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The Official Publication of The Motorcycle Touring Association

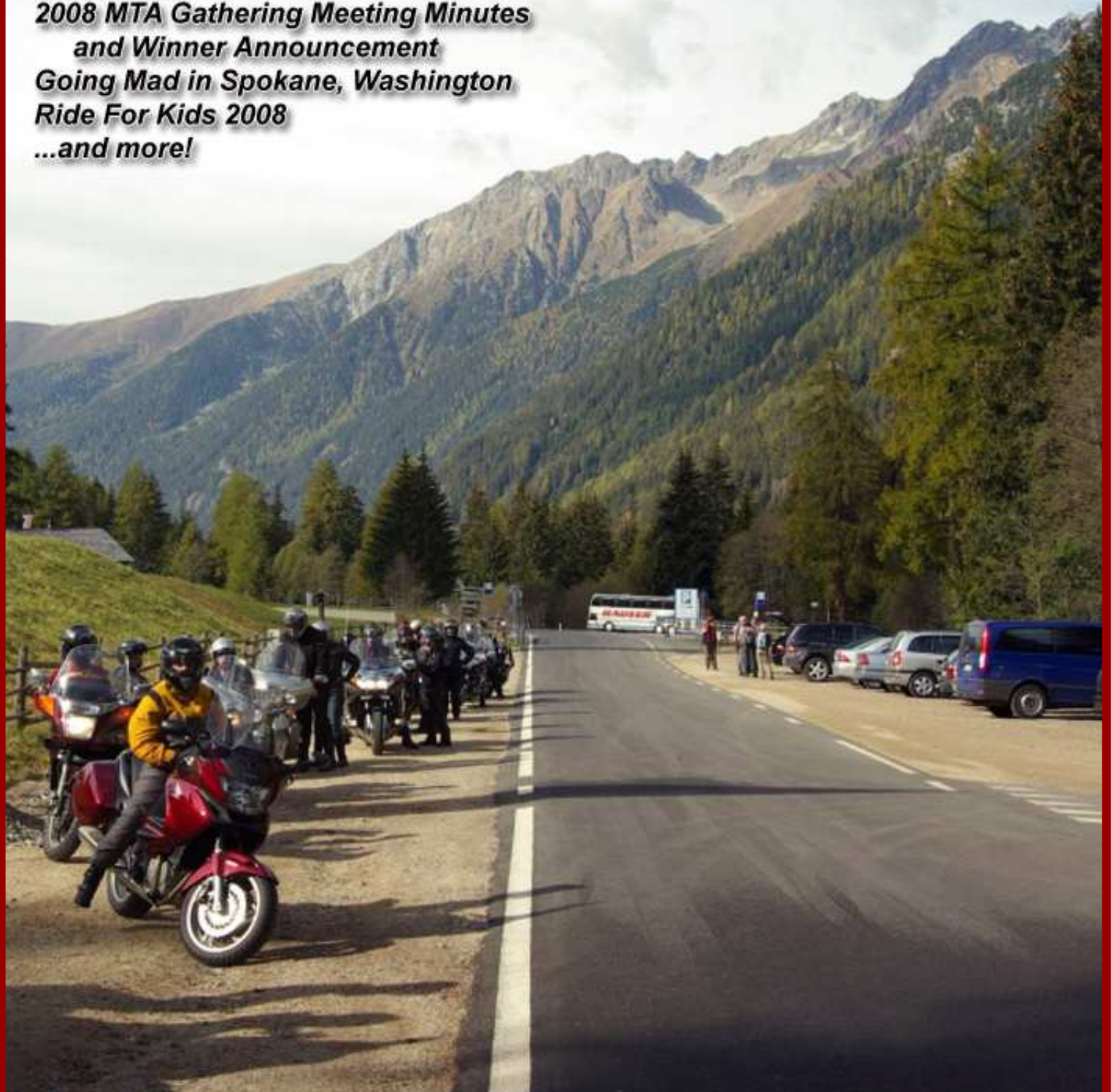
In This Issue:

**2008 MTA Gathering Meeting Minutes
and Winner Announcement**

Going Mad in Spokane, Washington

Ride For Kids 2008

...and more!





Publisher
MTA, Inc.

Production Director
Howie Klix

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MOTORCYCLE ROADS

(articles and advertising only)

24737 Cushing Ave. · Eastpointe, MI 48021
(586) 203-8935 · webmaster@mtariders.com

MTA OFFICE / MEMBER SERVICES

N7068 County Road C · Casco, WI 54205
(920) 837-7325 · (877) 833-3687

bikenut@centurytel.net · www.mtariders.com

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MTA Officers

JOEL BACHHUBER (Treasurer)
239-772-2402 – jbachhuber@netzero.net

MTA Board of Directors

DARRELL STEUER (President / Chairman)
519-680-3720 – darlsteuer@yahoo.com

PHIL ANDREASSEN
vikingbike@mindspring.com

FRAN HURLEY
jojofe11@gmail.com

PATRICIA KLIX
734-459-5865 – snolprd47@wowway.com

GARY KURTZWEIL
leadjoint22@yahoo.com

HARVEY WILSON (Secretary)
804-795-7723 – hwilson723@comcast.net

KEITH YEDICA
920-837-7325 – bikenut@centurytel.net

RIC ZITTENFIELD
zittenfields@juno.com

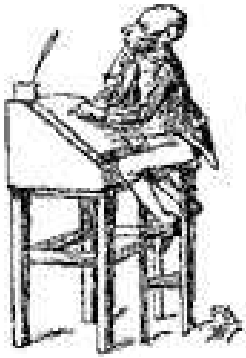
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This edition's cover photo was provided by John Madden, Jr.

The Dolomites are a section of the Alps located in north-eastern Italy. Photo taken October, 2007.

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From The Old Desk

by Darrell Steuer
MTA President

I know that some of you have been wondering “Where is the next edition of the newsletter?” I will not tell you a fib, I will just be honest and tell you that most of the Board took time away from the MTA. Some of us, like Keith, were able to travel and spend time with friends — but I won’t mention any names. I, on the other hand, spent most of the summer looking after my business and saving up the money I need to continue meeting up with all of you at the Gatherings.

So, speaking of the Gathering, what a great time we had! I would like to thank Harvey, Phil and Pam for the many hours spent on putting this rally together. I truly hope that all of you that made your way there had an enjoyable time. Our Gathering is about friendship, joining together, and just riding. Even though I did not ride too much while there, I did get the chance to talk to most of you that had come. I will admit that I was a little worried when we were very short on registrations by the middle of May, but you (our members) came through for the organization again. I received a letter from long-time member Ted Norris thanking the Board for the effort needed to put on the rally, and also for working to better this club. I can say this: it makes things worth it when you — the members — acknowledge the time that it takes to keep things going. Thanks for noticing, Ted! The Board is grateful for these acknowledgements.

The only thing I dislike about the Gathering is when it’s over, saying goodbye to all the friends I have met over the years. As I said goodbye to my friend Bascom this year, I felt a tear in my eye (and there was one in his as well). All at once I realized we never know what tomorrow will bring, we only hope and pray that we will meet again.

Well, by now most of you have heard that the Gathering will take place in Spearfish, South Dakota! I hope that as many of our members as possible will come, as this will be our silver anniversary. That will be 25 years for our organization holding an annual rally, and we hope there will be many more. So start planning now to make this next rally the best ever!

Membership:

For some time I have been saying that our membership is about 500 people. But it was brought to my attention that I should not be doing this. I in fact should just tell it the way it is. While our membership is increasing a little bit at a time, increases are tempered by members leaving (due to not riding anymore), or they have gone to better riding in the sky. The very truth is we have 335 members in this organization. Financially we are in good

shape — despite the fact that we have lowered dues and eliminated chapter fees. We all know that as our club gets older our numbers could dwindle. So, here is the scoop my friends: we all need to give that extra effort to get new members to join this club no matter how old you are. We need to look to our children, grandchildren and other family members. We have in our budget the funds to help you out with flyers for your local bike shop. If you are unsure how to make a flyer we can help you do that too. All you would have to do is let us know you are in the game! We are working on some changes for a new brochure and hope to have that done soon. As members we must be honest with ourselves, the Board, Chapter representatives (and a few other individuals) can not be expected to make this club grow. It will take ALL of us!

Web Site:

Sorry to say this again but we really would like those of you that have computers to try to use the web site. This is a way for all of us to communicate at a very low cost. This is a service paid for with your dues. No computer? How about a trip to your local library? They have internet connections and folks that can help you get started! Your tax dollars at work! Trust me, when you start to use the internet you will ask yourself why you waited so long to get started. It is so easy to just go to mtariders.com and look around. To post to the forums just register, and Howie (our webmaster) will get you started. Howie can even help you get through any technical issues by just emailing him. It sure would be nice to talk to someone else besides myself and a few others. So go crazy and give it a go!

The Ontario Chapter put on a campout the first weekend in August. We had members from Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Florida, and of course Ontario. We ate, rode, ate some more, rode and ate some more. (Did I mention there was lots of food?) We told stories, visited a few local sites, and made some new friends. A few weeks later the Florida Chapter had their campout at Tellico Plains in Tennessee, and of course was the long running Texas Gathering in October. Please try to attend these events. You will have fun and create bonds that last a lifetime.

In closing it seems to me this has been a year marked by flooding, higher gas prices, and job loses, but this year’s rally attendance proved to me how close most of us really are! That is why we continue to work hard and grow!

Until next time, keep your stick on the ice.
Darrell

From the Forums

It Is That Time Of The Year Again

Posted by Bikenut

Yes it is getting to be that time of the year again to put our great passtime up for the winter. Just wanted to list some of the things you should do when and if you have to do this to your ride.

- Fill gas tank full
- Put sea foam or stabilizer in gas tank
- Charge battery and use a battery tender
- Blow your tires up to max pressure listed
- Put tires on some plywood
- Change oil & filter
- Wash and wax the bike
- Check tires; replace if needed for next year.

If anyone out there has some more ideas for the members that have to put their ride up for the winter please add to this post with all your comments.

Until Next time

* * *

Reply by Harvey

Totally agree with Keith's suggestions.

One thing I am considering is switching from Stabil to their new product by Stabil: Sta-Bil Marine Formula (Ethanol Treatment) for all 4 stroke and 2 stroke engines.

It is recommended for any 4 stroke that uses Ethanol.

The only source I have is:

<http://www.shinopples.com/product.sc?categoryId=63&productId=803>

I am sure there are other sources, but Bulldog is a biker and a wonderful person.

And I am sorry that you guys are putting them away already, Like Joel notes the weather here is now just getting chilly which makes for great riding weather. But I will probably start adding Stabil to my gas around the first of November and just maintain through the winter as I hope to keep riding.

* * *

Ailing

10/28/2008

Hello Everyone

Just to let you all know Gary Kurtzweil had a major heart attack last night and is not doing to good at this time. He has gone thru two surgeries already and may need to do one more ASAP. He has 99 % blockage in three places.

Please keep him in your prayers.

I will let you all know his status as soon as I find out.

Keith



June 22-25, 2009
2009 MTA Gathering
Spearfish, South Dakota

Visit the online calendar at www.mtariders.com to add or check events.

Have an article or ad you would like to see published in the next Motorcycle Roads? Become part of the MTA community by joining the forums at <http://www.mtariders.com>, or send your request to webmaster@mtariders.com. All submissions become the property of the Motorcycle Touring Association and content may be edited for publication.

General Membership Meeting

June 25, 2008

Below are the General Membership Meeting minutes from the 2008 MTA Gathering in Canaan Valley, West Virginia.

Darrell called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. All life members were asked to stand and give their names and when they joined.

Tom Smith	1984	#1258
Steve Morris	1984	#1407
Pete Davis	1983	#271
Bruce Pooler	1990	#7704
J.O. Hurley	1983	#157
Howard Ray	1984	#1006
Fred Vogt	1984	#1037
Dennis & Susan Frye	1986	#3576
Phil Andreassen	1985	#2484
Rick Butler	1983	#0007

Darrell recognized new members and then recognized the oldest male: Ted Norris (75 years)

Oldest female: Martha Mazzei (70) and the youngest in attendance: Katie Bachhuber (11 years)

Darrell recognized June Anniversary couples. The person married the longest was Ted Norris with 51 years. Others included:

Howard and Gerri Ray	49 years
Bascom and Mary Rhodes	45 years
Steve and Josie Morris	41 years
Harry and Alma Johnson	41 years
Pam and Harvey Wilson	38 years
Mike and Darlene Velazquez	27 years

Darrell introduced the current board members:

Darrell Steuer - President
Chuck Chavas
Pat Klix
Ric Zittenfield
Harvey Wilson
Gary Kurtzweil
Keith Yedica

Treasurer, Joel Bachhuber, gave the following treasurer's report:

For the 2007 year MTA had an Income of \$16,624.91 -- Expenses of \$14,242.05 yielding a \$2,382.86 profit. Darrell informed the members that one of this year's expenses was a laptop computer. People are asking what they get for the \$20 annual dues. Joel's response - everybody gets hugs, kisses, smiles, tears, and the opportunity to meet with, get to know a little better, and enjoy the company of other members yearly.

113 people were planning to come to the 2008 Gathering. We had 73 registrations -- this is 9 more than 2007. Approximately 15 were unable to come because of the gas situation. For the first time in a long time our assets have exceeded our liabilities. If you want to see any records and/or receipts, see or contact Joel. Bruce Pooler



made the motion to accept the report as read. J.O. Hurley seconded the motion -- the report was accepted unanimously.

Harvey Wilson, secretary, presented the minutes of the 2007 meeting. He thanked Joel for doing a great job accounting of our finances and thanked Keith for keeping track of our registrations -- which were ahead of last year's. Harvey recognized Ric Zittenfield as the person who selected Canaan Valley for the 2008 site. Everyone seems happy with the rally site.

Fred Vogt made the motion to accept the minutes of the 2007 annual meeting as published in Motorcycle Roads. J.O. Hurley seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Harvey then presented to the membership the following motions from the board:

The board made the motion to eliminate chapter dues. Ted Norris seconded the motion from the board.

Discussion: We still meet the AMA rules. Joel Bachhuber, treasurer, commented that the chapter dues only yield about \$250 per year. Chapters will still get a certificate without having the annual dues. Fred Vogt commented that dues prevent folks from joining. The hope is to get new members. Some folks don't want to form a new chapter but want to be a contact. Someone said that 7 people, who are members of MTA, are needed to start a chapter. Bruce Pooler reminded us that previously we had discussed and decided that 1 person could constitute a chapter.

The motion to eliminate chapter dues passed with a unanimous vote.

The board made the motion to allow any former member who wants to return to MTA to only pay the \$20 annual dues. (This would eliminate the \$40 initial fee.) No new patches or pins will be issued. Dan Griffith seconded the motion.

Discussion: Currently we have a \$40 initial fee with an annual fee of \$20 for all subsequent years. The board is presenting this motion to allow a person to renew a membership without beginning the membership over. There is no time period; one must only verify that

(Continued on page 6)

he was a former member. Any member who returns will get his number back. Fred Vogt said that he has all the archived records from 2002. He is willing to send this to Keith Yedica, membership chair. Fred agreed to send the records to Keith. They will work out the details to get this done. The motion to allow former members to return paying only the \$20 annual fee passed.

The Board created a committee of Howard Klix, Ric Zittenfield, and Keith Yedica (chaired by Ric Zittenfield) to create a new brochure to send out.

Harvey then stated that the board has three vacancies to fill for the upcoming year.

1 = Chuck Chavas's positions is up for re-election. Chuck has asked to step down. The Board voted unanimously to make Chuck an Honorary Member of the Board.

2 = Dave Goulet passed away last year creating a second vacancy.

3 = Darrell Steuer's position is also up for re-election. Darrell has asked to run for re-election.

The members voted unanimously to re-elect Darrell Steuer for a second term.

Ted Norris nominated Phil Andreassen, and Dan Griffith nominated Fran Hurley. Both agreed to serve if elected. Steve Morris moved that the nominations be closed. Multiple folks seconded the motion. The motion passed and the nominations were closed. The members voted unanimously to accept Phil Andreassen and Fran Hurley as new members of the board.

Fran Hurley is a member of the Central Florida chapter. She retired two years ago and has been traveling all over the west. She and her husband, J.O. Hurley, have 5 children and 17 grandchildren. She enjoys working with the MTA and hopes to help make a positive difference.

Phil Andreassen has been a Life member of MTA since 1985. He has over 750,000 miles riding experience. He has served as chapter rep, secretary, and other positions. He hopes his experience will help the board. Phil is from Brevard, North Carolina.

NEW BUSINESS: Rob Roberts asked the members to consider becoming a 501-C organization. This means changing our status from a corporation to a non-profit organization. The 501-C status would eliminate the need to pay income taxes until the organization had a gross income exceeding \$25,000. Joel reported that we paid \$60 taxes for the 2007 year. We paid no taxes previously because we have had a loss (except for 2006 when Joel could only produce receipts that made it look like MTA made \$10,000). The 501-C status would cost \$300 a year. Another member suggested that we might want to wait before becoming 501-C organization until we are making a bigger profit. The question was asked if it was worth it for us to make this change if we are only paying \$60 in taxes. J.O. Hurley made the motion to table this motion until the board researches this further and reports back to the membership. Dan Griffith seconded this motion. The membership accepted this motion.

[Further study determined that cost of \$300.00 is a one time cost and not every year—Harvey].

New business:

Pat Klix presented the results from bingo and 50/50 drawings. Here are the winners:

4 corners	Darla Kruta & Barb Andreassen
M	Kevin Kruta
T	Richard Terrell and Darla Kruta
A	Irene Chavas
Cover All	Pete Davis

The winners of the 50/50 drawings follow:

50/50	Monday	Darrell Steuer
50/50	Tuesday	Bonnie Damron
50/50	Wednesday	Bascom Rhodes

Keith reported that the board had purchased new patches. We still have 150 left. Folks will receive bars for 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 years. The store has 8" patches in stock. He encouraged everyone to visit the store and buy, buy, buy!!!

The membership currently has about 500 members. We just got one new member from England over the weekend. Darrell said that the membership has gone from small to large and back to small. We want to see membership grow but not get so big that we don't know each other. Darrell challenged each member to get one person to join this year.

Missouri 1 Chapter from Kansas City provided pie and ice cream for the MTA members to buy at \$1 each to support the Pediatric Brain Tumor Association's "Ride for Kids" which will be held on July 27, 2008 in Kansas City. They invited everyone to come and ride. Last year, this chapter came in second in the state of Kansas raising \$3080 for PBTA. This year their goal is to raise \$4,000.

Pat Klix announced that folks who needed to draw their poker hand could do so tonight. The motion to adjourn was made by Dan Griffith. This was seconded and passed unanimously.

The 2009 Gathering will be held in Spearfish, South Dakota, June 22-26, 2009. We will celebrate our 25th anniversary at Spearfish.

Respectfully submitted,
Harvey Wilson
Secretary

Diet Questions Answered

Online submission

Q: I've heard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong life; is this true?

A: Your heart is only good for so many beats, and that's it... don't waste them on exercise. Everything wears out eventually. Speeding up your heart will not make you live longer; that's like saying you can extend the life of your car by driving it faster. Want to live longer? Take a nap.

Q: Should I cut down on meat and eat more fruits and vegetables?

A: You must grasp logistical efficiencies. What does a cow eat? Hay and corn. And what are these? Vegetables. So a steak is nothing more than an efficient mechanism of delivering vegetables to your system. Need grain? Eat chicken. Beef is also a good source of field grass (green leafy vegetable). And a pork chop can give you 100% of your recommended daily allowance of vegetable products.

Q: Should I reduce my alcohol intake?

A: No, not at all. Wine is made from fruit. Brandy is distilled wine, that means they take the water out of the fruity bit so you get even more of the goodness that way. Beer is also made out of grain. Bottoms up!

Q: How can I calculate my body/fat ratio?

A: Well, if you have a body and you have fat, your ratio is one to one. If you have two bodies, your ratio is two to one, etc.

Q: What are some of the advantages of participating in a regular exercise program?

A: Can't think of a single one, sorry. My philosophy is: No Pain...Good!

Q: Aren't fried foods bad for you?

A: YOU'RE NOT LISTENING!!!... Foods are fried these days in vegetable oil. In fact, they're permeated in it. How could getting more vegetables be bad for you?

Q: Will sit-ups help prevent me from getting a little soft around the middle?

A: Definitely not! When you exercise a muscle, it gets bigger. You should only be doing sit-ups if you want a bigger stomach.

Q: Is chocolate bad for me?

A: Are you crazy? HELLO Cocoa beans! Another vegetable!!! It's the best feel-good food around!

Q: Is swimming good for your figure?

A: If swimming is good for your figure, explain whales to me.

Q: Is getting in-shape important for my lifestyle?

A: Hey! 'Round' is a shape!

For those of you who watch what you eat, here's the final word on nutrition and health. It's a relief to know the truth after all those conflicting nutritional studies.

1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
3. The Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
4. The Italians drink a lot of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
5. The Germans drink a lot of beers and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

CONCLUSION

Eat and drink what you like. Speaking **English** is apparently what kills you.

Well, I hope this has cleared up any misconceptions you may have had about food and diets.



2008 Gathering Winners

PRE-REGISTRATION WINNERS

Most Mature Female Rider — Pam Wilson
Most Mature Male Rider — Ted Norris
Most Mature Couple — Pam & Harvey Wilson
Youngest Female Rider — Michele Notz
Longest Distance Two Up — Steve and Joesy Morris (2532 miles)
Longest Distance Male Rider — Robert Haenel (2531 miles)
Longest Distance Female Rider — Bonnie Damron (1300 miles)
Longest Distance w/most members present — Ontario 1 (5)
Largest Chapter — Wisconsin 1

GRAND PRIZE

Garmin Zumo 550 Gray Melton
First Gear Jacket Howard Klix
iPod Dan Griffith
iPod Nancy Smith
Coveralls Bike Cover Richard Terrell
Hub Motorcycle Resort
2-night stay Richard Terrell
Battery Tender Catie Newell
Ladies Cosmetics Helen Donahue

FIELD EVENTS

Clothesline: Kevin Kruta & Sarah Campbell
Doll Toss: Kevin Kruta & Sarah Campbell
Slow Ride: Steve Morris
Balloon Toss: Kevin Kruta & Sarah Campbell

POKER RUN

1st: Darla Kruta - \$100
2nd: Nancy Smith - \$75

BIKE SHOW

Full Touring '94 and Newer:
2nd place — Bonnie Damron
1st Place — Keith Yedica

Full Touring '93 and older:
2nd — Robert Haenel
1st — Kevin Kruta

Sport '94 and newer:
1st Place — Rick Shields

Trike:
2nd Place — Martha Mazzei
1st Place — Harry Johnson

LIGHT SHOW

Functional Legal:
2nd Place — James Damron
1st Place — Steve Morris

Razzle Dazzle:
2nd Place — Bonnie Damron
1st Place — James Damron

BINGO

4 corners Darla Kruta & Barb Andreassen
M Kevin Kruta
T Richard Terrell and Darla Kruta
A Irene Chavas
Cover All Pete Davis

50/50 WINNERS

Monday Darrell Steuer
Tuesday Bonnie Damron
Wednesday Bascom Rhodes
Thursday Mike Velazquez \$166.00
Sarah Campbell \$99.00
Louise Trepanier \$66.00

OBSERVATION TRIVIA GAME

1st: Irene & Chuck Chavas won a Battery Tender

OTHER RECOGNITION

Emily Jackson Award (presented by Pete Davis) to Martha Mazzei (Breast Cancer)

Jim Wilson Award (presented by Rick Butler) to Wisconsin I Chapter

Mike Yelton - Missouri 1 – reported that they made \$381.61 from the pie/ice cream making over \$4,000 so far for PBTA.



2008 MTA GATHERING
Submitted by Missouri Chapter 1

Guess it's about time to do a trip report before I forget the details of our trip to West Virginia, known as the "Top of the Mountain State". As the saying goes, prior planning prevents poor performance. In this case we decided to do a minor tune-up replacing the spark plugs which is another story. The day before our departure, however, we noticed the rear tire was getting worn and discovered it had reached a point where it would not make the trip safely, so it was off to BMW early Saturday morning for a replacement. Once the new tire was re-mounted, it was home to reinstall and finishing loading the bike. Then it was off on our week long adventure heading east on MO 210 and gradually working our way toward I-70 and points east.

We reached the east side of St. Louis and decided a rest was in order after all our hard work getting ready to leave, so we found a comfortable Day's Inn at Caseyville, IL. and enjoyed the first night of our journey on the road.

The next morning we were up early and on I-64 which turned out to be a lot easier route than the high speed I-70 through Missouri. Trucks on I-64 seem to better observe their speed and didn't blow us off the road like we are used to closer to home.

Our second night at Grayson, KY., got us within 250 miles of our destination, so we again found another Day's Inn which was nearly without customers and called it a night as a storm brewed back to the west but produced little more than a brief shower during the

night. Then it was off again the next morning heading for our final destination, the 2008 MTA Gathering at the Canaan Valley Resort which is nestled amid more than 6,300 acres of state parkland on the edge of the Monongahela National Forest. It is about 10 miles south of Davis, West Virginia, and 38 miles north of Elkins on a stretch of road we got very familiar with before the event ended. Unfortunately, West Virginia DOT decided this was a good time to start several road repair projects which ended up interrupting almost every ride briefly while you stopped and waited for the "pilot truck" to lead you past the road repair work.

Upon arrival at the resort we started meeting some familiar faces from years gone by, and making new friends from the friendly groups that enjoys this event. For those who don't go anymore, you are really missing out on some good times as the MTA has evolved into a new and more enjoyable family than the turbulent days when the old VTS business meetings left much to be desired. The BOD went all out to make it a great get-a-way and opportunity to ride more of the back roads, enjoying lots of beautiful curves and scenic vistas. The park itself had lots of wild life and Bambi and family were present to greet you almost every time you rode in or out of the park. The resort was comfortable and facilities nice, well worth the price in our opinion. The only thing lacking from our room were kitchenette facilities, but they had a great snack shop with fantastic sandwiches as well as a full service restaurant. The rooms were comfortable and parking sufficient for all the polishing and tire

(Continued on page 10)

(2008 MTA Gathering, continued from page 9)

kicking one desired. We were able to find all our group shown in the picture above, and each soon headed off on their own separate adventures on two or four wheels.

Mike & Ann Marie had stopped on their way through Elkins and ordered pies for our PBTF fundraiser, and Mark and Cindy volunteered to drive their car (they were waiting on their trike conversion to be completed in July) to help pick up all the goodies.

After a brief rest and time to freshen up, it was time to head south to Elkins for evening dinner ride and Opening Ceremonies. The dinner ride this year took us back to Elkins, and yes we had to wait again for the road construction for a few minutes. After a brief pause were on our way and found the American Legion who hosted our dinner event. It was located right next to an old railroad station being refurbished as a historical landmark. The American Legion was delighted to help cater our dinner and the cooks were busy cooking the main dish on an outdoor grill. Inside we found a delightful bar where you could enjoy a cold one before heading upstairs for the dinner and opening ceremonies.

Once everyone was seated, Darrell called the group to order and thanked everyone for making this year's Gathering a special one. Once we heard the cue from our hosts that the food was ready, everyone jumped in and enjoyed the BBQ chicken with all the trimmings, a great treat after riding all day. Afterward we had a guest speaker from the local tourism office briefly give an overview of things to do and see in the area. Then it was time to visit before heading back to the resort. As we left to the parking lot, a storm was developing to the south and west, and everyone scurried to their bikes and tried to beat the rainstorm. Most everyone was successful and arrived back at the resort in time to cover their bikes before a brief shower and thunder storm passed by giving all a reason to clean up the bikes the following day.

Tuesday was centered around the Poker Run. It was a self guided tour with places to stop and pick up a colored bead which, at the resort, could be turned in for cards for a poker hand. The first stop



was a little tricky as the turn instructions were not correct, but everyone found the Honda/Yamaha dealer in Elkins. It was a nice dealership with lots of bikes and four wheelers on display. We picked up our next bead at Cool Springs General Store and restaurant. Many enjoyed the antique farm equipment and old water wheel fed by an actual spring and others decided to refuel by taking advantage of the restaurant food and refreshments. After a brief rest stop and visit with friends, it was off to the next stop, the smallest church in the US. It was a very peaceful and spiritual little church built in the middle of a pine forest by a family to honor their parents. Along side of the church was a little post office, also one of the smallest in the US. We then headed for Thomas, WV. but upon arrival we found the staff of the Flying Pig restaurant closing as their hours were 8 to 3 P.M., and they were unaware of our little Poker Run and had no beads. They were very friendly and gave all who stopped a copy of their menu to prove we had been there. Finding homemade pie one of their specialties, the chef promised to make us a special strawberry-rhubarb pie if we returned the next day, and she kept her promise as we returned for breakfast and topped it of with a huge piece of pie. What a treat! Finally was time to locate the last place to pick up a bead at the Black Water Falls State Park which was also a little tricky as the instructions told you to turn at the wrong gas station, but we just stopped and found the turn was only a mile or two down the road. Some walked down to the water falls and enjoyed the sound and freshness of this water fall. It got its name from the water's brown color resulting from the vegetation upstream. All of these spots can be viewed in the MTA Photo Album [at <http://www.winkflash.com/photo/public.aspx?u=gdroege>]. Then it was time to head back to the resort and draw your poker hand and see if it might win you a prize. This year the winner was a flush followed by two pair by our own Nancy Smith, who also won an iPod. Way to go Nancy!

Although some decided to stay at the resort and compete in the Field Events and Bike Show Wednesday, the rest of us headed different directions to enjoy the colorful landscapes and scenic stops at places like Seneca Rocks, Smoke Hole, Spruce Knob and many other high mountain attractions. As our group traveled, some enjoyed some of the restaurants, shops, and galleries along the way, but for us it was time to head back to the Flying Pig for breakfast. We found the hostess surprised to see us back from yesterday's stop at closing time. Their menu was full of interesting breakfast selections such as the Danwich, Karlwich, Breakfast Pocket, Mr. Chazz Platter, Breakfast Stacker, and Granny's Gear Up all of which would fill your tummy with great food. We, of course, saved room for some home-made strawberry-rhubarb pie which had just been removed hot from the oven. To our surprise, the chef only baked one pie, so there were only six pieces to be had and we were lucky to arrive before it was gone. Was the pie any good, you ask? It was fantastic and brought back memories of the Harrison, Arkansas Gathering when everyone enjoyed fresh desserts at the restaurant at Jasper AR where I had to have two pieces of fresh blueberry cobbler, it was so good! Our compliments to the cook as we waddled back to the bike and headed north on our own scenic tour which again took us through more road construction passing thru MD toward PA. Once we hit the border, we flipped around on some "very back

(Continued on page 11)

(2008 MTA Gathering, continued from page 10)

roads" and took an alternate route with lots of curves back south towards the resort.

As we got back to our room, Mark & Cindy were getting ready to pick up the pies and ice cream as soon as Mike & Ann Marie returned from their trip to DC to visit relatives. They arrived and all were off in Mark's car back to Elkins. Soon they returned and all the MTA MO#1 members present helped set up the tables as the business meeting began.

Here is a very brief summary as best I can recall. The minutes for the 2007 meeting were read and approved. Joel "Big Daddy" gave the financial report which showed the club was in the black and all expenses accounted for. The report was accepted and much discussion held about the possibility of changing the business status of the club from a corporation to a 501-3C. It was pointed out the cost would be \$300 to file for the 501-3C status, and current profits would not realize enough to justify the change this year, so a suggestion was approved to table the resolution to committee for additional investigation and report back to the membership as to if and when this would be a good idea for the MTA. Two changes to the club were approved, one removing the old "MTA Club Chapter dues" which last year was \$20; and the second change, any previous member who has left may rejoin the national MTA for \$20 and retain their old membership number if desired rather than pay the \$40 new membership fee and start over. If however, the old member wishes to obtain the MTA patch, additional fees will be charged to cover these expenses. Also if you want the MTA magazine which is now on-line mailed, an annual fee of \$10 would be charged for the printing and mailing of the magazine. The BOD had two positions to fill and nominations were presented, seconded and unanimous approval given for two new members to the BOD. Unfortunately I didn't write their names down and have been unable to find it on the MTA Forum. Chuck Chavas was made an honorary BOD member. Chuck and his wife were present for this year's gathering and everyone was happy to see his progress after his stroke. Think that was about it other than Darrell's reelection as president for another year. If anything was left out or incorrect, I'm sure someone will let me know.

Then it was time for pie and ice cream. Mike gave a short summary about our efforts in support of the PBTF and that all proceeds would go towards the foundation's KC Ride for Kids July 27th. Donations were generous and varied from \$2 to \$50 with the grand total of \$381.61 (someone threw in a handful of change!). We suspect the MTA donated the \$50, so we really appreciate their generosity to help offset the club cost of buying the pies and ice cream. After the meeting, the Bike Light Show competition was held.

Thursday looked like another good day for riding, so off we went to discover some more untraveled roads. First we headed back to the Flying Pig for breakfast, but this time no pie for dessert. Afterward we went back to the Blackwater State Park to walk down to the falls and enjoy the atmosphere of this natural wonder. Then it was off again south of the resort to WV Highway 72 which had been mentioned by the guest speaker at the welcome dinner as one of the roads not to miss, and we found his promise to be true as it was a lot of fun to ride all 17 miles of curves and hair-pin switchbacks. Some of the road was only one lane wide, but we managed to meet and pass a few cars and found the road in places needed repair; however, it was as promised and a must ride if you are in the area.

After a stop for fuel and a cold drink in Parsons, we headed back up US219 to Thomas honking at the Flying Pig as we passed it by for the final time on our way back to the resort and a brief rest before the night's Dinner and Grand Awards Ceremony. Darrell expressed his appreciation to all who helped make the Gathering a success and acknowledged the new members of the BOD before presenting all the awards and certificates. The dinner was great and no one went away hungry and the banquet selections were plentiful and tasted great with even extra dessert for those brave enough to partake seconds. Our own Nancy Smith AGAIN won second place in this year's Poker run. We think she needs to spend more time at the Casinos with her luck! She also won an iPod in the grand prize drawings while everyone else sat green with envy. Afterward everyone headed back to their rooms to start packing or planning their route for the trip back home, or in the case of George and Frank who didn't stay for the banquet, to enjoy some more vacation.

The next morning's weather forecast looked wet to the west, but we had no idea until we got close to the storms how serious they would be depending on your route of travel. We started out with Mike & Ann Marie who like us had decided to travel the interstate and get home by Saturday night. We lost them, however, in the first rain storm when they stopped to put on their rain suits. Not having their cell number we were never able to hook back up for the rest of the trip, sorry guys!

After the first storm we enjoyed a brief sunny sky until the sky started turning dark again. We pulled over and put on our rain jackets thinking it would be a light shower and we wouldn't need rain pants. This was a bad mistake as we hit one of the worst storms through which we have ever traveled on the bike. It was in an area with no turn outs or places to seek cover, and the torrential down pour, wind, and lighting made the pucker factor reach 11 on a scale of 1 to 10. Never-the-less we continued at a reduced speed and were able to run through the storm, only to hit a third wave a few minutes later. This time we were able to find an exit with gas station where we dried off and donned some dry under garments and our rain proof pants which of course weren't needed. We stopped at a Super Eight Motel in Corydon, IN. We walked to the nearby Wal-Mart and bought some fresh fruit and had a light supper after a stressful day. Checking the local weather revealed we were under a severe storm watch with possible tornadoes which made the first part of the night a bit uneasy; however, the storm was not as bad as promised and we only experience some more rain and I was able to sleep through most of it while Mary kept watch to make sure we didn't need to take cover.

The next morning seemed like we would have a good ride home, and only hit a light shower a few miles down the road. We did pick up a light head wind as we traveled west on I-70 after a lunch stop after traveling through St Louis. We arrived between 4 and 4:30 after riding 550 miles and were ready to get off the bike for a needed rest and catch-up of yard work and chores before heading back to work on Monday. It was a great trip and everyone made it back safe and sound.

Next year's MTA Gathering will be in Spearfish SD, so mark your calendars if you would like to join the fun. It will be held the same time, last week in June and will be hosted by the local Holiday Inn in Spearfish. More details will be available as time goes by so be sure to check out the MTA website.

Going Mad In Spokane, Washington

Submitted by Chris, Missouri Chapter 1

The second Saturday in May each year the Lilac Wings chapter of the Gold-wing Touring Assn. sponsors MAD (MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS DAY). MAD was started in the spring 25 years ago to make car and truck drivers aware that motorcycles are now back on the roads. Sponsors provided over \$4,000 in door prizes and more than 420 motorcycles were pre-registered. The day starts with a demonstration from the NORTHWEST WINGS drill team as they execute their precision riding forms. Then maps are handed out for the 124-mile ride through the back roads of Washington with appropriate check-

points. On the completion of the run riders return to Spokane Falls Community College to collect door prizes and meet the children that the event helps support. Every year the proceeds of the event are given to MAKE A WISH FOUNDATION. I saw many lakes and rivers during the 124-mile ride. These is my second MAD event and really enjoy meeting the folks of the Northwest. The chapter president is Lyle Polack who was a guest of our club for both a breakfast and a dinner run in past years. Not owning a bike out west Lyle made me an offer I couldn't refuse. He just purchased a 1980 Goldwing



that was sitting in a barn for many years on the coast of Washington. It was covered with patina of rust. Lyle told me I could have use of the motorcycle (to include plates and insurance) if I would detail it. After 3 days of cleaning it looked almost like a new motorcycle. I got to ride 1400 miles in the 10 days I visited Washington and the old Honda returned 44 miles to the gallon in the mountains and 50 miles per gallon on the highway, not bad for a 28-year-old bike. I look forward to my return next May for going MAD in Spokane. —Chris

A Department of Water Resources representative stops at a Texas ranch and talks with an old rancher.

He tells the rancher, I need to inspect your ranch for your water allocation.

The old rancher says, 'Okay, but don't go in that field over there.'

The Water representative says, 'Mister, I have the authority of the Federal Government with me. See this card? This card means I am allowed to go WHEREVER I WISH on any agricultural land. No questions asked or answered. Have I made myself clear? Do you understand?'

The old rancher nods politely and goes about his chores.

Later, the old rancher hears loud screams and spies the Water Rep running for his life and close behind is the rancher's bull. The bull is gaining with every step.

The Rep is clearly terrified, so the old rancher immediately throws down his tools, runs to the fence and yells at the top of his lungs....

'Your card!... Show him your card!....'

Hunt's Lodge Happenings

<http://updates.huntslodge.com>

MTA Pics are finally up! Finally, after 2 weeks, I have the pictures from the MTA Fall fling posted to our Picassa albums. Thanks for a great time, guys, and we're looking forward to your 2009 fall fling!

Fall is settling in nicely

Oh man, the weather is simply gorgeous right now! We're seeing highs in the 70's and low 80's, night time lows in the 50s & 60s, and pretty dry. And, best of all, the summertime humidity is gone. Woohoo!

The colors are starting to change, too. The campground is starting to see shades of gold and scarlet, while we've been told that higher up on the Skyway, colors are starting to reach full throttle. Jack and I might have to take a ride up that way in a day or two and see for ourselves. I promise, we'll get pictures and post them so folks who can't make it in can at least get their leaf peep fix.

The Florida chapter of the Motorcycle Touring Association had their Fall Ride-In here recently. Folks from other parts of the country and Canada met up with them, so it was more of an informal Eastern North America meet. This is the second year that they've come in, and I think we had more fun with them this year than we did last year, and we had a lot of fun last year. This year, they twisted our arms to go on a ride with them. OK, "twisted" is probably too harsh of a word to use. They "strongly encouraged" us... all right, they just asked and we said "OK"...

So we went out on Jack's 200 mile loop that includes Crossville and Pikeville, then coming back along back roads to Tellico Plains. It was nice to get out, but we did figure out that there is nowhere to stop between Crossville and Pikeville, so if you're going to need fuel in the next 50 miles or so, you'd better get it before leaving one of these towns for the other.

We managed to get some pictures of them while they were here. I'll try to get those posted later tonight and put the link up here.

Take care! To borrow a phrase from a friend of mine "Go ride somewhere!"



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- BMWMOA - BMW Motorcycle Owners of America
- GWRRA - Gold Wing Road Rider Assoc.
- GWTA - Gold Wing Touring Assoc.
- HOG - Harley Owners Group
- HRCA - Honda Rider's Club of America
- IBMC - Intl. Brotherhood of Motorcycle Campers
- MSF - Motorcycle Safety Foundation Instructor
- STAR - STAR Touring & Riding Assoc. (Yamaha)
- TRI - Trike Riders International
- VDOG - Vulcan Drifter Owners Group (Kawasaki)
- VROC - Vulcan Riders and Owners Club (Kawasaki)
- **MTA - Motorcycle Touring Assoc.**
- WOW - Women on Wheels

Motorcycle Roads

ARTICLES can be mailed or e-mailed as an attached file. Electronic files should be in MS-Word or PDF.

PHOTOGRAPHS should be mailed or sent electronically as a medium- to high-res TIFF or JPEG (150-300 DPI). For mailed photos, please include a SASE if you would like to have them returned.

NEWSLETTER EDITORS: If you have photos, please send them along with your newsletters!

Motorcycle Roads (c/o Howie Klix)
24737 Cushing Ave.
Eastpointe, MI 48021
webmaster@mtariders.com



Ride For Kids 2008

Submitted by Missouri Chapter 1

The fundraising activity began after last year's event when club members decided to try and increase the funds donated to our favorite foundation. It only takes one time to see the benefits and support this foundations provides to kids with brain tumors and their families.

Mary and I were very fortunate this year as our company changed their matching funds program and matched any employee contribution of \$50-\$100 times three. Although individual smaller contributions were down this year, those who were able to meet the minimum generated the bulk of our contributions once matched x 3 by our employer. The club also had a garage sale and pie and ice-cream social at the MTA Gathering as well as donated half of every 50/50 drawing to PBTF. Mike & Ann Marie were also very successful in their fund raising efforts, all of which combined to an unbelievable \$5,339.61! (the 61 cents came from the pie and ice-cream social when someone threw in their loose change). Several individual club members also made individual contributions and rode in the event.

Riding were John & Terry, Phil & Barbara, Jim, and Mary & your's truly. Mal & Ginny also graciously worked as check-in volunteers and did a terrific job. Many thanks to all who helped make this a great effort and we almost took first place as a club, only losing out to the Parrot Heads who talked one of the individual donors into adding his funds to their total - almost made us wonder as we're not sure he is even one of their members; however, the results are why all participate rather than the individual, club, or motorcycle dealer acknowledgement.

This year Mary and I took second place as individual fund raisers, losing only by a couple hundred dollars to a couple who sold their bike and donated all the funds to the foundation. They did get a pair of nice leather jackets and a medal, but Mary and I only enjoy the

results of our efforts knowing it helps to support the foundations and all the related programs for the little kids who are the stars in our hearts. Each year we see many of the same little faces, some have grown and/or improved and some haven't.

As with all previous rides, it ended with the Celebration of Life as we all get up-close and personal with the kids and their families. Like previous rides, the local police helped keep us safe and steady as we all rode the same route, legally running red lights and stop signs! It's the only time we get to do this and the local law enforcement help make it happen. Jerry, PBTF Ride Leader, was elated at Kansas City's Ride results and expressed the appreciation to all who participated. As long as we're able, we plan to support this program and hope to attract others next year as contributors and participants. Please take a look at all the pictures (from our camera and Terry's) stored on our photo album (it will be the last album on the page) and take a slide show if you want to see what you missed. . Check out the MO-1 website for the link to view his great photos!



MTA Membership Application (please print clearly)

AMA # _____ (If you are a member) Membership # _____
(for renewals of)

Member Name: _____
(First) (Initial) (Last) (Age)

Associate Name: _____
(First) (Initial) (Last) (Age)

Mailing Address
 Street or P.O. Box: _____ Phone Number: (____) _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Motorcycle Make/Model _____

Optional Emergency Road Service Program—Just \$28.00 Year (U.S. funds)

The following information is necessary for the Emergency Road Service Program. You can register as many bikes as you own (none older than 1980), but YOU MUST be the driver to be covered. Coverage expires on the expiration date of your membership. This program has no grace period. If an associate member drives their own bike and would like ERS coverage they must also pay the \$28.00 (U.S. fund) fee.

* Coverage is limited to the first \$100.00 of each tow. Certain restrictions apply.

	Year	Make	Model	License Plate #
Bike #1	_____	_____	_____	_____
Bike #2	_____	_____	_____	_____

NEW Regular Membership **1 year** **\$40.00 US funds** \$ _____
 Includes Pin. Embroidered Patch, Membership Card, 6-months of Motorcycle Roads as per new membership rules, Annual Tour Directory, and numerous discount opportunities.

Regular Membership Renewal **1 year** **\$20.00 US funds** \$ _____

NEW Associate Membership **1 year** **\$10.00 US funds** \$ _____
 Must be sponsored by Full Member. Includes all of the above.

Associate Membership Renewal **1 year** **\$5.00 US funds** \$ _____

Emergency Road Service (Only with Membership) **\$28.00 year US funds** \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed (Outside North America — Add \$8.00 per year to cover extra mailing cost) \$ _____

Referred by (for recruiter credit) _____ **MTA #** (if known) _____

Method of Payment: **Check or M.O.** **Visa** **Master Card**

Member Signature: _____ Associate. Signature: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Annual Tour Directory — MTA Fellow Pages

Please include My Name and Telephone Number **Please Do Not List**

Please Include My e-mail Address

Additional Services I can provide to fellow members are:

Pickup-Up Truck/Bike Trailer **Tent Space** **Lodging** **Tech 'N Tools**

Where did you hear about the MTA? _____

Will you be joining a Chapter? **Yes** _____ **No**
(If yes, Name of Chapter)

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