

DVNR Christmas Party – Dec. 15, 2018

The date had been chosen months in advance and finally it was time for the annual DVNR Christmas Party hosted by Frank and Shelly Mohr in Blue Bell PA. The weather forecast predicted mild temperatures with light rain in the afternoon followed by heavy rain at night. No snow or freezing temperatures – Good. Charlotte and I arrived a few minutes after 5 to join many others who were already partying.

Frank and Shelly had their home beautifully decorated for Christmas and when you walked in the door you could smell the aroma of ham and roast beef that Frank had very carefully prepared (Frank is more than a little proud of his Chef talents). The meats were just coming out of the oven. Club members were arriving with their contributions to the meal. Some bringing appetizers, side dishes and/or desserts. Shelly was setting up the contributed appetizers in attractive arrangements in several locations. Adult beverages were waiting on lots of ice and were moving fast.

As our members continued to arrive the number of attendees grew to 47. A very friendly crowd and conversation groups formed in every room. The Christmas warmth and cheer filled the Mohr home. Frank began carving the meats and called for everyone to fill their plates. Plenty to eat with a large variety of side dishes. Party attendees found seats in any one of several rooms of the first floor.

As our members began to finish their meal, President George was anxious to get the Chinese Auction (politically correct “gift exchange”) started. Persons who brought a gift were asked to pull a number from a box that Pres George guarded carefully. The living room became filled with participants. The exchange began and it was good that George got things going because almost every gift went through several steals (transfers). Finally the last gift, obviously a bottle of wine from the shape of the package, was taken and not stolen. The auction ended.

Tony Morgano addressed the members saying that this would probably be his last DVNR Christmas Party because he expected to be living in Florida by mid Summer of 2019. Tony passed out small bundles of cotton work gloves to everyone in attendance as a goodbye present.



Next on the agenda was the presentation of the Pete Gallo Long Distance Award. Pat Daloisio President emeritus introduced the presentation by explaining the origin of the award and by telling the story of Pete Gallo and his Norton enthusiasm and many very long rides (ie twice to Alaska) on his Commando. Those who knew Pete will never forget him.

The number of entries for 2018 were scant because of the very low turnout at the April “Gathering”. A motion had been made and approved at the May meeting to use the 2017 ending mileage as the 2018 starting mileage. There were only 11 entries in the annual contest. Only 7 riders turned in mileage for the year end.

Shelly Mohr and daughter Megan display the Long Distance Award before presentation.



[Dave Glover reviews his notes and reports on the 2018 Norton mileage.

The results of the competition were as follows:

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| Third Place | Dave Glover |
| Second Place | Pat Daloisio |
| First Place | Brian Safer with 2869 miles on his MKIIa Interstate |

I would report more on the accumulated mileage but the numbers are a bit embarrassing. Perhaps we can blame it on the very wet riding season. The rain hasn't stopped as I write this story. Or, could it be that as we all age the allure of push button start and the reliability provided by modern motorcycles gives us a greater sense of security. It was just today that Frank Mohr himself raved about how easy his Norton started with the electric start as he went for his 2019 New Year Day ride.

Pat asked Brian about some of his trips to acquire 2869 miles. Brian began a story about his experience while on a group ride to Vermont. We started out in pouring rain. I was ready to turn around and go home when we started on Saturday morning. We rode two days most of which was in rain to get to our destination. Brian stated that on the second day he was within 20 miles of the motel when his ignition failed, just stopped dead. A short van ride got him to the motel where the group analyzed the problem the next morning. Once the problem was discovered Brian had a new ignition module overnighted to the motel. The Norton was back in action shortly after noon the next day. Brian pointed out that his "old" bike wasn't the only problem. Don Rank had a tire failure on his relatively new Triumph and Dave Varney needed to replace his battery while in the rain because of a voltage regulator failure. This was Brian's second time as a Pete Gallo award winner. I heard his wife say under her breath, I wonder where he thinks he will put that!



Brian Safer with Pete Gallo award. Brian tells of some of the tribulations of his mileage accumulation.

Following the award presentation people began to say good-bye and the partygoers became fewer. By 11PM it was the hearty party group and Frank began to bring out his private stock. It was 11:30 when I left and there were still several members chatting in the kitchen. From my perspective "A Good Time Was Had By All".

Our January meeting is scheduled to be held on January 20 at the home of Bob and Tari Norum in Langhorn PA. At this time there is no critical business to discuss but it's not too early to present an idea for a club activity during the summer riding season. Find out what our members are doing in 2019.

I will have membership forms available for 2019 and dues (still \$15) will be accepted at the meeting. For those who were at the past three years of officer elections you may recall that I would only accepted the Treasurer Office if members continue to cooperate and fill in the paper membership form each year. It may seem unnecessary but it helps to keep my records up to date. New membership forms are also available at the DVNR website (DVNR.org). Persons who did not pay dues during 2018 will no longer receive our club notices and mail.

Respectfully Submitted
Dan Sellers
DVNR Treasurer/Membership Secretary