



June 2018



Sean Barrett

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I would like to thank everyone who helped make last month's meeting a success. For those of us that rode to the outdoor meeting, it is easy to forget the work that needs done to make it a success. Thanks to Marge for giving up a ride to the meeting so that we could have burgers, dogs and drinks. Also thanks to the cooks, cleanup crew and those that set up the ride to the meeting. I encourage members to personally thank those members that are working at a meeting and even better, offer to help.

I have often stated that I want to hear suggestions and ideas from members about how we can improve the club. So, Bob Mihalics e-mailed Diane Pears about another club's newsletter, asking whether this would be a good idea for the club.

I thought that I would take some time today to review what we have done in the past, as well as what is entailed in publishing a newsletter. For many years we had a newsletter and that was the major communication system that we had for the club. Now with the web site and Mailchimp, a newsletter would be a luxury rather than a necessity. But it would be a great luxury, the website and mailchimp are great at communicating necessary information and bringing members together for specific purposes, but it would be great to also have a source of information about our members, what they are doing as well as interesting information from other magazines, etc. Compliments of Don Poremski, I get a copy of the BMWOC's newsletter (Ohio club), and enjoy reading it.

The biggest problem is needing an editor. The Editor has to be someone who really enjoys putting out the newsletter and is interested in doing it long term. This is not a job that can have a revolving editor. The last two editors that we had, Ralph Meyer and Nancy Barret, both held that position for many years. It takes someone interested in reading the motorcycle magazines, other club newsletters etc, to look for interesting things to put in the newsletter as well as getting members to contribute pictures, articles and other material to the newsletter. They then need to put it all together and get it out to the members; monthly, quarterly or yearly.

In summary, I think that a newsletter would be great, so if anyone is interested, contact me or any other board members

That's it for this month. Time to get off the computer, pack the bike and head off to work. Ride hard, ride safe,
Sean

Photos here: <https://fourwindsbmw.smugmug.com/Events/2018/June-Moraine-SP/>



Minutes

Four Winds BMW Riders - General Membership Meeting June 16, 2018, Moraine State Park, Portersville PA

Sean called the meeting to order at 12:45. 28 members and guests attended. 20 bikes were there. Sean thanked Bruce and John (Humphrey) for organizing and leading the ride of ten bikes from the Wexford dealership to the meeting. He also thanked Marge and the cooks for the substantial effort in organizing, setting up all of the paraphernalia and preparing the food to make for an exceptional picnic.

The first item of business was the Treasurer's report. Bruce reported the transition in responsibilities was mostly complete. There has been no significant change in the checking account balance since the last meeting.

The next item was the Rally Report. Vince advised that all of the initial tasks have been accomplished. Arrangements are in place for:

- Red Bank Valley Municipal Park has been reserved,
- registration (opens 8AM Aug 17),
- Saturday's dinner (Rub 'n Tug),
- speaker (Bruce with a presentation of his Morocco tour),
- coffee (Leo and Jeff),
- tee-shirts (work in progress, design "Riders on the Storm"),
- field events (Don),
- a musician for Saturday evening (Dennis will handle),
- The tidy & clean crew (Boy Scouts) Linda Loesch co-ordinator.

Questions followed. Vince confirmed: a \$5.00 discount will apply for pre-registration; forms are available online; local vendors will be selling food at the park. Volunteers are still needed for the registration table. A sign-up sheet was circulated with the request that members enlist for an hour or two to man the desk at the entrance to the park. Further consideration will be given to scheduling the time for the field events.

The subject turned to plans for Board of Director meetings. Meetings will be scheduled to start immediately following the general monthly meetings in order to allow Board members to join the pre-meeting rides, which appear popular, as well as to keep the need to cover subject matter twice at a minimum. As schedules permit, Sean reported he hopes to email an agenda to Board members and other interested club members one week in advance of meeting and to encourage email exchanges of ideas on the topics to be considered. The effort to have a speaker or presentation at monthly meetings will resume in October. The interim meetings are all scheduled outdoors.

Sean reported that the RA and the MOA organizers are reaching out to solicit volunteers to help with this summer's rallies at Wellsboro PA and Des Moines IA respectively. Those interested may get further details and sign-up through the rally websites or call Sean.

Given the recent interest in group rides to the monthly meetings, Sean noted how important it is for all participants to follow basic rules to assure safety. He brought copies of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's Guide to Group Riding for all interested in refreshing his or her understanding of the ground rules. Discussion followed as to the benefits implicit in using a staggered formation as well as responsibilities for the bike immediately behind you.

Discussion turned to upcoming events. BMW will be the featured marque at this year's Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, and the vintage motorbike show will again occur at the Schenley Park race course on July 14 and 15. Members who will not be traveling out of town were encouraged to participate in a strong showing for BMW motorcycles this year. The vintage motorbike display will be organized this year by The Pittsburgh Ton-Up Club, a local group of motorcycle enthusiasts. A link to the event is available on the Four Winds website. Another upcoming event highlighted for vintage bikes and linked on the Four Winds website is the AMA Motorcycles Days at the Mid-Ohio Racecourse in Lexington OH on July 6, 7 and 8. In response to a question, Labor Day week-end was confirmed as the date for the Steel City Mods vs. Rockers rally, and the event will move to a new location.

Dennis was asked how the Laurel Highlands club event at Pioneer Park went this year. He reported it was a relaxing and well-organized camp-out with an exceptional dinner served on Saturday. He noted there are a number of excellent roads on the way to and from the location. The weather cooperated until the last day; his tires did not, with a slow leaker and a valve-stem failure plaguing him. Discussion strayed to the subject of tire problems developing mid-ride and the do's and don'ts of how to handle. Volunteering to return to the subject of the Laurel Highlands camp-out, Dennis encouraged a strong showing for Four Winds members next year. Suggestions included the possibility of holding a future monthly meeting at Pioneer Park, with a group ride to precede the meeting.

Four Winds members planning to attend the RA rally in Wellsboro and intending to stay at Mansfield University discussed the possibility of requesting their rooms be grouped together. This arrangement should be possible if a list of names can be given the organizers.

Sean asked if there were any new members present, but none were identified. Sean welcomed back old friend, Dan Rai. Walt reported that Ralph (Meyer) sends greetings and his regrets that he could not be at this month's meeting. Walt noted that Ralph was having medical issues, but on a positive note, had also just celebrated the 10th anniversary of qualifying for his Iron Butt credentials. Additional, sad membership news reported was that Ted Beiter had recently passed away.

Sean asked for any new business, and hearing none, suggested it was time to draw the 50-50 winner. Dennis won.

Upon motion of Adrian and second by Jeff, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
David Donley, Acting Recording Secretary