

Region E Rally 2008

56 bikers from seven states attended the 2008 Region E Rally in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. We had plenty of people to have a great time and that is what we did.

The rally was held at the KOA in Eureka Springs which afforded us all new roads to ride and new sites to see. There were five rides planned. Each was listed with the pace of the ride so the participants could choose a riding pace they would be comfortable with. The whole idea was to have a good time.

About eight campers were present as early as Thursday prior to the rally. Friday morning about 5 a.m. the campers were treated to a breeze to gently rock the campers to facilitate their sleep. The rhythmic pecking of the raindrops just added to a peaceful sleep. The performance by Mother Nature was then topped with a great fireworks display complete with sound effects. By the time the campers began to peek out the weather was dry and beautiful. We had a great day. It's all in the attitude!

Through the day on Friday there was a lot of visiting and a considerable amount of riding and sightseeing going on. The rest of the bikers, with a very few exceptions, came in on Friday in time for the dinner ride Friday evening. Some of the planned rides had to be modified due to the floodwaters in the area. The "Golden Gate Bridge of Arkansas" at Beaver was one such casualty. The entire area is steeped in history and this bridge was a perfect example. Unfortunately for us it was mostly under water. The approach on both sides of the bridge was under considerable water. The Friday evening dinner ride was thus modified to ride across the Beaver Dam and back to 62 then on to Homestead Restaurant in Eureka Springs. We were provided a private room for the buffet meal. Everyone seemed to enjoy the



merriment with good friends. It was a good time to catch up.



We had a large group campfire on Friday night. Steve Short presented a slide show in the pavilion of some of the rides we had made during the past year or so. This included the ride to Alaska and the one to Mexico. There were many questions and again lots of good conversation. Ron Lawson brought his guitar and pleased the campfire crowd with his musical ability.



If you like country music, you would have enjoyed his performance. The 50/50 drawing that night provided Fred Groce of Chapter X, MO a \$50 winning. He then turned \$10 of that back to Region E. Many thanks for this generous gesture on the part of Fred.

Saturday morning broke cool and cloudy. The sun was to come out a little later in the day but we started with our coats as a matter of necessity. We were treated to a fantastic "riding tips for the curves" seminar by MSF Instructor and Chapter N, MO Director, Kent Hott. There was a very effective question and answer session following the seminar. We



were all reminded of many riding tips that had become a little foggy at the very least.

Following the riding seminar our people split up for the rides. Glen Anderson, MO State Director, led a pretty good group of riders on a slow scenic ride. I am told she did a very nice job. Bill Jarvis, Chapter L, MO, led a group of riders at an average riding pace through the twisties. No one signed up for the fast ride or the performance ride so ride leaders

Steve Short and Kent Hott rode a ride together. I know they had a good time as both are incredible riders and enjoy a spirited ride. Many of the rally goers chose to either take a copy of a planned ride and do it their way or just take a state map and plan their own ride. Others wanted to tour the historical town of Eureka Springs and/or visit the nearby Cycle Gadgets Shop. Everyone seemed to have a good time regardless of what they chose to do.

Charlotte, Mary Jarvis, Steve Short, along with Fred and V.J. Groce were the primary servers for the Saturday night dinner which was included in the registration. Many thanks to, not only those listed, but to everyone that helped. After everyone had feasted on pulled pork, sliced brisket, smoked chicken, cole slaw, potato salad and baked beans topped off with cake the evening progressed with the awards.





The longest distance solo rider went to Weldon Umphress of chapter E, NE. The longest distance two up went to Art and Mary Meredith of KS chapter C. The youngest rider went to Phillip Duncan of Missouri Chapter L. Bryan Sowers took home the award for the most senior rider. Bryan hails from Iowa, Chapter P. The largest chapter in attendance went to Kansas, Chapter A with 11 members present. The largest state attendance was a tie between Kansas and Missouri with 15 each. Other state figures were AR-6, IA-2, NE-1, OK-7, and TX-10. Many thanks to all that joined us in a good time.



Steve Short then presented a GPS presentation with a slide show of screens from the Zumo 550. There were several different versions of GPS on display. These were each discussed regarding features. Questions were fielded about the use of GPS units.

The campers opened their temporary homes to display for those that toured the campground and viewed the different campers. The owners answered many questions regarding the features of the various units as well as suggestions they have learned to make camping more convenient and enjoyable. On display were Bunkhouse, Time Out, Aspen, Quick Camp, Tents, and others. It was also interesting to see the differences in the different year models of campers.

The touring tips planned did not materialize. Rather we had fun with tales, jokes, and stories around the campfire. The 50/50 drawing was split into two winners. J.R. Slocum and Glen Anderson each took home \$42 from the drawing. Door Prizes from Gene's Gallery and from Ozark Leather Shop were given away by a drawing of names from those in attendance.

Overall, it was a great time for all. If you missed it, you missed a good one. Colorama was announced to be held the second weekend of October in the same location. Colorama will be very similar to the Region E Rally. It's another chance have a great motorcycle riding experience. It is very rare for anyone near the end of life to regret the things they did; it is very common to regret the things you didn't do. Make those memories while you can. Life is too short to put it off.

