



November 2019

John Humphrey

## ***PRESIDENT'S CORNER***

30 members were in attendance at the Perrysville Draft House meeting. It was a cool, sunny day, but in mid 40s later in the day. Congratulations to David Donley, Leo Stanton and Joe Burns who were the only hardy souls who rode to the meeting.

The elected officers for next year are: John Humphrey, President; Vince Giannetti, Vice President; Marge Humphrey, Treasurer; Joe Marnell, Corresponding Secretary; David Donley, Recording Secretary, Diane Pears & Joann Barr, Web Masters; Ed Tatters, Board member. Vince has volunteered to handle the Annual Banquet. Vince is considering Casa Narcissi as the new location for the annual banquet. As in past years paid members will receive a discount on the costs for the banquet.

New member James Gravante joined last week and Mark Frumkin joined at the meeting.

Shawn Mehaffey, Marketing Manager from Mosites Motorsports made a presentation regarding their plans for the new BMW dealership in Pittsburgh. Mosites is renovating a building to open BMW, Ducati and Triumph at the current location in North Versailles. The building will open in the spring of 2020. You can order parts from Mosites or club member, Simeon at [www.BeemerParts.com](http://www.BeemerParts.com). Service and Sales are currently available from BMW of Cleveland or Kissel Motorsports in Tyrone, PA. Kissel will pick up and deliver BMWs for service.

Bob Mihalics and Adrian have both taken the Edelweiss Tours of the Alps. Bob is going back again this year and will do a "double" tour while in Europe. They talked about the nature of the route, the bikes and the costs.

I want to take a moment to talk about the website. There is a great deal of effort to goes into a good website ...and we have one. Diane, Joann and John Hetzel do a lot of work in the background to keep it running smoothly. Just last week, "Members Only" has been revised to make it easier to navigate. You must request access from Joann for this list. Purchasing from our online store for banquet, membership or

rally does not require a PayPal account. We have added a message that PayPal only processes the payment. You can use your credit or debit card. When it's time to pay, look for a small blue link that takes you to your credit or debit card processing. The Forum is being utilized more and more. Remember, Diane or Joann must approve your request to post on the forum, but anyone can read the forum posts. Please look at the Index tab to keep your posts confined to the correct area in the forum. The Event Calendar is being maintained mostly by John Hetzel. John received a round of applause for this great work as our Corresponding Secretary.

With the exception of the cold snap last week, this is usually the best time of the year to ride. It's mostly cool and sunny. When I was at Seven Springs this weekend, they have made plenty of snow. You better get your rides in before it's all over for the year. Winter is coming...

There is no meeting in December. I wish all of you a great Holiday season and I'll see everyone on January 18th 2020. The location is TBD. -- John

## **Minutes**

### **Four Winds BMW Riders - General Membership Meeting November 16, 2019 Perrytown Drafthouse, Perrysville PA John Humphrey, presiding**

John called the meeting to order at 12:55. In addition to John, 28 other members and guests attended. Three rode.

As the first item of business, John confirmed the transition of responsibilities from the old Board of Directors to the new Board is underway. John, Marge, Diane, Joann and David continue with their responsibilities from the current year. Vince will shift to the Vice President's position and is well acquainted with his new duties. Joe Marnell, Corresponding Secretary, and Ed Tatters, Director-at-large are up to speed with their new responsibilities.

John next welcomed Sean from Mosites Motorsports who was attending his first meeting following Mosites' acquisition of the BMW dealership. John asked anyone else was attending their first club meeting. Mark Frumpkin introduced himself. Mark (RT and 750 GS) has recently relocated to the Pittsburgh area from Hazelton PA and looks forward to meeting other BMW riders and attending Four Winds events. John reported Jim Gravante has recently joined the club but was not able to attend today's meeting. John also welcomed back Tom Fuery. Tom thanked all for the speedy-recovery card and accompanying well wishes and reported he hopes soon to be back to top form following a recent encounter with a Silverado.

John invited Sean to update members on Mosites Motorsport's new dealership plans. Sean expressed his appreciation for today's invitation. He mentioned that all of the former Wexford dealership's inventory was acquired in an asset-purchase deal and that Mosites plans a completely fresh start for the BMW marque. A new showroom is under construction adjacent to Mosites' current building in North Versailles. It will also house the dealer's existing Triumph and Ducati operations. Offers have been extended to the staff formerly working at Wexford, and at least one person, Justin in Service, will be making the move. A specific date for the new opening is not available, but it will be early next Spring. In the meantime, efforts continue in hopes of finalizing some additional details, namely, airhead servicing with Craig Immel's assistance, track-days at PittRace (Wampum PA), securing the services of another BMW technician previously working at the Wexford dealership.

Bob (Mihalics) suggested a soft opening for Four Winds members next Spring would be a great way to introduce many BMW enthusiasts to the new dealership.

Upcoming Mosites' events include an reception at the ACE Hotel in East Liberty on November 21 featuring a roll-out of the 2020 Triumph line-up. All are invited; additional details are posted on the dealership website ([www.mositesmotorsports.com](http://www.mositesmotorsports.com).) The dealership is also interested in new ideas to promote its business to BMW riders. John will contact him regarding sponsorship opportunities at the 2020 Four Winds rally in August.

Tom (Fuery) noted the RA will host its 2020 Winter Rally in Marietta OH in the first week of January. Look for updates on the RA website.

Vince suggested the annual banquet will be scheduled for Saturday, February 15, 2020, and in the interest of variety, he proposed to confirm arrangements at a new location, La Casa Narcisi Winery. He invited any comments. A few questions were followed by favorable comments supporting Vince's proposal. The restaurant is located on Route 910 (4578 Gibsonia Road) in Gibsonia. Vince noted the costs would be a bit higher than last year's but that the Board will most likely continue the practice of subsidizing a portion of the expense for members wishing to attend. So the costs for members to attend will likely be similar to those charged for the past several years.

Ed (Syphan) mentioned he and Michelle recently enjoyed a Saturday evening at La Casa Narcisi which turned out to include music and some impromptu festivities. Ed questioned whether music might not be a nice addition for our banquet this year; the guitar player was quite entertaining. Dennis mentioned that Restless Ray and the Rockets might also be worth exploring as Ray's music has always been enjoyed at the annual rally. Vince will look further into the question of music; it may be a nice substitute in lieu of the Yankee Swap raffle. Vince will contact Marge regarding a deposit.

John next asked who rode to the meeting today; Leo, Joe (Burns) and the undersigned each reported it was a fine day for riding motorcycles.

John noted a tweak for website's Members Only page has been completed. After entering the website, the home page displays all options available to users as in the past. Select the "Members Only" tab and scroll down to login portion of the page. Note the text highlighted in yellow. After logging in with your user ID and password, registered members will see their individual profile and may then select the "Members Only" tab again to display a sub-menu with the members-only content, currently the roster and members' location map. Joann continues to be the contact for login permissions for anyone not currently registered.

John introduced the topic for today's presentation: a discussion about Edelweiss Bike Travel, an international motorcycle touring company. It provides an extensive listing motorcycle tours. Bob and Adrian led the discussion. Adrian enjoyed a week touring in the Alps this past summer, and Bob likewise has enjoyed several Edelweiss adventures through the Alps in 2017 and 2018. Both Bob and Adrian suggest a tour is a must-do experience. The company is in the planning stages for its 40th Anniversary tours in 2020. Tours are safety oriented, led by experienced guides over some very challenging roads. Accommodations are geared to providing participants with a true Alps experience. Some tips for those interested:

- a two-week stay is recommended for all who have the time and resources;
- select a tour from the extensive listing and book it through the company's website ([www.edelweissbike.com](http://www.edelweissbike.com)), but make your own air travel arrangements;
- ground transportation to and from the tour meeting place and ending sites is an important detail...leave yourself some extra time;
- plan to arrive a day early to settle in...once the tour starts, it's a full day of challenging riding from the outset;
- an extra day at the end is highly recommended to provide for an orderly wind-down and the trip home,
- if you select one of the "extreme" tours, pack carefully; a chaser van may not be available.

Bob also mentioned his experience last summer with a 5-day rider training course, the BMW Riders Academy at the BMW Performance Center near Spartanburg, SC. His experience included both off-road and closed-course road sessions, but several other options are available, including one to take delivery of a new BMW, either two or four-wheeled. Details and schedules are available at the performance center's website ([www.bmwperformancecenter.com](http://www.bmwperformancecenter.com)). Questions followed. Holly (Marchak) cautioned that the MOA promotional efforts suggesting reimbursement of a portion of the cost is available, is conditioned on a requirement for a 30-day advance reservation. That requirement must be strictly observed. No exceptions.

Sean reported that he and Nancy enjoyed very much the MOA Getaway Rally at Jays Peak VT in the first week of October. He encouraged all members to try one of these lodge-based events scheduled at various locations throughout the year, particularly for Four Winds members whose camping days may be behind them.

John next asked for the Treasurer's report. Marge advised receipts over the past month have included annual dues for two new members as well as 50/50 proceeds. Expenses consist of a monthly fee to use Mail-Chimp software and a \$30 (approximate) fee for website enhancements. The checking account balance has not changed appreciably over the past month and should be sufficient to support a partial subsidy of the annual banquet cost for members current with their dues.

Hearing no further no business, John thanked Sean and Nancy for the help with today's 50/50 and called for the drawing. Ed Syphan's ticket was drawn; he left the meeting with an extra \$40.

Upon motion of Vince and Sean's second, the meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Donley, Recording Secretary

BMW Motorcycles of Cleveland: 330.562.5200  
[www.bmwoc.com](http://www.bmwoc.com)

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Genuine BMW Motorcycle Parts: 412.313.4918  
[www.beemerparts.com](http://www.beemerparts.com)

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Kissell Motorsports: 814.861.7890  
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