



September 2016

John Humphrey

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

### **September President's Corner – Our 50<sup>th</sup> Rally**

Our 50<sup>th</sup> Annual rally was a blockbuster. The attendance, speakers and prizes were all unprecedented in recent times. I thought it would be a good time to visit another rally and compare. The weather looked good and I went to the Finger Lakes Rally again. This time, I wanted to ride my new 2012 R1200RT. Marge was busy assembling the exceptional financial report from our rally. I took the opportunity to get in a nice 8-hour ride to the Finger Lakes Rally. Great weather on the way up, but hot on the ride coming back. I rode up with Mark Loesch and Andrew and rode back with Vince Giannetti and Steve.

This time I wanted to ride my bike and the only way was to carry camping equipment and *primitive camp*. ***I don't camp***. The closest I ever get to camping is in my motorhome. I went out and bought a summer sleeping bag, an air mattress, a 2 man tent and small chair. Loaded most of it on my passenger seat (it made a nice backrest) and headed out as an excited virgin camper.

The ride was great and when we arrived, we found a nice location near the shower and bathrooms on the other side of the stream, where we hoped it might be quieter. I set up the tent (without assistance), the mattress and sleeping bag with little problem and, at least for this photo, I was a “happy camper”.



The Finger Lakes rally is in the Watkins Glen State Park and is a great location. I was told to get a bigger tent and I found out the 2 man tent is really a 1 man tent. The music and general rowdiness on Friday night continued until about 2 AM. At 3 AM, the crew came to clean the showers and made as much noise as possible. It was unusually cold that night and my summer sleeping bag was inadequate. I wore my coat that night. I went to Wal-Mart the next day and bought a blanket, hot packs and a ski hat. Saturday night was much better.

The Finger Lakes Rally benefits from the Watkins Glen campground and the Labor Day weekend. However, they are now required to pay a flat fee based on about 800 campers. Unfortunately, they had about 580 in attendance. I presume they lost money. There were no vendors and minimum door prizes and awards. Our 50<sup>th</sup> rally may have limited theirs, but rally attendance is shrinking at the MOA National and all other BMW rallies. We need to decide about the future of our rally.

Finding volunteers to commit time, effort and enthusiasm is increasingly difficult. Typical reasons include: still working, other obligations and “been there - done that”. That applies to the officers and board, as well. We now have over 100 paid members and many new and younger members in the club. I’m looking to them to help out and get involved and help the club keep going strong. The emailed Club News is the only means of mass communication to the membership. **You must request and register to POST to the forum and be a paid member to access the “members only” section of the web site.**

The Fall season is the best time to ride. The cooler weather and the fall colors are inviting us to get out and ride. I'm planning a "President's Ride" to the Laurel Highlands for leaf-peeping in October. Watch for details...



**Board and General Meeting notes: 9/17/16 Leo Stanton's House**

Election nominations:

Recording Secretary – Glenn Kidd

Corresponding Secretary - John Hetzel

President - John Humphrey

Vice President – TBD

Treasurer – Marge Humphrey

Board Members – Vince Giannetti, Jeff Harlich or Mark Loesch (contacted)

Web Master – Diane Pears and Joann Barr

Web Store manager needed.

Website cost YTD =\$425

PayPal rally costs = \$300

Jeff Harlich checking on cost for 501c non-profit status to save on PayPal costs.

Annual Banquet Chairperson - Mary Hetzel

13 New members since July.

Total Membership = 102 as of 9/17

Voted yes to purchase 200 reflective stickers similar to old ones. Approx \$500.

1 sticker will be given at no cost to each member.

Alex Walters cannot host October meeting. Too busy.

50/50 winner of \$36 was Bruce Conaway from Cranberry Twp.

Members must request access to "Members only" and setup username and password.

Anyone can request access to post messages to the forum.

Mary Hetzel will present on 2 UP riding from the passenger's perspective at October meeting. Location TBD.

50<sup>th</sup> Rally financial report given by Marge Humphrey. We made \$2,124.59 total.

Voted to remove South, East and West breakfast rides from the calendar.

More local group rides and national events will be posted on calendar.

2017 Rally plans and volunteers needed. Increase Rally Day Pass price noted.

