

# APRIL



# 2007

MOA # 6

[www.4windsbmw.org](http://www.4windsbmw.org)

RA # 76



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By the time you read this, I will be nearly one hundred days into my term as club president. The 2007 board and I have enacted many positive changes while maintaining the core traditions that our legacy members hold dear. That's not to say there haven't been a few "learning experiences" along the way. More on that later. Here's what's new:

#### We Have a Rally Chair (Woo-hoo!)

The 2007 board met on March 3rd at The Shack to discuss how we might conduct a successful rally with the key position of Rally Chair unfilled. Nancy Barrett sat with us as an observer, and by the end of the meeting, offered to volunteer as our 2007 Rally Chair. I am personally grateful for Nancy's decision and I'd like to think her decision was influenced by the civility, commitment and spirit of cooperation that defines the working relationship of the 2007 board, but closer to the truth, she probably just took pity on us. **Learning Experience #1:** Experience is not necessary. If you are earnest and hard-working, eventually someone competent will eventually offer to help.

#### What Else is New?

BMR is being superseded by GEM, which is an acronym for **Going the Extra Mile**. Jay Singh developed this program and will serve as its administrator. The **PURPOSE** of GEM is to recognize those who serve the betterment of the club and give recognition to

**THE NEW GEM (GOING THE EXTRA MILE) PROGRAM REPLACES THE FORMER BMR (BMW MEMBER RECOGNITION) PROGRAM. THE EMPHASIS THIS YEAR IS ON RIDE PLANNING AND LEADING, AND BENEFIT TO THE CLUB. SEE P. 9 FOR ALL THE INFO.**



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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007

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#### APRIL MEETING INFO

The next meeting of the Four Winds BMW Riders will be held on Sat., April 21, 2007 at Tolerico's Ristorante & Tavern, 2525 Monroeville Blvd, Monroeville a bit south of Rte. 22 from 2-5PM. Phone: 412-824-8016; [www.tolericos.net](http://www.tolericos.net). A Map & Picture of Tolerico's can be found on p. 7.

## PUBLICATION INFO

**The Four Winds BMW Riders Newsletter** is published for members' use. Articles' and pictures' copyrights are held by their authors. Author's permission should be obtained before any form of republication.

**Editor:** Ralph Meyer

**Deadline:** Articles submitted must be received by the editor no later than Midnight on the Tuesday after the club meeting of the month preceding the month of publication (e.g., April Meeting: April 21; **May issue deadline: Tues., Apr. 24th**). Articles/Info rec'd after deadline go in next month's newsletter.

### Submission information:

**E-mail submissions:** Send as **attachments** with "4 Winds Newsletter Article" in the e-mail 'Subject' line to:  
<meyer@zoominternet.net>

**Articles on Disk Media** mail to:

Ralph Meyer, Editor  
4 Winds Newsletter  
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### Submission formats:

**Articles:** Send as plain text with headings and hdg depth defined, or in Word Processor (e.g., MS Word) format. Save trees: avoid paper if you can.

**Pictures and graphics:** Submit in JPEG or TIFF format with clearly marked locations in the article.

**Long articles** may be split between issues.

**National Club Affiliations:** Four Winds BMW Riders is chartered club #6 of the BMWMOA and chartered club #76 of the BMWRA

**Newsletters** in color PDF format are at the Four Winds Site, [www.4windsbmw.org](http://www.4windsbmw.org). Download a free Adobe PDF reader by clicking the 'Get Adobe Reader' button at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) and following the directions thereafter provided.

## MEETING SCHEDULE 2006

**Mark the dates on your calendars, but remember...**

**All meeting sites are tentative. Please check the web site and newsletter for changes and updates.**

**April 21, 2007** — 2:00PM.  
Tolerico's Restaurant, 2525 Monroeville Rd, Monroeville  
**May, 2007** — Mingo Creek County Park

**June, 2007** — Prez's ride to Johnstown Brewing Co.

**July, 2007** — Moraine State Park  
**August, 2007** — **Friday, August 17 to Sunday, August 19 41st Annual Four Winds Rally!**

**September, 2007** — Leo & Holly Stanton's

**October, 2007** — Bella Luna Trattoria, Rte22, Monroeville

**November, 2007** — Possibly the Rhythm Room

**December, 2007** — No Monthly Meeting

**January, 2008** — Annual 4-Winds Banquet

## 2007 SHACK SCHEDULE

Keep an eye out on the web site all you lady and gentleman wrenchers and attendees out there, for the Shack locations and dates to help keep us smiling through the winter, and keep 'em rolling!

those who organize and/or lead rides and road trips for the benefit and enjoyment of other members.

Why start a new program? A recent web survey revealed that 30.43% of our members admit to being motivated by a little friendly competition. Conversely, we know that 30.43% of our membership provides 99.9% of the volunteer service to the rest of the club. **Learning Experience #2:** If 30.43% of your members provide 99.9% of the volunteer service to the club, you have to schmooze that top 30.43 percentile group.

I will close with a compelling reason to

## ONGOING EVENTS

### **Breakfast Rides, et al.:**

These rides are free-form. *Those attending decide what they want to do and where, if anywhere, they want to ride.* If you just want to show up in the car and have breakfast with fellow motorcyclists, that's fine too.

### **COME! EAT! CHAT! RIDE!**

### **Ride Schedule — Month:**

Sun, Apr 1 — North at King's, I-79 & Rt 910/VIP Dr., 10:00 AM

Sat, Apr 14 — West at Eat n' Park, Rt 60 & 22/30, 9:00 AM

Sun, Apr 15 — South at King's, 3049 Washington Pike, off Exit 54, I-79, Bridgeville, 10:00 AM

Sat, Apr 28 — East at Dick's, Rt 22 Westbound Side, Monroeville, 9:00 AM

### **If you're going to a breakfast ride, you might want to notify others:**

It's not necessary, but it'd be nice to let others know you're going to a particular Breakfast Ride by putting a notice on the 4-Winds Site Message Board's Breakfast Ride section saying so. That'll help save a rider from discovering too late that no one else is going that day. The Breakfast Ride's URL is: <http://www.4windsbmw.org/forum/viewforum.php?f=9>. Be sure to erase your post after the ride if you can so the board doesn't get cluttered.

join Four Winds as a new member or join the ranks of its committed volunteers. According to Robert Putnam in his classic book *Bowling Alone*, if you do not belong to any group at present, simply joining a club cuts in half the risk that you will die in the next year. While conducting a recent study, researchers at Carnegie Mellon dropped cold viruses directly into the nostrils of subjects noses, (icky) they found that those with rich social networks were four times less likely to get sick.

**Learning Experience #3:** Being a good friend involves a degree of self-sacrifice, but it's good for you.

**PS:** Lee Marks will be holding a special BMW Club track day at BeaveRun on April 28th or 29th. The cost is projected to be \$100 for the day (*big fun for one c-note!*). Find out more at European Motorcycles of Pittsburgh: <http://www.bmwpggh.com>.

Mitch



## 4 WINDS BMW RIDERS CLUB MARCH MEETING MINUTES

### MARCH 17, 2007 AT TAMBELLINI'S, RT. 51

Board Attendance: Mitch Kehn, Gary Smith, Jay Singh, Ralph Meyer, Tom Primke and Jürgen Brune

Before the meeting, the Board of Directors discussed the following:

1. The Board authorized Mitch to contract with the band "Zydeco Dogz" for \$650 to play at the Rally on Saturday night. Mitch was uncertain if the band was available and will report back to the Board.
2. The Board authorized Mitch to order 500 Rally cups with 4 Winds logo - these can be used at this year's and following rallies while supplies last.
3. Mitch has secured the Grand Prize for the rally drawing, a new Hit-Air Motorrad model Shock Buffering safety jacket valued at \$699! Winner may select any style or size Hit\*Air jacket from available stock. Visit <http://www.gohitair.com> for details. (Note - I have that model and wear it every day. - Jürgen)
4. Jay Singh offered to coordinate all Rally Rides - please contact Jay and let him know if you have any plans for leading or organizing a ride.
5. Jürgen offered to team up with Al Vangura and present an Oilhead Tech Session in Gary's absence. Thanks Gary for providing the props, tools etc.
6. Mitch was authorized to place the order for the Rally T-shirts - this requires a down payment of \$400 (approx. half of the total cost).
7. We will need a sound system for the rally entertainment. Gary Smith will provide the projector. Tom suggested to try out our sound system that is stored at Redbank. If this is not sufficient, we may need to replace it.
8. Jay has re-organized the riding bonus system for the club. It is now called the GEM program for Going the Extra Mile. The awards were simplified with emphasis of providing service to the club rather than attaining personal riding challenges such as finding post offices or covered bridges. Leading or organizing a ride earns bonus miles, riding along does not. Check out the program at <http://www.4windsbmw.org/cms/staticpages/index.php?page=2007GEM>

9. Gary Smith (with help of several others) has secured club rides for June 16 (Johnstown Brewing Co.), July 21 (Moraine State Park, shelter #3) and November 17 (The Rhythm Room in Bridgeville)
10. Gary Smith made a motion to reduce the Rally fee from \$35 to \$27 for club members who help with rally organization and stay at a motel. This saves the camping fees for these members but is cost-neutral to the club. Ralph Meyer seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

During the following Club Meeting, the following items were discussed:

Breakfast Ride contacts are:

North: Ralph Meyer

West: Walt Halaja

South: Dan Weaver or Sean Barrett

East: Sonny Robison

Jay Singh explained the GEM program and answered questions from the membership. There is a web link to report your ride so it can be easily tracked.

Jay asked for suggestions for Rally rides - he will coordinate all riding events.

Mitch presented the winning Rally T-shirt design by Hilary Klein.

If you would like to order a long-sleeved T-shirt rather than a short-sleeved one, you need to contact Mitch ASAP. The long-sleeved one will be slightly more expensive than the short one.

For the Redbank project on the June 30 weekend, we will consider installing electric hand dryers in the bathrooms. Tim Pears will take a look at the electric hookup possibilities since these dryers require a lot of power.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY: JÜRGEN BRUNE, RECORDING SECRETARY



## CLUB TRACK DAY

*From Lee Marks, European Motorcycles of Pittsburgh*

Hi everyone,

As most of you know, we sponsor a few Track Days at BeaveRun every year. Well, this year we have scheduled an entire weekend, April 28 and 29th for our first event.

We have been discussing the idea of having one of the days be a local club day, with 4-Winds, the Ducati PennDesmo and the Triumph RatPack Clubs as sort of a low key, have fun track day and also a local meet and greet type of thing.

As always, we will provide plenty of food, drinks, instruction if wanted, talk and generally a good time.

**To do this, though, I really need a gauge on how many of you would be interested in something like this.** The track rental is very expensive (about \$8000 for a weekend day), and while I don't do this to make money, I also don't do it to lose tooooooo much. If everyone could chime in on this forum, it would be of great help in planning this. There would be a special 4Winds rate of \$100 for the day.

I would also like to know which day is better for most people. Obviously, I can't please everyone here. Our initial thought was for Sunday to be the Club Day.

If you have never been to one of our Track Days or to ANY Track

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**EAST BREAKFAST RIDE  
2/24/07**

*Walt Halaja*

Well, for you members who don't have access to a computer, this will be your East Breakfast Ride report! President Mitch posted a short and sweet report along with the picture Ralph took on the new 4 Winds web site and it worked well!

Starting on Wednesday, February 21, on our web site President Mitch posted that all was looking great for the club's East breakfast scheduled for Sat. The weather looked very promising and he was planning to attend and wanted to know if any others planned on going! Ralph said he would and Sonny thru his hat in, and I said I probably would make it!

Well, Sat. morning I checked my outside temp. and it was 11 degrees! Turned on the computer and found out those three still planned on going. "REALLY!" So I thought I had better show up or they would think I'm a real "wimp" — which I am in many ways. HA! This would be my 1st. ride since the cold snap started in January, so I was ready and wanted a February fix even if it meant riding in the teens to start out! By the time 08:30 rolled around, the temp. rose to 17 degrees. "NICE!" As I was heading east bound on I-376, I thought I could taste salt in the air: it looked like the cages were throwing salt dust off the roadway!

So it was the four of us, and a good breakfast we had, with mostly motorcycle and club gab! It's not often when you can have the club President (with a three on one) at a breakfast! We got it, and it may have been a 1st for me! We didn't leave 'till about 11:40. President Mitch did a little shopping on the way home, Ralph and Sonny went home, and I went to Engine 3 to visit Capt. Scooter and do a light work-out! By the time I arrived home, the temp was up to 32 degrees! "Heat wave!" I had one more place to go to on Sat., so I chose to do it on Traveler, so I got to put about another 20 miles on. Thus, for the day I probably got about 50 miles in. That was all I needed for my February Riding Fix!

WALT



**WHO WE ARE  
APRIL, APRIL, APRIL, APRIL!**

*Walter B. Halaja Born April, 1942*

*Retired April, 2005*

*1st. Motorcycle April, 1970*

*37 yrs. continuous riding April, 2007*

Ok, so how did I get this passion or love for single track vehicles? Well, I guess mine started when I lived at 1432 W. Liberty Av. in the Beechview area of Pgh., Pa. I lived in other areas of Pgh., but these were the happiest for me! I lived with my Mom and Grandparents right on top of Martin's Motorcycle shop. I was about 10 yrs. old at that time. I didn't have many things, but my Mom seemed to find a way to get a pretty good bicycle for me! It was a J. C. Higgins with front suspension! I had a good friend, Carl, and we used to ride back and forth on West Liberty Av. I'm sure we angered many a motorist as we darted across the street! We also did some woods riding as there were plenty of woods in that area! Well when the shop was open, I hung around there as much as I could. Don would let me sit on the used bikes outside on the street! Don sold BSAs, AJSs, Zundaps, Indians and, when that company went out of business, he sold some Royal Enfields! Actually Don was Bohn Cycles' competition who sold Triumphs at that time out on Rte. 51. Sometimes Don would take me to hill climbs and other events like scrambles. I only remember going to the Heidelberg race track one time with Don, and one racer lost his life that day! There was a club out of that shop, and it was called "Leap 'N Links". Don's shop was very small, but they used to hold their meetings there! I'll bet Don Good would have loved that club, and I don't think they held a banquet! Sorry Don, I just couldn't let that one go, and being the good sport you are, I know you will get a good laugh out of that one! ...One big thing for the club was the "Jack Pine 500." They would go to that event every year. 500 hundred miles of riding through the woods, now that's heavy duty! I think George Wolfe did that with a side car! "Up-date from Ambassador Smith at our March meeting:" Gary said he thought George ran the Jack Pine 6 or 7 times with his side car, and even won it at least once! Now that's really Heavy Duty!

I cannot write this article without mentioning my Grandmother, Sophie Miller, who was killed not more than 25 or 30 yards from our home while crossing the street to catch the streetcar car for work. She was struck by a car rounding the bend near Brookside St. My Grandfather had already left the house and was at the streetcar stop. They all worked at the same place, but left at different times that day for some reason, so it was my Mom who went to her when she left

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### SAFETY PIC 'O THE MONTH

This suggested ride mode courtesy W. E. Digum Diep, undertakers and embalmers.

PIC FOUND AND SENT IN BY KEVIN HART



### SAFETY? WHAZZAT???

Or "At least 4 ways not to pay attention to yer T-Shirt Motto!" (Can you figure out what they are?)

PIC SENT IN BY JURGEN BRUNE



### WEST BREAKFAST RIDE 3/10/2007

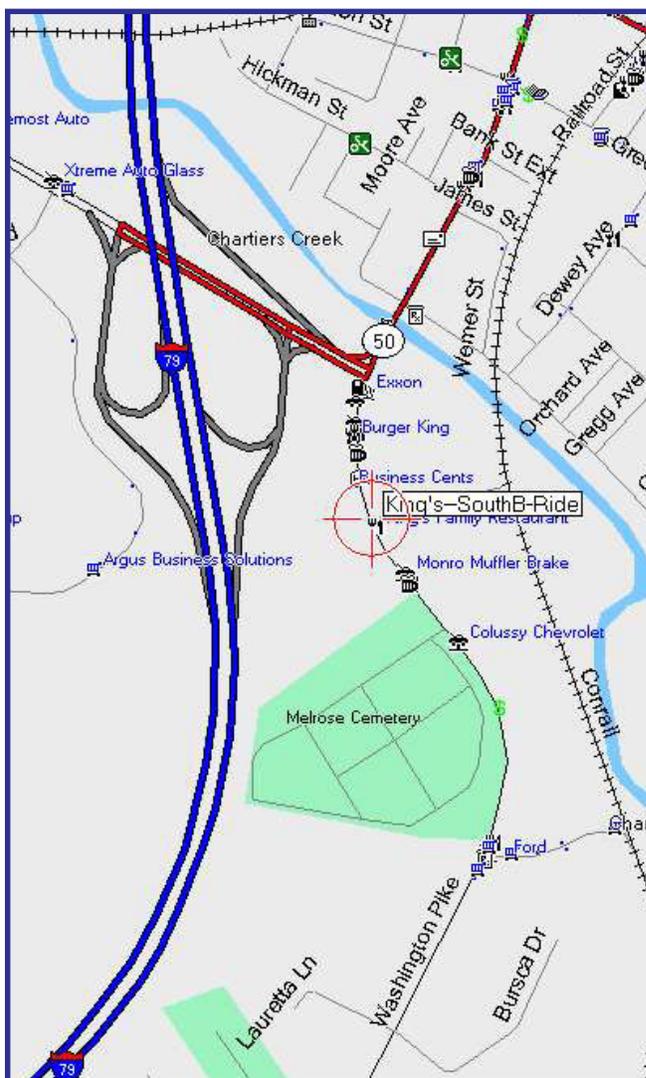
Walt Halaja

On Friday, the 9th. at 7:02 PM, we had 4 hits on the web site of possible members showing up! "Great," I thought, but when I checked the weather Sat. morning near 7 AM there was a line of showers in Ohio heading east bound not too far from our Pa. border and the Burgh! Well that made me fire off a e-mail to Sonny and Ralph to see if they were still going to show! After having coffee with Mathilde and checking back around 8 AM, Ralph had responded that he was staying home, and I didn't think Sonny responded, so that meant a 'no' to me—the reason I didn't think he responded was that he did, at 7:54AM in plenty of time, but somewhere on the net the e-mail got held up and I didn't get it 'till the following Wednesday, can you



### NEW SOUTH B-RIDE LOC

On suggestions from several folks, the board selected a new South Breakfast Ride location at which to meet, eat, 'n ride at 10:00AM on the third Sunday of each month: The King's Family Restaurant, 3049 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017. King's is right off I-79 at the Bridgeville exit--Exit 54. To get there, turn right off either exitway onto Route 50. Go a few hundred feet or so and where Rte 50 heads North on Washington Pike, turn Right and go South. King's will be on your left about 1/10th of a mile from where you turned right from Rte 50 onto Washington Pike. This should be a very convenient place for our 'Southies' to reach, and, for that matter, the 'Westies,' 'Northies,' and 'Easties' too, as one can get there via one or another of the interstate links to I-79 around or through the 'Burgh'. There are some great riding roads and locations to visit in the area, and King's puts out pretty decent breakfasts for the 'Ride to eat, and eat to ride' crowd. C'ya there!



believe? Anyway, they both almost spooked me out of riding up to the Eat 'n Park until I reread President Mitch's post that said he would be there! I originally thought his post on the web site was just an informational post about the new mileage program which will be headed up by Director Jay! But it was both. OK, it's getting late, so

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## HOW WE WERE BACK WHEN...

by Walt Halaja

Did you know that in April of 1997...

Jeff Dunkle was President and also wrote a Tribute to Wayne Kelly! (I have it and if you want it, contact me at [wshalaja@msn.com](mailto:wshalaja@msn.com)!)

George Mastovich was our newsletter Editor! (Has anyone seen George Lately?) Give him a call!

From the February 22nd 1997 meeting minutes:

- 1) 55 people were in attendance
- 2) Treasurer's report: the club account contained \$8,860.02!
- 3) Jeff announced the 1997 Rally chairmen as Fred Maskrey and Bob Stuckert! (Fred and Bob are experienced and have still always worked behind the scenes since then as I see it!)
- 4) Ed Syphan won the prize of a BMW name tag, Gary Smith a coffee mug, Brian Livermore a BMW duffel Bag, and the 50/50 was won by Kelly Syphan—the kitty was \$36.00, and finally, several folks participated in the Happy Dollars theme!\*\*

If you like this taste of our club history, let President Mitch know and we can continue doing these!

WALT

\*\*The 'Happy Dollars' theme time came at the end of the regular club meeting before the meeting was adjourned—anyone could pay a dollar and talk for a few moments about anything they wanted.



### RALLY 1ST. PRIZE: HIT-AIR JACKET!

**Goforit Distributing in La Plata, MD** has donated a Hit\*Air Motorrad Touring Jacket valued at \$699 to be the Grand Prize at our 2007 rally. Hit\*Air is the maker of the "airbag" motorcycle jacket that saved the hide of our own club president Mitch Kehn when he experienced a 70mph get-off in October of 2006. Goforit Distributing has pledged to provide a Motorrad style Touring Jacket in any size the winner chooses or provide any other style Hit\*Air jacket or vest of comparable value from existing stock. Details at <http://www.gohitair.com/>.



### 41ST RALLY T-SHIRTS

Here's a picture of the "Prairie Dust" colored T-shirt developed by associate club member and professional graphic artist Hilary Klein that will be sold at our 41st rally. If you would like to special order your very own long sleeve t-shirt, simply email [rally@4windsbmw.org](mailto:rally@4windsbmw.org) with your quantity and size(s). **Orders for the long sleeved T must be in by the end of the April meeting. Cost is \$18.** You should pick up and pay for your shirt at the May or June meeting. Long sleeve shirts are special order items and will not be sold at the rally.



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I'd better get my polyester butt going! In the middle of dressing to ride, the phone rang. It was President Mitch himself on the other end!

"Are you going Walt?"

"Yes sir, I will be there; where are you coming from?"

"Brentwood!"

As I'm only about 6 miles away, that bought me some time. Well, I figured, it was just going to be President Mitch and myself. When was the last time you had a one on one with the club President? Man, I thought, three on one at the east breakfast ride was big time on Feb. 24th., but this would be even better: One on One! "NICE" Plus, if you are not on the board, when did you receive a phone call from the President? Well let me tell you this was my 1st after approximately ten years in the club! How about those green apples?!!

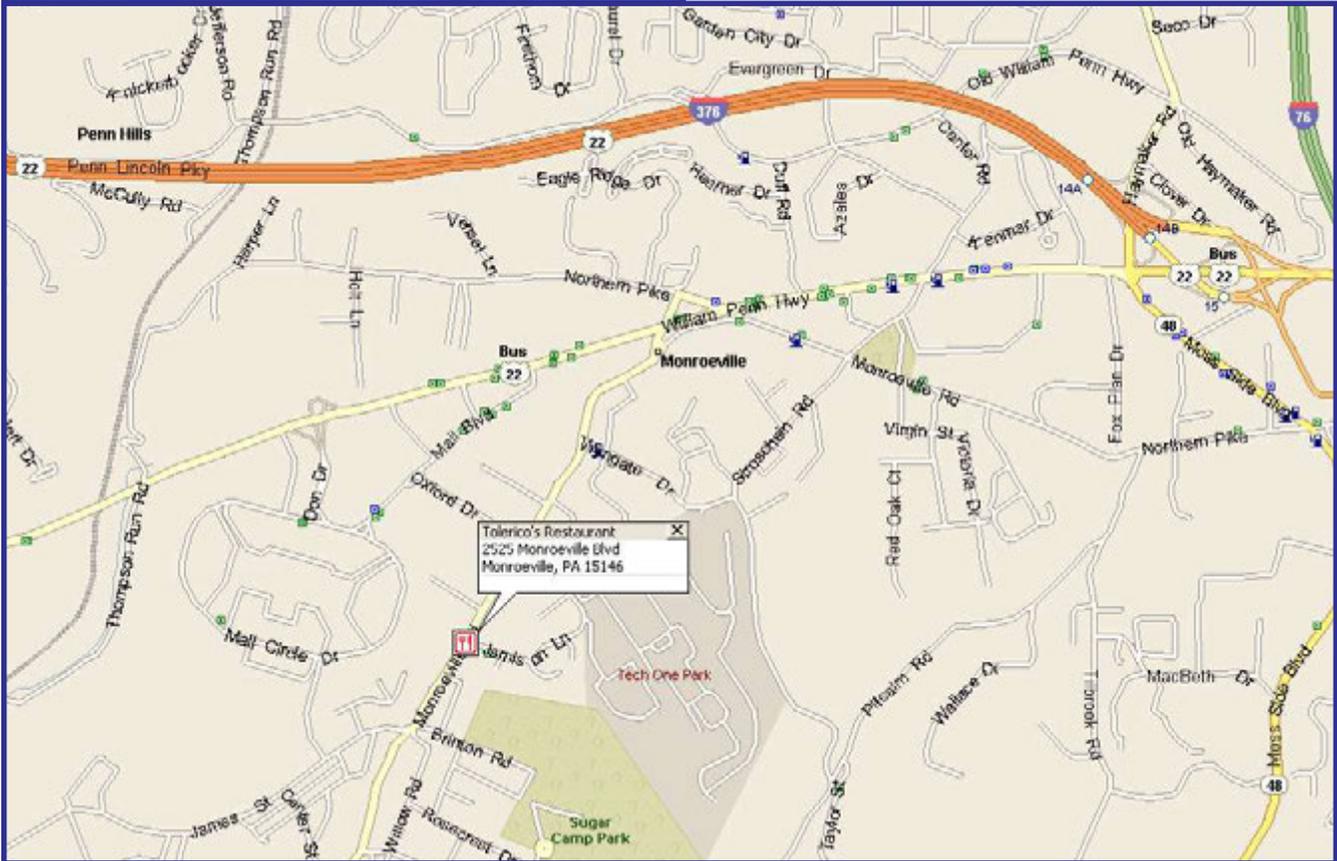
Well, Mitch beat me by about half a smoke: not bad timing. Just a few minutes after being seated, Director Jürgen pulled up on his GS! Surprise, surprise! We had a good breakfast with mostly motorcycle, and club type conversation, although it was a little above my head when those two were talking about GPSs (even if I have one), hand held Palm devices, and the new web site type programs! We also learned that Jürgen had had to return to Germany to for his father's funeral—sad news; he was 83 years old when he passed away.

I thought we would just do breakfast, but Mitch and Jürgen wanted to do a short ride, so I suggested Frankfort Springs, which are only about 19 miles west-bound right toward that line of showers that



### APRIL MEETING MAP

Here's a picture of Tolerico's restaurant that you will find on the right on Monroeville Rd South of Rte 22 in Monroeville as you head Southwest. The map below shows where the restaurant for the April Club meeting is located. It shouldn't be hard to find.



was heading east bound, but they said, "Lets do it!" Mitch and Jürgen were both happy to put me in the lead to get some of those new mileage type points, so off we went after Mitch checked his tire pressures.

Frankfort Springs is worth stopping at if you have never been there; I would suggest an early spring or fall visit, or, if we have a very, very cold winter, a late January or middle-to-end-of-February visit, as the springs are awesome as the water cascades off the cliff with all the ice build up! Our Saturday viewing wasn't that great because we did have a pretty mild winter that actually didn't really kick in 'till about the middle of January! Frankfort springs sits off to the left if you are heading north on Rte. 18, say from Rte. 168, just a few miles inside Raccoon State park! The town of Frankfort Springs itself is at the junction of Rtes. 18 and 168.

Since Mitch and Jürgen are from the south part of town I used Rte. 978 as the point on Rte. 50 at which to part company from them and to say farewell, as I didn't want to return home via I-79! My trip meter read 45.8 miles with the three of us riding together!

And I did hit rain on the way home! I also did some shopping and visited my Son Kevin and thus wound up with about 76 miles for the day! Just enough!

WALT



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Days, just ask Ralph or Sean or Ed Tatters how much fun it is and how much it improves your riding. It is not a “race” and I am sure they will also tell you that we run a very disciplined and safe day without letting egos ruin everything. Just a lot of riding, bullshitting and eating!!! Why else do we live???

Anyway, we really need a pretty decent turnout to make this work, so please let me know as soon as possible and if it works out well, we could even make this an annual event.

Thanks in advance for the feedback and as always, thanks to the club for all the support it continues to give us!!

LEE

If you would like to jump on the bandwagon with a nice bunch of fellow 4-Windsers, PennDesmoers, and RatPack folks and have a blast sharpening your riding skills and seeing what your bike can do, either **call or e-mail Lee at European Motorcycles of Pittsburgh ASAP at (724) 934-4269 or [motoman@bmwpg.com](mailto:motoman@bmwpg.com)** to let Lee know you want to participate as he needs a certain number of takers to go ahead on this.



Continued from page 4

just minutes later. I remember I wanted to go to her, but my Mom wouldn't let me. I loved her so, and it was one of the hardest times of my young life! I was 11 yrs. old and it was 1953.

So the time finally came to move again. I was nearly 16 then and spent my last three years of high school at Stowe High. I joined the Army in 1960, and returned in 1963 with Mathilde, my “roommate,” and a daughter, C. Brenda. I still had no motorcycle! We had two more sons, Wayne and Kevin. Still no motorcycle and I still had a burning desire to have one! Finally, when I got a good job at the Dravo Corp. “Light metals plant,” I finally made enough money to buy a motorcycle, but it seemed everyone I knew was against me! “Hey, you are going to kill yourself and you have a wife and three children,” they would say! I would say, “I don't want to kill myself, I just want to ride!” Well I guess Mathilde trusted me and I got my 1st. bike in 1970! It was a 1969 single carb BSA Royal Star 500cc



Twin with less than 500 miles on it. I loved that bike and rode it for 16 yrs straight! So most of my miles were just back and forth to

work weather permitting—I didn't care as long as I could ride. I didn't have very good riding gear and it was almost torture to ride home near 1 AM in the winter months. My next bike was a 1976 Triumph Tiger, which I bought in 1986, and I rode that until 1992 when I got my 1st. BMW: a brand new 1992 Roadster R100R that I rode 'till 1996 when I got my 1st. RT: a 1996 R1100RT. That was followed by a 2000 R1150RT, a 2003 R1150RT, and now a 2006 R1200RT named “Traveler” after General Robert E. Lee's horse! Perfect name I thought!

I rode from 1972 till 1992 without knowing too many other riders. I was pretty much a loner I guess until I met a neighbor of mine who was a member of the 4 Winds: Dave Baldwin! Dave and I rode quite a bit over the next several years. It took me a while to warm up to the club, but I finally joined about 10 yrs ago. Dave has dropped out of the club, but still rides his K75. Since I have joined, I have met many of our members and it has been a joy to meet and ride with you!

What type of riding do I like? Well, I just love back roads and I think that's what it's all about; unless you are really in a hurry, then and only then I can do interstates! Of course if you are trying to do an Iron Butt type run, then the interstate is the only way to go. I was thinking of trying to do 1500 in 24 hrs this June, but it was just a thought and probably won't happen, ...but it could! I always thought that if I ever had the opportunity to do Daytona I would like to just do back type roads, but at that time of the year it would almost be impossible!

Favorite rides? I have many! When I rode the BSA, a big loop for me was the 7 Springs—Ohiopyle run, which usually took a good part of the day, and I still really like that run! Another one is the Oglebay Park loop, which I have done several times out of the west breakfast site and most members who did it loved it! Another is the Pringle tree run: an all day trip, about 300 plus miles. A two day trip would be Helvetia, WV to Harrisonburg, Va. and home via RT 33 where the wild man lives! I did Deals Gap two times, but really I think once should have been enough! A few of my favorite trips were with my son Kevin, when he returned from College, even if we were riding British Iron. Oh... another great one was when Kevin and I rented two BMWs in 1990 and had a two day trip to Austria down the “Flexin Pass” with a short run thru Switzerland and back into the German Black Forest and home! What great roads and experience that was for the both of us! And I've enjoyed rides with my roommate, Mathilde, when she could ride, but those days are gone for now.

Have I ever gone down? Yes, I have: on my '76 Tiger in the Corliss tunnel! That really knocked the wind out of my sails, but I did go to work that evening. I think I cracked the tip of my right elbow and found out a week or two later that I also lost my big toenail on my left foot! So really that wasn't too bad. I haven't lost my zest for riding, and I have been saying for years “I want to ride until I die, and if I die on a bike, you will know that I died doing something I loved!”

Finally I want to thank my God for my journey on motorcycles, all 37 yrs. worth, and I would like to continue till the end!

WALT



## GEM MEMBER RECOGNITION MILES

The PURPOSE of the GEM program (*Going the Extra Mile*) is to recognize those who serve the club in both an official capacity and for those who take the personal initiative to organize and/or lead rides and road trips for the benefit enjoyment of other members.

We have assigned a mileage value to various volunteer activities, club leadership positions and acts of random kindness that add value to the club as a whole and positively impact the Four Winds membership. In addition, we are rewarding those who organize and lead group rides, because riding a motorcycle with your friends is the best reason to belong to a motorcycle club in the first place.

If you have questions or comments about the GEM member incentive program, email [Jay Singh](mailto:Jay.Singh@gem@4windsbmw.org) at [gem@4windsbmw.org](mailto:gem@4windsbmw.org)

GEM rides can be reported on the Web Site or by e-mailing [gem@4windsbmw.org](mailto:gem@4windsbmw.org).

2000 MILES	1000 MILES	500 MILES	100 MILES
President	Rally Committee Chair	Host a Shack Pack	Newsletter Article
Newsletter Editor	Board Member	Tech Session at Rally	Website Article
Website Moderator	Treasurer	Ride Leader at Rally	Host Board Meeting at Home
Rally Chair	Redbank Project Leader	Security at Rally	
Rally Co-chair		Registration at Rally	
		A/V Manager at Rally	
		Logistics at Rally	
		Field Events at Rally	
		Banquet Coordinator	
		Host Club Meeting at Home	
		New Member Bonus	
		Breakfast Ride Contact	
		Banquet MC	
		Clean and Tidy Duty	
		Sponsor New Member	
		GEM Administrator	
		Mileage Contest Coordinator	

### Ride Leader/Organizer Incentive

A qualified ride will be a ride of at least 100 miles with three or more members including the leader/organizer. The Ride Leader/Organizer will be responsible for logging the distance traveled with his companions and providing this information to The GEM Coordinator. Overnight trips will earn a 100 mile bonus per night. 1000 miles is the maximum mileage that can be claimed for a single trip.

In the event that there is no clear leader or organizer of the ride, the participants will determine by mutual agreement which rider will claim GEM mileage credit for the ride.

*Ex: Three or more riders travel 531 miles round tripsomewhere, for two nights = 531 + 2(100) = 731*

*Ex: Three or more riders travel 131 miles after a breakfast ride =131*

The Club will provide a custom shirt or hat to members who achieve a benchmark of 3,000 GTD miles. This gift of recognition will be presented to the volunteer at a club meeting in a semi-formal recognition ceremony.

**Four Winds BMW Riders**  
**c/o Ralph Meyer, Editor**  
**6056 Meadow Lane**  
**Bakerstown, PA 15007-9720**

**HOW DO I JOIN  
FOUR WINDS BMW  
RIDERS?**

To join, come to a meeting and introduce yourself. Meetings are listed here in the Newsletter and in the schedule of events on the Web Site, [www.4windsbmw.org](http://www.4windsbmw.org). Membership dues are \$15 per year for primary membership, and \$7.50 per year for associate members residing in the same household as a primary member.

**DIRECTIONS TO THE APRIL MEETING:**

The April 21, 2007 meeting will be held from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Tolerico's Ristorante & Tavern, 2525 Monroeville Blvd, in Monroeville. Phone: 412-824-8016; Web: [www.tolericos.net](http://www.tolericos.net).

*From the West:* Take I-376 (The Parkway) East to Exit 10b and exit onto Rte 22 East. Travel East on Rte 22. AFTER the main (Don Drive) entrance to the Monroeville Mall, turn right after Day Ford onto the first or the second street. Turn Right onto Mall Blvd. In a short distance, turn Left onto Oxford Drive. Turn Right onto Monroeville Rd. Tolerico's Ristorante & Tavern is in a strip mall about .2 of a mile from Oxford Drive on your right.

*From the East:* Take Rte. 22 Westbound. Turn left onto Stroschein Rd after the Krispy Kreme, Taco Bell, and BP Station on the left about 1 mile after the Turnpike Overpass. In about .3 mile, turn right onto Monroeville Rd. In about 1.2 miles Tolerico's Ristorante & Tavern will be on your right.

*From the North:* Take I-79 and I-279 South and get on I-376 (The Parkway) East toward Monroeville. Then follow the directions "From the West" above.

*From the South:* Take Rte 51, or I-79 and I-279 North and get on I-376 (The Parkway) East toward Monroeville. Then follow the directions "From the West" above.