

MERA's Unfinished Business Rally

WE'RE BACK!

MERA started staging events in 1992, when the first UTAH 1088 was held. And for the next 24 years, we staged at least one event every year until 2015. When I started the UTAH 1088 in 1992, all I hoped to accomplish was to get through that one rally. I had no idea that the 1088 would become one of the best-known, and often copied events in the country. What we wanted to do was stage an event where riders could have some fun, and meet other riders that shared the same desire to ride distances while on the clock.

Our initial tenet was to offer an event that had minimal restrictions, and opened up a world that many riders had only read about in motorcycle magazines. We wanted to stage a rally that encouraged camaraderie, fun, and yet was also competitive. Those same principals are still our primary objective today as we turn the pages to a new chapter in our rally book. We hope that you will decide to join us in this new chapter of an event that promises to offer serious challenges, and more fun than you can have with your clothes on while riding a motorcycle.

We are going to offer three different rallies for your riding pleasure. There will be a 12 hour. . .a 24 hour. . .and a 3 day rally from which you can choose to spend part of your vacation days.

While each rally will be scored independently, the 3 Day riders will also be able to compete in both the 12 hour and the 24 hour rally. Each rally will have it's own unique set of bonus destinations, and the 3 Day riders will get all three sets in their paperwork. At this point in time, only the 3 Day riders will be allowed to start from their home address on August 2, 2018. I'm trying to finalize the necessary steps to allow the 24 Hour riders to do the same thing, but I'm not sure that it will happen. All 12 Hour riders will need to start from rally headquarters in SLC. The 24 hour rally will start Saturday August 4, 2018 with check in on Friday August 3, 2018. The 12 hour rally will also start Saturday August 4, 2018, and check in will be on Friday August 4, 2018. The 3 Day, and

24 Hour events will finish at rally headquarters on Sunday August 5, 2018. The 12 Hour event will finish Saturday evening August 4, 2018 at rally headquarters.

Registration will officially open October 10th, 2017, and will remain open until the field of 25 riders for each event is filled. At that time, we will start a stand-by list for riders that are waiting to enter the rally. Riders on this list will be called if and when riders who are already entered in the rally are forced to withdraw for one reason or another. We are limiting the respective rallies to 25 riders to further enhance the camaraderie that MERA events have developed over the years.

I am still in negotiation with the hotel, but we are trying to get a pre rally informal get together at rally headquarters. But much of the timing will depend on how many 3 Day riders start from home. If they aren't in SLC prior to the start, then the meet and greet will probably happen on Thursday evening the 2nd. If they are in SLC, then there will probably be two separate met and greets.

Entry fees for 2018 will be \$375.00 for the three day rally. . . \$275.00 for the 24 hour rally. . . and \$175.00 for the 12 hour rally. Couples will add \$75.00 to the above listed fees. MERA members will still deduct 10% from your entry fee. Your entry fee will get you fed on Sunday after the rally finishes. . . all the beverages you might want in the bar after the banquet. . . a great shirt. . . and a fair amount of SWAG.

MERA will continue to follow our original ideal of introducing riders to this sport by offering a mentoring program for the novice riders entering their first organized rally. If you as a veteran, entice or coerce a friend, family member, or even a former in-law to enter any of the three events, and at the time of your initial sign up you let us know that this person will be entering the rally, we will give you a \$25.00 credit off that entry for you to mentor this person and help them prepare for their first rally experience.

MERA mileage certificates will be given to each rider that completes their respective rally.

All riders in each of the events will be strongly encouraged to use Spot units for your safety and the rally master's peace of mind, but they will be required for the 3 day event. If you presently do not use SPOT, you should give it serious consideration. For those of you that are new to MERA events, when we say strongly encouraged we mean we will be offering big points for you to do so. . . large enough points that you could not win the rally if you didn't have SPOT.

The 2018 rallies will offer mileages of 3,000 plus for the three day event, but if you're real good at routing you might be able to cut that down by 300-400 miles. . . approximately 1,100 miles for the 24 hour rally. . . and approximately 540 miles for the 12 hour event.

We will of course allow riders to use digital camera, but riders can still use Polaroid cameras if they prefer for bonus verification. GPS units, and auxiliary fuel cells are allowed, but not required.

MERA rally check in was always known to be about as painless as possible, and we see no reason to change that at this point of the game.

Finisher's awards will be given to all riders that finish the rallies in the allotted time, and travel at least the minimum main route distances of the respective event. Position plaques will be awarded to the top 3 finishers in each of the rallies in both single rider and couple category.

Rider packs will be mailed out on or before February 1, 2018, and will contain the complete schedule of the rally, a brief overview of the rally, complete rules, and all hotel information. Rally headquarters will once again be the **TO BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE**. These folks have taken excellent care of the riders over the years, and I think they look forward to the rallies as much as we do.

The refund deadline is February 1, 2018, and all refunds will be charged a \$75.00 handling/aggravation fee.

MERA events have always been an event for both veterans rally riders, and novice's alike. It doesn't matter what you ride. . .where you ride. . .or how long you've been riding. If you've heard about prior MERA events, but didn't get the opportunity to experience once before our hiatus, well now is your chance to experience what you've heard. Veterans of prior MERA events will once again have the chance to further expand your riding envelope about as far you would like. Veteran MERA rider, or first timer, this event will challenge you from the starting line to the finish line. But it will also offer you one of the most memorable and rewarding experiences that you've ever had on a motorcycle. We give you the opportunity to ride some of the best roads and experience some of the most beautiful scenery this country has to offer. And the camaraderie that you will experience at this event is like nothing you will experience in any other rally. So if you go home without having fun, well, it's your own damn fault.

We have quite a history here at the MERA, and we hope that you'll decide to join us for our new chapter in rally experiences..

If you have any questions, I can be reached most any time at 801-631-3810, or by email at stevechalmers@comcast.net.

We hope to see you next August, and until then. . .Ride Safe. . .Ride Often. . .and like it says on our sticker. . .No BS, Just Ride!

2018 MERA
REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE DAYS _____

EVENINGS _____

Email
ADDRESS _____

AGE _____ SHIRT SIZE _____

M.E.R.A MEMBER YES _____ NO _____

BRAND OF
MOTORCYCLE _____

RALLY EXPERIENCE

SIGNATURE _____

By signing this non-transferable entry, you acknowledge that you possess the skill to ride a motorcycle endurance event for a period of at least 24 hours.

12 HOUR RALLY _____ 24 HOUR RALLY _____ 3 DAY RALLY _____

Make checks payable to Steve Chalmers and mail to:

**Steve Chalmers
6623 W. Feulner Drive
Salt Lake City, UT
84128**