



April, 2016

**Diane Pears**

## ***VICE-PRESIDENT'S CORNER***

### **Experience a BMW MOA National Rally**

Sunny and 75 brought lots of bikes out of hibernation last Saturday as 30 people found their way to a new meeting place at Fox and Hound in Northway Mall. The restaurant was very welcoming and accommodating with plenty of space and a large TV for computer hookup.

President John was away on a business trip and so I was asked to write the "V.P.'s Column" this month.

With the 44<sup>th</sup> MOA International Rally being held so close to us in Hamburg, NY, south of Buffalo, five miles from Lake Erie's shore this July, we wanted to do a presentation about "Nationals" and encourage people to go. All different sizes of rallies are enjoyable. I've heard the metaphor that local rallies are like scrimmages, the RA is the playoff, and the MOA is the superbowl.

A list of [all past MOA rally locations by year](#) was passed around as well as a list of all the areas that need volunteers to make the rally happen. National rallies function like a centipede – many attendees volunteer for one short 3 – 4 hour shift doing something they enjoy which supports (like a thousand legs) the whole rally and makes it happen. The time and work volunteer committee chairs put into the planning is incredible.

Tim and I have been to eight Nationals beginning in 2002 at Trenton, Ontario,

Canada. Each trip's experiences have been so rich and diverse that they're hard to distill into one short presentation. So many highlights had to be left out. If you asked eight blind men to describe an elephant by touching parts of it, you would get eight totally different descriptions. That reminds me of rallies with so many activity options, people to meet and accompanying local area attractions. The same rally can be experienced very differently by each attendee, and each separate year of the National can turn out very differently for you. It's a basic recipe, but the variety of ingredients, including the weather, gives each one a new flavor!

All rallies anywhere provide the perfect reason to explore and discover this big beautiful country – take the time to turn your trip into an unforgettable journey.

Your two best planning tools are the MOA ON magazine that MOA members receive and the online MOA Forum's rally section. The magazine has lots of information in the months before and the forum can be very valuable. We have gotten fantastic last-minute rooms from the forum, made new friends, hooked up with pre-rally small club campouts on the way, pre-arranged purchases or sales of items and planned personal side trip excursions with people we hadn't even met (which turned out great).

The rally program/schedule/map book you'll receive at registration is your best friend for the weekend. Sit down and plot your personal plan as soon as you pick a spot and get settled. We usually find 4 Winds members or friends at every rally, or plan the trip with them, but don't be afraid to go alone. The instant friends you make can create some of the best times.

Not sure whether to tent, motel, Sherpa, RV or rent a house with friends? Just ask us – we've done 'em all. Most people find they prefer the convenience of staying on-site for multiple reasons.

Spouse or family not as "into" bikes as you? No worries. There are plenty of things to pique their interest such as presentations by a rescue sanctuary with live wild birds including eagles, a great self-defense course, yoga/exercise, health and travel seminars, live music, general-interest vendors, kids activities, watching GS Giants playing in the dirt, and day excursions to local festivals, state parks, and points of interest which sometimes include transportation, tours and meals. This year the [annual one-day Burger Fest](#) celebrating the 1885 invention of the Hamburger just happens to take place in Hamburg on the Saturday of the rally, and trips to Niagara Falls and breweries in Buffalo are planned.

BMW brings their demo ride bikes which are extremely popular. The quantity

and quality of vendors at the MOA rallies is unmatched, with most owners there in person. Seminars, panel discussions and tech sessions are a wealth of knowledge and networking with experts for every subject under the sun, including famous authors, media personalities, cancer survivors, wrenching, racing and adventurers. Various companies give away trips or apparel at their seminars. Occasionally, BMW corporate will select a V.P. or top executive victim from their ranks to throw to the wolves. They will give a talk, meet n greet and Q & A. The Q's can get very intense! Extra adult rider training days are always available, including free comprehensive training for new younger riders called Camp Gears. Prizes! Besides the many smaller daily drawing winners, tens of thousands of dollars are given away in the form of bikes, riding outfits, gear and trips at the closing ceremonies every year.

Four Winds will have a reserved club camping section again this year which serves as a headquarters meeting area for everyone. If you can't find hotels, get on their waiting lists. Cancellations always start to happen a week or two before. If you're camping, don't forget soft earplugs (thumbs up to Hearos brand) for a better night's sleep!

We're finally going to a Pirates game on Sun. May 22. There is a choice of just joining the escorted ride in to exclusive free motorcycle parking in front of PNC Park, just coming to the game, or doing both. Tickets must be pre-paid to Marge Humphrey who will submit our group order by May 4<sup>th</sup> (details in the minutes and on our homepage).

Check out the May 19<sup>th</sup> one-day only nationwide showing of a unique BMW adventure movie named "A Story Worth Living" coming to Pittsburgh theaters. See details below.

Our next meeting is Sat. May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Walnut Grill in Wexford where Joe and Amy Martin will share their involvement with the local BSA and trials riding events.

European Motorcycles Spring open house will also be May 21<sup>st</sup>, which is why we chose a restaurant as close as we could get and are **changing our starting time to 2:00 pm** to give everyone a chance to easily do both.

See the meeting minutes below, full of links, and keep an eye on our [4 Winds website](#) for details of upcoming activities. The club store is still undergoing some construction.

*Please consider making a short presentation of 10-30 minutes about a trip, motorcycle restoration or maintenance, farkles, a new motorcycle, accessories and riding gear. Yours doesn't have to be like anyone else's – be yourself and make it your own! Photos would be*

preferred, but not required. If you know of anyone outside who might have something interesting to share, please let us know.



## FOUR WINDS BMW RIDERS APRIL 16, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

**Location:** Fox & Hound, McKnight Rd., Northway Mall

**Board in Attendance:** Marge Humphrey, Glenn Kidd, John Hetzel, Tim & Diane Pears, Advisors Mark & Linda Loesch

Finally, 80 degrees and sunny! President John Humphrey was away. The meeting was called to order by V.P. Diane Pears at 1:05 p.m. with 30 people present. A listing of upcoming spring and summer regional events was handed out.

**BMW MOA National Rally Experience:** Diane Pears showed photos describing a few of the many adventures surrounding the eight MOA National rallies she and Tim have attended. These rallies are rotated to various locations around the country with each one leading to new and different experiences, encounters, and friendships. A short video produced by RevZilla was shown of the Bloomsburg, PA 2011 rally. Leo S., Ron K., Dennis M., and Ed T, have lost count but have attended 15 to 30 Nationals over the years. A collection of past years' program schedule books were passed around. Local club rallies are like scrimmages, the RA is the playoff and the MOA is the super bowl. They're all enjoyable in their own unique ways. <http://www.bmwmoa.org/>

*Members are encouraged to tell about a project, trip, farkles, riding/camping gear, or anything interesting – even show a good video at meetings. Suggestions for guest presenters welcome.*

**MOA National Rally July 14 – 17 Hamburg, NY:** We have reserved a club camping area. This will be the 44<sup>th</sup> National - very close to home. A list of all previous National years and locations was passed around as well as a list of volunteer opportunities. This rally is almost *completely* staffed by volunteer folks just like us. Discussed bringing canopies from our trailer at Redbank or renting one that would be delivered and set up for us. <http://www.bmwmoa.org/?page=DasRally>

**Ride to Packard Museum Sun. April 24:** Ed Syphan is leading a ride to the annual motorcycle exhibit which runs through June 12<sup>th</sup>. Depart the Exon station in Zelenople at 10 a.m. <http://www.packardmuseum.org/ex3.aspx>

**Ride to Clarion BBQ Fest Sat. April 30:** Check out our new rally caterer! Ride details TBA. [http://pawilds.com/events/single/cal/event/2016/04/30/tx\\_cal\\_phpicalendar/clarion-bbq-festival/](http://pawilds.com/events/single/cal/event/2016/04/30/tx_cal_phpicalendar/clarion-bbq-festival/)

**Pirate's Game** (vs. Colo. Rockies) **Sun. May 22 – Ticket Order Deadline May 4<sup>th</sup>** : We are submitting a group ticket order to get seats together and save handling fees. \$30 ea. for “loaded” tickets (includes \$10 concession spending money) in Section 107. Mail check made out to 4 Winds BMW Riders to Treasurer Marge Humphrey, 180 State Rd., Valencia, PA 16059. Third Annual Police escorted ride organized by Greater Pittsburgh Motorcycle Safety Council (<http://gpmcsc.weebly.com/>) to the Pirates game. Free cycle parking on Federal St. outside PNC Park with vendors and activities. Folks are free to do the ride and not game, or game and not ride, etc. Families welcome to join us! Children less than 30” tall are free. <http://m.mlb.com/pirates/tickets/info/motorcycle-safety>. Ride meets approx. 9:30 am at Get Go in Shaler on Rt. 8. Proceed to Rt. 28, across Clemente Bridge to Federal St. The bridge will be closed to all traffic except those arriving with the escorted ride. We may eat at a restaurant before the game starts at 1:30 pm.

**MOA Mileage Contest Starts April 9:** Ralph Meyer mentioned the new three category options available in the MOA annual mileage contest this year. Summer, Winter, or Annual. Details and entry forms in the ON magazines and here <http://www.bmwmoa.org/news/281907/2016-Mileage-Contest.htm>  
**Gettysburg Battlefield BMW Rally May 20 – 22:** Ted Sohler mentioned this historic themed event in conjunction with the National Park Service restoration/preservation weekend. Artillery Ridge Campground, 610 Taneytown Road, Gettysburg, PA. <http://bmwra.org/local-rally/bmw-battlefield-memorial-workers-rally> The MOA ON magazine **August 2015 issue** ran a story about it on **page 52**.

**British & European Motorcycle Day Classic Concours Sun. May 22:** Mark Loesch mentioned that he and Crookstons will be entering bikes in this show at Clarksburg, MD.  
<http://classicmotorcycleday.org/>

**BMW Movie in Theaters one day only May 19:** “A Story Worth Living” Six novice riders — father, sons and friends — head into the Colorado backcountry on BMW F 800 GS adventure bikes to create an exploration about life, meaning and the longing to be part of something epic that lies in every human heart. The exhilarating gorgeously shot 90-minute piece is an entry in this year’s Overland Expo Film Festival and premieres as a one-night event in select U.S. movie theaters on Thursday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m. local time. More information is available at [the film's website](#). A vivid “best of Colorado” feast with sumptuous footage ranging from the Sand Dunes through ranch country to the famous high backcountry Alpine Loop outside Ouray. Adventure means chasing a dream, testing yourself by attempting something you’ve never done before. Write up on the MOA website - <https://www.bmwmoa.org/news/news.asp?id=283328>  
List of 4 Pittsburgh theaters showing it here: <http://www.astoryfilm.com/theaters>

**Knoxville’s ROK Rally May 26 – 29:** Some of our people are heading down to this Eastern TN rally. Pre-registration required, space is limited. <http://www.bmwrok.org/events--rides.html>

**Ride to AMA Museum Sun. June 19:** Ed Syphan is planning a ride to the AMA Museum in Pickerington, OH on Father’s Day. <http://www.motorcyclemuseum.org/>

**Our 50th Rally Aug. 19 - 21:** A local Boy Scout troop will be helping this year. An ad has been placed in the June and July issues of the MOA ON magazine and one will be put in the MOA rally program.

**X-Plor Int. Off Road Adventure Training at Our Rally:** Alain Kaldewaay with X-Plor Int. <http://www.xplor-int.com/Pages/default.aspx> will be offering a 1-day off-road beginner training class at our rally again. Space is limited. Pre-register for the 4 Winds event on his site at <http://www.xplor-int.com/Pages/default.aspx> Instead of travelling to distant areas, he is bringing his highly acclaimed

training right to us.

**Welcome Newer Members:** Jeff and Denise Martin.

**Website:** Keep an eye on the homepage for upcoming events. **Please** let any of the board know about things of interest to publish on the site and calendar. You are our eyes and ears! Lots of work is being done on the store section.

**50/50 Drawing:** Won by Linda Loesch.

**European Motorcycle Dealer Open House:** Saturday May 21 from 10 am – 3 pm  
<http://bmwpgh.com/>

**Next Meeting:** Walnut Grill, Wexford - May 21 **TIME CHANGE: 2:00 pm**  
(Intentionally located 5 min. north of European's open house.)  
Presentation by Joe Martin on local BSA events.

-- Submitted by Tim Pears, Recording Secretary