



February, 2016

John Humphrey

## ***PRESIDENT'S CORNER***

We had a really good turnout of more than 60 people for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet. The venue, food and presentation were all excellent. Many thanks to Diane Pears for the banquet and her hard work all year long. Diane will have more details, including award winners to follow.

10 years ago, the club had 119 members. A couple of years ago, we had 66 paid members. Last year we had over 100 and 77 have paid dues so far this year. I'm very pleased with the significant increase in membership due to our marketing efforts. They include: The new club tri-folds at European Motorcycles, Cycle Gear in Allison Park and Mosites Motorsports in Monroeville. New or used European-type motorcycles purchased from a European or Mosites are offered a free first-year 4 Winds membership. Look for more items on the website store including club logo hats, patches, other embroidered apparel and our new 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rally coffee mugs.

Diane and I have volunteered to be co-chairs for this significant 50th annual rally in New Bethlehem, August 19, 20, 21. We'll need help. We had rally attendance of 243 people last year. I expect over 300 for the 2016 rally. I would like to see more fun events planned this year. Tom Furey is working with media press releases, articles and possible advertising. Glenn Kidd has gathered the club's history to submit an article to the BMW MOA magazine in celebration of our historic 50<sup>th</sup> rally next year. The chart of club and rally history was posted at the Banquet and should be on line soon. The MOA ON magazine has published our rally date and location.

Meeting presentations are back at our monthly gatherings. Sean Barrett will talk about his trip to the Barber Motorsports Park and Museum at the March meeting. I ask all members to consider talking at a meeting about a long ride, motorcycle maintenance, a new motorcycle that you bought or rode, new accessories or clothing. Photos would be preferred, but not necessary. The newsletter will be replaced by an enhanced email system of correspondence. It will also have links to more detailed information and posted on the Home Page of the website. Mary & John Hetzel have volunteered to take over this new, expanded job of replacing much of the newsletter as part of Corresponding Secretary.

We have put a lot of work into the web site over the years. More and more information is available on the 4windsbmw.org web site for upcoming club meetings, member's forum and more. Keep checking the web site for the latest news and information. If you have questions about email notices, the members forum or the website, please contact a club officer. Remember to make sure you are receiving the new enhanced email notices, as this is our only means of communication.



**FOUR WINDS BMW RIDERS**  
**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Banquet Wrap-Up**  
**February 20, 2016**

**Location:** The Chadwick Event Center, Wexford  
10545 Perry Highway, Wexford PA 15090

**Time:** 5:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

**Photos Here:** <http://fourwindsbmw.smugmug.com/Banquets/Banquet2016>

Upon entering the foyer, Jeff Harlich and his tripod were encountered capturing portraits for posterity. Just so we can learn to recognize each other without helmet hair . . . Thanks to Jeff for being our photographer du jour.

Linda and Mark Loesch were welcoming guests at the registration table. Treasurer, Marge Humphrey was not able to make it due to last minute illness, but had done so much preparation work that Linda and Mark were able to step in at the last minute, keep calm, and carry on.

The history spread sheet Glenn Kidd is working on was displayed by the old photo albums near the gift exchange table. A slide show of the year's activities was playing throughout the evening.

An excellent buffet was served by an attentive staff with Chicken Breast Maison, Roasted Beef Medallions and Baked Nantucket Cod.

As MC, Vince Giannetti introduced last year's board and the new board for 2016. 2<sup>nd</sup> Term President John Humphrey gave remarks summarizing last year and goals for this year, as well as thanking board and committee members for their service.

Walt Halaja kept track of the mileage log again this year with 13 people submitting ending entries. Don Chembars had 11,408 miles for 1<sup>st</sup> place and Sean Barrett had 7,777 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place. They received \$50 and \$25 gift cards. Of the remaining participants, two names were drawn for their gift choice of embroidered hat, logo patch or mug. Jay Singh and Bob Hall.

Ralph Meyer announced that 10 people entered the Hunt N Find contest for PA State Historical Markers in 2015. Walt Halaja finished 1<sup>st</sup> with 204 markers photographed, Ralph was 2<sup>nd</sup> and Ron Latkovic was 3<sup>rd</sup>. They received \$25, \$15, and \$10 gift certificates as well as "I Brake for PA Historic Markers" magnetic stickers which were bought and given to all participants.

John Humphrey presented Ralph Meyer with a beautiful wood and acrylic engraved special service award for over ten years of faithful monthly newsletter publishing. Ralph's last newsletter as editor was December 2015 as he once again retires and says it's time to get back to riding instead of 'riting. No amount of arm twisting will change his mind this time.

The brand new 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary mugs made their debut, gift-wrapped and filled with Hershey kisses which were claimed by 8 lucky people with the winning door prize tickets.

The 50/50 was won by Tony Capriotti, who claims it was the first money he's ever won!

Glenn Kidd has volunteered to research deeper, gather and organize historical information about the club to mark our 50<sup>th</sup> consecutive rally year. With the help of Dennis and Donna Mickinnon, several key members from the past were contacted. They are helping to "fill in the blanks" and offered stories, insights as well as donating boxes of their own BMW and club documents patches and memorabilia to our archives. Glenn introduced their table as our honorary guests for the evening.

Paul Richardson's wife Pat Richardson (Deceased) was club President in both 1985 and 1986. Paul was accompanied by his friend Joan tonight. They have both been very active in a Goldwing club lately riding a trike.

Dean Auckerman served on the Rally committee in 1987, Club Vice President in 1989 and President of the club in 1990. He was unable to come tonight, but continues to enjoy several long rides each year.

Phil Caldwell was the wife of Melvin (known as Moe) Caldwell who passed away last year. Moe Caldwell was the club Treasurer every year from 1974 through 1990 but one. A large part of their life included the club and lots of travelling.

Wayne Hileman was the Newsletter Editor in 1974 and again (with Marlene) in 1980. Wayne was the Rally Chairman in 1977, and with Marlene on the Rally committee in 1981. Wayne is very proud of the fact that he is BMW MOA member #211. They were "Activities Directors" for many years. Marlene was quite an accomplished rider who usually rode her son on the back with Wayne carrying their daughter while travelling to many places as a family. She is an artist and designed many of the early rally patches including the ones featuring Snoopy.

One of the club officers wrote to Charles Shultz requesting to use Snoopy in our designs. He received a letter back from Mr. Shultz with permission granted. We wish we could find that letter now!

Photos were shown of each year's rally patch, pin, or shirt design that we have been able to find so far, including Marlene's early Snoopy mascot artwork. We are still looking to fill in any blank years.

The BMW MOA Medallion was presented to Leo Stanton by Vice President Diane Pears. Leo was recording Secretary in 1975, 1977 and Rally chairman in 1983. He is the longest currently active member of the club and has hosted mini-rallies in days of yore and 35 years of September meeting picnics at his homestead "estate" in Finleyville.

The Yankee Swap Grab Bag gift game hostess was Joyce Elk. People who wanted to play brought a wrapped gift in the \$15 range. A gift can be chosen from the table or stolen from another person if you see something you like. Tug of war nearly broke out over the bottle of Port. Candy was so popular that even opening and passing around a box of chocolate covered Sarris pretzels still didn't keep it safe from theives!

Our featured entertainment was given by Tony Capriotti's friend, Alberto Almaraza. He is an internationally recognized Classical flutist, and Professor of Flute at Carnegie Mellon University.

A native of Chile, Mr. Almarza moved to Pittsburgh 25 years ago, and has been an active motorcyclist for the last ten years.

Some of his motorcycle trips include a 10,000 miles solo ride from Pittsburgh to the Arctic Circle in Alaska and back, and three trips to the Chilean and Argentinian Patagonia.

Additionally he has also ridden the Chilean Atacama Desert, New Foundland, Quebec and many other provinces in Canada, as well as many long distance adventures in the US. Most recently he completed a three weeks ride of both the North and South Islands in New Zealand, and is currently in the planning stage for an extensive ride throughout Peru and Bolivia.

Alberto put together an envy-inducing multi-media presentation of his most recent trip to New Zealand where his riding friends kept warning him to "watch out for the shapes, Mate." One of his companions on that trip, Greg Felmley, was able to attend the banquet also, and both Greg and Alberto joined 4 Winds as our newest members.

Ira Bradford, another of our newest members, joined us for the very first time at the banquet.

*Submitted by Diane Pears, Banquet Chair*