

Minutes

Four Winds BMW Riders - General Membership Meeting
October 20, 2018, Marge and John Humphrey's home, Valencia PA

Sean Barrett, President, presiding

Sean called the meeting to order at Noon. There were 20 members attending, arrivals included 5 bikes. Sean thanked John and Marge for their hospitality and for hosting the meeting. He also thanked all who prepared and bought food; we were well fed.

Sean encouraged members, if they did not already have one, to take with them a copy of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's Guide to Group Riding handout that he brought.

The first item of business was introduction of Joe Burns who has agreed to chair the 4 Winds Annual Rally committee for 2019. He will be assisted by Sean and Vince. Sean thanked him for stepping forward to undertake this important task and reminded all in attendance that club volunteers are always needed at the rally.

Sean next noted that the office of President remains open and encouraged anyone interested in learning more about the details of being President to contact him.

Sean welcomed Mike from the Wexford dealership and asked if he any announcements for the group. Mike reported that the new F 750 GS and F 850 GS models are on the sales floor, ready for all to see.

Bruce was traveling and not able to attend. There was no Treasurer's report.

Discussion next turned to plans for the annual banquet. Mary reported that Chadwick facility was available for February 16, 2019, and she will be pleased to move forward to book it if desired. The consensus was to approve a return to the Chadwick because it has been a good venue for the past several years and enjoyed by most. Mary will ask her contact, the banquet manager, for an invoice to confirm a deposit for the February 16 date. She will forward the invoice to Bruce for payment. She reported further that she is open to suggestions but is inclined to keep the menu and buffet format similar to prior years. The facility will be open for us from 5:30 PM through 10:30 PM, and in addition to food and beverages, the facility will provide a projection screen and sound system at a separate charge to us. The dinner menu will conclude with a cake, which the club will provide. Sean asked the group if the event should include a speaker or other presentation about motorcycling. Favorable comments were offered about recent speakers and their very enjoyable presentations. Sean will ask Bruce if he might be interested in sharing a presentation about his trip to Morocco. Others with ideas about possible speakers or subjects should contact Sean or Mary.

A question was raised as to whether there will be a gift exchange or similar auction at the 2019 banquet. Discussion followed about the pros and cons of a Chinese auction. Participation would be optional, and all are to be mindful of the need to keep things moving. Sean called for a vote on whether to include an auction. The vote was "Yes," so there will be a voluntary Chinese auction with a gift-value clearly stated and "stealing" opportunities limited to no more than two.

The suggestion was made that the group consider purchasing a 4 Winds bandana as a give-away for all members attending the banquet. The consensus favored the idea. Diane was asked to explore design, cost and quantities and to report back her findings.

Sean suggested as the next item of business the need for a re-write of the club's bylaws. He believes the current version is out-of-date and that the club will benefit if they are updated to reflect current operations, interests and activities. He noted that he had undertaken and completed the task a number of years ago and that it was time to do it again. Objectives for the re-write include to update the committee structure and to clarify the specific responsibilities for the various officers and directors in governing the club's affairs. Volunteers were invited to contact Sean if they are able to assist with the review and re-write. He noted the current bylaws are posted on the "About Us" link on the club's website.

Sean asked for any new business to be considered.

Discussion returned to the planning effort for the 2019 Annual 4 Winds Rally and ideas to address the declining participation last summer. Concerns were voiced about some of the deficiencies of Red Bank Municipal Park when compared, for example, to the facilities available at this year's national RA Rally in Wellsboro. Some comments were offered that we should not overlook the benefits of Red Bank facility, including cost, covered shelters for campers, shade trees, and the nearby roads that make for great excursions. Sean advised he would check with Tyler to learn more about the possibility of renting the refurbished Reception Hall to upgrade the location for the Tech session and presentations. No specific conclusion was stated other than an interest in sticking with some of the traditions that have made past rallies successful, including early camping arrangements, a bike show, group rides, and the field events where there are sufficient volunteers to organize these activities. Consideration should also be given to the substantial effort required to locate and vet alternative sites that might be within current budgeting limits.

Additional comments were offered about the hesitancy of new club members to become involved in running club activities and the inevitable reliance on old timers to step-in and volunteer. A suggestion was made to concentrate on efforts to organize small, group rides for new BMW motorcycle owners and other riders not familiar with 4 Winds. Friendships may develop and may lead to invitations to join in our club's activities given our common interests in motorcycling and the BMW marque.

Sean asked if there were any new members present. Paul Brown introduced himself; he is a long-time acquaintance of John (Humphrey.) Paul rides a 2010 R1200R and hails from Cranberry.

The meeting concluded with the 50/50 drawing, and Roberto's ticket was drawn.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM with a reminder that the next meeting will be on November 17th.

Respectfully submitted,
David Donley, Recording Secretary