



March 2017



John Humphrey

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

This is the “quiet time” before the good riding weather begins. The weather is still cold and gray. Hopes and expectations are on the rise as we officially start the Spring season. Time to look over the bike and do the last minute maintenance, oil change or other touch-ups before the riding season begins.

Marge’s Treasurer report had the financial details for the annual banquet. As before, the club subsidized a part of the banquet cost for the members. It’s our way of “giving back” to the members who pay their dues and those who worked on the rally. Each member gets a new reflective 4 Winds sticker.

The new owner of European Motorcycles, Mike Kuenning joined us at the banquet. Their Open House is March 25<sup>th</sup>, stop by and say hi to everyone. I think we all are looking forward to a mutually successful relationship with the new owner.

We had a large meeting turnout of 31 members to enjoy a nice meal at Atria’s. Jeff Harlich won the 50/50 drawing. We all enjoyed Bruce Conaway’s well-done presentation, videos and pictures of his interesting motorcycle tour of Cuba. I learned a lot about the roads and people of Cuba. Thanks, Bruce.



The Pittsburgh Grand Prix is looking for a chairperson to take over the antique bike show. Ted Sohler made a good presentation and is the contact person.

A slow speed motorcycle skills course is being offered by ProRider. Police motor officer, BJ McMullan made a presentation at a club meeting last year offering a class to club members. I'm taking the course, as slow speed maneuvering on a tall bike can be very difficult, especially two-up. Ken Kucel is the club contact.

Keep an eye on the club calendar for upcoming events and meetings. Jay has scheduled a couple of state park meetings and rides in June and July. If you would like to make a meeting presentation contact Jay or me.

The annual rally is just 5 months away. Finding volunteers to commit time, effort and enthusiasm is increasingly difficult. I'm looking to club members to get involved and keep the club going strong. At this time, no one has stepped up to do the rally. We may not have a 4 Winds rally this year unless we have a rally chairperson and other rally volunteers.

You can see more meeting pictures [here](#)



### **Four Winds BMW Riders March 18, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Location:

Atria's Restaurant, O'Hara Township, PA

Board in Attendance:

John & Marge Humphrey, Jay Singh, Glenn Kidd, John & Mary Hetzel, Diane Pears, Jeff Harlich

The meeting was called to order by President John Humphrey at 12:45 pm with 31 people in attendance.

**Banquet Pictures:** Photographs have been posted to the Website [HERE](#).

**Two National Rallies Announced:** Both BMW National Rallies have been announced and posted on the club website. MOA will be in Salt Lake City, Utah and the RA will be in Petoskey, Michigan.

**Future Meetings and Locations:** Vice President Jay Singh reviewed future meeting sites and activities:

**April**, we will return to the Breakneck Tavern in Mars PA.

**May**, either the North Country Brewery or the Harmony Inn

**June**, we are looking at a Ride to a Moraine State Park pavilion, near Butler PA

**July**, we are planning a Ride to Yellow Creek Park in Indiana PA

Our continuing goal is to distribute meetings around our geography so that all members find at least a few meetings are near home. Jay would welcome comments and speaker/activity recommendations. Contact him at [JS5abi@gmail.com](mailto:JS5abi@gmail.com)

**4 Winds 2017 Rally:** John repeated the Board's decision to return the scale and scope of the 4 Winds Rally to its traditional form. It will not be offering Big Name speakers and plentiful door prizes. However, the efforts of club members will still be needed for a more traditional 2017 rally. Right now, we are looking for a new Rally Chairman to coordinate the event and guide the rest of the volunteers through their duties. Our incumbents would like a rest.

**Motorcycle Skills Course:** Plans are continuing for our slow speed motorcycle skills course offered by ProRider. Ken Kucel has been coordinating the sign-up and meeting date, which is now set for Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. Police motor officer, BJ McMullan who made a presentation at our November meeting is offering club members a special group discount of \$140. McMullan needs a minimum of 8 riders, with an upper limit of 12. It looks like we have the 8 minimum already. Participation will be on a first to pay; first in basis. Payment must be made by April 30<sup>th</sup> to **ProRider Motorcycle Training**, PO BOX 96013, Pgh, PA 15226. The training location will be at the **Collier Twp Community Center**, 5 Lobaugh Street, Oakdale, PA 15071. For more information, contact Ken at 724-741-0443 or [ken@compugig.net](mailto:ken@compugig.net)

**Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix:** Our own Ted Sohier is on the Executive Committee of the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix held every year in July. This major event raised nearly \$5 Million in 2016 for local charities and is the biggest car event in the region. In the past, Cars entering the Car Show paid \$200 and Motorcycles \$10. Motorcycle presence in the event has been small but growing. Unfortunately, the motorcycle coordinator is retiring. The organization would like to grow motorcycle activities but needs a new organizer. Ted was proposing the 4 Winds BMW Riders might just be the ideal organization to assume that responsibility and asked the members to consider joining in this effort. Ted noted that in 2018, BMW will be the Marque car of the GP. If you are interested in helping the Vintage GP motorcycle program, contact Ted at 412-341-2327 or [ted.sohier@verizon.net](mailto:ted.sohier@verizon.net)

**Motorcycle Movie Makers Meeting.** Anyone interested or actively "trying" to make movies about their riding with GoPro-type cameras are invited to an informal get-together on Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup> after the regularly scheduled 10:00 a.m. North Breakfast Ride at Kings, I-79 & Rt 910 Wexford, 105 VIP Drive, Route 910 Wexford, PA 15090. Bring your camera, laptop and your questions for a general discussion and sharing of experiences. Nothing formal; it's just a "bull" and commiseration session among like-minded amateurs. For more information, contact Glenn Kidd at 724-443-0934 or [glennkidd@gmail.com](mailto:glennkidd@gmail.com)

**50/50 Winner:** Jeff Harlich

**Special Presentation:** Bruce Conaway made an outstanding presentation on his guided tour of Cuba. Using slides and video, Bruce's **Riding in Cuba** explained the twists and turns it took for an American to join a motorcycle tour through Cuba. If you missed the meeting, you missed a truly great presentation. Thank you, Bruce!

### **Calendar**

**March 25: BMW National Open House.** Our Pittsburgh BMW is participating.

**April Meeting:** Breakneck Tavern, Mars, PA

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Informal Motorcycle Moviemakers Meeting

**April 30th:** Deadline for Payment; Motorcycle Skills Course

**May Meeting:** TBA, Slippery Rock or Harmony, PA

**June Meeting:** TBA a Ride to Moraine State Park

**June 25th:** Motorcycle Skills Training Course

**July Meeting:** TBA a Ride to Yellow Creek Park

**July 6-8:** BMWRA National Rally, Petoskey, Michigan

**July 13-16:** BMWMOA International Rally, Salt Lake City, Utah

*Submitted by Recording Secretary,  
Glenn Kidd*