



August 2017

John Humphrey

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**A lot has happened since my last President's Corner.
The 4 Winds Rally, John Hetzel and the MotoAmerica GP race.**

The 51st annual rally was "Back to Basics". In spite of the weather, we had about 200 attendees. Financially, it was another success. It's always difficult to "downsize" after the big 50th rally. We actually had a lot of the 50th events and activities. We had field games, motorcycle exhibition, music, ice cream truck, BBQ banquet, Friday night speakers, lots of Friday and Saturday group rides, pre-registration, and multiple T-Shirt styles and colors. Vince Giannetti and the rally team had a very full program for our "Back to Basics" rally. It was still a lot more than our traditional rally. Congratulations to Vince for taking responsibility for organizing the rally effort and thanks to all the members that showed up to help. See Vince's comments on the forum about those that helped at the rally.

Many of you know that John Hetzel survived a recent liver transplant. Due to the acute nature of the liver failure, John received a new liver in about 1 week. His UPMC transplant doctor was another club member, Roberto Lopez. I spoke to Roberto at the rally about the 10 1/2 hour operation. John is doing well and, amazingly, is returning to work soon. John and Mary have contributed to the club as Corresponding Secretary and last year's Banquet Chair. I thank them for their service and wish them all the best.

John sold his son's G650GS who just entered military service. My 1-year-old granddaughter, Kira was checking it out. I think she's a future club member and BMW rider...



Vince and I rode out to the MotoAmerica GP at Pittsburgh International Race Complex on Sunday. It was a much larger event than I expected. The turnout of fans surprised both me and the promoters. Food and Porta-Johns had long lines. The crowds were very large on spectator hill, which overlooks the new part of the track. We saw the entire Barrett clan on the hill. We walked the pits and Vince took a couple of photos.



Can you see what's **wrong** with this photo?



There were wheelie contests, a vast variety of street motorcycles in the parking area, manufacturer display tents, pit bikes, race bikes and major TV coverage. There were many, many classes of racing. I watched the 600cc MotoAmerica races and was shocked at the speeds and the 55 degree lean angles around turns. I asked a particularly large race team about covering racing costs. His answer was: How do you have a \$1,000,000 race team? Start with \$2,000,000. The turnout was partly due to perfect weather, but it has been too long since there were Moto GP races. Of course, there were pit tootsies, too.

I think I'm telling her that Vince has his finger over the lens.

Can you see what's **right** with this photo?

Leo Stanton's meeting is next month and it's time for new officer nominations. I will be ending my 5 years as Treasurer and President at the banquet in February. Marge is ending her 3 years as Treasurer. I have enjoyed being an officer in the club and helping move the club forward. We have about 100 club members and it's time for others to step up and contribute to the club. I look forward to see all of you at the meeting.

The website and forum provides all the latest information on events and meeting locations. Thanks to John and Mary Hetzel, Diane Pears and Joann Barr for all their "behind the scenes" work keeping our club informed on what's happening.