

from the Educator:

I think it is safe to suggest that most of us never lose sight of the reasons that we ride a motorcycle, ride in a group, and especially travel long distances with our friends. But from time to time reliving those feelings through someone else's eyes is refreshing and exciting. A friend of mine began riding just this year and had the opportunity to listen to our small group go on and on about the wonders of long distance traveling on a motorcycle with a bunch of good friends. Finally an opportunity knocked and he took a chance to go to a small rally of "Roadstar" riders. The following excerpt is from his email to me:

"When I got back from my trip to Ashland, I tried to explain to my wife exactly what it meant. It's almost impossible to put into words, but to show up at the farm of a complete stranger and be welcomed like family that they hadn't met yet. And then to share a couple days of great riding, good food, and sitting around the campfire chat..... well, words fail me.

Perhaps in the normal scheme of things, a lot of those people would never have even met, much less had any great regard for each other. But the **simple love of riding** created an atmosphere of mutual respect and openness that allowed complete strangers to bond in a way I have only read about in great literature. I was honored to be invited (being the only Honda rider amongst 20 or so Roadstars) and deeply moved after the whole thing was over.

I know it sounds over-the-top, but all religions speak of treating your fellow man with love and respect and what a profound effect it would have on the world if that were to happen. To actually witness it, even on a small scale, gives you an insight into just how important it is to propagate that within oneself and send it forth everyday."

A Simple Love of Riding, that is what brings us all together. From varied locations, upbringing, vocations, politics, religions and economics, it doesn't matter, all are welcome, as long as they share one ideal, enjoy riding motorcycles. Seems so simple, maybe everyone should ride a motorcycle, hmmm. I seem to recall recently a Xmas card where Santa was riding a motorcycle to deliver those gifts, hmmm. As our friend says above, SEND IT FORTH...