

# MARCH



# 2011

MOA # 6

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

RA # 76



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Valves are adjusted, fluids are replaced and the riding session has returned. At least it did last week. This morning it is snowing again and I guess I will have to wait a little longer, maybe this weekend.

The February meeting was productive with plans coming together for quite a few new things.

Trick announced that he will be taking over as Webmaster and offered some thoughts for updating the website. We have great hopes of making it a clearinghouse for motorcycle activities for the riders of Western Pennsylvania.

Ted Sohler Proposed that the club becomes more involved in the Vintage race events in Schenley Park this summer. Lee Marks is also interested in our having a presence there with the dealership. If anyone is not going to the MOA rally in Bloomsburg, Pa. (it is the same weekend) and would like to get involved, let me know. It should be a lot of fun.

Don Poremski talked about the upcoming MOA seminars that he is planning on presenting at the next several meetings. See more information elsewhere in the newsletter.

I am still working on setting up a long weekend ride to Snowshoe, WV. so block the memorial day weekend for this ride. Great roads and attractions.

The BMW shop (European Motorcycles) has expressed an interest in having their BMW tech hold a tech session for us at the

**DUES ARE DUE,  
SO DO YER  
DUES!  
THE MAIL-IN  
FORM IS ON  
PAGE 5.**

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## MARCH MEETING INFO

The next meeting of the Four Winds BMW Riders will be held on Sat., March 19, 2011 at Tom Myers' Garage, 7516 Noblestown Road, Oakdale, PA 15071, Ph.: 412-860-6559 (Cell) from 12--3PM. Bring appetizer/Snack thing to share or sack lunch. Don Poremski will be presenting BMWMOA seminar topics "Ride Straight" & "Street Riding." **Notify Diane Pears if you want to participate-See p 4!**

## 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., March. Meeting: March 19; **Apr. issue deadline: Tues., March 22nd**). 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](http://www.4windsbmw.org). Download a free Adobe PDF reader by clicking the 'Get Adobe Reader' button at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) and following the directions thereafter provided.

## MEETING SCHEDULE 2011

**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 19, 2011, 12PM** — Tom Myers's Heated Garage, 7516 Noblestown Road, Oakdale, PA 15071, Ph.: 412-860-6559 (Cell). See p. 4!

**April 16, 2011** — TBA

**May 21, 2011** — 12PM European Motorcycles of Pittsburgh

**June 18, 2011** — at the Laurel Highlands Rally, [www.pioneerparkcampground.com](http://www.pioneerparkcampground.com), Sommerset, PA

**July 16, 2011** — TBA

**August, 2011** — **Friday, August 19 to Sunday, August 21 45th Annual Four Winds Rally!**

**September 17, 2011** — TBA

**October 15, 2011** — TBA

**November 19, 2011** — TBA

**December, 2011** — No Monthly Meeting

## 2011 SHACKS

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

shop, let me know what you would like to hear about and when (spring, summer, fall or winter).

We have a couple of members who are interested in hosting several "shacks", we just need bikes to work on. So, who has bike projects that they want help with? If not this spring, then next fall/winter.

As you can see, we are envisioning the club being more active and therefore offering much more to members, new and old. So get involved and enjoy.



SEAN

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

Sat, Mar 12 — West at Bob Evans, Rt 60 & Campbell's Run Rd, 9:00 AM

Sun, Mar 20 — South at King's, 3049 Washington Pike, off Exit 54, I-79, Bridgeville, 10:00 AM

Sat, Mar 26 — 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.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP 2011 FEBRUARY 19  
MEETING MINUTES



1.26

- Meeting called to order.
- Old Business
  - The Quorum Issue is finally resolved! Hooray!
  - Scott Nogrady and Carl Hartz have offered up their garages for Shack Packs.
    - Both of the Lees at European Motorcycles of Pittsburgh are willing to do tech sessions at the shop and Lee Marks is going to put a 4 winds advert into the packets for new BMW buyers (we may also offer a free membership for new BMW buyers). We are also going to advertise the European Motorcycles track days better so 4 Winds folks can get involved.
      - On Memorial Day there is going to be the Snowshoe ride to West Virginia.
      - On the 21st of May, the MOC is going to have a ride to Sistersville, but it is on the same day as the May 4 Winds meeting.

1.33

- Ted Sohler:
  - The weekend of July 23 is the Vintage Grand Prix in Schenley Park.
    - Ted would love to see more of a BMW Motorrad presence at the event (especially in the traditionally Harley-dominated Thunder Run), but we can't fully concentrate on it this year because it's the same weekend as the National Rally in Bloomsburg.
      - If anyone is not going to the National & interested in going to the Grand Prix, get in contact with King Doc (Sean Barrett) so that you can take a 4 Winds banner to set up near Lee Marks's booth.

1.40

- Trick Barrett:
  - Trick will be taking over the website as soon as he can get in touch with Mitch and placate him with beer.
    - We will be turning the website into something that can be used for more than just the forum—the calendar will be updated with any and all events that might interest the club as motorcycling enthusiasts, and the photo gallery will be made so that any member can easily upload photographs of rallies/events.
      - Information on any events—including dates, locations and a brief summary of the event—should be sent to Trick Barrett at [triiku@gmail.com](mailto:triiku@gmail.com).

1.45

- Princess Di
  - Don Poremski shall be going MOA presentations on such things as rider safety at the next two meetings.
    - Next month's meeting shall be at Tom Myers's heated garage. Members should bring a snack/appetizer-type-thingie to share or a sack lunch.

1.47

- Don Poremski
  - The MOA presentations are based on the modern MSF courses.
    - They involve a presentation and then splitting up into small groups to do fun exercises involving things like drunk goggles (a club favourite after their premier at a 4 Winds rally a few years ago) and testing one's reflexes by seeing how far down a ruler falls before one catches it.

1.57

- Treasurer's Report (Larry Shockling)
  - Club balance is ~\$16,000

2.01

- Ralph
  - The reason behind Walt's suspicious absence at this month's meeting (and therefore the absence of the much-beloved "Walt's Corner" in the meeting minutes) is that Walt has done got himself a new knee! He's now a cyborg and should be treated with the respect reserved for such beings.

2.08

- Meeting Adjourned!

TRICK BARRETT, RECORDING SECRETARY



**Lee S. Marks**  
Owner

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**PRE-ORDERING K1600GT/GTLs**

I was chatting with Lee Marks the other day and had noticed on the 'net that some other dealers were advertising that one could pre-order one of the new Smooooooooothe, super touring bikes (they look to be, as usual for BMW, the best touring bike available on the market), BMW's K1600 GT and K1600GTL. I also saw an article that indicated that in the U.S. there were already in the neighborhood of 400 of these marvelous machines pre-ordered. I asked Lee if European Motorcycles was also taking orders for these bikes for when they arrive across the 'pond' over here, and he told me one could most definitely do so. Soooooo, if you like the looks of, and hanker after (stop drooling!) one of these machines as soon as possible after they arrive, you can place an order for one at European! As Larry the Cable Guy would say, "If ya wanta, then Git 'er Done! BTW, the new F800R is also at European!

## MARCH MEETING PRESENTATIONS

Our March 19th noon to ~3PM meeting at Tom Myers's heated garage will feature 2 special presentation seminars led by our eminent Busker, Raconteur, and Fine Four Winds rider, Don Poremski.

*Don's first presentation, entitled "Riding Straight," will include a discussion and demo featuring the Innocorp Ltd. "Fatal Vision" Simulator goggles following the "Street Smart Rider Perception" program.* Tackling the important issue of how to encourage motorcyclists to separate the activities of drinking and riding is the focus of this newest, hands-on training event designed by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. This topic remains critical because almost half of all motorcycle riders who die in single-vehicle crashes are intoxicated (NHSTA 2002).

Attendees will be able to participate in a variety of activities using the Fatal Vision Simulator Goggles. The goggles allow participants to experience the effects of alcohol impairment with a sober mind – and no hangover. The result for the participant and observers is a clear demonstration of the negative effect that alcohol impairment has on the human elements vital to motorcycle riding – vision, balance, coordination and decision-making ability – and shows that even legal levels of intoxication can have serious consequences when you are on two wheels. The Fatal Vision demo is part of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's "Riding Straight" module.

*Don's second presentation is entitled "Street Smarts – A Rider Perception Program:"*

Motorcycle riding requires a lot more than coordination and balance. It requires a keen perceptive ability that helps a rider see and evaluate all the important clues to respond effectively in traffic. Poor perception puts a rider at a disadvantage. The goal of the session is to acquaint participants with the important aspects of visual perception, and how the brain and eyes work together to manage risk. This is an interactive and fun session, not a boring lecture. The session is planned for no longer than one hour.

There is no cost for the program but an idea of the number of attendees (maximum 25) is necessary to plan for the number of participant packages that will be needed. **THEREFORE PLEASE REGISTER WITH DIANE PEARS** and let her know you wish to participate so she can prepare the materials you will need to do so. You can register to participate by e-mailing Diane at [timndiane@comcast.net](mailto:timndiane@comcast.net).

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### IT'S TO LAUGH NAT'L THREAT LEVEL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE BBC - BY JOHN CLEESE.

*Sent in by Al Vangura*

The English are feeling the pinch in relation to recent terrorist threats and have therefore raised their security level from "Miffed" to "Peeved." Soon, though, security levels may be raised yet again to "Irritated" or even "A Bit Cross." The English have not been "A Bit Cross" since the blitz in 1940 when tea supplies nearly ran out.

Terrorists have been re-categorized from "Tiresome" to "A Bloody Nuisance." The last time the British issued a "Bloody Nuisance" warning level was in 1588, when threatened by the Spanish Armada.

The Scots have raised their threat level from "Pissed Off" to "Let's get the Bastards!" They don't have any other levels. This is the reason they have been used on the front line of the British army for the last 300 years.

The French government announced yesterday that it has raised its terror alert level from "Run" to "Hide." The only two higher levels in France are "Collaborate" and "Surrender." The rise was precipitated by a recent fire that destroyed France's white flag factory, effectively paralyzing the country's military capability.

Italy has increased the alert level from "Shout Loudly and Excitedly" to "Elaborate Military Posturing." Two more levels remain: "Ineffective Combat Operations" and "Change Sides."

The Germans have increased their alert state from "Disdainful Arrogance" to "Dress in Uniform and Sing Marching Songs." They also have two higher levels: "Invade a Neighbor" and "Lose."

Belgians, on the other hand, are all on holiday as usual; the only threat they are worried about is NATO pulling out of Brussels.

The Spanish are all excited to see their new submarines ready to deploy. These beautifully designed subs have glass bottoms so the new Spanish navy can get a really good look at the old Spanish navy.

Australia, meanwhile, has raised its security level from "No worries" to "She'll be alright, Mate." Three more escalation levels remain: "Crikey!", "I think we'll need to cancel the barbie this weekend", and "The barbie is cancelled."

## 2011 4-Winds Dues Submission form:

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Office: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Members' Names (if any):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Associate Members' Names (if any):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Number of Members' Dues submitted: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Associates' Dues submitted: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$7.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make out your dues check for yourself, and other members and associates in your family to "4 Winds BMW Riders" and mail it with this completed form to:

Larry Shockling, Treasurer  
4 Winds BMW Riders of Pittsburgh  
116 Teton Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15239



## FEBRUARY MEETING PICTURES

*Pictures by Motorcycleholic, Ron "Reddy K" Latkovic*

Despite it's never getting over 36° we had a nice bunch out for the February meeting! Most folks caged it, but 2 of us rode without freezing our buns off (Thanks BMW, for heated seats, handgrips and other Deutscher winter rider niceties. The Perkins Family Restaurant (Used to be Pancake House!) food was great and the camaraderie at its usual high level of enjoyability. Many thanks to Ron for the pix!





### THE NORTH B-RIDE 2/6/2011

Twas the night before B-Ride  
 And all through the house  
 Not a creature was stirring  
 Not even a mouse  
 When out on the rooftop  
 There arose such a clatter  
 I sprang from my bed  
 To see what was the matter  
 'Cause after a day  
 Of nice clearing weather  
 The blacktop all dry,  
 The snow in retreat  
 I pondered with dread  
 What the clouds brought—not heat!  
 Yep, what to my wondering eyes should appear  
 But a whole bunch of sleet,  
 And snow—as I'd feared  
 So, the Beemer stayed in,  
 Salt and ice is no fun

And with just but for two,  
 We all cages did run.  
 Nuts to the weather!  
 It can't stop 4 winds!  
 Camaraderie we had,  
 A fine Breakfast at Kings!

And we ten did too—have a fine breakfast and made very good use of the King's front Room that Super Bob, the King's manager, saves for us. Present were John Allen, Frank Beatrous, Jack Bramkamp, Walt Halaja, Karl Hartz, Ron Kranz, Ron Latkovic, Larry Morley, Barry Sumner—a member of the W. PA Retreads, owner of a Beemer and Gold Wing, and Larry Morley's friend and fine motorcyclist who came out with his bike trailer late in the evening a couple of years ago to pick up a fellow motorcyclist whose Bike had suffered a debilitating flat on I-79, and me. It was great to see Barry again. Oh yeah, I came too, as usual, but sadly in the Honda cage. We all would have rather been

on our Beemers, Triumphs, Gold Wings, etc., but ice under the snow in many driveways and on back roads was not what we found very desirable. Two of us however did uphold the honor of the club in that direction: Walt "The Captain" Halaja, and Frank "The Professor" Beatrous—so we did have a couple of nice bikes behind which to get an outside picture of the gang. "Reddy K," (Ron Latkovic) our fine "Casey the Crime Photographer" got the neat pics of the breakfast and breakfasters inside.

As usual, we had great conversations going at Breakfast, with Ron "Reddy K" Latkovic providing us a heads-up on a BMW NA recall on K1200 and 1300GTs that just came out, with John, Ron K, and I, etc. covering relative benefits and vagaries of Computer GPS mapping programs we use and like and various types of GPSSs.

Larry Morley let me know that an old buddy from 'way back was celebrating his birthday the Tuesday following the breakfast, and kindly e-mailed me later with his phone number so I could be in touch with him and wish him a happy birthday. Good show! Thanks, Larry!

After the usual delicious King's breakfasts and tire-kicking confabs, we adjourned outside where Walt set up his camera and tripod to get pictures of the gang behind the 2 bikes that made it—

### 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](mailto: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)

**The Sidecar Rig Al Vangura Engineered:** For sale at Bob's BMW, Jessup, MD. A GREAT rig! For pictures, see p. 10 of the June newsletter. Contact Bob's BMW 866-861-5750 if interested.

**2008 Royal Enfield Classic Iron-Barrel 500 Single,** with many Upgrades, Goodies, and Extras. 4K miles (just about broken in). Old time easy to work on technology. Asking \$3500 OBO. [meyer@zoominternet.net](mailto:meyer@zoominternet.net).



the rest of us, as mentioned, being in vehicles of 4 wheeled persuasion (dang the weather anyway!). As Walt was putting his camera away, he said he was planning later on in the day to go to supper at his son, Wayne's, for an evening of watching the Steelers win (we hope!!!) on Wayne's large sized TV screen.



However, he said he figured the route he'd take to Wayne's would include the overlook at Brady's Bend! Wayne lives a half mile from



me in Bakerstown, so you can figure Walt's route would be in the neighborhood of "roundabout"! Frank, with the only other bike

there, said he had to head home to get some things done, so Walt, it appeared, would be the lone rider checking out the beautiful Allegheny from

the Brady's Bend overlook. Walt also let us know that soon he'd be out of circulation for a while. Seems He's going for new knees, the old ones having



been giving him royal fits for some long time. The operation was scheduled for some time soon after the early February rides. We'll be thinking about you, Walt, and hope all goes well and that Traveler doesn't have to be lonely without his favorite rider in the saddle again for very long! BTW, check out Walt's description of his solo ride this day to the Brady's Bend overlook--his ride description continues in the very next article. He says the Brady's Bend Overlook's a neat place to visit in winter!

RALPH



### NORTH BREAKFAST SOLO TO BRADY'S BEND

By Walt Halaja

Well, we had a great turnout for breakfast: 9 members, one guest, and 2 bikes: mine and Frank's as you can see in the photo. I wanted to ride somewhere after breakfast because this was to be my last ride for some time, since I'm getting a new right knee on Feb. 14th.; well, "Happy Valentines Day" to you too! So, by the time you read this I should have that new knee, and if all goes well, the left will follow in 3 months; so it looks like I wont have very high mileage this year Ha!

So, I was thinking of doing the same ride I did in Jan. with Dave Manfredo and Reddy K., but thought that was too short because the Super Bowl didn't start 'till 6:30 PM and I had 'till 5:30 PM to be at my son's home in Bakerstown for dinner and to watch the game. I keep saying that if I hadn't bought that RT, I could have one of those big screen TVs myself too. Ha, again!



O K . . .

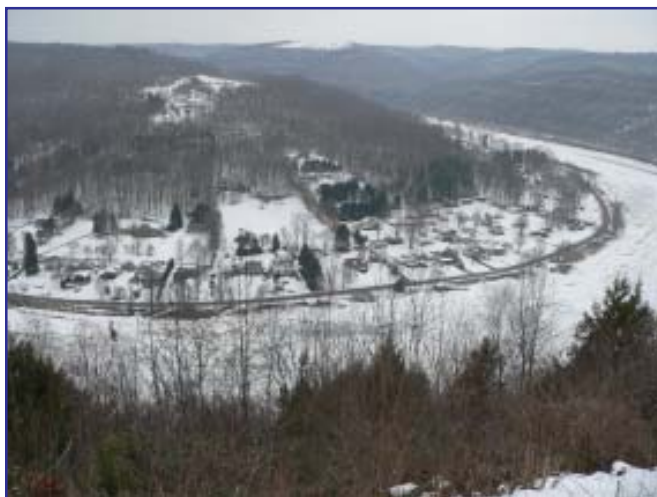


back to the ride, I started to think of Brady's Bend and how I just love it there, standing on the hill looking down at the Allegheny river bend all frozen and all

the cottages in this beautiful snow covered setting. Now to me that's therapeutic: peaceful, calm, usually very quiet as not much traffic passes by. The "Camper," Ron Kranz, has a friend up there. I wonder if he would have tagged along? I have done this ride before in



the winter and it is a great ride, but today was iffy. The weatherman said no snow, but as I got on Traveler there was a very fine light snow falling which I counted as non-threatening, so off I went.



By the time I was leaving for my ride, the roads were wet and the temp. was about 32 degrees, but the road surface wasn't freezing. On the north side of Butler the road surface was better 'till I made the right turn toward E. Brady the last 7 miles. Then the road surface gave me several different "looks" as I moved along, of course slowing down a bit in 3rd, 4th, and 5th. gear that last 7 miles. Traveler showed 33 degrees at E. Brady and 32 degrees at the overlook. The lot was just about all ice so I had to park at the edge of Rt. 68.

Wow—I made it, grabbed my camera and tripod and made a beeline for the overlook. Boy did I have to make a pit stop "Big Time" and the big tree in the photo was just the spot. Ha! I then took a few photos and headed home toward my Son's place and made it in plenty of time to eat and watch the game! Too bad we lost, I think it was just too many turnovers, Huh? I parked Traveler in his garage and it will stay there till I can ride again. Oh, and by the way, my Grandson, "Aaron," will clean Traveler up for me, because you can't believe how dirty it is. My miles for the day was 123: just enough!

WALT



### THANKS, TOM & BETHANY!

*From Andreas Wille and Tom Primke (our correspondent in Charlotte, North Carolina)*

A big Thank-you to Tom & Bethany Furey and all others who have helped finding a new home for my friend Andreas' R80RT. It is greatly appreciated. Tom and Andreas moved the RT from my garage to Tom's in New Kensington this past Tuesday. Amazing: Tom even brought a trailer so my friend didn't have to ride the bike in the frigid weather. I am sure Andreas was most appreciative of the trailer service and the fact that he didn't have to freeze his butt of on the ride over to New Kensington. Thanks again Tom & Bethany for your generosity!

TOM PRIMKE



### CHECK OUT THE TINTED SHIELD

*From Kev Hart*

I'm sure those of us, old or young, who are stuck with what they call "4 eyes" (i.e., we have to wear glasses to see our hands in front of our faces) are familiar, or already own a pair of those glasses that, when exposed to sunlight, darken into what amount to gentle sunglasses, thus cutting down the bright glare. Well, guess what? Kev found a vendor that is producing a new kind of face shield for some helmets that can be left light or turned dark using electrically controlled Liquid Crystal Diode technology. A rider can change from dark to clear by pressing a button. You can get a gander at 'em at the URL: <http://www.e-tintproducts.com/index1.html> . Kev says the cost per shield is \$149.

#### 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.

**BMW Factory Videos:** <http://www.bmwmoa.org/forum/showthread.php?t=50656> -- Sent in by Jürgen Brune

**Light Tinting Helmet Face Shields:** <http://www.e-tintproducts.com> -- Sent in by Kevin Hart (price of shields is \$149 Kev says).



**Motorcycleholic  
By Ron Latkovic  
Aka "ReddyK"**

**I guess my passion for motorcycles started back when I grew up on the Northside of Pittsburgh back in the early sixty's, when Reggie Ganzac, the neighborhood Daredevil, took me for a ride on the back of his Motorbike. I knew then that, I was hooked! The rush I experienced was something I had never felt on my brother's hand-me-down schiwin spitfire bicycle. It wasn't for many years later, while on a three day pass in the army, that I and two friends rented motorcycles from a dealer in Columbia, SC, that I finally felt the rush again. I couldn't shake it after that, even if I wanted to: I was hooked all the way now!**

**After returning home from Vietnam in 1969, I got a job with Duquesne Light Co. and that kinda set me up financially for my start of filling my passion of getting a motorcycle and riding again.**

**My first bike was a 1970 Yamaha AT 125 trail bike. It was as Yellow as a taxicab. I took to the trails and back roads as well as the street as often as I could. That's where I learned the "I must" of wearing a face shield on the helmet, because "those tree twigs sure do hurt," Owwcha! My second bike was a old Honda 350 CL that was in pretty bad shape. I Rebuilt the carbs , clutch , trans, and brakes. Had it for about two years and then had to take a few years off biking, due two my two daughters being born three years apart. Hope they appreciate the set back they caused me! ☺ Only kidding, girls!**



Then the opportunity came to buy a 1982 Kawasaki KZ650 four cylinder. What a great bike! I really liked this one, but I soon needed something bigger for the highway. One afternoon my friend, Jim Dotson, a fellow Duquesne light worker, who was a member of the Four Winds BMW club came in my office and handed me the phone number of a man who lived in Crafton who was selling a 1985 K100RT. What I didn't know was that "BMW made Motorcycles too!" I bought the bike the same day. It was so smooth and responsive to the throttle, and I further learned later that that's what they call 'Torque.' DUMMY! Oh well, I was in heaven now. I joined the Four Winds BMW club ,and found they were a great bunch of people who welcomed me with open arms and shared my passion for riding and telling road stories.

In summary, I have owned 14 bikes in all. After all that, I think I have finally found the Two I will end up my riding days with: My 2003 R1150RT BMW and My 2005 Kawasaki Vulcan 1500 classic cruiser. Who knows??? Maybe not! ☺

ReddyK



**PUNXY PHIL**

*Caught rooting for the Steelers by Kev Hart!*

Also notice Phil's shadow. According to major scientifically espoused (especially by Punxatawny natives) prognostications about this particular Whistle Pig's propensities, that shadow is supposed to indicate an early spring. Of course, all us 'Burghers wish it had also prognosticated a 7th Super Bowl Victory for 'da home team.' Unfortunately, one of the cheeseheads apparently had nucleized his or her headdress and the radioactivity therfrom sadly seemed to have neutralized the normal potent victorious effects of the famous and well vaunted Terrible Towels. Sad. Oh Sad. Oh Most Sad. ...Sniff Sniff. ...Well, there's always next year!



**RIDILICOUS!**

*Pic sent in by our Spokane Correspondent, Jürgen Brune*

And here we thought the U.S. constitution denied the use of cruel and unusual punishment! Or maybe this fellow's actually a citizen of Lala land. That's got to be it! ...Or should we say, "The ape is hanging?" It certainly looks like it.



**SAFETY TIP**

If you haven't done so in a couple of years, now's a good time to sign up for and take your local ERC (Experienced Rider Course) that is offered by PennDOT--it's free. You can find out where and how by surfing the PennDOT web--if you don't know the URL, just Google PennDOT. When you do take the ERC, tell your insurance agent, you may save more than the Geico Gekko gabbles gleely on about. (BTW, Given Geico's obvious massive advertising bill we have yet to figure out how one could save even a thin dime buying the gecko's gabbling! It just don't figure unless Mr. Ponzi has his scheme is in operation somewhere close to that 'lil green lizard.)



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

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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](http://www.4windsbmw.org). Membership dues are \$15 per year for primary membership, and \$7.50 per year for associate members residing in the same household as a primary member.

**DIRECTIONS TO THE MARCH MEETING:**

March 19th, 2011 meeting from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM at Tom Myers's Heated Garage, 7516 Noblestown Road, Oakdale, PA 15071, Ph.: 412-860-6559 (Cell). Lunch: bring an appetizer or snacky thing to share, or your own sack lunch; the club will provide drinks. Don Poremski will be presenting 2 MOA Safety topic seminars. See p. 4 for full information on the presentations. If you intend to participate in the seminars, in order to have materials needed for you, you MUST notify Diane Pears that you want to participate. E-mail her at [timndiane@comcast.net](mailto:timndiane@comcast.net).

*Directions:* From I-79 N or S, take PA 60 West and continue straight on US 22 West, then take McKee Rd (Orange Belt) South to Rte 978 South. In Oakdale turn Right on State Street; turn left on Noblestown Road, and follow the left turn staying on Noblestown Rd where Whittengale Rd runs into it. Continue to follow Noblestown Rd. Tom's house will be on your right about 1.4 miles after the Right turn in Oakdale from the Orange Belt (978) onto State Street.

Tom Myers's Latitude & Longitude (GPS coordinates) approximately N40.38830 W80.20489 .