

Henrion Wins Mileage Contest



“I hope this will be an inspiration to everyone who is retired and had a few health issues to get out there and chase their dreams.” (Rich Henrion)

SMARTER Board of Directors Chairman Rich Henrion has been announced as the 2018 BMW Motorcycle Owners of America National North American Mileage contest winner. In the seven month period of the contest Henrion racked up an amazing total of 45,680 miles. That’s more than many people who call themselves motorcyclists ride in a lifetime.

In 2017 Rich sampled the challenge of the mileage contest, becoming the Michigan winner and finishing sixteenth in the national. Rich lives near Iron Mountain in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula and his April 17 departure from home for a trip to Arizona to begin the 2018 contest was delayed for 48 hours because of 16 inches of snow fell the day before. No problem for Rich that it was 30 degrees when he got on the road.



The Arizona opening season ride was a little over 5,000 miles. In June he completed a solo ride through Newfoundland, back through New Brunswick, and a big sweep of Quebec for a total of 6,000 miles in

twelve days. In September he switched from his 2016 R1200RT to his recently purchased low mileage 2014 K1600GT Sport. As a 6'7" rider Rich does lots of modification to his bikes so they fit him comfortably and this meant a trip to Russell Seats in Shasta Lake California for a ride in appointment to build a custom fitted seat. They start by making a mold of your – OK you get the picture. This was another solo trip of 6,000 miles in twelve days.

The three big trips accounted for 17,000 miles. The remainder of the miles came from local and regional rides including many day rides from his home to Sault Ste Marie for lunch - a 460 mile round trip, around Lake Superior three times and all five Great Lakes once, to Copper Harbor six times, to Pictured Rocks and Munising/Grand Marais five times and Porcupine Mountains three times.

The SMARTER board and members are proud of our Chairman. Rich served the Michigan Rider Education Program as a Motorcycle Safety Foundation RiderCoach and RiderCoach Trainer for more than 30 years. Thanks for your inspiration and for your long time dedication to improving motorcyclist safety.