



The
CONCOURIER

Journal of the Concours Owners Group

SPRING 2013
E-Zine Edition

An abridged digital-only version of the club's quarterly magazine. The Concourier is one of many benefits enjoyed by our full members.



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]] **COG NEEDS YOU!** [[

National Opportunities Available:

★Information Technology Manager★

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Contact Executive Director Ken Ford at:
exec-dir@cog-online.org
about these National positions.

KEN'S COMMENTS



BIKE WEEK 2013

I JUST RETURNED FROM BIKE WEEK at Daytona and as usual had a great time. What's not to like - a week on the motorcycle amongst 400,000 of your closest friends. ROK once again had their Hospitality Tent set up next to the Kawasaki Demo Rides. The ROK tent is a place to meet many Coggers from all over North America.

Once again thanks to Jim and Pat Polito for hosting the COG Chilifest at their home. There was a great turn out for some great chili.

2014 NATIONAL RALLY NAME THE LOCATION CONTEST

In a couple of days (it should be there by the time you receive this magazine) we will roll out a new contest. On the home page adjacent to the National Rally info you will find the Name the Location Contest. We will have photos taken from places near the 2014 location. It will cost \$1.00 per entry with half of the proceeds going to the winner and half going to the OTP traveler. This is one way that we intend to support the OTP project. The entries must be mailed to: COG - NTL, 6099 Waterwood Way, Bartow, FL 33830.

We are only accepting mail-in entries since to use COG-MOS would cost us about half of the entry fee. The winner will be drawn at the 2013 National in Idaho Falls. You do not have to be present to win. If there is more than one correct answer, all the correct ones will be placed in a hat and a winner drawn. You can enter as many times as you like - look on it as a contribution to OTP!

OVER THE POND

2014 would not be the normal year for a European OTP traveler to come to our National, but since it is our 25th Anniversary we are asking the OTP crew to make an exception and send someone. There is a possibility that they may skip 2013 and come in 2014 instead. Regardless it would be great to have an overseas visitor for the 25th Anniversary.

In addition to the contest the Board of Directors is considering helping to fund OTP. While a final decision has not been reached yet we are talking about adding an OTP line item to our annual budget. I believe the Board is pretty much in favor of COG supporting this effort. You may know that in the past OTP has not asked COG for monetary support favoring instead to do it themselves. Because of the current economic climate they have decided to ask for our help.

Continues on page 4



Riding Season

Many of you Northerners (Yankees) are just getting your bikes prepared for riding season while us Southerners have had to keep our bikes on the road all winter. But during that time all of your AD's and AAD's were hard at work preparing for the new season as well. All of the COG Areas have planned many opportunities for getting together. We have a full schedule! If you are one of the many COG members that don't attend club events, I invite you to do so this year. You meet many great people at COG events and have a great time doing so.

Ken

Concours Owners Group SILVERDAMMIT TWENTY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL RALLY JUNE 16 - 20, 2014

AS AGREED at the Mt. Snow COG National Town Hall meeting, the dates of National rallies are to be announced 18 months ahead to give members ample time to plan their vacations. Therefore, we are pleased to announce at this time that the *Concours Owners Group Twenty Fifth Anniversary 'Silverdammit' National Rally* will be held **June 16-20, 2014**.

Ken Ford, Executive Director, announced at the 2012 Eureka Springs National Rally that our "Silver Anniversary" rally, to be named, 'Silverdammit' will be a joint collaboration between the Northeast and Southeast Areas. The exact location will be announced at the 'Rocky Mountain Rendezvous', Idaho Falls, COG National Rally banquet on August 29, 2013.

As in several past National Rallies we will be having a contest to see which COG Member can guess this location before it is announced. Each dollar guess will be split evenly between the COG raffle location winner and the Over the Pond (OTP) traveler to assist them in coming to the Silverdammit National Rally. More details about how the contest works will be forthcoming soon.

We look forward to seeing a large turnout at Idaho Falls to enjoy the Rocky Mountain Rendezvous of COG and to hear the plans for COG's 25th Anniversary rally.

Bob Dombrowe,

Chair, 2014 COG National Rally Planning Team



Ride. Live. Write. Submit.

The Concourier is always on the lookout for original articles relating to all things Concours. You don't need to be an Area Director or COG officer to submit articles to the Concourier (but you do need to be a member of COG)... all you need is a Concours or a friend that has one, an adventure or two, a story from a rally, and a word processor. If you have a story ready to go, or an idea for a story, contact the managing editor to discuss your contribution. We also seek pictures to accompany your saga, so keep those cameras handy!

Please Contact: Bill Hilson

editor@cog-online.org or bill@hilsoncreative.com



In For Repairs

HEALING PRAYERS, ENERGY
AND WISHES FOR COG BROTHERS AND SISTERS
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SADDLE REAL SOON, Y'HEAR?

Ken McClurg
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COG CHRONICLES

Bob Dombrowe #1904 Historian of COG



We like long curvy roads

IF YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT RIDING US129 in North Carolina and Tennessee, you will have ridden what motorcyclists call the Dragon. To compress 318 curves into 11 miles requires a concentrated effort on part of the rider and very little distraction to make sure it is a safe and enjoyable ride.

But if you were to take a survey of most Coggers, you would probably find that they lean towards long distance sport touring (with an occasional Dragon thrown in!). COG has a history of covering long distances to get to a destination (or just picking a direction and heading out) while going through some interesting scenery on the way.

In the 1994 Concourier Volume 6, Issue 3, June, there is a Connie about to enter and experience the Arkansas; 'Crooked and Steep Next 37 miles Drive With Care' section of Route 7. This road started about 45 miles distance from last year's Eureka Springs National which I suspect several members rode.



Then in the 1997 Concourier, Volume 9, Issue 5 we see a great, 'Next 140 Miles' curvy road sign on California Hwy 36 which runs across the Northern part of the state and stops at Hwy 101, just south of



Fortuna. Again more than likely Coggers were enjoying the ride.

And while you are contemplating your trip to the Idaho Rocky Mountain Rendezvous National this August,

consider riding the 'Winding Roads Next 99 Miles' which is part of Idaho US12.

For those who have been around the area a bit, the Idaho sign several years ago used to say Next 77 miles. I would like to think that COG had some influence on improving the rideability of this road, but maybe this is just a dream. And don't forget this is only about 300 miles north of Idaho Falls, the location of this year's National, maybe time to include this adventure on your way there or back?

Ride Safe, until next time. 🌀

Bob

History is always in the making!



The COG National Rally August 26–30, 2013—Idaho Falls, ID

Rocky Mountain Rendezvous



THIS IS IT. THE BIG ONE. EL SUPREMO. The big enchilada.

The event of the year. The annual COG National Rally dubbed “*Rocky Mountain Rendezvous*” centered in Idaho Falls, one of the jewels of the great Northwest.

You know you want to be there, and you know we all want you to be there, and there is still plenty of time to make those plans, put in for your sick days coming and get your Connie farkled and fired up for the trip.

I'm delighted to say that the planning for this year's rally is coming along nicely. We have had a great response so far from attendee's and sponsors alike. The rally HQ is now almost fully booked mid-week, and of course there are still plenty of rooms elsewhere in Idaho Falls. We are delighted that **Murph** is once again sponsoring an ice cream social, “*way to go Gary*” and that **ROK, Kawasaki** and **Klim** are all joining Murph as ‘Platinum’ sponsors.

A few folks have raised some concerns over the rally pricing that is higher than last year. As a general rule COG aims to break even on the National Rally, sometimes our expenses are slightly higher than our income sometimes not. This year is no exception, the “discounted” \$70 member pricing covers the banquet meal, the welcome BBQ, a live band (dead ones are so passé), insurance, most of the cost of the T-Shirt, some of the door and other event prizes and a number of other sundry items. We do have a slight budget excess at the moment but we promise to do our best to spend it all. Oh did I mention that we are also covering the cost of flying all the BOD to the event by Concorde*.

Along with the usual events that we typically hold at the National; like the bike show, the welcome party etc. we plan to mix things up a little this year by, weather permitting, we will be holding the banquet outside as a street party, along with a live band. Well it is a ho-down right! In addition **Ted** has arranged specially COG discounted, adrenalin pumping, ass kickin', class 2-3 rafting trip where you will have the opportunity to dunk fellow COG officers in the Snake River.*



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Nancy will be organizing the Pillion Riders breakfast for the ladies though all will of course be welcome. Nancy is still looking for a speaker for the event, if anyone has a suggestion or would like to volunteer please contact her at: treasurer@cog-online.org

On behalf of the NW Rally Team I look forward to seeing you at the falls and meeting up and riding with acquaintances new and old!

Colin Prior #7737

I.T OFFICER

2013 NATIONAL RALLY HOST

**P.S.– Yes, this was written on April 1st.*



RIDE REPORTS

10th Annual “Last Blast Before”

By Larry Buck, COG #3491, SE-AAD

ALTHOUGH THE WEATHER WAS IFFY, THIS ANNUAL EVENT was a great SUCCESS, THANKS TO LOYAL CONCOURS OWNERS AND GUESTS.

My trip from Boca Raton to Titusville was marked by an unexpected tip over at a I-95 rest area. Our group wanted to take a break just North of Fort Pierce where the traffic was stopped due to an auto accident. A weather front was passing through making the winds quite gusty. I had parked my bike in a more upright position than I normally do, but thought it would be O.K. Silly me. Along came a strong gust that toppled the bike to the right side.....hard. The Rifle windshield broke in two pieces, the light mount was tweaked, right mirror broken, fairing trim mangled, peg lowerer bent, peg mount cracked, and the right side case was skinned up pretty good. The next week the Progressive adjuster said my bike was a “classic” while assessing the damage. I held my breath, thinking he would total my 18 year old Connie. After a little wrangling, he produced a check for \$1,200 for the damages. Thank you, sir! Do I need a CDA number for this...?

It was nice to see old friends and new faces at the Dixie Crossroads restaurant. There were some riders that were 1st timers at a COG event, and the C-14 riders were strongly represented too. Everyone took time to welcome the new faces to make them feel welcome.

It seems like yesterday, that about a dozen Concours owners got together 10 years ago in Astor, FL for the *1st Last Blast*. Over the years, The Blast has grown, weather withstanding. Many of those 1st attendees were there today too. It’s not about the great food we have enjoyed, it’s a testament to their loyalty, and the enjoyment they get from the Club. Some of them may have moved on to other makes of motorcycles, but remain members of COG. You all know the reason for that.

I urged those who were not members of the Club to consider joining the Group. In addition to the camaraderie, the Club has a wealth of technical knowledge about the care and feeding of our bikes. **Al Norcross** later told me that we gained some new members from this event.

I also mentioned several upcoming events for our Region, particularly the long running “*Run With the Wolf*” rally in Suches, GA, in April. Also I announced that we would renew our winter ride to the Florida Keys in February. Formerly known as **Paul Heydemann’s** “Escape to the Conch Republic”, I called this one the “*Re-escape to the Florida Keys*”. You’ll find **Jerry Brown’s** excellent write up of the event elsewhere in this issue.

Executive Director, **Ken Ford** gave us an update on COG from the Director’s standpoint, and a pitch for the upcoming National Rally in Idaho.

Our Southeast, Area Director, Al Norcross laid out the Southeast Area’s plans for this year, which due to his hard work, have filled the calendar with events throughout the growing Southeast area.

Some years back I recruited **Jack McVickers** to be my AAD for Alabama. Little did I know he had retirement plans which included a move to Kentucky. Now he is our AAD in that area. It was great to see him. Check the Calendar for Jack’s planned events in his area. Thanks for coming, buddy.

And thanks to all who attended and made the “*Last Blast*” a success. See you next year! ☺

Larry



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★ The forum is just the beginning of the ride! ★

“Join for the bike—stay for the people”



LEAN ANGLES/RICH MIXTURES

Have you seen this bike?



NOW, IT MAY SEEM IMPERTINANT, BUT UNLESS YOU HAVE FORBIDDEN yourself the pleasures (and horrors) of online media, or unless you have been living under a rock for the past two months, you already know quite a bit about this fine machine!

The Concourier is pleased to premiere, for the first time in print, this spectacular Gen. 1.x ZG1400C, owned and lovingly farked by COG's own **Jay Wilcox**, AKA "ZG" (COG # 9735).

Jay's relentless pursuit of detail and perfection has created one of the most striking and well-outfitted Concours you are likely ever to see. Not only has he boldly experimented with just about every imaginable farkle—as long as they were both utilitarian and elegant—he went all-in for this insanely beautiful and Kawasaki-correct Golden Blazed Green livery.

This is truly a one-of-a-kind C14, so you'll know it when you see it. Kawasaki, if you are listening out there, you have just been shown the future of the showroom floor! This should be an option available in every model year. ☺

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The Concourier Magazine is seen by thousands of motorcycling and sport-touring enthusiasts. We are passionate about our bikes, riding apparel and accessories, and we support an active aftermarket to prove it.

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or call (744) COG 8608 to learn more.

Concours Owners Group

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The Concourier Submission Guidelines:

Articles submitted for consideration should be MS Word documents or raw text files. Artwork should be submitted in conventional graphics formats (.jpg, .tif, .eps, .psd, .ai, etc.) in highest-possible resolutions without any manipulation or cropping. **Art or photos placed in MS Word documents can not be accepted.**

Letters to the Editor will be published in The Concourier. Letters should be less than 250 words and must include the writer's name and COG number.

Submissions to the Editor are sent to:

editor@cog-online.org, or in a digital format via snail mail to: Bill Hilson, 39 Snowberry Lane, New Canaan, CT 06840-5226.

If you wish any materials to be returned please include a pre-addressed envelope with suitable postage attached.

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The Concourier submission deadline for the Summer 2013 edition is June 15, 2013.

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COG endorses safe riding, use of proper safety equipment, knowing and respecting your own limits, and respect for all on the road.

GALLERY

Each issue of *The Concourier* features a full-color section highlighting member's events and rides.



CT Meet 'n Greet



From the back of Karl Schenke's head, clockwise: Brian & Andrea Felice, Wayne Geiser, Bruce Jansen & Necia Stevens, Steve Smith, Bill Billig, Mike Aldea, Ralph Grillo, Bob Clancy. Not in the shot: Alex Benoit, and Bill Hilson (on camera).



Whidbey Island, WA



A C-10 and a C-14 ride the ferry from Mukilteo to Clinton on Whidbey Island. The massive torque of the Connies may have contributed to the instability of the local soil structure, possibly one contributing factor in March's noteworthy landslides.



Keys Ride, FL



Jim Culp, SC AAD and COG National Safety Officer



Desert Loop, NV



It's almost always sunny in the southwest! A brief stop in Searchlight, NV while running the Nipton CA loop. L to R Mark Hartman, Mark Owen, Kevin Turner.

We happened upon a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 2nd liquor license issued in Nevada. Marc Owen and Kevin Turner wondering if they should go in for a spell. In Goodsprings, NV.

