



April 2019



John Humphrey

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

The meeting at Skyvue Restaurant and Lounge did not work out well. They opened late and had misinformed me about the facilities for a presentation. We were told we would have a buffet and then it was order from the menu. The service was very slow, the waitress put everything on one bill for about \$210, so we had to figure it out ourselves.

All of this is to simply illustrate the difficulty of getting a restaurant to serve 25-35 people, order from the menu, pay with separate checks while tying up their banquet room on a Saturday for lunch. If you have a local restaurant that you like and think they may be interested in hosting a club meeting in a private, quiet area with no room fee or high minimum dollar order or number of people requirement, please check with them and let Adrian and me know.

The weather was beautiful on Saturday and we had most meeting members riding their motorcycles to the meeting. The small-ish turnout of about 24 was probably due to Easter on Sunday. Ed Syphan won the 50/50 drawing.

Vince and I traveled to Munich a couple of months ago as part of a ski trip in the Italian Alps. In Munich, we rode bicycles to BMW Headquarters, BMW Museum and BMW World. Vince and I presented a couple of pictures about our ski trip followed by the trip to Munich. There were some really beautiful antique BMW motorcycles, as well as the very latest 1250 models. Oh yes, they also have cars. Antiques and race cars were interesting. Since I drive an EV, it was glad to see BMW's commitment to lightweight carbon fiber and Electric Vehicles.

As you may have heard, Kissel Motorsports did not buy BMW of Pittsburgh. The deal fell through at the very last minute. Mike has other suitors and is exploring those options. We all wish Mike and BMW of Pittsburgh the very best for their great support of our club.

The club has purchased a large canopy tent, tables and chairs for the MOA National Rally in Lebanon, TN June 13-18. We would like to see a good turnout there. The BMW RA National Rally is in Woodstock, VA the 1<sup>st</sup> week of September.

We have two scheduled State Park shelter house meetings in June and July. The club will supply the burgers and drinks. Members should bring side dishes and desserts, like the meetings at Leo Stanton's and my house.

Joe Burns, who is Rally Chair of the 4 Winds Annual Rally from August 16-18 reports things are moving along. The design for the rally T-shirts is in the works with Ken Kucel coordinating. One suggestion is "Rally in the Valley", as in the Red Bank Valley. The notices of the Rally have been sent to the MOA and RA magazines and websites. We have already received multiple pre-registrations. If you have ideas for a speaker or other entertainment on Friday or Saturday nights let Joe or me know. Dennis Mickanin will have his excellent musical entertainer from last year, again this year.

Bruce Conaway has resigned as Treasurer due to his son's health problems. Bruce will be moving to Colorado in the next few months. Marge will be taking over for Bruce. I want to thank Bruce for his efforts in handling one of the most important jobs in the club.

If you have a problem with receiving club email, access to the forum, purchasing membership or anything else on our website areas, please let me know. I take a personal interest in the website, email and credit card purchasing.

On behalf of myself and the club officers and board, I look forward to seeing you at the meetings and on the roads. I'm looking forward to some warm and dry weather ...soon!



# Minutes

## Four Winds BMW Riders - General Membership Meeting April 20, 2019, Skyvue Restaurant, West Mifflin PA

John Humphrey, presiding

John called the meeting to order at Noon. There were 17 members attending, arriving on 10 bikes.

John reported that pre-registrations for the Four Winds rally at New Bethlehem PA in August have already begun to arrive and asked Joe Burns to provide an update. Planning is underway. The tee-shirt graphics most likely will be straight forward, with a logo on the front and a photo scene from the Red Bank area on the back which will include the caption "Rally in Valley." Joe is awaiting Ken Kucel's advice before finalizing the design. Several members noted the slogan had been used in the past. Joe asked for a show of hands as to how many members were planning to arrive at the rally on Thursday; he will need volunteers to help with set-up. More than a few members are planning to arrive on Thursday and will assist. A speaker or topic has not yet been determined. Suggested subject matter will be to pick a tech-oriented topic, perhaps something as simple as valve adjustments. Members with other suggestions or speaker are encouraged to relay them to Joe.

A question was raised as to whether to add a swap-meet or flea market area at the rally. The addition would require,

- advance work to collect, organize and transport the merchandise, all of which is to be motorcycle related gear, accessories, apparel and similar items,
- a table or two,
- price tags and
- several volunteers to collect the proceeds.

Hours would be limited to Saturday. The next question was raised as to whether the club should keep a small percent of the proceeds, 10 or 15 percent for example. Contrary views were expressed with some members commenting that a modest fee would be justified, while others thought the idea might overly complicate matters. Marge Humphrey volunteered to organize the event. Additional consideration will be given to whether or not the club will keep some of the proceeds.

The committee will reach to Don Poremski to determine his interest in running the field events for Saturday afternoon.

A question was raised as to whether "save-the-date" postcards should be sent to the members not having a current email address in the current membership roster. The purpose would be to alert them to the rally and enlist their support. A vote was taken; the additional expense to prepare and mail postcards was approved by a substantial majority.

No Treasurer's report was provided as Bruce was out of town.

John next confirmed the more recent development on the sale of the Wexford dealership; namely, that the proposed sale did not go through. Current ownership and staff remain committed to sales and services for club members as in the past. Informed speculation suggested also that several other prospective purchasers have expressed their interest.

John reported the club has received some correspondence from the MOA rally organizers detailing a list of volunteer positions that need to be filled for the June 13-15 event at Lebanon TN. The list was circulated, and members interested in volunteering were asked to let John know so that a response can be made.

The club has been contacted by the race organizers for the Half Marathon event to be held in conjunction with the Pittsburgh marathon on Sunday, May 5th. Two volunteers, bikes and riders, are needed to ride the videographers in advance of or with the runners. BMW Motorrad customarily provides the bikes and riders, but conflicts will not allow it to do so this year. An R-type bike with no top-case is required. John has volunteered for one position; another volunteer is needed for the other. Interested members should contact John. Joe Burns tentatively advised he would be interested and is to confirm to John.

Upcoming events include follows:

- Kissell Motorsports Swap-meet (Tyrone PA) will be held on Saturday, April 27 beginning at 10 AM;
- BMW of Pittsburgh (Wexford) plans an open house, check the website for date and time;
- the Annual Blessing of the Bikes get together in Murfreesboro on Sunday, April 28th
- the Cass WV Rally, May 24-26th
- Twin Valley Rally on September 13-15 in Meadows of Dan VA; registration has opened and all are reminded it is limited to 200 persons.

Upcoming Four Winds monthly meetings will be:

- May 18th, Driscoll & Sons Cafe (Elizabeth Township)
- June 22nd, Moraine State Park (Lake Arthur) - club will provide dogs, burgers and cold drinks
- July 20th, Mingo Creek Park (Finleyville) - club will provide dogs, burgers and cold drinks

Joann Barr is selling a lightly used Piaggio scooter. It has 600 miles on the clock; asking price is \$4,300 which includes a Givi top case. Interested persons should contact her. The suggestion was made to relay this information also to the Western Pennsylvania Scooter Club.

John introduced new member, Jim Talerico. Jim reports he rides an R1200R and hails from the South Hills. He is an aircraft mechanic and has been riding for a number of years. All present welcomed Jim.

John asked for any additional new business. Upon learning that our hardworking Social Director, Mary Hetzel, was celebrating her [redacted] birthday today, a spontaneous chorus of Happy Birthday erupted for Mary. No further new business was reported.

The business portion of the meeting concluded with a 50/50 drawing. Ed Syphan's ticket was drawn, allowing him to depart the meeting with an extra \$23.

Respectfully submitted,

David Donley, Recording Secretary

*Secretary's Note:* The afternoon proceeded with a presentation of Vince + John's Excellent Adventure, recounting Vince and John's recent skiing trip to the Val-d'Isère region of the Alps and a visit to BMW World + Museum in Munich.