



International Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians

North American Chapter (IFMR-NA)

-- IFMR-NA President's Newsletter --

Chapter President
PDG Tim Cudd
PO Box 901
St. Peters, MO 63376
636-928-0047
tim.cudd@ifmr-na.org

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*** **COMING EVENTS** ***

- ★ **May 12-15, 2016, IFMR MidAtlantic Rally**, location pending. Mark your calendar for a multiday ride on scenic Appalachian backroads in VA, WV, and PA, plus great IFMR fellowship. For more information contact bob@shriner.com
- ★ **June 3-5, 2016, Northern Michigan Ride**, Muskegon, MI: Come Thursday evening for BBQ at the Windrim's lakeside home, followed by a weekend of great riding north along the scenic shores of Lake Michigan thru Traverse City to Mackinaw City, then over Mackinaw Bridge to Whitefish Point Shipwreck Museum and Tahquamenon Falls on the Upper Peninsula. Lodging details pending, stay tuned. For more info, contact Rory Windrim (rlwindrim@aol.com)

For info on domestic and international IFMR rides, also check www.ifmr-na.org and www.ifmr.org. If you plan an IFMR event in your area, send information about it to newsletter editor [Juan Yebra editor@ifmr-na.org](mailto:Juan.Yebra@ifmr-na.org) and to webmaster [Chris Jones at webmaster@ifmr-na.org](mailto:Chris.Jones@ifmr-na.org)

* * *

Start planning your IFMR rides for 2016 now. Pick the date and location, then let us know and we'll help you get the word out to other IFMR members in your area. Also, let your DG, ADG, and district bulletin editor know; and ask them to help you spread the word among Rotarians who may not have heard of IFMR yet.

IFMR . . . Join, Ride, Share, Enjoy!!!

Fall Rides Cap Active Year For IFMR-NA Riders

Rides and other motorcycle events organized by IFMR and local Rotary and Rotaract groups in various parts of North America brought together hundreds of riders for fun and fellowship in 2015. In early May the IFMR-NA NE Spring Rally at Dubois, PA, brought together some 20 US and Canadian IFMR members and their guest, including several new IFMR members. In mid-June the IFMR-NA SE Region's Spring "Waterfalls" Ride based in the Great Smoky Mountains at Cashiers, NC, drew riders from throughout the region and beyond, including one hardy Canadian rider who made the long ride south in search of warmer weather and twisty mountain roads.

Meanwhile, in May a group of Rotarians from the Vacaville, CA, Rotary Club organized a "Rotarians at Recess" Day Ride in the Napa Valley area that was publicized in the IFMR-NA newsletter and drew riders from northern and southern CA, NV, and beyond. In June members of Rotary clubs in Manitoba organized a 290 km "Rotary Peace Ride" that started and ended at Portage La Prairie and included a mid-day 'meet & greet' stop for sandwiches with the Minnedosa Rotary Club. In September in Mexico the San Rafael Rotaract Club organized a "Rotorodada" (Rotary Ride) that attracted more than 300 riders to support their local medical clinic.

In early October IFMR riders from OH, MI, WV, and ON met at Athens, OH, for a weekend fall foliage ride and fun get-together. Then in early November another group of hardy IFMR riders from FL, GA, MI, MO, NC, SC, VA, and WV (including several new members) ignored scattered showers and enjoyed a great weekend of riding and fellowship in the Great Smoky Mountains around Murphy, NC. Read more about both rides inside. Then start planning your rides for 2016.

Notes . . . from the Top

by IFMR-NA President Tim Cudd



Welcome to 2016! As I write this article the holiday season is in full swing. Every year I resolve to get an earlier start on Christmas and not be lured into the stores, traffic, and overall stresses of the season. But, every year I wait till the last minute, stand in line in the crowded stores, sitting through several light cycles just to get

through an intersection, and end up stressed out trying to get everything finished in time. As bad as I am all I have to do is look at my Facebook page and I realize that compared to a lot of others I actually do a pretty good job. Regardless of how you choose to celebrate the holidays I hope that you all have a joyous season filled with friends and family and get some time off to rest up before we hit the ground running in 2016. On a personal note, Jill and I want to wish each of you a Merry Christmas!

As we look forward to 2016 it looks like another busy year for our chapter. There are already rides and events either planned or being planned in several areas. I would encourage you to get involved and if possible enjoy some of these events with other members. Don't forget to pass along pictures and comments for inclusion in our newsletter so that the rest of us can enjoy the event as well.

Free at last! Speaking of the newsletter... As of January 1, 2016, long-time IFMR-NA Newsletter Editor **Bob Shriner** is stepping down and passing the Editor's baton to **Juan Yebra**, a long-time rider and member of Rotary Club Real de Pachuca, Mexico who has been a contributor and associate editor for several recent issues of the newsletter. As you know, Bob Shriner has been doing the newsletter for the past several years and is looking forward to a much needed break. Bob has served as editor for well over five years and has brought the newsletter from a small semi-annual printed-and-mailed publication to a regular quarterly emailed publication with more news and photos about chapter and world IFMR activities and member ride reports. He has put together and maintained a first-class newsletter not

only for our chapter members but a newsletter that also gets forwarded out to other chapter leaders and members around the world. I want to say a special thank you to Bob Shriner for all the hard work over the past few years putting the newsletter together for us. I have received quite a few compliments from other chapter presidents in other countries about our newsletter, the information it contains, and the way it is put together. Bob will continue helping Juan make the transition during the next several issues of the newsletter, as well as continuing to serve as Immediate Past President of IFMR-NA. Please join me in congratulating and welcoming Juan as the new editor of our newsletter, thank you for stepping up to take on this important communication piece of our organization. Thank you again, Bob!

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

Here's to a safe and prosperous 2016 while we all ride and have fun!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim D. Cudd". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

***** IFMR PEOPLE NEWS *****

In May, because of a serious but unexpected health problem, IFMR-NA Merchandise Director **Ken Brandt** had to miss the IFMR Spring Ride at Dubois, PA, which he had spent months planning. While in the hospital he was surprised with a 'get well' phone call from the entire group during their Saturday evening fellowship at the event. More recently, after extensive radiation and chemo treatments, plus many rehab sessions, Ken reported in November that he seems to be on the road to recovery. However, he has decided that after some 50+ years of motorcycling, the time has come to hang up his helmet and sell his motorcycle. Ken and his wife Jean have been frequent participants in IFMR rides and other events all over North America and at Rotary International conventions in several countries overseas since the mid 1990s. He also served for many years as IFMR-NA Secretary and newsletter Editor and organized a number of regional and international rides. They will both be missed; but he plans to continue for now as IFMR-NA Merchandise Director.

SE Region Report

Carlton Pernell, Regional Director
(carltonpernell@aol.com)

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www.ifmr-na.org/store.htm

for banners, shirts, caps, & more!

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Stainless steel 12 oz travel mug with IFMR logo

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NOTE: The logo will include "IFMR-NA.org"

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www.IFMR-NA.org/store/specials.htm

Another successful gathering of Motorcycling Rotarians!!!

The IFMR SE ride based at Murphy, NC, in early November was not blessed with the greatest weather but it was blessed with "first-time" riders who discovered the magic of IFMR. Riders came from as far away as MI, MO, FL, VA, and WV.

On Friday we took in the breathtaking scenery of the Cherokee Skyway and slayed the iconic Tail of the Dragon.

We departed the motel and rode in intermittent and light mist for about 30 minutes on our way to the Skyway. As we made our turn to the mountainous approach to Cherokee, the clouds above dissipated and we enjoyed bright sunshine the entire ride. As we started down the mountain from Cherokee the rain found us and poured all the way to our lunch on the river. It stopped raining again just as we approached the restaurant and we all enjoyed a fantastically delicious and scenic lunch.

During our lunch break the rain moved out and the sky remained clear the remainder of the ride.

After lunch we enjoyed a sunny and warm ride through the scenic hills and around the shores of beautiful Tellico Lake in eastern Tennessee. All this was a restful warm-up to slay the Dragon.

We couldn't have bought better conditions to ride the Dragon: It was warm, sunny, and NO traffic. It just doesn't get any better. Everyone turned in record times and we have the photos to prove it. We all enjoyed a restful stop at the "Dragon Store" as we all bought the obligatory souvenirs. *Continued on page 4*



NC Region Report

Rory Windrim, Regional Director
(rlwindrim@aol.com)

On October's first weekend, a hardy bunch of IFMR riders got together in Athens, Ohio. Riders from Canada, West Virginia, and Michigan braved the rainy weather and enjoyed a great weekend of riding and fellowship. We gathered Friday at the Baymont Inn of Athens, where after dinner we gathered in one of the meeting rooms for a little relaxation and beverages and catching up with each other.

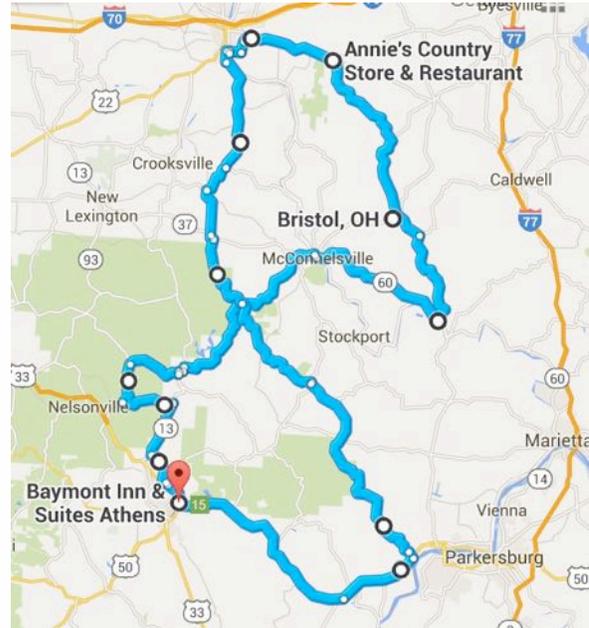


Saturday morning, after deciding to ride regardless of the weather, the group set off in full rain gear. The roads we chose are part of Ohio's "Windy 9" in southeast Ohio, and were fun to ride with sweeping curves and rural scenery. Lunch stop was at a unique place called Annie's. Food was good, due to the owner and staff, as it is a family run. The owner of Annie's supplied several members of the group with plastic bags (bread bags) to help keep feet dry the rest of the ride. After lunch, we rode the triple nickel (Rt 555), about 90 miles of great curves and hills.



Sunday morning, the sun was bright and a half day ride was planned. Sean Young and his son rode with us for about an hour before heading home. The riders from Canada headed home after a coffee break about two hours into the ride.

Athens, Ohio is a wonderful place to stage some rides from. There are many roads to choose from in Ohio and West Virginia that would be "day rides". Also the Baymont Inn was very friendly and worked with us to make sure we had an enjoyable stay.



SE Region Report *(Continued from page 3)*

We stopped for lunch at a local favorite as we continued to develop new friendships and renew old acquaintances.

The next morning was an expected disappointment as we awoke to drizzle and the promise of heavy rains to come. It was a unanimous decision to pack it in and look forward to a better day. We welcomed and embraced our new riders; Mike Hamilton and Joe & Jill Purrinton. All of us "oldtimers" reveled at the delight of the new riders' instant acceptance into our fellowship. We were also very disappointed that Joe & Jill had mechanical difficulties and could not ride with us.

We all look forward to future rides and the delight of meeting more new riders!! *See y'all next time.*



SC Region & Mexico Report

Juan Yebra, Associate Editor
(juanyebra@me.com)

RIDING IN MEXICO: *Rotarodada* (in Spanish & English)

Last September, San Rafael Rotaract Club, sponsored by San Rafael RC, organized a ride called: *Rotarodada* (freely translated as 'RotaryRide'). The *Rotarodada*, entirely promoted and coordinated by Rotaractors, gathered more than 300 motorcyclists who collected blankets, organized medical consultations, and distributed medicine in the town of Tepeapulco, in Hidalgo State.

The State of Hidalgo is 60 miles north of Mexico City. Most of its economic activity is agriculture-based, with a significant percentage of its population living in poverty.

Among the event organizers were Rotaract President Araceli Baéz, Octavio Figueroa representing CEO Medical Clinic, Mayor of Tepeapulco Alberto Franco, along with several motorcycle clubs (Hellfish, Arango Riders, and Bikers Ayudando).

Congratulations to all!

With information from David Machain, Zona Rosa RC President



El pasado mes de septiembre, el club Rotaract San Rafael, patrocinado por el CR San Rafael, organizó la Rotarodada. Este evento, el cual estuvo enteramente coordinado y promovido por jóvenes rotaractianos, congregó a más de 300 motociclistas quienes recolectaron mantas, dieron consultas médicas y distribuyeron medicinas en la comunidad de Tepeapulco, Hidalgo.

El estado de Hidalgo se encuentra 100 kms. al norte de la Ciudad de México. La mayor parte de su actividad económica es rural, y un porcentaje relevante de su población se encuentra en situación de pobreza.

Entre los organizadores destacan la presidenta Araceli Baez del Club Rotaract San Rafael, la clínica CEO representada por Octavio Figueroa, el alcalde Alberto Franco de Tepeapulco, así como diversos clubes de motociclistas (Hellfish, Arango Riders y Bikers Ayudando). ¡Felicidades a todos!

Con información de David Machain, Presidente CR Zona Rosa



Webmaster needed

As we approach the new Rotary year, and we elevate current IFMR-NA Webmaster and Vice President Chris Jones to President, we are now looking for a new individual to take on managing our website. If you have web skills and are interested in taking on this rewarding position, please contact Chris at cbjones560@gmail.com or 980-288-4007. It is not a difficult or even time intensive position, and one that helps keep our members informed and enables purchases of unique IFMR-NA items. We endeavor to have our leadership positions spread among many so that none of our leaders have too much on their plate. So please put your Service Above Self hats on and contact Chris. Thank you for helping our Fellowship with your time and talents.

Bob & Otto Tour Morocco

Bob Shriner & Otto Rieve

In early October long-time IFMR members Bob Shriner and Otto Rieve went on an 8-day 2300 km motorcycle tour of Morocco with Iberian MotoTours (IMTBike.com). Bob, who lives in Virginia and had toured previously with IMTBike in the Pyrenees Mountains, learned of the Morocco tour earlier this year and immediately tried to recruit several other IFMR friends to join him. Otto, who lives in British Columbia, was the only one who rose to the challenge.

The two coordinated plans by phone and email, then flew separately to Malaga, Spain, in early October to meet their guides and other members of the tour group and pick up their rental bikes, then set off the next morning for Morocco, crossing on a ferry

to Rabat. Fortunately, it was a more pleasant 80-85°F when we finally arrived in late afternoon at Rabat, only to be plunged into heavy, almost chaotic, rush-hour city traffic enroute to a luxury hotel overlooking the port and the Atlantic Ocean. Definitely Miller time!



On Day 2 we rode 410 km on good paved roads through dryland farms and pastures, across dry river beds, and through occasional mountains and valleys from Rabat to Marrakesh, one of Morocco's most important cities, a former capital, founded in 1062 and now home to more than 1 million residents. The air was drier and not as hot as the previous day; and in the evening our group was bussed from our downtown hotel to the ancient city's huge main square filled with vendors' stalls, musicians, buskers, acrobats, fortune tellers, and more, followed by a traditional Moroccan dinner and entertainment in a cabaret deep inside the narrow corridors of the old medina.

near Gibraltar to the port city of Tangier.

Including Bob and Otto, the tour group was comprised of 20 people: three couples from Latin America (Argentina and Colombia), one couple from Canada, two couples from the US, plus seven solo riders including four from the US, one from Canada, and one from South Africa, plus two multilingual Spanish guides, Javi and Chano, one riding the lead motorcycle and the other driving a van following behind with luggage and other gear.

On Day 3 we rode over the famous Tizi-n-tichka Pass in the High Atlas Mountains for 250 km to the city of Ouarzazate, known as the Hollywood of Morocco, because of the number of movies that have been made in that area. At the top of the pass, we stopped for a group photo under the 2260 meter altitude sign; and after returning to the desert we stopped for lunch in the dusty town of Ait-Benhaddou, a historic casbah town which was the set for *Gladiator* and several other movies.

After clearing Moroccan border control and exchanging dollars and Euros for Moroccan dirham, we rode south in light traffic on a modern 4-lane highway near the Atlantic coast to the capital city, Rabat. Soon after leaving Tangier the temperature rose abruptly to near 100°F or more, with a strong SW wind that persisted for most of the 250 km ride

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All along the route the riders commented on the surprisingly large population living along the roads and river beds. Everywhere it seemed that there were people, some in western dress and some in traditional desert robes, walking, bicycling, riding small motorbikes, donkeys, tricarts, amid big trucks and modern cars. While Morocco's total population of 33 million and land area are about 1/10th the size of the US, the population density of the country is roughly double that of the US (74/km² vs 36/km²) despite the arid mountain and desert landscape. Equally surprising was how friendly the people were everywhere we went. And when we asked about possible security concerns in the country, our Spanish guides said they felt safer traveling in Morocco than they did in Spain.



Our hotel in Ouarazarte was another luxury oasis used periodically by international movie crews and furnished with numerous statuary, cannons, suits of armor, and other movie set furnishings left behind when the filming was completed. The entire hotel complex was spread over several acres surrounded by a high, thick wall and resembling a medieval desert fortress, complete with exotic Moorish water features, Berber tents, and beautiful Moorish architecture and art.

The ride on Day 4 from Ouarzazate to Erfoud was mostly across arid plains between the High Atlas Mountains and the Sahara Desert. While the landscape on previous days had been arid, the landscape became increasingly barren and desolate as we got nearer to the Sahara, occasionally punctuated by wide river beds with thin streams of water in the middle and rows of date palms and dusty adobe houses along the edge. Midway, at Tinerhir, we made a 15 km side trip to visit the spectacular Todra Gorge, a very narrow canyon with sheer walls rising vertically 150 meters or more, then returned to Tinerhir for another traditional Moroccan lunch and entertainment at a small restaurant-club on the edge of the city.



The hotel at Erfoud was even more spacious and more fortress-like than the one at Ouarzazate. It was occupied when we arrived mostly by international racing teams, drivers, and riders preparing for an annual multi-day long-distance off-road endurance race for trucks, cars, and motorcycles across a section of the Sahara desert, similar to the famous Paris-Dakar race. Dozens of race team vans, cars, and motorcycles lined the parking areas inside the walls surrounding the hotel. One of our Spanish guides, Javi, was a former professional motocross racer and knew several of the riders preparing for the race, who greeted him as an old friend.

Day 5 was marked on the tour schedule as a 'rest day', meaning no motorcycling required. Instead the entire tour group was loaded into Toyota Land Cruisers and driven some 60 km out into the desert to the edge of a line of huge sand dunes. Several tourist clubs and hotels were situated at the edge of the dunes and provide tourists with rides into the dunes on camels, dune buggies, and 4-wheelers. Bob and Otto opted for camel rides, along with several other members of the group. *Continues on page 8*

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Led by several camel handlers, we rode several km out into the dunes, eventually reaching the top of a high dune from which we could see in the distance the club from which they had ridden. While we were there the sky darkened, a thunderstorm approached, and the strong wind preceding the storm kicked up a thick sandstorm which made it difficult to see more than a few hundred yards. The sandstorm was then followed by a brief thundershower as we headed back toward the distant club from which we had started earlier in the afternoon. It was dusk by the time we returned to the club and several hours later before we made it back to the hotel at Erfoud, tired and covered in sand but still excited by the day's adventure.

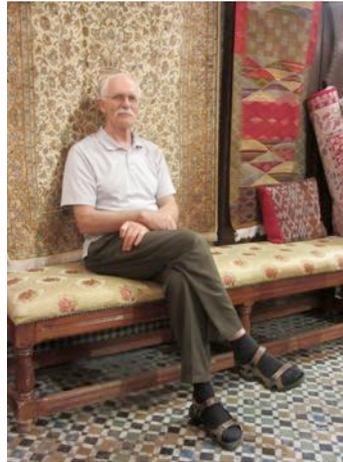


Day 6 began before sunrise with an early breakfast, followed by reloading luggage onto the tour van and our rental motorcycles for the 410 km ride back over the Middle Atlas Mountains to Fez. The appearance of the mountains in this area was different than in the earlier parts of the tour, with high flat-topped mesas looking down on the flat valleys below, occasional rivers flanked with forests of date palm trees, and frequent small and mid-size villages along the highway, as well as visible in the distance. Along the way we also passed a large reservoir and rode thru the Ziz Gorges and a long tunnel built for the highway to avoid a difficult climb over the steepest part of the mountains. The temperature dropped dramatically as we rode over the crest of the mountains, prompting several riders to stop and add another layer of clothing. Eventually we came to a cedar forest high in the mountains and stopped at a site where monkeys congregate to beg handouts from travelers. A bit further we passed thru the town of Ifrane, noted for its "Swiss Chalet" style houses with sharply pitched roofs nestled among the cedar trees and the ski slopes located in the area, which is less than an hour from Fez.

Fez is Morocco's second largest city with a population of more than 1.1 million, and one of its oldest. From the early 800s until 1925 the city was the capital of Morocco and remains an important trade center. The city recently celebrated its 1200th anniversary; and many parts of the city trace their history back to that early period.



Day 7 was another 'rest day' during which we visited a number of important historic sites in Fez, including the huge pottery and ceramic production center and the ancient 'medina', a central part of the original walled city with thousands of large and small shops and private residences connected by thousands of unnamed, unnumbered corridors and narrow passageways. Two members of our group got separated and lost from the group and it took over an hour to find them.



At a visit to a leading rug merchant's place deep inside the medina, we were led into a huge atrium-like room several stories high, surrounded with balconies at several levels above the main floor. The multilingual rug merchant began his presentation, delivered in both English and

Spanish to his visitors while speaking Arabic to his workers, by telling us that this place had been the home of his family for 40 generations, always in the same business, and he expected it to be in this same place and in the same business for another 40 generations.

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He and his staff then brought out dozens of fine hand-made carpets of various styles and colors to display for the group in hopes of selling a few to his visitors. Some members of our group were interested enough to bargain with the merchant and several rugs were purchased for shipment home. In the evening we enjoyed another multi-course Moroccan-style dinner in the hotel supper club, entertained by a trio of traditional Moroccan musicians and a traditional Moroccan belly dancer.

Day 8 began with cloudy skies and light showers which continued intermittently for most of the day as we rode north some 350 km thru more mountains, then thru wide valleys filled with large, fertile-looking farms toward Tangier and the ferry back to Spain. We stopped for lunch and some last minute shopping for Moroccan-made gifts at the scenic mountainside city of Chefchaouen, famous for its many blue buildings, then continued on to meet the ferry through the least arid and most fertile area we had seen since arriving in the country.

After crossing the Strait of Gibraltar, we continued on to the Spanish city of Algeciras, where we had a final 'farewell dinner' together and spent the night before continuing on back to Malaga the next morning to check in the rental motorcycles and head for home. As we checked in our rental bikes, our IMTBike guides gave us each a certificate commemorating our participation on the tour and that we had each traveled more than 2230 km along the way.

Many of our tour group members boarded planes for home that same day; but we stayed one more night in Malaga to see more of the city, then departed early the next morning.

It was, to say the least, a spectacular once-in-a-lifetime trip, made all the more so by being made on

motorcycles and with exceptional guides and fellow tour members. Truly unforgettable!

Introducing Juan T. Yebra, New Editor, IFMR-NA

Born and currently living in Pachuca, Mexico
Has lived previously in Mexico City, Toluca, and Vancouver BC

Founding member of Real de Pachuca Rotary Club, 2005. Pachuca, Mexico.

Long-Term Coordinator, Rotary Youth Exchange Program, D4170, 2015-2018.

Classification: Administration of Educational Institutions.

Partner and CFO, Colegio Cervantes.

Bachelor degree in Computer Systems, and Masters in Marketing, both from Tec de Monterrey.

Postgraduate studies in Education (UBC), Business Administration (IPADE)

Specializations in Graphic Design, Business, and Human Resources.

Current ride: BMW R1200R

Previously: BMW F650GS



After working with me as Associate Editor on several recent issues of the IFMR-NA newsletter, Juan takes over the job of Editor on January 1, 2016. I will continue to work with him on the next few issues to help assure a smooth transition as he takes the reins.

After serving as Editor for over five years, the time has finally come for me to pass the baton. Serving as Editor has kept me in frequent contact with IFMR members all over North America and abroad, which has been the most enjoyable part of the job. Struggling to get officers and members to provide news, ride plans and reports, and other information to fill the newsletter on a regular basis, as well as actually editing and formatting every issue on schedule, have been the most demanding parts of the job. I'll miss the former but not the latter. Thanks for your patience and help. I'll hope to see you again somewhere soon at an IFMR event. :-)
Bob