



March 2019



John Humphrey

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

The meeting at Cornerstone Restaurant was a fairly small turnout due to the weather. Dave Donley was the only one who rode his motorcycle to the meeting. Sean Barrett won \$29 in the 50/50 drawing.

Bob Mihalics presented a great video of his motorcycle tour of the Alps. To say the roads were narrow would be an understatement. I actually asked "are these 2 way roads?" He rented a R1200GS for the Alps and liked it so much that he bought one upon his return.

I had a lunch meeting with Mike Kuenning last week. As you may have heard, BMW of Pittsburgh is being sold to Kissel Motorsports in Tyrone, PA. Many of you know Josh Nolten from Kissel. He will have a new General Manager moving to the area to run BMW of Pittsburgh. I will reach out to Josh after the official closing date. I believe Kissel is scheduled to start running the BMW shop operations beginning April 1st. We all wish Mike the very best for his great support of the club.

There is a MOA Getaway at Fontana Dam April 26-28. The MOA National Rally is 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 1st week of September.

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

Joe Burns who is Rally Chair has the Annual Rally August 16-18 moving along. The design for the rally T-shirts is in the works with Ken Kucel coordinating. The notices of the Rally have been sent to the MOA and RA magazines and websites. If you have ideas for a speaker or other entertainment on Friday or Saturday nights let Joe or me know. Dennis McKanin will have his excellent musical entertainer from last year, during the campfire.

Vince and I traveled to Munich a couple of weeks ago as part of a ski trip in the Alps. In Munich, we rode bicycles to BMW Headquarters, BMW Museum and BMW World. Vince and I will be presenting at the April meeting about the motorcycle and car museum. The next meeting is at Skyview Restaurant near the County Airport in West Mifflin.

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**  
**March 16, 2019, Cornerstone Restaurant, Aspinwall PA**

John Humphrey, presiding

John called the meeting to order at 1 PM. There were 18 members attending, one riding.

The first item of business was to welcome Glen Kidd who was awarded the MOA Medallion at the February banquet. Glen reported he is progressing and thanked John for the recognition. John next recognized John Hetzel, the other MOA Medallion winner this year and complimented him for the continuing effort in his role as Corresponding Secretary.

John invited anyone in attendance who had not purchased a 50/50 ticket to do so as it was time for the drawing. Sean's ticket was drawn shortly thereafter; he is \$29 richer.

As the next item, John reported the recent website chatter was in fact true; the Wexford dealership has been sold by Mike Kuenning. In order to learn more about this development, John had recently met with Mike after hearing the news. Kissell Motorsports will become the new owner. Immediate plans include the expansion of inventory on the floor, subject to space constraints, including a number of dealer demo bikes available to Kissell through its arrangements with the BMW distributor. Kissell's current BMW dealership is in Tyrone PA, and prior to that in State College. Wexford will provide a new opportunity for growth. An experienced manager is to relocate to Pittsburgh and oversee daily operations moving forward. Additional details need to be worked out before the transition becomes final.

John noted that Mike's contributions to Four Winds BMW Riders has been substantial and that it will be sorry to see him leave. At the appropriate time, John and others will reach out to the new owners (Josh and Dave) in the effort to establish a good rapport with them for our club. Discussion followed with some reporting that Kissell is already a strong presence in the region and brings the promise of continued and possibly enhanced dealership support for the marque. Kissell sells other brands at its Tyrone location, and word is that it will now add Ducati with the acquisition of the Wexford dealership.

Planning for the riding season was next on the agenda. MOA events include

- the Fontana Village Resort Getaway Rally, April 26-28, and
- the MOA National Rally in Lebanon TN beginning June 13th.

Regarding the national rally, John reported on the Board's consideration earlier today as to having the MOA rally organizers set aside a separate camping area for Four Winds riders. A tent-canopy set up adjacent to the camping area is also to be explored. Final action depends on two factors (1) the costs of renting the tent and (2) the number of Four Winds members planning to attend. With a clearer understanding of these factors, the cost justification can be established. John called for a show of hands of those planning to attend; six appeared.

Opinions were next offered that:

- six is not enough,
- fifteen or so would most likely justify the expense, and
- other members are undoubtedly planning on the trip but are not at today's meeting.

To better measure the interest, a website posting or email circulation might be in order to guide the Board's determination. Also noted were past experiences with MOA organizers' estimating capability. They tend to underestimate substantially the plot size needed to accommodate campers. In making arrangements, go big. Also on the planning horizon will be the RA National Rally which will be in Woodstock VA (Shenandoah County Fairgrounds) beginning September 5th.

John advised there will be no formal Treasurer's report this month; Bruce attended the Board meeting earlier in the day but could not stay for the general meeting. There has been no appreciable change in club finances. Upcoming Four Winds monthly meetings will include two "shelter-house" gatherings, the first at Moraine State Park (Lake Arthur) in June and the other at Mingo Creek Park (Finleyville) for the July meeting. The June meeting has been pushed back one week to avoid conflict with the MOA National Rally dates. At the "shelter-house" meetings, the club will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and cold drinks. Members will be asked to supplement the menu with appetizers, sides and dessert. Marge and Mary were volunteered to assist with set up on the meeting days.

Planning is also under for the Four Winds BMW Annual Rally in New Bethlehem. We are returning Red Bank Municipal Park. At the Board meeting earlier today, Joe reported his punch-list currently includes:

- tee-shirt design and purchase,
- sanitation facilities,
- an organizer for fields events,
- ride leaders,
- tech session(s),
- a guest speaker
- door prizes or raffle prizes, with a hope that the new dealership owners might sponsor or contribute.

Volunteers are needed; please contact Joe or John.

April's monthly meeting will return to the Skyvue Restaurant (across from the county airport). John and Vince intend to present photos and details about their recent visit to the BMW Motorcycle Museum in Germany. John asked if there was any further old business. None was reported.

He next asked if there is any new business. Two items of interest for the coming months are: (1) Four Winds BMW Riders' participation in tech sessions that local airheads group has been organizing (Tom Fuery is the contact.) and (2) organizing group rides.

Hearing no further business, John adjourned the meeting so that the afternoon could proceed with Bob Mihalics' presentation on his alpine touring experiences with Edelweiss Bike Travels.

Respectfully submitted.

David Donley, Recording Secretary