

Fehlberg Memorial Veterans Ride VFW New London

This summer my older brother from New Hampshire is visiting me with his Harley. Peter, being a veteran has chose to do the Fehlberg Memorial Veterans Ride out of New London. I was planning on go up to Antigo for the State CMA Convention. We where both in our teens when we got into motorcycles and due to the Vietnam conflict and life in general it has been over 40 years since we where able to ride together. So I had a change of heart and together we did the Fehlberg Memorial Ride together.

Saturday was sunny and in the 80s, a perfect day for riding. When the ride started there where about 250 riders who had sign up, but by the end of the ride we where over 300 strong. Andy Brighan was the ride coordinator and took us on scenic back country roads north out of New London, up to Doc's in Bonduel, our first stop. Then we headed south to Sassy's in Center City for our second stop and our final stop was at Antler's in Winchester and then we headed back to New London. I want to thank all the police officers, sheriff officers and the many others who helped make the ride pleasant for us, by blocking traffic so we didn't have to stop at major intersections, have traffic driving among us and had straight ride to the planed stops.

As I go about taking photos of the events I come across many stories and I'm sure I miss many more. Before the ride started I met Laura Pingel and her friends from an all women motorcycle club named Thunder Kiss out of the Appleton area. While at Doc's I came across Dan and Stacy Smith out for a ride on their bike and found out they had just gotten married on May 19, 2012.

As we headed back to New London, I didn't place my camera back into my saddlebags. This time I placed it so I could shoot photos as I drove my bike. This turned out to be quit fun and challenging, as I had to use my right hand to work the camera and control my bike gas throttle, all while driving safely. I was able to get a few shoots of couples as they drove down the road and the line of bike ahead of me. Just before Readfield there was a Veteran in his wheelchair sitting in his driveway thanking all for doing this ride and all the bikers where blowing their horns and waving to him as we went by. At the end of the ride the VFW had a multi- story American Flag hanging from the New London Fire Department Ladder Truck that you could see 1/4 mile away. As I got to the end and closer to the flag, just ahead of me a Vietnam Veteran wearing a POW-MIA shirt saluted the flag as he drove by. All day I didn't have trouble with the wind causing my eyes to water. But, that site and the tough of all the past and present veterans and what they have done for us cause a touch of water to come to my eyes. Funny thing is I never felt the wind get under my glasses!

Thanks again to all the veterans and the New London VFW for having a great ride.



Have a pleasant ride and God Bless.-
Laurence Winnen



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California, Illinois enact motorcycle-only checkpoint laws

PICKERINGTON, Ohio -- California and Illinois are the latest states to take stands against motorcycle-only checkpoints, the American Motorcyclist Association reports.

California's governor signed a bill into law on July 13 to ban motorcycle-only checkpoints, while Illinois' governor recently signed a bill into law that prohibits the use of federal funding for law enforcement to set up motorcycle-only traffic checkpoints.

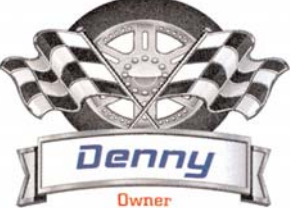
Virginia and North Carolina also recently put laws on the books banning motorcycle-only checkpoints, and New Hampshire prohibits the use of federal dollars for them.

"Officials say they set up these motorcycle-only checkpoints to pull over motorcyclists to check for safety violations," said Wayne Allard, AMA vice president for government relations. "But if officials are really concerned about motorcyclists' safety, then they need to stop discriminating against motorcyclists with these checkpoints and start supporting programs that prevent motorcycle crashes, such as rider safety training and driver awareness programs."

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