

MARCH

BMW Club
Four Winds Riders



2014

MOA # 6

www.4windsbmw.org

RA # 76



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Snow is on the ground, my back is sore from shoveling snow, municipalities are running out of salt, and the Celica GTS sucks in deep snow and ice. I'm dreaming about riding the K1200 in the bends on a dry warm day. It's time to focus on riding the motorcycle on day rides and overnight trips for fun with friends. As president, my goal is to make this club a rider's club with fun and social activities. We have a beautiful and functional web page that will specify upcoming rides on the cover page with reference to the events calendar, so watch! More will be forthcoming as the riding season begins.

The meetings during the riding season, May through September, will run from 4 PM to 7 PM; some of the meetings will be at a destination with a group ride set up to the location with food available in the area of the meeting. Some of the meeting destinations, which may change due to circumstances, are Slippery Rock, the Laurel Highlands Rally in the Somerset area, and Ohioyle State Park.

The April meeting will include a new activity at Pinball Perfection on Perry Highway in Westview, PA and will feature, for play, pinball machines dating from the 1930's to the present day, along with video games, mechanical gun games, and an air hockey machine that will be available to play from 12 PM to 5 PM for a \$ 10.00 fee. Check out

**DUES
ARE DUE...
DO YOUR
DUES!!!**

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MARCH MEETING INFO

The next meeting of the Four Winds BMW Riders will be held on Sat., March 15th, 2014 at the Rochester Inn and Hardwood Grille, 505 Rochester Road, Ross Twp. from 12–3 PM. The meal will be from the menu.
**The board will meet one hour earlier at 11:00 AM.

PUBLICATION INFO

The Four Winds BMW Riders Newsletter is published for members' use. Articles' and pictures' copyrights are held by their authors. Author's permission should be obtained before any form of republication.

Editor: Ralph Meyer

Deadline: Articles submitted must be received by the editor no later than 6:00 PM on the Tuesday after the club meeting of the month preceding the month of publication (e.g., March Meeting: March. 15; **April issue deadline: Tues., March 18th**). Articles/Info rec'd after deadline go in next month's newsletter.

Submission information:

E-mail submissions: Send as **attachments** with "4 Winds Newsletter Article" in the e-mail 'Subject' line to:
<meyer@zoominternet.net>

Articles on Disk Media mail to:
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Submission formats:

Articles: Send as plain text with headings and hdg depth defined, or in Word Processor (e.g., MS Word) format. Save trees: avoid paper if you can.

Pictures and graphics: Submit in JPEG or TIFF format with clearly marked locations in the article.

Long articles may be split between issues.

National Club Affiliations: Four Winds BMW Riders is chartered club #6 of the BMWMOA and chartered club #76 of the BMWRA

Newsletters in color PDF format are at the Four Winds Site, www.4windsbmw.org . Download a free Adobe PDF reader by clicking the 'Get Adobe Reader' button at www.adobe.com and following the directions thereafter provided.

MEETING SCHEDULE 2014

Mark the dates on your calendars, but remember...

All meeting sites are tentative. Please check the web site and newsletter for changes and updates.

March, 2014, 12-3 — Rochester Inn & Hardwood Grille, Rochester Road

April, 2014, 12-3 — Pinball Perfection, Perry Hwy/Rte 19

May, 2014, 4-7 — North Country Brewery, Slippery Rock??

June, 2014, 4-7 — Pioneer Campground, w/ Laurel Highlands Club

July, 2014, 4-7 — Ohiopyle Park, Ohiopyle

August, 2014 — Friday, August 15 to Sunday, August 17
48th Annual Four Winds Rally!

September, 2014, 4-7 — Leo Stanton's Home

October, 2014, 2-4 — John & Marge Humphrey's, State Road, Valencia

November, 2014 — Cornerstone Grille, Aspinwall

December, 2014 — No Monthly Meeting

2014 SHACKS

Keep an eye out on the web site all you lady and gentleman wrenchers and attendees out there, for any Shack locations and dates to help keep us smiling through the winter, and keep 'em rolling!

the web site at www.pinballperfection.com, go to the left side bar and click museum under the pinventory title for a visual preview of the machines available for play and the facility.

The board is working to make this club one to enjoy and desirable to be a member. We are open to all suggestions for improving this club and making it something you look forward to attend each month.

ENJOY THE RIDE

ADRIAN

ONGOING EVENTS

Breakfast Rides, et al.:

These rides are free-form. *Those attending decide what they want to do and where, if anywhere, they want to ride.* If you just want to show up in the car and have breakfast with fellow motorcyclists, that's fine too.

COME! EAT! CHAT! RIDE!

Ride Schedule — Month:

Sun, March 2 — North at King's Family Restaurant, I-79 & Rt 910/VIP Drive., 10:00 AM

Sat, March 8 — West at Bob Evans, Rt 60 & Campbell's Run Rd, 9:00 AM

Sun, March 16 — South at Eagles Landing, Rostraver Airport, Rte 51, 10:00 AM

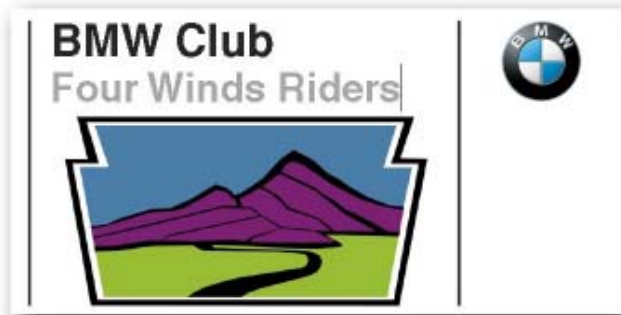
Sat, March 22 — East at Dick's, Rt 22 Westbound Side, Monroeville, 9:00 AM

If you're going to a breakfast ride, you might want to notify others:

It's not necessary, but it'd be nice to let others know you're going to a particular Breakfast Ride by putting a notice on the 4-Winds Site Message Board's Breakfast Ride section saying so. That'll help save a rider from discovering too late that no one else is going that day. The Breakfast Ride's URL is: <http://www.4windsbmw.org/forum/viewforum.php?f=9> . Be sure to erase your post after the ride if you can so the board doesn't get cluttered.

WINTER SAFETY NOTE

Winter is Black Ice time—even when roads are relatively clear, it's possible for this nasty stuff to be about, so be extra careful on curves, below driveways where water often runs off onto the roadway, on bridges, and shady spots. It's an especially good time to remember the old adage, "Keep your eyes on the road" not only figuratively, but literally (along with watching the traffic etc.) And stray leftover salt can be about as gritty and problematic for 2 wheels as sand and small gravel, so watch out for it as well.



**FOUR WINDS BMW RIDERS CLUB
MEETING MINUTES
FEB 15, 2014**

The meeting took place at the Bella Luna Restaurant in Murrysville, Pa. Twenty four members were in attendance.

John Humphrey presented the Treasurer's report. He stated that we had a loss of \$295.39 due to the low attendance at the Banquet. However all in all the club was in good shape.

Holly Marcheck did an excellent job collecting the 50/50. The winner was Nancy Barrett. She won \$37.00

President Adrian announced the tentative locations for this year. See list below. Specifically he discussed the April 19 meeting at Pinball Perfection. He stated that the place would be available for playing pinball after the meeting for an additional cost. He is researching this further. He also discussed the need for new members. He asked for ideas for that as well as new ride destinations. Perhaps some Sunday lunch rides can be added to the schedule.

Holly Marcheck handed out brochures for a charity ride called The Run For The Son on May 3, 2014. A Christian Association organizes this. See Holly for more details.

Sean Barrett mentioned the Barber Museum and RA Rally in Alabama. He said it was extremely worthwhile to visit. It is at the end of May.

The 2014 Tentative Meeting Locations are as follows:

Jan. 18 Peter's Place Bridgeville, Pa

Feb. 15 Bella Luna Trattoria Murrysville, Pa

March 15 Rochester Inn & Hardwood Grill (confirmed)
505 Rochester Road, Pgh. Pa.

April 19 Pinballperfection

Perry Hwy/Rte 19, West View, Pa.

May 17 North Country Brewery Slippery Rock (Note: This location may change to another)

June 21 Pioneer Park Campground--Laurel Highlands Rally
273 Trent Road, Somerset, Pa.

July 19 Ohiopyle Park for food, Barbeque Restaurant nearby

August 16 Four Winds Rally Redbank Community Park
137 Park Road Fairmont City, Pa

September Leo Stanton's House
3015 Walton Road, Finleyville, Pa.

October John & Marge Humphrey's House
180 State Road, Valencia, Pa.

November Cornerstone Restaurant
301 Freeport Rd, Aspinwall, Pa.

December No meeting

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, MARGE HUMPHREY, RECORDING SECRETARY



FEBRUARY MEETING PICTURES
Photographs by Ron "ReddyK" Latkovic... Thanks, Ron!!







**NORTH BREAKFAST RIDE
2/2/2014**

by Ralph Meyer

ReddyK (AKA Ron Latkovic) had posted on the club's web site earlier in the week before that it looked like it would be good riding weather on this North Breakfast Ride Sunday. A good half of that prognostication came true: the temperatures were very nicely in the 40s. Unfortunately the blinking jet stream, humidity factors, and what-not weatherwise had other ideas, mostly wet and nasty ones. On arrival at King's, Dave



“2 Sparker” McLaughlin said it was pouring when he left his place (in his Mini-Cooper, naturally) and at mine on the opposite side of the ‘Burgh, it had been drizzling all morning since the wee hours, and my computer’s little App, “Weather Watcher,” let me look at NOAA’s national and local radar maps and the jet stream map. The picture for the locale all around the ‘Burgh was best described as ‘Ugh!!!’ ‘Yuck’ or ‘Sploosh!!!’ I had just gotten the salt washed off the C650GT, and the REs were both nice (well, reasonably nice) and clean and the more I thought about it, the more I concluded that I’d let ‘em stay that way and cage it, although had I ridden the scoot, I probably wouldn’t have gotten very wet myself, given the scooter’s well-covering windshield and fairing. I myself wouldn’t have splooshed upon arrival at King’s, but all my work cleaning would have gone straight up the spout. Honda Accord cage, here I come.

Come to find out, I wasn’t the only one deciding on a cage. All us Four Windsers present came in to King’s bone dry having foiled the splashy weather gods by caging it, even though had the weather been better, it would have been far more fun on our usual conveyances. In any event our cycling camaraderie was present in full force

with riders John Allen, Jack Bramkamp, Don & Kim Chembars, Walt

Halaja, Bob Hall, Ron Kranz, Ron Latkovic, Dave McLaughlin, Larry Morley, Ed Tatters. and myself having come to enjoy the same accompanied by yummy King’s



breakfasts of various sorts. Ed had a free Cleveland Motorcycle Show pass that he offered to anyone who wanted it, but there were no takers. I think most of us present had been to one or more of these supposed extravaganzas, only to discover that they were all pretty much the same...the latest bikes we’d all read about already in one



or another motorcycle magazine, and wall-to-wall people packed so tightly that moving from one place to another was almost an exercise in frustrated futility. In any event

it was clear that all of us there were happier at King’s than we would have been at the Expo Center. ReddyK and Cap’n Walt, as you can see, did their usual fine photographic foray into picturing all us satisfied club members and King’s customers. Walt shot the group picture inside as a) it was still too wet out, and b) we didn’t have any bikes in evidence this day, and ReddyK got the good ones of us munching and jawing away. Despite leaving our bikes and scooters at home,

we nonetheless did a fine job kicking tires (well, virtual remembered ones anyway) and discussing various matters of motorcycling interest. It again turned out to be a most enjoyable morning of chatting and chewing, as I didn't get home until nearly noon, still if not high from a nice 2 wheel ride, at least dry from traveling inside my cage. ...Well, I look forward to seein' y'all again next time. Only I think I'll burn a candle and do an anti-rain dance in hopes of producing decently dry and nice riding weather. Now where did I put my book on Anciently Effective American Indian Prances and Dances for all Needs and Occasions, Illustrated??? Hmmmmm. By the way, too, many thanks to Ron "ReddyK" Latkovic, and 'Cap'n' Walt Halaja, two of our favorite photographers, for the pictures accompanying this wee report!!! As you can see from them the weather, however wet, dampened no spirits! Nice!

RALPH



WHAT YOUR MOTORCYCLE SAYS ABOUT YOU

Sent in by Calvin Wilson

- 1 Ducati 916 SPS monoposto: —My wife is having an affair with her tennis coach.
- 2 Honda ST1100:—I really do understand the stock market.
- 3 1967 Triumph T120 Bonneville—If I'd had this bike instead of a Cushman Eagle when I lived at the fraternity house in 1965, I might now be married to a former cheerleader named Veronica.
- 4 Harley-Davidson XR1000—All my left shoes are made of steel, and all my motorcycle boots have laces.
- 5 Yamaha TZ250—My other bike is a van.
- 6 Brough Superior SS100—My mother was an Episcopalian.
- 7 Moto Guzzi Eldorado—If I'd wanted a Harley, I'd have bought a Harley. But I didn't, and I didn't.
- 8 Honda GL1500 Gold Wing Aspencade—The wife and I both feel that donuts are an unfairly maligned and under-appreciated source of protein and minerals.
- 9 BMW R1100RT—The sound system on my bike is permanently tuned to Public Radio, but when I play it too loud I can't hear the cell phone.
- 10 Velocette Thruxton—I have a professional-quality dartboard in our basement rec room, next to the real ale tapper on the wet bar.

- 11 Yamaha V-Max—I am the only mechanical engineer in our office with a Mohawk hair cut.
- 12 Ural Tourist—My Yugo is waiting for parts.
- 13 India Enfield Bullet—My 1965 short-wheelbase Land Rover is waiting for parts. [how did he know this ?]
- 14 Triumph Speed Triple—I'm not waiting for any parts. Ever again.
- 15 Honda Elite 80—My mom is knitting me a warmer scarf for going to class.
- 16 Vincent Series C Black Shadow— If you need to borrow any books or videos on the Battle of Britain, the life of Winston Churchill or Gordon's defense of Khartoum, I have an extensive library.
- 17 Honda CBX—I can pronounce both "Soichiro" and "Irimagiri" correctly. Also I own many valve shims.
- 18 Suzuki TL1000R—Desmo Shcmezmo: I just wanna ride.
- 19 MV Agusta 750S—Our firstborn son is the only Ago Schmiddlekopf in the Milwaukee phone book.
- 20 Kawasaki ZX-11—I am on my way to our insurance agent's office for a personal conference, during which I will explain everything.
- 21 Honda 400F—My husband thinks I believe he bought this bike just for me.
- 22 Suzuki GSX1300R Hayabusa—The Honda CBR1100XX was making me late for work.
- 23 Triumph Trophy TR6-C—I have seen "The Great Escape", starring Steve McQueen 27 times. And so have my two remaining friends.
- 24 Munch Mammoth—I have been fighting a lifelong, losing battle with the Dark Side.
- 25 Honda CBR600F2—My older brother is in the Air Force.
- 26 Pope 998 V-Twin—I am on my way to the annual stationary steam engine and vintage farm implement meet.
- 27 Norton 750 Atlas—I tried smooth and found it overrated.
- 28 Harley-Davidson WLA 45 Flathead—I am saving for a Stearman.
- 29 1942 BMW R75—I show the Luger collection only to a few close friends who know how to handle them without leaving acidic or salty fingerprints
- 30 Harley FX Super Glide "Night Train"—There are only six things in my refrigerator, and they are all beer.
- 31 Henderson Four—My grandson thinks these computers are quite the coming thing, apparently.
- 32 Yamaha R1—My hair is not actually on fire, it's just a figure of speech.
- 33 Maico 360 X4— Since the bypass surgery, my dirt riding and energy level have improved tremendously.

Continued on page 12

On the Net...

Have you found a neat location on the Internet? Send the URL in with a brief description of what it's about to the editor and we'll post it here for the benefit of your fellow riders...

Note: copy or type the underlined link into your browser's URL textbox and hit 'Go' or 'Enter' to go there.

Our Four Winds Site, what else??? <http://www.4windsbmw.org> . And always remember never to forget, you can get this and past color copies of the Newsletter in PDF format there! Check it out if you haven't already done so.

From Walt Halaja - A friend sent this song along to go with the **1948 Vincent Black Lightning**. There's a great Richard Thompson tune about the Vincent Black Lightning. See him perform it here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=PgxbCnqCyKA . Only a handful of them were built. It was an amazing machine for its day. 380 lbs, 70 hp at the rear wheel. Not bad for an air cooled pushrod 1 litre vtwin .http://www.historicvehicle.org/This-Car-Matters/TCM/Videos/TCM-Video-4?utm_source=ExactTarget&utm_medium=email&utm_term=&utm_content=HCCTV&utm_campaign=Episode%2035

JÜRGEN'S NEW BIKE

Jürgen Brune, our Western Correspondent and former member of 4 Winds now holding the fort in Colorado at the Colorado School of Mines, always has been a rider par excellence. He used to ride to work throughout the winter here wearing a full Gerbings electrically heated outfit, pants and all no matter what the temp. Looks like he hasn't changed a bit since he's been out west--this e-mail picture of his newest bike that no doubt will be seen on the roads between his place and the School of Mines just came through. Along with Calvin Wilson down the road from Bakerstown, Jürgen is now sporting a Water-Boxer GS. He says he just loves the thing! That seconds what Calvin thinks of his new wheels too. Nice! Very nice!

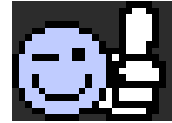


NEW BIKES

Ron Latkovic (well known as "ReddyK" to us, his friends and riding buddies) likes to check out things at European Motorcycles of Pittsburgh, and occasionally updates us on what is going on at our favorite Marque's fine Pittsburgh Dealer... the latest news Reddy sent along was the information that a couple of the newest R1200RTs and GSs with the new water boxer engines are in for riders delectation, perusal, and purchase.

Being the inveterate fine photographer he is, he sent along these pics of the new bikes. Touring riders and RT fans take a look... or stop by European for a gander... And those who like mud aren't left out...some more Water Boxer GSs are around too.





WHY I LIKE TO RIDE MY SCOOTER

by Ron "ReddyK" Latkovic

"Ride a scooter???" Not me! Can't see it!!!" as I told my riding buddy, Jack Brankamp, on the day he purchased his new Vespa 300 off Lee Marks. But, as time went by, I noticed a lot of people were asking Jack questions about his new bike. Jack seemed very content and happy taking short trips shopping and picking things up at the hardware store.

"Try one! You'll see, or are you afraid you might like it too much?" Jack kept telling me.

So, one afternoon, Jack and I just finished one of our breakfast trips to Whole Foods in Wexford, PA, that we topped off by visiting the guys at European. There were two 250cc Piaggio scooters sitting out front, one silver, one dark blue.

Taking both out for a rather long test ride, I was hooked! What a eye opener to having more riding freedom! After a short price discussion with Darren, I wound up purchasing the dark blue one.

So here are my own reasons to help, if you are thinking of joining our fast growing scooter owners of the Four Winds Riders Club:

1. Scooters have low fuel cost.
2. Scooters are very easy to park, not only smaller than a motorcycle, but lighter. (except for BMW's And Burgman scooters)
3. Scooters are easy to ride, light, with automatic transmissions, a feet flat ride, and with just using hands for brakes and waving.
4. Scooters are inexpensive to keep up and insure, and also save wear and tear by less car and motorcycle use.
5. Scooters produce Less emissions and and are therefore green friendly with respect to air pollution.
6. But mainly... they just a hell of a lot of fun!!!

Some scooter riders in the club are wanting to plan a group ride, which I think would be a blast.

REDDYK

FOR SALE

Please note: If you sell your item, please notify the newsletter editor so it can be removed from this list.

Stuff for F800ST: 25" tall Cee-Bailey Windshield, 26" tall Parabellum Windshield, Touratech crash bar set, Bar Back, BMW Tank Bag. Windshields are clear and already have Velcro strips for attaching EZPass Transponder. **Rick Mayer heated Pilot Seat for 2006 K1200GT.** Asking half new price (or less). Make an offer on any or all items. Contact: meyer@zoominternet.net .

Big Al Vangura's Kymco for sale: We are selling Big Al's Kymco Scooter. If you are interested or know anyone that would want to purchase this scooter, please contact us or pass this message on. This is a 2009 Kymco 250 Ri Scooter. We are asking \$3,500 or best offer - It has on it 19,940 miles, and includes an extra long wind shield, Special brake light, cover, and Top trunk. If interested, please call: 724-736-2884 or 724-557-0802. Dee Vangura. Please see the pictures of it and its accessories on page 16 of the March 2013 newsletter.

THE WAY WE WERE BACK WHEN--MARCH 2004

Prepared by Walt Halaja

"The Rides of Spring"

Breakfast Ride Report Saturday, February 14, 2003

By Jürgen Brune

Yes, I know technically the calendar is still on "winter" for another 5 weeks but it sure felt like spring this fine morning. All week I had been chipping away on the ice on my driveway - by Wednesday it was a two-foot path, by Thursday it was three to four feet wide, and on Friday it seemed like the Autobahn. With the four-wheel driven cages we got lazy and did not have a need to shovel snow.

So I went out on Valentine's day morning (after the usual rites with my three women) for the first time since January 10 when I went to Heritage's open house.

I arrived at Eat-N-Park about ten minutes early. The heated vest worked so well I was almost overcooked by the time I made it to the parkway. PennDot had done a reasonable job on I79 between Bridgeville and the Parkway West interchange. Still makeshift work, but no danger of bending your rims like it had been two weeks earlier.

So I waited and waited in the parking lot. Impatient as I am, at 9:05, I started calling the usual suspects. Ralph Meyer was home but had ice on his driveway and company visiting. No answer at Walt Halaja's. At 9:12 I got dressed and had just put my helmet back on when I remembered to put in my earplugs - helmet off again, earplugs in, helmet on --- and then I saw the familiar RT and Walt pulling in. Great - finally I had some company. Walter's charming wife Mathilde followed in the car and joined us for breakfast. After a good hour of warming up in the restaurant we set out for the ride.

Walter had suggested hunting for a few covered bridges and we picked four targets in northwestern Washington County. Walt had a great map which I used to establish the first waypoint on my ETrex GPS. We headed for the Lyle Bridge about 2 miles north of Bavington at the east end of Raccoon Creek State Park. The ride took us along the old Steubenville Pike parallel to Rt. 22. Due to the limitations of my GPS that has hiking topos loaded (I'm waiting for the next sale at EMS to finally buy the Roads and recreation CD) we missed the nicely paved road and instead took a turn at Bavington that soon turned into a dirt road. OK, dirt we can handle, just slow and steady, and keep both feet on the pegs. No biggie.

Then dirt changed into remnants of snow and ice. Still, we thought we could handle that. There was enough dirt mixed with melting snow and we were able to avoid the icy puddles. Easy on the throttle and the brakes..

At one point we passed an area where the road was cut into the hillside. Steep cliff on the left, and a vertical wall on the right. The wall was covered with ice, and so was the road. Luckily, everything was level so we inched forward, with speeds as low as 0.5 mph and not exceeding 2.2 mph (documented by my GPS).

The map showed a right turn but we encountered solid ice - this looked impassable for sure. Walter went to a house to inquire with the locals. No, that bridge has been out for 20 years, and the road is icy and a steep downhill. No way to ride it.

We decided to track back to the intersection and continue straight instead of turning right. That road was pretty steep also but no problems with ice. The dirt had softened up to mud in many places but it was entirely rideable. Piece of cake for the GS girls and boys but with our road tires things weren't so stable. Anyway, we kept the rubber down, and after another 1.5 miles we found the Lyle Bridge that

crosses Brush Run, a tributary to Raccoon Creek. The final half mile was again a steep descent, slippery but free of ice and snow except for the ditches along both sides of the road. GPS N40 27.258 W80 22.539 for those of you that are ambitious.

Thinking "no traffic here", we parked the bikes under the bridge and took pictures, propping the camera up for a self-timed shot. As soon as we had taken the picture, a pickup truck arrived so we needed to move the bikes. I rode to the side of the road and parked my bike on the sidestand while Walt was pushing his RT out of the way to let the truck pass. As I got back on my bike I found out that I had maneuvered myself a bit close to the icy ditch. Being on an uphill grade, I was not able to ease out the clutch without slipping my rear wheel. The tail went sideways toward the ditch and I layed the bike down to prevent the wheel from dropping into the ditch all the way. This would have been a tough situation for me to get out by myself but with Walt's help, we picked the bike up and pushed it back on the road where I was able to ride back up the hill. Thanks to the R engine with its jugs sticking out, no damage to any Tupperware or signals, mirrors etc.

We returned to Steubenville Pike via the nicely paved road that we had missed earlier. Lots of loose gravel on it, but much easier compared to the dirt roads.

Next stop was Hanover Township Park right along the Pike. Walt was familiar with the McClurg Bridge that the Township had saved from Devil's Den and relocated in the Park. The park is fenced in and locked at all times (why?) but we found a large hole in the fence at the backside. This bridge is an easy one to find, GPS N40 25.432 W80 26.809.

The next target was Jackson Bridge, about 1.5 miles north of Rt. 22 and 1.5 Miles east of the WV state line. We turned off from the Pike too early and got stopped by solid ice on the road once again. Walter inquired with a local and got directions - and again, he was told that the bridge we looked for was long gone.

We took the next right turn off the Pike onto Phillips Road that later turns into Kings Creek Road. Jackson Bridge is right on the road as it crosses Kings Creek (which runs west to the Ohio), GPS N40 25.435 W80 29.344. Easy to find and easy to get to, good roads yet lots of loose gravel.

After the picture we continued north along McKraken Hill Road, taking a right at a T-intersection about 1.3 miles north of Jackson Bridge. Dirt roads again, but no problems with snow and ice. To get to Ralston bridge crossing Aunt Clara Fork of Kings Creek, we needed to make a sharp left about 800 ft past the intersection and continue downhill for about 0.4 miles. We parked the bikes and walked the final 300 ft to the bridge for our picture since the road was closed and completely iced over. GPS N40 26.826 W80 30.418. Walter thought that this was a King post bridge - a single pair of posts supporting it in the center.

We returned to Steubenville Pike past Jackson Bridge along the same road that we had come and then continued east and north on Rt. 18 to Frankfort Hot Springs. This was a cache site last year but Walter wanted to show me the springs in the winter. What a sight! The cave is lined with a curtain of huge icicles that cover the entire spring and the surrounding hillside. The creek had washed out the walkway in several places and the path was mostly iced over. We were able to walk into the cave and admired the sunlight hitting the ice curtain. Too bad that Walter's camera battery gave out and we could not get a picture.

We returned to our bikes and rode back south on Rt. 18, taking a left on St. Rt. 3042 to Rt. 30 and back to Steubenville Pike. We both were glad to have done this ride - motorcycling at its finest, as Walt said.

Continued from page 7

- 34 Bimota DB3 Mantra—Ducatis are all very well, but I don't find them quite Italian enough.
- 35 Moto Guzzi Centauro—Sometimes I misspell the word "eccentric" on purpose, just to be different.
- 36 Whizzer/Schwinn Phantom—I still own my first baseball glove, Warren Spahn-autograph model.
- 37 Boss Hoss V8—I can curl more weight with one arm than you can move on a refrigerator dolly.
- 38 MV Agusta F4 Oro—My wife is spending exactly \$37,000 on our kitchen, just as soon as she can find a contractor.
- 39 Honda Valkyrie—I tried vibration and lassitude and found them overrated.
- 40 Harley-Davidson 883 Sportster—I am on my way to the Harley shop to purchase a larger set of pistons.
- 41 Buell Thunderbolt—This big air-cleaner housing is coming right off, just as soon as I can get home to my toolbox.
- 42 Honda CL77 305 Scrambler—My high school letter jacket still fits. More or less.



2013 DINER HUNT

by Ralph Meyer

2013's Diner Hunt was a nice addition to the other Hunts the club has sponsored: Caches, Covered Bridges, Post Offices A to Z, and so forth. The Black Diamond Beemers of Eastern Pennsylvania also sponsored a 'Hunt For' contest the other year, as has our sister Cleveland Club each year. Hunt-fors are excellent club activities, even though not all members participate. They provide several advantages that a lack of them deprives riders of a certain amount of fun. They foster a gentle spirit of competition among members of course, but their major benefit is to provide an always available answer to the question, "Where might we ride to today?" For the inquisitive they offer an opportunity to do a bit of mapping research on-line or in gazeteers or other places to locate the objects in question. Thus 'Hunt-fors' provide a more interesting riding approach than mere 'going out and riding around' when one has nothing better to do and nowhere to go. In short they always provide riders who love to roll 'somewhere to go.' Add to that the fact that the objects sought are to be found in all kinds of locations over all kinds of roads through all kinds of city and country-scapes and it's no wonder that those of us who actually like to ride instead of just polish and look at our bikes like them.

This past year 2013, the objects to be found were those ubiquitous down-home, often homely, but equally often cuisinely delicious eateries that style themselves as 'Diners' or 'Dinors.' Supposedly a cut below, and relatively less fancy than places that style themselves restaurants, these humble eateries often provide not only substantial, but delicious, yet inexpensive sustenance highly favored by those in the know who frequent one or another of them. I've known folks who literally travel miles to get to a favorite diner simply because the food, the service, and the prices are so good, but particularly the food: you'll never, it seems, find a well-populated diner whose food is merely ho-hum even if it's just ordinary, down-home American vittles. Find a well-populated diner and you're invariably in for a good meal at prices that won't break the bank.

Usually people know of one or two diners near their locales, so it was interesting this year to discover exactly how many riders could actually find. Our three Diner Contest Winners this year were Walt Halaja, Don Chembars, and John Humphrey, in first, second, and third place respectively.

The requirement was that for a diner to be counted, the rider had to provide a picture of the diner with him or herself and/or their bike in the photo. These could be either mailed using the USPS or e-mailed using one or another of the common electronic picture formats, such as .jpg, .tiff, or .bmp. The pictures were collected in a computer folder or directory and the number and dates of each set coming in for a rider kept in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

It was interesting watching the number of pictures found mount up. Pretty soon it became apparent that we had a couple of real riders out there, as watching their totals increase was not unlike watching one of those famous Mississippi Steamboat races in which one boat would pull ahead of the other sometimes by a fair piece, only to have the other come charging past when the first put in for wood or coal or to discharge passengers and freight. At the beginning, I had thought one might run up at the outside, maybe ten or twenty or so diners by the end of the year. My mistake. That many had been found and photographed in but a few months, the last pictures coming in in November whence we had a couple of sets of nice decent riding days. I figured December would mark an end of anything. The weather turned poorly, and I knew Walt, our number one finisher in the end, was going to be in Germany visiting his wife, Mathilde's, family all month long and over New Years. Ha. I forgot that Mathilde had an iPad, and that, having ridden many miles in the past with Walt, he had an eye that would spy things that I had never even seen were there. Sure enough, in mid month, there he was, in a picture identified as "taken by my iPad" (Apple always sticks their advertising on stuff no matter what) with Walt proudly in front of a, would you believe it, German Diner—yep, the sign said 'Diner'. I didn't even know they had the things in dem Vaterland! Then too, I figured there would be a hiatus in the flow of found eateries from Don and Kim Chembars, as they headed South to Florida for, I think, a couple of weeks. I think they may have been attending one of the big rallies down there. In any event it was not long after they had headed down that Don began sending me shots of Floridian Diners! The hunt was on there as well! Terrific!

And despite how busy John and Marge Humphrey were not only with the club's finances and other professional activities, they nonetheless were out there and kept up a once-in-a-while flow of pictures throughout the year as they had opportunity to get out and hunt.

By November I was sure the winner would be either Don or Walt, given the number of diners they had racked up. The final score came to 80, 69, and 15 for Walt, Don, and John. I must admit that I never knew there were that many Diners to be found—even those just in Pennsylvania! Rick Sebak, one of of WQED's delightful producers, once did a neat PBS program on diners, and I thought he had found a bunch. But he had nothing on our BMW riders, though I must admit that our riders seem mostly to have photographed them and gone on, whereas Rick appears to have often sampled their wares!

RALPH



WANTED: MILEAGE KEEPER

by Tim & Diane Pears

If anyone would like to take over the Mileage Contest, we'd be happy to spread the love. Jeff? This would be a simple thing for some other member that's not on the board to do to get more involved, if we can think of anyone good to ask. It's really not that hard. I have a decent Excel worksheet set up for it now.

TIM & DIANE

NEW BMW RA WEBSITE

Good morning all. We have a new website!. We've been working on it for the past months and it is now available for your viewing. Spend some time and browse around it.

And check out the Black Eagle Shop. There are a lot of new items you may not have seen before that are available now.

Charter Clubs that are paid up for 2014 are listed on the new site. As I get renewals, I will update the list so they appear under the state tab.

Registration for the 2014 Barber Rally will be up soon as well. Watch for it.

Karen Jacobs
BMW RA Charter Club Coordinator
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OTTAWA CLUB ART SCHOOL

The *BMW Motorcycle Club of Ottawa* has been around for 31 years and serves all of Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec. Membership is open to all riders (currently 95%+ own BMWs) and the Club's primary goals are day and weekend tours, riding skills development, safety training and some technical support. Further information on the Club is available at <http://bmwMCottawa.ca> <<http://bmwmcottawa.ca/>>

On *Monday, May 26*, the Club will host its *7th Annual Advanced Rider Training School (ART)* at our fabulous local facility known as *Calabogie MotorSports Park*, located one hour West of Ottawa. Details on the track layout, facilities and services are available at <http://www.calabogiemotorsports.com/>

This year's ART school will accommodate 45 riders in a combination of classroom and on-track learning sessions. *The primary focus is to enhance the rider's bike handling and cornering skills.* Students will be grouped according to prior experience, type of motorcycle, interests, etc. with approximately 15 students on the track in any one session. Experienced coaches will lead and/or follow groups of 5 students providing individual feedback as appropriate. To be clear, this is NOT a racing school NOR an open lapping day, and there are Rules - foremost among which are legally mandated Noise Restriction levels (see CMP website for details), a FULL suit of protective (i.e. armoured) gear, boots, gloves and a DOT/SNELL approved helmet of year 2000 or newer.

At this point we still have openings and we are inviting your Club members and /or friends to join us for an exciting and educational experience at one of the finest track facilities in North America. We welcome bikes from ALL manufacturers; "cruisers" and heavy "touring" bikes are welcome but will be placed in the "slower" student groupings due to reduced cornering clearance issues.

Attached are copies of our promotional poster and Registration Form. Please feel free to post these on your websites or at your meetings and to "forward" this memo on to your Club members and friends who may have an interest in our endeavour.

Should you have any questions, you can contact me at tstreet08@gmail.com or at 613-834-5942.

Thanks for your time and attention; we look forward to seeing you and your friends on May26th.

Tony Street
ART School 2014 Co-Chairman
613-834-5942

PRESIDENT SIGNS AGRICULTURAL ACT THAT ENDS SUBSIDY FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF ETHANOL BLENDER PUMPS FROM THE AMA

PICKERINGTON, Ohio — The Agricultural Act of 2014 signed into law by President Barack Obama today contains a provision that helps deter distribution of E15 fuels into the U.S. marketplace. The American Motorcyclist Association considers this farm-bill provision a major victory for the owners and riders of the estimated 22 million motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles currently in operation. Those vehicles could be damaged by the use of E15 fuel, a gasoline formulation that contains up to 15 percent ethanol by volume. Also, use of E15 can void owners' vehicle warranties.

The Agricultural Act of 2014, which extends through 2018, prohibits the use of Rural Energy for America Program grant money to purchase and install ethanol blender pumps to dispense E15 at the retail level. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack intended to use REAP funding to install 10,000 blender pumps by 2016.

"It is gratifying to see our efforts on behalf of U.S. motorcyclists and ATV riders achieve this level of success," said Wayne Allard, AMA vice president for government relations. "We plan to continue to monitor the E15 issue, including the Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to reduce the 2014 requirements under its Renewable Fuel Standard."

The AMA has worked since 2011 to prevent the distribution of E15 fuels, seeking independent scientific tests on their effect on motorcycle and all-terrain vehicle engines and fuel systems. After the introduction of E15 into the marketplace, the AMA fought its spread, because of concerns about inadvertent misfueling at blender pumps.

Although the EPA has approved E15 use in 2001-and-newer light-duty vehicles, which include cars, light-duty trucks and medium-duty passenger vehicles, the EPA has not approved its use in any motorcycles or ATVs. More information on the AMA's position on E15 may be found at www.americanmotorcyclist.com/rights/amafuelthought.aspx

[http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001Z57IZbqxWaY4aVnbdEvL2k2AyzZ59U4mlQ3LwwAsO7-bt7V0wPIx8RGcOffUW-xKo6zJa6_KpzqiIagrzm2Pk9SyNA0wQv2dess4gju6o1-LNyQfzH2cmjD1pBp2NNOsq9WSgAQNGzL2jWQIV9hM3FFLOA=]



FIND FIRE STATIONS

This year's 'hunt for' contest object, decided on by the Board, will be Fire Stations: get a picture of a Fire Station or Firehouse with your bike/scooter in the picture, and e-mail the picture, along with your name to meyer@zoominternet.net. Each firehouse and bike picture will be worth 1 point. The contest will run through December 31st, 2014. Prizes will be awarded to those finding the most fire stations.



Four Winds BMW Riders
c/o Ralph Meyer, Editor
6056 Meadow Lane
Bakerstown, PA 15007-9720

**HOW DO I JOIN
FOUR WINDS BMW
RIDERS?**

To join, come to a meeting and introduce yourself. Meetings are listed here in the Newsletter and in the schedule of events on the Web Site, www.4windsbmw.org. Membership dues are \$20 per year for primary membership, and \$10 per year for associate members residing in the same household as a primary member.

DIRECTIONS TO THE MEETING:

The March BMW Riders Club meeting will be held on March 15th, 2014 from 12:00 PM** to 3:00 PM at The Rochester Inn & Hardwood Grill, 505 Rochester Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237. Ph: 412.364.8166.

Directions:

From the North: Get on I-79 S and drive south. Take exit 72 to the left onto I-279 S towards Pittsburgh. Take exit 15 to the right onto Camp Horne Road and turn left out of the exit onto Camp Horne Rd. headed East. Stay straight onto Lowries Run Rd (the Green Belt). Keep left off Lowries Run Road onto Rochester Rd (the Green Belt). Arrive at the Rochester Inn Hardwood Grille on your left.

From the South on I-79: Get on I-79 N and drive north. After crossing the Ohio River Bridge, take exit 68 to the right onto Mt Nebo Road. Keep right onto Mt Nebo Rd immediately after the I-279 underpass, and eventually turn left where Mt. Nebo Rd ends onto Lowries Run Road (the Green Belt). Then keep left (North) onto Rochester Rd (the Green Belt). Arrive at the Rochester Inn Hardwood Grille on your left.

From the South on I-279: Get on I-279 N and drive north through and out of town. North of town, Take exit 15 to the right onto Camp Horne Rd. Take ramp to the right towards US-19/Perrysville. Follow Camp Horne Rd East straight onto Lowries Run Rd (the Green belt). Keep left onto Rochester Rd (the Green Belt). Arrive at the Rochester Inn Hardwood Grille N40 32.141 W80 03.059 On your left.

**The board will meet at 11:00 AM.