

Best of the West: 1991 Salt Lake City, UT

On March 1, 2 and 3 Tim, Bob Smith and myself from Kootenai District were fortunate to be able to attend the "Best of The West" seminar sponsored by the MRF in Salt Lake City.

I will refer you to Bob's letter in this issue for an excellent outline and summary of the weekend's activities. This brief report will focus on the workshops that I sat in on and a few of the informal meetings that I attended.

The first workshop I attended was "Communication, Forwards and Backwards" (Brian Stovall). Brian discussed different aspects of good communication when speaking to one person, a small or large group and how to present your views or information to have a greater impact on your listeners, eye contact, the intensity (not necessarily the volume) of your voice: all can be used to your advantage when making a point.

The second workshop I attended discussed "Chapter Organizational Techniques" and was also conducted by Brian Stovall. Topics discussed were ways to make meetings more efficient such as an agenda and pre-planning with other officers and committees on what issues need to be discussed. Other items discussed were the importance of getting more folks to lighten the work load for those that are trying to take on too much and will soon burn out and to let members know that their efforts and dedication are appreciated.

The last workshop I attended was the Western States MRO leaders' summit meeting conducted by Pappy Haag. This was a open discussion of ideas and problems facing MRO's today. One issue of concern is the need to invite and include more motorcyclists in our endeavors. Even though they may choose not to become active members we invite and encourage them to join with us in our struggle for freedom by becoming more politically aware and active.

We were also privileged to meet with some folks from ICMS. We learned more about their efforts regarding the motorcycle rider course instructors' classes coming in April. They invited us to join with them in establishing a rider course program here in Idaho. We also talked about the need for our respective organizations to communicate and work together for the benefit of all motorcyclists in this state.

Richard Lester asked to meet with ABATE of Idaho, Inc. and ICMS to invite us to support the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM) as member organizations. Richard briefly highlighted some of benefits of joining the NCOM such as the information data bank, lobbying assistance and loan program all available to member organizations. NCOM has recently gone international (ICOM) to aid bikers worldwide.

In closing I will say I am glad I was able to attend this seminar. I only wished that more Kootenai District members could have joined Tim, Bob and myself for this very informative and worthwhile weekend. I will also join with Bob in encouraging all bikers to join the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF). They do a very superb job on our behalf and very much need all our support.

Ride Safe,

Willie

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