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2007

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ANOTHER PROFESSIONALLY PRODUCED MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION®

Thirty-plus 4-Winds members and guests braved the raw weather (or took their cars) to attend the monthly meeting at Vincent's At Greentree. We demonstrated the club's new AV system to the membership in attendance with a full stereo wide-screen debut of Gary and Kay Smith's **Professionally Produced Multimedia Presentation®* of their 2007 European Vacation.

The Smiths gently suggested that your club President embellished with very broad strokes what they humbly felt was simply an elaborate slide show enhanced with music and computer generated production values. It wasn't a Dreamworks Studio production by any stretch, but it was still doggone good and our members in attendance agreed. So there.

Banquet News

Thanks to Rick Gzesh who has convinced Eric Trow of StayinSafe to treat us to his own **Professionally Produced Multimedia Presentation®* with DVD video and PowerPoint.

The banquet will be held at the Georgetown Centre on January 26th, 2008. There will be a complimentary **limited open bar* from 6-7 p.m. (**no top-shelf liquors*). Cash bar from 7-8pm. Dinner will commence at 8 p.m. Banquet tickets will cost \$25 p.p.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007

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DECEMBER MEETING INFO

There will be, as usual, **NO December Club Meeting**. But for future reference, mark your calendars for the annual Four Winds BMW Riders Banquet which will be held on Sat., Jan. 26, 2008 at the Georgetown Center, 526 E. Bruceton Rd just west of Rte 51S, from 6–11PM. A delicious buffet dinner with a limited open bar from 6-7PM will be featured for \$25/person. Get your reservations (p. 7) in!

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 date of the month preceding the month of publication (e.g., No Dec. Mtg; **Jan. issue deadline: Tues., Dec. 18th**). 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 2007-8

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

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

December, 2007 — No Monthly Meeting

January 26, 2008 — Annual Club Banquet, 7:00-11 PM, at The Georgetown Center, 526 E. Bruceton Rd just west of Rte 51S

DECEMBER SHACK

Wednesday, Dec. 19, 7-10PM at Gary Smith's Garage, 1829 Baldwick Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15205, 412-977-0426 (Cell); 412-922-7909 (Home Phone)

Directions: From Ft. Pitt Bridge go South on I-279 through the Fort Pitt Tunnel toward the Airport.

At top of hill get off I-279 South at Exit 4 (Crafton-Greentree Exit). Take the Crafton portion of the ramp (the left ramp of the 'Y').

At the stop sign, turn left onto Mansfield Ave.

Turn Right at the traffic light onto Poplar St.

At bottom of hill, at traffic light, turn left onto Noblestown Rd.

At the next intersection (a traffic light) turn right onto Baldwick Rd.

Proceed to the Stop sign at the corner of Baldwick Rd. and Crafton Blvd. The garage is brown building on the left (two garage doors with number 1829 attached between them) at the corner.

Entrance is on the right side where light will be on. Watch your step. Grab handle in place. Garage is located where the Blue Belt turns left onto Crafton Blvd. There is street parking along Crafton Blvd. My cell phone will be on in case you get lost: 412-977-0426.

Ron Krantz recovers from surgery

Sean Barrett has sent Ron a get well card on behalf of the club and we all pray for Ron's speedy and complete recovery.

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, Dec 2 — North at King's, I-79 & Rt 910/VIP Dr., 10:00 AM

Sat, Dec 8 — West at Eat n' Park, Rt 60 & 22/30, 9:00 AM

Sun, Dec 16 — South at King's, 3049 Washington Pike, off Exit 54, I-79, Bridgeville, 10:00 AM

Sat, Dec. 22 — 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.

Meetings, President's Ride 2008

A survey is being conducted to determine the best meeting places we've had over the past two years, to determine what venues would be worthy of a return visit. The survey is in this newsletter and online.

Young whippersnapper turns 20

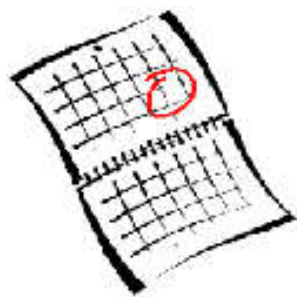
Did you know that Patrick Barrett just turned 20? (*Raise your hand if you have motorcycles older than that?*). In honor of Patrick's birthday, I move that we nominate Patrick as

President of 4-Winds BMW in 2017 or sooner if he gets an age appropriate haircut. Anybody second that motion?

See you at the banquet.

MITCH

(*The phrase *Professionally Produced Multimedia Presentation*® is a registered trademark of *MitchKehnCo, Inc.* Use of this phrase without sending a royalty payment of, oh let's say \$50 to *MitchKehnCo, Inc.*, will result in a long and costly legal battle that you will lose.)



THE WAY WE WERE BACK WHEN

by *Walter Halaja*

Well, members, I have no Dec, 1997 newsletter. Sooo, in the Oct. 07 news letter Don Poremski wrote an article "Fontana-Impressive." I wrote that if anyone would like a copy to let me know. Well I did have a request for the last issue. Many of our members enjoy Don's articles, so lets print it for all of our members. Remember this article pertains to the 1997 RA Rally in Fontana, North Carolina that turned into a police action!

FONTANA-IMPRESSIVE

by *Don Poremski*

Each person attending a rally remembers something different about the experience. Some will be grateful for a safe trip there and back. Many remember conversations with new friends or how much they enjoyed a test ride on a bike they couldn't quite afford. It's possible to catalog for others what one personally experienced and so extend some of the enjoyment to those who couldn't break free to attend.

There were various remarks about the unavoidable presence of the police for the four day Beemer happening, but isn't it possible that the attendees all slept so soundly at night knowing that they had such a large percentage of the state's constabulary on watch?

"Rest easy, son. The North Carolina Troopers have your back." Ahh! Sorry about sheriff Melvin Howell being disappointed that he saw none of the 14,000 outlaw bikers that were just dying to leave scraps of triple plated chrome from their \$25,000 machines on various twisties while plying their way to a rendezvous in a dry county for one of their bacchanals sans cole slaw. Sure, that was a credible tip. Lawmen: a little low on overtime?

Route 129 and the Cherohala Skyway were welcome changes

from the mediocre road systems at first, but became humbling with the third or fourth transit. Was that a Pink Floyd sound track or was there a helicopter over the road? No matter which direction taken from the rally site a rider remembered his MSF lessons on slow, look, and roll. Or is it Slow, Roll, and Scream? (Leo Stanton does amazing things on that R-80.) Nantahala River Gorge Falls of several, names Warwoman Road an 'A'—using the RA's road rating system, however, the term A's contradictory. Pennsylvania roads took an immediate dive upon return. (Gad, is it bumpy here!)

An old friend from Pittsburgh was on hand among the Beemers with his 916. He got the question, "are one of your lights out?" so many times, but he remained a patient Ducatisti among the ignorant. Al Vangura's handiwork on a certain, er, "K" bike also evoked a question or two, but those were more like, "What's the point?" Well, obviously the owner wants a response. Negative or positive matters not. Just respond.

Part of the draw of motorcycling is that experience grows upon you itself. Ride here or there and you can share that experience with someone who did it too. Get up early enough and you can shove aside an undeserving Canuck for a ride on the new K1200RS. Walk the right hill and discover the Suvanuzzi Hotel and Saloon with it's variety of partakers. Mostly you will convince yourself that this activity is worthy of repeating, but perhaps with a little less of that secure feeling next time.

Don



CHRISTMAS GIFTS

For nice Christmas Gifts for yourself (???) or your other family BeemerRiders, whoever s/he/they is/are, you might want to check in at one of our fine Pittsburgh Beemer Dealers (For those on the South and East of the 'Burgh, one HOPES that Heritage will, as keeps being promised, open one of these days at its new spot.) European Motorcycles of Pittsburgh, however, labors under no such dyefugely and is in its usual very well-stocked spot on 19 in Wexford. Stop in and say G'Day to Lee and the boys and girls! It's even fun just to look around! You'll probably run into some other 4-Windsers there too--I usually do (I tend to think Ron Latkovic camps out there cadging test rides when he isn't home or keeping the kilowatts flowing!) Ralph

Lee S. Marks
Owner

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**BE PROUD
BE VERY PROUD...
OF RIDING A BMW**

The December issue of Motorcycle Consumer News recapped this year's Iron Butt Rally and gives BMW riders good cause to be proud (again!) of the Marque they ride. The figures on the Marques used in this toughest of all motorcycle rallies are telling! There were 97 entrants accepted in this year's rally. Of the 97, here's the breakdown of the bikes ridden: 40 BMWs (41%), 29 Hondas (29%), 14 Yamahas (14%), 5 Suzukis (5%), 3 Kawasakis (3%), 3 Harley-Davidsons (3%), 1 Buell (1%), 1 Triumph (1%), and 1 Victory Vision (1%). On top of this top-heavy-with-Beemers number of entrants, was the fact that 4 out of the 5 top finishers--1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th placers--all rode Beemers. A Harley-Davidson was ridden by the 3rd place finisher, and, according to the article, this was the first time a Harley ever came in that high in the standings. The next time a Harley rider gives you a thumbs down instead of a wave when you pass him, as one did me last summer, return him a Bronx Cheer!

And take a bow, ladies! It was a gal, Lisa Landry, who put this year's IB Rally together, and all agreed it was not only different from the previous ones, but was the toughest and most intellectually challenging one yet. Bouquets to Lisa!

On a sadder note, all of the "Hopeless Class" bikes—a 250cc Kawa Ninja, a 1976 BMW R60/6, a '78 Honda GL1000, and a '72 HD Electra Glide sporting 199,000 miles on the clock--turned out to be DNFs.

Another sad fallout from this year's rally was that, according to Paul Graves, 4 of the 20 BMW bikes with "New Style" lubricated-for-life final drives in the rally failed--as Paul put it: that was "counting those on [the] R1200GS, R1200RT and K1200GT motorcycles." Paul in his Benchwrenching article, pp. 26-8 in November's BMW ON indicated that all the new style final drive failures he's run into have been the result of a loss of lubricant due to failed seals. So, folks with hex-head R-bikes and new Ks, keep an eye on your final drives. If you see any leakage of oil, get the requisite seal(s) fixed posthaste. Seems that's the major problem with 'em thus far--and the IB Rally always wrings 'em out good and brings to light any weaknesses that might be lurking around. Some dealers also are now saying that they're changing the oil in the new drives every 12,000 miles and using 75W90 full synthetic GL5 rated gear oil. After indicating this type oil, Paul mentioned he'd earlier suggested 75W140 wt. oil. Be aware, hexhead and new K bike riders.



MAINTENANCE DVDs

There is a new set of basic maintenance DVDs out for Beemer R-bikes—for R1100/1150s and the new hex-head R1200s (not the previous R1200 cruisers). Costing at present \$25 for the R1200's DVD and \$20 for the R1100/1150's DVD, not including postage which at present is \$3. Basic maintenance items covered include:

1. Removing the Gas Tank,
2. Changing the Oil
3. Replacing the Transmission Fluid
4. Changing the Final Drive fluid
5. Valve Adjustment
6. Air Filter Change
7. Replacing the Alternator Belt
8. Brake Bleeding, servo-ABS system
9. Fuel Tank Installation
10. Fault Code Reading
11. Throttle Body Syncing
12. Miscellaneous Checks

Information is included on the necessary tools, supplies and torque specifications to complete all the listed services. Many helpful tips and notes to make maintenance as simple as possible are also included. You can obtain these DVDs by ordering them online at: <http://www.jimvonbaden.com/>.



**41 IN THE SUN,
BEEMERS HAVE FUN!**

by Don Poremski

What sounds like a weather report for spring really refers to the 41st occurrence of the Four Winds Rally. What was special about the occasion was that it was dry, well, ...for most of the weekend. The mood at the site, the Redbank Valley Municipal Park east of New Bethlehem, was definitely more upbeat than it has been for about four years due to the cool nights and comfortable, sunny days. Total attendance this year was 317.

This rally is the longest, continuously held BMW rally in America and a target for riders all across the east, some coming from hundreds of miles away, some farther. Of course, when they do arrive and set up camp, the first thing they like to do is—ride. The first one was the Dinner Ride followed by the Ice Cream Ride on Friday. If

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.

The Adventure Rider Site: <http://www.advrider.com/> Where you can find some neat pictures of adventure riders, off-roading, etc. along with forums on the same and other information.

that didn't appeal, there were self-guided winery tours and a Regional Attractions Ride to be done at your leisure. Saturday gave two guided rides for GS types and a Scenic Tour Ride.

For those who chose to remain at the site there was the swimming pool, tennis courts, horse shoe pits, tech sessions, and field events such as: Barrel Wrap, Loop-A-Hoop, D-Cup, Push Race, and the first time for a two-up Slow Race.

Evening entertainment on Friday night was a viewing of the movie Wild Hogs and the music of the Zydeco Dogs on Saturday night preceded by dance lessons for those not familiar with the "Cajun" steps. A person needs a lot of energy for dancing so they were fed well at the Pig Roast Dinner followed by the awards ceremony. Dan Naugle of Ashland OH won the grand prize of a Hit Air jacket. That's the one that inflates to protect the wearer in case the rider and bike get separated, you know, like in a crash.

Opinions will vary of course, but many attendees appreciate the opportunity to catch up with friends and re-live adventures had between rallies. There was much talk about the highlights of 2008 including the GP bike races scheduled for September in Indianapolis. Race fans who can't make it to Laguna Seca will no doubt be reserving that weekend to see the international stars. Sure, there are embarrassing moments when someone knows your name and you can't remember theirs, but diplomacy trumps ignorance and all is well at parting.

The rain that had been held at bay on Friday and Saturday caught those leaving on Sunday. Duhhhh! The whole eastern half of the country had rain that day, right? Well, Beemer pilots bring rain gear and grit their teeth for the ride home. It's only the cleaning and polishing of those wonderful mounts that could spoil the memory of a fun weekend in the sun.

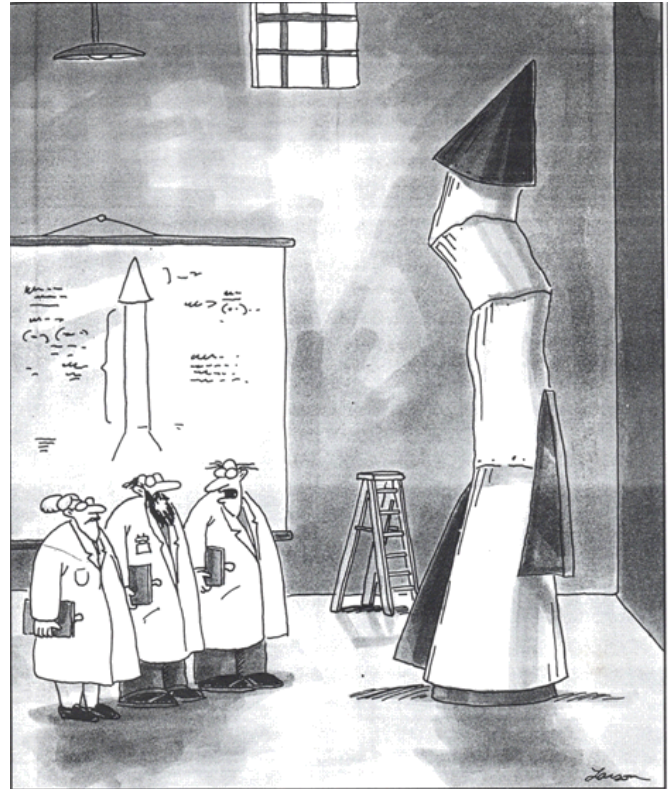


DN

IT'S TO LAUGH

Picture sent in by Kev Hart

From the looks of some bikes these days, the same sentiment (and appearance of the "finished object") could apply!



"It's time we face reality, my friends. ... We're not exactly rocket scientists."



NORTH BREAKFAST RIDE SUN. NOV. 4TH, 07

by Walt Halaja

7 members and one guest were present:

Walt Halaja "Traveler" R1200RT;

Jack Bramkamp "Shadow" Triumph Speed Triple

Ron Latkovic "Reddi-K" BMW R850R

Tom Reed R1200RT

John Allen R1200RT

Ron Kranz "The Camper" came in his cage

Paul White "PW" Came also in a cage and shorts. Now that's rare for PW, but he had to go to work!

Ralph Meyer Triumph "Bonnie"

Well, we had two rides leaving after breakfast in different directions. John and his friend, Tom, went south and took the Orange

Belt from Wexford to Sewickley, then West to Avella, South to Waynesburg via 231 and 221, then East to Uniontown, Northwest to Monongahela and home to Duquesne and South Park, respectively. A lovely time was had by them as they GPS'd their way on several back roads, into a dead end or two and saw lots of Fall foliage. About 190 miles in all, with no deer or bear encounters to report.

I really didn't know if I would ride after breakfast or not. I knew I didn't want to ride "I thought" as far as John and Tom were heading; there was some talk of maybe making it to Moundville WV on John's ride: much too far for me. Well, Jack wanted to take a short ride, too, so I decided to tag along with him. The turnaround point was to be Slippery Rock, but wound up being Grove City. We used Franklin rd. as a start, and used Rt. 19 on the way back. The fall foliage was also spectacular on our ride north even with the cloud cover. We split the lead and the temp. ranged from 43 to 54 degrees. I wound up with 145.6 miles for the day. Well, compared with John and Tom's 190 miles, we could have ridden together and someone could have gotten some of those 4 Winds GEM miles. Oh well!

So, for 8 fellows at breakfast and two rides out, I would say that was pretty good for a November breakfast ride!

WAT





Directions to the Georgetown Centre:

From Downtown Pittsburgh:

Get on and cross the Liberty Bridge. While still on the bridge, get into the right hand lane and go through the Liberty Tunnels. Follow the signs for Route 51 South, follow the right hand ramp and get on to Route 51 South. Follow Route 51 South for approximately 10 miles. (You will pass Century III Mall on the left hand side of the highway.) At the traffic light at East Bruceton Road make a right hand turn. The Georgetown Centre is approximately 1/4 mile on the left side of East Bruceton.

From The Parkway West & Greater Pittsburgh International Airport:

Follow Route 22/30 East to the Route 51 South exit. Follow Route 51 South for approximately 12 miles. (You will pass Century III Mall on left hand side of the highway.) At the traffic light at East Bruceton Road make a right hand turn. The Georgetown Centre is approximately 1/4 mile on the left side of East Bruceton.

From The Parkway East & Monroeville:

Follow Interstate Route 376 West (the "Parkway") to Pittsburgh. Get onto the Liberty Bridge Exit and cross the Liberty Bridge. Follow the signs for Route 51 South, follow the right hand ramp and get on to Route 51 South. Follow Route 51 South for approximately 10 miles. (You will pass Century III Mall on left hand side of the highway.) At the traffic light at East Bruceton Road make a right hand turn. The Georgetown Centre is approximately 1/4 mile on the left side of East Bruceton.

From The Pennsylvania Turnpike & Points South:

Get off of the PA Turnpike at the New Stanton Exit. Follow Interstate 70 West to the exit for Route 51 North. Follow Route 51 North approximately 10 miles. (You will cross the Monongahela River at Elizabeth.) Approximately 1/4 mile past the light at Century III Dodge (on the right), get into the left hand lane and at the next traffic light (BP Station on the left), make a left turn onto East Bruceton Road. The Georgetown Centre is approximately 1/4 mile on the left side of East Bruceton.

**Reservation deadline: Get your reservation with
check in to Tom by January 14th, 2008! As
Larry the Cable Guy would say, "Git 'R Done!"**

The Four Winds Annual Banquet

at



526 EAST BRUCETON RD. * PITTSBURGH 15236
(412) 655-4800 * WWW.GEORGETOWNCENTRE.COM

Saturday, January 26, 2008

6:00PM - Limited Open Bar

7:00PM - Cash Bar & Cold Hors d'Oeuvres

8:00PM - Buffet Style Dinner

Appetizer :

Potato Leek Soup

Salads :

Ziti & Pepper Salad ,Marinated Cucumber & Tomato

Accompaniment :

Baked stuffed Potato, Steamed Broccoli, Wild Rice Medley

Entrees:

Chicken Cordon Bleu

Tortellini w/ Sun-Dried Tomato & Basil Sauce

Talapia Almondine or Salmon w/ Dill Sauce

Desert

Dinner followed by Awards & Entertainment *til 11:00PM

\$25.- Each

(Members, Associate Members, Guests, Non-Members)

✂----- RSVP by January 14, 2008 -----✂

Name : _____

attending : _____ x \$25.- = _____ (enclose this amount)

Send check (made payable to Four Winds BMW Riders) to:

Tom Primke - Treasurer

512 White Birch Court

Pittsburgh, PA 15238

This page purposely left blank (Ya wouldn't want to lose an interesting article when ya send in yer banquet registration, wouldja?)

Help us decide on meeting places for 2008

Monthly meetings have been held at: (Choose where you'd like to go or suggest below)

Vincents of Greentree Mansfield Ave off Exit 4 I279S	Y	N	No opinion
Magoos Bar & Bistro on Perry Hwy at Cumberland Ave	Y	N	No opinion
The Brass Rail Old Clairton Rd off 51S	Y	N	No opinion
Bellaluna Trattoria, US22 Monroeville	Y	N	No opinion
Louis Tambellini's Rte 51 S Side of Liberty Tubes	Y	N	No opinion
Spaghetti Warehouse Smallman Street-the strip district	Y	N	No opinion
Sunny Jims Restaurant Camp Horne Rd, Emsworth, off I-79	Y	N	No opinion
Dynasty Inn Buffet - Cranberry off US19	Y	N	No opinion
Tolericos Restaurant Monroeville Blvd off US22	Y	N	No opinion
Clems BBQ out US22	Y	N	No opinion

Suggestions?

Club Banquets have been held at: (Choose where you'd like to go or suggest below)

The Priory	Y	N	No opinion
The Baltimore House	Y	N	No opinion
Georgetown Center	Y	N	No opinion

Possible Destinations for President's Ride 2008: (Other suggestions below, please)

Wheeling, WV. (<i>Meeting at local restaurant, Casino</i>)	Y	N	No opinion
Laurel Highlands, Ligoneer (<i>Meeting at local restaurant, Fort Ligoneer Museum</i>)	Y	N	No opinion
Weirton, WV (Dee-Jays?)	Y	N	No opinion

Additional suggestions on any of the above (say which—banquet, or prez ride your suggestion is for, please):

Turn in at the banquet or mail to Mitch Kehn (see address in your membership list)

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

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

To join, come to a meeting and introduce yourself. Meetings are listed here in the Newsletter and in the schedule of events on the Web Site, www.4windsbmw.org. Membership dues are \$15 per year for primary membership, and \$7.50 per year for associate members residing in the same household as a primary member.

DIRECTIONS TO THE MEETING:

Meeting? What meeting? It's December! There ain't no frigid meeting in December! BUT, Always remember and never forget, that on Saturday, January 26th, 2008, from 6:00PM to 11:00PM, 4 Winds will hold its annual Banquet at the Georgetown Center, Bruceton Road just West of Rte 51S. Mark your calendars and get your reservations in! See pp. 6 & 7 for the information, directions (ahead of time in case you lose your January '08 issue--they'll be in it too), and registration form.

Meantime have a very Happy Hannukah, Merry Christmas, and Cool Yule, you-all! And May Santa and his 8 tiny reindeer bring you nice Beemer motorcycling goodies.