



# International Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians

## North American Chapter (IFMR-NA)

April 7, 2011

### -- IFMR-NA President's Newsletter --

#### Chapter President

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#### K.C. Hicks Hangs It Up



KC Hicks and his Burgman 400

*After many decades of motorcycling, long-time California rider and IFMR member K. C. Hicks recently decided it was time to hang up his helmet and gloves. He shared these comments with long-time IFMR-NA Secretary Ken Brandt and a few others.*

#### Local Rotarians Plan Events for IFMR POLIO PLUS Riders in Baton Rouge and New Orleans Area

Mark Shirley, past president of the Baton Rouge-Capital City Rotary Club and former board member of the local HOG chapter has been busily organizing activities for the arrival of IFMR POLIO PLUS riders in Baton Rouge on May 19 and the Grand Entrance of the group at the RI Convention in New Orleans the next day.

Helping Mark with details are other local Rotarians from the region, including Visit Baton Rouge executive Philipa Blair, Lake Region AG Vickie Maggus, and others. All are working closely with RI Convention Logistics Manager Shari Pontillo to help assure a safe, smooth, and enjoyable experience for IFMR riders during their arrival and stay in the New Orleans-Baton Rouge area.

Mark and his team have been contacting local motorcycle dealers and clubs to alert them to the expected arrival of the IFMR POLIO PLUS riders and to be prepared to provide service for any who may need it when they arrive. They have arranged for Harley-Davidson of Baton Rouge to host a 'bike night' with food and band for IFMR riders on Thursday night, May 19, and staging for the group's departure on Friday morning for New Orleans.

They are also coordinating with local law enforcement and news media to alert them to the expected Thursday arrival and the group's ride to the convention site in New Orleans on Friday, as well as working out logistical details of the arrival in New Orleans with RI's Shari Pontillo, New Orleans police, and others.

Several RI VIPs plan to join the IFMR riders in New Orleans for the final leg from the Super Dome to the  
*(Continued on reverse at POLIO PLUS Riders --)*

#### Remembrances of my IFMR Experiences

I joined North Hollywood, CA, Rotary in 1952 (at 26 years – I'm now 85!)

I rode to my meetings, makeups, conferences, district events on my Ariel Square Four, and I never met another Rotarian on a motorcycle.

In 1992 I read in the ROTARIAN about the International Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians. I joined right away. At that time our Fellowship was begun in Australia, and David Ingerson was President. We later met David when he came to the U.S.

Soon the North American chapter was started with Ron Lyster as President and Tony D'Arcy, Secretary. After I received my card and pin I was invited to many activities. Mainly in San Luis Obispo with Doug Hoffman, Bill Davies, Avery Greens, Doug Holck. Several interesting trips in the area, with Rotarians coming from Los Angeles, San Diego, and from northern CA as well.

Jim Burgess, of Fresno, conducted the annual Yosemite Ride, with lunch at the ancient Ahwanee Hotel, then dinner  
*(Continued on reverse at KC Hicks --)*

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Moreal Convention Center. Arrangements are being made for side-car rigs and trikes to carry the VIPs, whom Rotary does not allow to ride on regular motorcycles.

For IFMR riders who would like to see more of the local country-side after arrival at the convention center, a pair of Friday afternoon rides have been planned by local riders:

- ◆ To Oak Valley Plantation, along winding river roads to an exquisite plantation and a great restaurant
- ◆ Along the Gulf Coast to Biloxi where we will visit MS Coast Harley Davidson and eat at the Hard rock Café

Additional rides and self-guided route information is also being prepared; and experienced local Ride Captains will also be available for guided rides in the bayou country and beyond. Each IFMR Ride Captain will have information on the various rides that are available. Meanwhile, If you want additional local ride or route information in advance of your arrival, contact Mark Shirley directly at [marks@dandwcpa.org](mailto:marks@dandwcpa.org) or 225-769-5711.

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and stay over at Mammoth Mountain. Jim hosted this for many years and it was always well attended.

Later we added Death Valley (several times), Bakersfield, and Lake Isabella, with Mike Daniel and Howie Wass leading. One time, President Ron Lyster had our group joining the RV Fellowship and the Flying Fellowship.

Later we made the desert run to Santa Fe, NM, and most recently to Organ Pipe National Monument in Yuma, AZ.

The most memorable, perhaps was our ride from California to the International Convention in Calgary, Canada. That turned out to be a 4,000 mile round trip! We met in Seattle and were led by PDG Ron Dunlap thru some of the most beautiful country. However, the weather was mostly gray and overcast. I promised I'd do the ride again in sunny weather! Alas, it never happened!

I'll sign off by saying that the most valuable experiences of these many get-togethers, was the fellowship. On each trip, besides many regulars, would always be a new motorcyclist joining us. Our circle of friends always expanding.

I'm really sorry to give up my last ride, a Suzuki Burgman 400, with 22,000 miles (total miles 330,000) – no tickets, no accidents in 70 years. There is a big hole in my garage where there was always a two-wheeler.

I've probably missed some names and memorable places. For this I apologize. Chalk it up to an old guy's memory.

I'm sending in my dues to IFMR-NA for the next year. Who knows, I might show up in a Tesla!

## IFMR-NA to Seek Volunteers for State & Regional Offices

As I indicated in my first newsletter last fall, I'd like IFMR-NA to work toward the development of a stronger network of local and regional IFMR-NA leaders to promote, encourage, and coordinate events, fellowship, and membership.

My vision is to have an IFMR-NA leadership pyramid with 5-7 regional leaders/representatives who serve on the IFMR-NA executive committee and who in turn develop district and local IFMR-NA leaders and membership in every Rotary district, who organize and hold a wide range of local and regional events, and occasionally even events that attract riders from other IFMR chapters outside North America (as our recent "Atlantic Canada" tour did, as well as Ken Brandt's "American Started Here Tour" and Raymond Plue's "Pony Express Ride" in earlier years).

In order to make this happen, we need members willing to accept these important volunteer assignments. In the months ahead I plan to ask you to help me identify and recruit IFMR members who can help us continue to expand and strengthen the organization—building membership and awareness, organizing rides and get-togethers, promoting more local and international fellowship, working as a team. Perhaps you might be interested in filling such a role yourself, or if not, you can suggest someone you know whom you would like to see filling such a role in your area. Either way, I want to hear from you; and I want your help in making IFMR-NA a larger and stronger fellowship body.

*Bob Shiner*



### International Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians

A world-wide fellowship of Rotary Club members who enjoy and share the sport of motorcycling, travel, and community service, across boundaries and borders. Just one of the many fellowship groups created by and for Rotarians around the world.

**Join, participate, share, enjoy . . . .**

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World-Wide Website

[www.IFMR-NA.org](http://www.IFMR-NA.org)  
North American Chapter

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For newsletters, organized ride info and member chat