

MAY



2009

MOA # 6

www.4windsbmw.org

RA # 76



THE QUEEN MUM'S MUSINGS

"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

Dr. Albert Schweitzer

"Don't worry. Be happy!" Bobby McFerrin
I know. You are busy people. Some of you probably even "have a life." You work hard and then the third weekend comes around and you say, "Hey! It's time for some fun! I'm gonna hang out with 4Winds folks. Tell some lies. Kick some tires. RIDE!" You all seem to enjoy the club and, truly, that's really what it's all about. And our big event of the year, the rally, is a great way to get together, enjoy some nice riding, eat some good food, maybe even learn a thing or two from our fellow riders. Our rally is fun! I've spent many hours at the registration tent. I like working there, talking to people as they arrive and very few people have any complaints. They are looking for their buddies from past years. They are happy to be there AGAIN. Some visitors even come early and help out!

In my 20 years (give or take) of being a

WILD & WIERD HUNT

See something wild, wierd, or strange on your ride? Get a picture of it, you and/or your bike (preferably both). You could win a prize at the Banquet Next year!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Queen Mum's Musings	1
Wild & Wierd Hunt	1
Board Of Directors 2009	1
May Meeting Info	1
Publication Info	2
Meeting Schedule 2009	2
2009 Shack Schedule	2
Ongoing Events	2
Meeting Minutes	3
Oddity Photo Contest	4
Beemers at Indian... ..	5
Seat Making/Repair	6
Club Rides in 2009	7
For Sale	7
Maple Syrup Run	8
The Oglebay Loop	8
North Breakfast Ride	9
Le Gran Hearse	10
The way we were	11
Events Here 'n There	11
Safety bits	11
Do Facebook!	12
How do I join	16
Directions to the Meeting:	16

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009

President – Nancy Barrett
724-941-1543

nancyandsean@comcast.net

Vice President – Ed Syphan
724-347-5590

esyphan@yahoo.com

Treasurer – Larry Shockling
724-327-6922

shockla@aol.com

Corres. Sec'y – Joann Barr
412-881-5897

joannbarr10@msn.com

Rec. Sec'y – Diane Pears
724-656-1239

timndiane@comcast.net

Director – John Barr
412-881-5897

joannbarr10@msn.com

Director – Patrick Barrett
724-941-1543

triiku@gmail.com

MAY MEETING INFO

The May meeting of the Four Winds BMW Riders will be held on Sat., May 16th, 2009 from 2–5PM. at the home of John and Joann Barr, 845 Agnew Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15227. Ph.: 412-8815897. We plan a covered dish meal. Last names beginning with A-I please bring deserts, and J-Z bring side dishes or appetizers. Hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages will be provided.

PUBLICATION INFO

The Four Winds BMW Riders Newsletter is published for members' use. Articles' and pictures' copyrights are held by their authors. Author's permission should be obtained before any form of republication.

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 16; **June issue deadline: Tues., May 19th**). 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:

Ralph Meyer, Editor
4 Winds Newsletter
6056 Meadow Lane
Bakerstown, PA 15007-9720

Submission formats:

Articles: Send as plain text with headings and h2g 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 2009

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 16, 2009, 2:00PM — John and Joann Barr's

June, 2009 — President's Ride - Begins in Zelienople to Black Forest Restaurant, Parker, PA

July, 2009 — Tony Capriotti's, Penn Hills

August, 2009 — Friday, August 14 to Sunday, August 16
43rd Annual Four Winds Rally!

September, 2009 — Leo and Holly Stanton's

October, 2009 — Uno's Pizza, Cranberry

November, 2009 — TBA

December, 2009 — No Monthly Meeting

2009 SHACK SCHEDULE

The April Shack Meeting was the last Shack meeting for the year. Watch **next fall** for the new schedule!

4 Winds member I have probably at least helped with every job there is at the rally, including Rally Chair. Almost every position is an easy job. Get 2 or 3 friends to help you out over the weekend and you got yourself a committee. You will still have plenty of time to sit in on tech sessions, eat your pig & drink your poison. One of the most time-consuming things the Rally Chair can do is to have to run around the campground looking for last minute volunteers. It seems that everybody is more than willing to help once they get there, but it would be so much easier to have people commit time NOW.

Read the committee job requirements and see where you can help. Some jobs are as easy as emptying the garbage cans and making sure there are paper supplies in the restrooms (This is a good job for couples, because of the whole Men's & Ladies' thing). Coffee involves, well coffee. It's good for some one who stays up a little later to get things ready for the early risers. Security involves greeting people as they come in & directing them to registration (No sidearm required!). Some spots have a Chairperson,

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

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

Sun, May 17 — South at King's, 3049 Washington Pike, off Exit 54, I-79, Bridgeville, 10:00 AM

Sat, May 23 — 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 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 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> .

C'ya at the breakfast(s)!

like field events, door prizes, & registration, but they still need some worker bees. If you decide to be a committee chair and get a couple people to help you, then you get all the glory & they can do most of the work! Really! You can do this! I promise I'll help.

So, think it over. You have a month until the next meeting. I won't be there, but Maggie will be there with sign-up sheets for volunteers. Don't make her use her librarian voice.

Be Careful Out There!

NANCY



Rides: Details are online for rides below.
www.4windsbmw.org

April 24 there will be a ride to remember the slain Pittsburgh Police officers starting at Station Square 9:00-10:00a.m.

April 26 (Sunday) Ralph Meyer will be leading the ride to Packard Museum. Meet at Mobile/Exxon gas station at Zelenople on 68 just off I-79 at 10:00.

May 3 Rock & Roll Museum near Cleveland. Rick Gzesh has invited those making the ride for a cookout at his place. Rick would like ap-

proximate number attending. Indicate online. Meet at Mobile/Exxon gas station in Zelenople at 9:00a.m.

May 9 (Saturday) ride to Al Vangura's. Patrick Barrett is reserving a pavilion near Al's. Bring your own lunch.

June 20 will be the Queen's Ride to Parker, PA. Meeting when we get there.

July 4 Ride to Red Bank Fairgrounds to build shelves and listen to Bluegrass Music.

July 12 Shiner's Poker Run.

Sept 12 Ride to the Wright Patterson Air Force Museum in Dayton, OH.

Odd Photo contest. There will be a panel to judge the oddest. See next page.

NEW BUSINESS

Nancy received a letter and CD from BMW National about the BMW logo. Nancy will contact Mitch since he dealt with this a year or 2 ago.

Patrick Barrett suggested we start a "face book" web site for our club. He will explain further in the news letter about how and why we would do this. He wanted to know if anyone had a problem with calling the site 4winds BMW Riders Club. No one opposed.

We welcomed visitors at the meeting today Roy Peterson and Karen Hesidence (wife of Patrick who joined last month).

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, JOANN BARR,

SECRETARY PRO-TEM

(More pictures of the meeting on the next page)



FOUR WINDS BMW RIDERS

APRIL 18, 2009

MEETING MINUTES

Location: Rochester Inn Hardwood Grill, Pittsburgh PA

Board Attendance: Nancy Barrett, Ed Syphan, Larry Shocking, Joann Barr, Patrick Barrett, John Barr

The meeting was called to order by President Nancy Barrett at 1 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Treasures Report: Larry Shocking stated there are 38 members and 7 associates and \$11,089 in out account.

Rally Report: Maggie Weaver is working on the Rally t-shirts. We saw a sample picture of the shirt design and color. Tomorrow she is checking on prices of a micro fiber material and will order the shirts. Next meeting there will be signup sheets for those planning to help with the Rally. Nancy reiterated that we must all do our part to make our Rally a success. Either volunteer or be volunteered. The jobs are online at our web site, www.4windsbmw.org. If everybody pitches in, no one will be stuck doing a lot of work. Next meeting we will address some cards to people that have attended our Rally in the past.



MORE PICTURES
FROM THE APRIL MEETING AT ROCHESTER INN
AND HARDWOOD GRILLE
by Ron "Reddy K" Latkovic



GREAT PICS, RON! THANKS!

ODDITY PHOTO CONTEST

As announced at the last meeting and on the front page of the newsletter, make sure you take your camera with you on your rides. Then, if you see something wild, wierd, odd, or strange: wild as in out-of-the-ordinary, NOT as in turkeys flying across the Parkway in front of you, or bears or deer grazing along the roadside, but as, for example, the "Old Woman who lives in a shoe house" on Rte 30 East of York, PA, then take a picture of you, it, and the bike, or you and it, if you can't get the bike in the picture. Then, bring the picture(s) of the things you've 'gotten' to next year's banquet. A professional com-

mittee of wierd art experts (probably our esteemed Board) will look over the pictures and choose the one they think is the wildest, wierdest, most artistic, most difficult to get, or what-have-you, and a fine prize will be offered the winner. So get out there folks, and find and photograph that strange stuff! Incidentally, our sister club, the BMW Motorcycle Owners of Cleveland will be doing the same thing. Maybe we ought to have a double grand prize... which club found the wierdest thing? Whaddaya think? We Pennsylvuckians can make some pretty wierd stuff, can't we? We might win that one, huh? Heh, heh, heh.



BEEMERS AT INDIAN...

Of course, everybody's familiar with the fact that old Marques with some ancient sales penache have somewhat of a tendency to get resurrected on occasion maybe just because name recognition doesn't have to be cranked up from zero, being already present. It's happened with Chris-craft boats, for example. Then there's Triumph motorcycles, and, for a double resurrection (more real than those touted by ancient religions), there's Indian: with the rep of being the first American Motorcycle (cry your eyes out Harley, that the Harley Boys and Mr. Davidson didn't get started two or three years earlier tinkering in that shed out back of their house). Harley, however, was more svelte with the business sense in the 50s and when Indian gave up the ghost around 1953, Harley kept rolling (wheezing in a potato-potato kind of manner??) along, and still is, though Harleys went through a rough quality patch when AMF took 'em over for awhile (old AMF period joke: "How can you tell a Harley from a Honda from a distance?" Answer: "The Harley's the one with the pool of oil under it"). After around 50 years in the grave, somebody a few years back pumped a bit of life into Indian, but it didn't fly for long as that bit of mechanical prestidigitation didn't take financially. And the first Indian resurrection flopped. For a bit. Then (if I've heard right—my wife says I don't hear at all sometimes) it seems the folks who resurrected Chris-craft thought doing that same goddy (supposedly) bit for Indian might be a good idea. Twice dead, they figured, maybe the third life will be the charm. In any event, Indian Easter has come, and the fine old Marque has risen von dem Tod! And yesterday, April 18th, was the new North-of-Cranberry on Rte 19 Indian Dealership's open house!

I decided that it would be only fitting to visit a resurrected Marque's open house on another resurrected marque's bike, and, it being a great day for riding—blue sky, and temps in the 60s—I rode over on the Bonneville. When I pulled in I was wondering if there would be ANYbody I knew there, as the only Harley rider I know is the nice little gal at our Giant Eagle with whom I swap riding stories when we grocery shop—she rides pillion on her hubby's beautiful Heritage Softtail. At the O.H., There were, literally, hundreds of Harleys there. As I walked up the driveway to the front of the building where the Indian Trailer and the voluminous madding crowd was located, I noted that the bikes parked along the wide drive seemed to include nothing other than a very occasional Harley wanna-be (like Boulevards, Stars, and other Japanische run-offs). Ah! But 20 or 25 bikes from the end where I'd parked the Bonnie, there, lo and behold, was an GS! Yessssss! Der Münchener Roundel mit dem Blau und Weiss viertels was in evidence! There hadda be somebody I knew around this vast swirling V-Twin bunch somewhere.

And sure enough, while moseying around ogling the "Native American" Marque with other oglers, I eventually saw the familiar forms of Dave "2 spark" McLaughlin, Ron Latkovic, and Jack Bramkamp. That made me feel not quite so alone in this vast sea of tatoored, sometime pin-pierced and fringe encrusted cruiser riders. While we stood there chatting, Leo Stanton materialized out of the crowd, and but a short while later, Paul Stanton. That at least made six of us. Paul and Leo said they'd arrived on their scooters (what better way to show one's individuality amidst the majority crowd?). When I got to our own 4 Winds meeting at the Rochester Inn later on and had lunch with Tim Pears and Kevin Hart, it appears they'd been there too after having hit the Zanotti Harley and Japanese bike dealership's open house in Butler earlier in the day. Seems Tim had even cadged a demo ride on one of the Indians (they had 8 or 10 lined up under the Indian Truck Canopy that left for 20 minute test rides every half hour or so). He said it had plenty of power and torque, but vibrated the heck out of his nether end and wallet (their price will do that too, I found) when got up to higher revs. None of us Beemerphiles, it seems, were into the cruiser scene. Maybe it's because we like to ride, rather than look and be looked at for short distances. Somebody asked Leo if he was going to, or had, taken a test ride, and he opined as how he didn't like to do that sort of thing if he had no real intention of ever wanting, much less buying, one. Good approach! Prevents disappointing salespersons and dealers who might otherwise think they have a live one.

We wandered around awhile, and as the afternoon was swinging a fair degree past 1:00PM, I decided it was probably best to head out for the 4 Winds meeting. Besides, the riding togs were getting warm, and I needed some wind in my face.

All told, I have to say that the Indians did indeed look lovely just



like the Indians of yore with the exception of the cut-outs in the fender valances to make way for the disk brake hydraulics. At 105 cu. inches, it is indeed no wonder that you could probably pull stumps with their engines,

though it was clear that push-rods were the historically proper thing. No overhead cams here. And footplates with toe and heel shifters instead of pegs. And chrome, lots of well done, fine fit and finish chrome enough to blind one with the sun in the right reflective position. They look to be a fine continuation of the old marque, all other things being equal, but with whopping prices to match. The average seems to be somewhere in the mid-early \$30 Ks not counting tax, tags, and title (you could buy two Toyotas for the price of one Indian).

While we were all convinced that this was a tough time for a motorcycle company, even with a hallowed old name like Indian, to start up, we all maintained that we hoped that this time the resurrection would stick and that the company would be able to make a go of it.

Now lets see... where did I leave my Bonneville... ah, there she is. Off we go to a nice vertical twin mutter. ...We came, we saw, and for me at least, that was enough. Buena Fortuna, Indian!

RALPH



**SEAT MAKING/REPAIR
FYI**

Ed Syphan

Recently I was looking for a local shop to recover two seats for me. I asked Ed Tatters if he knew of anyone and he said he saw one on Craig's list. I checked it out and to my surprise, the shop was in Sharon, about ten minutes from my house.

Well, to make a long story short, I gave him the seat off one of my Yamahas to start with. He did a great job on that, so I gave him a twenty year old Russell to work on. This would be more complicated, so I kept my fingers crossed. After the nice job he did on the first seat, I shouldn't have worried. It came out way nicer than I hoped for.

To make things even better, his prices are VERY reasonable.

So, if you are in a similar situation, I highly recommend giving him a try.

Evel Kenevel's son, Robbie, is producing a chopper now and this guy is making his seats. They just built one for the Steelers, with one of his seats covered with eel skin.

His name is Bill Kravner.

Tell him "Syphoon" sent you.



Here are a couple of pictures of the 'Steeler's Bike' -- from Syphoon.



Ed



And this is a picture of the Seat that Cycle Saddles made...

RIDEOUTS CLUB RIDES IN 2009

Packard Museum. Cycle Exhibit--Sunday, April 26: Leave at 10AM from the Exxon on Rt.68 just west of I-79 Zelenople exit #87. Don Poremski and the MOC will meet us at the Museum at 1:30PM for an afternoon of antique motor cycles and inter-club frivolity followed by late (very) lunch at a local restaurant with the MOC folks..

Rock and Roll Hall of Shame--Sunday, May 3rd: Take a trip back in time with Ranger Rick, Leave Zelig Exxon Rte 68 off I-79 exit 87 @ 9AM for cookout at the Ranger's then the R&R HoS..

A Ride has been added for May 9th (weather permitting) to Sampey Park in Perryopolis as a destination near Al Vangura's house to meet up with him, and possibly check out an historic site nearby. Patrick Barrett's checking on pavilion availability. Keep an eye on the Web site for more information as it comes in.

The Queen Mum's Ride, Saturday, June 20th to the regular club meeting at the Black Forest Bier House in Parker, PA. This will leave at 12:00 PM from the Exxon Station off I-79 at Zelenople for Parker.

Cajun Festival at Campbell Pottery in Edinboro? Enjoy spicy food and spicy music as well as beautiful hand blown glassware.

Wright Patterson Air Museum in Dayton--Tentative: Sept. 12-13. We will be returning to the nation's largest indoor aviation museum. This will depart on Sat. and return on Sun.

Cass Scenic Railroad in WV? This is another over nighter. Take the turn of the century train to the top of the second highest point in the beautiful Mountaineer State.

Warther Museum in So. OH? This museum contains large scale locomotive models made from ebony and ivory.

Denny's Pub in Clearfield? Home of the giant burgers. The giant burgers are legendary. Are you up to one?

Vice President's Ride to Clem's new location? Well you know if I have anything to say about destinations, the year won't be complete without at least one trip to Clem's BBQ. Nancy can have her President's Ride, but I'm headed for Clem's.

'Hunt For' wierd stuff along the highway any time and photograph it, you, and your bike. Prize for the best shot according to the judges at the 2010 January Banquet.

As you can see, we have some dates set, but never fear, we're working on the others. Your input is welcomed. If you have ideas for a ride, let me know. If you don't feel confident about leading a ride, no problem. We can help you, or you can just go along for the ride. I have already got suggestions from John Bauerlein and John Rolin. Spring's here, let's be ready!

SYPHOON

Here're some other possibilities of places to ride to to see something:

The Horseshoe Curve National Monument & The Altoona Railroaders' Memorial Museum

The Washington Trolley-car Museum

The Tour-Ed Coal Mine near Tarentum

Since we have decided to scrap the Nova Scotia trip because of time and money, we want to head south into the Smoky Mountains and the **Motorcycle Playground**. No real plans. Dave Thomas Ph. 724-733-4609 davet412@comcast.net



FOR SALE

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

1993 BMW R100R, Mileage: 40,000, Color: Classic Black, BMW Hard Bags, New Tires and Battery, Extra: BMW custom side stand, Excellent condition, Price: \$4,800.00. The motorcycle is in Pittsburgh, Contact Gary Smith in Florida (772-237-4119).

1975 R75/6 for sale -- New paint, dual plugged and electronic ignition, NEW carbs!.. Looks and (RAN) excellent, but it has been in storage for 5 years. My son has been in Iraq for a long time and now he wants me to sell it. Will need battery, carb clean, fluids changed and some tinkering with the throttle, which is sticky. Neutral light doesn't work. Has new leather corbin seat and original and a new parrabellum windshield. Will entertain offers over \$2,000, otherwise I will part it out on eBay Mitch Kehn j.kehn@verizon.net

2004 R1150RT, Silver, for sale -- Loaded! 7000 miles; twin spark. Asking \$9500 OBO, Dr. Guy Skelly, Ph.: 724-872-4215.

R1150RT/R1200RT STUFF for sale:...1) stock Radio hardware & antenna, 2) tank bag "needs work" 3) trunk box with liner, also "needs work" (lock to go with your bike's key?) 4) bag liners for stock side bags, all 4 items fit a 2003 R1150RT. I also have a tank bag off of a 2006 R1200RT. Call Walt at 412-922-0570 or e-mail wbhalaja@msn.com and we can haggle on price!



**EAST BREAKFAST RIDE
A PROFITABLE
MAPLE SYRUP RUN
SAT. MARCH 28, 09**

by Walt Halaja

OK this is what you missed: breakfast with Sonny Robison, Ralph the "Princeton Tiger" Meyer, Dave "2 Spark" McLaughlin, Paul "PW" White, Dave Manfredo, and Greg Lievan—Seven altogether, counting me. ...NICE! ...I was in the hunt for a gallon of maple syrup and was ready to go it alone to pay a visit to Henry and Rhoda Brenneman

down near Salisbury, PA.. Actually at 527 Oakdale Rd. The GPS #'s are (N39° 45.988' and W79° 07.424'). So I let my intentions be known, and PW, Greg, Dave M., and, finally, 2 Spark too said OK, but only 'till the 7 Springs turn because he wanted



Rhoda and Henry

to see the Skiers jumping over a pond of water, or something like that down there. I took the fastest way I could by using the Turnpike for two exits. 2 Spark turned off toward 7 Springs while the 4 of us continued on toward Ohio Pyle and arrived at 11:45 hrs.—about 1 hr. and 30 minutes worth of riding from Dick's. Not bad! I found the back roads off of Rt. 40 onto Rt. 523 that gave us a few more twisties, which was good, except for some of the winter ashes still lying on the road-

way; so that slowed us down a bit, but it was nonetheless worth it, I thought. When we passed Davis Mtn. we hit some fog, but ran past it after only a few miles. OK, I thought, I did pretty good till I passed up



Henry Brenneman Packing Maple Syrup

Oakdale Rd.. I saw it, but was going a bit too fast to make the turn; after that, PW didn't want to let me forget about it because we had to turn around--and he didn't like that. Ha!

We arrived at Henry's at 13:00 hrs., got our syrup, and then headed for Penn Alps in Grantsville, Md. for a bowl of soup and a salad for PW. While having the soup, PW said he wanted go back via old Rt. 40, which was fine with me. PW took the lead with his Brand New Zumo GPS turned on I think and made a left turn onto RT. 495 off of Rt. 40. I blew the horn, but it was too late so that put me back into the lead! At that, I thought PW and Greg, who turned with him, would just turn around and catch up with me. I kept looking back, but they never showed up. "So," I thought, "that was all right even though they never turned around." However, PW and Greg got onto RT. 68 and PW must have ridden like he was chasing down one of our HOG brothers as he's done in the past, because when I reached Keyzers Ridge, there he was on the side of the road waiting for us. "Now that was a good one," I thought, and thus PW regained the lead. We didn't, however, see Greg then, but eventually he caught up. Dave, Greg and I made a pit stop at the Bridgeville rest area where we found out that Greg had blown a right fork seal on his K bike that he will have to get repaired.

So, tell me, where can you put 4.6 Gal. of fuel in your bike for \$11.11, then ride 233 miles and pick up a gallon of Maple Syrup for \$38.00? This was a win-win day for me because a Gal. of syrup costs way more than \$49.11 in this 'neck of the woods' so to speak!

WALT



**WEST BREAKFAST/RIDE
THE OGLEBAY LOOP
APRIL 11, 09**

by Walt Halaja

I had breakfast at Bob Evans with Ralph Meyer, Dave Manfredo, John Rolin, and John Allen. We would have had another rider, but the rain stopped "2 Spark" McLaughlin who was going to come, but who called my cell and said he was staying home because he didn't want to start out in the rain that was coming down at his place. "Good call," I thought. There was some talk about a short ride out to Cranberry to check out the new Indian shop. That looked like the plan until we hit the parking lot when it all changed. ...That's the way it is sometimes with these breakfast rides. I do want to visit that In-

dian shop some day, but I could do that another day as John Allen wanted to go south. I chimed in that I really wouldn't mind that although I wanted to be home by 16:00 hrs. Ralph and Dave M. opted out of going south, so they split for home. John A. wanted me to get him to Bethany, WV, so, after a little thought I realized that that was on the way to one of my favorite West breakfast loops, so off we went with John Rolin in tow, so to speak. John A. took over at Bethany and gave us a spirited ride to the Sheetz on RT.'s 88 and 40 where we took a short pit stop. John A. wanted to continue South, but Rolin and I opted out so we split at that point. At Claysville, I asked John to lead up Rt. 231 because I know it's nice to just do your own pace and not be the follower. So for me it was 130 miles for the day with a temperature range of 43 to 56 degrees and a bit windy on the way home. Otherwise it was a great day for a ride!

PS...Members, be advised that the last time previously I went up 231 North there was a detour at Rt. 331. I know 231 is a favorite ride for some, so don't worry about that detour, because 231 is now open through that area!

PPS...A little addendum—After the fellows decided to head South, I thought it would be a good idea, since I was going North and wanted to get in a bit of a ride on the way home, for me to avoid the I-79 'slab' and instead run through Sewickley, hit the Red Belt North of the Orange Belt, and check out Rte 19 to see more or less where the Indian Dealership was, as noone at the breakfast had been sure whether it was North or South of where the Red Belt crossed 19 (Perry Hwy). So I headed East on 60, grabbed Beaver Grade Rd North, thence East again to 51, did the Sewickley Bridge, then the Orange Belt (after first checking in Sewickley to see where a Coffee Shop on Beaver St. was where the Sewickley Go club meets to play Go [ancient Chinese/Japanese board game] on Saturday afternoons), and up to the Red belt thereafter. Decided to head South when I got there on 19 to 910 figuring that if I didn't find the Indian Store on that leg, it had to be North of the Red Belt on 19. And it is. There wasn't a hide nor hair of an Indian Shop south of the Red Belt on 19. Question solved. Neat ride, too, if short. ...Ralph



**THE
NORTH BREAKFAST RIDE
10:00 AM, SUNDAY, 4/5/2009**

Camaraderie n. Good will and lighthearted rapport between or among friends; comradeship. [Fr. < camarade, comrade < OFr., roommate. See Comrade]. Comrade n. 1. A person who shares one's interests or activities; friend; companion. 2. Often: Comrade. A fellow member

of a group. [OFr. camarade, roommate < OSp. camarada < camara, room < LLat. camera—chamber]. [The American Heritage Dictionary (Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 1991), pp. 231, 304.

Man! Aren't dictionaries wonderful? Talk about a description of the April North Breakfast Ride (or any of the Breakfast Rides for that matter), that definition of Camaraderie sure defines 'em perfectly—even to the sources of the word which seem to imply that a



WALT

comrade is a 'sharer of the same room, space, or place' which, of course, is exactly what we did both literally and figuratively at King's thanks to Ron "Reddy-K, the Motorcycleholic" Latkovic. The North Breakfast Ride clique of the 4 Winds BMW Riders of Pittsburgh (which clique always includes anyone who shows up to 'share the room') certainly shared the room Sunday, along with one another's delightful company, information, opinions, and general jolly ribbing and mutual enjoyment of the company of all.

When I arrived at the spot the bikes usually wind up occupying by the solarium windows on the left side of Kings away from most of the cages, Paul White, John Barr, and Tom Reed were already there. I'd changed the oil in Ennypenny's (The Royal Enfield-costs pennies to run, ergo "Ennypenny") tranny and engine and wanted to see if I'd put back all the bolts, plugs, gaskets, and stuff properly—I did, but I wanted to check it all out on a short run. He seemed to like the new slippery stuff in his innerds and thumped sweetly along. Anyway, by the time I'd backed the RE into a parking spot, a fellow thumper lover, Frank Beatrous, arrived on his KLR, shortly to be followed by Ron "Reddy K" Latkovic, and Jack "The Blue Knight" Bramkamp, with Ron on "Reddy K," his R850R, and Jack on his Triumph Bonneville. John "Long Rider" Allen soon pulled in on his R1200RT. Boy, the clan she was gathering for sure. A couple of us were kicking tires and jabbering about something motorcyclish or other when I heard PW yell something like, "Hey, you got it out!" Wondering what 'it' was and 'who' it was that got 'it' out, turning around, there was Ron "Camper" Kranz, this time on 2 wheels—his K1200GT instead of his cage. After a bit more tire kicking, we headed in to the front room Ron had lined up for us.

I think the King's folks kinda like us, because we keep getting very nice and picturesque, not to mention efficient, waitresses to

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.

From Syphoon: The BMW K1200R and F800ST: <http://videos.howstuffworks.com/discovery-turbo/14000-twist-the-throttle-the-bmw-motorcycle-factory-video.htm>



LE GRAN HEARSE

Picture sent in by Walt Halaja

When ya gotta go, ya gotta go, and if ya gotta go, and there's no gettin' out o' goin' then at least here's a stylish method by which to go. It's what the well equipped Mortician sports in his lineup of means of providing a 'Final Ride.' (If my poor memory serves, these things are actually made here in PA! Ain't that Amazing? Huh? Well, after all they make Harleys here too, don't they?) Walt found this one!



pour the coffee, bring the tea, and take the orders. That morning, we had A-man-da — at least that's how her ID pin had her name spelled— she said they'd goofed and her name was actually Amanda and had been working there 7 years since she was 14. Amazing. ...We were no sooner seated than she had the coffee, both high and lo test, making its way around the tables; at which point Dave ("Two Spark" AKA "The Old Curmudgeon") McLaughlin arrived to ask whether the seat next to me at the table was taken. I looked closely at it and there didn't seem to be a body of any sort in it, and since I don't believe ghosts exist, there couldn't be a non-existent something we couldn't see occupying the thing, so I told him that if he'd be so kind as to occupy it with his very own bum, there would indeed be somebody sitting there then. Which he did. He figured it was too cold for the GS, so he brought the Miata. Nice bike! A few minutes later, the 'Camera' (Latin: "Room" or "Chamber"—same word is used for those picture-taking things amazingly enough) was further brightened as in walked "Brigadier" Sonny Robison (I call him that because he's the man who can lead a brigade of riders anywhere in W. PA, and W. VA without getting lost, and do so without a map, or GPS [actually, I'd rather follow Sonny than my GPS on a ride because I know he knows where he's going... after sufficient experience with the GPS, however, I'm not quite sure IT always does!]). Counting on my fingers, and taking off one boot so as to include a toe, that made 11 of us—quite a sufficient number to render the room solid with a happy roar of agreeable conversation that only diminished a) while orders for

breakfast were being taken, and b) after the orders were brought and everyone was wielding his cup, fork, knife, or spoon as the case happened to be.

After an enjoyable meal 'en camera' we repaired outside to go our various ways after more tire kicking. I'm not sure where everyone planned to go. Several places or directions, I think, but I didn't check as I had to head back home for some more dang 'honeydo' stuff. BUT, I think, besides the ride(s) I know why these B-Rides, wherever they may lead are so enjoyable: it's the camaraderie. ...it's the camaraderie. Yep!

RALPH

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Lee Marks
President



DUCATI

TRIUMPH

Kawasaki



EVENTS HERE 'N THERE

From Diane Pears

You might want to mark your calendars, look up on the internet, or pitch your hat in the ring some other way for one or more of these upcoming events. Here's a list Diane made up:

- April 26 Packard Museum
- May 3 Rock N Roll Hall of Fame
- May 16 Mutiple Mancation destinations
- May 31 Beaver Run Track Day
- June 13 MOC rally
- June 20 Laurel Highlands rally
- July 4 Redbank Project & Bluegrass campout
- July 11 Leave for the MOA Nat'l. (or a little later that week)
- July 12 Shriner's Poker Run
- July 18 MOA rally, TN
- July 18 Mid Ohio Super Bikes
- July 25 RA rally, WV & Mid Ohio Vintage
- Aug. 15 4 Winds rally
- Sept. 5 Finger Lakes rally
- Sept. 12-13 Wright Patterson AF Museum ????
- Sept. 26 Black Diamond Rally in the Poconos

DIANE



THE WAY WE WERE BACK WHEN — MAY 1999

Walt Halaja

- 1) 1st & last paragraph of the President's message via Nancy Barrett: We never want it to be said that the Four Winds BMW Riders are not on the cutting edge. This here is a high quality publication, just like all the rest of 'em! So, that said, I think you all know what we need. We need an article on the new BMW Goldwi ... , Voyag ... , er, K1200LT! And I'm just the person to write it. Why? Because I thought of it first!
"Why don't you just try sitting on it?" everyone says. "No thanks. I'll pass on this one. I'm very happy on the R1100. Besides, I didn't want to make anyone pull out the ladder again."
"Keep your eyes on the road" Nancy
- 2) Spring Bike Clean-Up/ swap meet at May Meeting at Big Al's house high noon till 5 PM !
- 3) If You Are Reading This Issue...of the 4 winds newsletter, then you have either paid your dues, or borrowed it from someone who did. If you are a member of the former group, then thank you. If you are a member of the latter group, then get your act together and send your \$15.00 to: THE TREASURER!

4) IN THE NEWS: taken from issues of the PITTSBURGH POST GAZETTE. Thanks to Trent Denison and others.

- A. MEDICS TO GET MOTORCYCLES - City Council voted unanimously in favor of the motor-medic bill
- B. HELMET LAW NARROWLY RETAINED - The bid to repeal the 31-year state law requiring motorcycle riders to wear helmets failed in a 24-26 vote. The measure would have made helmets optional for drivers 21 or older with 2 years experience.
- C. COURT OKs SIGNAL HIGH BEAMS- The state Supreme Court has decided that a driver who flashed his headlights to warn oncoming motorists of a speed trap did nothing illegal. The court ruled 5-1 that the vehicle code was not violated. The dissenting justice, however, said that the motorist should have been charged with a more serious crime than a traffic violation. This decision is from an incident that happened in 1996.

5) FROM THE MINUTES 4/17/99

- A. Our thanks to President Nancy for picking up the newsletter. Keep on sending in those articles to her by the 5th of the month.
- B. Please send in your mileage contest forms and send them to Sean Barrett.
- C. Gary Smith introduced his guest, Teresa Cannon, who will be riding with Gary this summer.
- D. Door prizes were won by Jim Gorman, Dana Asherman, John Glenn, Lou Shinnamon, Adrian Marini, Stacy Asherman, Mark Smith. Lou Shinnamon also won the 50/50
- E. Our guest speaker Bob Higdon entertained us with his usual blast of off beat humor. THANKS BOB we always love it when you get excited....

CADGED FROM THE MAY 1999 NEWSLETTER BY WALT



SAFETY BITS

Watch your mirrors and blink your tail lights when stopped in traffic as the last man on the totem pole. Cagers are not known to be particularly observant, especially if it's one in a Suckingly (gas guzzler) Useless (99% who have 'em don't need 'em) Vehicle running off at the mouth on a cell phone instead of paying attention to driving who comes skirting up behind you thinking there's nothing between him and the car in front of you (because he "doesn't/didn't see the motorcycle"). You could become a Beemer sandwich between 2 cages. Blinking your tail light at least gives you a chance to get said jerk's attention and make him realize there's something behind that car in front of him - like a motorcyclist maybe??? Also, stay far enough behind the car ahead of you to be able to swing out around one side or the other of it--whichever is safest--should Mr. Coming-from-the-rear look like he's not going to stop before he gets (to) you. Fool him! Let him hit the guy in front of you! Be aware!



THE FOUR WINDS RIDERS DO FACEBOOK!

by Trick D. Barrett

In the past few months, my father, Sean “Doc” Barrett has discovered the social-networking site Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com>). This very well may be something that many of you are aware of, seeing as how he mistakenly sent an invitation to *everyone in his email address book*.

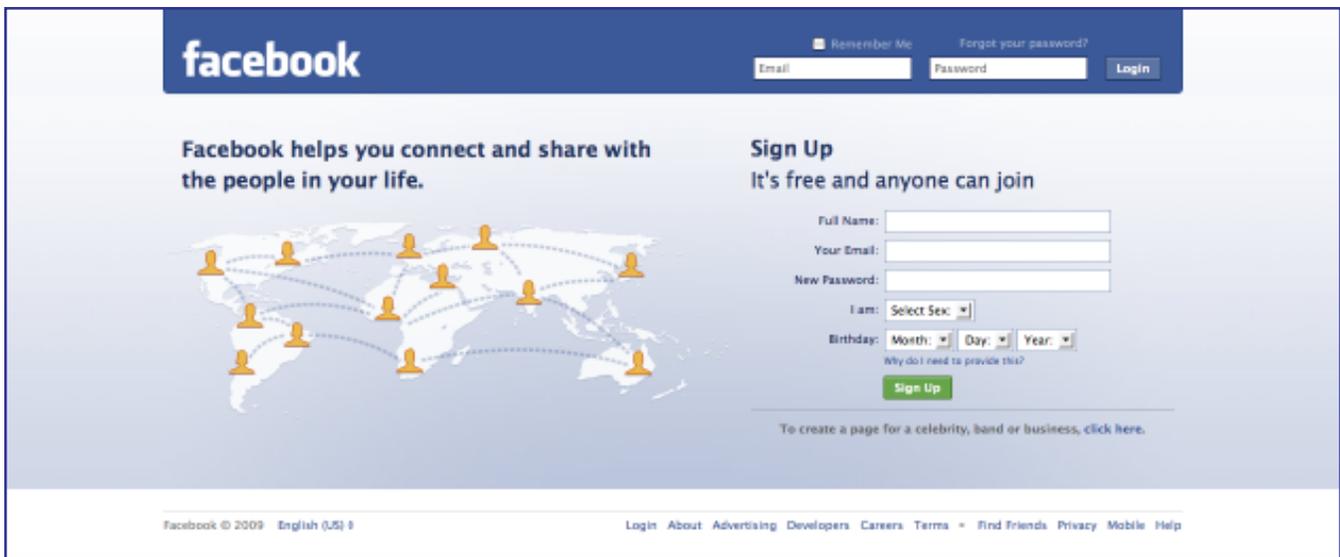
Facebook is a website of the type that is typically called a “social-networking site.” All this really means is that Facebook’s primary purpose is to allow its users to socialise with friends and family. The benefit of it being online is that one may find a friend that they haven’t spoken to in years or be able to talk to family that live across the country (or in other countries for that matter). My father’s family, for example, uses Facebook as a more efficient way of sharing photos with the rest of the Barrett clan.

When one joins Facebook, one gets a profile that can tell others such things as the user’s birthday, where they are currently living (though not an exact address, for security reasons), cell and home phone numbers, photographs of the user or that the user has taken, among other things. All of these features are optional (so if you don’t want old friends ringing you up at four in the morning, they don’t have the ability), and the site is completely free to join.

Why is this pertinent to the club? Because through Doc’s Facebook adventures, it has come to my attention that far more club members and friends of the club are on Facebook than I would have expected. So far, I count six club members, plus two folks that people know and used to be affiliated with the Four Winds BMW Riders. Therefore, I’ve decided to create something called a Facebook group (<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=74936103201>) as an additional way to receive information about the club. The group has all the pertinent information that is on the front of the club website (things like ride and meeting dates, locations, etc.) and can be set to send a member a message when any of that information is changed. So, when rides (the ride to the Packard Museum, for example) are changed at the last minute, instead of relying on people showing up to the meeting or checking the website, the group can send a message to the members letting them know of the alteration in plans.

TUTORIAL

For those of you that are interested in joining Facebook but aren’t really sure about how, the following is a little guide on doing just that.

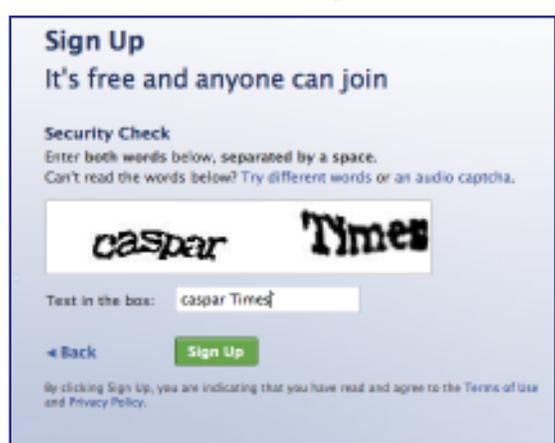


All one really needs to join Facebook is an email address. Picture 1 shows what you see when you first go to <http://www.facebook.com>



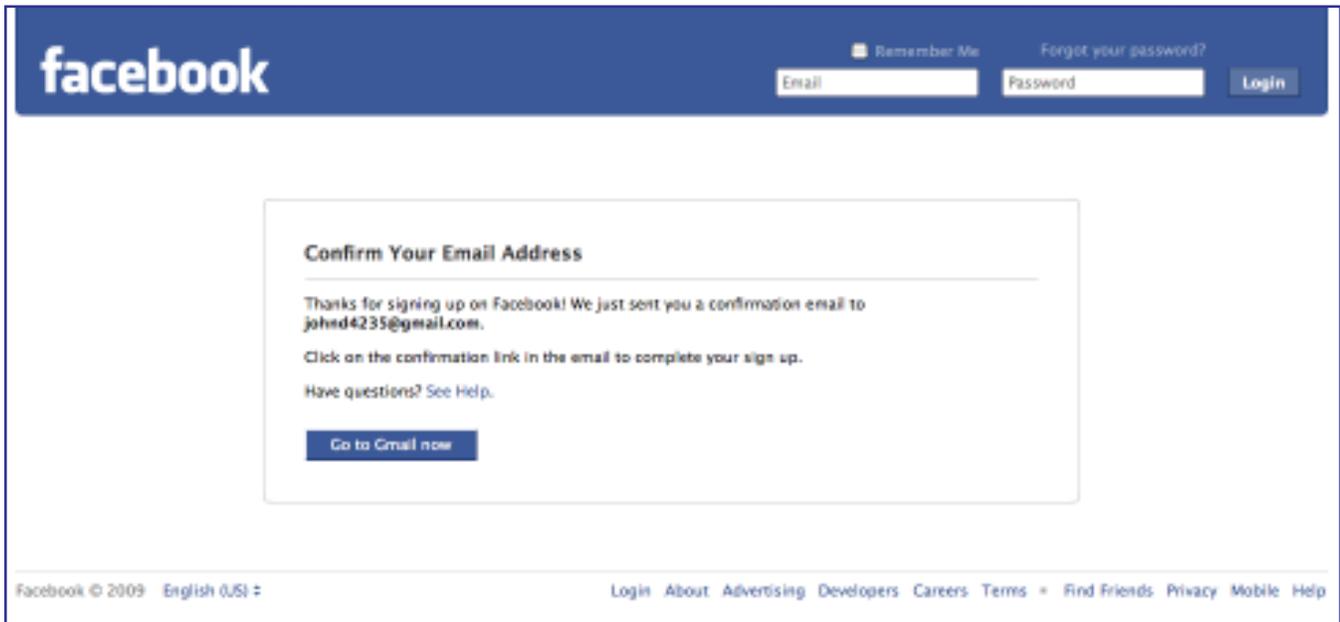
and Picture 2 shows an enlargement of the sign-up form, this time with (fictional) information entered.

Picture 3 shows the next step of the sign-up process: a bot-test known on the internet as a “captcha.” The purpose of a bot-test is so

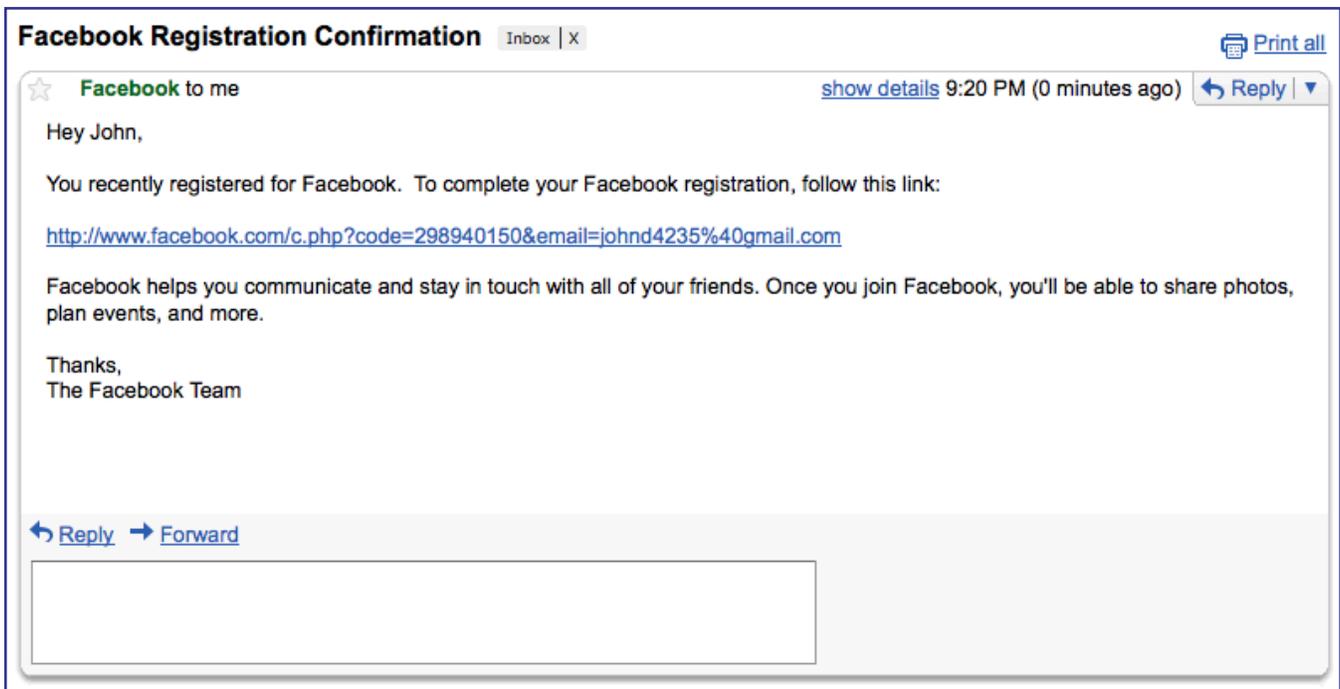


that there's no chance of anyone programming a computer to sign up automatically for multiple accounts for the purpose of something like spam advertising. To solve the captcha, simply enter the funny-looking words above it including all spaces.

After solving the captcha, you'll see a screen that looks like Picture 4. Once you see that screen, check your email and you should see an



email that looks kinda like Picture 5. Follow the link in the email—this'll prove that this is indeed your email address—and that link will



take you to Picture 6. WARNING: if you enter your email address and password here, then Facebook will add anyone that's in your email address book that already has a Facebook account to your friends list (think of it like bookmarking a webpage, except specifically with Facebook profiles) but it will also send out emails to anyone who does not have a Facebook account (see Doc's little adventure above). You can avoid this very easily by hitting the little blue link in the bottom right corner that says "skip this step."



(continued on next page)

When you move on to the next step (Picture 7), Facebook will ask you to enter things like your high school, college or company. If you

Step 1
Find Friends

Step 2
Profile Information

Step 3
Join a Network

Fill out your Profile Info

This information will help you find your friends on Facebook.

High School: Class Year: ▼

College/University: Class Year: ▼

Company:

Save

[Skip this step >](#)

want to skip this step, just click the link like you did last time, but if you decide to enter your high school or college, you'll see a drop-down menu of schools to choose from (Picture 8). This is a really good way to get in touch with people that you went to high school or college with.

Step 1
Find Friends

Step 2
Profile Information

Step 3
Join a Network

Fill out your Profile Info

This information will help you find your friends on Facebook.

High School: Class Year: ▼

College/University: Class Year: ▼
Winchester, United Kingdom

Company:

Peters Township High School
McMurray, Pennsylvania

Peterborough Collegiate And Vocational Institute
Peterborough, Canada

Peter Skene Ogden Secondary School
Mile House, British Columbia

Peterhouse School

[Skip this step >](#)

The last step is shown in Picture 9. This asks you if you want to join a network. All this means is that if you put in the area in which you live, Facebook will make it easier to find people that you may know that also live in that area.

The screenshot shows the 'Join a Network' step of a Facebook profile creation process. At the top, there are three steps: 'Step 1 Find Friends', 'Step 2 Profile Information', and 'Step 3 Join a Network', with 'Step 3' being the active step. The main heading is 'Join a Network' with the question 'Which of these places do you identify with most?'. Below this, there is a 'City/Town:' field containing 'Bethel Park, PA' and a note 'US/Canada/UK only - [Other countries]'. Underneath, there is a 'Networks:' section with three radio button options: 'Pittsburgh, PA' (selected), 'Wheeling, WV', and 'Morgantown, WV'. A blue 'Join' button is positioned below the networks. A paragraph explains: 'You can see profiles of other people in your networks, and they can see yours. You can change this on your privacy settings page.' A 'Skip this step' link with a right-pointing arrow is located at the bottom right.

Finally, Picture 10 shows what your completed profile will look like. Now you can add pictures of yourself, make friends, join groups (like the Four Winds BMW Riders group) and maybe find a few people you haven't thought of in ages.

The screenshot shows a completed Facebook profile for 'John Killian'. The top navigation bar includes 'facebook', 'Home', 'Profile', 'Friends', 'Inbox', and user options 'John Killian', 'Settings', 'Logout', and a search bar. The profile header shows 'John Killian' with tabs for 'Wall', 'Info', and '+'. Below the header is a 'What's on your mind?' text box with a 'Share' button. The left sidebar contains 'Edit My Profile', 'Write something about yourself.', 'Information' (with a pencil icon), 'Friends' (showing 0 friends and a 'Find people you know' link), and 'Applications'. The main content area shows 'RECENT ACTIVITY' with a post: 'John joined Facebook.' The bottom of the page features a navigation bar with 'Applications', 'Online Friends (0)', and other icons.

TRICK

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 May 16, 2009 meeting will be held from 2 - 5 PM* at Joann and John Barr's at 845 Agnew Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15227. 412-8815897.

From East: Take I 376 W toward downtown Pgh; take Exit 3A. Turn right onto SR 885 (Bates St). At stop light, left onto SR 885 (2nd Ave). .1 mi right onto Hot Metal Bridge. .2 mi left onto SR 837 (E Carson St). 1.2 mi right onto Becks Run Rd (Blue Belt), at 2nd stop light (1.8 mi) left onto Agnew Rd. Continue up hill on Agnew Rd; at 1st stop sign bear left; at 2nd stop sign, turn left; 1 more stop sign; 5th house on left (845 Agnew Rd).

From West: From intersection of I 79 & I 279 (Parkway West) take I 279 E towards downtown Pgh; Take Exit 5B, Merge onto SR 51 South /US 19. 3.9 mi on SR 51 (about 10 stop lights), then left onto Maytide St (Blue Belt). .7 mi left onto Biscayne Dr (Blue Belt), .2 mi to stop light, continue on Blue Belt (across Brownsville Rd). At next stop light (.7 mi) turn right onto Agnew Rd. Continue up hill on Agnew Rd; at 1st stop sign bear left; 2nd stop sign turn left, 1 more stop sign; 5th house on left (845 Agnew Rd)

From North; I 79 S to intersection of I 79 & I 279, then follow the "From West" directions above.

From South; I 79 N to I 279, then follow "From West" directions above. **OR:** Take SR 51 N (5 miles past Century III Mall) and turn Right onto Maytide St (Blue Belt) (just past SR 88). Go .7 mi and left onto Biscayne Dr (Blue Belt), .2 mi to stop light and continue on Blue Belt (across Brownsville Rd). At stop light (.7 mi) turn right onto Agnew Rd. Continue up hill on Agnew Rd; at 1st stop sign bear left; at 2nd stop sign turn left. 1 more stop sign; 5th house on left (845 Agnew Rd)

*The board will meet at 1:00PM.