

# Newsletter



## President's Update

Welcome to summer!!! I hope many of you are out and about riding your favorite motorcycle. Hopefully, including some IFMR members!

We had an outstanding convention in Houston! See Chris' article in the newsletter for a few more details and photos. Many thanks to Jim Dodmead (President-elect) for setting up the electronics at the booth. Whereas the BMW was a stunning show stopper, the TV and the videos also drew much attention. We bought the TV and a stand, which is actually cheaper than renting from the convention services. Member Deb Teplitz donated the 2 items to a local non-profit, who will make good use of them. The non-profit is Family Time Crisis and Counseling Center. Jim also provided a tablet set up to easily have people sign up for membership on the spot.

Conventions are a great opportunity to sign up new members. With the tablet from Jim, we signed up over 30 new members!!! And we heard from Dirk, International President, that inquiries outside North America spiked upward as well! That counts as a very successful convention. And that in spite of rather low convention attendance.

Due to some urgent back surgery in April, I was unable to ride my BMW to Houston. I am very happy I made the trip by airplane. And then I rented a car to follow the gang on the hill country ride. The fellowship was outstanding! Thank you Ute and Chris for organizing this ride.

The one downside to the convention was that several of us picked up Covid. In spite of all attendees having been vaccinated.

On another note. We discovered a glitch in the new member sign up process. As interim membership chair (looking for a volunteer to take over 😊) I did an audit of all past registrations. As a result we successfully added about 40 more members that had been "overlooked" Our fellowship is growing! I ask each member to reach out to your Rotary motorcycle riding friends to join us!

On a related note. The leadership team has had some challenges with the ClubRunner system which we use to run our website and administration. We have decided to CONSIDER an alternative provider DACdb. We will be having a meeting in early July to review DACdb and consider switching. If we choose to switch, please be patient while we make the conversion. You will be kept up to date on progress.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Larie.





# South Central Region

June 2022

Rotary International Convention, June 4-8, 2022: The IFMR-NA and the Rotary Club of Motorcycling Rotarians shared a booth in the House of Friendship. The star attraction was the BMW R18 Motorcycle, lent to us by Wild West Motorplex in Katy, TX.

For both the IFMR-NA and the RC of MR there was a drastic increase in membership applications, to which President Larie will detail in his article.

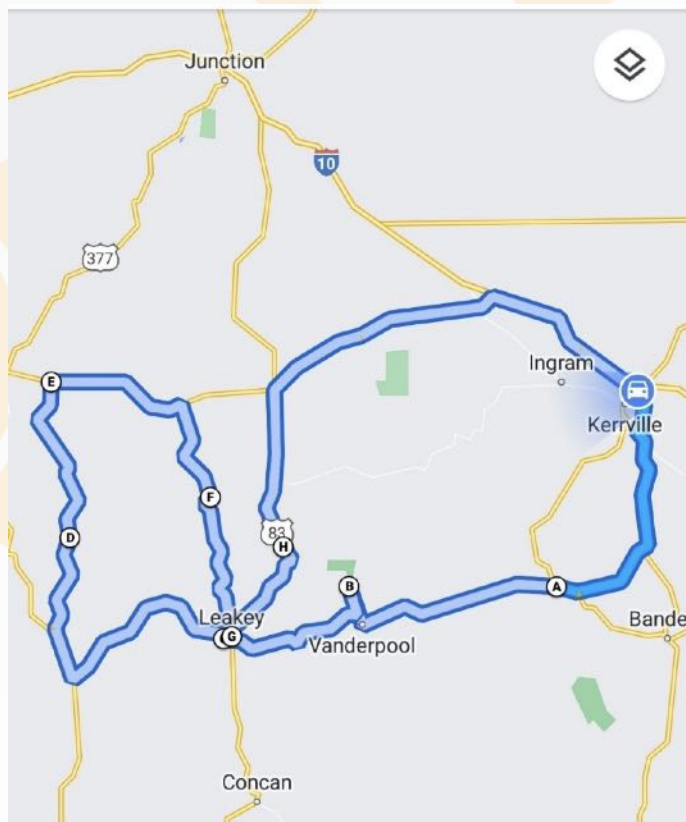


Prior to the start of the convention a group pictures were taken, one in front of the convention center and the second in front of the skyway connecting the GRB Convention Center to the Hilton Americas.



The best part of the convention was all the fellowship and stronger friendships made due to the in person get-together's both during and after the convention hours. Thank you to all the members of the IFMR-NA and RC of Motorcycling Rotarians for being a part of the convention. Special thanks to President Larie and President Ute for their leadership in making this an awe inspiring convention. Special thanks to Deb Teplitz and friends for leading a post convention ride on June 9th to the San Jacinto Battlefield Park, Galveston and the Blue Water Highway.

The Post Convention ride to the Texas Hill County, June 10-13, 2022: On June 10th, President Ute lead the riders to Kerrville, TX in the heart of the Texas Hill country. Our home base for the weekend was the La Quinta in Kerrville. We were joined by George & Christina Brenninkmeijer from IFMR-AGS, who rented HD motorcycle in San Antonio. On Saturday June 11, the group rode the Twisted Sisters (FM335, FM336 and FM337).



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Pit stops were made in Vanderpool at the Lone Star Motorcycle Museum.



The Bent Rim Grille in Leakey, TX for lunch and Camp Wood for our final stop before completing the three sisters and heading back to the hotel. Mind you this was all done in 100+ degree temps.

Sunday June 21, we decided on a shortened ride to Fredericksburg, TX and visited the National Museum of The Pacific War (aka Nimitz Museum). Thereafter, we rode on to Luckenbach, Boerne and Comfort Texas before returning to the hotel.

Again beside the joy of riding the Texas Hill Country was the fellowship that was shared after the rides. Kerrville offered plenty of places to dine.

Bella Sera Italian Restaurant in Kerrville for a great evening of Italian food served by a waiter from Albania.



Cowboy Steak House in Kerrville where we met two local Kerrville Rotarians. The steaks and desserts were awesome.



Then our final evening together was at Bonzai Japanese Restaurant where PDG John had green beer and it wasn't even St. Patrick's Day.



Special thanks to George and Christina from the IFMR-AGS for joining us on this weekend ride in the Texas Hill Country. We again made new friends that share the passion for the iron horse.





# And the new Rotary year begins with a bang!

I'm happy to announce the charter of our West Africa Chapter under the leadership of President Catherine Lajide (Cathie Firefly Lajide) and Secretary Joël Yapó. A dream come true after 1.5 years of efforts.

A warm welcome to all their members to the amazing fraternity of Motorcycling Rotarians.

Kudos to the persistence of Cathie and the unconditional support received from IFMR-NA team. The IFMR stall at Houston Convention wonderfully managed by IFMR-NA got us 3-4 leads that converted into charter members of this new chapter and helped expedite the Charter process. Thank you Larie Trippet, Gerry Jackson and team!

YIRS,

**Larimore "Larie" Trippet**

**IFMR-NA President 2021-2023**



## IFMR Spring Ride at LaVale







# Cross Egypt Challenge 2021

John G. Kramb

In October of 2021m IFMR member and Past District Governor John Kramb participated in the tenth annual Cross Egypt Challenge (CEC). The CEC is a nine-day ride taken on either a scooter or a motorcycle through parts of Egypt. The length of the ride varies from year to year; this time around the Group recorded 2050 kilometers, or about 1273 miles.

This map shows the route that was planned for the ride. Because of security concerns, the route was subject to change daily, and the 2021 ride was no exception. Instead of crossing the Red Sea and riding the Sinai Peninsula, the route was changed to go up the West coast of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Suez.

Almost all equipment was available for rent since it is so difficult to bring a two-wheel vehicle into the country. Riders had a choice of either a scooter (150 cc) or a motorcycle (~1000 cc). John chose the scooter because the organizers said it would be more fun.

mechanics for rapid repair of any problems, a team doctor, and arranged for security. For security, riders had with us a member of the tourism police, armed with a machine pistol, and everywhere riders drove riders had a heavy police escort.”

Riders could also avail themselves of optional tours along the route. Among the options riders could take were tours of both the Luxor and Karnak Temple complexes, a sunrise hot air balloon ride, trip the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens, and a cruise on the Nile River.

Kramb arrived in Cairo three days early in order to tour the city.

On the 7th of October several riders met in Cairo for the three-hour van ride to Alexandria, which is on the Mediterranean coast. This was the first time that all the group members got together. This was the official organization meeting. Riders were each administered a PCR test, got our welcome packets, made introductions, and got our t-shirts. There were riders from the USA, Canada, Mexico, France, Poland, Slovenia, Romania, Greece, and Egypt. Everyone spoke at least passible English, so riders were all able to communicate. No one was allowed to go to their rooms the first night until the results of the PCR test came back. Riders were all negative. Kramb was interviewed by a reporter from the local newspaper. . One question that she asked concerned Kramb's , he was seventy-two. She wanted to know if he was worried about something happening to him on the ride. The reporter must have been in her mid-thirties, and probably couldn't conceive of someone my age doing this.

The actual ride started on 8 October. Riders got their bikes and headed out of town. The handling characteristics of a scooter are different than that of my cruiser, and it took some getting used to. The second night was spent at a luxury hotel located near the Pyramids of Giza.

On the 9th riders rode to Minya, generally south along the Nile River. The hotel there was not what an American is used to. Wifi was available only in the lobby, and the hotel security team would not let anyone leave the facility without being accompanied by one of their security team.

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“This was probably one of the best organized events in which I have ever participated.”, stated Kramb. “As part of the registration fee and rentals, the organizers provided vehicles, arranged for housing each night, provided meals (either on the road or at the hotel), fuel from their own tanker,



## Great Motorcycle Tours

Bob Shriner



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The 10th was the longest day's ride of the whole event. Riders rode 445 km/276 miles to Luxor. On cruiser motorcycle, that isn't a big deal, on a scooter, one develops what the medical community describes as "bike butt", a soreness that results from sitting for a long time in one position.

Scooters stopped every 100 km for refueling, with no intervening rest stops. This was also the first day in which riders observed the utter starkness and beauty of the desert. There were very few sand dunes, and lots of vast stretches of openness and no vegetation. Think of Death Valley, except without the colors and vegetation.

Luxor is one of the most famous of Egyptian cities. On the evening of the arrival, riders visited to both the Luxor Temple and the Karnak Temple. The enormity of the decorated columns and walls is most impressive, and Kramb could not adequately describe them except to say "wow".

The 11th was a day of rest, and most of participants took a one hour van trip to the Valley of the Kings. At first glance, the Valley of the Kings, (also known as the Valley of the Gates of the Kings) seems like no more than a sun-blasted gorge of generic red rock, but underneath all of its dust lay the tombs of 63 of the most important pharaohs in the history of Ancient Egypt.

Depending on whose cell phone you wanted to believe, the temperature that day was anywhere between 102 and 108 degrees. Very hot, and it felt good to walk into the hallways that made up a tomb.

On the 12th riders rode 340 km over a pock-marked, pot-holed road to the Red Sea. Probably one of the worst roads most had ever been on. Riders wound up at a sea-side resort, and the water was refreshing. The desert was still stark and devoid of vegetation, but somehow majestic in its vastness.

Riders spent the next three days traveling North along the shores of the Red Sea, stopping each night at a different resort hotel. The shades of blue that come from the water is stunning in its variety and richness. Some rented snorkeling gear, and some just went swimming. On the night of the 15th, the hotel and ride organizers sponsored a Bedouin dinner. Complete with belly dancer. Reflected Kramb: "Yours truly was chosen by her to come on the stage to dance with her. It was great fun."

On the last day of the ride, riders wound up back in Giza, passing by the Great Pyramids of the same name. Riders paraded into our final stop, parked the bikes, and started the endgame process. Riders turned in keys, returned any rented equipment, and had our final farewells. Those of us who were leaving the country within 72 hours got another PCR test.

Kramb became the second oldest person ever to have completed the ride. The oldest was 74 at the time. "It was a great adventure, but I was happy to be back home."





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