

MARCH

BMW Club
Four Winds Riders



2013

MOA # 6

www.4windsbmw.org

RA # 76



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Don't give up, spring has to be around the corner, Punxsutawney Phil said so. I have been able to get out several times over the past week but warm weather would be welcome.

The club is moving along, we hope to get the new website up and running this month. We plan on getting the basics up first and then gradually filling everything else in as we go. We will send out a notice as soon as it is up.

We are looking for a rally chairperson. If interested, contact me or any other board member, we will go over what is entailed. We already have more volunteers than usual so it shouldn't be that hard of a job.

Next month, Eric Trow will be speaking at the meeting so spread the word and get there on time. For those that haven't heard Eric speak, you are in for a treat, so mark your calendars.

That is about it for this month, see you at next month's meeting.

RIDE HARD, RIDE SAFE,

SEAN

**DO YOUR
DUES!
DUES FORM
ON P. 6**

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2013

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724-656-1239
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Director – Jeff Harlich
jharlich@comcast.net

Director – Ralph Meyer
meyer@zoominternet.net

MARCH MEETING INFO

The next meeting of the Four Winds BMW Riders will be held on Sat., March 16th, 2013 at The Walnut Grove Restaurant on Perry Hwy (Rte 19) north of Wexford from 12–3PM. The meal will be from the menu. Eric Trow will present the program--see pp. 14-15.

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., March Meeting: March 16; **April issue deadline: Tues., April 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 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 2013

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

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

January 15, 2013 — Annual Club Banquet, 6:00-11 PM, at Best Western Parkway Center Inn, 875 Greentree Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15220

February, 2013 — TBA

March, 2013 — TBA

April, 2013 — TBA

May, 2013 — TBA

June, 2013 — TBA

July, 2013 — TBA

August, 2013 — **Friday, August 19 to Sunday, August 21 47th Annual Four Winds Rally!**

September, 2013 — TBA

October, 2013 — TBA

November, 2013 — TBA

December, 2013 — No Monthly Meeting

2013 SHACKS

Keep an eye out on the web site all you lady and gentleman wrenchers and attendees out there, for any Shack locations and dates to help keep us smiling through the winter, and keep 'em rolling!



CLUB NEEDS:

Here are some things the club needs...if you can supply them, please do!

- 1) A Rally Chairman--for our rally this summer. Someone to coordinate Rally efforts. Easy job. What needs to be done is all laid out in the Rally Organization Book. See the president or any board member to volunteer. ASAP.
- 2) Your dues...if you haven't paid them yet. Remember, if you receive the paper copy of the newsletter, this is the last issue you'll get unless your 2013 dues are up to date.
- 3) New Members--we're always in happy need of new members. Know of a BMW motorcyclist, or prospective BMW motorcyclist? Why not invite them--or better yet--bring them to a meeting and introduce them around so they feel 'at home'. The word here is "The more, the merrier!"
- 4) Anything else you can think of to make our great club even better than it already is.

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, Mar 3 — North at Eat 'n Park, I-79 & Rt 910/Brandt School Rd., 10:00 AM

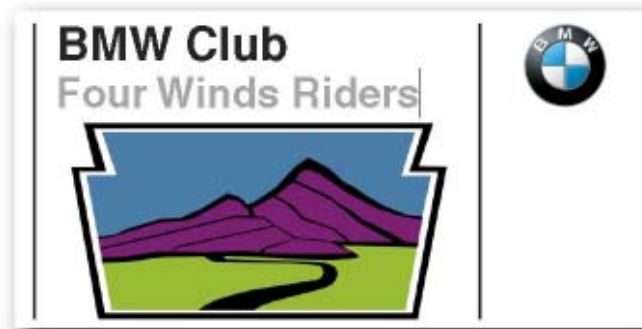
Sat, Mar 9 — West at Bob Evans, Rt 60 & Campbell's Run Rd, 9:00 AM

Sun, Mar 17 — South at Eagles Landing, Rostraver Airport, Rte 51, 10:00 AM

Sat, Mar 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 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.



FOUR WINDS BMW RIDERS FEBRUARY 15, 2013 MEETING MINUTES

Location: Pugliano's Italian Grill, Plum, PA

Board Mtg. Attendance: Sean Barrett, Diane Pears, Tim Pears, Joan Barr, Jeff Harlich, Ralph Meyer, John Humphrey

The meeting was called to order by President Sean Barrett at 1:00 pm with 22 people present.

Treasurer's Report: John Humphrey gave the account balance and reminded everyone to send in your annual dues. Rally shirts will be brought to the next meeting for sale. A few reflective club stickers are left for \$3 ea. Lee Marks from European Motorcycles paid his dues and gave an extra \$85 donation to the club.

Tri-Fold Brochures: Were printed and Tom Furey took 75 to Lee's shop to be given to bike purchasers. Sean will contact the MOA about sending them to members in our area who are not part of our club.

Our Rally: Chair or several co-chairs needed soon – by next meeting. Volunteers are already offering to help. Tom Furey will put ads in all 3 BMW magazines. Ron Kranz said Craig Immel, former owner of Heritage BMW, has offered to do a tech session.

MOA & RA National Rallies: All run by volunteers. If you're going to one, please contact them and donate some time to help while you're there. MOA will be in Salem, Oregon, July 18 - 21. RA will be at the Biltmore Estate in Ashville, NC, June 20-23.

Website: We are going to get the new website going in stages with the basics first, then fill in more info and pages as we get them together.

Ride to Tom Meyers in WV: One of our members has offered to host us at his camp on a lake in WV. Watch for ride dates to be announced.

Membership List Requested: Walt Halaja requested an updated list with all paid up members. Discussion about which information people want listed. John Humphrey will print a paper list to handout in another month or two when everyone has renewed. A restricted section for current members only is planned for the website.

Name Tags: Information to purchase name badges will be provided again, and members are encouraged to wear theirs. John Humphrey will bring paper tags to future meetings.

Returning Member: Welcome back to Chris Freed, who not only re-joined, but offered to pay several years of back-dues retroactively!

Video Presentation: "Surviving the Mean Streets" video was shown featuring former motorcycle officer Ron Motorman Paladino.

50/50 Drawing Winner: Bethany Furey

March 16th Meeting: Eric Trow will be our featured speaker at Walnut Grove, Wexford.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, TIM PEARS, SECRETARY

FEB. MEETING PICTURES
Photographed by Ron "ReddyK" Latkovic





The BMW RA Rally

June 20th – 23rd

By Kent Skoug

In 2007 my wife, Ursula, and I decided to retire from twenty-five years in the Seattle area. I have one of the best wives in the world. She flat out told me I WOULD retire while I was still able to ride. We started to decide on places to retire to (the Seattle area has great scenic routes and I can tolerate the rain, but not the tax structure) so we started to look around. Our children and grandchildren were just north of Atlanta, but there was no way in He** I was going to return to Atlanta and the congestion and traffic in that area. So, we decided on the mountain area of North Carolina in the Asheville area.

I mentioned 2007 because that was the year we had decided to fly east and look at the Asheville area. Shortly after Christmas 2006 I was reading some of my magazines and I saw the BMW RA was having their national rally that year in Asheville at the Biltmore Mansion. I yelled to Ursula, "Guess when we are going to Asheville and guess how we are traveling!" She was able to guess! We were impressed with the area, the tax structure, the cost of housing, and the roads! In 2009 I sent her ahead and told her to buy us a home and in July I followed her. Other than totaling the R1200 RT in Kansas while heading to NC, I have had no regrets. However, that's another story.

There is no state, but Hawaii, that I haven't ridden in and I have never found riding that I have enjoyed as much as the North Carolina mountains. Even the Tail of the Dragon is overrated! I could show you a hundred routes with more curves, switchbacks, elevation changes and just plain fun, with less highway patrol and no 35 MPH speed limits!

If you come to the BMW RA rally at the Biltmore I'll show them to you! Since moving to the south-east I have joined four BMW clubs and am an officer in the Asheville Chapter. I will be laying out the rally's on-road rides. So, come on down and I'll show you!

Pre-registration for the rally is \$65.00 per person for RA members and \$75.00 for non-members. That's really inexpensive as it allows full access to the Biltmore Mansion (camping will be on the grounds) which is usually a \$50.00 a day charge by itself, and the rally fee is for the full three days. The Biltmore is the largest single family dwelling in the United States with 250 rooms, 33 family and guest bedrooms, 43 bathrooms, 65 fireplaces, 3 kitchens and an indoor swimming pool. The RA is the only organization that the Biltmore has ever allowed to camp on the grounds. They are also allowing us build a GS track fairly close to the camping area.

The rally is June 20th to the 23rd. By the way, the trip and the rally can easily be done in a two week vacation period from anywhere in the continental United States. Ursula and I did it in 2007 from Seattle with a two day side trip to visit our children north of Atlanta after the rally and on our way home. Hope to see all of you in Asheville this coming summer.

2013 4-Winds Dues Submission Form:

Member Name: _____
Address: _____
Post Office: _____
State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Additional Member's Names (if any):

Associate Member's Names (if any):

Number of Members' Dues submitted: _____ x \$15 = \$ _____
Number of Associates' Dues submitted: _____ x \$7.50 = \$ _____
TOTAL: \$ _____

Please make out your dues check for yourself, and other members and associates in your family to **"4 Winds BMW Riders"** and mail it with this completed form to:

Tom Furey, Treasurer
4 Winds BMW Riders of Pittsburgh
1663 Beamer Ave
New Kensington, PA 15068





THE NORTH BREAKFAST 2/3/2013

by Ron "ReddyK" Latkovic

It's the day after Punxatawny Phil surprisingly didn't see his shadow, so, as some old wife's tale states, we are supposed to have an early spring, which can't be better news for us, cabin fevered Four Winds riders. It was the first Sunday in February and that meant the North Breakfast Ride at the Eat 'n Park in Wexford. I posted a reminder on the Four Winds web site as I usually do, just so a possible new member might read it and attend, and also for a lot of us members who are getting a little older and need to know it's this up-coming Sunday.

Mother nature must not have heard the report from Phil yet, for the weather was not cooperating with the predictions of early warm weather. For today, the temp was freezing, roads were slippery from an overnight snow and, to make things worse, the Four Winds web site was gone! No way to check on how many responses I got nor when the web went out nor how many read the reminder I posted. I just got one from Ralph Meyer stating that he wasn't coming due to having a HONEY DO CHORE and was shoveling his driveway so his lovely wife could go to Church that morning. I don't know if

Ralph did that out of the goodness of his heart or a little brown nosing to have the wife change her mind about letting him look into buying another "PONY" for his stable. Good move, buddy!

Is anyone going to show up? Is this bitter weather going to beat the hard core riders we have in our club? I will know shortly as I arrived 10 minutes early and noticed no bikes in the parking lots. Well, that's ok, I thought, ...our riders are not only tough, but smart. It was bad out! As I exited my cage, I turned to look at the window of our reserved room that the management have ready for us each month. Well I had my answer: There they were, three tables full of smiling and hungry Four Winds members waving out the frost covered window at me. Shortly after entering the room I was abruptly accused of being late by ex director Jack Bramkamp, which broke the group up in laughter, ...which I shrugged off.

Attending were Ron Krantz, Larry Morley, Jack Bramkamp, Dave "2spark" McLaughlin, Kim and Don Chembars, John Allen, Walt Halaja, Bob Hall, and myself, ReddyK.

After ordering the usual Eat 'n Park buffet breakfast and hot coffee, which was very welcome on such a wintery day, we all traded stories of what went on since we got together last, such as who had

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.

Danger: E15 Gasoline--Video sent in by Walt Halaja: - very important info: <http://video.foxbusiness.com/v/2000862202001/>.

FOR SALE

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

25" tall Cee-Bailey Windshield for F800ST - Clear. Already has Velcro strips for attaching EZPass Transponder. Asking \$125.00. Contact: meyer@zoominternet.net.

Big Al Vangura's Kymco Scooter - With all the trimmings and extras--For pictures and information, see pp. 16-17.

the flu, to discussing the banquet ,to wondering “where’s Ralph?” to what was there to do on our bikes before the early riding season Punxy Phil predicted for us.

As I was just about to leave, Don Chembars approached me very excitedly to show me a picture of his new Bike. Wow! Don told me he traded in his Cobra race car for a custom built trike from a company called V8 Choppers in Miami, OK. Don knew the owner for years. The custom trike is equipped with a Dart 427 V8 engine with 600hp, a 2 speed



trans, custom paint job and special tires. (Check out the pictures.) Don told me the company was to ship it to Florida in time for bike week, which he will attend; then He will pick it up there to drive home. I guess your K1600GTL or your R1200GS isn’t fast enough, huh, Don? Can’t wait to see it when we meet for the North Breakfast ride in April!

That’s seems to be all for now, so take care till next month and ride safe.

REDDYK



AL VANGURA’S PHOTOGRAPHER

Remember last month’s collage of fine pictures of Al Vangura’s 80th Birthday Party that was put on by a number of Four Winds members who had known Al for a long time? Well one of his oldest friends and riding companions was the photographer whose expressive photographic work at the party enabled the newsletter to present those pictures. We’d like, all of us, to thank Gary Hoffman for his work in shooting the pictures of that happy evening that enabled us to share at least visually in the party for Al. They were much appreciated by all of us who knew Al. Thanks ever so much, Gary, for the fine camera work!

Four Winds Mileage Contest

Jan 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013



Beginning Mileage Form – Year 2013

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: (_____) _____

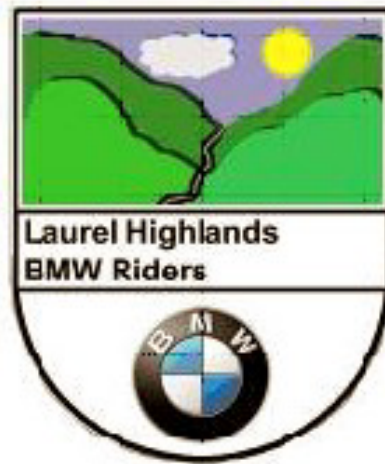
Mail Form to:
Mileage Contest
c/o Tim Pears
555 Rose Stop Rd.
New Castle, PA 16101
or E-mail to:
timndiane@comcast.net

	Make / Model / Year	Beginning Mileage (ONLY if not sent in last January!)
Bike 1		
Bike 2		
Bike 3		

Mileage submitted must be an honest record of the odometer readings for the Motorcycles you currently own, operate and submit for the beginning of this year, 2013. You can submit the mileage from one bike or mileage from all of the bikes you own. The sum of miles you attain on all of your bikes combined will produce this year's winner. Please note that unlike BMWMOA, we do not recognize a 'Riding Season.' If you wish to think in terms of the 4 Winds Riding Season, then figure it starts on January 1st of the New Year, and ends on December 31st of that same year. Thus your beginning mileage can be whatever the mileage on the odometer of your bike(s) was/were on January 1st before you began riding that day. If you don't know what that was, you can put in the mileage(s) on your bike(s) at the present moment.

The highest mileage submitted at the end of the year will win a Sheetz gift certificate to refill your tank, and there may be additional prizes depending on the board's decision for those who come in second, third, and so forth:





11TH ANNUAL BMW RIDERS CAMPOUT

SOMERSET, PA

JUNE 14, 15, 16, 2013

11TH ANNUAL

LAUREL HIGHLANDS BMW RIDERS CAMPOUT

Father's Day Weekend. Bring Dad, bring the kids!

We return to Pioneer Park Campground located in south central Pennsylvania. Pioneer Park is a terrific full-service camping resort with excellent showers and facilities, minutes away from the Pa. Turnpike Exit #10, Somerset, Pa. or the Donegal exit #9.

Directions: From Somerset, Rt. 31 W. 7 miles to campground.
From Donegal, Rt. 31 E 12 miles.

Admission is just \$45.00 for the full weekend (\$40 if pre-registered) and includes, two nights camping, three meals, loads of door prizes, self-guided ride info and 11th Annual rally pin for the first 100 pre registrants.

Somerset is home to the new National Park at the Flight 93 crash site. Frank Lloyd Wright's masterpiece Fallingwater is 40 minutes away. You are only 30 minutes from Historic Johnstown Pa, and its Flood Museum and National Park. There is great riding in any direction with many self-guided tours available.

Friday evening enjoy Gourmet Dump Stew (bring a can or 2 to add to the pot), hotdogs & snacks till their gone. Morning Coffee & tea.

Saturday Catered dinner with Chicken & Beef, tons of door prizes.
Hearty send-off breakfast Sunday morning!

Pavilion, picnic tables, hot showers, campfires allowed-wood provided! Motels & Restaurants nearby. Sat. night campground band!

Discount for one night, not camping or 16 or younger.
Downloadable pre registration form:

<http://www.thevuelta.com/CampoutRegistration2013.pdf>

Info: George Blackham IV, gjbiv1stsgtusmc@yahoo.com
or Jason Kaplitz; gsjay@kaplitz.com (814) 535-8669
Pre-registration appreciated- Send check/name/ contact info to:
LHBMWR C/O 840 Basin Dr. Windber Pa. 15963

11th Annual Laurel Highlands BMW Riders Campout 2013

June 14, 15, 16, 2013

Name Rider _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Miles ridden to Rally _____

Make & model, year _____

Name Passenger _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Club affiliations: _____

Camping: Yes _____ No _____ Motel (-\$5.00 pp/pn) _____

Number of Attendees _____ X \$45.00 at gate - \$40.00 if preregistered by 5/31/13

= _____ Pd. Cash _____ Pd. Check # _____

Please read and sign the following release:

I understand that the Laurel Highlands BMW Riders cannot assume responsibility for my personal safety in this event. I choose to participate in this event voluntarily, based on my own assessment of my abilities, the route conditions and facilities, and therefore assume all risks. I release and hold harmless LHBMWR; it's officers, agents and members from any and all injury and/or loss to my person or property that may result from my participation in this event. I further certify that my vehicle and I are in compliance with all applicable license, insurance and financial responsibility laws applicable to my participation in this event.

All participants under 18 years of age must have their parent or guardian sign the following additional release. As the parent or guardian of the above participant, and being informed or familiar with the risk normally associated with motorcycle events, I hereby consent to his or her participation in this event, and accept and adopt all the representations and assumptions of risk set forth in the foregoing release.

Rider _____ Parent or
Signature: _____ Guardian _____

Passenger
Signature: _____

Make Checks payable to LHBMWR and mail to:

Stacey Papinchak
840 Basin Dr. Windber, Pa. 15963

Comprehensive Motorcycle Trip Packing List
BMW touring Club of Detroit

- | Personal Items | Motorcycle Items | Camping Items |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pants | <input type="checkbox"/> Standard Jacket | <input type="checkbox"/> Tent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shirts | <input type="checkbox"/> Jacket Liner | <input type="checkbox"/> Tent Ground Cover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Underwear | <input type="checkbox"/> Riding Boots | <input type="checkbox"/> Tent Poles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Warm Weather Clothes | <input type="checkbox"/> Rain Suit (s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tent Stakes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cold Weather Clothes | <input type="checkbox"/> Rain Boots (rubber) | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Mattress (s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Socks | <input type="checkbox"/> Rain Gloves | <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping Bag (s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soap | <input type="checkbox"/> Rain Hat | <input type="checkbox"/> Pillow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo | <input type="checkbox"/> Heated Jacket | <input type="checkbox"/> Pillow (knees) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Razor | <input type="checkbox"/> Heated Jacket Controller | <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Blanket |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shaving Cream | <input type="checkbox"/> Hot Weather Jacket | <input type="checkbox"/> Space Blanket |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dental Floss | <input type="checkbox"/> Warm Weather Gloves | <input type="checkbox"/> Shower Thongs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tooth Brush | <input type="checkbox"/> Cold Weather Gloves | <input type="checkbox"/> Towel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tooth Paste | <input type="checkbox"/> Seat Cushion | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic Bags |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deodorant | <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball Hat | <input type="checkbox"/> Clothes Line |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comb | <input type="checkbox"/> Bag, for top of saddle bag | <input type="checkbox"/> Flash Light |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chap Stick | <input type="checkbox"/> Tie Down Straps | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking Gear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Money | <input type="checkbox"/> Bungee Cords | <input type="checkbox"/> Candle Light |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travelers Checks | <input type="checkbox"/> Oil | <input type="checkbox"/> Chair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Card | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Pressure Gage | <input type="checkbox"/> Compressor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Passport | <input type="checkbox"/> Directions | <input type="checkbox"/> BMW Power Plug (Comp) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking Shoes | <input type="checkbox"/> Maps | <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen | <input type="checkbox"/> Motel Information | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insect Repellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous Book | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camera | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic Bags | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Film | <input type="checkbox"/> Wrist Rest | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pen & Note Pad | <input type="checkbox"/> Face Shield Cleaner | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Binoculars | <input type="checkbox"/> Bike Cleaner | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shorts | <input type="checkbox"/> Rags | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming Trunks | <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses | <input type="checkbox"/> Rally Registration | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading Glasses | <input type="checkbox"/> Address labels | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cell Phone | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phone numbers | | |

Diane Pears, in her forays around the web ran across this super check list from the BMW Touring Club of Detroit that covers just about everything a motorcycle tourer or camper might want or need to have with them on their trip. It's an excellent way to insure that you have everything you need for your tour, camping, or rally going. Make a bunch of copies on a copier and have a nice checklist the next time you pack the bike before you head out so that you don't have that dreaded "Oh No, I didn't Pack it" moment down the road when you discover something you need and forgot to put aboard. Thanks, Di!

THE WAY WE WERE BACK WHEN

Prepared by 'Capt.' Walt Halaja

"WILD, WONDERFUL WEST VIRGINIA"

By- *George J. Blackham IV*

Here is my scouting report for the summer 2003 BMW International rally being held in Charleston, WVA. First off, I would like to say that WVA has some of the most picturesque scenery that this country has to offer. There are plenty of windy, twisty back roads than just about any other state. There were 9 of us who attended this scouting trip and we stayed in the Holiday Inn downtown on Saturday 8 Feb. 2003. The trip down for my wife and me was via Somerset, Pa to 281, which turn into 26 at the WVA line, and then we got on I-68 at Bruceton Mills. From Bruceton Mills we headed west to I-79 south. This route takes 2 hours and 15-20 min. total. Charleston, WVA reminds me of Wheeling, WVA or Stubenville, Ohio. An old city striving to make it in an ever-changing world. We all went to eat at the "5th Quarter restaurant located just up the street from the Convention Center. Food was good and so was the beer. Finding places to eat in Charleston is a challenge on a cold Feb. Saturday afternoon. Our plans were fluid and open for the afternoon. We headed across the Kanawha River and went upstream to visit the Charleston University so we could see the camping site/ area. This is a good 1-2 miles away from the Convention Center where most of the events will be taking place.

Another item of interest is that you will not be able to ride your bike directly up to your tent/ camping site. You will need to leave your bikes out of sight in a school parking lot. Apparently there will be dorm rooms available as well- more to follow in the MOA. What we felt was even more challenging was locating a local convenience store that had beer and liquor after our cold, quick tour. CAUTION- every street in the downtown area is one way. Once we scored liquid refreshments at Eckert Drug Store we headed to the rooms for some warm leisure time. Later in the evening we all headed out to observe the "night life" on the Main drag downtown (Capital St.). Gary Smith put it best when he stated; "We came to see what there was and got to see more than we needed to". We "bar-hopped" around and finally got the urge to eat again. A local establishment provided us guidance to travel 3 blocks down the street then enter a "basement restaurant". This place only had appetizers at 2100 and there was no alternative left. So, we ordered beers and appetizers. We ate and departed quickly. On our way out we got to meet a newly married couple leaving their wedding reception carrying their baby and wearing leather coats. Yes, we came, scouted and saw all the entertainment we needed to for one night. We event got to witness a reject band from NYC at the Sam's Uptown Café. It was like 2 garbage can lids being slammed together. Interesting people in this place as well. Several of us departed back to the safety of our rooms in the hotel. What a night to remember!

Here are my personal tips for the 2003 BMW international rally: 1) Find an alternate place to camp 1/2 hour or more AWAY from Charleston, WVA. 2) Ride with you lights on and wear bright clothing. Locals in Charleston look oblivious to motorcycles. 3) Be careful at EVERY intersection. Some "one ways" are poorly marked!!! 4) Keep an eye on your bike- bring a lock and chain. 5) If you opt to stay in Charleston- book a room now. 6) Get beer/ drinks BEFORE you arrive. (Somewhere off I-79 one hour out). 7) Plan well in advance to eat... somewhere. The mall directly across from the convention center does have a few restaurants in it. 8) Sleep with one eye open...

Good luck and be safe

March Meeting Featuring

Eric Trow

"Rider" magazine columnist and "Stayin' Safe" Chief Instructor



Eric has been a continually active motorcyclist since his first solo jaunt on a Honda Z50 behind his grandfather's motorcycle shop in Southwestern Pennsylvania. He spent many years riding off road. When he graduated high school, he graduated to street bikes. Through the years, Eric continued to concentrate on his riding skills - not specifically to become a safer rider, but to become a better rider. He began studying techniques and taking courses and was soon recruited into the Motorcycle Safety Foundation program. After several years as an MSF RiderCoach, Eric began working with Larry Grodsky's on-street Stayin'

Safe program. Trow is a highly trained motorcyclist, with accomplishments that include certification in Basic Motor Officer Training. He is the safety editor for Rider magazine for whom he pens the monthly Riding Well column and occasional rider proficiency-oriented features. When he is not teaching or writing, Eric enjoys riding and wrenching on his vintage Indian motorcycles or heading for the back roads with his wife Amy. He is also a marketing professional. Among his accomplishments are multiple award-winning driver safety programs he developed for the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.



Saturday March 16
Walnut Grill, Wexford, PA
Noon – 3 pm



BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

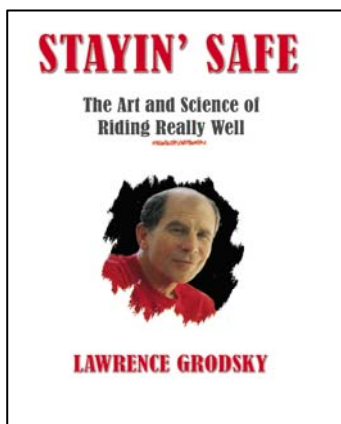
Their Program . . .



Stayin' Safe is best known for its multiple-day, on-street instructional tours that are conducted in a growing number of locations from just west of Washington, DC to California. But we also offer custom tours with training for small groups in virtually any location around the country.

Here's what they do ...

The Stayin' Safe experience combines the pleasures of motorcycle touring with real world, real-time advanced skills coaching. We offer riders of nearly every motorcycle type a fun opportunity to enjoy some of the best riding roads and attractions in the country while also learning advanced visual strategies and techniques for smoother cornering and safer riding.



It all began with "Mr. Safety"

Larry Grodsky was widely recognized as the leading motorcycle safety expert in the country. A long-term MSF instructor and site coordinator, Larry had been involved in motorcycle safety instruction since 1980 and trained an estimated 5,000 riders. Much of his work was devoted to creating the Stayin' Safe Motorcycle Training program. Larry's unique program set the standard for on-street, real-world training and continues to be recognized as the premier on-street training program in the United States. His incisive

column, "*Stayin' Safe*", was a mainstay in **Rider Magazine** since 1988. Unfortunately, the riding world lost Larry Grodsky in the Spring of 2006. His legacy survives in today's Stayin' Safe program, now running for 19 consecutive years, remaining true to Grodsky's vision while also introducing expanded offerings designed to benefit even more riders in more locations around the country and around the world.

MARGARET ROBISON PASSES

Margaret, who had been a long time member of the club, known to many of us as Peg, passed away peacefully at age 81 on Monday, January 21. Peg is survived by fellow club member, her beloved husband of 39 years, Herman "Sonny" Robison, formerly of Morgantown, West Virginia; and loving sons, Robert D. Trow of Los Angeles, California and Eric A. Trow who resides in North Huntingdon with his wife Amy and stepdaughter Alaina Mastrippolito. She is also survived by cherished grandchildren, Heather Trow and Parker E. Trow. Marge retired from Gateway School District after dedicating thirty years to elementary education, following in the footsteps of her parents who were also educators. She was preceded in death by parents, Lora Bradshaw Townsend, Eugene Noble Townsend; and brother, Eugene Charles Townsend. Peg's dad, as we understand, had also been an Indian motorcycle dealer until Indian closed up shop in the early '50s. Her husband, Sonny, and others of her family were motorcyclists and her son, Eric, is presently the head of the "Stayin' Safe" motorcycle training program. Being a teacher, Peg was more than once described by her colleagues as a master teacher, taking great pride in teaching and always showing great respect for her students' efforts and progress. She treasured spending time with family and thoroughly enjoyed her grandchildren. Peg's Memorial Service was held Saturday, January 26, at the Unity Community Presbyterian Church being led by the Rev. Frank DeLuce. Everyone attending were invited to a luncheon at the Church immediately following the memorial service. In lieu of flowers, the family had requested that donations be made to: Memorial Books in memory of Margaret T. Robison, Monroeville Public Library, 4000 Gateway Campus Blvd., Monroeville, PA 15146, or to the American Cancer Society, Ovarian Cancer Research Fund, or the Unity Community Church.

The above information is from the obituary published in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette from January 24 to January 25, 2013. Requiescat in pace, Peg; we will miss you.



BIG AL'S KYMCO FOR SALE

We are selling Big Al's Kymco Scooter. If you are interested or know anyone that would want to purchase this scooter, please contact us or pass this message on.

This is a 2009 Kymco 250 Ri Scooter. We are asking \$5,000 or best offer - It has on it 19,940 miles, and includes an extra long wind shield, Special brake light, cover, and Top trunk. If interested, please call: 724-736-2884 or 724-557-0802. Dee Vangura. Please see the pictures of it and its accessories on this and the next page.





IT'S TO LAUGH PUNOGRAPHY

Sent in by Walt Halaja

Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid. He says he can stop any time.
How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.
I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.
This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.
I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.
I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.
They told me I had type-A blood, but it was a Type-O.

PMS jokes aren't funny; period.
Why were the Indians here first? They had reservations.
We're going on a class trip to the Coca-Cola factory. I hope there's no pop quiz.
I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
When you get a bladder infection urine trouble.

Broken pencils are pointless.
I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.
What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.
England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.
I dropped out of communism class because of lousy Marx.
All the toilets in New York's police stations have been stolen. The police have nothing to go on.
I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.

Velcro - what a rip off!
A cartoonist was found dead in his home. Details are sketchy.

**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 MARCH MEETING:

The Saturday, March 16th, 2013 meeting from 12:00 PM** to 3:00 PM will be at the Walnut Grove Restaurant, 12599 Perry Hwy., Wexford, PA, 15090, Phone: (724) 933-8410. The Walnut Grove is on the left as you travel North on Perry Hwy about 9/10ths of a mile North of where Rte 910 crosses Perry Hwy (Rte 19). The program will feature Eric Trow, the chief instructor and owner of the "Stayin' Safe" motorcycle training program. For more information see p. .

From The South: Take I-79 North to the Rte 910/Wexford Exit. Travel East on 910 to Rte 19/Perry Hwy. Go North on Perry Hwy about 9/10ths of a mile and the Walnut Grove will be on your left.

From The North: Take I-79 South to the Rte 910/Wexford Exit. Travel East on 910 to Rte 19/Perry Hwy. Go North on Perry Hwy about 9/10ths of a mile and the Walnut Grove will be on your left.

**The Board will meet at 11:00 AM.

Latitude and Longitude for GPSs: N40.63793 W80.06355