

# AUG.

MOA # 6

BMW Club  
Four Winds Riders



[www.4windsbmw.org](http://www.4windsbmw.org)

# 2014

RA # 76



### PRESIDENT'S NOTE

The Four Winds Rally is here so please consider volunteering for the rally, helping in registration, clean & tidy, security, field games, T-shirt sales, coffee & tea hospitality, or 50/50 sales. Please pray for good weather so all our activities can operate and attendance is sufficient for a successful rally. Also, consider attending the rally, it's the best event the Four Winds Club offers, see friends, make friends, and enjoy riding around Armstrong, Jefferson and Clarion counties.

The July meeting was lowly attended, but the rain was infrequent, most of the ride, 75% was dry, the remaining 25% was light rain to spraying and was fun to ride with minimal cars to slow you down. I was surprised about the weather after scanning the weather channel all morning. My lesson, take the

## 48TH FOUR WINDS BMW RIDERS' RALLY-- AUG 15-17, REDBANK COMMUNITY PARK



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### AUGUST RALLY INFO

The 48th Four Winds BMW Riders' rally will be held from noon Friday, August 15th through Sunday, August 17th, 2014 at Redbank Community Park in Clarion County. Cost is \$40/person.

Volunteers are always needed/welcome! If you'd like to volunteer, contact Adrian Marini, or any board member.

## 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., Aug. Meeting: Aug. 21; **Sept. issue deadline: Tues., Aug. 24th**). 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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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](http://www.4windsbmw.org). Download a free Adobe PDF reader by clicking the 'Get Adobe Reader' button at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) and following the directions thereafter provided.

## MEETING SCHEDULE 2014

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

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

**August, 2014 — Friday, August 15 to Sunday, August 17  
48th Annual Four Winds Rally!**

**September 20, 2014, 4-7 PM —**  
Leo Stanton's Home

**October 18, 2014, 2-4 PM —** John & Marge Humphrey's, State Road, Valencia

**November 15, 2014 —** Cornerstone Grille, Aspinwall

**December, 2014 —** No Meeting

**January, 2015 —** 4 Winds Annual Banquet

## 2014 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 and keep 'em rolling!

rain suit, be adventurous and have fun riding the time available, since we are so limited by work.

ENJOY THE RIDE

ADRIAN



## SAFETY NOTE

Summer's a great time for riding, but it's also the time for occasional strong winds and rain. Invariably, heavy rain, thunderstorms, etc. will wash gravel and sand out of driveways, something dangerous to motorcyclists at any time, but especially when this stuff is on

## 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, Mo D — North at King's Family Restaurant, I-79 & Rt 910/VIP Drive., 10:00 AM

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

Sun, Mo D — South at Eagles Landing, Rostraver Airport, Rte 51, 10:00 AM

Sat, Mo D — 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.

curves. It pays to be cautious on curves at any time, especially when you're dealing with a blind curve but after a rainstorm that goes double. Keep an eye peeled on the road surface and ride safely out there!





### JULY MEETING MINUTES

Only 5 members made it to the July meeting in the rain at Ohiopyle. Adrian Marini, Joann and John Barr, Jack Bramkamp and Joyce Elk. But only 1 rode a bike: our president Adrian Marini. Way to go Adrian! But the 5 present had an enjoyable meal and the rain stopped long enough to walk along the Yough and see the falls. We discussed the rally. We still need help with the games. Adrian said he would lead the games. He needs an assistant. Also Adrian is working on the tech secessions. We have a couple, but could sure use some more. If you are coming to the rally, why not share with others your knowledge about motorcycles. See you at the rally!

*JOANN BARR, SEC'Y PRO TEM.*





**NORTH BREAKFAST RIDE  
7/6/2014**

*Photos by Ron "ReddyK" Latkovic and "Cap'n" Walt Halaja, text by Ralph Meyer*

"Ride to eat, eat to ride!" ...Well, maybe just "Ride to Eat?" Somebody among the 11 stalwarts and regulars at the NBR this morning was complaining that we all ride to the breakfast, eat, chat, and then go back home, and that nobody rides anywhere any more. Whonose? Not me. I dunno. Among those present: John Allen, John Barr, Jack Bramkamp, Walt Halaja, Bob Hall, Carl Hartz, Ron Kranz, Ron Latkovic, Dave McLaughlin, Ed Tatters, and myself, I didn't hear any plans for doing a ride after breakfast to any place special, interesting, or awesome this morning, but that doesn't say that nobody at all among the bunch was planning on going somewhere. ...I wasn't, though. Die Weib and me, just having gotten back from walking our legs off at the Strasburg RR, PA RR Museum, Baltimore's inner Harbor, historical spots, and the B&O museum, about all the energy

I had left after that foray was just sufficient to scoot to Kings, enjoy our usual confabs, wolf down some eggs, etc., ogle the neat bikes, and go home and nap. Seems the older I get the un-faster I go. Maybe it goes with the 'maturity' territory. I have, however, no doubt that some of the bunch present did go to some interesting places. Somebody—or somebodies—usually does—usually with announcements of the spot and invitations to ride along, but sometimes not. Anyway, just riding to eat IMHO isn't a bad use of the ol' bi-wheeled conveyance. And heck sakes, the camaraderie is always worth it, as they say, so, ride or not, me? I still consider it a morning well spent and most enjoyable!

RALPH



**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.

**Great Outdoor Gear Reviews**--sent in by Diane Pears: Interested in outdoor gear? Want what has tested the best, and to see comparisons of items, check this site out: <http://www.outdoorgearlab.com/> . The OutdoorGearLab mission is simple: to create world's best outdoor gear reviews. Our secret sauce is side-by-side comparative reviews.



*Seems the North Breakfast Ride always has a very nice group to enjoy the cuisine, camaraderie, and conversation at VIP King's front room King's manager kindly sets aside for us every first Sunday morning! Ron and Walt always manage to capture those well filled, relaxed, and enjoyable looks in their photos! (When, that is, they can get everyone to shut up and look in the right direction!!!)*



### FOR SALE

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

**Stuff for F800ST:** 26" tall Parabellum Windshield, Touratech crash bar set, Bar Back, BMW Tank Bag. Windshields are clear and already have Velcro strips for attaching EZPass Transponder. **Rick Mayer heated Pilot Seat for 2006 K1200GT.** Asking half new price (or less). Make an offer on any or all items. Contact: [meyer@zoominternet.net](mailto:meyer@zoominternet.net) .

**Big Al Vangura'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 \$3,500 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 page 16 of the March 2013 newsletter.

# FOUR WINDS

*The Club With the Nation!*

August, 1996

cated to safe riding and satisfying ownersh

## President's Message

When I was a kid people talked about "running away with the circus". Perhaps all of us have been attracted at one time or another by the notion of leaving our daily "hum drum" behind to embark upon an adventuresome escape. The idea of "running away with the circus" conjures up all sorts of intriguing images: going to new places, associating with dedicated fellow workers, creating a spectacle, meeting new people, and becoming excited. Even factoring in tasks like shoveling animal manure and facing the hardships associated with life on the road, circus life maintains a genuine appeal.

The 1996 Four Winds Rally (August 23-25) at Buttercup Campground, 5 miles west of Butler on Rt. 68, is our chance to "run away with the circus" for a few days. The rally allows us to get out of town, associate with dedicated fellow workers, create a spectacle, meet new people, and become excited.

Sure there will be a few jobs that might seem like shovelling manure but they've been significantly reduced. For the first time in Four Winds Rally History none of our members will be obligated to prepare, serve, or clean up food. Plans call for a caterer to offer food, Friday evening, Saturday morning, Saturday noon, as well as the traditional Saturday evening meal. Arrangements have also been made to have donuts and coffee available on Sunday morning. (You may re-read this paragraph again, if needed)

There are plenty of jobs, however, for all of us: registration, security detail, greeting committee, and the clean and tidy crew all need man power. In addition, tech sessions, children's events, tour rides, set-up, and final clean up will require the efforts of many. Brian Livermore and LaVerne Darabant, our cochairpersons, will lead us well by their example throughout the rally. Let's catch the circus spirit and pitch in from beginning to end for this rally. I'm sure we can have some fun and together do a fine job hosting the BMW motorcycle community for the 30th year. See you at the rally. Come early if you can. Camping is free on Thursday evening for club members. Gary Smith

## BAD (MOMENTARY) RT NEWS

Whoops! BMW's long-standing reputation for reliability and high quality seems to have taken, if only momentarily, a hit. According to an NHTSA report, the newest and best R1200RT yet, that all the Motorcycle Rags have cooed, oohed, and aaaahed over as one of the nicest sport-touring bikes they've ever tested has been pulled for the summer from shipping and sales, with a recall and 'don't ride' warning to owners of the new water boxer RTs made between 11/27/2013 and 5/5/2014 because of possible ESA rear shock absorber breakage on the new bikes the occurrence of which while riding could provoke an accident. BMW wants owners not to ride the bike until it has been called into the shop and replacements of the bad parthave been effected. One of our generally well informed 4 Winds members has said that Lee will not be selling any new water-boxer 1200RTs until next fall. However, even if this is true, if you still, given the glowing reports on the bike in just about every Motorcycle magazine, have a hankering after one of these great bikes once the glitch has been unglitched, I would suggest getting your order for one in to Lee and the sales folks at European ASAP. It's to be expected that when the new ones come in, they're likely to be gobbled up just about on arrival. So if you want one, getcher bid in.



## Don't Forget

This year marks the 30th year that Four Winds had held a BMW rally. That's the longest in the country and that's something special!

Come out, help with one of Brian and LaVerne's committees or activities. Bring your family, your friends, your bike. But come!

The club's membership is the largest it's ever been. We're one of the three oldest BMW clubs in the nation. There's are all things to celebrate! Craig's bringing demo bikes, Gary's got some really interesting tech sessions planned, and the camp ground's got a swimming pool and other great facilities.

Be there!



## CLUB EVENT FOR JULY

We met for breakfast at Bob Evan's Restaurant in Washington, PA at 9:00 am on Saturday, July 27th. By 10:45 am we riding off toward West Virginia for our long scheduled overnighter. The real fun started after our second stop at the McDonald's at Four Corners (Rt. 50 and Rt. 119) in Grafton, W.VA. when we headed East over the twistie roads of well known Rt. 50.

The weather was perfect for riding and all were in good spirits when we arrived in Parsons for gas and lunch. Early afternoon we continued on Rt. 72 (what I call one of the most remote roads with a West Virginia State route number associated with it.

The number is on the map but there aren't many route numbers on that section of the road, nor any center lines for that matter. However, the road offer some off-beat riding up and over a manyu hills with lots of chanllenging turns.

Shortly there after we stopeed at Seneca Rocks on Rt. 33. The attractive visitor's center is long gone, having been washed away by serious flooding in the region a few years ago. The restrooms, while temporary looking, were actually first class. Surprisingly a number of our



### NICE OLD AD PICTURE

sent in by Ed "The Great Syphoon" Syphan

The German means something like "For the Highest Claims (quality/ability/ etc.)"

group had never seen Seneca Rocks before. They seemed impressed.

Some us headed East on Rt. 33 to Franklin, West Virginia, where we turned South on Rt. 220 toward Monterey, VA. Others headed straight to Cass to keep us in faith with our announced plans of arriving at 4:00 pm. Unbeknownst to some we were joined on the road by Lou Shinnamon and Susan Huff (Cumberland, MD, and Fort Ashbey, W.VA., respectively) on Lou's R1100GS. Before reaching Monterey we took a cut-off through Blue Grass through a beautiful valley and brought us out at Hightown, VA., just 5 miles West of Monterey on Rt. 250, in the exact position where we could ride East on Rt. 250 over one of the nicest group of "S" turns to be found anywhere. It is as if the highway engineers stayed up very late planning a perfect set of "S" turns just for motorcyclist. One of our group referenced this particular section of the road as "orgasmic". It was something to say the least. We rode with gusto.

Our side trip to Monterey allowed us to make reservations for a 7:30 private dinner in the tavern room at the Highland Inn in Monterey, where we returned after going the 25 miles back West to Boyers Campground. Before departing for dinner and doing it "one more time" on that infamous section of Rt. 250 we set up tents, gassed up, and enjoyed each others company. All 19 of us were assembled: 15 club members and 4 guests - Ross Baker (riding his good looking R80RT with sidecar), Tom and Jan Barnhart, Jim Dunkle and his guest, Dawn Gibson from D.C. (riding her newly acquired K-75, purchased from Rabbit), Jim Gorman and

guest, Susie Hart, Brian Livermore and LaVerne Darabant, Gary and Kay Smith and their guest Kathy Roslonski (riding on Gary's R100GSPD), Lou Shinnamon and Susan Huff, Leo Stanton, Bob Stukert, Al Vangura and his guest Deno (who was riding a Moto Guzzi sport bike). Amazingly, all 19 went to dinner in Monterey. Dinner was excellent.

The atmosphere was charming. The company was entertaining. We were made to feel most welcomed, and treated like old friends since the establishment knows the BMWBMW club members quite well having hosted them on one of their weekend retreats. The ride back to Boyers was very dark and became someone long for some.

By the time we got back it was time to huddle around the fire, and drink some brew. Thanks to Leo, a master fire builder, an enjoyable blaze was underway shortly. We had a very nice day, but we were wise enough to quit while we were ahead. Shortly after midnight our troops were off to either their on-site tents or motel rooms, after agreeing to give the Boyer Campground restaurant our breakfast business at 8:30 am.

After breakfast we said our good-byes and split up into several groups. Some went to Cass to inspect the trains then headed home, and others followed Lou and Susan on a back route to Monterey and up the valleys West of Rt. 220 all the way to Cumberland. Jeff and Dawn split off and headed East on Rt. 55 about before we got to Lou's place. Lou and Susan treated us (Gary, Kay, Kathy, Leo, and Hershel) to a memorable lunch in Lou's well kept yard. We took more back roads to Donegal where this group split again for good.

Nobody can say we didn't do some serious riding. Gary Smith

## RALLY, RALLY, RALLY

The 48th Annual 4 Winds BMW Riders' rally will be held from 12:00 noon Friday, August 15th through 12:00 noon Sunday August 17th, 2014 at the Redbank Community Park (where the Clarion Country Fair is also held at other dates each year). Ours is the longest running BMW Rally in the U.S. Besides shaded camping, Coffee is always available, and folks from the local area operate a food kitchen on-site for those in need of a nibble or drink throughout the day Friday and Saturday. Tech sessions, bike games, led and self-directed rides through the local enjoyable country side to and around interesting spots are available. While there will be a delicious banquet Saturday evening as the climax of the rally, delightful supper ride to a nice dining venue for yummy cuisine and conversation is a Friday evening feature. As with everything else, costs are going up, so the rally fee this year will be \$40.00, which includes the Saturday night banquet, and 'free' camping on-site. There is an extra charge for RV parking.

As always, volunteers are needed for the various activities and operations. Among these are:

- MC Game Assistant (to help with setting up and running Motorcycle Games)
- Registration Assistants (to help with signing folks in and collecting rally fees)
- T-Shirt Sale (to help sell Rally T-Shirts, naturally!)
- Clean & Tid (to keep the place neat and tidy)
- Donut runner (for Sunday Morning)
- Greeter/Security (meet people at the gate and direct new folks to registration)
- Coffee/Tea Caretaker(s) (somebody to help keep the pot filled, etc.)
- 50-50 Sales Person(s) (to wander around selling 50-50 tickets so some lucky person can go home richer than when they came (maybe!))

If you would be interested in helping with one or another of these activities, see Adrian Marini or any member of the board and let us know. You can e-mail them using the e-mail address listed for the board members on p. 1.



# BMW RA National Rally

by Ron "The Camper" Kranz

Wednesday, May 28 I departed for Dandridge, TN—a distance of 471 miles where I have a Super 8 reserved. As I will be riding the interstate, time may be 8 hours plus? My norm for this direction is to ride I-79 to the Jane Lew exit. The breakfast morning ride is 128 miles. There is a truck stop restaurant there that is old, but neat. Both I and the motorcycle are topped off. I'm using the 2003 BMW K1200GT towing a pop up tent.



I resumed travel to Route 19 for Beckley. I notice a motorcycle trailing me? At a red light in Summerville, WV, we connect. Larry Beck is also going for the same event. He's a rider I know from home. We get to the I-64 toll booth where I zip through via an EZ Pass. That thing is a

godsend for a motorcyclist. I tow a trailer, and my fee depends on the toll attendant. EZ Pass resolves this issue. Larry has no EZ Pass and we lose sight of each other. We do meet again at the rally. Interstate travel is comfortable, even scenic. Motorcyclists do not render it as riding. True, setting the cruise control is not riding. But I've done two lane roads often and know the difference. Last week my ride to the Cass Rally was on two laners—a short distance. On longer distances interstates are my preference. Around 2 PM I stop at a McDonald's! "Horrors," you say. I order a glass of water with the chicken salad. It's light, cool, and refreshing. McDonald's has a potty, AC, and WIFI if you're into that. Arrival time at the evening's motel is around 4:30 PM. Afternoon heat has peaked. I shower and relax before dinner. Next morning I'm refreshed and ready to go at 6 AM. The Super 8 breakfast area is open. I have my milk and cereal with coffee. Only 284 miles for today's destination. A surprise was a Welcome To Georgia sign! I was unaware that I would clip the corner of Georgia—I need to do more home work. Entering Alabama, there were many construction signs with 55mph. No evidence of construction? After many miles, "end of construction". Only to be repeated again and again? Frustrating. Technically police can give you a speeding ticket with construction fines. I set the cruise 5mph over as traffic whizzes by. Better safe than sorry! Almost to my destination and the scenery is nice. I exited for Barber Motor Sports and was overtaken by another motorcycle. The rider pointed to his license plate, Colorado. Ahh, Jerry Murdock! One of many attendees I

will encounter. Being pre-registered speeds up the entering process. I am greeted with two companions reserving a space for me. The rally begins. The RA Rally is not lavish. All aspects of a rally are present, but cheaper. BMW rallies continue to be camping types. Porta potties have no hand cleaner. Showers are scarce. Fortunately, after a two minute ride on site is another shower. Attendees ignore that facility? Good for me! I tour the vendors only to buy more stuff. The Barber complex is a race track plus a mainly motorcycle museum with five floors connected by a spiral staircase.



Each floor covers an era plus types. Signing on to a free tour gains access to the restoration area. Who would want to see the garage? Keith Code is sponsoring a track school. Many riders have signed up for the school. From the museum you view the riders as the track goes around the building. The rally has but one food vendor. Prices reflect the monopoly. Local area dining is best. Some prefer to camp cook. I do not like to wash dishes. Sunday morning, I break camp. It's a cool damp morning with my face shield useless. As my trek begins I realize I have no return plans. I will have to wing it. After breakfast, 150 miles along, I clean up from the dampness. After another 270 miles I locate a Comfort Inn. Living in a tent takes a toll on oneself. I have to get into a building to recover. I repeat as before, cereal and coffee. Continue the journey home. No tickets or any consequences is good. Once home, I prepare for a trip to Clifton, VA.





**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](http://www.4windsbmw.org). Membership dues are \$20 per year for primary membership, and \$10 per year for associate members residing in the same household as a primary member.

**DIRECTIONS TO THE RALLY:**

August 15, 12:00 PM through August 17 at Redbank Community Park, New Bethlehem, PA. Rally cost: \$40 includes camping, Saturday evening Pig Roast; RV Camper hookup extra; Day Pass (without Saturday Pig Roast) \$15, Pig Roast \$10 extra if on Day Pass.

*From U.S. East:* Take I-80 West to the Brookville/Rte 36 Exit, Exit # 78.

Turn South (Left) out of the Exit onto Rte36. Go straight through the stoplight by the Sheetz at Rte 322 and continue South onto Rte 28 eventually through the little town of Hawthorn. Past Hawthorn look for 4th Avenue on your right (there will be a BMW sign on the left pointing to it) about 17.3 miles from I-80 exit # 78. Turn Right into 4th Avenue to the park and Rally.

*From U.S. West:* Take I-80 East to the Brookville/Rte 36 Exit, Exit # 78.

Turn South (Right) out of the Exit onto Rte36. Go straight through the stoplight by the Sheetz at Rte 322 and continue South onto Rte 28 eventually through the little town of Hawthorn. Past Hawthorn look for 4th Avenue on your right (there will be a BMW sign on the left pointing to it) about 17.3 miles from I-80 exit # 78. Turn Right into 4th Avenue to the park and Rally.

*From Pittsburgh:* Take Rte 28 (Allegheny Expressway) North. Continue North on Rte 28 through New Bethlehem. About 2.4 miles after the Rtes 66 & 28 jct. stoplight in New Bethlehem, turn Left into 4th Avenue to the park and Rally. A BMW rally sign will be on your right across from 4th Avenue.

Latitude and Longitude of Redbank Park for GPS location: N41.01465 W79.29212 .