



May 7, 2013 3:28 pm

Post-Gazette.com

Business Directory

HOME

NEWS

LOCAL

SPORTS

OPINION

A & E

LIFE

BUSINESS

VIDEO

PHOTO

ADVERTISEMENT

VOICE OF THE REGION Do you support putting the new proposed limits on PA's Right to Know law? [Vote](#)

Pittsburgh Rides: To the Four Winds

ADVERTISEMENT

August 26, 2010 12:00 am



Click image to enlarge



Old BMWs at the Four Winds Rally in Kittanning.

Share with others:

0 **Tweet** 5

Like

Send

Print Email Read Later

feedback

By Garry Nelson

My motorcycle was thinking itself cool last weekend after returning from the 43rd annual Four Winds Rally -- the longest continuous running BMW Rally in the country.

The three-day BMW celebration was held at the Redbank Valley Municipal Park, just north of New Bethlehem. Two hundred fifty riders descended on a perfect park replete with a shaded grassy campground, out buildings, bath houses and kitchen in the hills west of Redbank Creek along Route 28, north of Kittanning.

The rally was started by the BMW Owners Association, Inc., a group of Pittsburgh BMW motorcycle enthusiasts. They held their first BMW motorcycle rally over a 1967 August weekend in Carrollton, Ohio. The second rally was held in Ohio. In subsequent years, the rally has been at various sites in Western Pennsylvania, giving the Four Winds BMW Riders the pride of having the longest-running BMW motorcycle rally in America.

Ride and Write

Welcome to Pittsburgh Rides, our regular feature on motorcycling. Here we bring you the latest in rides, trends and events, but we need your input. We're looking for voices from the local biking community willing to share (in roughly 500 words) your experiences on the road and what you think is hot on wheels. Send your story or pitch to Weekend editor Scott Mervis at smervis@post-gazette.com.

Latest Mortgage Rates

	Current	Last Week
30 Year Fixed	3.38%	3.33%
15 Year Fixed	2.56%	2.54%
5/1 ARM	2.31%	2.26%

[Mortgage Calculator](#) [Affordability Calculator](#)
[Refinance Loans](#) [FHA Loans](#)
[Loan Modifications](#) [Home Equity Loans](#)

[Zillow Mortgage Marketplace](#) See local rates

LATEST IN LIFE

My first Four Winds Rally was in 1984 at a campground south of Butler. It was an enjoyable weekend with many BMW friends attending.

But life has intervened, and I did not attend another event until last Friday. The Redbank park is 62 miles north of Pittsburgh, perfect for a late Friday afternoon departure.

Five o'clock found me searching for a campsite in a grassy, tree-filled park that encircled the bonfire and coffee shack. The Olympic-sized pool was sadly down for repairs, but the county fair snack bar was serving meals.

Saturday also found plenty of the motorcyclists taking in the wonderful roads around Brookville, Cooks Forest, Route 62 north along the Allegheny River, and a few attended a stationary engine event at the Coolspring Power Museum. The museum has large single-cylinder engines that powered lumber mills and water systems.

Saturday night, Four Winds hosted a barbecue dinner. The leaders gave out awards and door prizes, the most impressive going to an 89-year-old man for the oldest attendee who rode to the rally. I would sign on the dotted line to be able to copy that feat, but only time will tell.

The days began and ended with a large campfire blazing in the center of the park, providing warmth and a meeting place for the participants. Beverages were shared, along with tales of riding adventures. Many stories rang true, while others raised eyebrows.

Heavy rain forced most into their tents at 10 p.m. Saturday night. Some stayed in an open-sided building, sitting on picnic benches and perusing motorcycle-related reading material. Someone kept the coffee pot perking there 24/7, god bless their soul.

I had a great weekend reuniting with old friends and meeting new riding partners. It is an event that is going to be inked in on my yearly calendar, as it is a great motorcycle weekend.

Garry Nelson is an attorney in Pittsburgh.
First Published August 26, 2010 12:00 am

More From Post-Gazette.com

- [Marathon waste](#)
- [Tomlin disagrees with LB coach about Spence](#)
- [A CMU student deserves rebuke for her parody](#)
- [Namesake of Cowboys legend happy to be a Steeler](#)
- [City gardening can sow a seed of violence](#)

More from the web

- [17 Most and Least Intelligent Dog Breeds \(Petside\)](#)
- [Tour Bruce Willis' Idaho Home for Sale \(FrontDoor\)](#)
- [12 Clever Uses For Old Furniture \(HGTV\)](#)
- [9 Worst Recession Ghost Towns in America \(The Fiscal Times\)](#)
- [Two Surfing All Stars Face Off on the beaches of Rio de Janeiro 🇧🇷 \(Red Bull\)](#)

[Anthony Bourdain visits Pittsburgh](#)
44 minutes ago

[Stylebook: Diggin' it with Vera Bradley; Pittsburgh Fashion Hall of Fame names honorees](#)
about 4 hours ago

[PNC Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Spring Hat Luncheon celebrates 15th anniversary](#)
about 14 hours ago

[FAME's 15th annual luncheon at the Duquesne Club](#)
about 14 hours ago

[Go Red for Women Luncheon and Conference at the Wyndham Grand](#)
about 14 hours ago

[The Carnegie Science Awards at Carnegie Music Hall](#)
about 14 hours ago

Three Quick Questions

Do you support a developer's decision to turn Pittsburgh Schenley High School into a luxury apartment complex?

- NO, it should be transformed in a charter school
- NO, it should be turned into an arts school
- NO, it should be used for student housing
- YES, I think it's the best plan

Post-Gazette Question

Powered by CivicScience

RECOMMENDED VIDEOS

by Taboola

ADVERTISEMENT



[?]