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Motorcycle Travel Network Newsletter

**Winter Newsletter
January 2011**

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Below you will find the first of Motorcycle Travel Network's seasonal newsletters. They will come four times a year; January, April, July and October. We are putting it in writing as a pledge to you, our members, to get them done.

First of all, we want to wish you a Happy New Year! Last year again brought many changes, but this year we are looking for a completely new look for the MTN website.

To this end, we would like to have your photos for the home page of the MTN website. This network is no longer about us and how it got started. It is really all about you, the members, and as such, we want it to reflect that. The rest of the website will remain essentially unchanged. We just want a new person to the website to read about what a great organization this is and how much the members enjoy utilizing the network. So, if you have any photos of yourself with people you have hosted, please send them to us at mtninfo@motorcycle-travel.net. We need high-resolution photos, so those taken with a camera will probably be best (over those done with a phone). Photos at the breakfast table, in front of the house, with motorcycles, etc. are preferred.

The only other change we are considering has to do with the required photo. We would love your input on having two photos; one of the outside (to make it easy to identify the place) and one of the sleeping accommodations. As always, we tell everyone "no surprises". If what you have to offer is a futon in the office, this needs to be stated in your listing. We were contacted by a couple of members this last year regarding the sleeping accommodations they were provided by other members. On a couple of occasions, we found that the sleeping arrangements were in

found that the sleeping arrangements were in storage areas/rooms, with little room and cramped quarters among the boxes. For this reason, we thought it would be good to not only provide a description of the sleeping area, but a photo as well. Before we pursue this with our web-hosting company, we would like to have your thoughts on the matter. Should we provide space for 2 photos, one inside and one out, require both photos or require the exterior (as we do now) and let the member have the option for the second photo? Tell us what you think. We'll let you know what is decided in the next newsletter.

You may also notice that we no longer have the MTN forum. However, there is a fairly active [MTN Facebook](#) page with many photos. We highly recommend visiting it when you get a chance. It is great place to share your stories and photos from your own MTN experiences.

It is hard to believe MTN will head into it's 7th year this summer. The time has flown and we hope that you have enjoyed your membership with MTN and found it to be a good value when traveling, but also priceless in the friends you've made along the way.

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MTN by the Numbers:

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- Current Active Members:** 468
- Total Members Joined since July 1, 2005:** 709
- Number of Overseas Members:** 8;
Germany (1), New Zealand (4), Great Britain (1)
and Australia (2)
- US members without the required photo:** 32
- States with 100% member photos:** 24
- CAN members without the required photo:** 2
- Provinces with 100% required photo:** 5
- Overseas members without the required photo:** 0
- State/Province with the most active members:**
#1 Ontario (28), #2 Florida (20), #3 California (19)

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Calling all Writers, Journalists and Photojournalists!

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MTN needs to grow - that is the long and short of it. There are really only a couple of ways this can be done; 1) through advertising (very expensive), 2) at rallies (also expensive) and 3) word of mouth (not so expensive).

We have been advertising for years with BMWONews because it is truly the most cost effective print advertising we can get. We advertise with GWRRRA on the [Wina Dina](#)

..... [website](#) and also have an advertising/membership agreement with [MSTA](#). All three are very worthwhile organization we highly recommend to our members.

What we have always found though, is that Letters to the Editor, articles or interviews go a long way to getting the word out and are free. However, this really has to come from the members. We will be doing press releases and hopefully a few interviews this year, but anytime, anywhere you can spread the word, so much the better. It is in your best interest to see MTN grow as it will give you more options when traveling. If you would like to write an article or letter to the editor and would like our input, please contact us, ASAP. Most print leads are 2-3 months out, so the sooner the better.

At this point we must give a shout out to our members who continue to do all they can to promote MTN. As always, the MTN mascot, Ron McCabe; his tireless efforts to post on line, welcome new members with a personal greeting and talk to anyone, anywhere that will listen, has brought in many members over the years. Alisa Clickenger wrote an article that was published in Road Bike Magazine, to great reviews. Greg and Debbie Wagner, who worked the GWRRA booth with us last year and who also will talk to any and all (gives Ron a run for his money!) And of course, to all of you that talk MTN up at your local chapter meetings, on the road when you meet another motorcyclist and those that leave the MTN business cards on bikes you see, we thank you as well.

Sadly, one of MTN's biggest advocates, Dan Bard, passed away unexpectedly, recently. His wife Gale called with the very sad news and we want to take this time to express our deepest sympathy at his passing. Dan was a writer and had written several motorcycle riding books. He will be missed by all that knew him, and the MTN family just won't be the same.

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**A Look Forward...**

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In the Spring MTN newsletter we would like to cover topics, issues, ideas or concerns that are of importance to you, our members. If you have a suggestion for us to write about, please let us know at mtninfo@motorcycle-travel.net

As a reminder, the first of the year is a good time to review your listing in the membership directory. Are all your contact numbers correct? Did you start using a new email address? Have your accommodations changed? Added or lost any pets? If you are one of those members that is STILL missing a photo - you need to get one uploaded or to us ASAP. Any other changes just need to be emailed to us. Here is suggestion we heard from a member recently: be a guest in your own home. Sleep in the guest bed, use the guest bathroom, etc. That way you'll have a good handle on how comfortable and restful your accommodations are for your guests. Don't forget to fix yourself breakfast in the morning; a good excuse to make

breakfast in the morning, a good excuse to make something more than the usual Pop Tart!

We at MTN wish you and yours a safe, healthy and happy 2011. May the roads you travel on this year, in life as well as ride on, be smooth and full of adventure.