

The 7th Annual Riding Into History

By Tom Rose, photos by Diana Rose

It's Saturday morning May 20th 2006 in North East Florida and thousands of motorcycling enthusiasts await the green flag starting one of Florida's great motor sports experiences. The 7th annual **Riding Into History** begins at 10 am.

The Ride: One hundred and fifty riders have assembled in Daytona & Jacksonville for a unique dual location start for a 50 to 80 mile ride to the ancient city of St. Augustine for the **Concours d'Elegance** where some 300 motorcycles are displayed on the manicured park like grounds of The World Golf Village. Hundreds more are making their way directly to the show which rivals any cycle show in the world.

I am riding with the Jacksonville group which is the larger of the two. I arrived early at ride headquarters, Jacksonville Powersports, allowing time to visit with riders and check out the bikes before the 10 am start. There are hundred and twenty riders at this location and an estimated 30 will ride from Daytona.

Motorcyclists are great people and come out strong when they have the chance to have some motor sports fun for the benefit

of a good cause. Juan Santiago from Fajardo, Puerto Rico is excited to be here on his Suzuki GXR 600. Juan now lives in Jacksonville and has been riding for 6 months.

Michael Oakes from Fernandina Beach, FL brought his 2003 Bonneville T100. He is a fan of the older British bikes but finds the new Triumph so much easier to maintain and he really enjoys the electric starter.

Beckie & Rick Adcox of Jacksonville are smooth and cool with their '03 Goldwing.

Tom King brought his Yamaha Royal Star from Avondale. He has 40 years of riding experience beginning with a BSA 441 Victor. He hopes he'll see one at today's show.

Promptly at 10 AM we're waved off the starting grid with a full escort provided by Jacksonville's finest, The Jacksonville Police Motorcycle Corps and their Harley-Davidson Road Kings. We get the full presidential type treatment; they lead us through all lights, stop signs and intersections without stopping, lights flashing, sirens wailing, all the way to St. Augustine and World Golf Village.



Don Bradley, nationally recognized artist of this year's poster is riding his trophy winning '52 Vincent Black Shadow to breakfast. His passenger is his daughter, Roni Naas.

The Concours d'Elegance: As RIDE participants we have reserved parking near the entrance to the Concours d'Elegance. Vendor's tents are concentrated at the main entrance and the show bikes displayed along the walkway that encircles the lake.

A leisurely walk along the lakeshore gives us the chance for close up examination and photographs of the bikes. The owners, restorers, builders and riders are with their bikes and more than willing to tell you about their bikes and themselves.

Don Bradley of West Palm Beach shows me his 1952 Vincent Black Shadow. Don has owned the motorcycle since the 80s and just completed the restoration this year. Don is a nationally recognized artist. He has provided the art for the Ride Into History posters and T-Shirts for several years. His daughter, Roni, is here and plans to ride to breakfast on the Black Shadow with her dad Sunday morning.

Rosalie Myer's has her 2002 custom BMW side car rig in the show and she also plans to be

in the Historic Ride to Breakfast tomorrow. Rosalie is 95 years old, a nuclear physicist, and a retired college professor from Tallahassee.



Gordon Hoppe from Jacksonville is prepared to Ride Into History on his '82 Honda CB 900 Custom

7th ANNUAL RIDING INTO HISTORY



7th Annual Riding Into History - by Don Bradley - In the metaphoric painting, the Japanese Ninja rider of a classic 1967 Honda RC 174 race bike takes her sword in hand to challenge the dragon- breast cancer



The author visits with Michael Oakes of Fernandina Beach, FL on Saturday morning prior to the start of the ride. Michael is riding a 2003 Triumph Bonneville T100



BSA girl Laura Allen of Titusville, FL is proud to display her '67 Thunderbolt 650 and happy to tell you that it is her daily rider. "I rode 250 miles yesterday"

Laura Allen is from Titusville, FL. Laura tells me, "I am a BSA girl. I saw one when I was 5 years old and wanted one ever since. Last year I found this 1967 A65 Thunderbolt 650cc Twin, so I bought it. I work on it myself and ride it every day."

Viewing the display bikes in the Concours d'Elegance is about as good as it gets. There are plenty of benches and shade trees for a rest stop, and several restaurants for hamburgers, hot dogs, cold drinks or a full lunch.

All of this goes on until 4 pm when the show comes to an end. This allows everyone time to rest up for part 3, The Bikers Ball.

The Bikers Ball begins at 6:30 PM in the grand ballroom of the Renaissance Hotel. This year's theme is Japanese so the restaurant is decorated like a Japanese garden with some bikes from the show displayed throughout. The evening's entertainment includes an Asian dinner, dancing to a live band, a silent auction and door prizes. The festivities are hosted by Peter Egan of Cycle World and local TV news personality Jeannie Blaylock.

Buddy Check 12 was founded over 12 years ago designed to promote monthly breast self-examinations and to educate women on the importance of early detection. To date over 560,000 women have received information and 150 local women have credited the program with saving their lives. As a result of this year's event the

Atlantic Beach Vintage Motorcycle Club and The BMW Club of North Florida will present over \$30,000 to the charity.

First Annual Historic Vintage Ride:

It is great to collect, build, restore and show motorcycles. But, when it comes down to the bottom line, motorcycles are made to be ridden. Riding into History organizers have recognized this and added this Sunday morning breakfast ride from World Golf Village into the heart of St. Augustine. The ride is scheduled for 9 AM and the bikes begin to roll in about

8:30. Here is another opportunity to visit with the owners and photograph the bikes. Wall & Sue Brown ride in from Fruit Cove, FL on their '79 Yamaha XS Eleven. They are active in the Atlantic Beach Vintage Motorcycle Club and have worked in various capacities to



Jacksonville's finest will lead the way into History on Harley-Davidson Police Special Road Kings.

make the event a success. Alan Berras an Englishman now living in Port Charlotte has won best in class with his 1932 Triumph CD 500 Single. This morning he's put the trophy away and put his 74 year old Triumph on the road. Don Bradley & daughter Rori are riding the '52 Vincent Black Shadow. In the 50s the Black Shadow was known as the fastest production motorcycle in the world. Ninety five year old nuclear physicist Rosalie Myers is here as well, with her BMW. Some 25 bikes in all are waved off into the Florida countryside at 9 AM, headed for The Ancient City. They are, indeed, Riding into History!

Mark your calendar for next year's 8th Annual Riding into History, May 19, 2007
<http://www.ridingintohistory.org>



Arless Turner and Kathy Siller proudly show off their BSAs. Arless has a '67 Spitfire and Kathy a '71 Rocket II modified with electric start.



1971 BSA 441 Victor. This was a very popular off road bike in the 60s and 70s.