



Sean Barrett

September 2018

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The weather is changing to a cooler temperature and the leaves are starting to change. This is my favorite time to ride even if it means that winter is coming, and I will need to start bundling up to go for a ride in the near future. For now, it is great. No more hot, muggy days, so let's get out there and ride.

For those of you that missed the Pancake Festival ride missed a good time. Adrian Marini, Jeff and Jacob Harlich, Holly Marcheck and I rode down there on back roads for pancakes. I had forgotten how crowded it gets and how difficult the parking can be but we survived it. Unfortunately, I had to leave the rest of the crowd on the way home to go to Johnstown and check on my father-in-law. This did give me the opportunity to explore a lot of back roads between Kingwood, WV and Johnstown, PA that I had never been on.

That is it for now, hope to see everyone at the next meeting.

Ride hard, ride safe, Sean



Minutes
Four Winds BMW Riders - General Membership Meeting
September 22, 2018, Leo Stanton's home, Finleyville PA

Sean Barrett, President, presiding

Sean called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM. There were 25 members attending, arriving on 15 bikes. He thanked Leo for his hospitality for once again hosting the meeting. A tally sheet was circulated for all contest participants to record their points for this meeting.

Sean reported on the first item of business, the annual election of the Board. The procedure would be to announce those persons having already expressed an interest to Sean and then to open the meeting for nominations from the floor. With the exception of Sean, all current Board members have indicated an interest in serving in the same capacity for the year ahead: Adrian as Vice President, Bruce as Treasurer, John and Mary as Corresponding Secretary / Social Director, Vince as Director, Jeff as Director and the undersigned as Recording Secretary. A candidate for President has not emerged. Sean opened the meeting for additional nominations for any of the positions, and in particular, if anyone might wish to be President. No further names were offered, and Sean suggested the slate would be confirmed by unanimous consent if no further nominations were received by the close of today's meeting. As voting will occur at the October meeting, additional time is available to consider how to handle the vacancy for the President's position.

The next item of business was a recommendation from Sean that a change in governing responsibilities be implemented. He suggested that, following elections of the new Board of Directors, the club's affairs to be turned over to newly elected officers and directors each October (or November) in lieu of the past practice of waiting until the following February. During the transition period, the winter months, the outgoing Governors and Directors would continue to participate in an advisory capacity. The benefit would be to allow those persons ultimately responsible for events to start planning and preparations sooner. Brief discussion followed, after which the President called for a vote. The change was approved and will be implemented with the next month's election.

A question was also posed as to whether the length of the term for officers and directors should be changed from one year to three. The projected benefits would be the continuity in event planning and the greater experience enjoyed by event planners following the initial year while relaxing the pressure to find new volunteers on an annual basis. The downside could be to discourage volunteers where a three-year commitment is anticipated. In the course of discussion, former officers and directors noted that for the most part they were not limiting their service to one year; most were serving consecutive terms ranging from two to five years. No action was taken.

Discussion next turned to what was characterized as the larger problem on how to encourage younger people to join the club and how to bring new blood into the club's leadership. A few long-term club members observed that years ago, the club served other purposes such as a means to develop BMW technical knowledge and wrenching skills as well as an alternative to other clubs. A consensus developed that simple solutions would be difficult to identify. As a practical matter, the younger generation's interests in motorcycling may be changing away from the BMW / 4 Winds traditions.

Sean noted that in all circumstances the club's bylaws are in need of review; he anticipates doing so in the months ahead. He invited volunteers familiar with club activities to participate in the review or otherwise to offer suggestions. The bylaws are available on the club's website at the "About Us" page.

Bruce offered a report on this year's annual 4 Winds Rally on August 17-19. Participation was smaller than in recent years, perhaps due to weather and competition from other rallies. Profit will be about \$500. Sean thanked Vince for putting the event together and all of the other volunteers for their contributions. Notable highlights of the week-end included Bruce's presentation on Saturday and this year's tee-shirt design. Compliments were extended to Diane and others helping with the design and sales this year.

The question was raised as to planning for a similar rally for next year, and suggestions were invited as to how to increase participation. The success of the rally in past years has helped a lot in subsidizing some of the annual banquet expense. Consideration was given to simplifying the schedule of events and a search for a different venue, perhaps Antioch Village or Pioneer Park Campground in Somerset. Some thought we might find a local park with better restroom facilities and a swimming pool for example. Diane summarized the attributes of Red Bank Municipal Park that should be remembered: cost, the amount of shade available on the grounds, the nearby two-laners and indoor camping. Walt suggested we might consider joining with another club, Laurel Highlands, to combine rallies and assure better participation for both clubs. Difficulties in working through a combined event would be the different approaches of each club. 4 Winds has always had field events, speakers and presentations where Laurel Highlands prefers a camp-out with daily rides. To the extent a consensus emerged, it was to remain with our current venue because of the benefits in hand and embrace a small, close group if that is what develops. Modest increases in the banquet costs can be considered if the financial contribution from the rally dries up. There would appear to be sufficient resources in the current treasury to provide some time to see which direction the rally will take.

Discussion turned to a question of whether or not the club should forego gift basket prizes at next year's banquet due to the smaller profit from this year's rally. A lot of support was voiced for continuing the practice. Sean called for a vote, and by a large margin, members want the banquet to include the gift-basket give aways. Mary will pursue purchasing them as the time for next year's banquet gets closer.

Adrian reported that he will be leading a ride to the Buckwheat Pancake Festival in Kingwood next Saturday. All are invited; interested riders should bring an appetite and meet at 9 AM at the Get-Go where Route 51 crosses Interstate 70.

Bruce noted that the Distinguished Gentlemen's Ride will also be held next Saturday, with a meeting point in Schenley Park. The ride is an annual fundraiser for men's health, and anyone interested in participating is welcome.

Dennis offered his rally report which included attending MOA National Rally in Des Moines, characterized this year by Iowa's extreme summertime heat, and the RA event in Wellsboro PA. 4 Winds was well represented at Wellsboro and very enjoyable. The local scenery was spectacular. Diane and Tim were thanked for their photographic efforts which we published in the RA On The Level magazine and are now posted on the website. For some members, the availability of dormitories at a nearby college was a good alternative to camping.

Sean reported that he and Nancy attended the MOA Get-Away earlier in the month at the Pine Mountain Resort in Pine Mountain KY. It was very enjoyable group and a new alternative to those whose outdoor camping days may be behind them. He encouraged others to look into one of the future get-aways scheduled through out the year.

Sean asked if there were any new members present. Two were present: Scott Alexander (R1100 RT) and Don Scelza (R1200 RT). Each spoke briefly about their two-wheel experience and were welcomed. Adrian introduced Marion, his guest who was attended her first 4 Winds meeting.

Sean asked if there was any additional new business. Items reported were:

- Jack reported that he is selling both of his BMW's and his Vespa. Anyone interested in a good deal should contact him.
- Walt reported that Ralph Meyers sends his greetings to all and hopes he will be able to attend a meeting in the near future. He also is very good about returning emails, and all were encouraged to drop him a line.
- Sean noted that it was good to see Glen Kidd who was able to continue his long tradition of supporting the 4 Four Winds Rally this year.
- Wishes for a Happy Birthday were extended to Tim.

Marge brought up the costs of club name tags and a question as to whether the club should continue to absorb the postage costs for new orders. Following discussion, the membership approved adding the postage cost to the price of the name tags and is to be collected at the time the order is placed.

Hearing no additional new business, Sean called for the 50-50 drawing. New member, Scott's ticket was drawn, demonstrating clearly that it pays to join the club.

Upon motion of Jeff and second by Bob, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
David Donley, Acting Recording Secretary