

ADVENTURE TOUR

Seventh annual customer appreciation event takes riders through some of Iowa's lesser-known byways



RMS' Larry Smith gives final instructions before riders rumbled out of the Days Inn parking lot in Ottumwa to begin the Adventure Tour.



Winding through the back roads of Iowa, bikers put more than 270 miles on their odometers during the seventh annual RMS Adventure Tour on August 13. This year's route went from Ottumwa to Emmetsburg.



Norris Asphalt President Brady Meldrem and his wife, Julie, hosted the kickoff event at their home in Ottumwa. It was also a celebration of Julie's birthday.



Norris Asphalt President Brady Meldrem addresses the gathering at his home during the kickoff event, before introducing the evening's entertainment — Corey Stevens and his band.



Adventure Tour riders cross a bridge in Coalville.



(L-R) RMS COO David Johnson, Sales Manager — Southern Operations Larry Smith, Toby Shine of Shine Bros and Komatsu's John Arapidis enjoy the first rest stop near Lake Red Rock.

Riders enjoyed beautiful scenery on the back roads of Iowa.





Riders make their way to the first rest stop near Lake Red Rock.



Ryan Michaelsen (left) and Joe Hewitt with R.M. Construction are ready for the ride.

More than 70 riders made the annual trip, which began at 8 a.m. from the parking lot of the Days Inn in Ottumwa and ended at the Wild Rose Casino & Resort about eight hours later. The route included several curvy and hilly roads that took bikers through scenic countryside and quiet, rural towns.

“Central Iowa offers some great roads that many people do not even know exist,” said event organizer Larry Smith, RMS Sales Manager for Iowa and Illinois. “I believe it was great fun for riders and passengers alike. I know it was for me.”

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Curves and hills were abundant on the route from Ottumwa to Emmetsburg.



John and Becky Pemble, with Pemble Digging & Drainage, arrive for the kickoff party.



Darin Fratzke (left) from Shine Bros. and Kevin Kopsas from TJN Enterprises talk during the kickoff event.



Two gas stops were part of the ride and were sponsored by RMS and several of the manufacturers it represents.

This group rode from western Iowa to arrive in Ottumwa for the event. (L-R) Dan Ronfield and Kevin Heck from Soil Solutions joined Mike Jerke of Quad County Corn Processors and RMS Territory Manager Bill Frueh.



Kevin Welch and Lori Trappe prepare for the start.



Jim and Jodie Jensen from J. Petticord pose before the ride for a photo with their bike.



Jared and Pam Chambers of Chambers Limited show off their bike.



Jeff Petticord and Lisa Koeneman display their motorcycles before the Adventure Tour.

Adventure Tour riders enjoy annual event

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After nearly eight hours, bikers pulled into the final destination, the Wild Rose Casino & Resort in Emmetsburg.

Riders also had fun before and after the ride. A kickoff event at the home of Norris Asphalt President Brady Meldrem and his wife, Julie, also honored Julie's 50th birthday. The event was held on the 12th and featured a live band and catered dinner. Following the ride the next day, attendees enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in a Wild Rose banquet room.

Along the route, bikers had two rest stops — one near Lake Red Rock at Pella and one at Dolliver State Park near Otho — and had lunch at Ledges State Park close to Boone. Two gas stops were part of the ride as well.

"Our customers gave us almost two days of their time and we're very grateful to each and every one of them," said Smith. "The relationships forged on the ride are some of the best we could hope for. Everyone rode safely, and the ride was beautiful."

RMS and Komatsu America sponsored the ride, while gas stops were sponsored by the Astec Companies, KPI/JCI and RMS. ■

RMS provides Komatsu equipment for LICA Field Days



Delane Wolter,
Territory Manager

Road Machinery & Supplies helped in Iowa Land Improvement Contractors Association (LICA) efforts to continue building the organization's show farm by donating two Komatsu machines for use at LICA Field Days. RMS provided a PC200LC-8 excavator and a D51PX-22 dozer.

"This is a chance for us to help out an organization that does a lot of good for Iowa's

landscape," said RMS Territory Manager Delane Wolter, who helped organize the company's involvement. "Many of our customers are LICA members, so it makes sense for us to be involved. We want to thank LICA for allowing us to be a part of Field Days."

The event, held on LICA's 80-acre farm near Melbourne, offered attendees a chance to help out with site-improvement work by operating donated machinery, such as the Komatsu equipment RMS provided. RMS personnel, as well as representatives from Komatsu were on hand to talk with attendees.

"LICA Field Days is also a chance for those in attendance to compare machinery brands," noted Wolter. "There aren't many events like this where someone can jump on a machine and run it. It offers many benefits, both to those attending and for us. We're proud to participate in the event, which this year also featured the national LICA meeting." ■

LICA Field Days attendees could operate equipment, including this Komatsu D51PX-22 dozer and PC200LC-8 excavator, provided by RMS.

