

AIRHEAD #46

It is with great sadness to alert the membership to the passing of Michael Friedle recently.

Michel was a diehard airhead and took helping his fellow airheads very seriously. He was an original in more ways than you'd expect and a very personable person to know as a friend.

He was one of the original group of 52 to start of Airheads Beemer Club 29 years ago. He was the New York Airmarshal since that time. He organized and operated the "Airheads at the Aerodrome" in upstate NY from 1995 to the present which attracted 120+ attendees each year. He was instrumental as an instructor in teaching Motorcycle Safety Foundation classes 50-60 times a year in all kinds of weather since 1998. That's more than 13000 riders who learned the basics or had their abilities improved through the experienced rider courses over the years. He participated in the annual SuperTechs each year since 2004 as both a teacher and student for others. It was not surprising to see him show up for an airhead tech day miles from his home in Poughkeepsie when he was otherwise not busy that weekend riding his RS identified by the "Polizei" decals on the fairing. His tongue in cheek wry humor!

Since he had some free time, he was elected to the ABC Board of Directors and held that position from 2001-2013. If that was not enough, he was also on the board of directors for the BMW Motorcycle Owners of America (MOA) from 2000-2008. He also was the rally chairman for the MOA rallies in 1999, 2003 & 2006 and actively participated as a consultant for many MOA Airhead Centrals over the years.

Tom Cutter of Rubber Chicken Racing Garage fame said it best:

"I met Michael when he was the first person through the doors of BMW of Staten Island in New York, the dealership that I started in conjunction with the BMW Automobile dealership Bel-Aire Motors. He came in, introduced himself, we talked for over an hour and right away we knew that we were kindred spirits. We had a lot of the same friends, grew up riding on the roads of New England, and we were both committed to BMW motorcycles and BMW riders.

Michael was the one who nominated me for the prestigious BMW Friend of the Marque Award, bestowed by the BMW Clubs International organization. Michael was a trooper in every way, always with a hearty laugh and a kind word. The last time I saw Michael was at the rehab facility where he was housed after he had brain surgery. I was fortunate enough to visit at the same time as other notables in Mike's life, Richard Clegg, and Sam Booth from Ohio. People traveled great distances to sit at Michael's side, as his health slipped away.

I will miss my friend terribly. His passing leaves a huge void in my life."

The airhead community has lost a true lover of the airhead and a friend to so many. My condolences to Karla, his wife and Alice, his daughter.

May he ride forever on his trusty steed through the heavens.

David



Mike Friedle demonstrating the full use of a motorcycle tire.



Mike at the Aerodrome Rally



Mike & Karl Myers at SuperTech