

FEB.

BMW Club
Four Winds Riders



2015

MOA # 6

www.4windsbmw.org

RA # 76



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The banquet at Hilton Garden Inn was a nice improvement this year. Good food, a nice banquet room and lots of fun with the "grab bag" gift exchange. It was great to see so many of you there. Our speaker, Jim Vota had interesting stories of movie making during his GS adventures.

The next meeting is at Bella Luna in Monroeville at 1:00PM on Feb 21. I would like to see a good turnout as we kick off another year. I have presented a list of topics that we will discuss at the board meeting before the general membership meeting. My hope is to have plans and directions for the club early in the year.

We will move most general meetings back to around noon on the third Saturday of the month. We are always looking for good meeting venues. Diane and I would like your suggestions.

Finding more ways to make the 4 Winds membership more interesting, fun and valuable to the membership is my top priority. You may know that European Motorcycles offers a 10% discount with paid membership. We are considering "giving back" at events like lunch meetings, rally fees and banquet prices for those with paid memberships. The cost for the banquet was about half the actual cost, the club picked up the other half.

The "Hunt and Find" programs have little

**DUES
ARE DUE--
SEE P. 11
AND SIGN UP TO
LOG YOUR 2015
MILES--SEE
P. 13**

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015

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FEBRUARY 2015 MEETING INFO

The next meeting of the Four Winds BMW Riders will be held on Saturday, February 21st, 2015 at the Bellaluna Trattoria in Monroeville from 1–4PM. The meal will be from their menu. The Board will meet there at 11:00 AM.

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., Feb. Meeting: Feb. 21; **March issue deadline: Tues., Feb. 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:

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 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.

February 21, 2015 — Bella Luna Trattoria, Monroeville 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

March 21, 2015 — TBA

April 18, 2015 — TBA

May 16, 2015 — TBA

June 20, 2015 — TBA

July 18, 2015 — TBA

August, 2015 — **Friday, August 14 to Sunday, August 16 49th Annual Four Winds Rally!**

September 19, 2015 — TBA

October 17, 2015 — TBA

November 21, 2015 — TBA

December, 2015 — No Monthly Meeting

2015 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!

participation and we need to find something else to encourage more participation. I know we had some suggestions at the banquet. If you have ideas to increase participation, let me know.

Of course, the 49th Rally is critical to the club and the treasury. We will have a comprehensive Rally meeting with rally chairs, board members and interested parties. The meeting date in March is to be determined.

The new web site is a major improvement and a great value to the membership and the public. We will be applying website updates in 2015. This will improve functionality and we are adding more shopping and on-line purchasing capability as the use of credit cards increases.

Of course, I am always interested in any new ideas for making the club work for you.

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, Feb 1 — *North* at King's Family Restaurant, I-79 & Rt 910/VIP Drive., 10:00 AM

Sat, Feb 14 — *West* at Bob Evans, Rt 60 & Campbell's Run Rd, 9:00 AM

Sun, Feb 15 — *South* at Eagles Landing, Rostraver Airport, Rte 51, 10:00 AM

Sat, Feb 28 — *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.

During the meetings, there will have an opportunity to bring up new ideas and discussion topics. I hope to see you there.

BEST REGARDS,

JOHN



2015 BANQUET PICTURES

On the next several pages, with many thanks to our pn site photographers, Joann Barr, Ron "ReddyK" Latkovic, and Diane Pears, are some collages of some of the pictures these fine folks took of the fun we had at the 2015 Banquet. Enjoy!



More Banquet Pictures



More Banquet Pictures



More Banquet Pictures



DATONA RALLY ROOMS!

From Ed Tatters

These rooms are available for rent during Daytona Bike Week 3/8 thru 3/15/2015:

one bedroom condo, 1 1/2 bath, sleeps 4, Silver Beach Club \$1000

studio unit, 1 bath, sleeps 4, Fantasy Island Resort \$700

Both units check in Sat afternoon-check out following Sat by 11

If interested in going in on one of these, call Ed Tatters at: 412-751-2856.



THANK YOU!!

From Life Member, Walt Halaja

I would like to thank Kevin Hart for standing up for me at the Oct. meeting and nominating me for "Life Member" and also: thanks to the members who supported me at the meeting too. I'm humbled & honored!

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

WALT



4 WINDS BMW RIDERS

2014 MILEAGE LOG

By Walt Halaja

We had 18 who entered and two who didn't turn in their end miles. Tim Bronson and Don Chambers each received gift cards: one for \$50.00 for Tim and one for \$25.00 for Don: "A good reason to enter the log for 2015." Also, in the drawing, Ed Tatters and John Lutz each received one free 2015 4 Winds BMW Rider's Membership: two more reasons to enter because you don't have to have the highest miles to receive a gift! Please enter so we can see a better "foot print" of miles and how our club rides!

Ed

Mileage Log Finishers for 2014:

1) ... Tim Bronson	16,179
2) ... Don Chambers	11,408
3) ... Sean Barrett	9,479
4) ... Walt Halaja	6,727
5) ... Tim Pears	5,789
6) ... Ed Tatters	5,730
7) ... John Allen	4,812
8) ... Scott Bassin	4,110
9) ... Calvin Wilson	2,710
10) ... Ralph Meyer	2,658
11) ... Bob Hall	2,481
12) ... Earl Dean	2,340
13) ... John Lutz	1,889
14) ... John Barr	755
15) .. Joann Barr	655
16) ... Diane Pears	376

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, WALT



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.

Motorcycle Roads USA - <http://www.motorcycleroads.us/> This site lists great motorcycling roads in the U.S.

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 .

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.

IT'S TO LAUGH

Laws They Don't Teach in Physics:

1. **Law of Mechanical Repair** - After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch
2. **Law of Gravity** - Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible place in the universe.
3. **Law of Probability** - The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.
4. **Law of Random Numbers** - If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal; someone always answers.
5. **Variation Law** - If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now.
6. **Law of the Bath** - When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone will ring.
7. **Law of Close Encounters** - The probability of meeting someone you know INCREASES dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.
8. **Law of the Result** - When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, IT WILL!!!
9. **Law of Biomechanics** - The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.
10. **Law of the Theater & Hockey Arena** - At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle, always arrive last. They are the ones who will leave their seats several times to go for food, beer, or the toilet and who leave early before the end of the performance or the game is over. The folks in the aisle seats come early, never move once, have long gangly legs or big bellies and stay to the bitter end of the performance. The aisle people also are very surly folk.
11. **The Coffee Law** - As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.
12. **Murphy's Law of Lockers** - If there are only 2 people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.
13. **Law of Physical Surfaces** - The chances of an open- faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug.
14. **Law of Logical Argument** - Anything is possible IF you don't know what you are talking about.
15. **Law of Physical Appearance** - If the clothes fit, they're ugly.
16. **Law of Public Speaking** -- A CLOSED MOUTH GATHERS NO FEET!
17. **Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy** - As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it OR the store will

stop selling it!

18.Doctors' Law - If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor, by the time you get there, you'll feel better. But don't make an appointment and you'll stay sick.

If you don't forward this to your friends, your belly button will unscrew and your bum will fall off.

Really... It's true. I read it on the Internet!



JANUARY NORTH BREAKFAST RIDE

Despite the weather, a couple of folks rode, and the Room at King's was nicely filled by 4 Winds folks and friends. Many thanks to Ron "ReddyK" Latkovic for the fine photos!



THE WAY WE WERE BACK WHEN...

Prepared by Walt Halaja

WEST BREAKFAST RIDE

DEC. 11, 04

Walter Halaja

0715 hours. The alarm goes off! Ahh, hit the snooze bar... just 5 more minutes. I like to take my time, and I should have plenty of time to meet Ralph at the Eat'n park at 0900. Down the stairs to make coffee; I like to have coffee with Mathilde before I leave; we have been doing that a lot lately and she doesn't mind being up early. Well,... It's 0815, and I gotta go! I need fuel, too, and it takes time to pile the clothes on 'cause it's in the low 30's out! So, off I go,... time is running out. Got my fuel at the Amoco station by the Thornburg bridge. By now it's 0850! Man, I should just make it by 9! OK. Up Rte. 60... What's this? ...a man standing in the road with a Stop sign. Oh no! Had to stop, so I pulled up to the road guard and chatted with him while I waited. He thought it a little cold to be riding, but I assured him it was just fine. Hey! It's 0955 and I gotta get! Finally he gives me the OK; I pass the (clock-temp) sign by Beaver Grade Rd.: 0900 & 31 degrees! Dang! I'm late now. Finally, I pull into Eat'n park at 0905 hrs. Ralph is waiting, and I just had to hit that snooze bar for 5 more minutes. I asked Ralph how long he was waiting and he said about 15 minutes: not good! But we had a great breakfast and talked about every one who wasn't there! See--maybe you should have been there! (Just kidding!) But remember the saying, "If you don't want to be talked about, be there!"

Since it was a little chilly and Ralph came down from Bakerstown, I thought it wouldn't be a bad idea if we did some back roads to Pittsburgh BMW 'cause Lee was having some good stuff marked down due to his remodeling to make room to get all his Ducks in a row... I mean Ducatis. Well, off we went at about 1017 hrs from the Eat 'n Park--a long breakfast it was. We took the same back roads to Lee's that I did with Ted & Conrad on another Breakfast Ride. That time, Ted test rode a red K bike from Pittsburgh BMW and bought it on the spot! Does it get any better than that "Modre"? So if you want to know the way just ask Ralph, Ted, or Conrad, or, better yet, just show up for a breakfast ride, and we just might go that way! Well, Ralph and I pulled in to Lee's about 1116 hrs having logged only 30 miles so far. Ralph and I looked around for quite some time and Ralph had a free correction made on his bike, (ask him about it, its a very good story!) and he got away with having spent under \$20 bucks: he bought a fleece type helmet liner (Roadgear) like mine that was on sale. They come in handy when it's cold.

When Ralph decided to make his way home I decided to escort him to Bakerstown because my son also lives there about 1 mile from his place, so off we went: first North on 19 to the CVS right then onto Brown Rd. to Pearce Mill Rd. to the red belt to Bakerstown. Ralph and I parted company in Bakers town, him hanging a right at the stop sign to home and me a left to my son's. I spent a few minutes with my granddaughter as she was the only one home and finally arrived back home at 1425 hrs. using most of the same roads I came up on to make a total of 75.5 miles for this Informal Breakfast

ride. I suppose Ralph had about the same number of miles counting his ride down to the Eat 'n Park. Not bad for a December Breakfast ride! It was a great day, a great ride, and I had great company!

Oh, and Hey, Holly!... We only ate once!

And folks, be advised: there are some who actually want to make these breakfast rides more formal, what do you think about that??? Do you really think that's necessary???

WALT



NEW YEAR'S DAY RIDE THE FLORIDA VERSION

By Tom Barnhart

(Editor's note for us Northern 4-Winds types: Tom's the superlative 4-Winds Reporter on the Florida Scene here. Drooling over the weather, temperatures, and ride as noted in his article is definitely permitted!)

One of the traditional rides of the Tri-County BMW Riders club of South Florida is the ride to the historic Clewiston Inn located at the southern tip of Lake Okeechobee. The club members usually meet near West Palm Beach and ride to the Inn. Our group of three R1150R riders, nicknamed the "Mild Bunch," planned to join the group at the Inn following our own route.

Our customary meeting point is near exit 105 of I-95, a short jaunt for each of the three of us. We met at 6:30 AM under clear skies and 68 balmy degrees and headed west along the Okeechobee waterway for about 25 miles to the non-existent town of Port Mayaca. We then headed south on route 441 along the east coastline of Lake Okeechobee, with the lakeside Hoover Dike on one side and the never ending fields of sugar cane on the other. The only bits of traffic were the sugar wagons--twin 40 foot trailers filled with cane towed by tractors traveling at warp speed to the sugar mills. As we approached the small towns of Canal Point, Pahokee, and Belle Glade we saw the remains of the massive destruction caused by the hurricanes: Houses without roofs, majestic old oaks felled, and hundreds of mobile homes totally wrecked. Trash mounds line the road for the entire length of these small towns. At Belle Glade we headed west on route 80 along the south end of the big lake to the city of Clewiston.

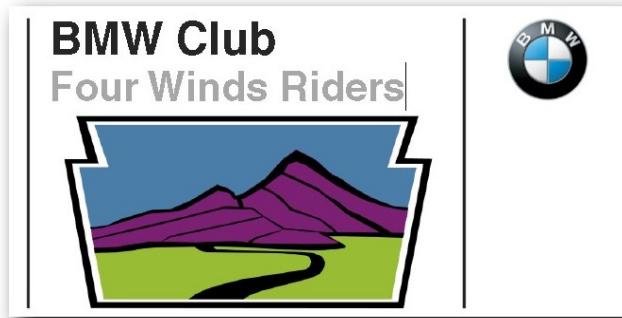
Arriving at the Inn we met up with about 20 other members of the Tri County club, kicked tires, exchanged lies, and discussed the

upcoming Winter Rally in northern Florida. Motorcycles of all types were lined up outside the Inn: at least 40 members of the Christian Motorcycle Association, a small contingent of the Honda Riders Club, and an assortment of other bikes and riders--A new year's ride to Clewiston Inn is obviously not just a BMW club tradition. After a sumptuous buffet breakfast we said our goodbyes and continued the Mild Bunch adventure.

Riding west on route 80 to routes 27 and 78 we headed north following the west shore of Lake Okeechobee. Here we are out of the sugar cane fields and into the vast cattle ranches and citrus groves. Arriving at the north end of the lake in the town of Okeechobee we did a gas, drink, and necessary stop. From there we followed the east side of the lake completing our circle tour back to our starting point at Port Mayaca and headed home, parting company at our original meeting point at I-95. What a great way to start the new year: clear skies, pleasant temperatures, good company, and 275 miles of open country, small towns, and great rural Florida roads!

TOM





2015 4-Winds Dues Submission form:

Member Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Office: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Additional Members' Names (if any):

Associate Members' Names (if any):

Number of Members' Dues submitted: _____ X \$20 = \$ _____

Number of Associates' Dues submitted: _____ X \$10 = \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Liability Waiver (if you have not signed the risk waiver form previously, please do so and send it in to the treasurer with this page. You need only sign the risk waiver form one once).

I understand that the Four Winds BMW Riders of Pittsburgh, PA, cannot assume responsibility for any aspect of my safety. I also understand that my participation in any Four Winds BMW Riders activity is strictly voluntary, and further, I release and hold harmless the Four Winds BMW Riders of Pittsburgh Motorcycle Club from any loss to my person or property.

All Applicant(s) Signatures(s): _____

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: (Note that dues can also be paid online at the club web site)

Marge Humphrey, Treasurer, 4 Winds BMW Riders of Pittsburgh
180 State Road
Valencia, PA 16059

ASSUMPTION of RISK, RELEASE, WAIVER of LIABILITY, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

Please carefully read the following. This is a serious and binding legal document.

In consideration of becoming a member of Four Winds BMW Riders Inc. ("Four Winds") and/or being permitted to participate in club activities, I, on behalf of myself, my heirs, executors, successors, administrators, assigns, personal representatives, next of kin, and estate, and, if applicable, as parent or guardian of a member or other minor participant under the age of 18, and their heirs, executors, successors, administrators, assigns, personal representatives, next of kin, and estate, AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. I acknowledge, understand, and appreciate that motorcycle riding is a hazardous and very dangerous activity with inherent and other risks of serious personal injury, death, and property damage. I voluntarily and knowingly assume full responsibility for all these risks and dangers arising from or related to, directly or indirectly, my, and any minor under my legal responsibility's, participation in any Four Winds-sponsored, coordinated, or organized event, rally, activity, meeting, picnic, or party, including the negligence of others and negligent rescue operations.

2. I release, discharge, agree to hold harmless, covenant not to sue or file a lawsuit against, and waive any claim or cause of action against Four Winds, its officers, directors, ride leaders, and members, and their heirs, executors, successors, administrators, assigns, personal representatives, next of kin, and estates, from and for any and all losses, injuries, claims, costs, attorney's fees, expert's fees, court costs, causes of action, liabilities, judgments, or damages of any type or kind, even if any of the above persons or entities are or are alleged to be negligent (whether solely, partially, concurrently, actively, or passively) or otherwise at fault in any way, on account of any personal injury, death, or property damage which may result, directly or indirectly, from my, and any minor under my legal responsibility's, participation in any Four Winds-sponsored, coordinated, or organized event, rally, activity, meeting, picnic, or party.

3. I agree to FULLY DEFEND AND INDEMNIFY Four Winds, its officers, directors, ride leaders and members, and their heirs, executors, successors, administrators, assigns, personal representatives, next of kin, and estates, from and against any and all losses, injuries, claims, costs, attorney's fees, expert's fees, court costs, causes of action, liabilities, judgments, or damages of any type or kind, even if any of the above persons or entities are or are alleged to be negligent (whether solely, partially, or concurrently), or otherwise at fault in any way, on account of any personal injury, death, or property damage which may result, directly or indirectly, from my participation in any Four Winds-sponsored, coordinated, or organized event, activity, meeting, or party.

4. I agree to follow sensible motorcycle riding principles, ride carefully, and follow all applicable laws, rules, and regulations to ensure my own safety as well as the safety of those with whom I share the road.

5. I consent to and permit first aid and emergency medical treatment if I am injured.

6. I acknowledge that Four Winds is a motorcycle riding club which is dedicated to the furtherance and preservation of the sport. I therefore agree to follow general rules of good conduct and sensible behavior at all club functions and wherever Four Winds appears in public in any way.

7. This ASSUMPTION of RISK, RELEASE, WAIVER of LIABILITY, and INDEMNITY AGREEMENT is valid and enforceable until revoked in a writing signed by me. It is not necessary that I sign a new such Agreement every year or for every event.

8. Photocopies, fax copies, or electronic/pdf copies of this signed document are just as enforceable as the original. If you are signing up for membership on the Four Winds website, by clicking "submit" you are formally agreeing to and accepting all terms of this ASSUMPTION of RISK, RELEASE, WAIVER of LIABILITY, and INDEMNITY AGREEMENT and you agree that your witnessed handwritten signature is not necessary to make the terms of this Agreement enforceable.

I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND, ACCEPT, AND AGREE TO BE LEGALLY BOUND BY THE ABOVE TERMS IN THEIR ENTIRETY. I READ AND SIGNED THIS DOCUMENT WHILE NOT UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ANY DRUGS OR ALCOHOL. I SIGNED THIS DOCUMENT KNOWINGLY, VOLUNTARILY, AND WITHOUT ANYONE'S PERSUASION, INFLUENCE OR COERCION.

Print Member's Name	Member's Signature	Date
Print Associate's Name	Associate's Signature	Date
Minor's Name	Parent or Guardian's Signature	Date

MILEAGE LOG FORM

This form may be used as a Beginning or Ending Mileage Report Form, or both. If you submitted a beginning report form you need only submit the ending mileage(s) **before the Friday a week before the banquet in January of the Coming Year.** If you have not yet submitted your beginning mileage(s) for this year and did not submit the ending mileage(s) for last year, submit your beginning mileage(s) now! If you did neither and it is the end of the year, then submit BOTH your beginning and ending mileage(s) on this form. **Be sure to date the form!!!**
Note: your previous year's Dec. 31 mileage(s), if sent in, will be your beginning mileage(s) as of Jan 1, of this year! If so, you need only submit your ending mileage(s) at the end of this year.

Four Winds Mileage Contest



Mileage Form – for the Current Year

Name: _____ Date: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone Number: (_____) _____

Mail Form to:
Mileage Contest
 c/o Walter Halaja
 1318 Merryfield St.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15204
 or E-mail to:
wshalaja@msn.com

	Make / Model / Year	Beginning Mileage (ONLY if not sent in last January!)	Ending Mileage
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 and/or end of the year. You can submit the mileage from one bike or all of the bikes you own. The sum of miles you attain on all of your bikes combined will produce this year's winner.

The highest mileage submitted at the end of the year will win a \$50 gift certificate to refill your tank at:



And Note: ADDITIONAL PRIZES will be offered this year:

2nd Prize: will win a \$25 Sheetz gift certificate

3rd and 4th Prizes: ALL Participants' names will be put in the 'hat' and 2 will be drawn to receive a 1 year's Free 4 Winds Membership. As the saying goes. . . **"It pays to play."**

WEB SITE DUES PAYMENT

When using the 4WindsBMW.org web site, you can pay membership dues by PayPal or a debit or credit card.

We plan on making credit card payment for the annual banquet and Rally registration available soon.

Here are the instructions and steps for paying by PayPal, debit or credit cards.

We are using a annual membership and the dues payment for illustration:

- Sign up for membership by selecting “Membership Form” from the “Home” page.
- Fill out the membership form. Select the type of membership, answer the security question and hit return.
- You will see: “Success! The next step is to submit payment by PayPal”
- You are automatically redirected to the Pay Pal site where you can specify Membership type.
- This is where you “shop” for the membership type (and other things, eventually).
- Select the membership type
- Then select “Pay with Pay Pal” at the bottom.
- If you want to pay with a PayPal account, just proceed as you would normally.
- If you want to use a credit card, select “Don’t have a PayPal account?”
- Here is where you can fill in your credit or debit card information.
- PayPal is a highly secure site. Your information is safe.
- When complete, click “PAY” at the bottom.
- A receipt will be sent to your email address.
- The charge will be listed as:” FOURWINDSBMW”

This procedure has been tested many times. If you have a problem or question, call me (412) 897-1903.

REGARDS,

JOHN



“RIDING SEASON”

Picture sent in by Ron “ReddyK” Latkovic

Ah yes. “Riding Season”. When is that anyway? April to September? March to October? The latter’s understandable if one’s sport from November through February is skiing, or snowmobiling, or some other such similar activity. Motorcyclists, however, especially BMW riders, if queried about this idea can often be found answering, “Oh, well, I’d say January First through December Thirty-First...datewise, that is.” It should be equally noticed that some of our Harley friends might also provide the same answer. Each year, for instance, Three Rivers Harley on Rte 8 sponsors a “New Years’ Day Ride” that is well advertised and promoted. It clearly does not require balmy spring breezes to exist for some riders to be out on bikes. One thing for sure: riding in the wintertime does in the cabin fever blahs that result from not being able to enjoy throwing a leg over the bike and tooling down some back roads or just getting out and foraging for some comestibles or other items at the local commercial establishments. Another advantage of the Real All-year Riding Season is actually the cold weather. Riding when the temps below freezing can be quite comfortable provided one is rolling around in a Widder, Gerbings, or Kanetsu heated something-or-other...or just layered enough to insulate the bod and keep the warmth in despite the cold. That’s much nicer than riding in the summer in triple digit temps where taking too much off will get you a trip to the Hoosgow thanks to the local gendarmerie.

Yeah, there’s something to be said for an all-year riding season!

Another nice thing about riding in the winter is that the leaves are off the trees. “Big deal,” you say, “What’s so good about that?” Well with the leaves off you can see all sorts of things that are hidden by the leaves during the summer--houses, ponds, farms, animals like those pesky deer, etc., etc., and so forth. Of course, one has to be riding well within safe speeds in order to be able to take a gander around as one rolls along. Besides, carrying the mail and trying to play salt flats speed demon in the winter is a sure way to find the rubber off the road and the plastic on it. There’s that nasty stuff called black ice to watch out for, along with sand and salt from the highway department’s favorite means of combatting snow and other frozen grunge.

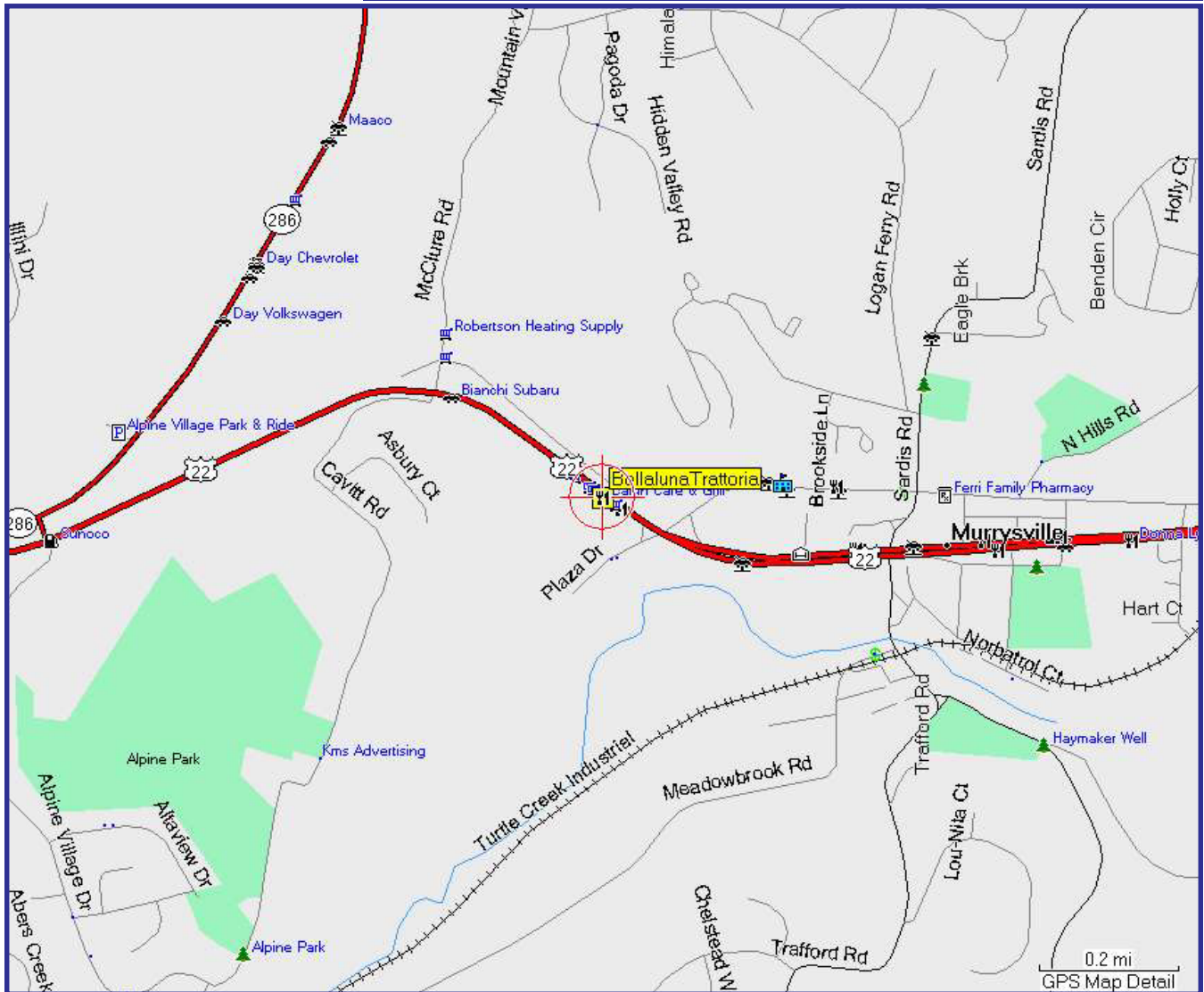
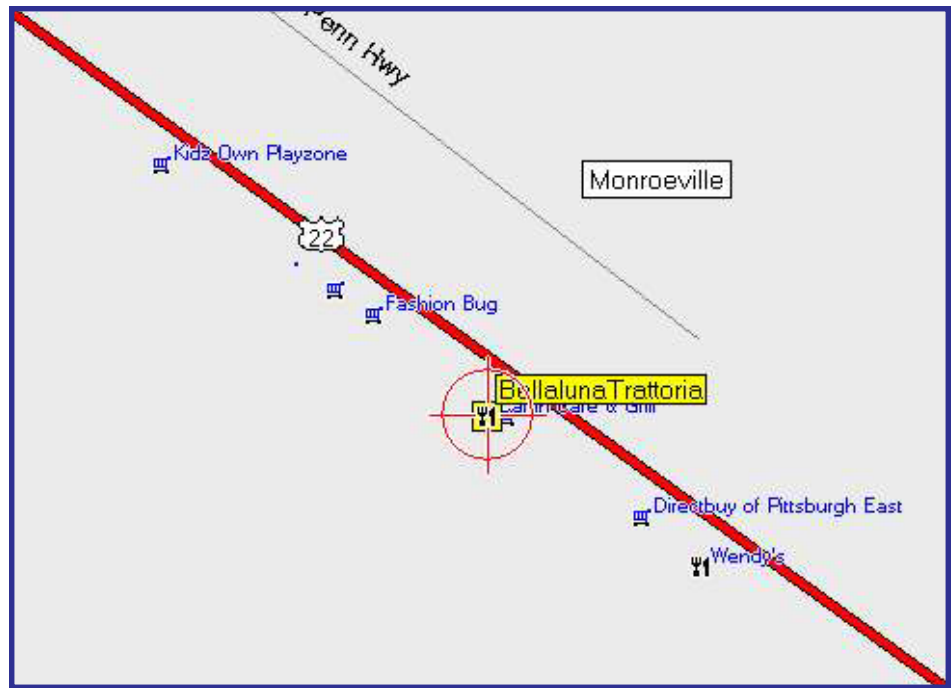
When riding year-around, and especially in the cold, hydration is still important. Be sure to drink plenty of fluids. In the winter (or any time, really) if you begin to feel thirsty, you’ve already gone too long without a good drink.

And one last safety note--cagers don’t expect to see motorcycles at all in cold weather, so be sure to wear eye popping bright togs, and ride so as to ‘stay safe among the blind’.

And above all, if you ride in the winter, have fun out there! Like any time, it’s a good time of year to be out rolling on 2 wheels!

MAPS TO THE MEETING

The top map is a closeup of the area; the bottom map is a more overall map of the area. Both maps indicate the location off Rte 22 of the Bellaluna Trattoria in the Strip Mall in which it is found.



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 \$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 MEETING:

The February 21st 2015 meeting will be held at the Bellaluna Trattoria in Monroeville from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. The board will meet ahead of the meeting at 11:00 AM.

Directions to the Bellaluna Trattoria, 5060 William Penn Hwy (US 22), Monroeville, PA; Ph: (724) 733-2662:

From the West, North, or South: Get on and take the Parkway East (I-376) to the eastern end continuing East on Rte 22. The Bellaluna Trattoria will be in a strip mall on your right approximately 2.8 miles from where you entered Rte 22 at the Eastern End of the Parkway. When you pass Cavitt Rd. on your right and the Infiniti dealership on your left, you are close. A U-Haul on the left is about directly across from the entrance to the strip mall containing the Bellaluna Trattoria. The Bellaluna will be on your right about in the middle of the strip mall with a good sized parking lot in front of all the mall stores.

From the East: Get on Rte 22 and travel West. After you pass the McDonalds on your right at the Mills St/Vincent Hall Rd Stoplight, get in the left lane and at the next stoplight, turn left into Plaza Drive. Follow Plaza Drive up to the parking lot in front of the mall stores. Travel about halfway down the mall to the Bella Luna.

GPS Coordinates: N40.42744 W79.70736