Two Spring Rides Combine For A Full Week of Great Riding

If wintry weather has you suffering from cabin fever and looking for a chance to 'recover' with some great spring riding on some of the best mountain roads in the country, you'll be interested in the opportunity to tie together the first two IFMR rides of the season into a week-long “Appalachian Adventure” tour.

Though planned independently, the 4-day “Friendship Ride to End Polio” in the Great Smoky Mountains (April 27-30), organized by Georgia Rotary District 7750, ends at Maggie Valley, NC, just two days before the start of the 3-day IFMR Spring Get-Together at Staunton, VA, which includes a 200-mile ride in the Allegheny Highlands of VA and WV.

A number of IFMR members quickly spotted the chance to combine the two rides into a week-long tour of the southern Appalachian mountains while they are in full bloom. They have signed up for both events and are mapping plans for their ride between Maggie Valley and Staunton. Carlton Pernell, NC Ride Guide

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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@shriner.com and to webmaster@ifmr-na.org
Notes . . . from the Top

by IFMR-NA President Tim Cudd

Thank goodness Spring is just a few short weeks away. I don’t know about anyone else (except maybe our Canadian friends) but I’m tired of winter and ready to get out and put some miles on the motorcycle. I hope everyone has survived the winter without too much trouble.

This year is gearing up to be another great season of rides and adventures heading in all points and including something for everyone. You may have seen the notices for the Spring Get-Together in Staunton, Virginia or the Appalachian Adventure through the Carolinas and Virginia or maybe the District Governors Ride to Bishop California in September. Other rides are in the planning stages and I encourage you to keep checking our website and emails for upcoming events and notices.

Is anyone going to the International Convention and going to ride around Sydney? If so, don’t forget to take your camera and make those of us unable to attend jealous while keeping us updated on your trip. We are always looking for photos and articles on the adventures of our members as they ride. Please don’t hesitate to share those adventures with everyone. As riders we are all constantly looking for new places to ride and explore. Maybe taking a few moments to share your adventure will encourage someone else to visit your area. If you have a ride in mind but aren’t quite sure how to put it together, let us know. Our members have a tremendous amount of talent and experience assisting folks or putting rides together and are more than happy to help in any way we can.

We all know what an extraordinary organization the IFMR-NA is. What would it make it even better? You! I invite you to get involved, volunteer in your area as a ride guide or contact for others wanting to visit your part of the world. We are always looking for people to step up in a variety of ways. Invite someone you know to join us. Somewhere along the way we were all invited to join Rotary and ultimately the IFMR-NA. Think of why you joined and more importantly why you stayed. Wouldn’t it be a shame not to give someone else the opportunity to have that same experience.

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www.ifmr-na.org/store.htm
for banners, shirts, caps, & more!

2 x 5’ banner - $60 delivered
Great for club and district meetings or where ever you ride.

IFMR logo cap
$22 delivered

Show IFMR pride on your next ride

IFMR logo shirt (blue or yellow)
$27 delivered

IFMR patches triangular or square
$8 delivered
RIDING THROUGH THE SOUTH OF MEXICO

By Leticia Parra, IFMR Ride Guide-Mexico
Rotary Public Image Coordinator Zone 21-A
District 4170 Mexico

My Dear IFMR Rider Amigos,

I recently did a great ride to Sierra Negra, the fifth highest peak in Mexico and an extinct volcanic companion to Mexico’s highest mountain, the Pico de Orizaba, in the state of Puebla southeast of Mexico City. One of it’s principal attraction is the spectacular Large Millimeter Telescope (LMT), which took ten years to construct and cost some 116 million US dollars. It is a joint bilateral project of Mexico’s Instituto Nacional de Astrofísica, Óptica y Electrónica (INAOE) and the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Following our ride to Puebla we visited the beautiful Valley of Oaxaca, located in the Sierra Madre Mountains. It is a geographic region located within the modern-day State of Oaxaca in southern Mexico. The valley is shaped like a distorted and almost upside-down “Y,” with each of its arms bearing specific names: the northwestern Etla arm, the central southern Valle Grande, and to the east the Tlacolula arm. The Valley of Oaxaca was home to the Zapotec civilization, one of the earliest complex societies in Mesoamerica, and the later Mixtec culture. A number of important and well-known archaeological sites are found in the Valley of Oaxaca, including Monte Alban, Mitla, San José Mogote and Yagul. Today, the capital of the state, Oaxaca City, is located in the central portion of the valley.

So, whenever you want to experience a great ride, just let me know (parratoldeo@hotmail.com) and I will gladly show you the beauty of Mexico.

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TWO SPRING RIDES (Continued from page 1) and one of the organizers of the Smoky Mountain rides, says “Get ready to ride some of the most exciting pavement anywhere: Rattler, Dragon, Blue Ridge Parkway, Cherohala Skyway, Fontana Dam, Great Smoky Mountain Parkway, plus tour America’s largest private residence – Biltmore Estate – and visit the iconic ‘Wheels Thru Time’ motorcycle museum. We’ve also blocked rooms at the Jonathan Creek Inn in Maggie Valley at a special IFMR room rate of $51 per night.” In addition, on Thursday and Friday he’ll lead a group of riders up the Blue Ridge Parkway from the Asheville area to the Staunton event, with an overnight stop enroute at the popular Woodberry Inn.

PP Bob Shriner, one of the organizers of the Staunton event, plans a different route from Maggie Valley to Staunton on Wednesday and Thursday, mostly on backroads, north and east through TN, SW VA, and WV, stopping overnight at Beckley WV, then eastward over the Allegheny Highlands to Staunton. “Take your choice and enjoy some great roads, great scenery, and great fellowship with great guides,” he said.

At Staunton the group will be staying at the Best Western on US 250 at I-81, at an IFMR rate of $99.95 per night. Riders who arrive on Thursday can also get tickets for an evening performance at the world famous American Shakespeare Center and Blackfriar Theater, an authentic replica of the London theater actually used by Shakespeare. ‘Meet & greet’ events with local Staunton Rotarians are also planned.
NOTE: 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.