

## Happy Spring!!!

So you are wondering to yourself, “Did I miss the February newsletter?”. No, we missed sending you one. We were hoping to have news about new mapping software to make the site easier to navigate – literally. Right now, and from the beginning we have had MapQuest to show the area in which the member is located. The problem comes when you have to go back and forth trying to see where everybody in the state is located. Unfortunately, we still have no word from DataHost, our web-designer/hosting company, as to when/if this new feature will be available. So, instead of waiting until we have news, we decided to go ahead and inform you of some other features.

First of all, we now have a “Traveling on a Budget” page within the website. Often at the rallies, we give a seminar on MTN and ways to save money while traveling. So, we decided to make this a feature of the website so people won’t have to take notes. They can just go to the website to get the info. There are basically three areas of savings – lodging, food and miscellaneous. For those of you that have not been to a seminar, you should check it out. After all, the saying “the cheapest thing on a motorcycle is usually the rider!”, certainly holds true for us! If you have a tip or suggestion, PLEASE submit it and we’ll get it posted.

For those of you that are new and those that haven’t seen past newsletters, we now have them archived on the website. So, you can now download a printable version. We have had a request not to use any colors on the newsletter to save ink when printing it out. The compromise is to still use color (after all, Christi was an art teacher for 19 years!), but for those that want to print one, they can get on the website and print out a black and white version.

Lastly, we’d like to highlight one of our members. We thought we’d start with the first couple we stayed with in Columbus, OH. Art and Betty were an absolutely delightful couple and graciously welcomed us into their cozy suburban home. Unfortunately, we didn’t make it there in time to join them at a local concert. Afterwards, once we arrived, we went out to dinner, though. This is one of the things we like best about MTN – finding unusual and out-of-the-way places to eat. At first, we headed to a vegetarian Indian restaurant, but they were closed. We ended up at a Mediterranean restaurant that was delicious and very reasonable priced. Having never spent much time in Columbus, we were surprised by the number and variety of interesting, privately owned restaurants. It was nice to have choices other than the chain restaurants. The next day, when we were heading north, Art went with us for a while and got us out of town. From there he gave us an alternate route to what we had planned. The ride was through some beautiful rolling hills with almost no traffic. It didn’t hurt that we were riding mid week, but the roads were smooth with nice curves and interesting little towns. We managed to miss a bunch of construction on the route we had planned. The helpful advice was much appreciated. Another advantage to staying with the “locals”!

Hope you are all able to get out and ride. We haven't been out but once so far and are itchin' to get going. If you do make any of the rallies we are heading to, please stop by and say "hello".

Also, remember, we're still offering cash for feature articles or a letters to the editors (Jan. Newsletter). We still don't have any members in Louisiana, Nevada, Wyoming and Alaska. Would love to have all 50 by July 1st. You know anyone?!?

See you on the road! Well, hopefully not *ON* the road, but on your bike, on the road!! :^)

Christi and Scott Reynolds

Motorcycle Travel Network

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