

MAY



2008

MOA # 6

www.4windsbmw.org

RA # 76



WEST BREAKFAST RIDE VENUE CHANGE

Please note: Starting this month, the West Breakfast Ride will meet at the Bob Evans, corner of Rte 60 & Campbell's Run Rd rather than Eat 'n Park. Bob Evans is said to be less crowded, and the food is equally good if not better. Bob Evans is just diagonally across 60 from Eat 'n Park.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER: ROLLIN' ON MY FIDDY

One of my young coworkers asked me a question as I was leaving work for the day. "You rollin' on your fiddy?"

"Excuse me Slim Shady, but I don't speak hip-hop. Would you be kind enough to rephrase your question in plain English?"

He explained that a "fiddy" is a 50cc scooter (literally 49ccs), which is what I am riding these days.

I am currently on day seventeen of a 49 day challenge to ride a 49cc scooter 49 miles a day, rain or shine. I am doing this to promote scooters as alternative transportation and hopefully sell a few. But I have some misgivings about promoting motorcycles and scooters simply for the sake of fuel economy.

Riding a motorcycle or scooter just to save money on gas is like making love for the sake of the exercise. It is certainly a benefit, but it's the wrong motivation. Perhaps you are old enough to remember when Americans bought mopeds in great numbers during the oil embargo of the 1970's. How many of those mopeds do you suppose ever had enough miles put on them to need an oil change or a first service appointment? An idle scooter saves no gas.

If the summer of 2008 is a redux of the

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MAY MEETING INFO

The next meeting of the Four Winds BMW Riders will be held on Sat., May. 17th, 2008 at Tony Capriotti's, 1857 Outlook Drive, Verona, PA, 15147 in Penn Hills from 2-5 PM. Meat & drink will be provided. **Bring either a covered dish side, an appetizer, or a dessert.** Directions to Tony's are on the last page.

PUBLICATION INFO

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Editor: Ralph Meyer

Deadline: Articles submitted must be received by the editor no later than 6:00 PM on the Tuesday after the club meeting of the month preceding the month of publication (e.g., May Meeting: May 17; **Sept. issue deadline: Tues., May 20th**). Articles/Info rec'd after deadline go in next month's newsletter.

Submission information:

E-mail submissions: Send as **attachments** with "4 Winds Newsletter Article" in the e-mail 'Subject' line to:

<meyer@zoominternet.net>

Articles on Disk Media mail to:

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Submission formats:

Articles: Send as plain text with headings and hdg depth defined, or in Word Processor (e.g., MS Word) format. Save trees: avoid paper if you can.

Pictures and graphics: Submit in JPEG or TIFF format with clearly marked locations in the article.

Long articles may be split between issues.

National Club Affiliations: Four Winds BMW Riders is chartered club #6 of the BMWMOA and chartered club #76 of the BMWRA

Newsletters in color PDF format are at the Four Winds Site, www.4windsbmw.org. Download a free Adobe PDF reader by clicking the 'Get Adobe Reader' button at www.adobe.com and following the directions thereafter provided.

MEETING SCHEDULE 2008

Mark the dates on your calendars, but remember...

All meeting sites are tentative. Please check the web site and newsletter for changes and updates.

May 17, 2008 — Tony Capriotti's, Penn Hills

June, 2008 — President's Ride--Exact Date & Loc TBA--See p. 5*

July 19, 2008 — Ed and Michelle Syphan's

August, 2008 — Friday, August 15 to Sunday, August 17
42nd Annual Four Winds Rally!

September 20, 2008 — TBA

October 18, 2008 — TBA

November 15, 2008 — TBA

December, 2008 — No Monthly Meeting

MAY, 2008 SHACK

May 14, 7-10PM at Carl Hartz's, 69 Steen Hollow Road, Oakdale, PA 15071, Ph.: 724-693-0219.

Directions: From the Kirwin Heights exit of I-79 turn left onto Rt. 50 (Washington Pike). At next traffic signal, turn left onto Thoms Run Rd, (see Chartiers Valley High School on your left). Follow Thoms Run Rd to Steen Hollow Rd. Turn Left on Steen Hollow Rd to #69 on your left.

If you follow Thoms Run into Oakdale, U-turn, go up the hill and make the first right onto Steen Hollow.

70's, there will be a noticeable increase of motorcycles and scooters on the road. But many of these machines purchased to offset high fuel prices, like the mopeds of the 1970's, will be forgotten by next riding season and left in a corner of the garage to collect dust, develop dry-rotted tires and serve no purpose but to keep company with the stationary bicycle and the Bowflex machine.

Simply put, saving money on gas is a lousy reason to ride. Life-long adult motorcycle riders were the neighborhood kids who

ONGOING EVENTS

Breakfast Rides, et al.:

These rides are free-form. *Those attending decide what they want to do and where, if anywhere, they want to ride.* If you just want to show up in the car and have breakfast with fellow motorcyclists, that's fine too.

COME! EAT! CHAT! RIDE!

Ride Schedule — Month:

Sun, May 4 — North at King's, I-79 & Rt 910/VIP Dr., 10:00 AM

Sat, May 10 — West at Bob Evans, Rt 60 & Campbell's Run Rd, 9:00 AM

Sun, May 18 — South at King's, 3049 Washington Pike, off Exit 54, I-79, Bridgeville, 10:00 AM

Sat, May 24 — East at Dick's, Rt 22 Westbound Side, Monroeville, 9:00 AM

If you're going to a breakfast ride, you might want to notify others: It's not necessary, but it'd be nice to let others know you're going to a particular Breakfast Ride by putting a notice on the 4-Winds Site Message Board's Breakfast Ride section saying so. That'll help save a rider from discovering too late that no one else is going that day. The Breakfast Ride's URL is: <http://www.4windsbmw.org/forum/viewforum.php?f=9>. Be sure to erase your post after the ride if you can so the board doesn't get cluttered.

practically wore out their bicycles, before graduating to a mini-bike and then a dirt bike. When we were old enough to drive, many of us rode small displacement Honda street bikes, and as time went on and we could afford it, many of us upgraded to progressively larger, faster and more expensive street machines, infinitely more capable than those first small displacement bikes that ignited our life-long passion for motorcycles.

As an adult rider who has grown accus-

tom to the performance of a 130 hp sport-touring bike, I was surprised to find myself completely enthralled by riding an Aprilia SR50 scooter down a very steep hill at 55+ mph. I was grinning ear to ear when suddenly a childhood memory flashed in my mind. I was reminded of the first mini-bike I ever rode at the age of 13. It was an insanely fast death trap with no brakes and powered by a 2-stroke McCulloch chain-saw engine.

In the thirty-six years that followed since that first ride, I have ridden well over 100,000 miles on some very impressive motorcycles; some costing as much as a decent house did in 1972. But like a time machine, that little 2-stroke "fiddy" transported me to that magical first ride when I was 13 years old. As vividly as it was yesterday, I remembered the sensation of speed, and the harsh exhaust note of the 2-stroke engine that seemed to rattle the window panes of each house as I passed. I never felt more powerful in my young life. I was convinced of my immortality, I believed everything was possible, and I never gave a thought to the price of a gallon of gas.

Mitch



BEAUTIFUL SUNSET

Sent in by Diane Pears. This looks like one she would have taken as an avid shutterbug who sees good things. Whatever the situation, this certainly wasn't a case of "A tree grows in Brooklyn" as no tree in Brooklyn could compare. Note the road at the bottom of the picture. This is the kind of thing a motorcyclist would see, unhampered by a steel cage!



FOUR WINDS BMW RIDERS APRIL 19TH MEETING MINUTES

Location: Uno's Chicago Grill, Cranberry

Board Attendance: Tom Primke, Ralph Meyer, Joann Barr, Diane Pears, Ron Latkovik

Treasurer Tom Primke called the meeting to order.

Old Business: The President's Ride was discussed. Foxburg Inn has one large room which cost \$150 to rent and is already booked most of June. Considering the less crowded hours they recommend are Sat. before 4pm or Sun. after 4pm, as well as people's preference for days, it was voted to leave it on Sat. for a late lunch time. If Mitch is not able to get off work, another leader will be found. We will need an approximate count to make small groups of reservations, so watch the web site and sign up if you are planning to attend.

Rally: Caterer - 322 BBQ in Brookville has been chosen at \$1.50 less per plate than last year. Tom rode up for a taste test and others have recommended them.

Cups - Use up current inventory this year; ceramic mugs cost \$300 for shipping alone. Look into new insulated travel mugs next year.

Chairman - Still needed . . . as well as many volunteers.

Author's Kudos: Attention was drawn to the April issue of BMW ON magazine where two of our members had articles published. Mitch Kehn's "For Those About to GS", and Jurgen Brune's "BMW Motorcycles in Coal Country Wyoming".

West Breakfast Ride Location Change: Because of long wait times, the 2nd Sat. of the month ride location has been moved from Eat 'N Park across the road to Bob Evans, 6547 Steubenville Pike, Rt. 60. Phone 412-494-9119.

May 17th Mtg. at Tony Capriotti's: The club will provide burgers, dogs, buns and drinks. Members are to bring side dishes.

Banquet Facility Search: Sean Barrett is searching for a new location for Jan. 2009 which may include later entertainment and overnight rooms. Checking Holiday Inns, The Meadows, and asking for any ideas from members. John Barr asked about the Bradley House on Brownsville Rd. In the past Rabbit used to DJ, hiring one is expensive, any other ideas for music, dancing or entertainment? Sometimes the venue will have their own music scheduled.

October 18th Meeting: Tom rode to Crooked Creek Park on Rt. 66 near Ford City and reserved "Constitution Pavilion".

Upcoming Rides Mentioned:

Tomorrow - HogFather's BBQ; Alliance church bike blessing; Beer Barrel Hamburgers, Murraysville

Redbank Park - May 17. Poker Run 1st annual Ride for Recreation

All proceeds benefit the Redbank Park Commission Matching Grant Fund, a Non-Profit Organization dedicated to improving community recreation in the Redbank Valley area. More info here <http://www.pittsburghbiker.com/may2008.html>

Annual Syria Shriner's Poker Run - July 6th. It is a 100 mi. ride with food & prizes. Cost \$15.

Tour De Cure - June 22, American Diabetes Assoc.

50/50 Tickets: Sold by Larry Berner and John Barr. Drawing won by Tom Primke.

The May 17th meeting: **At Tony Capriotti's home. Watch newsletter for directions.**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Pears

Recording Secretary



**THE WAY WE WERE
BACK WHEN — MAY 1998**
by Walt Halaja

- 1) Editor's Message—"Brian Livermore": Hey, what do you want? At least I completed the May issue in May, even if you have to read it in June.
- 2) Thank You: to Craig Immel and Heritage BMW for the generous donation of \$100 cleaning products used at the May meeting and bike wash at Al's. And thank you Al Vangura for once again letting us use your shop to clean our machines.
- 3) Riders Corner—"Ed Syphan": This month's calendar is crammed with great possibilities. The difficulty will be trying to decide where to point your wheels. Most of May's activities were outlined in the last newsletter, so I'll just add a few things that have come up. Ed added two more rides in May along with four more rides in June.
- 4) The road to Travel (Or Not)—"Sean Barrett": Last summer, Nancy and I went on a ride with Don Poremski through south-west Pa., West Virginia and Ohio. Although we had to drop out of the ride after Sistersville, it was a great ride. Good roads, scenic vistas and a great ferry ride--the first version of this ride is based on Don's outline and my memory. The second version is in the form of a letter I received from Trent Denison. —Thanks guy's Note the version via Trent was an approx. 250 miles which would take about 8 hours to complete.
- 5) April Meeting minutes—"Kay smith": About 40 people were present at the April meeting held at the Temperanceville Tavern. The guest speaker was Marianne Taylor who shared some of her experiences becoming a certified BMW/Harley mechanic at the school in Florida. She also gave a little information on her plans to ride in the Pony Express Ride for cancer research in July. Several folks are going to ride along to show our support. Also note that our club gave Marianne a check for \$500.00 for the Pony Express Ride.
- 6) For Sale: 1976 Triumph Tiger (stock) \$2500 "Hey that was my bike. Ha! Well it never sold & I still have it! The price has gone up after 10 years, but it's not for sale at this time!" (Walt)
- 7) "FYI": Don Good is riding a new 1998 Kawasaki Concourse. Brian Livermore is enjoying his new 1997 K1100LT. Ed Tatters is mowing lawns on his new 1998 Kawasaki ZX9. What's this ED??

WALT



**THE GOOD AND THE BAD
THE WEST BREAKFAST RIDE
APRIL 12, 2008**

by Walter Halaja

Shortly after I arrived at the Eat 'n Park I heard a loud holler from PW (Paul White), "THE CAMPER (Ron Kranz) IS HERE!" Well, I thought, PW was smoking the good stuff, because the Camper usually only attends the North breakfast. Turns out I was right because PW mistakenly thought Frank Beatrous was the camper because of Frank's blue shouldered roadcrafter suit. OK, honest mistake. PW hurried into Eat 'N Park to reserve a table while we were BS'in' in the parking lot. He returned and said there would be a 1/2 hour wait because they were remodeling. Didn't know about that so there was talk about crossing the road to try Bob Evans for a change. I brought up that I thought we should change the WBR location to Bob Evans, and all seemed to agree. Ralph said he would bring it up at the next board meeting to make it official. Well it's a good thing we stayed at Eat 'N Park because Dave Manfredo was running a bit late and wouldn't have found us if we had crossed the road to Bob Evans. So altogether we had 8 riders: besides the ones I already mentioned we had John Allen, Dave "2 Spark" McLaughin, a new fellow, Greg Lievan, Ralph Meyer, and myself of course. The breakfast went well and I had talked about a ride I have been wanting to put together for at least six months, but never yet got a chance to try. I had been to both places separately, but never together. I thought of it as "The Good and the Bad" ride. The good part is the Gen. Gerge Armstrong Custer park that is in New Rumley, OH, and the bad would be where Pretty Boy Floyd was shot dead near Wellsville OH.

Well, off we went at approx. 11:00 hrs, minus Ralph and Frank who had to head home. I had my GPS set to go to where Pretty Boy Floyd was killed..."I thought"! I wasn't paying much attention to it

because I knew most of the way till I neared Wellsville. Unfortunately, I took an exit that wasn't correct. After that, my GPS kept saying to go North on Rt. 22, which runs east & west, so we had to stop. Finally we did what women do, found a gas station, and asked for help. A fellow fueling his SUV overheard us and offered to take us there because we were pretty close. This fellow got us to the correct road and sent us on our way, but, lo and behold, my GPS said we had passed the location, so we had another delay as I went back and forth trying to find the place. Then PW took the lead & we finally found the spot about two more miles past where my GPS had said it was. We needed a break to regroup, so John took another look at MY GPS and said it wasn't working when he tried to punch in New Rumley. I took out a paper map and couldn't find the route where we were on the map, so I was at a loss. We needed to get to Rt. 39 to get to New Rumley, but I had no idea on how to get there, nonetheless, between John & PW we finally got there, where (believe it or not) my GPS showed the way from Rt. 39 so I resumed the lead. ...Because of all this, be advised that when Ralph writes on some of his posts "Got a GPS?...Get Lost...It's Fun!!!" it wasn't fun for me because I just couldn't hit a home run and get out of the mess I got my riding friends into. So, may I apologize to my riding friends for not having my act together!

We made New Rumley at 12:34 hrs. Then, we headed home on the best part of the ride because Rt. 646 is like being at track day without going in a circle. I arrived home at 16:18 hours with 177 miles on the odometer for the ride and with my bike temp. showing 62 degrees, plus it was pretty windy most of the day.

Be advised that PW stopped over on Sunday and fixed my GPS, "It was JACKED UP, to use a term that Wayne Kelly used to use." Thanks PW! Also be advised that if you are coming to a west breakfast and you think I may lead, bring your GPS if you have one because as you can see from this report "I need all the help I can get," and you could be the one to help me!



HERITAGE SERVICE SUBSTITUTE

from Tom Sandretto

Tom called me the other day asking about news on Heritage... which at this point seems totally "up the spout" as they say. Last I heard, the building had earth moving equipment and some large water culvert pipes in its rear and a "For Lease" sign out front now. What he was interested in was somewhere to get some work done on his K bike, and, living in Monroeville, figured it'd take a day to run up to Wexford and back, good as that fine Wexford shop, European Motorcycles is in all directions you'd care to name. I told him the ride to Wexford, if he came over the Orange Belt, would be a neat ride, nice

WALT

curlyques up and down dale and all that, but he said he had time constraints however nice the ride would be and was wondering if there were a shop closer to home that could do the work. I couldn't think of any down that way, and told him so, which precipitated the response that maybe he'd have to go over to the dark side and pick up a ride of some different marque. Ouch! But he said he'd look around before he did that and see if there were a shop that would do good work on Beemers closer to his area.

Well, folks, it seems there is. Tom called back a little later with the happy news that he'd found a shop closer to Monroeville and ran into a real nice and jovial "big guy" with a bit of a beard that had a K-LT there whose name he thought was "Jim" and was a member of 4 Winds. I responded that I couldn't think of anyone with that description whose name was Jim, but that, from the description it sounded to me like maybe the fellow to whom he was referring wasn't a "Jim" at all, but was Ed Tatters. Anyway, I told Tom that if he'd e-mail me the details about the shop that worked on BMWs, I'd put it in the newsletter, as there had been several other folks from that direction with the same problem--a long distance to have to go to have the bike worked on. Later that same day, Tom sent me the following e-mail, which I now post for everybody "down east's" information:

"You were exactly right, it's Ed Tatters who I had the pleasure of "discovering" at VALLEY CYCLE / DYNO TUNE located at 1144 Fifth Avenue, East McKeesport, PA - 412-829-1337. Ed assures me, along with owner Bruce Egan, that BMW owners here in the east have "no worries" about future service of our trusty two wheelers.

For a few hours there I was considering divesting!

Best,

Tom Sandretto"

So, folks, if you're 'way East of the 'Burgh and need mechanical service on your Beemer but haven't the time to take a nice ride to the Northwest, you might try Valley Cycle/Dyno Tune that Tom found. For those out that-a-way, that might be good news!



*PRESIDENT'S RIDE REVISITED

The board is revisiting last Saturday meeting's tentative decision about the president's ride to the Foxburg Inn. It is exploring alternate options, one of which is investigating the Foggy Mountain Inn near Stahlstown as an alternate destination in an effort to have a president's ride that is led by the president. The president's ride final details will be announced in the June newsletter.

FOR SALE

Please note: If you sell your item, please notify the newsletter editor so it can be removed from this list.

Arai Helmet for Sale: Model: Signet GT, Size: XXL, Color: blue/silver, Condition: very slightly used (about 200 miles), Price: \$100, Drop me a note at fbeatrous@gmail.com

Olympia AST 3/4 Jacket size XL for sale: It's a great jacket. I have only worn it once. I'm selling it because I prefer a short jacket over the 3/4 length. Here's a picture of the Olympia AST: http://www.olympiamotosports.com/ast_mens/ast_mens.htm If you are interested, please e-mail me, Jerry Hirschfeld, at jerryhirschfeld449@yahoo.com.



GLASS WHEELS!

Kevin Hart sent in these pictures of some unique wheels. Can't tell quite what kind of bike it is, but the front fender (in the picture on the right) kinda looks like an R1000RT fender. Sorta. Is it possible we'll see a set of these on the RT? Sharp!



JOHN ALLEN'S FAVORITE!

"Favorite what?" you ask. ...Road, of course! ...Well, it's not his only favorite: just one of 'em. John loves finding these places and this one, he testifies, is a sure winner. He sent the picture along so you could enjoy seeing the start of it too! I think it's in West Virginia, one of John's favorite states. If I recall, it was one of the late John Denver's favorite states too. Maybe he rode a motorcycle there too?

On the Net...

Have you found a neat location on the Internet? Send the URL in with a brief description of what it's about to the editor and we'll post it here for the benefit of your fellow riders...

Note: copy or type the underlined link into your browser's URL textbox and hit 'Go' or 'Enter' to go there.

Our Four Winds Site, what else??? <http://www.4windsbmw.org> . And always remember never to forget, you can get this and past color copies of the Newsletter in PDF format there! Check it out if you haven't already done so.

Craigslist for selling motorcycles, etc. around Pittsburgh (other cities can be checked out here too): <http://pittsburgh.craigslist.org/>

Electric motorcycles URL: http://money.cnn.com/galleries/2008/fsb/0803/gallery.electric_motorcycles.fsb/index.html

APR NORTH B-RIDE

Note the long-haired V-Twin Rider on the left next to PW, Walt, and Frank. That's "Rocky" Latkovic... "Virtual" brother of our own "Reddy K"--Ron Latkovic. If you want to figure that one out, remember: Ron's the one who handed the cop who caught him speeding on a test ride a photo operator's permit he got at Graceland with his name and address, etc. accompanied by the picture of Guess Who? Why the King! Elvis, of course! When the cop stopped laughing, he gave Ron a warning instead of a ticket.



'Cause several 4 Winds stalwarts indicated their intention to be present for the ride, and the dingle deities actually said the weather would be "Mostly Sunny, with temps into the high 50s". Actually, according to the computer on the RT, the day's temps segued from 41° to 64°, and, as Walt and several other experienced folks opined, they'd rather ride in those temps than in the 90s of summer. I.e., it was a beautiful day for riding and the message board, when I checked it, indicated 3 folks would be there. After Sonny Robison and I threw our hats in the ring, the message board indicated 5. Plenty enough



for fine camaraderie over oats, eggs, porky products, and what-not.

When I hit King's at bang on 10, there were already 5 guys present whose bikes were parked where I could see them:

Rocky Latkovic (that's Ron,

AKA "Reddy K," Latkovic's long-haired do-ragged Harley-Biker "Virtual" Bruther), PW, John Barr, Ron Kranz, and Jack Bramkamp. We were soon joined by Dave "Two Spark" McLaughlin (whom, we found out, his gute Weib calls "Der Curmudgeon"), Sonny Robison,



John Rolin, and Walt Halaja. Counting myself, that made 10 of us: a minion according to meine Yiddishe freunder and therefore capable of some sort of communal activity--like prayer to the trolls or something. Ah, but the goodies didn't stop there. Soon Jay Singh, John Allen, and Carl Hartz arrived. When we finally got all gathered together and ambled into King's to hunt for a large table with efficient waitresses, come to find out there were Frank and Joan Beatrous, and John Lutz, and the whole bunch of us were soon joined by "Doc" Barrett. With that many, though, I had to take both boots off to count 'em: I came up with 17 riders at the breakfast, leaving no fingers and but three toes left over. That's some kind of record!

After a fine King's repast (it took them some cobbling around and a bit of time to locate a place for us all--we wound up in the smoking section...where several superannuated ancient wrinkly addicts and a few young ones, all of whom appeared to be chain smoking between bites of their breakfast, regaled us with 2nd hand nicotine. Having been there and done that some years ago, I understand where they were coming from completely, but I must admit that now smoke doesn't do anything beneficial for the taste of eggs.) But we had a good time in pleasant motorcycling company in spite of the fumes that wafted our way. Eventually, well filled, we headed back to the bikes to decide in which of various directions we wished to



NORTH BREAKFAST RIDE SUNDAY, APR 6, 2008

Ralph Meyer

Blessed be the Message Board and all them that write thereon, ... not to mention the Weather Gods, whom or ifsoever they are. Warum?

head. Some went South, some West, and the rest of us, Sonny Robison, Walt Halaja, Jay Singh, Paul White, Ron Kranz, John Rollin, John Barr, and I headed North for Brady's Bend. We chivvied Walt into leading as, being an old Stagecoach driver, he's well familiar with such fine places and ways to get there--no need for hauling out the maps and poring over routes.

Us northern BB folks thus wound up on 68 via back roads through (ugh!) Butler (Ye auld Geo. Pullman Co. town that now sports many stoplights--thus the "Ugh!", but no longer manufactures luxury passenger sleeper rail-cars) and Chicora to the famous bend where Captain Brady and his Pitt's Burgh Colonial rangers ground-sluiced a band of marauding Indians who had laid waste to a farm cabin, killed the menfolk, and kidnapped a wife and her children: Score: Brady and his rangers: 100%, Indians: 0: thus the name of the bend.



Walt threw us a curve though, flying by the location of the famous porta-potty in the park on this side of the river, tooling across the new bridge, and hanging a right into the Super Market on the other side of the river to pull up in its parking lot. Leading the bunch must've been dry work as the unexpected pull-in there was for purposes of purchasing liquid refreshment. Pit stopping, our fearless leader informed us, could be had either by returning across the river to the official P-Potty we'd missed, while the rest went in the store to obtain something to quench thirst, or, we could go later, once we made the overlook up the hill behind the town, at the famous Pit Stop Tree at one end and slightly down hill out of sight of the rest of the overlook. Several of us did, as we pulled in, notice that that tree had begun quivering.... we couldn't, however, determine, not understanding 'tree,' whether the quivering was from anticipatory joy, or stark terror at the number of bikes arriving. In any event, instead of 8 of us at the overlook, there were only 6 Beemers and a number of Harleys there. PW and Ron Kranz had left us and headed up the road across the Allegheny to visit a friend there. It's always a great view now that they've cut back the jing weeds that used to obscure the vision of the river. Eventually, from the overlook we saw Ron and Paul headed back toward 68, but they must've headed back south as they never joined us up on the overlook.

After due kicking of tires, enjoying the view, and either benefiting or terrorizing the Pit Stop Tree, we headed back South on 68 for home. I picked up the lead on the way home and took a favorite route of country back roads from Chicora that misses Butler entirely, and is practically always traffic free. It also winds up and down and around hill and dale rather nicely as well, winding up in Saxonburg and hitting 228 South of that town. Several of us peeled off down Saxonburg Blvd. for home from 228, and the rest of us, after a fuel stop on 228, split up and headed off our separate ways for home. It was an absolutely lovely day for a ride, and the Brady's Bend overlook is a nice spot to ride to. And it isn't fattening either.



RALPH

COP TRAINING

Eric Trow, as part of keeping sharp for "Stayin' Safe" traveled to Florida to participate in the training offered there that is based on what Motor Patrolmen receive and must pass. That's Eric on the

Harley. The only fly in the ointment was that the Motor Cop giving the training didn't like Beemers... Poor fellow! Might that have been because the Cops at Motor Patrol Rodeos riding Beemers always blew away the guys riding Harleys? Who knows?

In any event, Eric indicated that it was a great opportunity to find out why those fellows on the bikes patrolling our highways get to be as good as they are. Compared to this training, the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's Experienced Rider Course is a walk in the park. Note the four riders riding in concert in that tight circle... and no Sportsters in the bunch, either!



Sunday, July 6, 2008
SYRIA SHRINERS
1877 Shriners Way, Cheswick, PA

RIDE BEGINS AND ENDS AT SYRIA SHRINE Ctr.

Syria
Highlanders
will perform

SYRIA MOTOR CORPS POKER RUN

Dunk the
Shriner
Dunk Tank!

Registration the day of run opens at 10 A.M. – coffee and donuts. Motorcycles leave at 11:30 A.M.

Free Hot Food / Cold Beverages served from 2:30 – 4:30 P.M.

This is a Rain or Shine Ride

LAST YEARS 50-50 WAS OVER \$1750.00 to the winner

FREE POKER RUN PIN FOR 1st. 1000 REGISTERED

Cash prizes will be awarded for the following:

<u>Poker Run:</u>	Solo Driver	First \$50	Second \$20	Third \$10
	Buddy Driver	First \$50	Second \$20	Third \$10
	Passenger	First \$50	Second \$20	Third \$10

Special Class: *Largest Organized Club Pre-Registered* : Club I.D. Required. Will Receive
\$100.00 Check Made Out To Their Charity and The Traveling Trophy For 1 Year.

Oldest Driver – Driving the Poker Run

Antique Motorcycle Show

Plaques for 1st 2nd & 3rd Place American & Foreign Bikes

Pre-Registration Form

Make Checks Payable to Syria Motor Corps and send to:

Tony Battilana
1584 Arndt Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
412-367-1201 tonybat1@Verizon.net

Please Print

Driver's Name: _____ Club: _____

Driver's Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ E-Mail Address _____

DRIVER- \$20.00 PASSENGER- \$15.00

Pins For 1st 1000 to reg.

Driver Pre-Registered Before July 1St- \$15.00

Proceeds from this event are used for Motor Corps functions .

“The official registration and financial information of Syria Shriners A.A.O.N.M.S. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-(800)-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement”

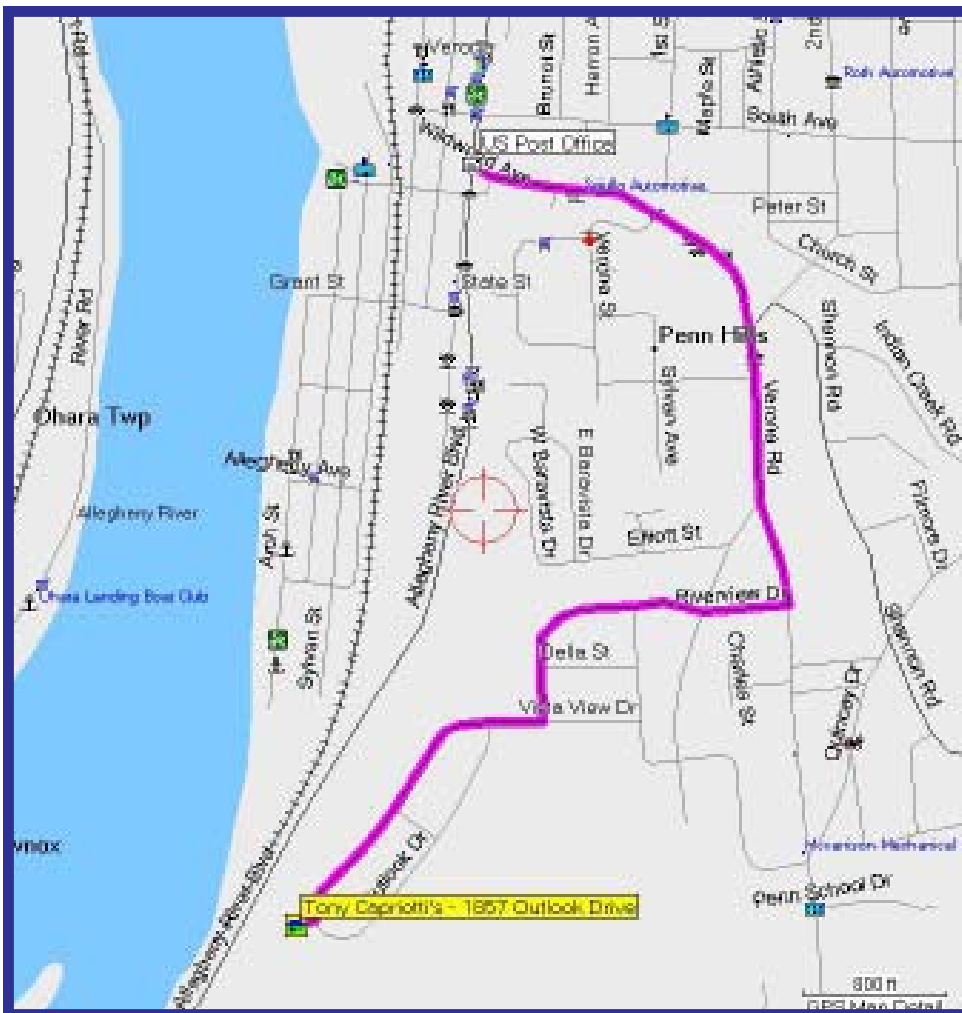


BREAKFAST AT KING'S
SUN. MARCH 2ND.
 By Walt Halaja

OK: this is how it came about! Ron Kranz, "the Camper," posted on our web site first, asking if he should reserve a table; then Chuck Niederiter said he would show up if he saw a few more names. Then, after I fired an e-mail to "PW," (Paul White) he said he could make it! Checking back to the web-site, John Allen posted that he knew that he had shoveled his driveway for some reason, so that put him in. Counting PW and I, that made it 5, so the breakfast was on. That was it: the five of us. At first, I was sitting next to John on his left. Chuck and John were really talking up a storm, while I was trying to talk with the Camper and PW about computers. Well, as you all

know I pretty much have my loud mouth back, so I had to move in order not to break John's left ear drum! Ha! We had a good time BSin'. About ten minutes before we were to leave, Dave Manfredo showed up in his Red Miata, so we chatted for a spell with Dave and then headed out. John said he had to take the main roads home because there was too much snow and ice on the roads he likes to take from King's. I rode to Bakerstown to my son's and used part of the red belt which I favor over Rt. 910, but it did have a few bad spots, so that will always slow you down a bit. After I left Wayne's I headed over to Ralph's to drop off some bread I picked up for him. Ralph really likes this bread as I do. That six grain bread is from the BreadWorks on the North Side, so you see that if I pick up the bread for him, I get to ride and Magic and Bonnie just sit in his garage. Nice! Helps Traveler beat Magic on miles ridden! ...I had to park out on Ralph's street because his driveway was a high risk 50 yards of travel not worth taking. Ralph and Sonny had also posted that they couldn't get out with their bikes because of the snow and ice. After a short visit with Ralph I headed home, and was glad that I made the breakfast and had a nice little ride out of the deal!

WALT

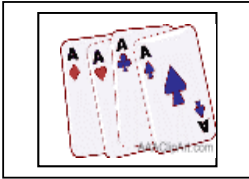


**MAP TO THE MAY MEET-
 ING**

From Allegheny Blvd to Tony Capriotti's. Follow the Yellow Brick Road.... Oops... the Purple Line from the Allegheny River Blvd near the Verona Post Office up the hill and around the dale to Tony's. Please remember to bring either a covered dish, an appetizer, or a dessert with you. As last year the club will furnish the meat & drinks.

MOTOR CYCLE POKER RUN

1ST ANNUAL RIDE FOR RECREATION



Saturday May 17th
 All Bikers Welcome!
 Registration: 9 am-Noon
 \$15 per rider/\$5 per passenger



Ride from 9am-4pm, last card must be collected by 4:00pm.
 Best 3 card Poker Hand **\$500.00**

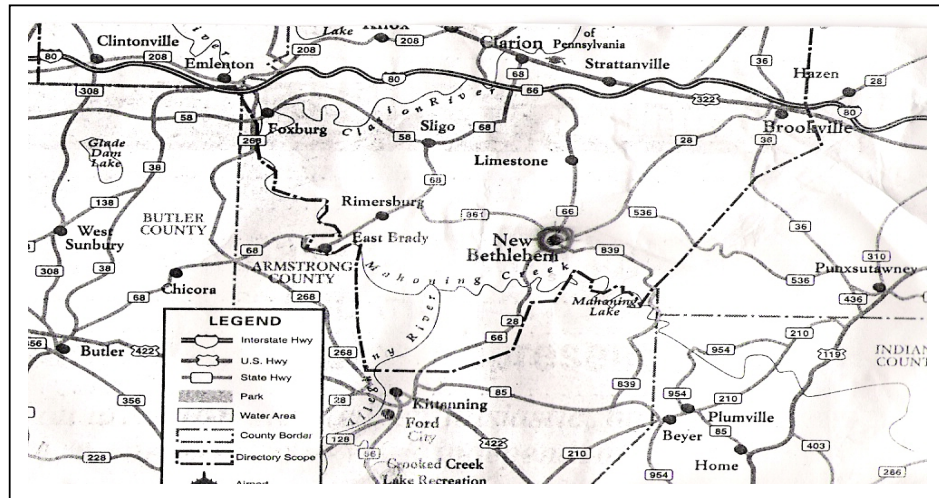
Main Run approximately 75 miles start to finish with alternate routes available 45-65 miles in length.
 Riders will leave the Redbank Valley Municipal Park and travel through Brookville, Cook Forest, Clarion and end at the Redbank Valley Park.

Ride includes picnic style dinner at the park from 4-6 pm

Camping Special: \$5 per tent per night, no reservations sites are unlimited. RV's: Electric sites \$10/night, Water & Electric \$15/night, reservations accepted for RV sites.

Register, and ride from or get additional information:
 Redbank Valley Municipal Park
 137 Park Road
 Fairmount City PA 16224
www.redbankpark.com
 PH: 814-365-5924

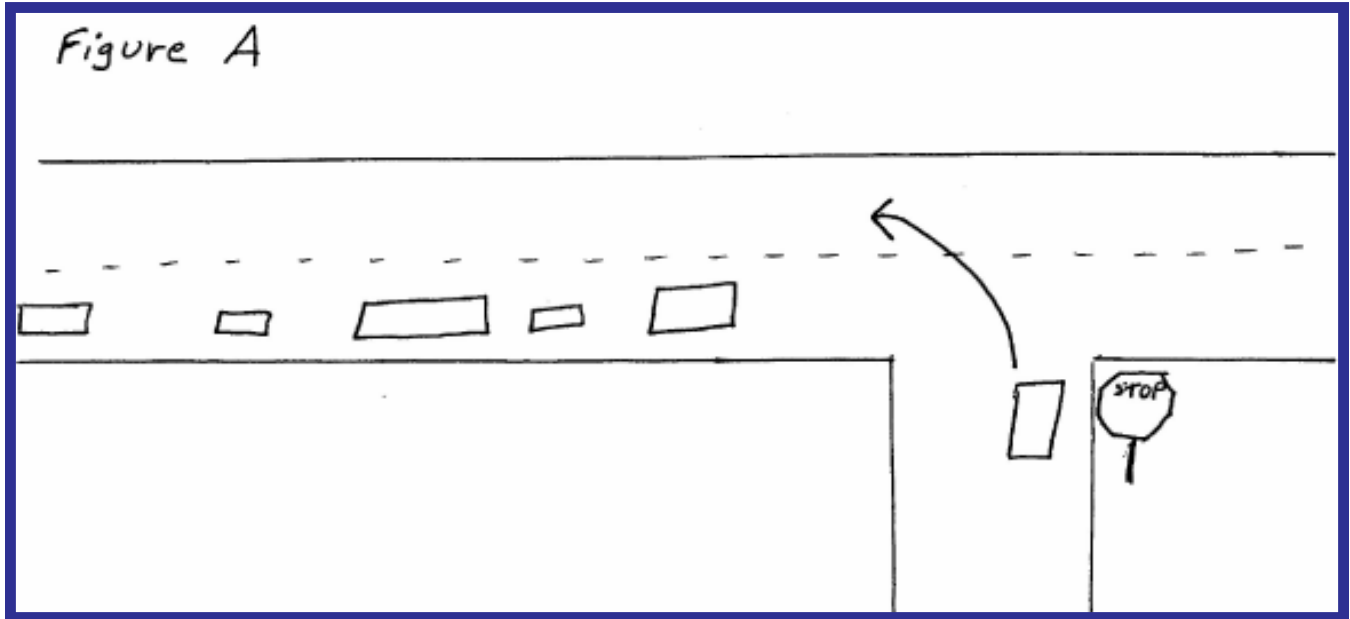
Redbank Park is located on Park road off of Route 28, approximately 2.5 miles east of New Bethlehem in Clarion County PA.
 Interstate 80 exits:
 Exit # 13 route 66
 Exit # 10 route 28
 Watch for signs ¼ mile before Park road!
 Redbank Park
 137 Park Road
 Fairmount City, PA 16224



HIDE AND SEEK

by
Diane Pears

In the spirit of MCN's "Street Strategies" column, here's a diagram that could save your life. Remember, you're not in the air, so you don't have the advantage of a bird's eye view as shown here.



Picture yourself at ground level in **Figure A**: You're on very familiar roads and in a bit of a hurry. You come to a stop sign at a "T" intersection you've been through a thousand times. The road you're about to make a left hand turn onto is a straight stretch of two lane with a passing zone. The right side is clear, but there is a long line of mixed traffic approaching from the left. (Trucks, cars, SUV's, etc.) If you zip out quickly, you won't have to wait for the whole parade to pass, so you gas and go.

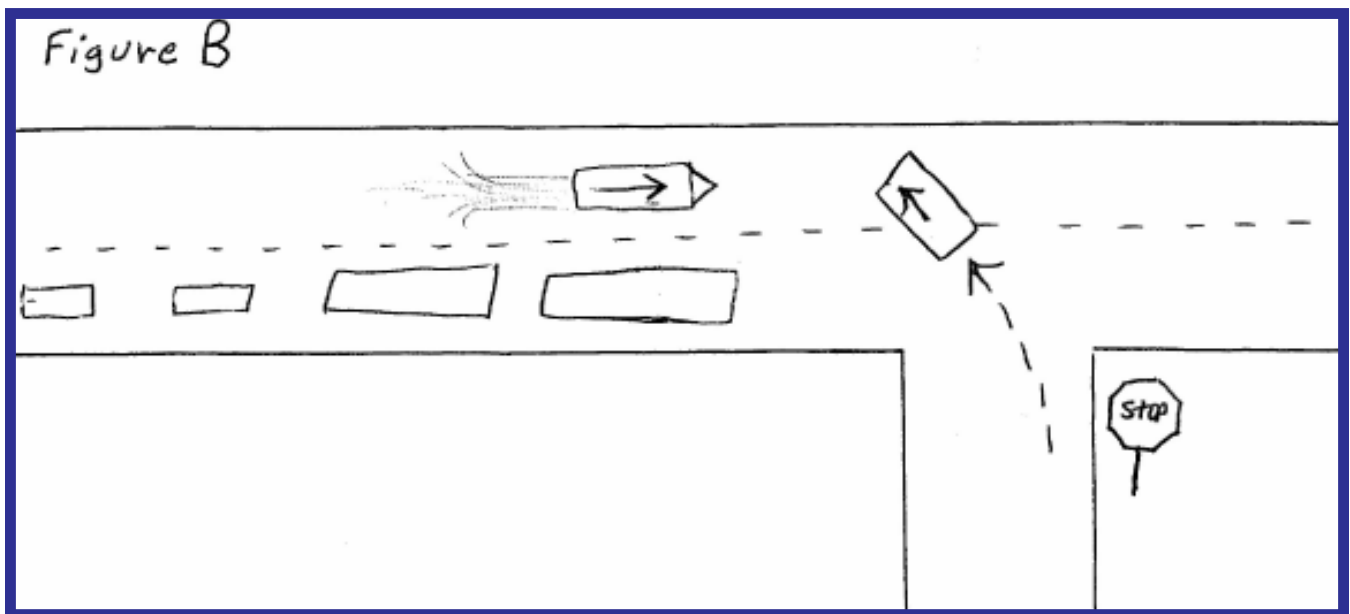


Figure B: The moment you clear the front of the line and begin to straighten in your lane, what to your wondering eyes should appear, but a large projectile of a car speeding straight at you with an impending T-bone to your driver's door, or

full head on impact imminent!! Holy crap Batman!!! You dive straight for the ditch, thankful that there is not a precipitous drop off at that spot or a guard rail that would have trapped you. The passing vehicle doesn't even have time to brake when you appear in front of him, and he cannot pull back into his own lane since it is blocked by the line of traffic. Fortunately, he "threads the needle" and no one panics as you all manage to go three wide on a two lane road.

The various sizes of larger vehicles had completely obstructed your view of the passing car on the other side of them, as well as his view of you pulling out from the side street. There was enough time to safely pull out in front of the traffic, but the car you couldn't see was approaching at two or three times their rate of speed. You're still shaking as you turn around and head for home to change pants, while the realization sinks in that if the passing car had been just a little closer to the front of the line of traffic, eliminating the split second you had to head into the grass, it probably would have resulted in a double fatality.

Keep this in mind from *both* perspectives — if you are doing either the passing, or the pulling out. If it had been a three or four lane road, you would have automatically been scanning for multiple rows of traffic, but in this case, with a familiar stretch of two-lane which rarely sees much passing activity, your eyes thought they saw the whole story. Your brain didn't bother to imagine what could literally be "out of sight, out of mind!"

DIANE



rights. riding. racing.

American Motorcyclist Association

AMA NEWS RELEASE

MARCH 12, 2008

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY TRAINING FUNDS UNDER ATTACK

PICKERINGTON, Ohio—U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary Peters reaffirmed her desire to lobby states for mandatory helmet-use laws in testimony before the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee Transportation Subcommittee on March 6, the American Motorcyclist Association reports. Peters' testimony follows letters she sent in February to U.S. House and Senate leaders urging Congress to allow states to divert federal money away from motorcycle safety training and awareness programs and instead push for mandated helmet use. Under federal law, the U.S. Transportation Department is barred from lobbying for or against specific state laws. That measure was passed by Congress at the request of motorcyclists who specifically wanted to prevent the federal government from lobbying for mandatory helmet laws. But when asked whether she would support an exemption to the law to allow her department to lobby the states for mandatory helmet laws, she said she would. "I support giving the information to states so that they can act on those laws," Peters testified. "And I certainly have made myself available to a number of states, and, in fact, have called governors when I see substantial increases in the number of motorcycle deaths in a state, especially a state that has repealed a helmet law." Peters is pushing to move funds out of motorcycle safety training and awareness even though the money was specifically approved by Congress at the request of motorcyclists who wanted to beef up the nation's motorcycle safety training and awareness efforts. In February, in response to the letters Peters wrote, Ed Moreland, AMA vice president for government relations, expressed concern that diverting federal motorcycle safety funds to mandate helmet use could harm rider training courses and motorcycle awareness programs that are already underfunded in many states. At that time, he also expressed concern that Peters' proposal could contradict sections of transportation bills passed in 1998 and 2005 that ban the use of federal motorcycle safety funds to lobby state legislatures in favor of mandatory helmet laws and could effectively reverse that ban. "Banning the federal government from lobbying for mandatory state helmet laws was the very reason Congress passed this measure in the first place," said Moreland. "What Peters is asking for is not an exception to the rule, it's an example of an exception completely circumventing the rule." Moreland believes Peters is willing to push for mandatory helmet laws at the expense of rider training and awareness programs designed to teach motorcycling skills that would prevent crashes from occurring in the first place. "This latest testimony reaffirms our fears—that the U.S. transportation secretary wants to lobby for mandatory helmet laws by diverting funding specifically set aside for motorcycle safety training and awareness to further her mandatory helmet-use agenda," Moreland said. "Helmet use is certainly one part of a comprehensive approach to motorcycle safety, but the use of motorcycle helmets is already advocated in existing motorcycle safety training programs," Moreland said. "Congress decided to fund motorcycle safety training and awareness programs at the request of the motorcycling community. This effort by Secretary Peters to divert money away from those programs is an attempt to circumvent the wishes of Congress and those motorcyclists nationwide who wanted to specifically augment rider training and awareness programs," he said.

The American Motorcyclist Association: rights. riding. racing. Founded in 1924, the AMA is a non-profit organization with 290,000 members. The Association's purpose is to protect and promote the interests of motorcyclists, while serving the needs of its members. For more information, visit the AMA website at www.AMADirectlink.com.

Four Winds BMW Riders
c/o Ralph Meyer, Editor
6056 Meadow Lane
Bakerstown, PA 15007-9720

**HOW DO I JOIN
FOUR WINDS BMW
RIDERS?**

To join, come to a meeting and introduce yourself. Meetings are listed here in the Newsletter and in the schedule of events on the Web Site, www.4windsbmw.org.

Membership dues are \$15 per year for primary membership, and \$7.50 per year for associate members residing in the same household as a primary member.

DIRECTIONS TO THE MEETING:

The regular 4 Winds monthly meeting will be held Sat., May 17th, 2008, at 2:00PM** at Tony Capriotti's*, 1857 Outlook Drive, Verona, PA, 15147. Meat & drink will be provided. **Bring a covered dish, an appetizer, or a dessert.**

From the North: Take Allegheny River Blvd south to Verona. Pass the Post Office and turn Left onto Wildwood Ave. Continue straight from Wildwood onto Verona Rd. Proceed approximately 0.7mi from turn. Turn Right onto Riverview Drive and continue to the end. Turn right onto Vista View Drive. Proceed straight onto Outlook Drive to Tony's at 1857.

From the South: Take Allegheny River Blvd north to Verona. Turn right at stop sign onto Wildwood Ave. Continue straight from Wildwood onto Verona Rd. Proceed approximately 0.7mi from turn. Turn Right onto Riverview Drive and continue to the end. Turn right onto Vista View Drive. Proceed straight onto Outlook Drive to Tony's at 1857. *From the West:* Take the I-376 Parkway East to the Churchill exit. Follow Rt130W North to Allegheny River Blvd. Turn Right and follow directions from the South above.

*GPS Coordinates: N40.49241 W79.84678

**NOTE: the Board will meet at 1:00 PM.