

SEPT.



2007

MOA # 6

www.4windsbmw.org

RA # 76



PREZ MITCH MEZ

Take My Job. Please!

It was late winter of 2007, the riding season was nearly upon us. The Four Winds board met at the Shack to discuss the rally. The first decision we made was that we were not going to try to top the 40th annual rally. We would simply aim to have our rally revenue meet or slightly exceed our expenses. This decision was based on feedback from the membership that our focus ought to be on FUN-raising rather than fund-raising. Food costs were higher this year, we hired a quality band and we printed 500 rally cups hoping that these cups would last us two seasons. We kept the rally fee at \$35 when many clubs were bumping their fees up to \$40.

But in spite of higher costs, a rally fee that hadn't been raised in years and my best efforts to adhere to the mandate that the rally be a not-for-profit event, we attracted 317 guests and earned an astounding 24% return on our investment. How did this happen? If the Four Winds Rally was a fortune 500 business, we would be the toast of Wall Street and every investment analyst would want to know our secret.

Our secret was good weather and lots of volunteer labor. There is simply not enough space in this column for me to properly thank all the volunteers who gave so generously of their time, talent and use of their cars and trucks. The September meeting and the Annual Banquet are the best opportunities for

**C'YA AT
HOLLY AND
LEO'S, 2PM
SAT. THE
15TH!**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Prez Mitch Mez	1
Board Of Directors 2007	1
September Meeting Info	1
Publication Info	2
It's to Laugh	2
Meeting Schedule 2006	2
Ongoing Events	2
More laughs	3
West breakfast ride	3
Giving Al a hand!	4
Ridin' Two-up!	4
Want More Bike Parking??	4
4-Ws Web Site Usage is Up	4
East Breakfast Ride	5
Med(ieval)-Ohio	6
How we were back when!	7
41st Rally Notes	7
Attendee Note	8
Motorcyclist fatalities up	9
How do I join	10
Directions to the Meeting:	10

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SEPTEMBER MEETING INFO

The next meeting of the Four Winds BMW Riders will be held at Leo & Holly Stanton's, 3015 Walton Rd in Finleyville, PA, on Sat., Sept. 15, 2007 from 2–5PM. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Members are asked to bring appetizers, side dishes, and desserts according to your last name: A-H: side dish; I-P: dessert; Q-Z: appetizer.

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 6:00 PM on the Tuesday after the club meeting of the month preceding the month of publication (e.g., Sept. Meeting: Sept. 15; **Oct. issue deadline: Tues., Sept. 18th**). 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:

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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. Download a free Adobe PDF reader by clicking the 'Get Adobe Reader' button at 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.

September 15, 2007 — Leo & Holly Stanton's, Findleyville

October 20, 2007 — The Bellaluna Trattoria, Rte 22 Eastbound, Monroeville

November 17, 2007 — The Rhythm Room, Bridgeville-Tentative

December, 2007 — No Monthly Meeting

that. But let me offer that our Rally Chair, Nancy, was amazing. I'll never forget that winter meeting at the Shack when Nancy had a lapse in better judgment and accepted the position of 2007 Rally Chair.

Nancy and Sean Barrett will be taking a well deserved break from serving on the board next year. Nancy tells me that for the first time in 20 years, she plans to arrive at the Four Winds Rally on a motorcycle and just have fun. This will leave us with big shoes to fill, but I am confident that someone will step up to the challenge. Someone always does.

On September 15th, we'll all be meeting at Leo and Holly's place and (I hope) I will become a lame duck president as someone else will be elected President of the club for 2008. Or if not exactly elected, strong-armed under protest into accepting the position.

So come to the September 15th meeting and take my job. Please!

MITCH



IT'S TO LAUGH "SON OF A PREACHER-MAN"

Sent in by Sonny Robison

An old-time southern, hell fire and brimstone country preacher had a teenage son, and it was getting time the boy should give some thought to choosing a profession.

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

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

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

Sat, Mo day — 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.

Like many young men, the boy didn't really know what he wanted to do, and he didn't seem too concerned about it.

One day, while the boy was away at school, his father decided to try an Experiment. He went into the boy's room and placed on his study table Four objects:

- 1) a Bible,
- 2) a silver dollar,
- 3) a bottle of whiskey and
- 4) a Playboy magazine

"I'll just hide behind the door," the old

preacher said to himself, "when he comes home from school this afternoon, I'll see which object he picks up.

If it's the Bible, he's going to be a preacher like me, and what a blessing that would be!

If he picks up the dollar, he's going to be a businessman, and that would be okay, too.

But if he picks up the bottle, he's going to be a no-good, low down drunkard, and, Lord, help me.... what a shame that would be.

And worst of all..... if he picks up that magazine he's gonna be a skirt-chasin', no good bum."

The old man waited anxiously, and soon heard his son's footsteps as he entered the house whistling and headed for his room. The boy tossed his books on the bed, and as he turned to leave the room he spotted the objects on the table. With curiosity in his eye, he walked over to inspect them.

Finally, he picked up the Bible and placed it under his arm. He picked up the silver dollar and dropped it into his pocket. He uncorked the bottle and took a big drink while he admired this month's Centerfold.

"Lord have mercy," the old preacher disgustedly whispered, "he's gonna be a Congressman!"



MORE LAUGHS

SPELLING TO GET INTO HEAVEN

A woman arrived at the Gates of Heaven. While she was waiting for Saint Peter to greet her, she peeked through the gates.

She saw a beautiful banquet table. Sitting all around were her parents and all the other people she had loved and who had died before her. They saw her and began calling greetings to her "Hello - How are you! We've been waiting for you! Good to see you."

When Saint Peter came by, the woman said to him, "This is such a wonderful place! How do I get in?" "You have to spell a word," Saint Peter told her.

"Which word?" the woman asked.

"Love."

The woman correctly spelled "Love" and Saint Peter welcomed her into Heaven.

About a year later, Saint Peter came to the woman and asked her to watch the Gates of Heaven for him that day.

While the woman was guarding the Gates of Heaven, her husband arrived. "I'm surprised to see you," the woman said. "How have you been?"

"Oh, I've been doing pretty well since you died," her husband told her. "I married the beautiful young nurse who took care of you while you were ill. And then I won the multi-state lottery. I sold the little house you and I lived in and bought a huge mansion. And my wife and I traveled all around the world. We were on vacation in Cancun and I went water skiing today. I fell and hit my head, and here I am. What a bummer! How do I get in?"

"You have to spell a word," the woman told him.

"Which word?" her husband asked.

"Czechoslovakia."

Moral of the story: Never make a woman angry... There will be Hell to pay later!

[Editor's note: I THINK Tim and Diane Pears are to be thanked for this one! ...It came in awhile back and I forgot to indicate who sent it...and I suffer from what Mitch happily? calls "CRS Syndrome"-- Can't Remember S*! (you supply the ending).]



WEST BREAKFAST RIDE

8/11/07

NATIONAL PIKE STEAM, GAS, AND HORSE SHOW

Walter Halaja

Perfect riding day I thought! Low humidity, temp. about 70 degrees at 08:30 hrs... 5 members and one guest arrived: 2 Spark (Dave Mc Laughlin), Dave Manfredo, Ralph Meyer, guest Jerry Hirschfeld, PW (Paul White), and me. Nice size group for a ride. Since I'm the contact man for the West Breakfast, I tried to figure something out for a ride if someone wanted to go. I was going to try and put two short rides together, but I was a little nervous about it, since I haven't tried that ride yet. I like to know a ride route pretty much by heart and not rely on my GPS or other means. It would have been titled "The Good and The Bad". I was going to go for it anyway until 2 Spark saved my polyester butt with another ride down to near Brownsville, Pa. Everyone agreed, so off we went toward Brownsville using back type roads I thought, until 2 Spark took the lead just as we turned off Rt. 519 to Rt. 40 east. There, 2 Spark passed me and turned right onto Daniels Run Rd. heading towards Marianna, Pa. That's where PW let out a loud holler, "HEY I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO THE STEAM SHOW!" He knew something was up: maybe his GPS went berserk! We just waved him to come on and we all stayed together. 2 Spark led us down this 1 and a 1/2 lane road which was the best one of several of the same type of roads where we came across only a few cages. Now I would say that was the best and the real "back road" part of our ride. 2 Spark even managed to swing by his home for a drive by with a momentary stop. (If you get 2 spark near his home turf, he is hard to beat: I remember when we did Meyersdale he suggested some real nice roads we wouldn't have taken without him being there). Finally we got back onto Rt. 40 not too far from the Steam show. PW jumped into the lead at that point; I think his GPS kicked in and he didn't want any more detours! Ha! We arrived at the show about 11:45 hrs. Entrance fee was only \$5. 2 spark said they had good bean soup there, but we never got that, but I think we all had a buffalo burger just before we departed at 14:15 hrs. This was my 1st. time there, and if you never have been there you should try it at least once. With spending two and one half hours we didn't even see it all. Maybe next month we can do "The Good and the Bad ride", or, who knows, maybe someone will come up with something better while we are having breakfast!

It was a good ride, with a great group and it didn't take all day as I arrived home at 15:18 hrs. with only 110 miles for the day.

WALT



GIVING AL A HAND!

Walt Halaja, Dave Manfredo, and Jack Bramkamp give Tom Jefferson's many talented Secretary of the Treasury, Abraham Alfonse Albert Gallatin, a hand surveying at his Western Pennsylvania home, Friendship Hill, while on the July West Breakfast Ride.



RIDIN' TWO-UP!

A (post) biker and his babe! --sent in by "PW" (Paul White).



WANT MORE BIKE PARKING??

Walt got this e-mail back from the folks running the "Vespatition"—which is a petition being signed, not only by Vespa owners, but by all 2 wheel riders. The petition is to be presented to city fathers all over the U.S. requesting that cities, towns, and boroughs provide special

free parking space specifically designated for 2 wheeled vehicles only, in order to promote the ecological benefits and the great savings in the use of oil (a very depeletable resource) that results when people ride scooters and motorcycles instead of cars, pickups, and suckingly useless vehicles. Plenty of parking for 2 wheelers would be a nice nudge in the right direction of getting more people to use motorcycles and scooters instead of cages when they can.

The URLs in the letter will take you to the petition, which you can then add your name to. The vespanomics site gives information on the ecological benefits of 2 wheeling. Good Stuff!

Dear Walter Halaja:

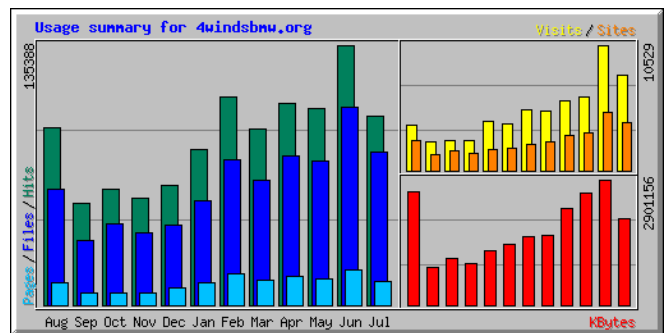
Thank you for signing the Vespatition to promote the conversion of some automobile parking spaces to two-wheel spaces. We appreciate your support of this initiative, and encourage you to forward this information to others interested in making two-wheel riding even more accessible. So please let your family and friends know about the Vespatition <http://www.vespausa.com/Vespatition>.

Be sure to check out <http://www.vespanomics.com/> for updates on the parking initiative and additional Vespa news and information.

Regards,

Vespa USA

P.S. Interested in a neat looking, economical, Vespa for those shorter quickie rides? They're available in Wexford at European Motorcycles of Pittsburgh, along with Piaggios. Somebody told me some get around 70mpg. That ain't nuthin' to sneeze at! When Heritage begins its operations on Rte 22, it also may be possible again to find Aprilia scooters there. For more facts and figures on the economy and ecological benefit of 2 wheeling, see also: <http://www.vespanomics.com/Platform.cfm>.



4-WS WEB SITE USAGE IS UP

Title sez it all: here's the graph our Presidential Webinator Guru, Mitch Kehan, sent over of the web site usage for the past year. Obviously more of us are letting our fingers do the walking--or should that be talking? Anyway, the site is going great guns. Also--great job(s), Mitch! Many Thanks from all of us!





@ Dick's: Jerry Dunishas, Sonny Robison, Dick McNeel, Dave Manfredro, Walt Halaja, and Ralph Meyer

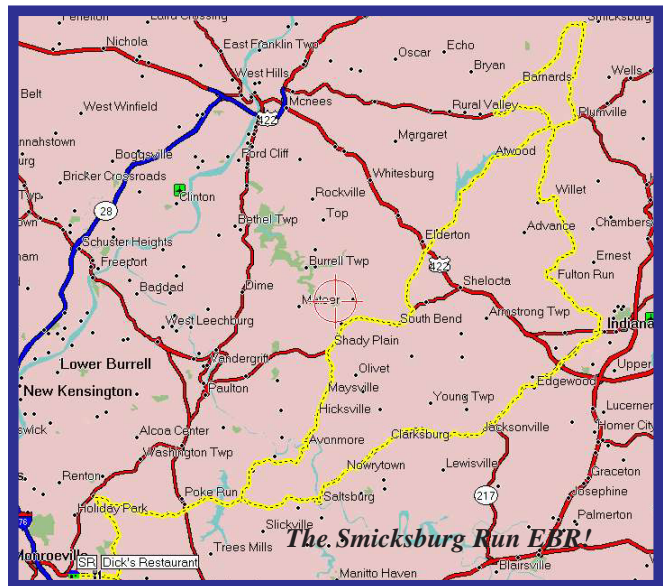
EAST BREAKFAST RIDE 7-28-2007

Ralph Meyer

This morning, we played the numbers & name game—route numbers and road names (known inherently by Eminent Ride Leader H. [Sonny] Robison). After the usual fine fattening breakfast fare (riders gotta keep their strength up!) at Dick's, we decided a nice lunch somewhere North of where we were would be a desirable goal. Sonny mentioned a good down-home restaurant in Smicksburg, north of Indiana, which could cadge us all a good 100+ mile round trip and should enable us to get back home after lunch before the donnerwetter promised by the Whetherpeople (Whetherpersons? Whethermen?) hit later in the day as they all seemed to be promising it would.

Smicksburg having been settled on, Sonny led the 6 of us - 1 airheader—Gerry Dunishas—and 5 oilheaders—Sonny, Dick McNeel, Dave Manfredro, Walt Halaja, and I—out East on Old Wm Penn Hwy to School and Sardis Roads and up onto 286. Hitting Indiana (no not the one 'way west o' here, but Pennsylvucky's own!) we passed the university of the same name and made a pit and fuel

stop there, where Dick headed back south to Greensburg, as he had to be home in early afternoon, while the rest of us continued North up 9th Street and SR954, traveling along byways that took us through great farming country eventually punctuated by frequent bits of Amish exhaust (There's quite a community of them up that-a-way, and none, so far as one can tell from the "evidence," carry a super-duper clopper pooper scooper. I think it might be a religious requirement of theirs not to do so as such exhaust has been a function of horses ever since some religions' proposed creating deity manufactured the initial installation of the things a few gazillion years ago. Besides, the exhaust is biodegradable, fertilizes the roadside wildflowers, and doesn't harm the atmosphere, so what could be better? <<obviously their thoughts exactly. It doesn't,



On the Net...

Have you found a neat location on the Internet? Send the URL in with a brief description of what it's about to the editor and we'll post it here for the benefit of your fellow riders...

Note: copy or type the underlined link into your browser's URL textbox and hit 'Go' or 'Enter' to go there.

Our Four Winds Site, what else??? <http://www.4windsbmw.org>. And always remember never to forget, you can get this and past color copies of the Newsletter in PDF format there! Check it out if you haven't already done so.

The drummer for the Canadian rock trio, Rush, is a dedicated BMW rider: He's written several books about his GS touring activities, which he does between gigs when the band is on tour. Rush is on a North American tour at the moment, having played here in Pittsburgh a month or so ago. Check out his posting here * <http://www.neilpeart.net/news/index.html>. He's talking about riding in our area. Sent in by Ted Sohler.

The \$1.55 carb synchronizer: <http://www.powerchutes.com/manometer.asp> - from the tech article on the same by Mitch on the 4-Winds Web Site.

however, do bikes' paintwork or the the helmet faceshield hit by splatter kicked up by a bit of rain much good: lends things a kinda odiferously green tint) In any event, after a bit more heavy "dew" from the clouds that shaded us nicely all day, we arrived at the Country Junction Restaurant--I'd been expecting to hit the Eatin' Haus where Sonny led Ted Sohler and I for lunch while on an East B-Ride covered bridge hunt a couple of years ago. Wrong! Couldn't figure why, when we were approaching Smicksburg, we suddenly turned off to the left when the Eatin' Haus was, if my poor memory served me right, straight ahead. When we got to this restaurant, it hit me--Sonny knows all these places too. Is there any place that famous ol' Beemer-ridin' Gyrene doesn't know of around here? I'm sure beginnin' to think not!

And the places are good too! This one's parking lot was well packed with cars of the locals—always a sign of good eats according to Robt. Pirsig (of *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*)—but though the place was packed, we managed to get a nice table, and enjoyed some of their home cooking for lunch (Walt said the cabbage soup he had was, well,... "all right" ...he guessed, opining that his lovely roommate, Mathilde, by comparison, made FAR better soup and other vittles). However the hamburgers and bread pudding were top drawer, and I noticed Sonny downed most of his post-main-dish apple dumpling & milk, too. Anyway, after lunch and the usual good confab around the table, we lit the beemers off again and headed back south under Sonny's knowledgeable tutelage.

When we hit SR85, I waved goodbye to the gang and headed west toward Kitanning, Rtes 28, 908, the Red Belt, and home, while Sonny continued to lead the rest of the cortage south, no doubt by more tasty roads, to Dick's and home. It was a lovely day for riding, and, of course, the company was superb. Thanks for the fun, guys! We gotta do that again! Lessee... when's the next breakfast ride coming up? Hmmm.

RALPH

From The East B-Ride Dick's to the Country Junction Restaurant at Smicksburg and back: Sonny's mileage: 128 miles.



MED(IEVAL)-OHIO

By Don Poremski

Nominally it's a sports car course. Actually, on one weekend in summer, Mid-Ohio is that and much more. More may not be better depending on your age, outlook, and need for sleep. Nor can a comparison be made between the sports car or open-wheel crowds and bikers, but it's doubtful that campers for those other events match the, ummm..., enthusiasm of the two-wheelers.

Superbike weekend 2007 is the inspiration for this report. Arrival Friday night after dark meant that my pass couldn't be had until Saturday morning, but signing a waiver worked for admittance. Pitched my tent and went into Lexington for supplies. Geyers being open 24 hours helps for such as I. With just about everything loaded in and on Beeming Bettie it was time to reenter the track area and maybe, just maybe, find "the boys from Indiana" (BFI) who are regulars at this event.

The boys were great for hospitality, jocularly and at least one great quote. Years ago at this very venue, sitting with the BFI at about 1:00 a.m., a silence had fallen over those sharing a fire. Silences don't last long around avid riders. One of the Indianans started out rather haltingly but gathered momentum quickly enough. "You

know, if you was to take a picture of this gathering and show it to most folks—they'd call it an example of male bonding. Well, I'm here to tell ya, this here ain't male bonding. It's male welding!"

Steering the Beemer through the lanes between camp sites, the first observation was that the management was "paving" same with much larger stones, no doubt to keep them passable for cars when damp. These made my progress slow and careful while seeking out the skull and crossbones flag that the boys usually flew over their RV. Even though control was tenuous, what sights there were to see!

Security was once rather persnickety about fires in the camping area. They had to be in an elevated grate, not too big, and water for dousing had to be kept nearby. Jouncing through the dark was made no easier for the steam and smoke coming from a huge fire that just received massive pieces of new fuel. Breathing was no picnic either. In the fire's muted glow however were flushed, grinning faces. Alcohol and radiant heat were no doubt the causes, but these silly mugs were owned by rascally boys/men absent of supervision. Twasn't just boys either. The girls would coax the guys into starting their bikes and holding them at the rev limiter in neutral. Sometimes it took a bit of baring up, but judging from the frequency of stutter screams, the gals were busy.

I suppose if the presentation were titillating enough, the boys would throw in a burnout. The rev-limiters outnumbered the burnouts three to one, but both practices went on into the night, my night, my sleepless night. So, Morpheus being reluctant, it was time for ear plugs. It was while listening to my own breathing that the parallel of a village festival during Medieval times and Superbike weekend in the "snake pit" occurred to me. Gee, if one could add jugglers, a dancing bear, roast beef on a spit and a flagon of mead the jaunt backward in time would be complete. The gathering was of equals, there would be some celebrities, the fun would be shared by all but the cow. No explanations were necessary. The same applied to these motorcycle aficionados. No need to rationalize the inherently unstable mode of transport, the danger prevalent in riding among cars, trucks and cell phones with gallons of flammable liquid between your thighs.

No one here was going to lament the loss of a brother, cousin, work mate to a "sickle" accident. No. Here, the topics were: bikes, rides, roads and adventures, track days, scenic vistas, odd strangers well met, poor drivers avoided. I drifted off with a sense of community, a tribal harmony even, that let me smile at the overall scene. I wasn't known to the revelers on the other side of the course, but I was no stranger to their impulses. They were enjoying the part of motorcycling that to some degree entices us all: the thrill of risky behavior: the knowledge that it takes special skills to become an old motorcyclist, the adrenalin that comes from moving through one's environment unimpeded by visual boundaries (mind candy to a species with sensitivity to movement) with every appendage on duty for a well timed prod, pull, or twist. Now it was mostly the ability to completely unwind after a day teeming with their favorite pastime.

They also provided a wistful remembrance of similar times in one of their more abstemious brethren. So, I added a few more pounds of air to my mattress, arranged my sleep mask and fell into the comfort of a life well sampled. Good night merrymakers. Our festival is short and the demands of our stations in life will recall us soon enough.

DON





HOW WE WERE BACK WHEN!

by Walt Halaja

The September 1997 newsletter was only 5 pages long, but full of Rally Good Stuff.

- 1) Presidents Message: Jeff thanked all with a "Huge, Public Thank You" to Fred Maskery & Bob Stuckert, Rally Co-Chairs 1st., then Tom Barnhart - Registration, Kay & Gary Smith - Greeting Committee (Could this be what is now Security?), George Wolfe & Ross Baker - Signs (We miss them Both), Michelle & Kelly Syphan - Tee Shirt Sales, Ed Syphan - ride to Quaker Steak 'n Lube, Don Poremski - Door Prizes, Steve Goldring - Master of Ceremonies.

President Jeff's favorite attendee comment came from someone who told him "You know...this rally is great. Comfortable, laid back, family sort of atmosphere, you don't have folks yelling till 2:00 AM, & yet there's lots of good stuff to do." Jeff also said, "I think he got the point of what you all have been doing the last few rallies, as did a lot of others who enjoyed themselves this year. Thanks again to all who helped!" (May it be so for our 41st. Rally!)

- 2) "HELP ME!" writes Brian Livermore! "What have I done? I thought that I was through with editing the newsletter. I thought that when I stopped being President that I wouldn't have to write anything more for the newsletter. Well I thought wrong. In the interest of helping the club, I volunteered to edit the newsletter again. I don't mind editing, it's writing that bothers me. I'm sure that you people don't enjoy reading my writing any more than I enjoy writing it. So I will write as little as possible and edit as well as I can. I have asked a few people for contributions to this edition. Thankfully they have come through (or this would be a much shorter newsletter). I am asking all of you, so contribute to future editions of YOUR newsletter. Send me anything that you think should be in a BMW motorcycle club's newsletter and I'll try to get it in." Well, Brian (who is still a member) your plea has been heard because we went from 5 pages to 15 plus pages, thanks to our editor: Ralph Meyer!

- 3) I'm Sure one of the members that Brian asked for help on this issue was Gary Smith, Now Ambassador Smith! Ambassador Gary wrote a most interesting Article titled "Return to Sherando." This article was written about a ride Gary took in Sept., 1977, 20 yrs. before this '97 newsletter was written, so that's 30 yrs. ago! Gary writes "now, I felt the need to go alone." "The next ridge east from McDowell on Rt.250 promised more of the same, but instead surprised me and set off a series of events that changed the course of my trip and my future." Gary runs off the road, but is able to continue to Churchville, then toward Staunton and winds up spending the night in the bunkhouse of a motorcyclist off the beaten path. Gary calls home and Kay directs Gary to the Sherando Lake BMW Rally. Gary is treated well! Kay learns to ride. Gary & Kay return to Sherando Lake Rally for the last 20 yrs. Gary writes at the end. "Time has changed a lot of things. However, one thing hasn't changed. Every year since 1977 I've know exactly where I want to go on Labor Day Weekend. I return to Sherando." So the Question is, Ambassadors Gary & Kay, Will you be there this Sept. 3rd., 2007? --which should make it the 30th year for Gary. Note: if anyone wants to read this

article, I will get it to you, & I don't think Ambassador Gary would mind. I really liked this article & would like to hear more from Ambassador Gary; he writes well!

- 4) President Jeff writes a article "Pillions are more than Passengers" In the 1st. part, Jeff states "In one sense a purist would, as this person did, argue, "Hell No...[they're not more than just passengers]" and have a defensible point.

BUT, in the 2nd. part, Jeff writes from a different perspective: "I've watched a number of folks who are active in Four Winds, but are pillion riders and do everything the club's "real" members do. Nancy Barrett has ridden thousands of miles with husband Sean to North Carolina, New Orleans, Canada, and points in between. She's got mileage numbers that most male riders would be jealous of. Kathy Roslonski, Ambassador Kay Smith's Professional colleague, has been part of the Smith's family for some time with several thousand miles both in the US and abroad. Kathy, by the way, spent "Hours" helping Tom Barnhart at the registration table this rally. I heard her remark once to the effect, "This is my club too..." And so it is, for them and many other pillion passenger members. You're are riders to be sure, and valuable members of the Four Winds family! (Well said Jeff! I remember when the women ran the Whole Show, & I really liked that; lets do that again!)

- 5) The 1st (Rider Dossier) was printed by Dan Doerr. The featured member was "Mark Edward Smith" (Smitty).
- 6) The Sept. 13th. 1997 meeting was at Duke's Station: ...Speaker was author, long distance rider, and world traveler, Bob Higdon.
- 7) 97-98 Shack Pack Schedule: 23 @ Ambassador Smith's, & 7 @ Big Al's Vangura tool. 30 of them!

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

WALT



RALLY REGISTRATION VOLUMTEERS:

Thomas Primke

Here's a list with the registration volunteers for the GEM program and the newsletter:

- Nancy Barrett
- Larry Berner
- Rob Berner
- Jim Linneman
- Ralph Meyer
- Diane Pears
- Larry Shockling
- Holly Stanton
- Ed Syphan

The Berners worked multiple shifts and Nancy spent practically the entire Rally at registration. Many thanks to all!

TOM

Continued on page 8

GREETING COMMITTEE/SECURITY:

Walt Halaja

The Greeting committee / security's Activity Head, Walt Halaja, would like thank the following members for help at the gate:

- John Barr
- Bill Helbling (the Plumber)
- Ralph Meyer
- Sonny Robison
- Leo Stanton
- Paul White (PW)

I would also like to thank Jack Bramkamp & his wife Joyce, Dave Manfredo, & his friend Jimmy Lester, for just keeping us company to help pass the time away. The gate is just a nice place to take a break & watch the bikes roll in and out, and to wave or chat with the riders you know!

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

WALT HALAJA

PRELIMINARY RALLY TALLY

On Sun, 19 Aug 2007 21:13:08 -0400 Thomas Primke wrote:

Nancy and all:

Attached please find the preliminary rally report:

528 nights of camping + 64 day passes: \$2,704.- paid to Redbank Park

294 pig roast dinner tickets sold, 300 dinners committed: \$3,300.- paid to M+S Meats.

I am still working on the head count.

Rally income: \$13,626.-

Rally expenses: (\$11,869.23)

Net profit is approx. \$1,750.-, which represents approx. 14.8% return on investment.

Date: Monday, August 20, 2007 8:42 PM from Thomas Primke:

Rally report update which I consider pretty much final:

I found a couple of accounting errors which, after being corrected, make our numbers look much better:

- I double counted the Zydeco Dogz and rally donuts expenses.
- The Four Winds business cards do not count as a rally expense.
- The return on investment calculation should not include the \$1,600.-petty cash.

Considering these corrections the net profit is \$2,493.50 and the return on investment is 24.4%.

The final head count was 317 attendees.

TOM



ATTENDEE NOTE

4 WINDS RALLY

Don McBride

Good morning Mitch and 4 Winds Officers,

Well, it's Monday morning and perhaps you're back someplace dry and warm this morning after the wonderful 41st Four Winds Rally this past weekend held in scenic Redbank Valley. You and your club officers, volunteers and participants are certainly to be congratulated on another successful event, sure to preserve the long legacy of this excellent rally.

It was again my pleasure to join your club this year with a day pass on Saturday as I live here in New Bethlehem during the summers. As a temporary "local", escaping the heat of Florida for a while this summer, perhaps I was afforded a somewhat different perspective that might not be abundantly apparent to those participants more intimately involved in the weekend event. With your permission, I'd like to share some passing thoughts with you for your possible consideration.

a.) The location for the Four Winds BMW Riders Rally is superb, but you didn't need to hear that from me. I was pretty excited to read about it in the Owner's News in Florida and see that it was again being held in such an ideal setting so close to my summer home.

b.) I'm concerned that the way the door prizes are handled doesn't seem to give the Day Pass people much of a chance at winning anything. Sean efficiently pulled and clearly posted a large number of red tickets by 4 PM Saturday, but very few of these nice door prizes were awarded. I was astounded that so few were claimed, but really confused by the method used to distribute these unclaimed door prizes. It appeared that only the full weekend / \$11 optional Pig Roast participants were eligible for the prizes as they were then distributed at dinner, thus eliminating all your "locals" who had Day Passes.

c.) The same went for the Grande Prize, the Hit*Air Jacket, also awarded only to those present at dinner, but based upon the blue ticket provided in everyone's participant packet. Like you would have done, I'm sure, I gave my ticket to a "full weekender" Steve from Richmond Virginia before leaving and hope that perhaps he may have possibly benefited from my admit fee. I'll never know but that isn't important.

No event, particularly of this magnitude, can be perfect and the Four Winds Rally comes very close but I couldn't help but share my perspective with you this morning. The prize distribution does discourage participation by local people. Your local rally participants happily contribute \$15 each for a day pass that surely must be of some help in putting on such an extensive event as day pass people take very little, but do contribute financially.

Thank you for putting on such a great BMW Event and for patiently reading along this morning. I appreciate any thoughts you might care to share on this view or simply your consideration of my perspective.

Thank you,

DONALD MCBRIDE, FL (R-65 SINCE 1980), LONG TIME BMWMOA #32724



rights. riding. racing.
AmericanMotorcyclistAssociation

A07013JULY26, 2007FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: BILL KRESNAKTELEPHONE: (614) 856-1900,
EXT. 1247E-MAIL: BKRESNAK@AMA-CYCLE.ORG

MOTORCYCLIST FATALITIES UP 5 PERCENT IN 2006

The increase in fatalities among motorcyclists reported this week by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration underscores the critical need for new research into the causes of motorcycle crashes, the American Motorcyclist Association reports.

According to NHTSA data released this week, 4,810 motorcyclists were killed on the nation's highways during 2006, an increase of 5 percent over 2005. That marks the ninth year of increasing deaths after more than a decade of declining fatalities.


For several years, the AMA and the motorcycling community have been campaigning to get federal funding for a comprehensive study into the causes of traffic crashes involving motorcycles. The last such study was completed in 1980, and its conclusions have become less useful as the traffic environment has changed over the past quarter-century.

Recently, Congress appropriated funding for a motorcycle-crash study that required the motorcycling community to come up with matching funds before the research can begin. Thanks to a major contribution from the motorcycle industry, through the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, along with pledges from the American Motorcyclist Association and individual riders, that funding is now assured, and the study should begin this fall at the Oklahoma Transportation Center, which is an independent and respected research center at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

"The increasing number of fatalities among motorcyclists over the past nine years have concerned us," said Ed Moreland, AMA vice president for government relations. "And that's why we've worked so hard to get an updated study of the causes of motorcycle crashes.

"We look forward to getting this valuable research that will help save lives on the nation's highways."

The American Motorcyclist Association: rights. riding. racing. Founded in 1924, the AMA is a non-profit organization with more than 280,000 members. The Association's purpose is to pursue, protect and promote the interests of motorcyclists, while serving the needs of its members. For more information, visit the AMA website at www.AMADirectlink.com.

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**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. 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 MEETING:

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2007 meeting from 2:00 PM to 5 PM at Leo & Holly Stanton's, 3015 Walton Rd in Finleyville, PA, (Ph.. 412-384-8229). Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Members are asked to bring appetizers, side dishes, and desserts according to your last name' beginning initial: A-H: side dish; I-P: dessert; Q-Z: appetizer.

From Pittsburgh: Take Rt. 51 South out of Pittsburgh. About 8 miles or so south of the south end of the Liberty Tunnels, you'll cross a railroad track and the Hwy 43/Turnpike take the Scotia Hollow Rd 'Y' to the right to Ridge Rd. Cross Ridge Rd and Turn Right onto Walton Rd (Walton dead-ends on Scotia Hollow and is the next road to the right after Ridge Rd). Leo's Driveway, #3015, is on the right on Walton, after you pass Dale Ln/Rd on the right. You can also turn right onto Ridge from Scotia Hollow instead of crossing Ridge, then left onto Dale Ln/Rd, then right onto Walton, and right into Leo and Holly's, #3015, driveway.

From the South: Take Rt 51 North, cross the Monongahela River, and get off at the Ridge Rd Exit after the Mon bridge, taking Ridge Rd West toward Finleyville. Turn left onto Dale Ln/Rd, right onto Walton, and right at Leo and Holly's, #3015, into their driveway.