



May 2017



John Humphrey

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It was a nice, but slightly cool, day on the ride to Slippery Rock, but warmer on the way back. I rode with Vince to the meeting and a group on the way back via 528 past Moraine. What a great road! We had a good turnout of 19 club members at The North Country Brewing Company. The topic of the board meeting was the 2017 Rally and Glenn Kidd took notes and briefed everyone about the details. It will be a “traditional” rally for 2017. Not like the 50th, more like the 49th rally.

I was concerned about the willingness of members to work the rally. We always have members show up at the rally to help pull it off at the last minute. However, we gathered needed responsible members to chair the rally and events. I would like to thank Tom Furey and Vince Giannetti for volunteering as rally co-chairs. Don Poremski, Mark Loesch and William Crookston are managing rally events. Thanks also to Nancy Barrett for handling on-site registration. Marge Humphrey will handle pre-registration. The rally pre-registration is just \$35 and \$40 at the rally. No day passes and the same price if you camp or not. The rally and T-Shirts provide over half of our club's annual income allowing us to give back to the members.

Jay Singh has scheduled a couple of State Park meetings in June and July. These meetings are an opportunity to ride! If you'd like to make a meeting presentation, contact Jay Singh or me.

A slow speed motorcycle skills course is being offered by ProRider. Police motor officer, BJ McMullan is offering a class to club members. I'm taking the course, as slow speed maneuvering on a tall bike can be very difficult, especially two-up. Ken Kucel is the club contact.

As usual, the website and forum provides all the latest information and meeting locations that you need to stay up to date. Thanks to John and Mary Hetzel, Diane Pears and Joann Barr for all their "behind the scenes" work keeping our club website valuable to all the members.



**Four Winds BMW Riders
May 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Location: North Country Brewing Company, Slippery Rock, PA
Board in
Attendance: John & Marge Humphrey, John & Mary Hetzel, Vince Giannetti, Jay Singh, Glenn Kidd, Diane Pears

The meeting was called to order by President John Humphrey at 12:20 pm with 19 members in attendance.

4 Winds 2017 Rally: John was pleased to report that two senior members, Vince Giannetti and Tom Furey have agreed to be this year's Rally Co-Chairmen. With this significant development, the 2017 Rally could proceed. The board and the new Co-Chairs spent the last several weeks reviewing previous Board decisions related to this year's Rally.

It was decided that "Rally-Lite" as proposed in last month's meeting was just not in the character of the long established 4 Winds Rally. In particular, the traditional Saturday Night Dinner was considered such a mainstay to the Rally history that it must continue as before. As a result, last year's vendor, Rub and Tug, was approached and agreed to cater again. However, since Rub and Tug's catering does not include a desert, we will still have to decide whether adding on a desert like that offered last year should be repeated.

Further, the traditional Friday, Saturday and Sunday schedule was also agreed to be continued; this year on August 18, 19 and 20th, at the previously used Redbank Valley Municipal Park. We are confirming the Fire Department will continue to man the food concession, while the Boy Scouts have expressed an interest in working security again. We will continue the Port-A-Potty rentals and there will be Coffee and (maybe Donuts) on Sunday Morning.

With these fundamentals decided, this year's Rally is taking shape. Pre-registration will again be handled by our Treasurer, Marge Humphrey, while on-site registration will be handled by Nancy Barrett. Scheduled events will again include Field Events organized by Don Poremski and Bill Crookston and a Bike Show run by Mark Loesch. Thank you, guys.

Other aspects of the Rally are changing to reduce costs and allow the Rally fee to be lowered from last year's \$50. The Board has decided we will not produce or distribute Rally pins to attendees. We are also eliminating recognition of attendees for distance covered and age.

Diane Pears has agreed to design and produce a simplified Rally shirt. Pre-ordering custom fabrics and colors are being eliminated. This year's shirt will focus on "Back to Basics." The Board proposed the elimination of the expensive big name speakers we offered for the big 50th Rally. However, during the meeting, discussion continued as to how to find cheaper, "volunteer" speakers for the Rally. Various members have agreed to search for such speakers and entertainment. Jack Riepe would like to come again. One final change from last year is the number of door prizes. We will continue a Grand Prize we hope to secure from a sponsor, but the large numbers collected last year will not be repeated.

With these fundamental decisions in place, the Board has established this year's Rally fees. Pre-registered attendees will be charged \$35, while the Rally fee at the gate will be \$40. It was further decided that there will be no Day Pass or discount for off-site sleeping attendees. The Board felt this was consistent with how other Rallies around the country handle similar attendee situations

Attending National Rallies: There was discussion of groups forming to ride together to the MOA and RA rallies this summer. Those interested should contact Dennis Mickanin at 412-334-8369.

Impromptu Presentations:

Dennis Mickanin talked about his experience in trying to use cheap LED light replacements purchased (6 for \$6) on the internet from China. Bottom line: "You get what you pay for." Dennis went back to his Auto Parts Store and paid the \$10/20 for well-made LED replacement bulbs.

Vince Giannetti talked about his upcoming riding trip to Italy, leaving in four days. Signed up with **Vespas in Umbria**, Vince and an old college friend are going to recreate the trip they took to Europe after graduating from college. They are renting 150cc Vespas to ride the back roads of the Umbria region of Italy using local equivalents of Bed and Breakfasts on local farms, called "Agri-Tourism".

Calendar

June Meeting: Moraine State Park, Pavilion #3, on Windy Knob Loop

June 25th: Motorcycle Skills Training Course

July Meeting: TBA a Ride to Yellow Creek Park

July 6-8: BMWRA National Rally, Petoskey, Michigan

July 13-16: BMWMOA International Rally, Salt Lake City, Utah

August 18-20: 4 Winds Rally

Submitted by Recording Secretary,
Glenn Kidd