the club because of Bill C. starting the relationship, provided some fabulous SWAG. Please think about supporting our vendors. They are committed to the MC community.





March 17 is Gold Card Breakfast, at the Willowbrook. Gather at 8:00, Coffee will be available. Ken S. will post event on FB. Make sure you register; it is our biggest breakfast of the season. A Gold Card gets you 4 rallies for the price it would cost to go to two rallies. What a deal, you get two rallies for free. At this March breakfast we are going to have a 10-minute discussion with John Shield about Bleed Management at an accident site. The subject just might save a life.

Frosty Nutz is about two months away. I cannot wait. This year the Frosty team is in transition. Ken is retiring as Rally Master, do not worry, he has agreed to bring the food for a few more years. There are a couple of us doing rally training this year. We have a group of volunteers that are stepping up and it should be a great rally. Rich Roy is going to do 50/50. Ken S. will be working with the team to keep us in line and pitch in with Rich, Jim as needed. Don't forget to register, watch the Web Site. There are cabins available. Bill C. is handling the Cabins and a few of us are shadowing him. Todd T. has agreed to step up and do the YB Store and put his own twist on it. Ken has promised great weather, good food and great riding! PS, maybe he will bring his box of cigars?

On May 4, 2019 is the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Advanced Rider Course. It is under events on Facebook. I will be posting to the forum this week. Look for registration details on March 3, 2019. We have been asked why Troy, NY. Reason is simple. Our instructor, Mike Frieble (YB member) is an MSF certified instructor in NY. He had the infrastructure and was able to arrange a group rate of \$140.00. The same course in MA is about double. For YB members we have arranged for a Scholarship of \$50.00 if you pass and get your MSF Advanced Rider Certificate. The Scholarship is from the MOA Foundation. Details on how to obtain the scholarship are under events YB Facebook page. If you think about the scholarship, it pays for your YB membership and your gas to the course.

Thank you, for your patience with me learning the ropes. 2019 should be a great year. Your officers and BOD are excited about the upcoming year. We have a few more events, still in planning. Stay tuned to FB to see what is coming, watch the YB calendar on the Web Page. Ride safe, eat a lot, ride some more and have fun. Send your comments to me at [Cooper.Duncan@icloud.com](mailto:Cooper.Duncan@icloud.com)

Duncan Cooper

2019 YB Prez



## The Yankee Beemers Motorcycle Club



## Frosty Nutz Campout

Join the YB's at Wilgus State Park in Vermont

Ride twisty mountain roads and great unpaved GS routes. Camp along the river and hang out at the bonfire. Pot luck dinner Friday and Saturday nights.

[www.YankeeBeemers.org](http://www.YankeeBeemers.org)











# Editors View

## Spring Break !

D L Nevins



Well it was great to see our clubmates (New and Old) at the Winter Bash in Ashland. What a wonderful setting, nice comfortable facilities, and a good feed I hope we will be coming back here for many more years. We left for the party at noon on Saturday, usually an hour via the hiway , But we took some roads less travelled, through Dover and Wellesley, we hadn't been through there in many years , it was a good choice, I'll have to come back through that way once riding season kicks back in.

Last year we hiked around the lake in Ashland SP which is right behind the Warren Inn, We arrived early and had hoped to do the same before the party this year , But my Bum Leg precluded that plan. Oh well >>> Next year





Pre Party  
Actual Party  
After Party



As is required by law, now that Babs and myself are retired, we will spend 30 mandatory days in the Sunshine State. Besides the legal mandates :-0> Two other things beckoned me back to take a Spring Break in Florida :

1) James McMurtrey's video "Forgotten Coast" where he goes Bow Fishing and drives a 65 Falcon convertible through the swamps from Wewahatchka to Port St Joe, look for it on You Tube .(also check out his "Where am I gonna find you now" ) Great Americana



2) Robert DeNiro and Zack Efron's roadtrip movie "Dirty Grandpa" Reminded me it's been TOO long since I made an In Person Visit to Fort Pedro at South of the Border While this film may not be for EVERYONE ( Bob B ) I'll recommend it with Two Snaps Up !



You should MAKE SURE you get your Gold Cards  
ONLY AVAILABLE at the March Meeting !

Babs and I are travelling to the Forgotten Coast  
3/15—4/15 So you probably won't see another issue of  
Your Boxer Shorts will after the Frosty Nutz  
so mark your calendars NOW , Just Sayin.

I have been working on my R100S again , Got all of the  
electrical issues resolved (for the Moment), a few cosmetic  
and cosmic upgrades , and I'll be ready to Rally in '19 !

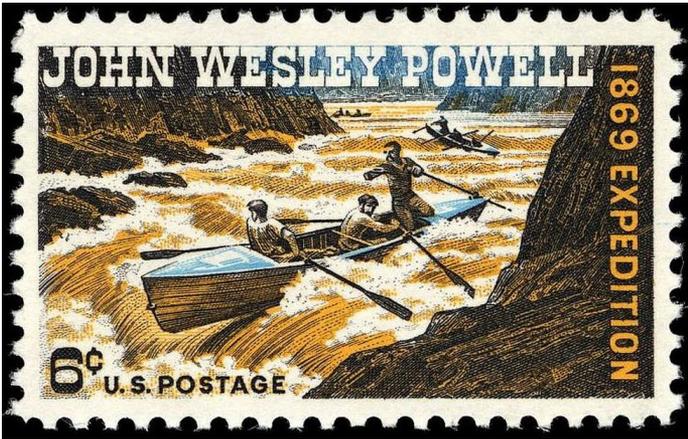
Not sure where we will be taking our summer trip :  
The BMWMOA meet in Woodstock Va , right off of the  
Skyline or the RA in Lebanon TN , just this side of  
Nashville , Each has their strong points  
Woodstock is a days ride , Lebanon takes two  
It may come down to the Entertainment !



# Seeing Things Whole:

## John Wesley Powell and Motorcycles

By Jeff Stein



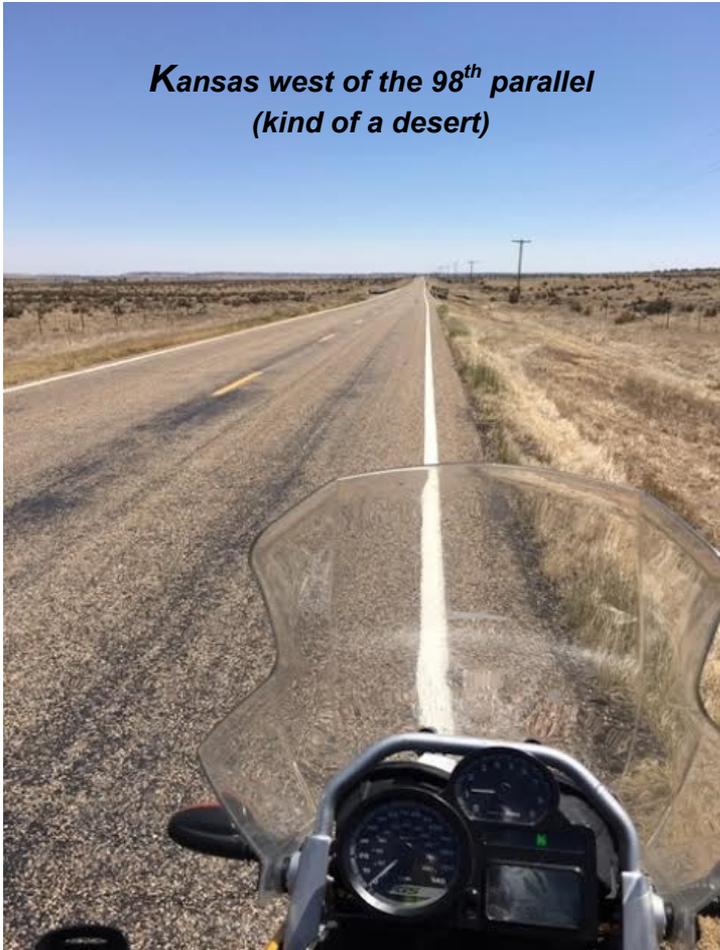
It's true, as my wife says, you don't really have to ride a motorcycle to experience nature. I know this; we live near the woods outside Boston and I've been on a few hikes. One of the reasons I like Boston itself, in fact, is you can walk around in it. But you can also ride a motorcycle around in it. They have special motorcycle parking spaces on most blocks, great roads in tunnels under the ocean, scary car drivers who get right up close (just stare them down...), and for nature at night try Storrow Drive on a motor cycle at speed, 'round 3AM any weeknight... now there's an experience right there.

So, sure, there's walking, the human body is designed for it. But as we know, you can see so much more of the world, cover so much more territory, feel so many more sensations on 2 wheels. Speed and distance favor the motorcycle. Once away from the city, hundreds of miles away, in real nature, you're not going to be walking across, say, Kansas in the middle of summer.

I was in Kansas this past June on my R1200GS, to experience a bit of nature that John Wesley Powell mapped 150 years ago: the climate divide in America between east and west.

John Wesley Powell was the first head of the US Geological Survey, a founder of the National Geographic Society, first person of European descent to map the Colorado River (We have a postage stamp!) and explore the Grand Canyon, and all this after he lost an arm in the Civil War, battle of Shiloh.

He was also the first American to truly understand what the Great American Desert meant and where it began, which he pointed out was around the 100<sup>th</sup> meridian in Kansas. 150 years ago that was the boundary between the West and the East – where we get more than 20 inches of rain a year, and thus can grow corn and trees and pretty much anything we want - and the dry west, where they get less than that, and thus have to irrigate by mining groundwater if they want to grow a crop.



The late BMW motorcyclist (he once rode his R60/2 onto the lecture hall stage of the architecture school at Harvard) and landscape historian J.B. Jackson has said, "There is something about America that loves a horizontal line." If that's so, then something about us should really love Kansas. The whole place is horizontal. What prevents that love affair from being truly consummated though is lack of water.

John Wesley Powell worried about this lack. He testified before congress in the 1880's, like climate scientists today, predicting bad times ahead if the government continued subsidizing farming and settlement plans in the arid West that had worked in the moist East. And like politicians today, they disregarded Powell's advice. 50 years later the great dustbowl was the result of political disregard, as over a hundred million acres of farmed topsoil blew away. Today climatologists point out that the American West, the Southwest in particular, is in the 15<sup>th</sup> year of a 30 year drought in the region, making things drier than pretty-much ever. Phoenix with its 4 million inhabitants is down to 8 inches of rainfall a year.



Back in Kansas this aridity is called the “Great Plains.” But “Great Plains” is real estate sales talk; it’s really a high desert. I was coming across Kansas on my way home from Arizona early this past June, 102 degrees. My personal temperature record was a prolonged ride in 119 degrees around Phoenix a year earlier, but that’s another story. In Kansas, strong winds blew up from the south, from the Gulf of Mexico, and that meant I was leaned way over travelling east. And since I was passing semi-trucks on their north side, I had to develop a process. It went like this: Leaned-over to the right, 80 mph or so, powerful winds holding



me up, coming up on a semi with a big box trailer, I slip into the passing lane and straighten-up! As soon as I get in the shadow of the trailer: no more wind. I work my way up to the front of the truck, get ready for it...Pow! I'm out in clear air again, wind from my right, swerve, lean,... this starts to be fun about the 5<sup>th</sup> time I do it.

Anyway, this all delivers me to the 100<sup>th</sup> parallel, Powell’s dividing line, but it looks awfully dry as far as I can see. What has happened according to Columbia University’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, is that in the 150 years since Powell was there, the desert has moved 140 miles to the east, near the 98<sup>th</sup> parallel. It’s comin’ our way! This isn’t exactly news, of course: a little more than 1/3 of the world’s deserts have occurred since 1900. Desert expansion is the coming thing, inland. Something else altogether is occurring on the coasts

But whether this circumstance becomes really troublesome or not in future, you can actually experience it on a motorcycle right now. See it, feel the difference in the air, temperature and humidity, watch those clouds, smell the chlorophyll from growing plants (unless you’re west of the 98<sup>th</sup> parallel...) Things are changing. How it was when you started riding a motorcycle – it’s not that way anymore. And neither are you. They have robot-driven cars now, and electric motorcycles. People can walk into a store and buy weed. Once that snow melts, get out there on a bike.

Meantime, just take Edward Abbey’s advice. (For more of his writing see the masterpiece, DESERT SOLITAIRE, or if you insist, THE MONKEY WRENCH GANG.)

***“Do not burn yourselves out. Be as I am - a reluctant enthusiast... a part-time crusader, a half-hearted fanatic. Save the other half of yourselves and your lives for pleasure and adventure. It is not enough to fight for the land; it is even more important to enjoy it. While you can. While it’s still here.”***

# 2019 Yankee Beemers Calendar

As Found on the official YB page

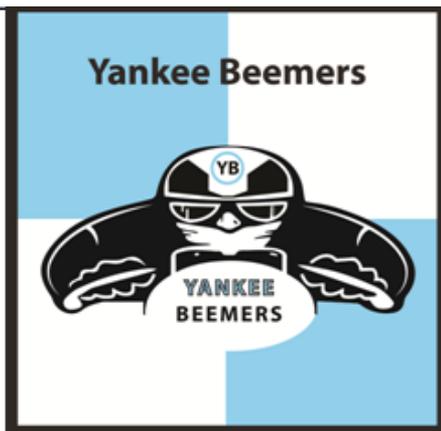
<http://www.yankeebeemers.org/>

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|----------------------|--|
| March 17, 2019       | <u>Gold Card Breakfast at The Willowbrook Restaurant</u><br>9 AM 16 Hastings St, Mendon, MA<br>It can get nice and warm in March.. spring is coming. Gold cards available to members only at the breakfast.<br>Frosty Nutz, Pemi River, Damn Yankees, Fall Jamaica Campout.  |
| April 21, 2019       | <u>Monthly Breakfast</u><br>8:30 AM 16 Hastings St, Mendon, MA.  |
| TBD                  | <u>Goulds Sugar House Ride</u><br>Savant's ride to <u>Goulds Sugar House</u><br><br>We meet up at the Shell Gas station at Rt. 2 (exit 16) in Orange, MA. at the Rt. 2/202 junction. Arrive by 9:30am. Leaving at 10:00am sharp for a guided back road barn storm of scenic farm roads, shaded canopies of trees and twisted roads. Arriving at Gould's Sugar House, Rt. 2 in Shelburne Falls by approx. 11:00am for the BEST Waffles, Pancakes, Corn Fritters, Hot Coffee and pickles. Weather is always unpredictable. We've ridden in sun, rain, sleet and even snow so dress accordingly. BE There!                        |
| April, 26 - 28, 2019 | <u>The Frosty Nuts Campout</u><br>Camp with the YB's at Wilgus State Park in Acutney Vermont! Bring a sweater. <a href="#">Event details</a>   |
| TBD                  | <u>YB Tech Day</u><br>Host: John Van Hook, <a href="mailto:jvanhook@comcast.net">jvanhook@comcast.net</a><br>Date: TBD 9:00am till when ever.<br>Address: 3285 Millers Lane Dighton, Ma<br>Hot Dogs, soda's and snacks will be provided.<br><br>We will help you learn to do your own maintenance. Bring oil, farkles, spark plugs, whatever<br>We can help everyone do the basic fluid changes, install GPS mounts, adjust things, touch up boo boo's replace parts and help you learn to do more on your own. Its also a great social event. There is a garage, lift, and some tools. We have lots of BMW special tools too. |
| May 19, 2019         | <u>Breakfast at The Willowbrook Restaurant</u><br>9 AM breakfast 16 Hastings St, Mendon, MA  |
| June 6-9, 2019       | <u>The Pemi River Rally, Thornton NH</u><br>Join us for 2 nights at the Pemi River Campground in New Hampshire's beautiful White Mountains. We'll have our Toy Box, a blazing campfire, a pig roast on Saturday night, and of course some of best riding in New  |

# 2019 Memberships ARE NOW DUE

If you haven't  
joined yet for  
2019 .....

Please  
**RENEW**  
**NOW**



ONLINE  
OR BY  
US MAIL-

MOA #153 BMWRA # 71

Become a YB member online at :

<http://www.yankeebeemers.org/membership.html>

<i>Name:</i>	
<i>Address:</i>	
<i>Email:</i>	
<i>YB Forum user name:</i>	
<i>Phone/Cell:</i>	

**For Mail in MEMBERSHIP**  
**Send this form and your \$30 payment to:**

Yankee Beemers, Inc.  
P.O Box 2151  
Fitchburg, MA 01420



## Upcoming YB Events

Mar 17 Sunday **YB GOLD CARD Breakfast**  
9AM Willowbrook 16 Hastings St. Mendon

Apr 19 Sunday **YB Breakfast**  
8:30AM Willowbrook 16 Hastings St. Mendon

24 Apr 26-28 **Frosty Nutz Campout**  
Wilgus SP Ascutney VT