**Coming Events**

- **June 5-8, 2014, IFMR Rides at RI Convention, Sydney, Australia.** Three rides planned after the convention. For more details contact Peter Brown (peter.brown@rpmsengineering.com.au)
- **August 30-September 9, Wild West Tour Denver to Grand Canyon to Utah Canyonlands and back to Denver with IFMR-AGS riders.** For more details, 'meet & greet', etc., contact Christoph Schwartz (cjschwarz@gmx.de)
- **September 22-27, “District Governor’s Ride & Annual Sierra Safari”, Bishop, CA.** If you like fun, fellowship, and great riding, don't miss this opportunity. Make your room reservations at the Bishop Creekside Inn (800-273-3550) For more information, go to http://motorcycles.lyster.com/trips/Governor/ or contact Ron Lyster (ron@lyster.com)
- **September 25-28, IFMR Fall Foliage Ride, Lake George, NY.** Fantastic fall colors and great riding in the beautiful Adirondack Mountains of upstate NY. Another great opportunity for US and Canadian IFMR members to ride together. For more details contact Myron Fox (myronfox@yahoo.com)

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Two Spring Rides Combine For A Full Week of Great Riding

After suffering from longer-than-normal wintry weather and cabin fever, lots of IFMR members were looking for a chance to 'recover' with some great spring riding on some of the best mountain roads in the country. Some were also eager to take 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 South Carolina Rotary District 7750, at Maggie Valley, NC, was just two days before the start of the 3-day IFMR Spring Get-Together (May 2-4) at Staunton, VA, which included 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 signed up for both events and,

*(Continued at TWO SPRING RIDES, page 3)*

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For info on domestic and international IFMR rides, also 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 information about it to newsletter editor bob@shriner.com and to webmaster@ifmr-na.org

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International website [www.IFMR.org](http://www.IFMR.org)

North American Chapter [www.IFMR-NA.org](http://www.IFMR-NA.org)
Notes . . . from the Top

by IFMR-NA President Tim Cudd

As I write this article the Midwestern United States is under thunderstorm warnings, tornado watches, high wind warnings, flash flood warnings, and a possibility of large damaging hail. You have to love spring weather in the Midwest. The spring get-togethers in North Carolina and North Carolina were held last week and people are already home and talking about what great events they were, with mostly good weather that allowed everyone to have a great time. Some folks managed to make a week of it, attending both events.

Are you attending the Rotary International Convention in Sydney this year? If so, don’t forget to send us pictures and/or an update on your trip for us to pass along to our membership.

Are you planning a ride in your area? If so, let us know so that we can help publicize it for you. Do you have an idea for a ride but aren’t sure how to make it happen? We have a lot of members with experience planning rides and events that would be happy to help in any way we can. This is your organization and I encourage you to utilize the resources available.

Are you encouraging others in your area to get involved in the IFMR? I would ask and encourage you to visit other clubs in your area and speak to your district leadership about IFMR and ask for their help with publicizing our group. What is happening in Canada, Mexico, and the Western United States? Any updates from those areas would be appreciated.

With Spring comes a sense of renewal. The trees and grass turn green again, the flowers bloom, people get out and renew friendships, and we get the bikes out and ride. Take time to get more involved in the IFMR and make new friends while you make contact with old friends and renew those relationships.

Thank you for your membership and passion for what we do. As always let us know if we can help and more importantly, get out and Ride and Have Fun!
TWO SPRING RIDES (Continued from page 1)

guided by NC Ride Guide Carlton Pernell who also led the Maggie Valley rides, made the two-day ride together up the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway between Maggie Valley and Staunton for the second event, with an overnight stop enroute at the popular Woodberry Inn.

District 7750 Friendship Ride to End Polio

NC Ride Guide Carlton led the Maggie Valley “PolioPlus” group for three days of riding on some of the most exciting pavement anywhere in the US: Tail of the Dragon, Cherohala Skyway, the Rattler, Fontana Dam, Blue Ridge Parkway, Great Smoky Mountain Parkway. For those who were interested, he also included an optional tour to America’s largest private residence – Biltmore Estate – and a Sunday visit to the ‘Wheels Thru Time’ motorcycle museum.

Riders came from as far afield as South Carolina, Ohio, Michigan, and Ontario, Canada, plus ‘regulars’ from NC, VA, and WV. But the award for coming the farthest went to “Motorcycle Bob” Mutchler who rode his BMW RT (with Vetter sidecar) all the way from his home in Folsom, CA. A polio survivor, IFMR member, and long-time well-known promoter of Rotary’s PolioPlus campaign, Bob was invited by D7750 to be a key speaker at their 2014 district conference in Dillard, GA, to promote PolioPlus.

Despite the threat of thunder storms and rain, the group managed to avoid getting rained on even once during their three days in the Smoky Mountain area, though they occasionally rode on sections of wet pavement where it had apparently rained shortly before their arrival.

IFMR Spring Get-Together in Virginia

Riders who came to the Spring Get-Together in Staunton, VA, were greeted with lots of sunshine and mild weather. Upon arrival on Friday evening, they were hosted by the two Staunton Rotary clubs at a 'meet & greet' reception held at the Virginia Museum of Frontier Culture (frontiermuseum.org), which included a motorcycle tour of the 65 acres museum grounds and its replica farms and villages of the various cultures on the early American frontier. The reception was followed by a fellowship dinner at a local restaurant near the group's motel.

On Saturday the group enjoyed a 220 mile loop ride westward into the Allegheny Highlands, which included a tour of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Greenbank, WV, and a lunch stop at the historic, picturesque Inn at Gristmill Square at Warm Springs, VA, then an afternoon ride thru Goshen Pass and the Maury River Gorge, and for the finale, a scenic ride along the ridge line on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

(More photos on the next page)
Springtime, Riding the Virginia Piedmont

Author "Bike Mike" Abraham talks about his books

"Are we having fun yet???

George, George, Mark & Ronnie

Photos courtesy of Katie Mann & Rachel Lynch