



June, 2016

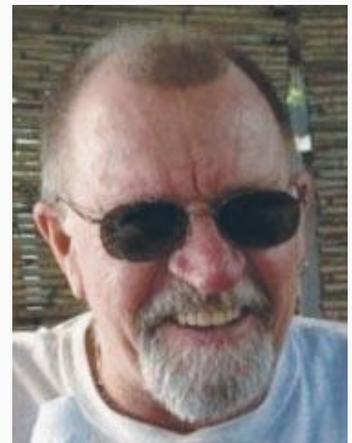
**Diane Pears**

## ***VICE-PRESIDENT'S CORNER***

### **!! Riding Season Caution !!**

Sadly, we lost one of our members, “Buck” Huff, last week in Maine while he was on a bike trip with friends. A few of us were able to personally give our sympathies to his family and fiancée, Marj, at the funeral home on behalf of Four Winds.

In the interest of being more aware of dangers as we ride, this was the scenario. Buck was pulling out from a small parking lot in a rural area following the first two who had already taken off. A car was slowing to turn in, so he pulled out. It's what you DON'T see that will get you. There was a car on the far side going *around* the one who was slowing to turn! Neither the passing car or Buck saw each other until the moment of collision. Both lines of sight were blocked by the one turning vehicle in between them. He was wearing a full face helmet, but it was knocked off upon impact.



A similar set up happened to me a few years ago at a stop sign at a “T” on the way to work in my car. A long line of vehicles approached from my left on a two lane road. I hastened to make a left turn onto the road ahead of them so I didn't have to wait. Immediately, I was surprised with a “hidden” car on the other side heading straight for me at high speed as he was passing the whole line of vehicles. Fortunately, there was enough space and time for me to dive for the

outer berm and he threaded the needle between me and the line of vehicles he was passing. These are the wake up calls that remind us to anticipate and predict the unseen threats as our friend Eric Trow teaches.

1. Always fasten helmet as tightly as possible – **before** we take off.
2. Don't rush to follow and keep up with a group.
3. Imagine what could be invisible behind vehicles, shrubs, corners, etc.
4. No distracting chatter from passenger to driver in traffic.



## Shirt Design Reveal and Sandhill Berries Ride

June meeting Photos are here:

<https://fourwindsbmw.smugmug.com/Events/2016/June-North-Park-Lounge-Murrysv/>

A gorgeous sunny day brought a great turnout for the June mtg. at a new place for us, the North Park Lounge in Murrysville. Unfortunately, my voice had trouble competing with the 50 sports TV's in the room showing the U.S. Open Championship golf tournament which was being held in nearby Oakmont. President John and Treas. Marge Humphrey were away on a bucket list trip as first-time RV'ers travelling the USA with their grandkids.

The goals of the meeting were to reveal the rally shirt design and choices, take pre-orders and rally pre-registrations and then go RIDE!

People requested more shirt styles and colors, so your wish is our command – including polo shirts – check out many additional options that have been added since the meeting on our website homepage. No one can *imagine* how much time and work is being put into the shirts this year. We wanted to make the

design meaningful and special for our 50<sup>th</sup> milestone by incorporating the original patch the Pittsburgh BMW club founders sewed on their jackets and vests in the early years. Since the design is independent of the base shirt color, we also saw the opportunity to offer multiple colors for the first time. Find instructions on our homepage for your \$10 pre-registration discount and custom T shirt pre-orders before the August 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. <http://www.4windsbmw.org/>

Humphrey's sent out all the promotional postcards and posters for our rally before they left. We're working hard to secure some good prizes this year.

Several members reported going to the Laurel Highlands and BSA rallies.

Holly Marcheck led ten people on some great country back roads to Sandhill Berries Farm in Mt. Pleasant where we explored the grounds and relaxed in their shady outdoor gardens with fresh berries, ice cream, pie, smoothies and wine tasting. Entertainment was provided by a wedding of two of their employees, goats and unusual birds. Al Vangura suggested this would make a good ride destination many years ago, and he was right. <http://www.sandhillberries.com/>

We won't be having a July meeting here in Pittsburgh – C'mon up and join us all at "the national". It won't be rotated back to the East Coast until 2020.

With the 44<sup>th</sup> MOA International Rally being held so close to us in Hamburg, NY, south of Buffalo, five miles from Lake Erie's shore this July 14 – 17, we want to encourage everyone to go and even volunteer a few hours. Look for our headquarters and banner in the reserved club camping area. If you're tenting, you can set up there. If you're not, it's our "open house" gathering spot. Click the drop down arrow of "More in This Section" here for lots of info.

<http://www.bmwmoa.org/page/rally16news>. The full three days of Seminars & Schedules are ready – print it out and start planning your attack . . . of course, music, ride demos, vendors, the one-day Hamburger Festival downtown, optional trips and lots of other goodies aren't on that list.

Rally grounds map is here and in the June issue of MOA magazine:

<http://www.bmwmoa.org/page/rally16sitempas>

Join the MOA for your registration discount – especially for the Associate Member -- their discount equals the cost of their membership:

<https://bmwmoafoundation.webconnex.com/dasrally>



## **FOUR WINDS BMW RIDERS JUNE 18, 2016 MEETING MINUTES**

**Location:** North Park Lounge, Murrysville

**Board in Attendance:** Glenn Kidd, John & Mary Hetzel, Tim & Diane Pears, Joann Barr, Jeff Harlich

Vice President Diane Pears called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. with 29 people present. John and Marge Humphrey were on vacation. Special thanks to Mary and John Hetzel for collecting shirt orders, rally registrations and 50/50 money. The new NPL location had a nice large open patio room, but unfortunately had many large sports TV's that made hearing and conducting a meeting difficult. They do have another closed off private event room we could try in the future.

**“It’s Finally Summer” Ride:** Holly Marcheck will lead a ride immediately after the meeting to Sandhill Berries Farm in Mt. Pleasant, PA.

**Our 50th Rally Aug. 19 - 21:** Posters and postcards were printed and mailed to past attendees and many regional dealerships. Door prize solicitation letters were sent and phone calls are being made to vendors. If you can think of anyone you could approach for rally prize donations or ask if they would like to come to the rally as a vendor, please do so.

We need committed volunteers for Registration time slots. Many volunteers are needed. Especially at registration, ride leaders and sweepers. Pre-registration is \$40, at the gate price will be \$50.

**4 Winds Rally Shirt Orders:** After many months of hard work, the design was revealed, many shirt styles and different colors are available for pre-order this year. Deadline is August 1<sup>st</sup>. Photos and order forms were passed out, orders placed, and other additional requests made. More color choices will be added as well as sweatshirts and polo shirts.

**BMW MOA 42<sup>nd</sup> International Rally -- Hamburg, NY July 14 – 17** South of Buffalo <http://www.bmwmoa.org/?page=DasRally> Click the “More in This Section” drop down for lots of info. Four Winds will have a reserved club camping section again this year which serves as a headquarters meeting area for everyone. We’ve requested to be positioned beside Laurel Highlands Riders. Everyone is encouraged to attend. It won’t be in the Eastern U.S. again for 3 more yrs.

**GS Giants Pre-National Event:** The GS Giant event happens in two parts:

- The GS Giant's Gypsy Tour - an optional 3+ day party on July 10-13 in Sigel, PA 15860
- The rest of the event - happens at the BMW MOA National Rally, July 14-17

<http://mms.gsgiants.com/Calendar/moreinfo.php?eventid=1045>

**Other Upcoming Events:**

**AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days at Mid Ohio Track -- July 8 - 10**

<http://www.midohio.com/Schedule/AMA-Vintage-Motorcycle-Days-2014>

**Vintage Motorbike Show at Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix -- July 16 – 17**

<http://www.pvgrp.org/motorbikes/>

**X-Plor Int. Off Road Adventure Training at Our Rally:** Alain Kaldewaay with X-Plor Int. <http://www.xplor-int.com/Pages/default.aspx> will be offering a 1-day off-road beginner training class at our rally again either Fri. or Sat. Space is limited. Pre-register for the 4 Winds event on his site at <http://www.xplor-int.com/Pages/default.aspx>

**Oct. Mtg. at Alex’s Place:** Alex Walters offered to host our Oct. meeting and promised he will have the putting green pond ready at his landscaping headquarters “garage-mahall” in Murrysville.

**Welcome Guest:** Frank Feczko

**50/50 Drawing:** Won by Chris Freed

**Next Meeting:** July - See you at the MOA National in NY.  
August - 4 Winds Rally in New Bethlehem  
Sept. - Leo Stanton’s House, Finleyville  
Oct. - Alex Walter’s Landscaping, Murrysville

-- Submitted by Tim Pears, Recording Secretary