



September 2019

John Humphrey

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As far as I was concerned, the BMW RA National in Woodstock was perfect. Nice weather, cool temps most of the day, no rain, slightly overcast. ...And the roads... Wow!

Dunlop was a major sponsor of the RA and had very special prices on the RoadSmart III tires. So, I purchased front and rear tires from Kissel Motorsports who mounted them at the Rally.

The difference was night and day! The twisty roads around Woodstock were a good time. I rode to and from the rally with Vince, but I chose not to go on a Plantation tour and instead, got my rear tire "chicken strip" down to about ½". Tim Pears gave me directions to a little mountain town and that ride was exciting. When you see big orange signs saying; "next 3 miles dangerous curves for motorcycles", I knew I had found the right roads.

Our 53rd Annual 4 Winds Rally was a big success. We had 191 guests at the rally. We made money this year. You may recall last year it was rainy and we were about break even. It takes months of pre-planning and a lot of effort to pull off our Rally each year. Thanks again to everyone who helped.

The trip home from Leo Stanton's house was a typical South Hills ride. The route we took passed many, many yard sales that were taking advantage of something about Covered Bridges. Lots of very slow traffic and 86 degrees. No fun. Too bad Sean wasn't at the meeting. I have followed him out and he's the only one that knows the good routes in the South. He needs to post the good routes on the forum for the rest of us. Joe Marnell took route 51. That road is as bad as it gets. As soon as I could, I jumped on 79 North and got moving.

At this month's meeting, members are nominated to help run the club. Vince has agreed to be Vice President, Joe Marnell has accepted the nomination of Corresponding Secretary. This is a computer-based position and Joe is very qualified for this position. He is working with John Hetzel to make the transition as smooth as possible. David Donley will continue as Recording Secretary and Marge and I will stay on as Treasurer and President for another year. Ed Tatters

has agreed to be the Board member-at-large. Ed is highly-qualified to be “at-large”. Diane and Joann will continue managing our excellent website. We have come such a long way with the website since I joined the club. The Social Director position is vacant at this time. Contact me if you are interested. Vince has offered to handle the February banquet as we are unable to find a Social Director.

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to keep the club running strong next year. Adrian, John and Mary Hetzel will be finishing their terms this year. My sincere thanks for their help.

If you have a problem with receiving club email, logging in, purchasing from the on-line store, let me know. More and more transactions are conducted by credit cards at the rally, banquet and membership payments. Next month’s meeting is at our house. I plan to make a presentation about the website, the on-line store, members only login and the forum. I expect Diane will be at the meeting to help. If you have any problems or questions, “I will show and tell”.

See you next month “up North” at our house. 180 State Rd. Valencia, PA 16059. If you haven’t been here before, it’s in the vicinity of Rt 8 and Rt 228.

John Humphrey



FOUR WINDS 2019 RALLY photos:

<https://fourwindsbmw.smugmug.com/FourWindsAnnualRallies/4-Winds/2019-Four-Winds-Rally/>

BMW RA (Rider’s Assoc.) RALLY, WOODSTOCK, VA photos:

<https://fourwindsbmw.smugmug.com/FourWindsAnnualRallies/BMW-RA/2019-Woodstock-VA/>

TWIN VALLEY RALLY, MEADOWS OF DA, VA photos:

<https://fourwindsbmw.smugmug.com/FourWindsAnnualRallies/Others/2019-Twin-Valley-Meadows-of-Dan-VA/>

Minutes

Four Winds BMW Riders - General Membership Meeting September 21, 2019, Leo Stanton's home, Finleyville PA

John Humphrey, presiding

John called the meeting to order at 12:50 PM. In addition to John 16 other members and guest attended, arriving on 12 bikes.

John first reported the distressing news that Gordon "Gordy" Mackrell, Service Manager at the Wexford dealership, passed away earlier this month. He succumbed to internal injuries following an accident in Tennessee. An obituary was recently published with additional details. Gordy will be missed.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/butlereagle/obituary.aspx?n=gordon-douglas-mackrell&pid=193884026&fhid=17313>

As the first item of business, John reported the 53rd Annual Four Winds BMW Riders Rally was a success, with 191 participants. He asked Marge to summarize the financial results and any pertinent details. She reported receipts exceeded expenses by \$1,716. With this result, the club's checking-account balance has been restored to a comfortable level. The balance will support the club's traditional activities for the coming year. Of the 191 participants, only 53 had registered prior to arriving. There were 4 persons arriving only for Saturday's dinner as well as 5 'no-shows' from the list of pre-registrations. In response to a question, Marge estimated the cost to the club to put on the rally was a bit north of \$9,400 this year. Tee shirt sales contributed an estimated \$478; they sold-out early on Saturday.

John thanked Joe Burns, this year's Rally Chair, for a successful event. Thanks are also due to the other volunteers helping this year, including Marge, JoAnn and Joe (Marnell) who along with Sean and Nancy kept things organized at the registration desk.

Thanks were also extended to Leo for attending to the complimentary coffee station chores as well as for hosting today's meeting. When questioned, Leo speculated that today's meeting was probably the 41st occasion for the club to meet at his home. A round of applause for Leo followed.

John also thanked Ken Kucel for this year's tee-shirt design, Diane for all of her work in assuring another year of successful tee-shirt ordering and sales, and Don (Poremski) for organizing the field events. This year's speaker, Eric Trow was well received and provided a timely message on safety. John invited any club members who might be interested in chairing the 2020 rally to contact him; the success of the rally is due to the substantial efforts of all the volunteers who pitch in.

Take-aways from this year's rally are:

- a greater price differential between pre-registration versus "walk-in / ride-in" registration might create a greater incentive to pre-register,
- the switch to the performance-fabric for tee-shirts was a winner,
- a higher quantity of tee-shirts should be ordered next year,
- a pre-payment requirement for tee-shirt orders should be considered as a means to simplify things at the registration table, and
- the Red Bank facility provides a big advantage to the club when costs, flexibility and location concerns are taken into account.

John called for New Business. He noted the most important matter at this time of the year is the nomination of candidates for next year's officers and Board. Several current officers will not be returning. John invited interested persons to contact him or another Board member. The slate of new candidates who have stepped up for the coming year are:

- Corresponding Secretary: Joe Marnell
- Vice President: Vince Giannetti
- Director at Large: Ed Tatters

Current officers volunteering to return are: John Humphrey (President), Marge Humphrey (Treasurer), Diane Pears and JoAnn Barr (Webmasters) and the undersigned (Recording Secretary). No volunteers have as yet expressed interest in the Social Director's position, although Vince has volunteered to organize next year's annual banquet in February.

Voting will occur at the October monthly meeting which is scheduled for October 19th the John and Marge's home. Before leaving the subject of next year's Board, John noted that special recognition was in order for Hetz who will be ending his tenure as the club's Corresponding Secretary. Hetz was complimented for his sustained and substantial effort in serving as the Corresponding Secretary for a number of years. Hetz is largely responsible for a successful transition to the MailChimp platform to keep the membership abreast of club activities. The Board anticipates that club will continue to rely upon MailChimp along with the club's website as the principal means of coordinating club activities and sharing information with members. Hetz's work has demonstrated a sound basis exists for relying on this approach. A hearty round of applause followed for Hetz.

There will be a presentation at the October General Membership meeting covering the website's capabilities and an explanation as to how some of its features may be used.

John asked for any additional new business. Hopes for a speedy recovery were offered to Holly who is recovering from a hand injury. She has returned to work, although her injury will require some more time to heal.

John asked for new member introductions, if any were attending. John Gregory (2013 K1600 GTL and 2007 KLR) stepped forward. John resides in Morgantown, and although he and his wife, Kristie, have attended several club events, today is his first monthly meeting. John confirmed it was a great ride up from Morgantown this morning with this week-end's great weather and he was looking forward to another trip tomorrow, possibly to Canaan Valley.

Vince noted he will begin exploring plans for February's banquet in the months ahead and may consider alternatives to the Chadwick Banquet Center. There has been no problem with the recent events at the Chadwick, but he thinks it a good idea also to consider other venues. He invited members to contact him if they had suggestions.

Upon motion of Vince and second by Ed, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Donley, Recording Secretary