

August President's Corner – Our 50th Rally

The 50th Annual rally was held last weekend. I know many of you attended, but I wanted to give you my personal perspective of this important 50th anniversary rally.



The official attendance for both full rally and day-pass was 405. This was considerably larger than any rally in the recent past. It also exceeded our most optimistic expectations. Our many sponsors put up over \$5,000 in awards, gift certificates and prizes.

Dunlop gave a gift certificate for a pair of motorcycle tires. European Motorcycles gave a \$500 gift certificate and a Redverz tent was given away. Thanks to Cycle Gear, Eagle Rider and Weego. We took photos of all the winners and will send them to our sponsors. We had so many people at the rally the dinner lines were very long and the awards had to be held in the grandstands for the first time.

Since March, Diane Pears, Marge Humphrey and I have been working on this important milestone in our rally history. Together, we did the bulk of the rally planning, sponsor contact, rally program and providing three big-time speakers. We advertised, had PR and magazine articles about the 50-year history of the 4 Winds rally. Glenn Kidd researched and wrote about our club's history in MOA ON magazine and in the rally program. Diane successfully followed up with sponsors that we contacted at the MOA National rally and that's a big reason we had over \$5,000 in awards to give away at this rally.

We anticipated an increase from our normal 225 to our most optimistic 400 for the 2016 rally ...and we got it. I believe some of the larger attendance was due to the big-name speakers; Bill Hooykaas, Jack Reipe and Carl Reese. All their presentations were well attended with lots of discussion afterward. We also had a surprisingly large group to watch the movie "World's Fastest Indian" after Bill's talk on Friday night.

On-line pre-registration was a huge help speeding up registration, but plenty of help was still needed at the registration tent. The T-Shirt Monster (Diane) did it again! Many styles, fabrics and colors were pre-ordered. We also had our T-shirt supplier run another "emergency" batch of 100 T-shirts on Friday night ...and sold out all of those on Saturday.

Of course, the rally itself wouldn't be possible without the volunteers that helped during the rally. During the rally, I was running around like a chicken with its head cut off, but I wanted to acknowledge as many volunteers as I can remember: William Crookston with Don Poremski handled field events that were fun and very well attended. It's good to see Field Events again. Mark Loesch had a good turnout of about 17 bikes and many ballots were cast for the People's Choice antique bike show. Holly Marchek and Diane managed the many door prizes in the Carousel building and the grandstands. Jeff Harlich was the official photographer of the winners.



We had 55 riders for the scenic road ride on Saturday. The turnout for the group rides was big. Many came to the rally for the first time. We had over 90 riders in different road and ADV group rides. Many thanks to our group ride leaders; Ed Syphan, Glenn Kidd, Vince Giannetti, Jay Singh, Denny (from Brick House), Tom Furey, Holly Marchek and Scott Nogrady (who also played great

music both nights).

Many thanks to Rick Girt from Rub N Tug BBQ. They had their hands full with 333 dinners for an unexpected large turnout at the Saturday Banquet. Tyler Weaver at Red Bank Park who installed new showers and painted and upgraded the bathrooms. Linda Loesch, for working with the local Boy Scout Troop 403 who did Clean and Tidy, were selling 50/50 and providing wrist band checks at the gate. Joann and John Barr got 26 dozen donuts for the Friday and Saturday morning coffee. Thanks to Leo Stanton and Jeff Harlich for staying on top of the coffee and water pots. Marge handled registration with Paul Luff when we opened early on Thursday and Glenn Kidd, Bob Monheim and Kelly Johns (deer whisperers) worked most of Friday and Saturday. Ron and Jeannette Latkovic helped with T-shirts, as did Leo Stanton and Jack Bramkamp. We had some important go-fers that saved the day: John, Matt and Mary Hetzel and Tim Pears who were in their cars getting supplies and more T-shirts to keep things going. I know I may have missed some people that I didn't come in contact with and I apologize for the oversight. We appreciated EVERYONE who helped at this large event.

To say this rally was a huge success would be an understatement. It significantly exceeded Diane and my expectations and made all the months of hard work worth it. Now, the looming question is: What does our club do for the rally next year ...and for the future?