



September 2020

Meeting Recap & Minutes

Meeting Highlights – Monthly meeting at North Boundary Park – Cranberry Township – Sept. 29, 2020

- 19 members / 17 bikes
- Club officers and directors set for the coming year
- Objectives and a new approach
- Recap of this year's Four Winds Rally
- Smile Amazon
- Group projects
- Treasurer's Report
- Upcoming Events

Question of the day: *That pristine lime green Hondamatic 750 Who owns it?*

Quote of the day: *I wish I had a job so that I could have more spare time Who said it ?*

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Thanks to Don Scelza, photos from the September meeting are posted here in our SmugMug photo gallery:

<https://fourwindsbmw.smugmug.com/Events/2020/September-Cranberry-North-Bounda/>



Minutes
Four Winds BMW Riders - General Membership Meeting
Saturday, September 26,2020
Reynolds Property Shelter, North Boundary Park - Cranberry Township PA

The meeting was called to order at 12:20 AM. 19 members and guests attended, arriving on 17 bikes. With the consent of the Board of Directors, Joe Burns stepped up to lead the meeting. He noted that the Board has met several times following a change in leadership. He has been in touch with the MOA staff as to recommendations and resources available from the national organization with respect to the Four Winds MOA charter.

The first item of business was to report the slate of candidates offering to serve during the coming year. Nominations are:

President: Chuck Weber,
Vice President: Joe Burns,
Treasurer: Ed Tatters,
Recording Secretary: David Donley,
Corresponding Secretary: Joe Marnell
Web Master: Diane Pears and JoAnn Barr will continue to share responsibilities, and
Director at Large: Dennis Mickanin.

No other volunteers emerged; so the Officers and Directors appear set for further consideration and election. Consistent with the by-laws, voting is to occur at the October monthly meeting.

Joe next updated members on the Board's current objectives; namely, (1) to preserve the traditions of group riding, an annual Four Winds rally and an annual banquet and (2) to ease the day-to-day chores assumed by volunteers running the organization. The means to these ends may be (1) the option of greater reliance on the Four Winds Facebook Group and (2) an update of the club's website. For some, the convenience of the Facebook platform, its ease of access and its informality is appealing. Additional efforts are underway to update administration of the Four Winds Facebook presence. The Board understands that social media brings with it a need for oversight and separate administrative tasks. Those tasks appear manageable. Participation on Facebook remains voluntary at all times. With respect to updating the club's website, the MOA provides a template for chartered clubs to use. Preliminary investigation of this resource shows it should be pursued. Some on the Board are also acquainted with another example, the "Dognition Motors" approach (www.dognitionmotors.com). Notable is the informality involved in belonging to this group.

Joe next recapped the experience of this year's Four Winds rally in New Bethlehem. 115 members and guests were registered for the event. Unlike the past several years, the week-end remained rain-free, an outcome welcomed by all. The cloud of Covid-19 appears to have suppressed the overall turn-out but not the spirit of those who did attend. A frequent refrain was one of appreciation that this year's rally was not cancelled as happened with so many others. Substantially all of the attendees and vendors appeared to have few if any reservations in complying with the social distancing and other guidelines for personal safety out-of-doors. Special thanks were offered to Josh Nolten, co-owner of Kissell Motorsports (www.kissellmotorsports.com), who arrived on Saturday with at least six BMW demo bikes and conducted demo rides throughout the day. The evening movie offering, *Ford v. Ferrari*, was enjoyed by many. The caterer, new this year, received high marks for the menu and quality of food, but additional attention will be required next year to assure sufficient quantity for late arrivals. The change in protocol required to observe social distancing at Saturday's dinner was not an issue; the table set-up and extended window for dining worked well. The "covid-19" theme for this year's tee-shirt design was popular. Revenue from the rally was down this year. That result was anticipated. Expenses were higher, in part due to additional sanitation requirements. Expenses exceeded revenue by \$500 or so, but that result was not a surprise to the Rally Committee given this year's circumstances. A round of applause followed for Joe. Joe in turn expressed his appreciation to Ed, Joe (Marnell), Diane and others who pitched in to make the event a success.

Joe volunteered to chair next year's rally and offered his perspective that, with a bit of experience gained over the past two years together with the substantial contributions of members who volunteer to take on specific tasks related to the rally, it's not that difficult to organize a successful rally. It's an important part of the club's tradition. He would like to see it continue along with additional efforts by the club to give back to the motorcycling community and, more particular, the objective enhancing safety and education. In this respect he has recently taken on the position of Regional Coordinator for the MOA and believes it's mission is worthy of the club's full support.

Bob Mihalics commented that one means of support may be readily at hand for members who use Amazon to purchase goods or services. Any user may set up a Smile Amazon account and use it lieu of a regular Amazon purchasing transaction. With Smile Amazon, the user may designate the BMW MOA Foundation, a not-for-profit effort to advance rider safety, education and training, to receive a portion of Amazon's profits from each transaction. Collectively, the Smile Amazon platform diverts millions of dollars to various non-profits each year. It does not increase the user's purchasing costs or diminish the ease of using the system. It's just an alternative to using the regular Amazon platform with a special twist to send a bit of the profits to the non-profit sector.

On the subject of giving back, another idea was raised -- a project to show the club's appreciation to Red Bank Municipal Park for it's cooperation in making our past rally experiences a success. For example, the shelter customarily housing the coffee station is in considerable disrepair; that development was quite evident this year. Joe (Burns) noted that he may have access to lumber and other supplies throughout the year and could save material to donate should a project be organized. With an effort extending over a week-end or two, the club should have sufficient talent and manpower to rehab the shelter as a donation to the park. This idea was very well received, although time may be running short in this year's building season. The Board will keep this idea on it's agenda.

In concluding discussion on a direction for the club in the months ahead, several participants noted the importance of looking forward to new objectives and new approaches, leaving past differences in personal opinions or judgments behind. Differences will not serve well the need to move forward with our common interests in motorcycle safety and enjoyment.

Ed next provided the Treasurer's report, including the checking account balance which has declined by \$600 or so, largely due to rally expenses. The rally generated \$5,290 in receipts and \$5,871 in expenses. A few additional expenses may be outstanding. The rally attracted three new members, and an additional rider has joined since the rally concluded. Ed volunteered to conduct a 50-50 raffle today but interest did not materialize.

Thanks were extended to Vince and Diane for making today's arrangements at the North Boundry Park pavillion.

Upcoming events are:

- the October 17th monthly meeting to be hosted by Bob & Kelly Monheim, Vandergrift PA.
- a Rock'n Roll ride event in Zelenople PA later today.
- Also, along the lines of preliminary chatter, a possible Fall lunch event at Narcissi's winery on Sunday, Oct. 11, followed by a leaf-peeping ride to Foxburg PA. Details would be posted on the website.

Hearing no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

David Donley, Recording Secretary