



July 2020

John Humphrey

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This was the first club meeting since the Annual Banquet in February. Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, we had to cancel all the meetings in March, April, May and June. Luckily, the July meeting was scheduled at an outdoor shelter house in Mingo Creek County Park. I was surprised to see 30 members at the meeting. As usual, when we ride to the south, Vince and I got lost on the way. Because of that, we arrived too late for the Board meeting. The Board meeting was to discuss the plans for the Rally, so we discussed the rally at the general meeting.

The Annual Four Winds BMW Rally is the longest running continuous BMW Rally in America. In my opinion that's part of the reason we are determined to continue the Rally in spite of the COVID19 pandemic. The club does a lot of things because "we have always done it that way".

The original July 1st vote by the Board was a "sized-down" Rally. There would be no Saturday Banquet, no registration fee and would mostly be a club and friends' campout. Since that time, the Rally has grown incrementally to be a regular, full rally with the Banquet, Field Games, full pre and on-site registration with normal fees ...and even T-shirts. A final decision to cancel will be made by the voting Officers and Board members on August 1st. The revised 2019 By-Laws specify the seven voting members to be: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Web-Master and a Board member. I ask that those Board members seriously consider the implications of their vote. Like you, I hate to see that amazing streak end without a good reason. A very good reason is the very real danger of spreading the infection among the rally attendees.

Our event is held outside in a relatively remote area of Clarion County and may seem to be a little safer. However, it may bring together a couple of hundred people from many states as far away as Florida. There is no foreseeable way that we can expect to adhere to all CDC and State mandated social distancing and face mask guidelines. It's simply not in the nature of a motorcycle rally. Worse, we won't be able to get every person in attendance to sign a waiver releasing the club and its officers from legal action should somebody decide to sue if they contract COVID19.

I have spoken to multiple people at the MOA and the RA. As you know, both their national rallies have been cancelled along with virtually all other club rallies even past or date. We had all hoped the epidemic would be under control at this point. Unfortunately, the COVID19 virus cases have risen quickly in Allegheny County and around the country, as controls were relaxed.

I know the prospect of cancelling the Rally this year is a big disappointment for all of us. I hope all the club members and their families are staying safe.

John Humphrey, President

MORE PHOTOS CAN BE SEEN HERE:

<https://fourwindsbmw.smugmug.com/Events/2020/July-Mingo-Park>



Minutes

Four Winds BMW Riders - General Membership Meeting
Saturday, July 18, 2020
Mingo Creek Park, Finleyville PA

John Humphrey, presiding

John called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM and welcomed the strong turn-out, our first get together in four months. 30 members and guests attended, arriving on 20 bikes.

The first item of business was the plan for a 54th Annual Four Winds rally. John reported the rally has not been cancelled, although a few Board members believe it prudent to do so. Rally chair, Joe Burns, has been moving forward with plans upon the stipulation that all Covid-19 guidelines will be observed. Current plans are to return to Red Bank Municipal Park in New Bethlehem for an event beginning on August 14 through 16th. Vince shared that his concerns were recently amplified with the news that the leadership of the BMW Riders Association (BMW-RA) has now cancelled its 2020 national rally previously scheduled for September.

John invited all attending today's meeting to share their views regarding the impact of Covid-19 developments. Discussion followed and reflected distinctly divergent opinions as to the road ahead. To summarize:

Sentiments expressed in favor of the current track to hold a rally or camp-out included:

- Registration and attendance are 100 % voluntary;
- Safeguards will include compliance with all Covid-19 guidelines;
- Risk-taking accompanied by individual responsibility has long been a part of Four Winds' motorcycling;
- With the exception of Saturday's dinner, all events are out-of-doors;
- Saturday's dinner will be different this year in order to accommodate social distancing for all diners wishing to partake.

Opposing sentiments expressed included:

- the apparent indifference to public health advisories,
- a selfish disregard of "stay-at-home-if-you-can" guidance,
- poor timing given available statewide and national statistics,
- the potential for adverse impact on local residents,
- increased exposure to financial liability, and
- the limited availability of off-site dining options.

Against the back-drop of what is known today, Vince called for a show of hands indicating the preferred option among three choices; namely, (1) proceed with planning underway for an August 14-16 event, (2) cancel the rally due to safety concerns, or (3) defer any final decision to a time closer to August 14 to allow for consideration of additional developments that may unfold. Results were mixed, leading John to conclude that a common view point is unlikely to emerge from more discussion today. Upon Ed's motion to cut-off additional discussion, and second by Vince, John confirmed it was to time to move along.

In moving on, a few points were reiterated regarding current plans as follows:

- Pre-registration is to be required.
- A revised Release and Waiver form will be in place.
- Wrist bands will be given out and are to be displayed.
- Additional sanitation measures are in the works.
- Field games are scheduled, with thanks due to Don Poremski.
- Kissell Motorsports is to donate a give-away or two as sponsorship, with thanks due to Josh Nolten.
- The club's website is likely to include updates as we get closer to the event.
- The Board will make a final decision on moving forward on or about August 1st and will update members through MailChimp and the website.

The next item of business was the Treasurer's report. Marge was not in attendance; John was pinch-hitting. He reported the 2020 banquet brought in \$1,241, while expenses totaled \$2,099, resulting in a net loss of \$858. The loss is comparable to other banquets in recent years and reflects the Board's intent to subsidize a portion of the expense for members attending as in the past

Rally pre-registration stands at 25 or so.

Club finances year to date show expenses exceed receipts by \$402.

John asked Diane to provide an update on tee-shirts for this year's rally. Diane reported that most of the work has been accomplished with only a few design details to be finalized. Plans are to purchase only the number of tee-shirts ordered and paid for prior to the rally. Our supplier is allowing us the flexibility to do so. All members interested in ordering tee-shirts for the 54th Annual Rally are urged to check the website in the days ahead for details on purchasing and pricing. Plans are to distribute the tee-shirts at rally check-in.

Upcoming plans are to have the September monthly meeting at John and Marge Humphrey's residence. John noted this will be the first time in over 40 year's that the monthly meeting will not convene at Leo's. Other happenings reported were:

- Soggy Bottom Moto Fest, sponsored by Kissell Motorsports - July 24-26th (www.kissellmotorsports.com)
- Kawasaki Good Times Tour - factory demo bikes at Mosites Motorsports (www.mositesmotorsports.com)
- Moto America Superbike Racing - August 7-9th at Pitt Race (<https://motoamerica.com/pittsburgh>)
- Penguin Riding School - August 10th at Pitt Race - co-sponsored by Mosites Motorsports (www.penguinracing.com/event-3904260)

In response to questions, several members advised there is no update on progress in opening the BMW dealership at Mosites in North Versailles. Others recalled that Kissell Motorsports, Tyrone PA, has stepped up with its interest in sponsoring this year's Annual Four Winds Rally.

Hearing no further new business, John called for a motion to adjourn. Sean so moved and Holly seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Donley, Recording Secretary