

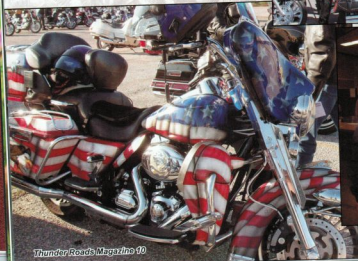
5 STATE RUN

Article and Pics By Chip Ross

This year's 5 state run started for me on Friday morning, shortly after I awoke and walked to my front door and look out the window at my American Flag flying in my front yard. Wow, no wind was the thought that went through my mind as I walked back to my easy chair where I start every day of my life. Then guess what happened, about 5 minutes and 3 sips of my coffee later the wind was blowing 25 or 30 mph. Oh well I've rode in the wind before looks like I will ride in it again. Let's pack the bike, suitcase, check, rain suit, check, my favorite cd, check, full tank of gas, check, riding buddy ready to go, well, 4 out of 5 isn't bad.

Getting to Guymon was the easy part, the ride was good and some of the road was freshly paved, except for a spot or two along the way we stopped for the road construction. A quick and leisurely ride around town let me know that the bikers had hit Guymon.

Saturday morning was cool and not a cloud in the sky, just right for getting the riding tan that we all need this time of year after the coolness goes out of the air. With 475 pre-registered ready to go bikers and another 300 registering Friday night and another 136 paying extra cash to "pay today to play" and ride with the rest of us. That brings the total bikes to 911 and 1260 total riders. The youngest rider in the group was 9 years old and dressed the part to a tee with her chaps on as she was awarded her plaque. A rider rode in from Florida putting knees in the breeze for over 1600 miles to make 300 mile 5 state ride. Next the oldest rider, now here is a story in itself, riding his "Ole Evo" was an 84 year old cancer survivor; he touched the heart of every



person in the building when he told his throat plugging story Ya' see his story was 7 years ago he had throat cancer and his throat is surgically sewn shut. No food or drink passes through his mouth, he has to get nourishment through a feeding tube. He spoke from his heart to ours as we listened to his story of choosing to survive and ride to the end.

The real story this year is the people, the guy from Houston TX. That called me stupid or one tough MF because I was wearing my everyday attire, shorts. The guy we stopped to help on the side of the road because his shifter stripped out and his "buddies" rode on without him. We had him fixed and going again by the time his buddies found him. What about the couples that I talked to at the punch stops while resting our saddle sore backsides? All with a story to tell and all they need is someone to ask and listen. Then there was Ron Sipes from Midwest City who is retired and has been riding since he was 6 years old, or Holly that was working at the "coops" table and fixing the minor mistakes made during the rush of registration. Another people story is the 11 member Iron Thunder Motorcycle Club and 30 volunteers that put on this poker run and help their community with over \$26,000 last year. Other people that deserve mention are the 3 winners of the poker run, 3rd place winner Sharon Davis with a full house of 6's and 2's. 2nd place winner David Jordan, full house 2's and jacks. Mr. Erin Nelson with five 5's took home the grand prize. But now here's the Best of Show prize that not many know about until now, after all was said and done and most sun burned, raccoon eyed bikers headed out and on their way, a situation came up with a possible hand that was better than 3rd place, after careful investigation by the iron Thunder Club it was apparent a mistake had been made. An executive decision was made and a second 3rd place prize money was paid out to Mark Tillman who had a full house of 3's over Queens. Now think about this for just a minute, if a club that helps the community like this one does, can right a wrong that happened like it did, will surely have our support next year at their 10th anniversary poker run on May 12 2012. So make your plans now to attend this award winning poker run next year.

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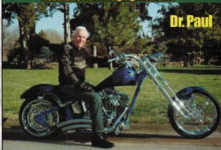
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