

Illinois Rally

The weekend before Memorial Day Weekend proved to be an excellent time for the Illinois Vmax Rally at Ottawa, Illinois. We had about 16 Vmaxes roll in that Friday night either by trailer or ridden. Members showed up from Illinois, Michigan, Indiana,

Iowa, and Wisconsin. We assembled Friday evening for a Dinner ride out near the Starved Rock State Park. The dinner ride proved to be somewhat exciting with the inclusion of a local deer. While leading the group in a somewhat "spirited" ride, an insistent deer ran out to greet the Vmaxes.

The deer ran right up next to my bike, gave me an affectionate kick in the left calf, and jumped vertically over me and my bike. Brian Nash and Chuck Garthaus were just behind

me and testified that all hooves and behind were clearing my bike and helmet as I was literally riding under the airborne deer. I felt like the "hand of God" must have pulled Rudolph over me and the bike.

Saturday provide excellent weather and we left shortly after noon for Peoria, Illinois. After putting in well over an hour of riding, the group of 18 bikes,

about 16 Vmaxes, were more than ready for the gas and bathroom stop in Peoria. We then rode on down to the river and enjoyed lunch at the riverside Hooters. The arrival and parking of all the Vmaxes gained a lot of attention that afternoon as Hooters was hosting a car show. The locals were quite intrigued by our bikes. The ride back from Peoria to Ottawa was shortened, just a bit, due to threatening skies and a quick detour via the interstate. Saturday evening was spent like many Vmax rallies with bike cleanups and parking lot chatter.

Sunday morning we made the abbreviated breakfast ride through Starved Rock State Park as much of the park roads were still closed for construction. The only casualty of the weekend was Saturday morning after breakfast. During the ride to

a neighboring towns Yamaha dealer, Chuck Garthaus experienced a rear flat tire. The tire had a serious gash and needed replacing. One of the other riders offered Chuck the use of his second Vmax, Sooo... Chuck's bike was trailered back to the motel and a second Vmax was unloaded for Chuck to make the Saturday ride.

I look forward to the rest of the riding season and upcoming rallies.

Ride Safe
Rick Rash #1283



P.S.

While returning home from an enjoyable and safe Ottawa Illinois Vmax Rally my wife called to tell me that my son had wrecked his 1997 Vmax and was presently in the hospital. There was not anything life threatening, but he had sustained some serious injuries. Apparently he was lane hopping and jumped one lane too many and could not stop or avoid a stopped car just ahead of him. He locked the brakes up, was thrown off the bike, bike slammed into the car ahead and he went sliding down the road. Unfortunately he was not wearing any protective gear at all. No helmet, jacket, gloves, or riding pants. The end result was much road rash from front to back and hand to toe, broken knee cap. Surgery has been done with screws and a plate in the knee and bandages front to back. Fortunately he sustained no head damage. We had found his Vmax two years ago in a garage with only 975 miles on it. After a new gas tank and carbs rebuild, he had a new 1997 Vmax. Now, the bike is totalled and little remains to be salvaged.

A lesson for all...

Ride Responsibly and wear your protective gear!
Lets Be Careful Out there!
Rick Rash #1283

