*** COMING EVENTS ***

- **July 5-7**, IFMR “North-South” Grand Circle Get-Together, Orillia, ON. Contact Blair Campbell (blarecam@gmail.com) for more details.
- **July 19-23**, IFMR “Rocky Mountain High” Get-Together, Colorado Springs, CO. Contact Tom Dines (tmdines@gmail.com) for more details.
- **October 3-6**, IFMR 2013 Fall Get-Together, Lakeview Golf Resort and Spa, Morgantown, WV. For more details contact Dewey Rotruck (deweyrottruck@gmail.com)
- **November 16-27**, IFMR Argentina & Chile Atacama Desert Tour, Salta, Argentina. For more details contact IFMR-AGS president Konstantin Blome, (praesident@ifmr-ags.org)
- **April 27, 2014**, District 7750 Friendship Ride to End Polio, Dillard, GA. Contact Jim Dodmead (jim@dodmead.net) for more details.

For info on other domestic and international IFMR rides, check [www.ifmr-na.org](http://www.ifmr-na.org) and [www.ifmr.org](http://www.ifmr.org)

If you plan an IFMR event in your area, send info to bob@shriner.com & to webmaster@ifmr-na.org

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Joining in the Rotary Foundation theme and advertising campaign for PolioPlus, IFMR-NA groups and members have been making “We’re This Close!” photos this spring. Add your own photos of yourself or your IFMR group to the campaign by uploading them at [http://thisclose.endpolio.org/en](http://thisclose.endpolio.org/en). In 2011, IFMR-NA members raised over $50,000 with IFMR PolioPlus Rides to the RI convention in New Orleans from multiple cities.
Accident Enroute to IFMR Event Takes Life of David Arnn

While traveling with Carlton Pernell and Sam Aycock from their homes in North Carolina to the mid-May IFMR Spring Get-Together in Lock Haven, PA, PDG David Arnn had an accident in the rain near Mt Union, PA, and was very seriously injured, with a concussion and numerous broken bones. He was rushed by helicopter to Altoona Regional Hospital where he was promptly assessed and treated. David's wife, Carol -- a nurse -- and David's three sons tried immediately to make arrangements to fly to Altoona. When that proved to be too difficult, they instead drove to Altoona from North Carolina.

Word of David's accident and injuries put a real damper on the spirits of everyone attending the IFMR get-together in Lock Haven. While initial indications were that his injuries were very serious but not life-threatening, his condition subsequently changed to 'critical' as the full impact of his injuries began to overwhelm his body's ability to recover. A few days later, on May 15, despite the best efforts of the medical staff at Altoona Regional Hospital, David passed away. A memorial service was held for him the following Sunday in his hometown of Smithfield, NC.

A long-time Rotarian and motorcycling enthusiast, David had been a regular participant in IFMR events in the mid-Atlantic region since the group's first get-together back in spring 2007. He was well-known by all as a gentle, caring, and generous individual and had previously served as Governor of Rotary District 7410 for 2001-2002. He will be much missed by everyone who had the good fortune to know him.

There is also another important side to this story. As the helicopter was taking David to the hospital from the accident scene, Carlton Pernell called Ken Brandt, the leader of the Lock Haven get-together, reporting the accident and asking for Ken's help in arranging for a motel in Altoona near the hospital for Carlton, Sam, and David's family members. IFMR-NA president Bob Shriner had just arrived in Lock Haven and happened to have the phone number of Steve Seltzer, an Altoona Rotarian, Honda dealer, and IFMR member. Bob immediately called Steve and asked for his assistance; and within minutes Steve was already on the phone with Carlton and making arrangements. One of Steve's first calls was to Kurt Stull, a fellow Altoona Rotarian and manager of the Altoona Comfort Suites, who immediately provided suites for Carlton, Sam, and David's family members at a special “family” discount.

Later, when Carlton and Sam finally arrived at Altoona on their motorcycles, it was raining. When they reached Steve's Honda shop it had closed for the day but Steve was still there, waiting for them. He opened the service shop entrance, waved them inside to park their bikes, then gave them the keys to his personal SUV to use, telling them "Take it wherever you need to go. Just bring it back when you're thru."

When Bob Shriner later contacted Steve to thank him for the help and generosity that he and Kurt had demonstrated, Steve's reply was simply, "That's just what Rotarians do. That's what 'Service Above Self' means."

While we are all extremely saddened by David's accident and death, we can at the same time also be very proud to be Rotarians, part of a group of people like Steve Seltzer, Kurt Stull, and David Arnn, who give so unselfishly of themselves.

IFMR-NA 'Changing of the Guard' Planned for Colorado Meet

Completing his three-year term as IFMR-NA president, Bob Shriner will pass the responsibility to his successor, PDG Tim Cudd, in July when both of them plan to attend the IFMR-NA “Rocky Mountain High” Ride. The Colorado ride will be the first IFMR event to bring together members from both east and west coast states and points in between since the New Orleans RI convention in 2011. The 'changing of the guard’ dinner is scheduled to be held at the conclusion of the 3-day ride on Monday evening, July 22, at the Strater Hotel in Durango. Plan to attend, if you can.
Ride Guide Reports
from around IFMR North America

Southern California, Ron Lyster

The California Desert Ride was held April 25-28. It was a great 3-day ride with "something for everyone." Great weather and scenery, good food at the restaurants we visited, a little history (Manzanar), and some (but not too many) very twisty roads. Below sea level to over 7000 feet altitude. Temperatures from the high 50's to nearly 100. We had a number of guests on the ride, as well as Rotarians. No accidents or break-downs. Mostly BMWs, believe it or not. Two trikes (Gold Wing conversions). The Pahrump, Nevada Rotary Club had four members join us for dinner on Friday night and we exchanged flags. Great Ride! Check out our photos from the trip at www.youtube.com/watch?v=aym7919zUYg

Mexico City, Leticia Parra-Toledo

We recently did a special Tequila Route around the State of Jalisco, famous for the Agave Cactus fields, Guadalajara City and the Village of Tequila and many tequila factories. We visited two of them, Corralejo and Cazadores. The group posed for a “This Close” photo and I held up our IFMR-NA banner.

The mountains near the picturesque towns offer great old highways with lots of curves. Along the way, there is a colonial church from year 1600, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site, and Citlaltepetl, the highest volcano in Mexico. At the top of the mountains the views are splendid. There are scenic rivers, cascades, and the weather is almost all the time warm. We had some wet weather but that was not a problem. One of the best moments is at night when we relax and share in a nice boutique hotel.

Pennsylvania, Jon Spittle

The IFMR 2013 Spring Gathering was held May 10-12, 2013 in Lock Haven, PA. Ken and Jean Brandt laid out the Saturday ride and arranged the hospitality. In addition to good roads and beautiful scenery, the ride featured a Rotary 'meet-and-greet' in Renovo, lunch at the Sweden Valley Inn in Coudersport, then the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania, and a shopping stop at the Woolrich Mill Store.

On Saturday night, we had a Fellowship supper at our hotel with a few members from the Lock Haven Rotary. IFMR-NA Treasurer Hal James, Secretary Ken Brandt, and others held an impromptu ' roast' of outgoing President Bob Shriner and presented him with a personalized IFMR banner. Check out other photos made during the trip at the IFMR-NA website image gallery or go to http://tinyurl.com/kotmy5r.

Sadly, PDG David Arnn, a long-time IFMR rider, had an accident while traveling to the event from North Carolina and succumbed to his injuries a few days later on May 15th. (See story on page 2.)
More Ride Guide Reports
from around IFMR North America

British Columbia, Canada, Otto Rieve

2013 China “Ride to Confucius”  After reading President Bob Shriner’s email about Knighthawk Tours' H-D Ride in China, and hearing that another IFMR-NA member, Jon Spittle, had been on a previous ride in China and had good things to say about the tour company, I signed up for it.

Visas, documentation for driver’s licenses and other formalities completed, I packed the monkey mascot of my Rotary Club of Vernon, BC Canada and boarded the flight to Beijing, to be greeted at the airport and taken to my hotel to meet others on the Ride – Day 1.

For Day 2, Knighthawk arranged tours of some of the highlights in Beijing, China’s capital which is very big but not China’s largest megacity – Shanghai is. This day we toured Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City and The Great Wall of China.

On Day 3 we experienced speeds of 300km (180mph for the metrically-challenged) to Shanghai. Along the way the group met with Shandong province police officials for examination, issuance of Chinese driver’s licenses and safety training. We would have police escorts to clear our way for our Ride all through Shandong province. Another day of great meals.

On Day 4 we were transported to Thousand Island Lake and another beautiful hotel, but first to the Harley- Davidson Rally and a sumptuous welcome dinner from all 13 China HOGs.

Jet-lag overcome by Day 5 and culture shock (particularly the lack of adherence to rules of the road) having lessened (it would never be overcome) we, all of the Knighthawk Group, were introduced to our rides, mine being an H-D Road King. Our first day of riding was around the Lake on the H-D 110th Anniversary Rally Ride with the Chinese HOG. It was a hair-raising experience what with police escorts, sirens, police blocking intersections, crowds along the way, stopped opposing traffic, and crazy paparazzi popping up everywhere among the 1,000 riders!

Day 6 was less hectic for our ride to Suzhou and Hangzhou. We are feeling a bit more comfortable in the China traffic and are tooting and jostling for our position on the road for what I have come to call “Combat Motorcycling”.

We visited the sacred mountain, Mount Tai, in Tai’an, Shandong province, and rode to a great ending to Day 7.

Day 8 saw us ride to QuFu to embrace the spirit of Confucianism. In QuFu at the castle which includes the home of Confucius the City a great reception and welcome was given to the Riders before we were invited to tour the castle. Then it was “On the Road Again”.

“Real China”, the brochure for Day 9 promised, would be available to us on our ride through QuFu – Yishui – Qingdao, China’s oldest historical route. HOG groups invited us to their own clubhouse and set out red carpets for the reception.

Day 10 the Ride included a visit to Qingdao brewery but our Chinese minders and fixers prohibited us from sampling the wares.

Riding the longest coast line in China on Day 11, our police escorts took us over the bridge where motorcycles are NOT allowed. It is great to be treated as a Rock Star!

Day 12 allowed us to dwell in the moment, savour the most of China and this ride that we can, bid farewell to Confucius, return the motorcycles and fly to Beijing.

On Day 13 we return home and bring back with us wonderful memories of our Ride to Confucius 2013.

We ride as a unit that forms, changes, dissolves and forms again into a constantly changing pattern. We are symmetrical and also asymmetrical - chaos in the China traffic resolves to order once again. The Thing – The Ride – of which we are a part, lives only until we stop and we, the riders, become ourselves, disparate individuals and egos once again.
More Ride Guide Reports

from around IFMR North America

**Missouri**, Raymond Plue

IFMR-NA Treasurer Hal James (right), Past-King Raymond Plue (center), and South Rider Greg Eiffert (left) park their motorcycles at the front door of the meeting place of the Rotary club of Columbia South, MO, in early June. An IFMR banner is across the entrance. Columbia South Rotary has 8 riders who form the group known as South Riders. Motorcycles are shined and shown at the Rotary meeting in the month of June, which is Rotary Fellowships Month, and information is presented about the Rotary Fellowships. Other IFMR members are encouraged to do likewise. This is an annual event which club members look forward to. Later, Hal and other Rotary club members surprised Raymond (center) with a 'roast' and presented him with a personalized IFMR-NA banner recognizing his service as IFMR-NA King (President) 2007-10.

**Ontario, Canada**, Blair Campbell

Plans are now complete for the IFMR Great “North-South” Grand Tour & Get-Together on the Canadian Shield, July 5-7, at the Knight's Inn, Orillia, Ontario. The Saturday ride features a 260 mile loop thru the scenic Muskoka Lakes region and Algonquin Provincial Park, followed by an evening of fellowship. It's a great opportunity for meeting fellow IFMR members from 'across the border'. Gamblers can also enjoy themselves at the 'infamous' Casino Rama in Orillia. **If you haven't already done so, there's still time to make room reservations; call the Knight's Inn at 888-325-7846.**

**International Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians**

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ifmr-na-subscribe@yahooogroups.com

For newsletters, organized ride info and member chat

**More Local Coverage Planned for Future Newsletters**

Now that we have Ride Guides designated in many different parts of our North American chapter to promote IFMR, organize rides, and recruit new members, we can also get more information from them about IFMR events and activities in their areas to report in the newsletter. But you don't have to be a Ride Guide to submit photos and other news about past and future events in your local area. Just email them to me at bob@shriner.com. I've agreed to continue editing the newsletter until incoming chapter president Tim Cudd can find and recruit someone else to do it, so I'll need your help and news items from your area.
Hans-Dieter Reimer Elected IFMR World Secretary

IFMR World President Adilson Bonatto announced in late June the election of Hans-Dieter Reimer as IFMR World Secretary 2013-16. He was elected by vote of IFMR chapter presidents and will succeed Cornelius Neufert, who has served in that position since 2010.

A Rotarian since 1998, Reimer served as chapter president 2011-12 of IFMR-AGS, which is comprised of Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. An avid motorcyclist, he says that he rides 10,000-15,000 kilometers per year on IFMR rides.

From 1970 to 2011 he was a member of the German Federal Police and retired as a Colonel and head of the department for personnel recruitment and selection of the 40,000 member staff, as well as 6 years as national training coordinator of the European Union Border Agency FRONTEX based in Warsaw. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Husum.

Shriner & Brandt Showcase IFMR at Rotary District 7390 Conference

IFMR-NA Secretary Ken Brandt (below, left) was invited to represent Rotary Fellowships with a booth at the 2013 District 7390 Conference, which was held in his hometown, Elizabethtown, PA, the weekend following the 2013 IFMR Spring Get-Together in Lock Haven. He persuaded IFMR-NA President Bob Shriner to come up from Virginia to join him in manning the booth for IFMR. Note the official IFMR-NA banner, caps, and shirts, as well as Ken's bike next to the booth, which helped capture much attention. Looks like they had fun!