

MARCH



2008

MOA # 6

www.4windsbmw.org

RA # 76



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Well pals and gals, it is time once again for the President's Message. I regret that I was not able to attend the meeting at Magoo's as I have started yet another new job. We have all done our share of haggling as motorcycle consumers, but now I know what it is like to be on the other side of the desk. More on that at the end of this writing.

First let's start with EuroTRASH. It stands for European Three Rivers Area Sportbike Houligans. I was having a chat with Lance Hough, 4-Winds member and President of PennDESMO and we saw a need for an organization that would welcome BMW, Ducati, Triumph, Aprilia and all other European motorcycle enthusiasts. We pondered the name EuroTRASH on the 4-Winds message board and the possibility of a separate website eurotrashpgh.com.

Within 72 hours of this public discussion, Garry from PghRAT had registered the web address, posted a simple website and even had a sponsor. SHAZZAM! Thanks for taking the initiative Garry. Lance and I didn't exactly have a lot of spare time on our hands to develop the idea anyway. Can we interest you in joining 4-Winds and becoming our 2008 Rally Chair?

In other news, I will be getting an article

IT'S TIME TO... DO YOUR DUES!

It's that time of year again. Please clip, fill out, and mail in your membership form on p. 7, with check, to our treasurer, Tom Primke. If you cannot download the newsletter from the web site and wish a paper copy, **please indicate that** on the form as well. You can also give your dues to Tom at a meeting. Tom will reward you by giving you your personal copy of the club's handy-dandy 2008 Official Membership Card.

If you get the paper newsletter but haven't paid your dues by the end of this month, it will not be mailed to you until you do. And if you get the on-line newsletter but haven't paid your dues by the month's end, the evil mythical internet Cookie Monster will crawl into your computer and eat all your cookies. So get your dues in!

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Director – Ralph Meyer
724-443-4937
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MARCH MEETING INFO

The next meeting of the Four Winds BMW Riders will be held on Sat., Mar. 15, 2008 at the Bellaluna Trattoria, 5060 William Penn Hwy (US 22), Monroeville, PA; Ph: (724) 733-2662 from 2-5PM. Directions to the Bellaluna are on the back page.

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., Mar. Meeting: Mar. 15; **April issue deadline: Tues., Mar. 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:
Ralph Meyer, Editor
4 Winds Newsletter
6056 Meadow Lane
Bakerstown, PA 15007-9720

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 2008

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

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

March 15, 2008, 2 PM— The Bella Luna Restaurant, Rte 22, Monroeville.

April, 2008 — TBA

May, 2008 — TBA

June, 2008 — TBA

July, 2008 — TBA

August, 2008 — **Friday, August 15 to Sunday, August 17**
41st Annual Four Winds Rally!

September, 2008 — TBA

SHACK: MARCH 19TH

The Shack will be held March 19th from 7-10PM at Gary Smith's Garage, 1829 Baldwick Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15205, 412-977-0426 (Cell); 412-922-7909 (Home Phone)

Directions: From Ft. Pitt Bridge go South on I-279 through the Fort Pitt Tunnel toward the Airport.

At top of hill get off I-279 South at Exit 4 (Crafton-Greentree Exit). Take the Crafton portion of the ramp (the left ramp of the 'Y').

At the stop sign, turn left onto Mansfield Ave.

Turn Right at the traffic light onto Poplar St.

At bottom of hill, at traffic light, turn left onto Noblestown Rd.

At the next intersection (a traffic light) turn right onto Baldwick Rd.

Proceed to the Stop sign at the corner of Baldwick Rd. and Crafton Blvd. The garage is brown building on the left (two garage doors with number 1829 attached between them) at the corner.

Entrance is on the right side where light will be on. Watch your step. Grab handle in place. Garage is located where the Blue Belt turns left onto Crafton Blvd. There is street parking along Crafton Blvd. My cell phone will be on in case you get lost: 412-977-0426.

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, Mar 2 — *North* at King's, I-79 & Rt 910/VIP Dr., 10:00 AM

Sat, Mar 8 — *West* at Eat n' Park, Rt 60 & 22/30, 9:00 AM

Sun, Mar 16 — *South* at King's, 3049 Washington Pike, off Exit 54, I-79, Bridgeville, 10:00 AM

Sat, Mar 22 — *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.

published in ON Magazine titled, "For Those About to GS, we salute you." I wrote this snarky chestnut almost 18 months ago and frankly, I was pretty surprised to find out it was getting published after all this time had passed. Look for my article in the April issue of ON magazine. Look for lots of angry letters to the editor insisting that I should be drawn and quartered in the May issue.

I have been working at a local powersports dealer (not a BMW dealer) as a salesman for one week now. I have learned a few things from my would-be customers on

how NOT to buy a motorcycle. As an insider I would like to share my experience, in hopes of making you a more savvy motorcycle shopper.

1. If you wish to finance a \$10,000 motorcycle with no money down and pay it off in 36 months, your payment will be in excess of \$100 a month, no matter how good your credit score is.
2. If you present your dealer with a low-ball offer that is 20% off the MSRP on a vehicle with an 11% markup, you'll lose credibility if you insist that he could make up the 9% loss per motorcycle simply by doing more volume.
3. If you accept a "No Payments and No Interest for 24 Months" introductory financing offer and make no payments for 24 months, and then trade in your motorcycle on a new model after two years, you will find yourself in quite a pickle.
4. If your monthly insurance premium is more than the monthly payment on your new sportbike, that's a sign you might have more bike than you can handle.
5. If you are in the market for an ATV, buy the lightest ATV you can afford. It will be much easier to push off your body when it falls on you.

THAT'S ALL FOLKS.

MITCH



**FOUR WINDS BMW RIDERS
FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES
DATE: 2/16/08**

Location: Magoo's in Wexford
Time: 2:50 pm

Board Attendance: Jay Singh, Tom Primke, Ron Latkovic, Joann Barr, Diane Pears

Vice President Jay Singh presided over a full house in the absence of President Mitch Kehn, who was working.

Old Business: There were approximately 70 attendees at the January banquet and thanks to everyone who helped make it happen. Eric Trow's captivating presentation about last summer's trip with his son was a big hit!

New Business: The 2008 rally dates need posted on the website; people have started asking. Calling all rally volunteers - step right up! We need a Chairperson, committees, tech sessions, etc. Mitch and Hilary will work on the logos and graphics. Ron Latkovic and Joanne Barr will solicit door prizes. Jay Singh will help organize rides.

New European Multi-Club Website: A new local collaboration has been born named EuroTRASH, which stands for European Three Rivers Area Sportbike Houligans. It is the brain-child of local motorcycle club presidents Mitch Kehn (4-Winds - BMW) Lance Hough (PennDesmo - Ducati) and Garry from (Riders Association of Triumph) with the purpose of sharing info, events and ride plans. (And,

NO, it does not stand for Three Rivers Alzheimers Sportbike Hasbeens!) EuroTRASH has its own separate message board, so here's a new one for your Favorites:

<http://www.eurotrashpgh.com/>

And another related site: <http://www.sport-touring.net/>

A couple of these upcoming future events were mentioned:

- * One in Marlinton, WV (Sept 26 - 28),
- * One in Canaan Valley, WV (August 22-24.)

A reminder that the February Shack is at Al Vangura's garage this Wednesday, the 20th from 7 - 10 pm.

Treasurer Tom Primke was busy selling 50/50 tickets and collecting dues (hint, hint). The drawing was won by Ron Latkovic, who donated his share back to the club treasury.

The March meeting will be at Bella Luna Trattoria in Monroeville.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, DIANE PEARS,

RECORDING SECRETARY



Lee S. Marks
Owner

BMW MOTORCYCLES OF PITTSBURGH
DUCATI PITTSBURGH
TRIUMPH OF PITTSBURGH

10269 Perry Highway
Wexford, PA 15090
(724) 934-4269 Voice
(724) 934-3269 Fax
motoman@bmwpgh.com

SPRING IS COMING!

Those who don't ride year around, as well as those of us who do, are looking forward to warmer weather, drier and less snowy and icy roads, and the general ability to get the bikes out and rolling more often.

This, of course brings up the annual need for that necessary bit of spring upkeep... like checking tire pressures, refreshing oil, getting the bike state inspected (if it's the time of year to do that for yours) and particularly getting hydrophilic brake fluid changed from the old stuff in the system to the new. This brings up the fact that on the newer Beemers the latter process isn't so easy for the home wrencher to accomplish. In any event, spring is a very busy time at the BMW shop, and getting your bike in may take a few weeks if one waits until everybody scrambles to get the work done, as they say "Yesterday," so as to get on the road today. So how about giving the technicians at European MCs of Pittsburgh a hand; give 'em a call and get your bike in early before the mad spring rush begins. You'll appreciate it, and I'm sure they will as well.

THE
FISCAL YEAR 2007
IN REVIEW:

Tom Primke, Treasurer

For all those of you who don't want to be bothered with a lengthy financial report, the state of the club finances can be summed up in just one sentence: All bills are paid and we have money in the bank. However, if you like to learn more about how the club finances work read on...

The club finished Fiscal Year 07, which runs from Feb. 1st through January 31st, with a positive balance of approx. \$9,560 - thanks to a successful rally. The closing balance at the end of January 2008 is just slightly lower (by approx. \$60) than the opening balance at the start of February 2007. So it is fair to say that the Four Winds BMW Riders are a true non-profit organization. As I already mentioned, the club owes its financial health largely to the success of the rally, which generated a profit of \$2,444. A little less than half of the rally profit was spent on the purchase of a Sanyo LCD projector and Fender sound system. The equipment has already been put to use at the November club meeting and the banquet and I believe most club members who have attended the meetings will agree that the equipment has helped making our meetings more attractive.

Another significant portion of the rally profit went to subsidize other club functions such as the banquet, GEM program and newsletter. Despite efforts to promote the electronic online version of the newsletter, a significant number of members continue to prefer a mailed hardcopy, making the newsletter printing and mailing expenses one of the larger budget items. The bottom line is that the membership dues and other income generated with 50/50 drawings do not cover all of our basic club expenses. The membership dues have been kept stable as long as I am a Four Winds member and I dare to predict that the board will continue to do so as long as the rally generates a decent profit. Having said that, it would be great to see more members stepping forward and volunteer at the rally.

The rally represents our largest financial risk and right around rally time in August, when the caterer and Redbank Park invoices come due, the treasurer has to rush to deposit the rally registration fees to avoid a cash flow problem. By the way if you ask yourself how our membership dues can total up to an odd figure like \$1,152.98, I'll be happy to offer you an explanation at the next meeting.

NORTH BREAKFAST RIDE
2/3/08

by Walt Halaja

Even if it was Feb. 3rd, it appeared that at least 4 members would show up for breakfast. Turns out we had 7 & one guest. How about that! Members present: Paul White—"PW", Ron Kranz—"The Camper", Sonny Robison, Chuck Niederriter—"who I kept calling Rick for some reason that day" (hey I'll be 66 soon), John Allen, and Ron Latkovic—"Reddi K." along with his friend Tom Richey who had a special T-shirt made just for the breakfast. The front said "I Love BMW Motorcycles," then, when he turned around, it said "Harley's Suck"! How about that! After Tom showed us that special T-shirt, he put his jacket back on because you never know who could be in the restaurant! Really, Tom was a good sport because he does ride a 2003 Harley Ultra Glide. Well we had a good time at breakfast with a lot of laughs.

When I posted sat., I said I only wanted to make the breakfast then return home, but in the back of my mind I was thinking Frankfort Springs. That's not very far & is a good short ride in Jan. or Feb. We had four bikes at the breakfast and the fellows seemed to want to go for a short ride, so I mentioned Frankfort Springs & they said, "Let's do it," because they have never been to that historic spot. So off we went. Paul, John, Chuck, & me. The path up to the springs was covered with plenty of ice and snow and walking up was a little tricky. Paul, Chuck and I made it up without hitting the deck, but John wasn't as fortunate and did take a tumble, but was OK—no damage. Up at the cave, the springs weren't nearly as spectacular as they could have been because we have had such a mild winter, but it is still worth the walk up if you have never been there this time of year. I also like to take a walk up in the early spring. On the way back down we took the road, which is much easier to walk. We parted company there, Chuck headed north on Rt. 18, John, Paul & I headed south. PW and I split with John at Florence. PW followed me home, checked out my computer, & said I need a new one. He is probably right, as mine is 8 yrs. old.

BTW, Traveler turned 20,000 miles on this ride, just another milestone. My miles for this trip were 87 total, & the temp. range was 28 to 51 degrees.

At some point I said to John that I thought it was awesome that

Continued on page 7

FOR SALE

Please note: If you sell your item, please notify the newsletter editor so it can be removed from this list.

1992 K75RT for sale: 55.4k miles, dark green, heated grips, four way flashers, accessory plug, Corbin seat, throttle friction screw, Parabellum medium height windshield with pop vents, taillight strobe, engine guards, BMW saddlebags with black reflective tape, BMW bag liners, small topcase, Baker Built Airwings, new battery, Progressive front springs, new Bridgestone Spitfire front tire front at 53000 miles. New Bridgestone Spitfire rear tire at 54300 miles. Front splines lubed and input shaft seal replaced at 43500 miles. Complete brake fluid and ABS system service, valve adjustment and rear brake pads replaced at 47000 miles. Clymer service manual and 5K/10K DVD video. I am the third owner. Bike has a few dings from garage walls (previous owners) but is in great shape cosmetically and mechanically. I rode this bike to Daytona Bike Week last spring and experienced no problems or issues. Asking \$4000 Mark Tiedeman 412-952-6192 cell; e-mail: mtiedemann1@verizon.net

2004 GS 1150 Adventure: 16500 Miles, Custom seat, Stock seat, Over Size Windscreen, Stock Windscreen, ABS Brakes, Heated Grips, BMW Crash Bars and Skid Plate, BMW Tank Bag, BMW System Bags, Hepco Becker Top Case, Headlamp Gravel Guard, Oil Cooler Gravel Guard, Two new Metzler Tourance Tires. The bike has always been garage kept and dealer serviced. Never been down. Asking \$11,000 or best offer. Contact Al Iaconis, Phone: 724 344 4564

PICTURES OF THE BIKES ARE IN THE LAST MONTH'S NEWSLETTER.



Four Winds Mileage Contest

January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008

Starting mileage forms must be in by April 15, 2008.

Starting Mileage Form – Year 2008

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: (_____) _____

Mail Form to:
Mileage Contest
c/o Tim Pears
555 Rose Stop Rd.
New Castle, PA 16101

	Make / Model / Year	Starting Mileage
Bike 1		
Bike 2		
Bike 3		

Cut Here



Ending Mileage Form – Year 2008

Name: _____

Address: _____

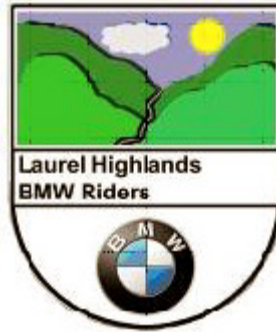
City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: (_____) _____

Mail Form to:
Mileage Contest
c/o Tim Pears
555 Rose Stop Rd.
New Castle, PA 16101

	Make / Model / Year	Ending Mileage
Bike 1		
Bike 2		
Bike 3		



EVENTS HERE 'N THERE LAUREL HIGHLANDS CLUB INFO APRIL KICKOFF MEETING

The annual April Kickoff Meeting will be held Thursday, April 3rd., 7 PM., at the Alibi Lounge 1424 Scalp Ave. Johnstown, Pa. in the plaza just behind the KFC.

Laurel Highland's regular monthly meeting is held the 1st Thursday of each month, 7 PM., at the Alibi Lounge 1424 Scalp Ave. Johnstown, Pa. in the plaza just behind the KFC.

Come hungry, the Alibi has great food!

NOTABLE UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 25-27 Cleveland Motorcycle Show

July 12 – FOG Campout, Benezette Pa. (see Apr 3 – Spring Kick off meeting attached info)

May 23-25 - Cass Rally, Boyer Station, WV.

July 17-20 - BMW National Rally

May 30-June 1 - Square Root Rally, Thurmont, Md.

Aug 15-17 - 4 Winds Rally, New Bethlehem, Pa.

Aug 29 – Sept 1 - Finger Lakes Rally, Watkins Glen, NY

June 27-29 - Laurel Highlands BMW Campout & Thunder in the Valley

Sept 11-14 - Vermont BMW Rally

Oct 3-5 - FOJ Weekend, Boyer Station Wv.

1ST LAUREL HIGHLANDS "FOG" OVERNIGHTER

When: 12 & 13 July 2008 (Sat. & Sun.)

Where: depart Sheetz by the Richland Galleria mall @ 0900 Saturday. Returning Sunday afternoon / evening.

An open (NO COST!) invitation to all club members to attend the First "Friends of George" campout in Elk County at his cabin in the Elk County Mountains.

Cabin accommodations will sleep 10 adults comfortably. Three couple rooms to sleep 6 & 4 single beds too. All will go fast! For those who prefer the outdoors- tenting area available anywhere on 55 wonderful acres of land bordering the Elk State Forest. Restroom & showers are provided. Fire roasted hotdogs & marshmallows Saturday night. Coffee & cereal Sunday a.m. will be included.

A beautiful 2 hour leisure ride up and a late afternoon ride to the Elk viewing area in Benezette on Saturday. Sunday departure around noon.

Call or e-mail George for room reservation and more details! GJBIV1STSGTUSMC@YAHOO.COM (814) 266-9573



OLD GAS STATIONS

(more from Al and Kev)

<Where Shell Oil got its name???

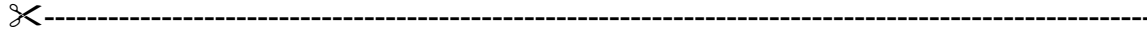
Couldn't read the prices last month? Sorry!... They were (get this!) \$.34/gal. for High-Test (Ethyl) and \$.29/gal. for Regular.>



The Four Winds fiscal year runs from February 1st to January 31st and February through April is membership renewal season. Memberships expire if they have not been renewed by the April meeting. So, if you haven't done so already, please fill out the form below (**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**) and mail it together with a check made payable to "Four Winds BMW Riders" to

Four Winds BMW Riders
 c/o Tom Primke
 512 White Birch Court
 Pittsburgh, PA 15238

Membership cards will be handed out to all members who have renewed their memberships at one of the next meetings.



Four Winds BMW Rider Membership Renewal Form 2008				
Member Name				
Associate Name(s)				
Address				
City		State		ZIP Code
e-mail				
Home Phone				
Primary Membership (\$15.-)				\$15.0
Associate Membership (\$7.50 each)				
Amount Enclosed				

Continued from page 4

he traveled all the way up to the North breakfast, and he quipped that the north was the best attended breakfast, and I have to agree with him, so members, if you want to have a good breakfast and spend some time with fellow members and maybe even take a ride if you dare, try the north site.

OK you may wonder where Ralph was, so let me tell you! He and his wife, Rosemary, were out of Dodge and down Mexico way for two weeks. Feb 3rd thru the 17th. He is home safe as I write this article. While he was gone we found a nickname for him. I was speaking to another member, and he referred to Ralph as a "Bull-

dog." I thought "that's it," but I just couldn't leave it at one word, so I added "Princeton." I think he may take to the name "Princeton Bulldog" and may just answer to that calling! [Ooops, Walt... Yaleys are Bulldogs... you want to get me disowned??? Princetionians are "Tigers"—at least that's the mascot we have a jillion brass, bronze, and concrete copies of all over campus, ...Maybe instead of occasionally signing my e-mail "Rowf" I should sign it "Grrrrrrr"??? :^)--Editor]

Hope to see you down the road soon!

WALT

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.

Redneck Power Windows--sent in by Jim Linneman-- and No. He says he doesn't do this, and also that this isn't a neighbor--but take a look: http://www.zippyvideos.com/3214710857409146/power_windows/



DONKEY HAUL

from Jurgen Briine

Yes, folks, that's right. When you have another means of transport on your luggage rack as a "spare", what need is there of all that extra equipment in your side cases, like gorilla snot, rubber cement, plugs, and air pumps to fix flats, not to mention various tool kits, duct tape, fuses, spare wire, clutch cables, and other such items should the bike become cantakerous and cease operation for some reason. Just unbolt your donkey and you're off on your way again.

Jürgen found this on the internet... Das Spiegel? I hope the spare donkey isn't patented or copyrighted! ...and just think. If you farm, you're ready to hitch up the plow when you arrive home!

THE WAY WE WERE BACK WHEN MARCH 1998

Walt Halaja

- 1) From the Editor, Brian Livermore: Over the last few months I have asked dozens of people to write something for the newsletter. Luckily many have come through like Don Poremski, Jeff Dunkle, Sean and Nancy Barrett, Dan Doerr, and Kay Smith did this month. Many others however, reply that "I don't have anything to write about." Well I never let that stand in my way (evidence this article). We all have something to write about, whether it is the new bike you just bought, or the reason you
- 2) A notice:..... THIS COULD BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER....if you didn't pay your dues! Once again, it's time to pay for the privilege of belonging to the 4 Winds BMW Riders. The dues for 1998 are \$12.00 for primary members and \$6.00 for associates. [Things haven't changed! Just the cost: Dues are \$15 for primary members, and \$7 for associates this year of 2008-Editor].

- 3) From the Presidents Message by Nancy Barrett:.....The 4 Winds BMW Riders is filled with wonderful characters! Every time I talk to someone I learn something. How boring it would be if we were all alike and shared all the same ideas. "And then " We need people who are dedicated to keeping things running smoothly. We also need a few people to shake things up so we don't become stagnant. I, myself, probably fit into both categories. There is a place for everyone, and everyone has something that they can contribute to the club. One thing I believe is that everyone has the right to their opinion, however popular or unpopular it may be. They have the right to be heard without fear of public ridicule. If there is something you don't like, by all means, bring it up to the board.
- 4) Rider Dossier by Dan Doerr:.....Rider Jim Cronin "Paul's brother": 1st bike BMW R100; Question-what is your favorite local ride? Answer- Black Water Falls, WV. Q-What ride would you like to do someday? A-Coast to Coast
- 5) Feb. Meeting Minutes by Kay Smith:..... (A) Gary Smith, co-chairman along with Adrian Marini said of the 98 Four Winds BMW Rally that it would be held at Butter Campground; Gary and Adrian asked for everyone's help at the Rally. They indicated that Bob Stuckert and Fred Maskrey, last years co-chair-

- men, have promised to help! (B) New ride Captains were introduced: Ed Syphon North, Steve Goldring South, and Adrian Marini East. (C) Gary Smith introduced Father Jerome, a Holy Ghost Priest from Tanzania, Africa. Father Jerome rode a motorcycle from village to village in connection with his African church work. (D) Jeff Dunkle received the BMW medallion from Nancy. (E) Nancy introduced the speaker, Larry Grodsky. Larry presented an amusing version of Motorcycle Safety.
- 6) THE ROAD TO TRAVEL (OR NOT) by Sean Barrett:.....Sean prepared an approx. 60 mile loop east of the city with many places that you could jump on or off of the loop. The route started on Rt. 50 & I-79. The routes covered were, in part, 50, 18, 30, 22, with options of 136, 980, I-60. Sean said overall this is a great ride that can be anywhere between 2.5 and 4 hours depending on your riding style and the number of stops.
- 7) In the 1998 Survey one recurring comment was a need for communication:.....Well, on the last page of the newsletter 30 members' e-mail addresses were listed!

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

WALT

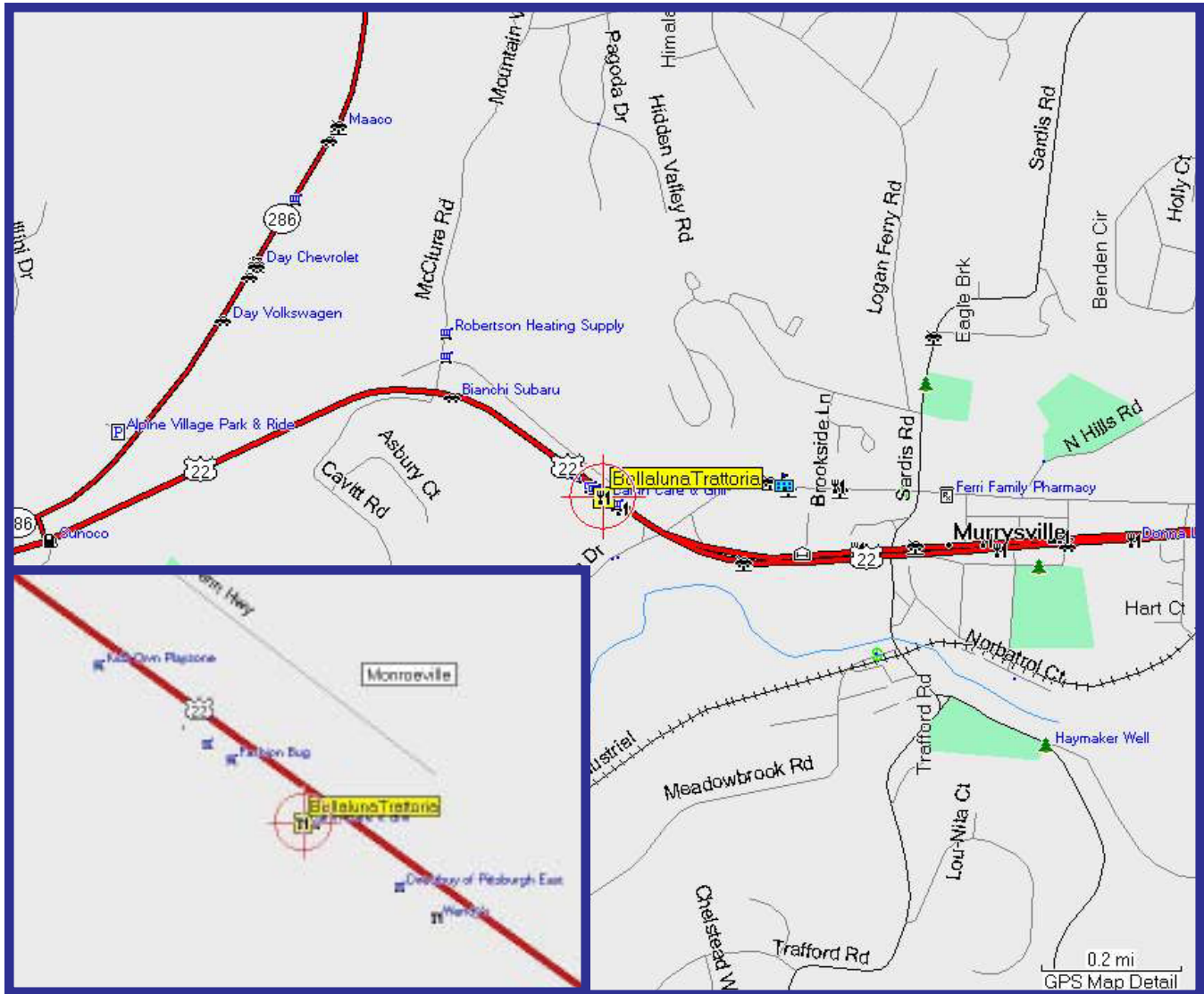


JAPANESE TOW TRUCK

from Mark Tiedemann

In Japan, if you need a tow truck, you might find this two-wheel model showing up. Who sez motorcycles are only for "Hobbying Around?" I suspect the garages that run these to pick up sick cages make out better on the gas than the ones that use the four footed kind!

MAP TO THE BELLALUNA TRATTORIA



THOUGHTS ON “TRASH”

Ralph Meyer

It seems that it has been decided to name a consortium of European Motorcycle owners and riders “EuroTRASH.” Hmmmm. I remember when reading a Chinese Philosophy that there was a strong movement that said that that which benefits understanding and truth the most, thus rendering success attainable in all things, was the “rectification of names,” by which was meant that one should seek to attach names to things that were most proper to them and most appropriate to their actual nature.

Some years ago, Honda followed that fine philosophy and did a land-office business when new to the U.S. market via selling their bikes using the slogan, “You meet the nicest people on a Honda” — the purpose of which slogan was not only to describe the fine quality of their machines, but of the people who rode them in order to counter those unconscionable Hollywood profiteers’ continual presentation of motorcyclists as garbage, refuse, and foul mouthed destructive good-for-nothings that any normal person wouldn’t want to be within a mile of.

It’s taken years to overcome this putrid Hollywood-pushed perception of people who ride motorcycles as being low-class good-for-

nothings best gotten rid of, kept off the roads, and treated, whenever found, with disdain by both officialdom and the normal motoring public. This conception of motorcyclists as no-goodniks by motorists certainly doesn’t help in the question of safety either—when people think someone or something is less than deserving of courtesy and decent treatment on the road, there is an accident waiting to happen; and that doesn’t even consider the support given to the case of the road rage of someone who thinks running down a motorcyclist is akin to getting rid of a bit of vermin.

So this is what puzzles me: according to the commonly held definition, “Trash” is defined as “worthless or discarded material or objects; refuse; cheap or empty expressions or ideas; something broken off or removed to be discarded, esp. rotten plant trimmings; a person or group regarded as ignorant or contemptible.” (The American Heritage Dictionary, p. 1289). The Brits (Oxford English Dictionary and Thesaurus, p. 1627) defines trash as “worthless or poor quality stuff, esp. literature; rubbish, refuse; absurd talk or ideas, nonsense; a worthless person or persons; a thing of poor workmanship or material...” etc. Is that really what our officials think of us? Is that really what we are? TRASH???

I don’t know what the rest of you may think, but as for me, I have

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**AMA NEWS RELEASE
FEBRUARY 1, 2008
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AMA SEEKS SUPPORT FOR BILL TO END HEALTH
INSURANCE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MOTORCY-
CLISTS**

The American Motorcyclist Association announced today that more than 100 members of the U.S. House of Representatives have co-sponsored a bill that would end health insurance discrimination against motorcyclists and others who participate in legal recreational activities or use their motorcycles for transportation.

While the action is significant, there is still much work to be done, according to AMA Vice President for Government Relations Edward Moreland.

“The AMA is calling on motorcyclists and others who face health insurance discrimination to urge their Representatives to support H.R. 1076, known as the HIPAA Recreational Injury Technical Correction Act,” said Moreland. “Time is short. The bill has broad bi-partisan support but we need 218 votes for passage. If we don’t act by April, we will likely miss our chance for legislative action in 2008.”

Health insurance discrimination can have a devastating financial effect on families and has been the focus of efforts by the AMA and other groups for many years. Following the passage of the original HIPAA legislation in 2001, bureaucrats at the Department of Health and Human Services created a loophole that allowed insurance companies to deny benefits to people who are injured while participating in legal recreational activities, such as riding motorcycles or off-road vehicles, horseback riding, skiing, and other activities. H.R. 1076 will close that loophole.

Rep. Michael Burgess, M.D. (R-Texas) has worked diligently to get H.R. 1076 passed. “Laws like HIPAA are passed to protect people,” he said. “Sometimes they have unintended consequences. When this happens, Congress has an obligation to fix the loopholes and that’s what this bill does.” “No one should be denied health coverage for no reason other than they enjoy snowmobiles, motorcycles or other recreational activities,” said Rep. Bart Stupak (D-Mich.), the lead Democrat sponsoring the bill. “This legislation would enforce the original intent of Congress and ensure recreational enthusiasts are not discriminated against.”

In the last Congress, the U.S. Senate passed a companion bill by unanimous consent, but the bigger challenge has been getting legislation approved in the House. “We now have 101 co-sponsors for this legislation in the House, which is an important milestone,” said Moreland. “But to reach 218 votes and get H.R. 1076 passed, immediate grassroots action is crucial, especially since House members are returning to their districts soon to campaign for the fall election.”

U.S. Representatives can quickly and easily be contacted by going to the AMA Rapid Response Center at www.AMADirectlink.com.

Other organizations supporting this legislation include: American Council of Snowmobile Association; American Horse Council; American Recreation Coalition; American Trails; Americans for Re-

sponsible Recreational Access; Blue Ribbon Coalition; International Mountain Bicycling Association; Motorcycle Industry Council; Motorcycle Riders Foundation; National Ski Areas Association; Specialty Vehicle Industry Council; Sporting Goods Manufacturing Association; and the Washington Road Riders Association.

The American Motorcyclist Association: rights. riding. racing. Founded in 1924, the AMA is a non-profit organization with 290,000 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. American Motorcyclist Association, 13515 Yarmouth Dr., Pickerington, OH, 43147

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yet to meet anyone riding a European motorcycle that I would EVER put in that category. As a matter of fact, some of the nicest people I have had the pleasure to meet and know, some of the most decent, courteous, caring, helpful, and friendly folks you could ever imagine are the folks I’ve met who ride Beemers, Triumphs, Ducatis, KLMs, Aprilias, yes, and Harley Davidsons, not to mention Hondas, Yamahas, Suzies, and Kawas.

Not only that, but some of the finest transportational machinery I have ever experienced comes with a blue and white roundel on its flanks, or the word Triumph, or Ducati emblazoned on its gas tank. I know I’ve invested better than \$30-40K just recently on this high-quality machinery, and it has served me well enough for me to call one bike in my ‘stable’ “Magic” as my magic carpet to wonderful places with wonderful people, and the other “Bonnie” meaning a beautifully enjoyable machine to ride on hot days. “TRASH”??? NO WAY! And my friends in 4 Winds BMW Riders of Pittsburgh, or the folks in the Riders Association of Triumph... TRASH??? Who ever wants to peg that monniker on them has got to be kidding!

I don’t consider doctors, lawyers, firefighters, electric power folks, truckers, bankers, businesswomen, contractors, and all the other lovely and highly intelligent people I’ve run into on 2 wheels “TRASH”!!! So why, I ponder, ...Why...would anyone want to pander to the Hollywood low-lives who misdirectedly want to tar two-wheelers with that stick by calling any organization of decent motorcyclists riding some of the best machines on earth “TRASH”?... Or, for that matter, why would any fine motorcyclist want to refer to him or herself by that name? Is a puzzlement! Me? I’ll be frank: I deeply resent being called that, even in jest.... And I say, don’t give those misdirected money-grubbers an inch. Don’t agree with ‘em. Don’t present motorcyclists the way they like to. Don’t play their misguided game. Don’t call yourself or other motorcyclists “TRASH” and play into that sad but sometimes still existent public perception of us... not even in jest (as I am sure this name was unthinkingly created to be). There’s got to be something better—that’s accurate as a description—if one wants to play with acrostics—something that says what motorcyclists are, like “Terrific,” or “Travelers,” or something else, but not something that says we are some kind of low-life opposite of what we really are.

Maybe I’m being too PC, but I like that old Chinese bit—the “rectification of names.” It avoids misperceptions and we two-wheelers need that. Still!

That, at least, is my humble opinion. And my most abject apologies to those that don’t agree.

RALPH

**Four Winds BMW Riders
c/o Ralph Meyer, Editor
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**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 MARCH MEETING:

The March 15, 2008 meeting will be held from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM** at the Bellaluna Trattoria, 5060 William Penn Hwy (US 22), Monroeville, PA; Ph: (724) 733-2662.

From the West, North, or South: Get on and take the Parkway East (I-376) to the eastern end continuing East on Rte 22. The Bellaluna Trattoria will be in a strip mall on your right approximately 2.8 miles from where you entered Rte 22 at the Eastern End of the Parkway. When you pass Bianchi Subaru on your right, you have about 3/10ths of a mile to go.

From the East: Get on Rte 22 and travel West. Do a U-turn at the next possible place--Probably at the McClure/Cavitt Rd. light--after you pass the Bellaluna Trattoria on your left, and return on 22 Eastbound to the Trattoria.

** The Board will meet from 1:00 to 2:00PM.