



International Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians

North American Chapter (IFMR-NA)

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-- IFMR-NA President's Newsletter --

Chapter President

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*** COMING EVENTS ***

- **November 16-27, IFMR Argentina & Chile Atacama Desert Tour, Salta, Argentina.** For more details contact IFMR-AGS president Konstantin Blome, (praesident@ifmr-ags.org)
- **April 27, 2014, District 7750 Friendship Ride to End Polio, Dillard, GA.** Contact Jim Dodmead (jim@dodmead.net) for more details.

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 bob@shriners.com & to webmaster@ifmr-na.org

Now is the time to start planning 2014 spring and summer rides in your area.

For tips on planning IFMR rides, take a look at "Backroad Bob's Tips for Trips" on page 3.

Also look for opportunities to talk about IFMR and other Rotary fellowships at your club and district events. Invite a Ride Guide or IFMR Officer or Director to come make a presentation, or make a presentation yourself. If you need help, or want to borrow an IFMR banner or PowerPoint, let us know.

Three Fall IFMR-NA Rides Climax Another Great Riding Season

IFMR members in the eastern US and Canadian Maritimes were treated to three great rides during September and October to wrap up another year's riding season with a bang.

In Maritime Canada, Ride Guide Clarke Paynter organized and led a five-day mid-September ride from Halifax to Quebec's spectacular Saguenay Fjord area and back. More on it below.

The first weekend in October, at Morgantown, West Virginia, Ride Guide Dewey Rotruck and his wife Linda organized and hosted a weekend fall foliage ride in the colorful Allegheny Highlands, including a back-



WV IFMR riders 'pigged out' at Blue's BBQ
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Notes . . . from the Top

by IFMR-NA President Tim Cudd



I hope everyone's riding weather this summer has been as good as it has been here in the midwest this year. Hopefully everyone has had a chance to get out and participate in one of the rides put together by IFMA-NA or at least a ride in your local area.

Our members have put together rides from coast to coast and everywhere in between for us to get involved in. Take a minute and send us an update via the yahoo groups email server and let us know about your riding experiences this summer. Do you have any ride recommendations that some of the others might be interested in? What would you suggest in your area?

As you can imagine, it has been a busy 2-3 months for me of getting familiar with everything and settling in. I have received positive feedback regarding the new merchandise ordering system that's now up and running on the IFMR-NA.org website; and I invite you to check that out if you haven't done so yet. I think you will find it very user friendly.

I have received a few suggestions for various changes and updates for the IFMR-NA. Those things are being looked into for feasibility and more information will follow on that as well. While we won't be able to address every issue or make every change, I do encourage you to send me your ideas and comments. As always if you have any questions or need further information, please let me know. You can email me at tim.cudd@ifmr-na.org.

Are you planning on going to Sydney this coming year for the Rotary International Convention? I understand that preparations are being made to put together a ride at the convention. Stay tuned for more information as those plans proceed.

Meanwhile, ride safe and have fun; and I look forward to meeting you on the road.

– Tim Cudd



New IFMR-NA Directory Available, New Members Announced

Jean Does, IFMR Secretary & Membership Director, recently finished updating the IFMR-NA membership directory. A PDF copy of the updated directory, which is available to all current members, is sent along with this newsletter. Be sure to download it and print a copy for easy reference.

The directory provides contact information for all current members. Members are listed both alphabetically and by region and state or province, which makes it easy to find other members in your area or in an area you plan to visit.

Updated copies of the directory are usually distributed about twice a year to make it easy to make contact and get acquainted with other IFMR members.

Jean Does also provided this list of new members who have joined since the previous directory appeared. They are included in the updated directory.

Robert Avey, Shelby, NC
Sam Aycock, Morganton, NC
Kerena Bierman, Evanston, IL
Michael Bluto, Mill Valley, CA
James Dodmead, Bluffton, SC
Blair Elford, Millbrook, ON
Michael Emily, Greenwood, SC
Connie Grinola, Redding, CA
Scott Harness, Herculaneum, MO
Larry Horton, Phoenix, AZ
John Lindsey, Moorpark, CA
Bruce Peterson, Ravenna, OH
David Phelps, Oak Park, IL
Jeff Schaller, Perrysburg, OH
Harry Schultz, Huntsville, ON
Ronald Shaw, Elmira, NY
James Sidlowsky, Richmond Hills, ON
Keith Standerfer, Anthem, AZ

If you live near one of these new members, take a minute to look up their contact info in the new directory and call or email them to welcome them, get acquainted, and perhaps arrange a ride together in the near future.

Fall Rides Climax 2013 Riding Season

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backyard picnic for the group at their home.

A week later, at Morganton, North Carolina, Ride Guide Carlton Purnell organized and led a weekend fall foliage ride into the Blue Ridge Mountains area, including a guided tour of the world famous Biltmore Estate. See photos from the ride at <http://tinyurl.com/lzn6pgn>



NC Riders Stopped in Little Switzerland, NC

Several riders and passengers from the West Virginia ride continued on down to North Carolina for that ride as well, as part of a memorial to David Arnn. The weather cooperated for both rides, with mild temperatures and generally sunny skies.

The Saguenay Fjord ride was dampened with showers for parts of the 5-day trip, plus a guest rider collided with a car at Grand Falls, NB. The rider wasn't seriously injured but his bike was damaged enough that he wasn't able to continue the trip. Steve McElvie, one of the riders on the trip, put together a blog entry and photos about the trip on his blogsite. You can see it at <http://tinyurl.com/kw7fw7j>.



Sunny riding along the St John River in New Brunswick

Backroad Bob's Tips for Trips

Planning a successful IFMR ride

I'm often asked for guidance in planning an IFMR event to get the most participation and rider enjoyment. Here are a few things that I've learned from experience.

Usually 2-3 months is needed to get a 2-3 day weekend event onto people's calendars and let them make plans to attend. Longer events need even more lead time.

Start planning well in advance. Think of some likely routes and possible dates. Aim for a route that will be interesting and enjoyable to both riders *and their passengers*. **Don't make it too long – about 200 miles of twisty roads will take about six hours of riding time, about as much as most passengers can endure.** Anything more than 220 miles of twisty roads will produce complaints from passengers. Keep that in mind.

Plan to start at 9 AM and be back by about 5 PM. If really necessary, you can push the start time up to 8:30 but not earlier. If you're lucky and complete the ride before 5 PM, it will give everyone time for more face-to-face fellowship together after the ride.

Allow about 2½ hours for lunch and pit stops enroute. You may think you can get the group moving in 10-15 minutes after making a 'short pit stop'; but you will find that it's VERY hard to get a group moving again in less than 25-30 minutes. Even a 'quick lunch' with a group usually takes more than an hour, so assume it will take an hour and a half.

Make your first pit stop no more than one hour from the start. Remember, many will have been tanking up on coffee shortly before the start and will need to stop in about an hour. Plan on two pit stops after lunch.

Once you have a tentative decision on the likely route, then pick a date. Try to avoid dates with big local sports events or other events that will fill up area lodging places.

Once you have a date, start contacting lodges/motels that you'll need to check availability and get written quotes for your group. **Ask for a few more rooms than you think you'll need,** with agreement to release unreserved rooms 3-4 weeks before the actual date of use but with the group rate still available after the date if vacancies are still available. That's common practice.

As soon as you have pinned down the dates, the route, and the lodging details, **put together and distribute an announcement flyer with details.** The sooner the better!

Finally, **before the event, do a pre-run** to check the road conditions, travel times, and other details. Make changes as needed based on the pre-run. You'll end up with a better event. And you'll have more fun yourself.