

The November 2016 meeting of the Connecticut River Valley BMW Riders, Inc. was called to order @1:45 PM on November 20, 2016, Club President Tim Parola presiding. 28 members were in attendance at Central Pizza in Berlin, CT.

## Officers in attendance:

President	Tim Parola
Vice President	Chris Jennings
Treasurer	Ron Faibusch

Tim noted that this was an "awesome turnout" (referring to the 28 people in attendance).

Tim mentioned:

- Some club activities that took place recently – Finger Lakes Rally, several club rides.
- We are still looking for nominations for the Secretarial position for 2017
- Upcoming Winter Banquet
- Contact from Frank Florio, MOA Regional Coordinator

**Secretary's Report:** The Secretary position is still open. Tim highlighted the minutes from the October meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was presented by Ron Faibusch. We currently have approximately \$5400 in our treasury with a \$200 debt and the expense of today's lunch which is being paid for by the club. Ron reminded everyone that club members get a lot for their \$20 membership which includes today's free lunch and the picnic.

Member Update: Tim passed on the latest news regarding Bob Naramore's (aka Bobble) status. Bobble, who had a stroke 2 months ago, has been transferred to a rehab in his home town. Frank Podgwaite, who has visited Bobble and continues to remain in contact with Bobble's son, Tadd, said Bobble is facing big challenges with cognitive, vision and motor/mobility issues. Bobble does continue to show small improvements. We all wish Bobble the best and need to keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

Tim will email Frank's last email to the membership so everyone will have the address for the Bobble's rehab facility.

## Old Business:

Tim gave out the last free 3-month BMWMOA trial offer to Jim Prabulos.

A few weeks ago, Tim participated in a 90 minute conference call with Frank Florio and 7 other MOA sanctioned clubs from the Northeast. They discussed ideas on how MOA can help local clubs. Frank will schedule future conference calls every 3 months; I or a CRVBMW officer will participate in future calls. Some ideas were:

- Continue to provide insurance for club events
- Provide more advertisement, especially regionally, for club activities (primarily rallies?)
- Support rallies with door prizes and financial support
- Coordinate an MOA sponsored annual rally, rotating it amongst the regional clubs. Each year a different club will host the MOA sponsored rally (i.e., our Charter Oak Rally).
- Is it possible for the MOA to send out an email "blast" to all MOA clubs in a region?
- Create a schedule for all of the MOA sponsored club rallies to help reduce the number of rallies at the same time. A typical problem is how many clubs hold their rally on Labor Day weekend.
- Offer support for rider skill training (i.e., track days, etc.).

If anyone has any other ideas, please contact me.

Chris Jennings suggested expanding the advertisements for MOA sponsored rallies to a larger area.

Tim mentioned the 2 campouts that were scheduled since our last meeting. They were "Frost on the Pumpkin" and "Mt. Misery".

We discussed the 2017 Charter Oak Rally. Chris Jennings and Norb Christensen have decided to co-chair the event. Tim provided Chris with a very brief list of action items that Brian Fisk put together and Ron Faibusch will provide copies of the previous expenditures. Chris reminded everyone that we need door prizes and asked all to contact anyone or any business that might be willing to donate something. For the

benefit of the newer members, Chris noted that the rally is on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, leaving Monday (Labor Day) open for family and other events.

**New Business:**

Chris Jennings mentioned that next year's MOA national rally is scheduled for July 13-15 in Salt Lake City, UTAH and that there will be another rally in Michigan the week before (July 6-8). Rally goers might want to plan for both. Chris would like to talk with anyone interested in attending one or both of these rallies.

We discussed updating the club website. Ron Faibusch has created a proposed website using newer, much easier to use web tools that can be activated as soon as we decide what features we want. Tim asked for all of our members to view the existing website and note what features you think should be retained, which could be deleted and what new items would be suitable to add to the site. Please contact Ron with your input.

Ron also noted that we could configure the website to allow people to pay for membership and events online using a credit card. When asked how many would like that option, most of the people raised a hand.

Ching Chiang led a ride on Nov 27<sup>th</sup> to Rhinebeck, NY. From Winsted, CT the ensemble of 13 bikes wandered through the back roads of Connecticut and New York for 2 hours before arriving in Rhinebeck. After lunch, we found that an art store had taken over the location of the honey store that was the destination for this ride. Another 2-1/2 hours of nice roads brought me back to central CT.

Tim mentioned the New York Motorcycle Show will be in December. If anyone is interested in going, they might want to get together after the meeting.

Chris Jennings asked if we renewed our membership with the BMWRA. Recently, Mark Altschwager could not find our club listed on their website. Ron Faibusch will see if payment was made this year.

Brad Smith discussed his plan to schedule a ride that would allow crossing every bridge and ferry across the Connecticut River. He has developed a route that would be 750 miles starting in Old Saybrook, CT and ending near the Canadian border in Vermont. The trip would probably take 3 days; 1 to travel to Vermont, 1 to visit Vermont and another to return. His proposed return trip could be up to 900 mile. Brad plans to ride the route early next spring. He noted that he would welcome company if anyone would like to ride it with him. A discussion on when to schedule this ride resulted in a few options. Mid to late September would be great for fall foliage, but summertime would offer longer days for this rather lengthy trip. No decision was made on when this ride will take place.

Vote for Executive Committee Members (club officers) – No new nominations were submitted. Prior to this meeting, Mark Altschwager offered to accept the secretarial position of no one else steps up. Therefore, his name was nominated for secretary.

With only one nomination for each position, a motion was made to accept the nominations and seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. The Executive Committee for 2017 will be:

President – Tim Parola

Vice President – Chris Jennings

Secretary – Mark Altschwager

Treasurer – Ron Faibusch

Co-Ride Captains – Ching Chiang & Mark Altschwager

Member-at-Large – Larry Friedman

**Upcoming Events:**

Winter Banquet & Charter Oak Rally

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held at the Winter Banquet on Saturday, January 28. Reception will begin at 6 PM and dinner will be at 7 PM. It will be held at:

The Polish National Home  
60 Charter Oak Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106  
860-247-1784

**Adjournment** - Having no further business, Mr. Parola adjourned the meeting. A motion to end the meeting was seconded. All in favor, none opposed.