

MAY



2010

MOA # 6

www.4windsbmw.org

RA # 76

VINCE'S VERITIES

Riding season is finally here for those who don't ride all year. I would like to outline some of the activities that various members of the board have discussed. We now have moved the meetings to 12:00 noon so that we can ride after the meetings. Initial suggestions are to ask for volunteers to lead rides that would take members in the general direction of their homes or any other direction members would like to ride. I always like the idea of breaking into smaller groups so riders of similar riding style can ride with each other. Also, smaller groups are more manageable and I believe safer.

The June meeting will be at the Laurel Mountain rally and if members want to stay for dinner at 6:30 PM let me know at the May meeting. The cost is eight dollars and barbeque chicken will be served. I would encourage as many members as possible to register and stay for the rally as the Laurel Mountain club always supports our rally. For July we are planning a picnic at Moraine and the first annual bocce tournament that I believe will become a Four Winds tradition. We are going on an ice cream ride after the picnic so save room for custard.

The club had a nice Indian meal that Jay organized and many members attended. I plan to organize a night out at a good Italian restaurant where I know the chef and family and it will involve a good dinner ride. When I finalize the details we can discuss it at the May meeting.

Finally, we are planning two community involvement events that members may volunteer for. Any member who wishes to assist the Gold Wing Riders Association with the MS 150 ride or participate in the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation ride can volunteer and we can put a group together from the Four Winds club. Any other suggestions for community involvement rides are welcome.

**NOTE THE
NEW CLUB
MEETING TIME:
12:00-3:00PM!
FOR RIDES
AFTER!**

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MAY MEETING INFO

The next meeting of the Four Winds BMW Riders will be held on Sat., May 15, 2010 at the Rochester Inn, 505 Rochester Rd just off Camp Home-Lowries Run Rd east of the Camp Home Rd I-279 exit from 12-3 PM. Meal will be from the menu at Noon.

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., Aug. Meeting: Aug. 21; **Sept. issue deadline: Tues., Aug. 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:
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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 2010

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

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

May 15, 2010 12-3 PM — Rochester Inn = Camp Horne Rd. exit off I-79, 505 Rochester Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

June 19, 2010 12-3 PM — Laurel Highlands Rally = Somerset, PA at the Pioneer Park Campground, 273 Trent Road Phone (814) 445-6348

July 17, 2010 12-3 PM — Picnic at Moraine State Park (Pleasant View #2 = *different pavilion from previous pavilion*)

August, 2010 — Friday, August 19 to Sunday, August 21
44th Annual Four Winds Rally!

September 18, 2010 12-3 PM — House Party — Location TBA

October 16, 2010 12-3 PM — The Hofbrauhous = South Side Works, 2705 South Water St, Pittsburgh, PA 15203

November, 2010 12-3 PM — The Bella Luna Trattoria = Monroeville, 5060 William Penn Highway, Monroeville, PA 15146

December, 2010 — No Monthly Meeting

Of course I am planning on attending some rallies this summer as I know other members are so let's discuss plans at the May meeting so we can plan to ride together. Maybe we can even take the club banner.

Ride Safely,

VINCE



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

Sat, May 8 — West at Bob Evans, Rt 60 & Campbell's Run Rd, 9:00 AM

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

Sat, May 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.

2011 BMW MOA RALLY

Lady Di

According to Diane Pear's latest 'Net Site entry, moles in on the MOA board meeting have indicated that the 2011 MOA rally will be held in Bloomsburg, PA! Great news! Thanks for the heads-up, Diane. Now, folks, start your planning to be there! Let's take advantage of MOA's putting PA on the rally map!



**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING MINUTES - 2010 APRIL 17**

1.40

- Meeting called to order.

1.43

- Old Business: None

- Treasurer's Report

- Club took in \$664 in the past month
- Club paid out \$336 in the past month
- Club's balance is about \$12,000

1.45

- Rally Goddess Report

- Just about everything is underway
- Registration is Larry's job
- T-Shirt sales are handled by Michelle again
- Volunteers are needed for: an MC on Saturday night; Security; Clean & Tidy.
- Postcards are ready, come early next month to help stamp them.
- M&S Meats is on board for food again; they'll have more hors d'oeuvres this year.
- Diane is looking into doing the canoeing and tubing again.
- The T-Shirt design is complete save for a few minor tweaks; we're going to try for pockets this year.
- The Canadians' rally is not the same weekend as us this year!
- Diane

- The June meeting is at the Laural Highlands Rally, they will offer food at 6.30, but they most know ahead of time how many of us will be there.

- If you're camping, then food is included; if not, then it's \$8 a head.

1.52

- Insurance

- The new insurance will cover all members *and* the Rally for about \$300 for one year.

1.53

- Guests

- Mike & Darlene Ammerman (members of the Goldwing Group Riders)
- MS Society of Pittsburgh is having the MS150 bicycle ride on June 12 & 13.
- Motorcycles work security at intersections so there aren't any accidents.
- The bicycles will be leaving from Cooper's Lake and the motorcycles will meet at Rt. 19 and 108 above

Cooper's Lake.

- Bicycles leave at 7.30 AM and motorcycles leave 15 minutes before.

- The MS Society of Pittsburgh will provide a Saturday night room at Edinborough and Sunday breakfast.

- The Pittsburgh Ride for Kids is on August 8th.

- Benefits Pediatric Brain Tumor research.

- There is no Government Funding, everything is raised by the riders.

- Starts in Cranberry and goes to Slippery Rock.

2.13

- Milage Logs

- See Tim Pears for our Milage Contest.

- The MOA's contest is from April 10 - October 10 (only 8 of us are involved so far this year).

2.14

- June 6th is European Motorcycles of Pittsburgh's Track Day.

- May 8th is the Hawking Hills Zipline Tours (\$75-\$80 a head).

2.16

- 50/50 - RediK won \$36 and contributed it back to the Treasury.

2.19

- Walt's Corner - Spoke on a ride he was going to be taking home from the meeting in case anyone wanted to ride with him.

2.22

- Should We Sponsor Ed in the MS150?

- \$300 entry fee per rider.

- Club decided to table the issue.

2.36

- Meeting was adjourned.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, TRICK BARRETT, RECORDING SECRETARY



FROM OUR SOUTHERN CORRESPONDENT THE 2010 DOGWOOD TRAILS RALLY

By Jim Linneman

I just returned for the Mississippi Riders Rally that was held April 9th through 11th near Newton, Mississippi. Now, I know the first question you have is where the heck is Newton, MS. It is a long way from Western PA, tucked into the center of Mississippi, just north of I 20.

I met a fellow member of the Riders Association of the Mid-South (RAMS) in northern MS near Holly Springs and we headed southeast for a 4 hour ride down to the rally site. Since it is late spring here, all of the trees, flowers, and shrubs are blooming which made it a beautiful ride down to the rally.

The Dogwood Trails rally kicks off the summer rally season down south. The Mississippi club moved the rally to a new venue this year - Turkey Creek Water Park. I still can't figure out what agency manages this park since it isn't a state park, a TVA park, or a Corp. of Engineers Park. What it is, is a great site for a rally! We took over the day use area of the park which provided excellent camping, either in the woods near the large lake, or in a grassy meadow in the center of the area. The two pavilions served as a eating area and a gathering area to listen to the band or just BS. Since it is a deep south rally, the menu consisted of gumbo on Friday night with rice and a pulled pork BBQ with all the fixin's for Saturday supper. The club also made pancakes every morning to get the day off right. There were 150 rally goers which was perfect for the site.

When you rally in Mississippi, it really isn't about the riding in the area since there is virtually little elevation change and a definite lack of curvy roads. The rally is about eating, talking, kicking tires, and catching up with old friends. The food and site made up for the lack of great riding and the beer stayed cold all day long! Turkey Creek has a large lake with a beach, hiking trails, nice shower facilities, and a location that is central to the state. Many of rally riders made the 2 hours trip over to the Vicksburg Civil War battlefield, or a shorter ride up to the Indian Reservation for a little gambling at the casino. I hung around the site and learned how to smoke pork shoulders, and make outstanding BBQ beans. The BBQ provider is also a RAMS member who prepares the meals for our own rally. He starts

the pork slow cooking 24 hours before it is served. Now that is slowly smoked pork BBQ! There were the usual compliment of field games and I continued the tradition of being shut out of door prizes.

The weather cooperated giving us perfect rally weather - mid 70's and bright sunshine during the day and clear skies to star gaze at night. It did get a little cool at night with lows in the mid-40's which is perfect for sleeping.

I wore my Four Winds Rally shirts both days which resulted in a lot of people asking "where is Four Winds Club"? It was a great conversation starter.

So, the rally season has begun! I hope to see many of you at rallies this summer so we can share some time together.

JIM



EAST BREAKFAST RIDE SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2010

Ralph Meyer

We all gathered at Dick's Restaurant on Rte 22 in Murrysville as usual. It was a pretty cold morning but warmed up some later. Paul "PW" White, John "JR" Rolin, Dave Manfredo, Walt Halaja, Sonny Robison, Dave "2 Sparker" McLaughlin, and I enjoyed our usual delicious breakfast and conversation. When we adjourned to the bikes we discovered parked by the door a beautifully restored '57 Chevy (or was it a '58?) and JR as well as several others said we should get the usual suspects' picture with that car in it... so that's what Walt did. PW, and the Daves decided to do a ride somewhere more or less southward, while Sonny, who came in the cage headed home as did Walt, who was 'looking forward?' to getting his IRS tax report done, and I. Walt who picked up Rte 28 West at 910 after we crossed the Hulton Bridge later wrote me, "... Looks like PW & crew had a good ride! ... don't know if you will get a report from 'em

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.

Allsop Arctic Beer Adventure - From Al Vangura - Check out this web site, the boys are from out east PA who used to help Gary and I with super tech. They are looking for support from other BMW clubs, can you can help support this ride?

Please check out their URL for VERY INTERESTING information! <http://www.arcticalchemy.com/discovery.html>

though ... looks like you had a better ride home than I ... I hit a bottle neck near the Rte. 8 intersection that held me up maybe 5 to 10 minutes at the most, otherwise it was smooth sailing! ... our taxes are done and we don't owe, so we are in the front row now! ...BTW, on the way home I tried to use my cruise control and it didn't work! ... I think it's the 1st. time I tried to use it since I put Dave's GPS on Traveler, so I think that may have something to do with it ...I do think Dave did say something about a problem with the cruise control when they installed the GPS on his RT... well, anyhow I fired him an e-mail to see if indeed that was the problem and if he knew the cure...Walt"

On my way home, having found 910 was closed just after the Rte 28 interchange, I planned to ride North on 28 until I hit the orange belt, planning to follow it West, however I turned too soon and instead of getting on 28 North, got on a 2 lane back road that took me to right across from the Shriner's Temple... I then headed north on some neat 2 laners, one or two of which had a gazillion tight hairpin turns and definitely were up and down dale! More fun than 28, but a LOT slower! Prettier woods and country though. Finally I wound up back on 910 just a bit before Crossroads Cycle. ...when it comes to Income Tax, I love the way we do it now—I just hand the accounting program readout of all income and expenses for the year to a good accountant and let him mess with it. Saves me pulling out what little hair I have left. Happy days!

RALPH



THE JOHN DEERE TRIKE

sent in by Dave McLaughlin

SAFETY BIT

A study in England found that motorcyclists wearing white helmets were involved in 24% less multiple vehicle collisions than those wearing helmets of other colors, especially black. Apparently white helmets are much more easily seen by other motorists. An added benefit is that sometimes the cagers think you're a cop and treat you extra carefully! Nice!



**WHEEL CHOCK FOR SALE-SEE
"FOR SALE" BELOW.**



FOR SALE

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

2005 R1200RT: 28k miles. \$11,500. All dealer serviced. New front tire and front brakes. Heated seats & grips. BMW Cruise Control. BMW Alarm. BMW Tankbag. Extra BWM Accessory outlet wired to battery. Contact Trent Dennison: trentden@juno.com

'06 K1200S, 10.2k, silver/gray, all factory options. Newly installed Akrapovic Ti/Ti/CF full exh, Evoluzione race intake, dual compound rear tire with Dynojet runs on each change totaling +12rwhp. Dealer installed clear strobe turn/brake lights, CF trim, panniers w/ liners and tank bag, center stand, June 2012 extended unlimited mi warranty. Dealer maintained w/records. Adult owned, never down, immaculate condition. \$13,900/obo, Peter 724-516-1260(PA)

Harbor Freight heavy duty Stand and Wheel dock: Purchased for \$60. Sadly the base is too long which interferes with my jack. It is now on Craig's list for \$45. See <http://pittsburgh.craigslist.org/mcy/1651428327.html> . Ron Kranz. e-mail: ronmcb@yahoo.com. Picture is above right.



WEST BREAKFAST RIDE APRIL 10, 2010

by Walt Halaja

At Bob Evans, we got a table for 8 with only 6 there, “Were you the one missing?” ...Members present were Frank Beatrous, Dave Manfredo, Ralph “the Princeton Tiger” Meyer, Dave “2 Spark” McLaughlin, Paul “PW” White, and of course me, Walt Halaja, who loves to write reports! Ha! Mostly we all were the regular crew except for Ron “Reddy K.” Latkovic who just called on the phone as we were ready to leave wanting to know who was riding to European, if anyone, which turned out to be Ralph only (he was hoping some parts he needed for the GT were in—they weren’t—He said later he didn’t even run into Reddy-K while there).

Sometimes the best part of these breakfasts are the stories told at the breakfast table. For example, “2 Spark” was telling us how he got stopped twice by the police. The first time was while riding last in a small group. Now that went something like this (and he claims he wasn’t speeding): “2 Spark” asked the patrolman why he stopped him, and the cop’s reply was “Because I can only stop one rider at a time.” Now that’s a good one—you stop the guy who isn’t speeding who’s at the end of the group if someone in the group seems to be! Now the next part went like this: This time “2 Spark” was leading a small group thru a little town and was pulled over again by you-know-who. “2 Spark” said he wasn’t speeding and asked, “Why did you pull me over???” And the patrol officer said “Because you are leading the sheep to the slaughter!” Really???! He actually pulled him over because he thought he was going to speed???. On one of these stops, too, “2 Spark” said the officer claimed the bike was too loud and stuck a 6" long ball-point pen into the back end of his exhaust pipe to “see if his muffler had its baffles in”—even though the muffler was totally stock and its end was a good 15 inches ahead of the rear end of the tailpipe extension—no way the pen could even reach the muffler. Ha! Well to be honest about it, I think it’s that cafe racer riding position on that new Kawasaki of his that is drawing all the attention! Maybe he needs to get his 2 spark GS back on the road again, with its non-cafe racer style seating position. What do you think?

After breakfast, Frank left for home because he had chores to do, so that left 2 Spark, PW, Dave M. and myself to ride. We did about a half of a Oglebay, WV run with a few different twists in it, which turned out pretty well. We put 2 Spark inside the group so he wouldn’t tempt any patrol officers, and I did see one patrol car off the side of the road, but didn’t even give it a 2nd thought because 2 Spark was neither leading nor in last place! Ha! We did hit a bit of a detour on Rte. 231, so be advised that Rt. 231 is closed between PA. Rte. 50 & PA. Rte. 488 if you are heading that way.

I logged 90.5 miles from Bob Evans to home and arrived home about 1:35 PM with a stop at Staples and for Fuel. It’s fun to ride with members with whom you have ridden many times before, and our ride went like clockwork! I say the breakfast riders are a great bunch to ride with! I also invite you to come join in the fun, even if it’s just for breakfast and to listen to the stories!

WALT

PS ... Also be advised that Ralph and I took our BMW MOA mileage forms to the breakfast, had them signed, and mine is in the in the Mail today! Join in the fun, get yours filled out, signed and mailed in, and lets beat Wisconsin this year!



BMW MOA INITIAL MILEAGE REPORTS

As Walt has pointed out, it seems each year, the BMW riders of the frozen North (Wisconsin) whose so-called ‘riding season’ is even shorter than ours, nevertheless beat Pennsylvania’s butt when it comes to being the state whose riders rode the most miles. Walt (rightly so) thinks that this has just gotta stop. And it can by putting good ol’ Penn’s Woods in first place for once. And the way to do that is for all our MOA members to put in their mileage reports--both the one to start with, and the one in October in the fall showing our ending mileage for the MOA’s ‘riding season’. All it takes is a little checking of the odometer(s) of your BMW bike(s) in the spring, and fall, filling out the forms and getting either a BMW dealer or a couple of MOA members to sign your form, and a couple of 1st class stamps and envelopes to mail the reports in to the MOA. The reports are found in your BMW ON magazine. This year’s beginning tear-out report is found between pages 88 and 89 of the April 2010 issue of BMW ON (Owners News).. **Note that they have to be postmarked by May 10.** April 10 is the start date, and Midnight October 10 is the end date. Git ‘er Done!



MORE BURMA SHAVE!

SPEED WAS HIGH
WEATHER WAS NOT
TIRES WERE THIN
X MARKS THE SPOT
Burma Shave

THE MIDNIGHT RIDE
OF PAUL FOR BEER
LED TO A WARMER
HEMISPHERE
Burma Shave

AROUND THE CURVE
LICKETY-SPLIT
BEAUTIFUL CAR
WASN’T IT?
Burma Shave



THE WAY WE WERE
BACK WHEN
by Walt Halaja



MotorcyclExpo 2000

by Nancy Barrett

It was an overwhelming sea of silver & gray. I'm talkin' chrome and ponytails here. The 2000 MotorcyclExpo in Monroeville was obviously geared toward the Harley crowd. There were lots of trinkets, mostly obscene or offensive, lots of jewelry, and a good bit of leather, much of it not meant for protection. There was so much leather that one comment I heard was that it "smelled like a slaughterhouse!" The Pony Express had a booth in the back, along with the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. There were a few booths with helmets and Darien jackets, and the like. But mostly, it was all for show.

There were some good points, though. There were lots of bikes to sit on, not to mention quads and jet skis. Heritage was there, with the Cruiser, and the LT, along with Harleys, Hondas & Kawasakis. Patrick (age 12) likes the Cruiser, and Mary (age 9), ever her mother's daughter, liked the "blue one!" We actually saw quite a few fellow Four Winds folks, mostly walking around shaking their heads. Most of this crowd was a different, although very friendly, sort.

The best part of the whole show was looking at the all the old, restored, and custom bikes that were there to be judged. Just seeing some of the outrageous paint jobs was worth the price of admission. There was the "banana bike." It was bright yellow & black, of course, with about twenty stuffed gorillas hanging all over it. There was another that was called the "Wizard" with fantasy scenes (You know, wizards, princesses, castles...) airbrushed everywhere. It had an accompanying jacket to match. Then there was the trike with the car engine. It made even the K1200LT look like a scooter!

Would I recommend the MotorcyclExpo? Well, not if you're actually looking to buy functional motorcycle gear. But if you like the more outrageous side of motorcycling, and just plain people-watching, you could have done much worse than to spend an afternoon at the Monroeville ExpoMart.

Tiger

By Bud Blake





WELCOME NEW CLUB MEMBERS

Allison McGee is one of our new members and was referred to 4 Winds by John Bauerlein. Alison is a new rider and has taken the motorcycle safety course. She moved to Pittsburgh from Baton Rouge LA 4 years ago but was originally from Morgantown WV. She likes the outdoors and is looking for opportunities to ride her 2009 BMW F800 Enduro or her 2009 Yamaha WR 250F dirt bike. We welcome her and hope she can find some great riding with 4Winds Riders Club.

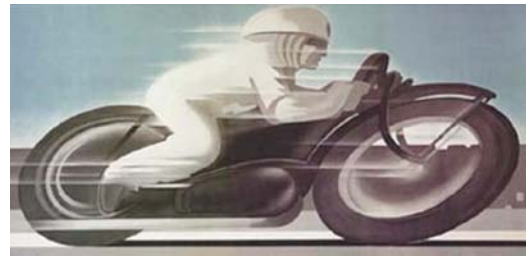


MS ESCAPE TO THE LAKE VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The MS Escape to the Lake bicycle ride is a two-day event, June 12 & 13, that raises money for MS. As the coordinator between the MS Society of Pittsburgh and the motorcyclists who offer intersection control along the route, I invite all members of 4 Winds BMW of Pittsburgh to assist with this year's event. You can help out one or both days. All volunteers will receive the same T-shirt as the bicyclists. If you assist with both days, the MS Society will provide you with a room Saturday night at Edinboro College along with your Saturday evening meal and Sunday breakfast. You are also welcome to the refreshments at the rest stops along the route. The college provides sheets, towel, and washcloth, but no pillows will be provided. The bicycle route will leave Coopers Lake on June 12th at 7:30 a.m. I am asking all Pittsburgh area volunteers to meet me at the intersection of Rts. 19 and 108 in Harlansburg no later than 7:00 a.m. After a safety meeting, we will depart at 7:20 a.m. to start manning the intersections along the route. A trailing motorcycle will tell you when the last bicyclist has passed your intersection and you are free to move along the route and offer assistance at the later intersections, working your way to Edinboro College. The route for the second day will leave Edinboro College and proceed to Conneaut, Ohio. If you are helping both days, after being dismissed from your intersection, you are free to return home or proceed to the end point at the park. If you are helping Saturday only, you are free to return home once you are dismissed from your intersection.

If you have a safety vest, please bring it. If you have any questions or would like to sign-up to help, please contact me, Mike Ammerman, at 412-795-6685 or send me an e-mail at auwinger@verizon.net. I will need to know your T-shirt size, a cell phone number if you have one, your e-mail address, and whether you will be helping Saturday, Sunday, or both days.

MIKE



PITTSBURGH RIDE FOR KIDS

August 8, 2010

The Pittsburgh Ride for Kids is a charity ride that raises funds for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation for research into finding a cause and cure for pediatric brain tumors. All money raised for research is raised by motorcyclists. There is no government funding. The ride is scheduled for August 8th, 2010 (rain or shine) and will leave Home Depot in Cranberry TWP. at 10:00 a.m. sharp. The ride will have a police escort and will terminate at Slippery Rock College where there will be a celebration of life from brain tumor survivors. A free box lunch will be provided.

While the registration fee for the ride is \$35 per motorcycle, you are encouraged to have fund raisers or seek donations from friends, family, and anyone else who would like to donate to the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. Depending on how much you donate, you will be entitled to premiums such as T-shirts (\$50 donation), a ticket for a motorcycle drawing (\$300), embroidered fleece vest (\$500), and others. For more information about the Ride for Kids, visit rideforkids.org or call 800-253-6530. For information about the Pittsburgh Ride for Kids, contact Mike Ammerman, Task Force Leader, at 412-795-6685 or e-mail me at auwinger@verizon.net.

MIKE



DONATIONS NEEDED

Please help save a child's life by donating to the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation's Ride for Kids at my firstgiving website - www.firstgiving.com/mikeammerman. All funds are used for research into finding a cause and cure for brain tumors in children and family support for children with brain tumors.

MIKE



IT'S TO LAUGH! UPS AIRLINES

Sent in by Paul "PW" White

Remember it takes a college degree to fly a plane, but only a high school diploma to fix one; a reassurance to those of us who fly routinely in our jobs.

After every flight, UPS pilots fill out a form, called a 'gripe sheet,' which tells mechanics about problems with the aircraft. The mechanics correct the problems, document their repairs on the form, and then pilots review the gripe sheets before the next flight.

Never let it be said that ground crews lack a sense of humor. Here are some actual maintenance complaints submitted by UPS pilots (marked with a P) and the solutions recorded (marked with an S) by maintenance engineers.

Continued on top of next page

By the way, UPS is the only major airline that has never, ever, had an accident.

*

P: Left inside main tire almost needs replacement.

S: Almost replaced left inside main tire.

*

P: Test flight OK, except auto-land very rough.

S: Auto-land not installed on this aircraft.

*

P: Something loose in cockpit.

S: Something tightened in cockpit.

*

P: Dead bugs on windshield.

S: Live bugs on back-order.

*

P: Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces a 200-feet-per-minute descent.

S: Cannot reproduce problem on ground.

*

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.

S: Evidence removed.

*

P: DME volume unbelievably loud.

S: DME volume set to more believable level.

*

P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.

S: That's what friction locks are for.

*

P: IFF inoperative in OFF mode.

S: IFF is always inoperative in OFF mode.

*

P: Suspected crack in windshield.

S: Suspect you're right.

*

P: Number 3 engine missing.

S: Engine found on right wing after brief search.

*

P: Aircraft handles funny. (I love this one!)

S: Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right and be serious.

*

P: Target radar hums.

S: Reprogrammed target radar with lyrics.

*

P: Mouse in cockpit.

S: Cat installed.

*

P: Noise coming from under instrument panel. Sounds like a midget pounding on something with a hammer.

S: Took hammer away from the midget.

*

PW



ED SYPHAN'S MS RIDE DONATIONS

Ed Syphan will again be riding his bicycle in the MS Escape to the Lake Bicycle Ride this year. For the past 9 years Ed has ridden this ride and he and Michelle have themselves paid his entry fee of \$300 in support of the MS research the ride was created to help fund. A discussion was held at the April meeting about perhaps the club throwing in with Ed in support of this research by paying half of his registration fee from the treasury. After discussion, it was decided to table the motion to do that and call for donations from members to Ed and Michelle to go towards the registration fee, and then, at the May meeting, to decide what we might do from the treasury. If you wish to help MS research by donating to Ed's ride, you can e-mail him at esyphan@yahoo.com or phone him on his cell phone at 724-301-6605 to find out how to donate.



DOWN-HOME RALLY TRAILER

Sent in by Walt Halaja

Unigos are very nice; so are other commercially made trailers. But they're expensive, and if you're on a limited budget (Remember the ol' saying, "The Cheapest thing on a BMW is the rider??!") here's a real down-home and dirty rally trailer for you. And just think. You may already have one in your garage... and besides that, the volume of stuff one of these can haul is a lot greater than the usual commercial bike trailer. Betcha you could even get almost everything the wife wants to take along to a rally piled on one. Whaddaya think?

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:

The May 15, 2009 meeting will be held from 12:00 PM** to 3:00 PM at The Rochester Inn Hardwood Grill 505 Rochester Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237. Ph: 412.364.8166

Directions:

From the North: Get on I-79 and drive south. Take exit 72 to the left onto I-279 S towards Pittsburgh. Take exit 15 to the right onto Camp Horne Road and turn left out of the exit onto Camp Horne Rd headed East. Stay straight onto Lowries Run Rd (the Green Belt). Keep left off Lowries Run Road onto Rochester Rd (the Green Belt). Arrive at the Rochester Inn Hardwood Grille on your left.

From the South on I-79: Get on I-79 N and drive north. After crossing the Ohio River Bridge, take exit 68 to the right onto Mt Nebo Road. Keep right onto Mt Nebo Rd after the I-279 overpass and turn left at the end of Mt. Nebo Rd. onto Lowries Run Road (the Green Belt) headed East. Keep left (North) onto Rochester Rd (the Green Belt). Arrive at the Rochester Inn Hardwood Grille on your left.

From the South on I-279: Get on I-279 N and drive north through and out of town. North of town, Take exit 15 to the right onto Camp Horne Rd. Take ramp to the right towards US-19/Perrysville. Follow Camp Horne Rd East straight onto Lowries Run Rd (the Green belt). Keep left onto Rochester Rd (the Green Belt). Arrive at the Rochester Inn Hardwood Grille on your left.

**The Board will meet at 11:00AM.

GPS coordinates of Rochester Inn Hardwood Grille: N40 32.141 W80 03.059