IFMR-NA On-Line Store
Now Offers . . . MORE!
Shirts, Caps, & Gifts Galore!

Since being named IFMR-NA Merchandise Director last year, Ken Brandt has put together a great and growing catalog of interesting items for members to purchase on-line. Here Ken models two of the most popular items – a bright yellow short-sleeve shirt (also available in blue) and a blue baseball cap, both with the IFMR logo.

With a strong push by new president Tim Cudd and help from webmaster Chris Jones and treasurer Hal James, it's also now easier than ever to order on-line and pay by credit card, eliminating the previous problems of handling checks and dealing with non-US currencies. Just place your order, pay by credit card, and get prompt delivery to your doorstep or mailbox. (International deliveries may still be subject to local customs inspections and duties, if any.)

To see what's available and place your order, simply go to www.ifmr-na.org/store, make your selections. And pay by credit card. Couldn't be easier!

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*** COMING EVENTS ***

- April 27, 2014, District 7750 Friendship Ride to End Polio, Dillard, GA. Contact Jim Dodmead (jim@dodmead.net) for more details.
- May 3-6, 2014, IFMR Spring Get-Together, Staunton, VA. Miles of scenic mountain roads, plus great fellowship. For further details contact Bob Shriner (bob@shriner.com).
- June 5-8, 2014, IFMR Rides at RI Convention, Sydney, Australia. Three rides planned after the convention. For more details see attached announcement or contact Ride Secretary Peter Brown (peter.brown@rpmengineering.com.au)

For info on other domestic and international IFMR rides, check www.ifmr-na.org and www.ifmr.org

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

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Notes . . . from the Top
by IFMR-NA President Tim Cudd

Seasons Greetings from Wintry Missouri.

As we wind down 2013 and head into 2014 I’m reminded of the rides and events that our members have enjoyed these past months and how much I enjoy being a part of it. When I look through the photos and articles submitted and read of the fun and friendships enjoyed by our members it just confirms why we do what we do. While we know what it means to be a part of the Rotary family I would also submit that the IFMR is a family as well and shares a common love of motorcycling and the open road.

What’s your New Year’s resolution? As we move into 2014 we all look at what 2013 held for us and what we hope for in 2014. I gave up on the whole resolution to eat better, get more rest, exercise, and lose weight resolution several years ago. So, my resolution this year is to ride more and meet more of our members on the road. That’s a lot easier and a whole lot more fun. Whatever your resolution is, I wish you luck.

Thank you for your continued membership and support. Help us to promote and support your events and submit your ride ideas, photos, and articles to share with our members. Bob Shriner does an amazing job getting information out and we all appreciate any information or articles for the newsletter.

I wish you all a prosperous and safe New Year. May you have nothing but green lights, blue skies, and the wind at your back as you ride along in 2014. Ride safe and have fun. See you on the road.

PS: If you haven’t yet paid your 2013-14 IFMR dues, please go to www.ifrm-na.org, update your member info, and pay your dues by credit card. DO IT NOW! Don’t be left out! We don’t want to lose you.

Shenandoah Rotary Poker Run Provides 24,000 Meals

By Annette Petrick (Annette@petrickoutsourcing.com)

(Reprinted from Rotary District 7570 Governor’s newsletter)

The second annual Poker Run sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of the Shenandoah Valley raised $6,000. That’s enough to provide 24,000 meals through Stop Hunger Now, a Rotary-sponsored nationwide program to provide food internationally.

The Poker Run [held Saturday, September 28] is an organized event where participants drive to various checkpoints and draw a playing card at each one. The object is to have the best poker hand at the end of the run.

“There was a stop in each town of the Valley where a Rotary Club is located - Strasburg, Luray, Broadway/Timberville, New Market, Mt Jackson-Edinburg and Woodstock,” reported Kathy Kanter of the Strasburg Club, Chair of the regional event. This year, some 20 riders participated in the event, most on motorcycles. All types of vehicles were welcome. The Poker Run started at the Strasburg Town Park and ended at the Woodstock Shopping Center at the north end of Woodstock, with six stops along the 90 mile mapped route.

At the end of the run, there were cash prizes for the person with the best poker hand, the worst poker hand and the most aces. There was a raffle drawing for a $500 VISA gift card and lots of door prizes. Lunch was provided by Shaffer’s Catering of Woodstock.

“We are delighted to be able to make such an impact on world hunger in at least one part of the world,” stated Kanter. A third such event is already being planned for next autumn.
Touring Mexico's Scenic Sierra Gorda Region

By Leticia Parra-Toledo, IFMR Ride Guide-Mexico

After riding 383 km northward about five hours from Mexico City through a splendid scenic route to Xilitla village in the historic mountain region of Sierra Gorda, our group rested in the Mission Hotel. Our group: four Aeromexico Airlines pilots and me.

Beautiful Las Pozas-Xilitla

Las Pozas-Xilitla was the creation of Edward James, the eccentric English poet and artist, and patron of the Surrealist movement. Its origins date back to 1947 when Edward, living in semi exile in Mexico, acquired the coffee plantation near Xilitla, San Luis Potosi, - now known as Las Pozas - registering it in the name of his friend and guide Plutarco Gastelum, who would later become the foreman and overseer of all construction there.

For the next ten years Edward used “Las Pozas” to plant orchids and as a home for exotic animals. After a unprecedented frost in 1962 destroyed many of the orchids, Edward started building the extraordinary sculpture garden we see today. The design of "Las Pozas" was inspired both by his orchids and the vegetation of the Huastecan jungle combined with architectural elements taken from the Surrealist movement he was so closely involved with.

The natural wealth of Huasteca Potosina and surrealism co-exist in the Edward James’ Garden. Adventure, coffee and tradition complete an unforgettable journey. Talking about Xilitla, San Luis Potosi, places in the mind words such as magic, art, surrealism, exuberance, adventure and coffee. It is not only about the place chosen by the English Edward James to create a Surreal Garden unique in the world, but also a Magic Town of Mexico, where hours elapse among deep blue skies, scent to coffee, and the whisper of waterfalls and rivers falling on fresh and transparent pools. There is no other place where nature and man have expressed their surreal side in such a harmonious manner than in Xilitla.

Franciscan Missions in the Sierra Gorda

The Franciscan Missions of the Sierra Gorda in the Mexican state of Querétaro were declared a World Heritage Site by the UNESCO in 2003. They are credited to Junipero Serra of the Franciscan Order, who also founded important missions in Alta California.

A second mission is located in the community of Tancoyol called Nuestra Señora de la Luz de Tancoyol, dedicated to Our Lady of Light. This facade has profuse vegetative ornamentation, with ears of corn prominent and is the most elaborate of the five missions. It is likely that this mission was constructed by Juan Ramos de Lora, who resided here from 1761 to 1767.

The five missions are: Santiago de Jalpan and Nuestra Señora de la Luz de Tancoyol in the municipality of Jalpan, Santa María del Agua de Landa and San Francisco del Valle de Tilaco in Landa, and San Miguel Concá in Arroyo Seco. The facades of these churches are important because of the “Mestizo Baroque” style, which shows significant indigenous influence by the Pame Indians who built them.

Come ride Mexico with us, Amigos!

See more photos from the Mexico tour on page 4.
More photos from Mexico tour (from page 3).

Leticia and friends

Exotic tropical garden

Beautiful courtyard

Hillside waterfall

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Otto's Awesome IFMR Argentine & Atacama Adventure
Two weeks on a BMW GS over the Andes and into the great Atacama Desert with a group of IFMR-AGS riders
By Otto Rieve, IFMR Ride Guide-British Columbia

THE PROMISE (by Horizonte Motorcycle Tours): “Welcome to the great and colourful northwest of Argentina! This two week adventure tour through the gorgeous Andes of Salta and Jujuy is an unforgettable adventure for anyone who looks for fun, sun, good rides, interesting culture and a lot of remote mountain scenery. The motorbike rides take us through the most stunning areas of northwest Argentina, on one side to the deep valleys with their bizarre and colourful rock formations, breathtakingly steep and curvaceous mountain passes and traditional villages, and on the other side to the high altitude desert plains of the Puna with it’s wide open plains, dazzling white salt lakes, remote lagoons and towering volcanoes.

THE ROUTE: About 2,460km for me (1,530 miles for the metrically challenged), 30% gravel roads (seemed like a lot more at the time)

LEVEL OF EXPERIENCE: “The trip is suitable for any experienced motor-biker with some basic off-road experience”. Hmmm....... 

THE ADVENTURERS: There were eight riders (seven males and one female) on motorcycles and, riding in the truck, two women (one of whom occasionally rode pillion). The riders were German members or friends of IFMR-AGS (Austria, Germany, and Switzerland), except for me from IFMR-NA.

THE MOTORCYCLES: All BMWs: R1200GS (3), F800GS (3), F650 (2)

THE TRIP: Day 1 – We travelled on Aerolineas Argentina, departing on Latino time, from Buenos Aires to Salta where a number of important events occurred. These included waiver of liabilities, damage deposit, meeting with the Rotary Club of Salta, a donation to that club’s community programs, exchange of banners and, finally, the keys to and introduction to our motorcycle mounts.

Day 2 - We leave Salta southwards through the fertile Lerma Valley, which narrows into the canyon of the Quebrada de Cafayate.

Day 3 - In the morning we ride to the ancient ruins of Quilmes, ride up the "Small Hell Pass" and dive down into the lush and green valley of Tafí, a village beautifully built around a small lake.

Day 4 - Today's ride takes us along the Calchaquí River, through narrow gorges and broad valleys. Lunch at a pleasant wine estancia (I don’t drink and drive), overnight stay in the picturesque mountain town of Cachi, overshadowed by mountains over 6000m high.

Day 5 – We cross the National Park Los Cardones with its forest of thousands of Cactuses. We return to and overnight in Salta from which we started out four days ago.

Day 6 - This very diverse day takes us on a twisting tarmac road through densely wooded valleys into the picturesque Quebrada de Humahuaca canyon, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003. The road then winds over the 4000m high pass Abra del Condor to the remote mountain town of Iruya, lying in a narrow part of a deep valley, surrounded by colourful mountains and bizarrely eroded rock walls.

At the end of the day, as we ride to our hotel resort in Iruya, a dog crosses in front of me on the cobblestone slippery rocks as I initiate a turn. I look too long at the dog rather than where I want to go, I hit a depression in the road, stall the bike at this low speed, step into another hole and dump the bike while standing still. Nothing injured except my pride and a man helps me pick up the previously scratched BMW F800 GS.

Day 7 - No riding today, instead we hike into the mountains in the morning to a wonderful look-out point, from where we see stunning views over the valley of Iruya.

(Continued on Page 6)
Argentina & Atacama Adventure (continued from page 5)

Day 8 - We cross the Abra del Condor, we reach the main road and ride to Humahuaca. We cross the tropic of Capricorn, to reach the Ruins of Tilcara and the beautiful village of Purmamarca.

Day 9 - In the morning from the village of Tilcara, we climb up the "La Cuesta de Lipán", a pass which takes us on a beautiful tarmac road to 4180m (13,700 ft.) above sea level where we'll find the plains of La Puna and the salt flats of Salinas Grandes. After crossing the Argentinean Puna which is more than 4500m (14,700) above sea level, we arrive in Chile and the town of San Pedro de Atacama, an oasis at the foot of Licanbur Volcano (5930m – 19,500ft above sea-level) situated in the driest desert on earth: the Atacama desert.

Puna Desert, salt lake, Otto with mascot of Rotary Club of Vernon

Day 10 - We spend the morning to enjoy the village of San Pedro. After lunch we rode to a cave to traverse it and then rode to the Valley of the Moon (Valle de la Luna) to enjoy the sunset in the stunning "Salt Mountain Range". As the shadows lengthened when we walked back to our bikes, the melancholy thought struck me that “I will never pass this way again”.

Day 11 - We ride back up into the high areas of the Andes and cross into Argentina again. After an adventurous ride through the vast landscapes of the Puna Desert, we successfully and safely ride into the mining town of San Antonio de los Cobres to spend the night.

Day 12 - We cross the highest pass of Argentina, the 4960m high Abra El Acay, then snaking up the mountainside to the pass to enjoy the stunning views from 5 km above sea level before diving into the Calchaquí Valley, challenged by some river crossings and hairpin bends. We arrive in Salta, ride the bikes to be washed, and I receive my (Continued at right)

Damage deposit back in full. Then it's a celebratory End of Ride Dinner and we sit at a long table on the sidewalk and partake of local colour as it all walks by.

Day 13 - We are brought to the airport to catch our flights. I fly to Buenos Aires for another Tango Experience but that is another story for another venue. I take back home some awesome impressions, great memories and a Horizonte present (the obligatory T-shirt).

Once at home, I unpack and look on the web and in motorcycles magazines to plan The Next Ride. Why don't you join me on the next one?

Ride Guide Reports
from around IFMR North America

Michigan – Rory Windrim

Season Greetings, from the (frozen) Water, Winter Wonderland, known as Michigan. Looking back on the year, it has been a busy IFMR riding season. Judy and I personally rode on three different rides of the many that were scheduled.

When I first met Bob Shriner, he talked of Ride Guides in different states and rides scheduled throughout the year making it hard to decide which ride or rides to go on. His vision, I'm glad to say, is becoming reality. To all the Ride Guides, I say let’s push harder to get more members and ideas of where they would like to ride. Look at your riding areas from an outsiders viewpoint. We get so used to riding in our own backyards that we don’t see the good things around us.

With this in mind, some of us in Michigan are going to try to put together a ride in our backyard that will give riders another destination next year. For those of us awaiting riding weather, there is always the memories of the past rides and new friendships. For those still riding, Ride Safe and we might see you on one of the rides in the upcoming season.

Meanwhile, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Llama break *

Argentina & Atacama Adventure (continued from left)

* These photos courtesy of Horizonte Tours

If you are interested in more information about this tour, see the Horizonte Tours website:

http://www.horizonte-tours.com/motorcycle/tour-argentina

www.IFMR.org 6  www.IFMR-NA.org