

Kansas Spring Fling

March 30-April 1, 2007

McPherson, KS

by Wiliferd Lair, Region E Director



We rode the 338 miles to McPherson, KS with threatening rain the entire distance. The forecast was to expect heavy rain with the potential for severe weather. About 15 miles out of McPherson we had just enough rain to remind us of danger but not really enough to wash the bugs off the windshield. After arrival at the Best Western we checked in and took our bags to the room. I then covered the bike just before it started to rain rather heavily. It is estimated that we made it with about 15 minutes to spare. It was good to see old friends again.

Dean and Sally Christiansen are in their first year as Kansas State Directors. They put on a great rally. Attendance was not as great as expected but that could be the direct result of threatening weather. The motel was extremely nice and at a reasonable price. The activities were well thought out and appreciated by all fortunate enough to be there. This was an event that proves, in times of inclement weather, you can have a great time even if you have to take your cage. We found only our bike and a Silverwing belonging to Earl Baker. The event was held mostly indoors, so the method of travel really mattered very little. The weather did turn nice and we had a good ride home on Sunday, so we were glad we had ridden.

Friday evening we spent a lot of time visiting and catching up on old times with good people. Some of us then enjoyed an excellent meal at Montana Mike's Steak House right next door to the motel. Back at the meeting room, we continued to visit until the hour was late.

Saturday morning, we had an auction of items brought by chapters A and T. It was good fun and the proceeds were returned to the chapters bringing the items. John McCune and his partner did a great job in handling the items. The crowd laughed freely at the antics of John, who can take a joke as well as demonstrate his considerable ability to make others laugh. The items available were mixed. There was a beautiful bird song clock, books, bike accessories, K & N Air Filter and Cleaning



Following the auction, the group went in all directions to find where they wanted to have lunch. At least some attended a nearby motorcycle museum. After lunch some of us visited the miniature train museum in McPherson. This place was all volunteer operated. The volunteers have done an awesome job of putting together and even creating the sets.

Of particular interest was one train in which the operator had rigged a camera on a car at the front of the train. The camera broadcast to a TV located in the room. It was interesting to see what the train view was.

Saturday evening events included a hat contest. There was a lot of creativity demonstrated that night. One hat of particular interest seemed to have a useful purpose as well.



Awards went to the Most Decorated Hat, the Most Original Hat, and the Funniest Hat. State Director, Dean Christiansen made the awards.



The dinner was a catered dinner by the host motel. It included unbelievably tasty chicken fried steak as well as baked chicken and side dishes of all kinds. The meal was delicious as well as plentiful. All were invited to return for seconds (or thirds). When all tummies were filled to just beyond capacity, more fun was to be had as Dean awarded various recognitions. Chapter A received \$50 for selling the most raffle tickets as a chapter during '06. Chapter Director, Kelly Felix was awarded \$100 as the top selling individual in the state.

The 50/50 drawing resulted in the awarding of \$94 to Ronnie Owens, a GWTA member for the last twenty years. The proceeds from the auction were awarded back to the chapters that supplied the items. Kelly Felix of Chapter A returned a portion of that chapter's earnings back to the state as appreciation for what Kansas does for the chapters of the state. Dean announced there were 43 members in attendance.

Another item of special interest to many of us was the petition to have the Blue Book brought back for our membership. A more complete report of this item can be found on the news section of this site.