Fred's Million Miles and Counting Ride?

I just wanted to say “Thanks” to the hundreds of readers who sent in best wishes for my “million mile” ride on October 26th, and to let you know that we all had a great time. About 50-60 of our readers showed up to see me off at The Lookout Roadhouse, and 34 of those rode the whole three-day route. We had riders from six states and Canada. I only wish the rest of you could have come along.

Above: My mentor, Bob Carpenter, loosed me the vest he wore on the cover of Road Rider when he completed his million miles in 1989.

Right: top: Mike Douglas of JBJ Cycles made a digital video of me breaking the barrier, and was able to extract this still shot of the exact moment my front tire broke through the banner. The location was Route 66 in California, just outside of Amboy, and the two guys holding the banner were Marc Souliere and Dennis Bradt (see bottom).

Right: center: I would have liked a photo with all the guys who came along, but some had ridden ahead to get hotel rooms or gas up, and several were so intent on getting their own photos we couldn’t get them to line up. That night in Laughlin, we had a great party and dinner, and were all surprised by Jack Wear and Mike Douglas of JBJ Cycles, who announced at the end of the evening that they were picking up the dinner and drink tabs for everyone!

Right: bottom: We also used the ride to “pay off” the past two years’ winners of MCN’s “Who Wants to be a Moto-Journalist Contest,” held at Americade. Here, in the ghost town of Oatman, Arizona, are Marc Souliere (left, from Ottawa, Canada) and Dennis Bradt (right, from New York) who both won all-expenses-paid trips on Route 66. The contest has raised over $10,000 for the Ride For Kids charity.

When it was all over, everyone said the same thing: “Let’s do it again next year!”

Well, maybe. But what would I call it? “Fred’s Million Miles and Counting Ride?”

It was truly one of the best and most memorable days of my life. Thanks, guys.

—Fred Russ