



SCMA NEWSLETTER

Founded 1968

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| Vice Chairman | Rodney Chew | vicechair@sc-ma.com |
| Secretary | Charlie Lamb | secretary@sc-ma.com |
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| Member Service Director | Doug Wilson | membership@sc-ma.com |
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| | | |
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| Chair, Three Flags Classic | Mark Burdick | 3flags@sc-ma.com |
| Chair, USA Four Corners Tour | Rodney Chew | usa4c@sc-ma.com |
| Chair, CA Adventures Series | Les Gullery | adventures@sc-ma.com |
| Chair, Best 15 US Roads Challenge | Rodney Chew | best15@sc-ma.com |
| Chair, GLCTT | Mark Burdick | cabottrail@sc-ma.com |
| Chair, Mother Road Adventure | Todd Hammer | motherroadadv@sc-ma.com |
| Marketing/Communications Director | Karen Butterfield | marketing@sc-ma.com |

Questions? Contact a director directly.

From the Chairman's Desk – May 2025

2024 Year in Review

We had great participation in 2024 from members riding our tours!



Plaques lined up for the 2024 Finishers' Awards Dinner

Here are the results by ride, the number of finishers for each ride:

- USA Four Corners Tour – **60**
- Great Lakes Cabot Trail Tour - **12**
- Best 15 US Roads - **9**
- Mother Road Adventure East and West – **16**
- California Adventures Series – Missions Tour – **8**
- California Adventures Series – Parks Adventure - **6**
- California Adventures Series - Roads Challenge – **10**
- 47th Three Flags Classic - **205**

Of those rides, we have riders who earned awards for higher achievement:

- California Triple Crown Award – **5**
- SCMA Triple Crown Award – **9**
- SCMA Grand Slam Award - **4**

The **Grand Slam** is a particularly difficult award to earn, as the rider must complete ALL rides offered by the SCMA in one year. **The 2024 winners of this award were Carl Harris, Ed Monsour, Monica Short, and Shareef AsSadiq. Monica Short joins John Barrow as the only two-time winner of this prestigious award.**

We are always busy in the fall when we return from the summer 3FC tour, and 2024 was no different. Karen Butterfield and the team were hard at work building a new version of our website. The 48th Three Flags Classic Committee was formed, and planning started for 2025. We also started the planning for our Annual Awards Banquet in 2025. In November, the membership approved updates to our charter to bring it up to date and provide better support for how our organization should operate. Our Board membership renewal process was moved from summer to late fall to align with the start of the calendar year.

2025 Year to Date

No one was expecting or prepared for the American Motorcycling Association's (AMA) discontinuance of their underwriting insurance policies for their Chartered long-distance touring community. AMA will only provide these policies for events around track days, short distance (less than 100 miles) day rides, and off-road trail rides.

SCMA has contacted other insurance underwriters and companies for coverage with no success. We have been in contact with many other riding organizations who are impacted, as we are with the lack of ride insurance availability. We can only hope that AMA will return to supporting this very large segment of their member riders and organizations in the future.

SCMA was forced to reexamine our rides to figure out how we can still promote world class long-distance touring that would not require this insurance to continue.

As you know from our website and e-Blasts, we have changed our **eight self-guided tours** from our old registration model to a **certification-for-completion model**. You no longer have to register and pay for an official tour before you ride. Now you find a ride you want to ride and go ride it. If you want to get a Certification of Completion and obtain ride-specific merchandise, you go to the website and pay for the certification, optional merchandise, and submit proof of completion.

Our rides and tours are self-guided and self-directed. Whatever decisions you make regarding the suggested routes/points of interest and how you ride are yours. Motorcycling is inherently unsafe and a very demanding sport. The Southern California Motorcycling Association assumes NO LIABILITY for riders and passengers and their safety.

Our Annual Three Flags Classic has historically been our only multi-day, multi-state, multi-country group long-distance tour. This lack of insurance forced us to cancel the 2025 48th TFC. We were also negatively affected by North American trade disagreements amongst the countries. Many of our members have made the personal decision not to travel, which we respect. We will work hard to find ways to restructure the Three Flags Classic in order for it to continue and flourish in 2026.

We were able to implement our latest and greatest version of the SCMA website in early March. It is a vast improvement over the previous site in terms of layout, navigation, and content. Please go check it out at your



The View was Cloudy for a While



Now – Off We Go

earliest convenience. It has all the information on our self-guided tours, a photo section, and lots of history added with more to come. See the article in this newsletter covering our 2024 Annual Awards Banquet held in Scottsdale, Arizona on March 29th. It was a great event with a strong turnout. Also see all the records of past Awards and Finishers on this new web page <https://sc-ma.com/awards-and-finishers/>

Retirement of Dannie Fox – USA Four Corners Tour

Dannie has decided to retire from being the USA Four Corners Chairman. Dannie and his wife, Barbara, have been SCMA members since 1978. He has completed forty-three Three Flags Classics, a Best 15 US while finishing two USA4C True X rides (back-to-back), and four other USA4C rides. Everyone who has ridden the USA4C knows how helpful Dannie was in making sure their rides were well planned out and supported. Dannie will continue to ride with us, but Charlie Lamb and Rodney Chew will be co-chairing the USA4C ride going forward. Please send emails to USA4C@SC-MA.com for support and questions. Please look for the in-depth article we will have available for you on Dannie and his experiences with being the USA4C Chairman in our next newsletter. We are grateful for everything he has done to build the USA4C and True-X to what it is today.

Restating the Obvious

We believe we all can adapt to the new long-distance touring framework forced upon us by the current insurance reality. We plan on continuing our rides and are in very preliminary discussions of adding new ones that you all will want to experience. We plan to expand our website to add more content and enable you to buy SCMA bling as you want.

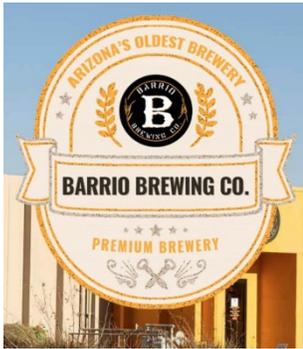
Thank you all for being members of SCMA and promoting our rides and events to your riding friends.

Please ride safe and ride often,

Mark Burdick
Chairman, Southern California Motorcycling Association

2024 SCMA Ride Finishers' Awards Dinner

– Karen Butterfield

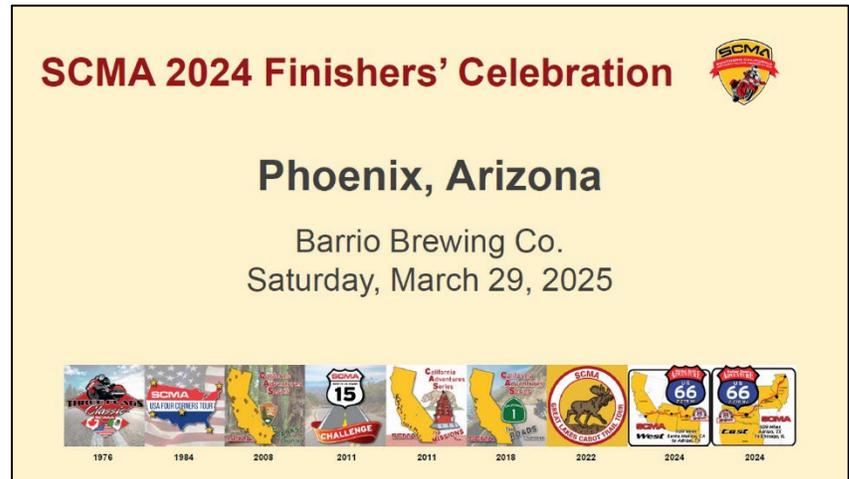


We packed up and went to Phoenix in March for the celebration of rider accomplishments in 2024. Rodney Chew found and *tested* the Barrio Brewing Company restaurant in the Deer Valley area on the northern side of Phoenix and Scottsdale. We booked the meeting space and most of the restaurant for the Awards Dinner on Saturday, March 29, 2025. About 50 riders and guests attended this year, including some from the east coast and from Canada. Most of the board was there too. We hadn't been together anywhere in a quite a while.

We will grow the event

larger next year. Our goal is to make it a late afternoon and evening get together to recognize and reward all of the amazing riding accomplishments, and to spend time together as we like to do. It's that simple, and everyone remembered celebrating each other is the point.

We wanted to acknowledge ALL of the SCMA riders in 2024. A centerpiece for the evening was a set of slides on a loop that showed the names and rides completed in 2024 for every one of the 84 riders with rides in the books for 2024. The name was intentionally the largest font on the slide. The logos of the rides completed in were in color, with the other ride logos in gray until next time. The size of the TV at the front of the room was a happy surprise for me.



Congratulation Slides for Ride Finishers



David Bell and his Finisher Slide

We had no idea how much fun people would have with the slides waiting for their name to appear in alphabetical order by first name and snap a photo. The only name out of order was Nancy Harris, since I moved it to be right after her husband Charles Harris.

You can see all of the [Finisher Slides](#) in this photo album and download any slide you would like to have.

We surveyed the 2024 Finishers and asked them where they would be willing to travel for an Awards Dinner, between a few places in Southern California and the Phoenix area. 2024 had an abundance of Finishers from the Phoenix area and so began the idea we will alternate events between Southern California and the Phoenix area. The 2025 event in 2026 will be in Southern California. We typically choose March at the beginning of spring, so travel shouldn't be difficult but it's also not the height of the riding season yet. We plan to make the party attractive for any members who want to enjoy the SCMA get together.

THANK YOUS

For everyone who attended, thanks for coming. And thanks to Vice Chair Rodney Chew for finding the venue and doing the deal and to Rodney's wife Jo for organizing Rodney and the memorable tasty cake among the long list of tasks. Thanks to MRA Ride Chair Todd Hammer for negotiating rates at a lovely and affordable hotel, the Aidan by Best Western in North Scottsdale. Thanks to CAS Ride Chair Les Gullery for help with plaque ordering, schlepping, lining up, and giving out the awards.

Also big thanks to Membership Chair Doug Wilson for the invitations, member support and data support for all of the records and to his wife Janet for her presence and



Chairman Mark Burdick in the front giving out the awards and introducing the Ride Chairs - Charlie Lamb standing

assistance on the event, especially for helping me to get the slides moving on their own in the loop. The Board worked together on all the details in this group effort. See the names and faces of most of the SCMA board in the photo below.

A special thanks to John Blue of BLUETEK PRINTING for a key partnership. John Blue's team did most of the awards this year and has helped us considerably by consolidating sourcing, and packaging awards/swag to save time, effort and cost. The awards are all innovative expressions.



CAS Ride Chair Les Gullery lined up the 2024 Plaques, Engraved Pocket Knives

this event it was setup with printed ride logos attached using magnets. We can use it for other events and attach other artwork at will. <https://www.bluetekprinting.com/>

The Awards Dinner PHOTO ALBUM is [HERE](#).

All of the SCMA Photo Albums are categorized on the PHOTOS Page [HERE](#).

The **Awards and Finishers Page** is [HERE](#).

Check out the full list of names who have completed rides in 2024 and in prior years, some going back a few years and some for decades.

All of us enjoyed the celebration of getting together, congratulating everyone for their achievements and encouraging them on the future ones. The awards are icing on the cake after all the effort riders put into riding events especially multiple events in one calendar year. It's also OK to really like them, and people do.



John Barrow and the new background – three-time Grand Slam awardee

From Mark Burdick – Chairman

“I rode 2,400 miles round trip to celebrate the achievements of our members and get in some much-needed gasoline therapy. SCMA is not a local riding group so I rarely get to hang out with our members. I really enjoyed seeing old friends, making new ones, and especially liked handing out the awards. I welcome suggestions on how we can get together more than the annual Awards event and the Three Flags Classic so we can enjoy each other's company, talk about riding, and have spirited discussions on tires and oil.”

From Charlie Lamb – Secretary and Best 15 US Ride Chair

“Monica Short completed her second Grand Slam. What an extraordinary accomplishment.”

THE SCMA BOARD



L to R - Mark Burdick, Les Gullery, Dannie Fox, Todd Hammer, Charlie Lamb, Karen Butterfield, Dean Sarrocco, Rodney "ElChinoLoco" Chew, Doug Wilson

Enjoy a few of the group shots of our 2024 finishers on the following pages.

FOUR CORNERS - TRADITIONAL



2024 Four Corners Finishers with Four Corners Ride Chair Dannie Fox on left and SCMA Chair Mark Burdick on right. A few of the 60 Four Corners Finishers in 2024 – April Jones, Shareef AsSadiq, Monica Short, Alan Corcoran, Donn Reese. Front row – Ksolo Harris, Ed Monsour

FOUR CORNERS – TRUE X



2024 Four Corners TRUE X Finishers represented by Charles and Nancy Harris

MOTHER ROAD ADVENTURE - MRA



2024 MRA Finishers with SCMA Chair Mark Burdick on left and Vice Chair Rodney Chew on right. Ed Monsour, Michelle De La Cruz, Mike Peters, Philip Rosenfeld, Randall Smith, Kathy Smith (standing in for son-in-law Floyd

BEST 15 US ROADS



2024 Best 15 US Roads Finishers with SCMA Chair Mark Burdick on left. Shareef AsSadiq, James Bowen, Ksolo Harris, Lloyd Doyle, Jay Yanick, Charlie Lamb – Best 15 US Ride Chair, Ed Monsour

GREAT LAKES CABOT TRAIL TOUR



2024 Great Lakes Cabot Trail Tour Finishers with SCMA Chair and GLCTT Ride Chair Mark Burdick on left Shareef AsSadiq, Ksolo Harris, Monica Short, Ed Monsour, John Barrow

CALIFORNIA ADVENTURES SERIES



2024 California Adventure Series Finishers with SCMA Chair Mark Burdick on left and CAS Ride Chair Les Gullery on right. Shareef AsSadiq, David Bell, Monica Short, Doug Wilson, Ed Monsour
Front Row - Ksolo Harris, Richard Pedersen

CALIFORNIA TRIPLE CROWN WINNERS



2024 California Triple Crown Winners with SCMA Chair Mark Burdick on left and CAS Ride Chair Les Gullery on right. Shareef AsSadiq, Monica Short, Ksolo Harris, Ed Monsour

TRIPLE CROWN WINNERS



2024 Triple Crown Winners with SCMA Chair Mark Burdick on left and Vice Chair Rodney Chew on right. Shareef AsSadiq, Monica Short, Ksolo Harris, Dean Sarrocco, Ed Monsour. Front row – Todd Hammer, David Bell

GRAND SLAM WINNERS



2024 Grand Slam Winners – SCMA Chair Mark Burdick on left and Vice Chair Rodney Chew on right. Ed Monsour, Ksolo Harris, Monica Short, Shareef AsSadiq, John Barrow from (2021 covid times)



Three of the 5 Grand Slam Winners honored arranged all of their awards for a few photos. Shareef AsSadiq, Monica Short, Ksolo Harris.



Carl "Ksolo" Harris' Grand Slam Awards



Shareef AsSadiq's Grand Slam Awards



Monica Short's Grand Slam Awards

Madawaska Maine is the Fourth Corner of Four Corners It's Place to Leave a Mark

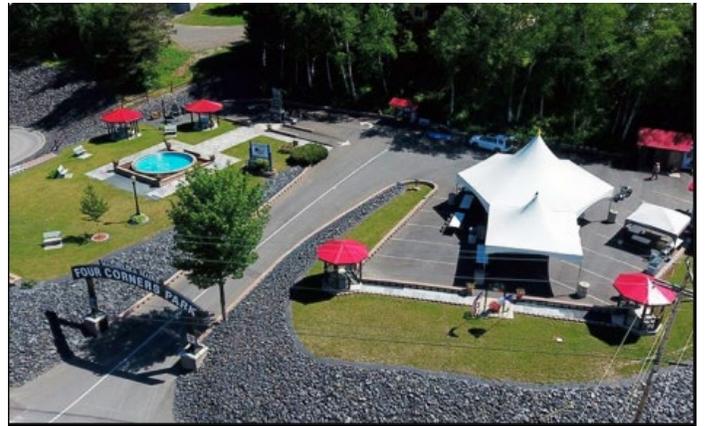
– By Doug Wilson

If you've ridden to (or through) Madawaska ME, it's a pretty safe bet that you intended to. As the northeastern-most city in the United States and being 100 miles from the northern terminus of I-95, it's not really someplace you'd casually pass through on the way to some other destination (unless you were exploring the Gaspé Peninsula). There's a number of reasons a traveler might want to visit the Madawaska/Edmundston area...the St. John River, the new International Bridge, food, beverage and lodging or perhaps even the Paper Pipeline (actually paper pulp, but it really is a thing!)

While many motorcyclists embrace the notion that the journey is the destination and aim for stops that are off the beaten path, riders have a special reason to visit the area. Madawaska is home to [Four Corners Park](#), the only park in the world dedicated to long-distance motorcycle riding. Madawaska has been a required stop on the [SCMA USA Four Corners Tour](#) since the ride became available in 1984. Each year, about 60 riders visit Madawaska as part of their Four Corners tour. In 2022, the [SCMA Great Lakes Cabot Trail Tour](#) was created and specifically requires a stop at the Four Corners Park as one of its twelve checkpoints in eastern Canada and the northeastern United States. Four Corners Park is also a required stop on the [Maine Four Corners Experience Tour](#); it is essentially a lap of the perimeter of Maine and also requires stops in Lubec, Grafton Notch and Kittery.

Four Corners Park itself is the culmination of a vision by Mainer **Joe LaChance and his wife Diane**, born of their desire to expand tourism in northern Maine while promoting the SCMA USA Four Corners Tour and long-distance motorcycling. They came up with the concept for the park after finishing the SCMA USA Four Corners Tour in 2000, and spent several years creating a plan and gathering backing and financial support within the community.

In 2004 they began execution of the plan, starting with the donation of a small parcel of land on Main St and acquisition



of the park's iconic 12-foot-tall granite monument. A snag soon developed when Homeland Security announced that they were taking that land to build a new border crossing. The Town of Madawaska came to the rescue and offered another property on Main St for back taxes. The newly created nonprofit 501c3 organization was then able to purchase the land where the monuments, fountain and walkway currently sit.

Work began in earnest on the park site in 2008. Local excavating contractor **Ed Pelletier and Sons** donated their time and machinery to prepare the site and many volunteers worked long hours installing the monuments, flagpoles, signage, and the infrastructure for the fountain. Electricians and plumbers donated time to wire and plumb the park. After nearly a decade of effort, Joe and Diane's dream became a reality.

In 2012 it became apparent that more parking was needed and an abandoned property adjacent to the Park was considered for that purpose. To facilitate its purchase, longtime park benefactor (and SCMA board member) **Charles Lamb** challenged the Madawaska Four Corners Park Association to raise \$35,000; if successful he would match the

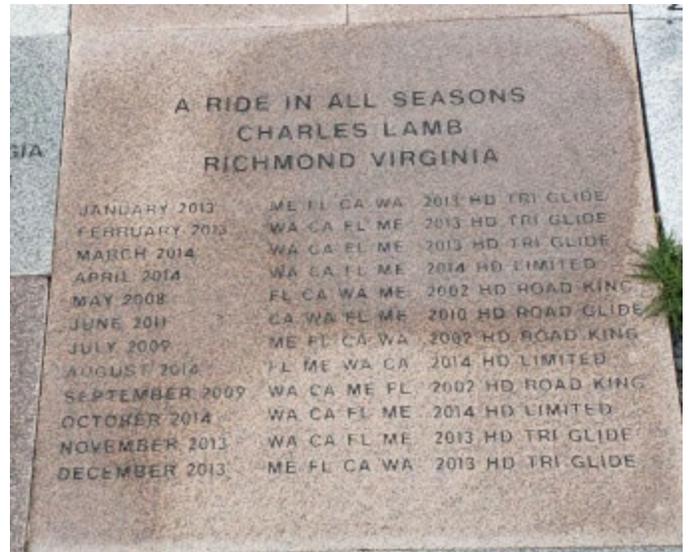


amount. The resulting fundraising drive was successful and the land was procured, with the materials from the abandoned building being donated to another local nonprofit organization. Once the building was dismantled, the ground was prepared and paved for a new parking lot.

A **Welcome Center** was added to the parking lot section of the Park in 2017, thanks to the generosity of the community and visitors. The Center includes a handicap-accessible restroom, a tourist/information center, and an emporium that offers Four Corners Park merchandise and Maine Souvenirs. While there is a display and information regarding the SCMA USA Four Corners and Great Lakes Cabot Trail Tours, SCMA merchandise is not available at Madawaska Four Corners Park.

As you can see, the Park Association continues to improve the Park as well as maintaining it in tip-top condition. As source of civic pride, many in the community have donated time and materials to make the Park what it is today. **Walkways within the Park are composed of granite pavers rather than the usual asphalt or concrete. Note that many of these are engraved with the name of a visitor to the Park and a message relating to their visit.**

Traversing the walkways and noting people you know or those from your club or town leaves a lasting impression and is part of the unique appeal of the Park. **These pavers are available for purchase as an ongoing fundraiser by the Park Association.** Each paver is engraved with a custom message; the larger sizes can also include artwork or logos at extra cost.



Red pavers uniquely identify visitors who have completed the SCMA USA Four Corners Tour. Gray pavers are available to the general public and include customizing options to recognize completion of the Maine Experience Tour or to celebrate the Acadian heritage of many area residents. Gray pavers may also be purchased in memory of a deceased rider; custom options are available and these pavers will be placed near the **Rider Memorial Wall**. Purchase of a paver offers a **unique opportunity to support the ongoing operation of the Madawaska Four Corners Park as well as leaving a lasting impression visit.**

The mail-in form to order a Four Corners Park paver is [here](#), or you can call the Park Association at (207) 436-7450 to discuss customization details or place an order.



As True X Four Corners Riders Know - Lebanon Kansas is the Center of the Contiguous 48 United States

– By Doug Wilson

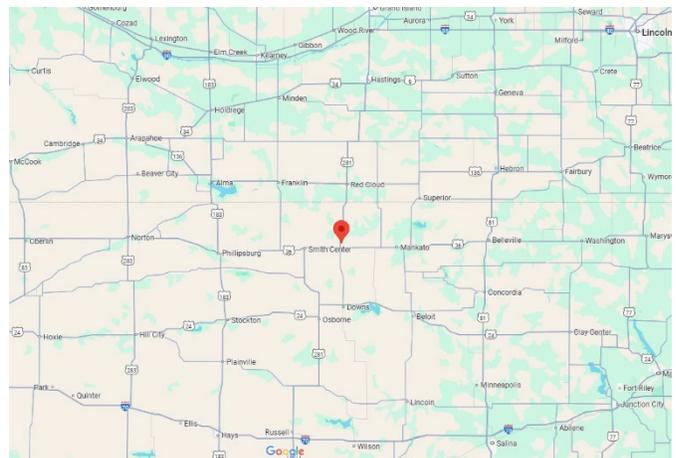
As you are probably already aware, the **USA Four Corners Tour** is the SCMA's most challenging ride. Covering 7000+ miles in 21 days while visiting the 4 geographic corners of the contiguous 48 states is definitely more of an endurance run than a sprint. While an average of about 350 miles per day for 3 weeks might sound trivial, it definitely becomes more challenging when one factors in weather, sightseeing, fatigue, and bike maintenance.

If you've already completed a USA Four Corners Tour or are looking to level up your challenge, the town of Lebanon, Kansas wants so see you...not once but three times! The **True X version of the USA Four Corners Tour adds a stop in Lebanon, Kansas between each of the Four Corners** and takes the average daily mileage up to about 425 over 26 days.

Why Lebanon, Kansas? Primarily because it has the distinction of being the town nearest the Geographical Center of the contiguous 48 United States, which is located roughly two miles northwest on KS-191. Where is the town of Lebanon located? Well, right in the middle of what is frequently referred to as "flyover country" in central Kansas. Lebanon sits along US-281 about 80 miles north of I-70 and about 80 miles south of I-80, so yeah, it would be difficult to get more "central".

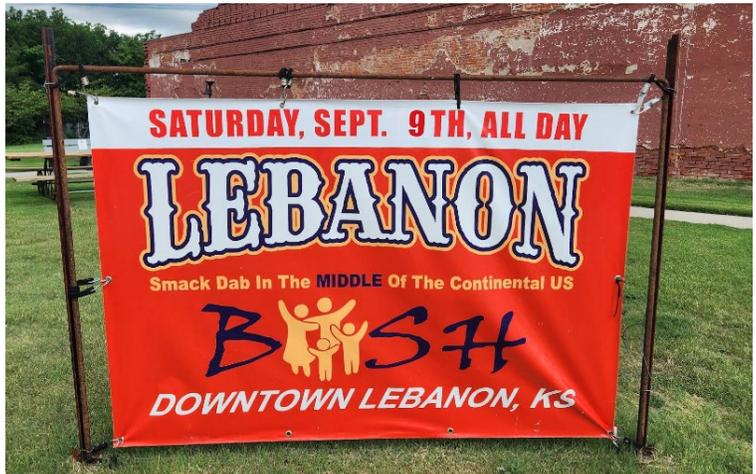
Lebanon is a small town of about 180 people which takes a great deal of pride in its heritage and unique location "in the center of it all." Founded in 1876, it is named for Lebanon, Kentucky in recognition of the groves of cedar trees that grew in both areas at the time. The True X version requires a visit to three locations in Lebanon:

- Geographic Center of the United States
- Lebanon Service Station (Cenex)
- Lebanon Post Office or Lebanon Community Center



Lebanon Geo Center Park

If you'd be interested in **supporting the ongoing maintenance and improvements at the Geographic Center Park** and other community assets in the Lebanon area, you might consider a **donation to the US Center Foundation**. The [donation page](#) on their website supports both secure online and mail-in donations and allows you to earmark your donation for the Geographic Center Park if desired. The form for mail-in donations can be found [here](#). The QR code below will also take you to the donation page.



While the town of Lebanon and the SCMA are permanently linked via the True-X riders and SCMA members engraved on the **bricks of the Community Center**, there is another commonality. The **annual Lebanon Bash** is held the **second Saturday of September every year** and serves as a combination homecoming and heritage celebration. The Bash includes a parade, outdoor concert, games and food, and there is a standing invitation for SCMA riders to participate in the parade and a number of our most tenured members have done so. It's been a number of years since we last did so, but there was once an official SCMA group ride to Lebanon, Kansas for the Bash. While the officially organized ride no longer occurs, SCMA members do still sometimes participate in smaller groups and have always been well-received by the event organizers. With the Lebanon Bash also coming under the wing of the US Center Foundation, we expect the cordial relationship to continue.



Past Chairman Gonzo Gonzalez and Four Corners Ride Chair Dannie Fox at the Lebanon Bash

If you're interested in learning more about Lebanon Kansas and the Geographic Center Park, here's an [article](#) you might enjoy.

For Sale

It's a beautiful white 2019 BMW R1250rt with 38,270 miles.

It's on sale for \$8,000.

Call Monica Short for details, 760 638 0303.



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