

Riding Escort For The "Wall" & Other Stuff!

I got the call sometime in Feb from Roger Gordon in Lima, Ohio he wanted to try to get some Ohio MAXERS together to do the Vietnam Wall support run, (they wanted to "TRY" to get 500 bikes to help escort the moving wall). I had served 10 years in the U.S. Army and did a tour in Panama. Deployed out of Ft. Benning GA. and reunited with my old infantry unit out of Ft. Riley KS. 5/16th. I saw combat in Iraq, in the gulf war for over 11 months, I told him he could count on me, that I did not care if it was rain or shine I would be there... (once a soldier, always a soldier...)



I went to South Carolina to be a part of my God daughters wedding, what a beautiful wedding, Jessie & Lane Eugene and to go to bike week in Myrtle Beach, SC., (not a bad event if you're into the HD thing), the riding up the coast to Myrtle Beach was the funniest as it

put every custom built HD to the test of road worthiness!

On the ride back home I hit Ohio's last blizzard of the season, (24 April). I had made arrangements with Roger and he went down and got hotel information and he scouted out the area... well I booked a room at the Motel 6 and the Next Wednesday I was off... I waited for some ladies from Women On Wheels, but due to the fact that it was a weekday ride they couldn't make it... So at 6 pm I was off... I arrived around 8:30 pm, at Motel 6, checked in and found several message from Roger's buddy, wanting to meet up with me. Roger was still at Jon's shop in Cleveland working on his 95 V-Max.

After dinner, with Roger's buddy, I hit the bed.. I had offered Rick from Cincinnati the other bed if he wanted it. He would be leaving work at midnight and driving in to make the wall ride with Roger & I. He arrived at 2:30am, or so, and we looked over each other's bike in the parking lot. Wow what a metallic paint job he has.... The next morning we went to the "Waffle House" for breakfast and Roger joined us. Rogers said that Shelly, was coming in from Columbus with several of her fellow V-Max friends...

We all meet out at the local truck stop. By this time bikers already filled 2 truck stops. The weather was in the high 70's low 80's and there were over 6000 motorcycles es-

corting the "Wall" they just kept coming! I-75 was at a stand still, we finally meet up with Shelly & her gang and headed back to Roger's house...

We parked out of the sun, and all talked about the different mod's we had all done to our bikes, from Rick's R-1 conversion, my forward controls, George's 2005 Max, very awesome paint! After about an hour or so we headed out , and went & waited with the other bikers, they have now filled the 3rd truck stop completely full...the radio say's over 10,000 bikers...

We finally head out, it is all police escort so we went up I-75, 2x2... The local news was there rolling tape, at every overpass the American flag & POW/MIA flag are flying proudly, people were lined up the over the complete stretch, (about 30 something miles), waving their flags and waving at everyone who was riding... I mean these people where in fields, in the back of pick up trucks, cars lined the roads that followed interstate I-75... , I heard that the bikes stretched out over 27 miles of I-75, it was an awesome ride. We wound up at a local Harley shop, there was food 7 drink for everyone, and after spending about 1-1.5 hours I headed out. I can tell you it was THE BEST ride I have ever been on. As I was headed home on Rt.30 east just coming into Mansfield, Ohio another couple was just getting on and heading the same way. They were riding an 05 Max. They pulled up along side of me, we gave each other a thumbs up sign and at the next exit they got off.... still no idea who they were???? a VMOA member maybe??

It was great riding with Shelly, Wendy, Eddie & George and meeting Chris, and to meet and be able to talk to Roger & Rick...

By the way Rick thank you for the awesome deal on the trailer, it performed flawless going down to Summerville, South Carolina, and as I am writing this, I am about to head out to Fairfax, Virginia on July 5th to go pick up my buddy Jason's new (to him) '94 yellow V-Max, (see sending out that free issue of V-Boost helped..).

I cant wait to hit Norwalk Raceway Park (www.norwalkracewaypark.com or www.norwalkraceway.com) for the AMA

PROSTAR drag races 15-17 July (www.amaprostar.com), I will be racing the V-max there, not to mention the grudge match that I had been challenged to! It is time to let the track decide what talk is worth.

I cant wait to meet all the fellow V-Maxers at the Mid Ohio races this year, (made it last year, but never found any of the VMOA members), my back was still trashed from the old couple hitting me on Feb. 29 '04.

I am looking forward to getting Jason accustomed to his new V-Max and V-boost so I know we will be adding some miles over the next couple weeks.... he has already told me he has off for 2 weeks! The dark side is growing stronger in him every day! He is acting like a child waiting for Christmas morning... He is already asking about several mods...

I would like to thank Roger & his wife for all their hospitality, it was great seeing all my fellow V-Max Brothers & Sisters.... I know that we will be headed down to see Shelly And her friends in Columbus sometime soon. I looking forward to see-



ing Eddie, Wendy, George, and Chris...

We had 7 V-Maxers that came to my house for the VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL RIDE!! From left to right are as follows; Wendy A. Ball (the very nice wife of Eddie), George L. Burgett Jr. VMOA #3942, Chris J. Johnston VMOA #3464, Rick A. Fambry VMOA #3622, Roger A. Gordon VMOA #3823 in background standing, Michelle Harris (shel-shok) VMOA #3729, Gary L. Hanes (all outracing) VMOA #3436, and Eddie Dean Ball VMOA #310. There were a total of registered 8,200 riders with a suspected 10,000 showing up.... WOW What a ride..

I recently found my buddy, Jason in Virginia, a real nice V-Max, it is a 1994, stock with 8200 miles and in mint condition. ...Another one is converted to the "DARK SIDE"...LOL

Gary Hanes #3436

PS. Jason called me tonight seems after I let his neighbor take my V-Max around the block there is a Honda Shadow up for sale & now he is looking for a V-Max also....

