



International Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians

North American Chapter (IFMR-NA)

February 28, 2015

-- IFMR-NA President's Newsletter --

Chapter President

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*** COMING EVENTS ***

- **May 8-10, IFMR 2014 Spring Rally, Dubois, PA.** Ken Brandt is planning another great spring weekend ride thru beautiful NW PA: Allegheny National Forest, elk herds and twisty mountain roads, spectacular Kinzua Bridge overlook,. Lodging at the Hampton Inn in Dubois (JamesLong@hilton.com, 814-375-1000). Contact Ken if you need more details (keystnken@aol.com).
- **May 23, "Rotarians at Recess" Day Ride, Vacaville, CA.** Meet & Eat, then ride up and around Lake Berryessa and back to Vacaville for a party & BBQ. For more details, contact Brian Gray (bigbrian@gray-matter.net, 530-872-2462).
- **June 14-16, IFMR SE Region Spring Ride, Cashiers, NC.** Some of the most beautiful riding country in America, numerous scenic waterfalls and other great stops in the southern Appalachian Mountains. Lodging at the Laurelwood Mountain Inn (828-743-9939, www.laurelwoodmountaininn.com). For more info, contact Carlton Pernell, (919-915-5000, carltonpernell@aol.com),

For info on domestic and international IFMR rides, also check www.ifmr-na.org and www.ifmr.org. If you plan an IFMR event in your area, send information about it to newsletter editor bob@shriners.com and to

New IFMR Greece Chapter Formed

In mid February IFMR International Secretary Hans-Dieter Reimer announced the formation and chartering of a new IFMR chapter in Greece. Reimer's announcement said that "our new IFMR Chapter Greece was founded on 16th February 2015 in Komotini and meets all requirements of membership in a Rotary Fellowship."



IFMR Greece President Georgios Kalfas

The announcement also noted that the new chapter's first president is Georgios Kalfas, an engineer, from Rotary Club Komotini, district 2484. IFMR members interested in motorcycling in Greece should contact the new president at kalfasgeorgios@gmail.com



Riding in Greece is great!

Notes . . . from the Top

by IFMR-NA President Tim Cudd

Ready for Spring?

I don't know about anyone else but I'm ready for spring and for some riding weather around the Midwestern part of the United States.

As I write this article it's four degrees Fahrenheit outside and headed toward negative numbers tonight. I'm sure that my friends from the North are laughing at us here in the states as we deal with all of the brutally cold weather. Come to think of it, I'm sure my friends from the Deep South are saying the same thing. While we may complain about the weather, our thoughts and prayers are with those folks that have been in the path of the monster storms and sincerely hope that everyone makes it through the next few weeks until spring arrives.

Even with the winter still upon us, it is a great time to start thinking about having your bike serviced before riding weather gets here. Now is a great time to have that maintenance done and get ahead of the rush at your local service facility when the weather changes. I recently attended a short seminar put together by a representative of the Dunlop Tire Co. I learned more about motorcycle tires in general than I thought I would ever want to know. It was great information and really drove home the importance of certain types of tires, correct air pressure for different weather conditions in different climates, and what happens when you ignore the warning signs. I encourage you to make sure that your service is done by a reputable facility and put safety up front as we get back out on the road.

Last week I had the opportunity to attend the annual Harley Officer Training conference in



Albuquerque, New Mexico. As always the training was timely and much of the information was applicable regardless of the brand you ride. I have been to the annual conference several times from Milwaukee to Dallas to Albuquerque to name a few. Much like our organization, you find a very diverse membership depending on where folks are from. That's one of the things that I love about not only that conference every year but the IFMR-NA and Rotary as well. Our organization is comprised of many personalities and nationalities and all with their own interests and ways of doing things. At the end of the day it's about riding and having fun and enjoying the ride. I am looking forward to getting out and riding more this year and hopefully meeting several of you on the road.

Did you know that the IFMR recently added another chapter in Greece? I have been in contact with their President and look forward to that new chapter growing and becoming more involved in the IFMR.

You may remember that I recently had the honor of nominating IFMR-NA Past President Raymond Plue to serve as the next International or World President of the IFMR. Those elections are supposed to be complete within the next week or two and we anxiously await those results. Good Luck Raymond! Of course we will be getting the information out with those election results as soon as we get them.

Don't forget that we are still looking for someone to step up and help with the newsletter and also with membership. If you have the time, skill, or desire to be more involved with your chapter in one of these positions, please let me know. As always, my sincere thanks to all of the Officers and Directors for all that you do to make this organization run smoothly and keep moving forward.

Be safe and I will see you on the road.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim D. Cudd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Visit the IFMR-NA Store

www.ifmr-na.org/store.htm

for banners, shirts, caps, & more!

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*IFMR long-sleeve blue
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Great for club meetings
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doorag**

Just \$30

(Regularly \$35 when bought separately)

OR

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plus an IFMR bandana or doorag**

Now Just \$30



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www.IFMR-NA.org/store_specials.htm**

SE Region Report

Carlton Pernell, Regional Director

(carltonpernell@aol.com)

SNOW BIRDS WANTED: With a growing number of IFMR members spending time in the sunny South during the winter months, NE Regional Director Blair Campbell and I recently came up with the idea of organizing a few "Snow Bird" rides in Florida and perhaps other parts of the south for IFMR members who are wintering in the area.

If you spend part of the winter in the Sunbelt and would be interested in getting together occasionally with other IFMR riders and "Snow Birds", contact either me (carltonpernell@aol.com) or Blair (blarecam@gmail.com) and let us know.

SPRING & SUMMER RIDES: I said in December that I'd been thinking about a ride in SC and/or GA, perhaps in June, connecting with several of the numerous waterfalls around that area. Well, now we've done it! With help from Jim Dodmead and others interested in helping, we've put together a wonderful get-together of great scenery, great roads, and great fellowship for IFMR members and their friends. It's going to be based at the Laurelwood Mountain Inn (www.laurelwoodmountaininn.com, 828-743-9939,) in scenic Cashiers, NC, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, June 14-16.

This ride is designed, first of all, to be a lot of fun. And second, to introduce new IFMR members to our "fellowship" of riders. We also hope to recruit Rotarians in the South Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia area to join our merry band of IFMR riders.

I have chosen Cashiers, NC, as our rendezvous point since it is both scenic and convenient to North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia. We will enjoy two days riding some of the most beautiful country in America and stopping at numerous waterfalls along the way.

Our motel is conducive to ease of access & parking and has lots of opportunities for fellowship. We'll have a gazebo and other outdoor areas for gathering.

We will ride in on Sunday, June 14; ride southern NC and northern SC on Monday & Tuesday; then return home, or wherever, on Wednesday.

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Continued from SE Report on page 3

I expect the motel to sell out soon, so call now and make your reservation. They have a variety of room choices and the rates are very reasonable.

Feel free to email me with any and all questions at carltonpernell@aol.com

Ya'll come! We'll have a ball!

NE Region Report

Blair Campbell, Regional Director
(blarecam@gmail.com)

IFMR SPRING RALLY: IFMR Merchandise Director Ken Brandt has planned another great spring weekend ride thru beautiful mountainous northwest PA, including Allegheny National Forest (famous for its elk herds and twisty mountain roads) and a visit to the spectacular Kinzua Bridge and gorge overlook. Based in Dubois, PA, at the Hampton Inn (814-375-1000, JamesLong@hilton.com), May 8-10, it will be another great weekend of great roads, great scenery, and great IFMR fellowship. Mark your calendar and plan to join us. If you have questions or want more information, just contact Ken Brandt (keystnken@aol.com)

CANADIAN SUMMER RIDES: We're still working on plans for a couple of interesting rides for summer 2015. Top of the list is a Great Lakes loop – a ride around Lake Michigan and across the top of Lake Huron looping the lakes with an interesting stop and stay on Manitoulin Island, highlighted by a two hour ferry ride from Manitoulin Island to Tobermory, ON.

This would likely be a three day ride, potentially starting in Sarnia, ON, then up through Michigan to Sault St. Marie; then from SSM along the northern shores of Lake Huron to Manitoulin Island and a very scenic ride around the island, with an overnight stay in the tiny town of Little Current. Next day would be the ferry ride from Manitoulin over to Tobermory and the mainland, and from there back down to finish at Sarnia/Port Huron.

Also under consideration is a 2-3 day ride through central Ontario, starting in the small central town of Tweed and meandering up to Calabogie to overnight at a delightful little B'n'B. Next day we would proceed up through Barry's bay and on into and through Algonquin Park, Ontario's largest and most scenic provincial park. We would then continue on down to Sir Sam's Inn near

the village of Fort Irwin for our second night, then through Haliburton on down to Lindsay, just southwest of Lake Simcoe, for either an overnight or dispatches home bound.

These rides have yet to be test-driven, but are definitely interesting ideas we're working on, but test driving will not be possible until the spring! So ... stay tuned and we'll update you as soon as we can on where we'd like to have the 2015 IFMR Summer North-South group ride. Meanwhile, you can be thinking about a ride you'd like to lay out for us for the future.

NC Region Report

Rory Windrim, Regional Director
(rlwindrim@aol.com)

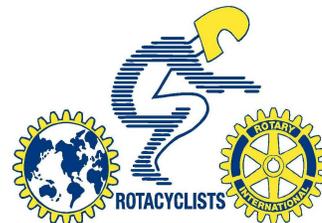
NORTH CENTRAL UPDATE: *Wishing Everyone an Early Spring.*

An old adage says "It's hard to drain the swamp when you're up to your neck in alligators." In the same vein, it's hard to complete plans for an IFMR ride when you're still up to your neck in snow!

So far there are preliminary plans for a ride in northern Illinois in May or June and a northern Michigan ride in early September. But we haven't worked out the details yet. If you are still riding in your area, I'm jealous; but ride safe and hopefully we will meet up come spring.

We're also trying to recruit someone to serve as Associate Editor for the NC region, to help spread the word about IFMR activities in the NC region and contribute news, photos, and other information to the IFMR-NA newsletter and website. If you would be interested in helping with this effort, please contact me at the email address above.

**International
Fellowship of
Motorcycling
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SW Region Report

Don Theile, Regional Director
(dtheile@comcast.net)

Various plans for IFMR rides in the SW region are under discussion; but the only one nailed down at this point is a day-ride being organized by the Vacaville Rotary Club and being called “Rotarians at Recess”, to be held Saturday, May 30. It's not an IFMR ride, but it might be fun. For more details, contact Brian Gray (bigbrian@gray-matter.net). And if you have some ideas about a ride that you think would be interesting, please contact me and we can discuss details.

IFMR-AGS Fetes Its 15th Anniversary, Announces 2016 International Ride



IFMR-AGS presidents 1999-2015, L-R: Wolfgang Suwelack, Dirk Jesinghaus, Gerd Bringewatt, Hans-Dieter Reimer, Konstantin Blome, and Eckehart Wache

In February IFMR-AGS, the German chapter of IFMR, celebrated the completion of 15 years in the fellowship with a dinner in Nuremberg, Frankonia (Bavaria) that brought together all six of the Rotarians who have served as chapter president since its beginning in 1999. The chapter leaders also announced plans to hold the 2016 IFMR International Tour June 6-12, 2016. The 6-day tour will begin and end in Munich and include the beautiful mountain regions of southern Germany, Austria, France, and Switzerland. Motorcycle rentals will be available for international riders in both Munich and Frankfurt, which are also key arrival points for international air travelers.

Rotary Motorcycle Rally in India Targets Illiteracy

By Bhavnesh Mehta, Rotary Club of Bhavnagar Royal

A team of seven Rotary riders crossed India and Nepal in December on a motorcycle rally to support education and raise awareness of efforts to combat illiteracy in India.



For 16 days, the team of seven young Rotarian riders covered 3,060 kilometers [about 1,870 miles] from Darjeeling in northeast India to Shirdi in western India, visiting seven Rotary districts throughout India and Nepal, stopping at more than 90 Rotary clubs, 70 Inner Wheel clubs, and 50 Rotaract and Interact clubs. They also promoted the importance of reading to more than 120 schools along their route. A total of 53,600 students took the pledge for literacy.

Leaders in District 3060 (India) came up with the idea following last year's rally, a grand success which celebrated Rotary's triumph over polio. After the eradication of polio, Rotary members in India are most keen to see illiteracy eliminated. The Rotary India Literacy Mission, chaired by past RI Director Shekhar Mehta, has a clear objective of making India 100 percent literate by 2017 through the TEACH program: offering teacher support, e-learning, adult literacy, child development, and the formation of happy schools.

The team had a unique opportunity to meet RI President Gary C.K. Huang, who was attending a district event along their route. President Gary flagged them on during a special pit stop.

Please join us in advancing literacy in India. Learn more about the [Rotary India Literacy Mission](#) and [browse more pictures of our Expedition for Education](#) on our Facebook page.