

Honor Ride to a Gathering of Nations

Our recent trip to the White Mountains to visit our friend Tush provided us with numerous opportunities for riding and visiting with the local scooter folk. Among those gatherings was a CMA-organized Honor Ride to escort a Native American dignitary, Pastor Dr. Timothy Hinton. He was visiting a 'Gathering of Nations' on Saturday July 11th.

We heard about it on Friday via Tush and Yukon Rick, members of the Mountain Motorcycle Association. Being on a "busman's holiday" so to speak, we had the freedom to go whichever way the road called us. We were rewarded with a beautiful ride, to a magnificent locale within the White Mountain Apache Reservation, and meeting some new Friends of the Wind.

We learned that this was a rather last-minute idea... It was hoped that perhaps 4-5 bikes would participate. But the word went out and by KSU at the Holiday Inn Express in Pinetop-Lakeside there were 15 bikes

lined up and ready to roll. In addition to the CMA {Christian Motorcyclists Association} there were Mountain Motorcycle Association members and independent riders.

Our destination was Diamond Creek Campground, near White River, within the Reservation. The parade of riders was greeted by elders, children, and all ages in between; with waves, smiles, & honking horns.

This was an Honor Ride to pay respect to Dr Hinton. It is our understanding that this gentleman was Pastor of the local Seven Mile Miracle Church for some 34 years; having taken up serving his Lord by preaching in 1959... Yes, that's 56 years of dedication and still going strong. This weekend included a Fellowship Dinner and various Tributes to Honor Pastor Hinton's service to his Community.

We learned that there were people attending this Camp Meeting ~ an Indian Nations Gospel Gathering, from Montana, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Canada, Colorado &

elsewhere. The afternoon was filled with joyous messages, music, fellowship, presentations, & more.

The motorcycles in the parking lot drew the interest and curiosity of the children. Although they were excited, they were also contained, polite, & respectful... There was none of the wound-up hyper-ness that one sees in so many youngsters these days. Riders there were more than happy to answer their questions. Bruce was impressed, going so far as to invite them to sit on our bike. Their response was so enthusiastic! Yet still... no pushing or rudeness, each waiting their turn. We were quite taken with these youngsters. They are a tribute to their Community and to their Upbringing.

This was an impressive gathering, and a wonderful way to spend our day. We felt Blessed to participate in this ride and are very glad that it timed out the way it did so we could be a part of it. Thank you to Spikey, Steve Marzullo, and everyone else for making us feel so welcome.

Bruce & Betsy

