

Motorcycle Travel Network

October Newsletter

What an eventful summer it has been! As we mentioned in the last newsletter, our membership has grown by leaps and bounds. The best part, though, really is that the members are actually utilizing the network when traveling. That was more difficult at the start.

This summer we met and heard from many MTNers that had traveled extensively using the network. Tom and Colleen FitzGerald have the record, though, with a 14-day trip, staying with MTN hosts 10 of those days!! That means they managed to have 10-days lodging, with breakfast for \$200! The best part, they will tell you, is that they now have many new friends and had a vacation different from any others.

Now, with all the people traveling, of course we are going to start having a few "issues". In the last newsletter we talked about the problem of members making plans and then not showing up. Well, the flip side of that is trying to make arrangements for travel and not getting replies to your email or phone calls. So, if you are contacted to host, please reply either way so that the member can make other arrangements if necessary. This is only going to work if we all follow the guidelines.

Last year about this time we offered our members a chance to make a little cash and we are doing it again this year. If you get something published regarding your experiences with MTN in a smaller or local publication, we'll pay you \$50 and extend your membership for a year. The larger publications will fetch you \$100 and also extend your membership a year. It is amazing how much more of a response we get from this type of "advertising" over our standard ads. Articles and word-of-mouth are really the best for helping MTN grow. And, of course, the more it grows, the better/easier it will be to utilize it while traveling. Also, if you have any ideas for promoting MTN, please let us know.

Along that line, while we were gone this summer we had a carpenter create about 35 literature holders for us. They are almost done and we would like to have them placed in the waiting areas at dealerships. However, we don't want to send them directly to the dealerships and risk them being placed in an unseen location. This is where you come in. We are asking our members to volunteer to take a literature holder to their local dealership/shop, ask permission to place it and then find a place you think it will best be seen by people waiting for

their bike to get serviced. If you are willing to do this, please let us know. There is no reward for doing this other than helping MTN grow.

In 2007 we had a booth setup for MTN at 11 different rallies, but 2008 will be different! We found that more is not necessarily better. So in 2008 we will do a better job of evaluating the return on our investment in the 2007 rallies and let that information help guide us in planning for 2008. Another reason for cutting back on the number of rallies is that we were only able to ride, maybe 200 miles in 2007. That just won't do! As we develop our rally list for '08 we would like to know about any larger national rallies. The smaller, regional ones cost us the same to attend (aside from the difference in vendor fee's) as the larger ones, but don't bring us nearly as many members. So we would like to attend larger national ones. WingDing, BMWMOA and BMWRA are expected. We would like to attend a large rally for each Kawasaki, Yamaha and Harley, too. Are there any suggestions for other brands or types of rally?

We would also like your input on something else. We are considering starting an online forum for MTN members. We thought, in addition to the member stories, it would give everyone a chance to "talk" with each other, share ideas for travel and/or areas to ride as well as a chance to just talk about MTN in general. What do you think? We'd like your input on this. If there is enough interest, we'll get a forum set up.

Now, let us tell you about Ron and Aliceann of Spring City, Tennessee. We had the good fortune to get Ron to join MTN last year at the Honda Hoot. Both he and Aliceann have been two of our biggest supporters. We like to call Ron the MTN "Poster Boy"! He has worked hard to help us promote MTN and get people to join. He carries our business size cards and passes them out to motorcyclists he thinks might be interested in joining. He and Aliceann stayed with us within a few weeks of joining last year. We had a great time and they were able to reciprocate when we stayed with them the first part of May this year. They have a beautiful home they recently built and our accommodations were lovely. Breakfast the next more was delicious and a work of art. It was served on the back covered porch on a beautiful spring morning. Although Ron tried to give us grief about not riding (we were in the car), we had to remind him he was trailer-ing his bike when he stayed with us! He responded by saying at least he had his bike with him!! Fair enough, but remember you can utilize MTN throughout the winter as well, even if you are not on a bike.

We'll sign off from Oslo, Norway now. Hope you are all having a great fall riding season. We did manage to ride last week for the first time since May. It reminded us as to how much we love this type of travel and made us long for the road again. Well, maybe next year!

Ride Safe and Often.

Scott and Christi Reynolds

Motorcycle Travel Network

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