

Hello Members!

We are close to 400 strong thanks to a terrific rally season with lots of new members from the many rallies we did this summer. It was so great to not only meet our new members, but also so many of you that joined a year or two ago and made a point to stop by, introduce yourself and say “hi”. The best though is when we hear about your experiences actually utilizing MTN when traveling or as a host. The many thanks we received for starting MTN were what kept us going, though. It really helps us stay fired up during the long hours of a rally day :^)

We did several seminars and there were always good questions. There are a couple of things we need to remind everyone of, though. First, this is an organization for motorcycle enthusiasts. Not everyone may have a two wheeled ride right now. Some people are on trikes, some on scooters and some not at all as they are between bikes or no longer able to ride. What we have in common, though, is our love of this type of travel. No matter your method of travel, whether it be two, three, or four wheel (or fifth wheel!) you'll have something in common with each other. So, as we wind down this coming fall, remember you can use MTN even in the winter. It really is a great way to travel inexpensively and of course, we all have lots of stories to tell!

Secondly, the Google Maps has had it's ups and

downs. For the most part, it works fairly well, but those on dial up still have problems occasionally and for that we apologize. Apparently, this is not a “perfect” system, but we think it really enhances the site. We would suggest always looking down the directory to make sure the same number of pins show as there are descriptions. Sometimes the pins don’t show up, but the description should always be there. You can always check the MapQuest link within each listing, too.

Along with all the great feed back we have been receiving we have, of course, had some negative. The biggest problem we have heard of is when a host is expecting a member to stay and then the guest does not show up or call. This really won’t be tolerated. As motorcyclists, we understand when things come up, weather or mechanical issues can deter you as well as numerous other things. However, by not contacting your host to tell them you will not be arriving when expected, or not at all, you will cause a great deal of worry and frankly, it is rude. Enough said. If you are unable to make it to your host’s home when expected, you need to call them. Period.

We like to highlight a member in our newsletters and although we would love to highlight everyone we have stayed with it is getting more difficult with every season. We have stayed with over 20 members now and have had such great experiences. Most that we have highlighted so far have been “East”. So, we

thought we'd tell you about a couple we stayed with last fall on our way to the AMA rally in Ruidoso, NM, last fall. Jim and Wanda in Guthrie, OK, were fantastic hosts. We were invited to join them for their chapter dinner ride. We got to meet many new people, even though, at first, they couldn't figure out why these Beemers kept following them! We had a great meal, great ride and upon our return were told to park in the garage. Jim proceeded to take out all his cleaning supplies for us. Our bikes hadn't been cleaned in months and so we were shamed into cleaning them :^) After a great breakfast, we said our farewells and headed on to the rally. This July we were expecting to see them at the Wing Ding but received news from one of our new members that explained why we didn't! Chuck and Debbie wrote, "We joined MTN at the Wing Ding Rally in Billings, MT on July 5th, and after a few days of touring the west, I flew back to Florida as Chuck decided to ride the whole way back. The first night back he stayed with Cliff & Dee in Lincoln, NE and the 2nd night he stayed with Jim & Wanda in Guthrie, OK. Both couples were gracious hosts and made Chuck feel very welcome. Jim and Wanda were heading to the same rally we attended and had an accident and totaled their bike and Wanda had a broken leg. Even though it was an inconvenient time, they still opened their home to Chuck. Jim said that he could at least hear how the rally went! " We were glad to hear they were both okay and this gives you an idea of how great and gracious these two are as hosts.

We were sad and little disappointed in the renewals for July/August. As we stated in the last newsletter, we had 57 members up for renewal. Only about a dozen or so have renewed so far. So, if you remember seeing a member in a particular place that is longer there, it is probably because they didn't renew. We did hear from a few people who explained why they no longer could/would participate, but it would have really helped to hear from more as to why they didn't renew. Maybe it would help make MTN better to know the reasons and if there was a way to improve.

As always, we hope you are enjoying your summer. We have, unfortunately, only been on our bikes ONCE this year, but as soon as we get back, we're going riding. We have added the Wings Over the Smokies to our list of rallies and would still be interested in any other rallies for brands other than Honda or BMW.

Ride safe and happy!