*** COMING EVENTS ***

- **May 8-10, IFMR 2014 Spring Rally, Dubois, PA.** Ken Brandt has planned another great spring weekend ride thru beautiful NW PA: Allegheny National Forest, elk herds and twisty mountain roads, plus spectacular Kinzua Bridge overlook. Lodging at the Hampton Inn in Dubois ([JamesLong@hilton.com](mailto:JamesLong@hilton.com), 814-375-1000). If you need more details, contact Bob Shriner ([rshriner@aol.com](mailto:rshriner@aol.com), 703-795-4355) who is now coordinating the event while Ken recovers from chemo therapy.

- **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](mailto:bigbrian@gray-matter.net), 530-872-2462). Brian is also organizing a group ride to Sturgis, including possible Rotary 'meet&greet” events enroute and in the Sturgis area, so contact him for details if you're interested.

- **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](http://www.laurelwoodmountaininn.com)). For more info, contact Carlton Pernell, (919-915-5000, carltonpernell@aol.com),

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International Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians
North American Chapter (IFMR-NA)

April 23, 2015

Raymond Plue Elected IFMR World President 2015-2018

PDG Raymond Plue (left) was introduced by IFMR-NA Treasurer Hal James at a meeting of their Rotary Club in Columbia, MO, as the next IFMR World President.

In mid March IFMR World President PDG Adilson Bonatto announced the election of Raymond Plue, past president of IFMR-NA as next IFMR World President.

Bonatto said, “The 2015-2018 IFMR International President election process ran smoothly. I have the honor of announcing the new International President: PDG Raymond E. Plue. Raymond is an IFMR-NA Past President as well as Governor 2010-2011 of Rotary District 6089 in the center of Missouri, USA.”

Bonatto also thanked the presidents of all the various IFMR chapters who were the voters in the election; and he commended IFMR World Secretary Hans-Dieter Reimer “for his outstanding work throughout the election process”. This has been the best planned and best organized election process for IFMR World President to date, involving every IFMR chapter.

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International website
www.IFMR.org

North American Chapter
www.IFMR-NA.org
Notes . . . from the Top
by IFMR-NA President Tim Cudd

As many of you have heard by now, our own Past IFMR-NA President and PDG Raymond Plue has been selected as the new International IFMR President for 2015-2017. I am excited for not only Raymond but for the IFMR as a whole. I have worked with Raymond for several years and have every confidence that he will do a superb job in this new role. I look forward to continue working with him in his new role.

Spring has finally sprung in the Midwestern part of the USA and riding season is back in full swing. For those of you that ride year round I’m jealous and I need to come visit you. For those of us who can’t ride year round the first few rides of the season are a reminder of practicing safety on the road. It always seems that around this time of the year I hear of more and more accidents for one reason or another. I encourage you to take your time getting back on the road and always remember that it’s usually the other person you have to worry about not seeing you.

Thank you to everyone who stepped up and answered the call for folks to help with and eventually step into the roles of membership and the newsletter. We are actively working on making some of those transitions and making them as seamless as possible. There will be more information on those changes to come.

As you can see there are several events coming up in various locations. I encourage you to get out and ride and participate if at all possible. Also, have you talked to your club or your district and spread the word about IFMR? Do you know fellow Rotarians that ride that would enjoy being a part of our organization? Wouldn’t it be a shame not to invite them to become a part of IFMR-NA so that they can enjoy our organization also.

Visit the IFMR-NA Store

Show IFMR pride on your next ride

IFMR long-sleeve blue oxford button-down shirt
Great for club meetings and beyond . . . .
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Beautiful IFMR polo shirt (yellow or blue)
plus an IFMR bandana or doorag
Just $30
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IFMR logo cap (above right)
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www.IFMR-NA.org/store_specials.htm
Riding in Mexico: Visit Beautiful San Miguel de Allende.

Juan Yebra, Associate Editor-Mexico (juanyebra@me.com)

Famous for its cobblestone streets, colonial architecture, amazing food, beautiful hotels and warm weather, San Miguel de Allende needs little to no introduction.

Right in the historical and geographical heart of Mexico, San Miguel de Allende (aka “SMA”) may be one of the Mexico’s most famous vacation spots. What many people aren’t aware of, however, are the great riding possibilities surrounding SMA. Great places like Pozos, Bernal, Tequisquiapan, Dolores, Querétaro, and Guanajuato are just a short ride away in the Sierra Gorda region a few hundred miles northwest of Mexico City. It is among the first areas colonized by the Spanish in the mid-1500s. Being at the historical heart of Mexico, all these landmarks are worth a visit. And trust me, if you stay on the main roads and ride before the night falls, things still are pretty safe.

My personal favorite ride is through a series of beautiful colonial cities: San Miguel de Allende, Mineral de Pozos, Dolores Hidalgo, and Guanajuato.

In San Miguel de Allende, good hotels and restaurants are everywhere. Rosewood, Casa Nevada and La Puertecita are sure bets. Take time to visit the square and some of the lovely and historic neighborhoods while you're there.

Mineral de Pozos is an old mining town, deserted for many years but living again in a touristic boom. Do not miss the old mines. It has a several B&B’s and a few restaurants, so staying for the night is definitely an option. Posada de las Minas is the largest hotel in town, with good service and good food. Ask for the club sandwich. It’s not on the menu, but they always have it. Even though it is outside of town, Lavendar Farms of Pozos offers good lodging options.

Dolores Hidalgo, now famous for its pottery, witnessed the beginning of Mexico’s war for independence. The church on the main square is worth a visit. If you decide to give the exotic ice creams and sherbets a try, just be careful, although they are great indeed! Also, if it doesn’t come from a sealed bottle, water may not be safe.

Guanajuato, a marvelous blend of colonial and modern Mexico

You may want to stay in Guanajuato for at least a couple of days. One the most interesting cities in Mexico, from its striking tunnel system to the rich churches and lovely streets, Guanajuato is a city you want to savor at low speed. Hotels 1850 and Camino Real (among many others) are internationally ranked. However, given the fact that Guanajuato has a big parking problem, I would consider staying at Camino Real and hailing a cab from there.

Continued on next page
RIDING IN MEXICO:  Continued from page 3

If you do not want to ride all the way from the border, you can always rent a bike. Some options are available, but I would go with Discovermoto. Ask for Ioram Abolnik, aside from being a great rider, he is known to be a good guide.

Oh! There is an amazingly active English-speaking Rotary Club in San Miguel de Allende. You can learn about it and perhaps plan to visit for a 'make-up” while you're there by checking on their website:  
http://www.rotarysmamidday.org/

All routes I've mentioned are on good highways and two-lane paved roads, and all restaurants and hotels are recommended from personal experience.

Here are some other websites that will be useful in planning your visit to the area.
http://www.rosewoodhotels.com/en/san-miguel-de-allende
http://www.belmond.com/casa-de-sierra-nevada-san-miguel-de-allende/
http://www.lapuertecita.com/
http://www.posadadelasminas.com/
http://www.lavendarfarmsofpozos.com/
http://www.caminoreal.com/guanajuato
http://www.discovermoto.com/

Juan Yebra, helping build IFMR in Mexico, is a long-time rider

SE Region Report
Carlton Pernell, Regional Director
(carltonpernell@aol.com)

I said last issue that I'd been thinking about a ride in SC and/or GA in June, connecting with several of the numerous waterfalls around the area. Now, with help from Jim Dodmead and several 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 going to be a lot of fun. And hopefully we'll introduce some new IFMR members to our "fellowship". We hope to recruit Rotarians from throughout the southeast region to join our merry band of IFMR riders for another great get-together with great roads, great scenery, and great fellowship.

We will rendezvous at Cashiers, NC, 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 has easy access and parking, plus lots of opportunities for fellowship. We'll also 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.

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!
At Last! It is getting warm out and the bikes are out in force. It’s been a long winter without being in the saddle and I’m ready to ride. Unfortunately, the bike isn’t in what I would call 100 percent ready to go; but it will be shortly. How is your machine? Tires, lights, tune-ups, and oil ready to go? Sure hope so, I wish everybody safe riding.

Speaking of riding, there are two scheduled rides on the eastern side of the Mississippi this spring, one in DuBois, PA and one in Cashiers, NC. Personally I am going to both of these rides. It would be great if there were some new riders there that have never been on an IFMR ride. We always love to have the chance to meet and ride with new riders.

There are also a couple of possible rides coming up this year. Tim Cudd was thinking of doing a ride possibly in the May/June time frame and Terry Skogland and I are trying to put a ride together for early September in Michigan. Stay tuned.

If you should find yourself riding around NW Michigan, do yourself a favor and find your way over to M119. This is known as the 'Trail of Trees' and runs from Harbor Springs at the south end to Cross Village at the north end. The road follows along Lake Michigan and is a nice scenic trip. If you are hungry, you’ll find The Legs Inn in Cross Village featuring authentic Polish food, inside and outside seating, and plenty of refreshments. During tourist season there can be a bit of a wait sometimes as it is very popular. If you are heading north, you will only be 35 minutes from Mackinaw City.

I also recently received this note from Jeff Schaller (schaller52@msn.com):

In case some other folks have an interest in Dual Sport or Adventure riding. I have ridden with this group – Great Lakes Dual Sports – for a number of years. They put on great events. I really enjoy the off-road riding; it makes a +50 year old feel like a kid!

The club is based out of Michigan and most of the rides are in the upper, lower part of the state. This first ride is about as far south as it gets in the Devils Lake/Manitou Beach area. The ride is very easy compared to the up North rides, mostly gravel back roads; but it’s very scenic.

This is a link to their website: http://www.gldsme.org

I will be riding the first weekend of May, if anyone else is interested I could probably round up a bike for them.

Contact Jeff directly if you’re interested. If you have any other routes here in the North Central region that you wish to share, send them along and we’ll get them into the newsletter for others to enjoy.

Ride safe, ride often, and always be aware.
NE Region: Continued from Page 5

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. In the meantime if you have questions or want more information, please contact Bob Shriner (rshriner@aol.com) who is now coordinating the event while Ken recovers from chemo therapy.

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. But we haven't had an opportunity to pre-run the route since there's still snow in many places up here in Canada.

Our thought is that 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 with spring almost here, we'll soon be test driving them to make sure! 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.

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).

In the Las Vegas area, new IFMR member Mike Blecher (mike@rotaryeventslv.com) of the Las Vegas Rotary Club is trying to recruit other new IFMR members in that area, as well as get acquainted with any others who might be interested in getting together to ride with him. If you're in that area, or planning to ride into that area, contact him and get acquainted.

And if you have an idea for a ride in your area that you think would be interesting, please contact me and we can discuss details.

NW Region Report
Marc Baker, Regional Director
(Mqbhdrotary@gmail.com)

I'm in Hawaii on Maui and have just ridden in my 50th State on a Harley! Yesterday at the "Blow Hole" on the North East Coast of Maui, today "Road to Hana", and Tomorrow the "Haleakala Crater". I have nine of the twelve Canadian Provinces and hope to do New Foundland soon. Let's also ride together soon!
IFMR India Riders Visit Interesting Archeological Site

Sukumar Radhakrishnan
President, IFMR India Chapter

I am enclosing pictures from a ride by IFMR India on a Sunday in March. We rode to an archeologically interesting place in Karnataka, India.