

# **A Ride “Around” the World**

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**The XJ Global Relay  
Produced by The XJ Owners Group  
Introduced by Paul Eisenberg**

# The XJ Owners Group

- The XJ Owners listserv run by [MicaPeak.com](http://MicaPeak.com) provides owners of 1980's era Yamaha XJ Series motorcycles with an online community that is rich in camaraderie and useful information – like opinions about which brands of motor oil and tires are best! ☺
- At any given time, membership consists of hundreds of riders scattered around the world
- While some members of the group arrange events with others in their local area and region, the geographical distribution of riders makes a physical gathering of the entire group pretty much impossible

# The XJ Relay Concept

- Use the XJ Owners listserv and the World Wide Web to organize the transport of a knap sack around the world in a relay going from one rider to the next aboard our bikes
- I conceived the idea while reading XJ Owners Group listserv messages late one night in mid-November 1999
- The first positive reply was received within minutes from Gustavo Ramos of Portugal guaranteeing that the effort would be a truly global one
- A steady stream of similarly enthusiastic replies followed...

FOR MORE INFO...

Visit: <http://www.xjrelay.com>

# XJ Relay Objectives

- Make our virtual connections real
- Get to know each other a bit better
- Have Fun!
- Use the Internet to cooperate



# THE BAG

- Suspected alpine ski patrol or hiking backpack of unknown age and origin
- Sturdy construction of incredibly durable waterproof canvas with leather straps and metal buckles
- Fully loaded the bag and its ever changing contents weigh in at about 35 pounds
- The bag was donated courtesy of Devon Jarvis from New York City



# Forget Planning, We Need Patches!

- Members submitted 5 candidate designs
- A winner was selected via online poll created by Brian Evans of Canada
- The winning entry scored 18 out of 26 total votes – no recount was needed



# Our Banner & Riding Companions

- A banner was made by our first rider, Alex Kharnam, and placed in the bag
- As pictured here, it is covered in XJ Relay Rider signatures
- The bag also became home to two restless little Phillip Island **penguins** who shared the adventure of a lifetime. More on that part later...



# Get Your Motor Running

- **With the depths of winter approaching in the northern hemisphere, it was decided that a start down under made the most sense**
- **Alex Kharnam kicked things off on the first day of the new millennium at the world famous Phillip Island Circuit in Australia**



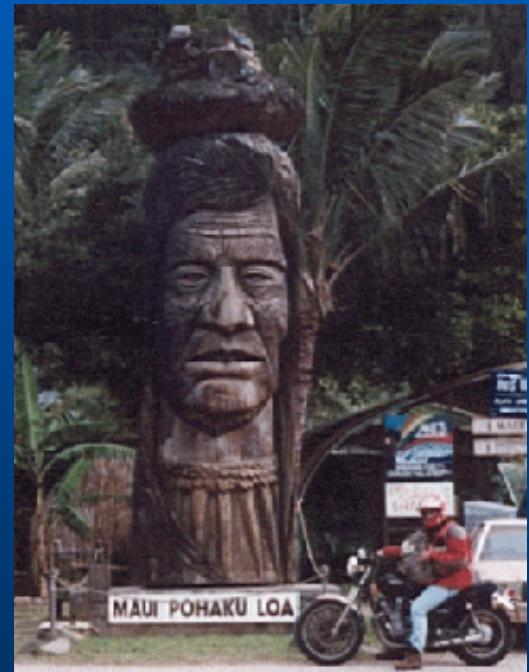
# Flying Like Kiwis Out of Hell

- After skirting the southeastern coast of Australia and diving inland through the Blue Mountains, the bag arrived at Invercargill on the southern end of New Zealand's South Island on January 13, 2000
- Just over one week later it was 1545 km north in Auckland at the northern end of the North Island
- Greg Dyer rode 1360 km with the bag and back!



# Riding the Relay Wave in Hawaii

- Next up was a circle tour of Oahu by lone rider Lauren Neher



# California Here We Come – And Go

RoadRash Casey  
rides off after a  
meeting with  
Frank Newman



**March Air Force  
Base, Riverside, CA**

# Been through the Desert...

- Steve Coakley rides solo from Blythe, CA to Phoenix, AZ and then Kayenta, AZ
- That's about 985 miles total including a one day 645 mile marathon
- Somebody give that man a beer!



# Big Relay Down in Texas

- **XJ Relay Rider Report – Seizure Jack**
- **From:** xj-owners@micapeak.com on behalf of jack and angie [jackangi@flash.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 27, 2000 12:35 AM  
**To:** Yamaha XJ owners discussion  
**Subject:** The Bag The bag has arrived in Dallas, TX. (actually Grand Prairie).

Jonathon Head and I rode up to Mineral Wells to meet JD and exchange it. Boy, talk about a diverse group! Short ones, tall ones, skinny ones, and yes even rotund ones like me. My wife rode along also. I am fortunate to have a wife that likes riding as much as I do. That may be a little too fortunate as I will probably have to get her her own bike! Tomorrow Jon and I will go through the bag as we got home a bit late. The penguins and roadrunner are fraternizing, who knows, we may end up with a bunch of pen-runners or road-guins. Jon's bike really goes, and my maxim rode equally well, gobbling up the miles in short order....  
Seizure, Jack



Seizure Jack went on to complete a 600 mile run with Greg Norman delivering the bag to Scott Sailer at the Alamo in San Antonio

# Whistlin' through Dixie



This section saw some of the Relay's toughest riding conditions with severe thunder storms.



# Mid-Atlantic Region (VA, D.C., MD, PA, NY)



# New England & Europe Bound

**From:** Kenny [kennylam@adelphia.net]

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2000 12:51 PM

**To:** Brad Bowen; Simon Beever; Paul Eisenberg;  
Michael Collins

**Subject:** Bag = Chinese Smashed Duck

Bag is off to Ireland today, ... Postal Center said it should be there Friday or Monday. The dimension of the box is 22"x18"x4".. YES!!!!!!! 4" high, I spent an hour at the postal center to repack the bag and squeezed/spread the content around to keep the cost from over US\$200. the final cost of shipping is US\$128.....ouch!! So the bag is more like a Chinese Smashed Duck!! (go to Chinatown to look if you have no idea) When you put everything back, it should puff back up a bit. and you'll have half the bag to fill. Make sure you tell your riders go easy on filling the bag with big stuff. It was my pleasure to participate in this event and I wish the European team has a great time with the bag. Ride Safe!

Kenny Lam - Milford, New Hampshire



# Ireland & England to Portugal



**"I think that with me the Relay has served its original purpose of bringing us closer together. I have made at least two good friends from it. and I have had an experience I will not forget. The whole family have enjoyed it."** - Dave Harris, Rochford Essex 18-Dec-00

# Swiss Alpine Express to Paris



Urs Frei rides 1200 km roundtrip delivering the bag to Albert Putois in Paris on June 8, 2001

# via Belgium to The Netherlands



September 2001, Flying Dutchmen Loek van Schie and Peet van Dam ride 1750 km in 2 days delivering the bag to Marek Datkowski and Zbigniew Lason in Poland

# XJ Party Time in Poland



Foto by DEMOS

August 3, 2002 – Polish rider Krzysztof Polito rides 1050 km for a handoff in Lubeck, Germany

# North to Denmark & Finland



# Oh Canada: XJ Relay Returns to N. America

Huntsville, Ontario



Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia

# Back in the USA – MI, IN, IL, WI, MN, ND



# Drifting West Across Canadian Plains



Manitoba, Canada

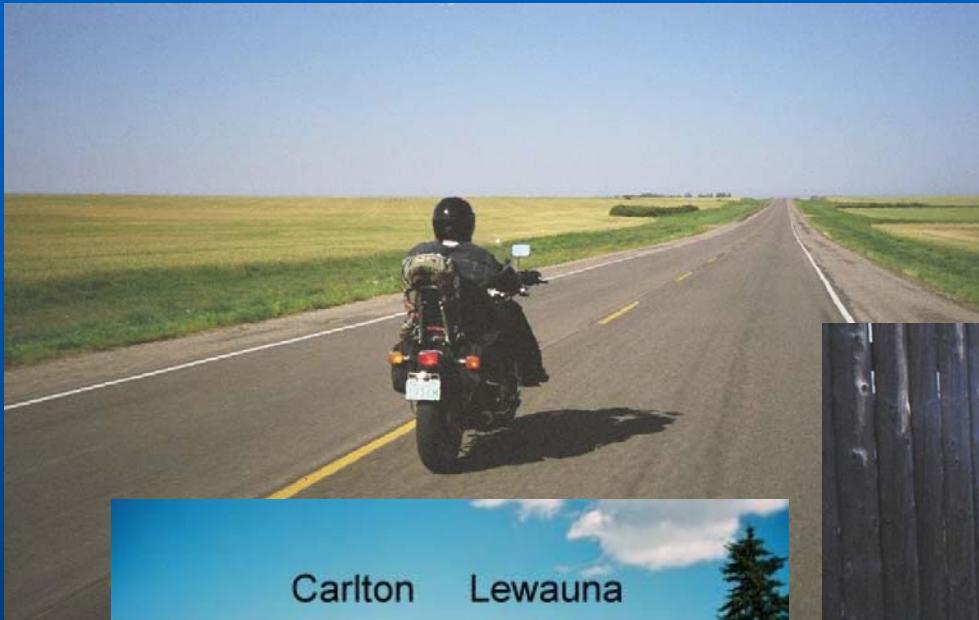


# Black Hills Detour & Mystery

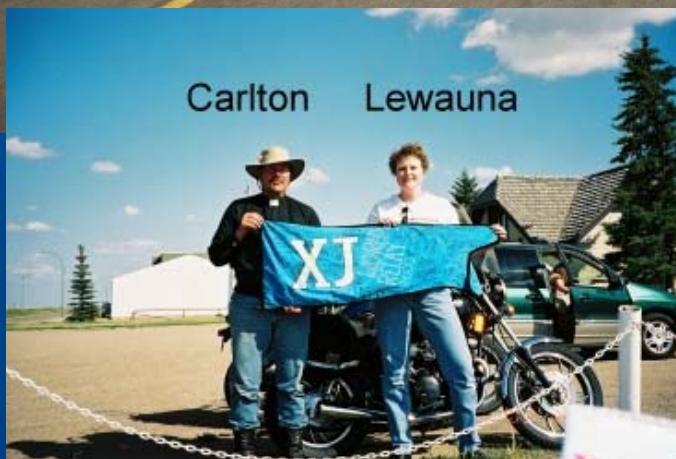
- What's wrong with this picture?
- Softie goes missing at the 63rd Black Hills Classic Rally in Sturgis, SD
- Trust me, there is more to this story!
- Length of Carlton Larson's Magical Mystery Tour from Brandon, Mb. to Sturgis, SD, and Moose Jaw, SK: 2497 km



# Cruising West to Edmonton & Calgary in Alberta

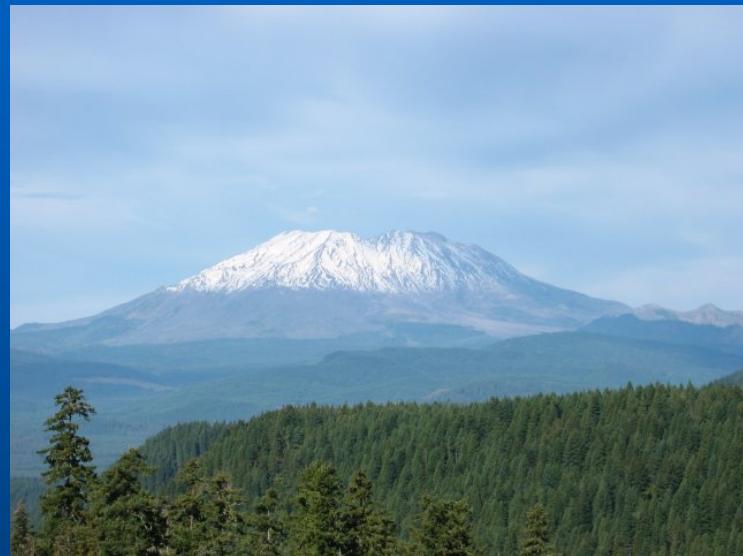


Saskatchewan, Canada



# Standing in the Blast Zone

Mount Saint Helens, WA



# End of the Beginning...?

On October 25, 2003 the Bag arrived in Portland, Oregon with Jim Iwaniec.  
The Relay had been completed safely without any serious injuries! A few weeks later my wife and I found ourselves sharing an experience just like the guys from Edmonton pictured here. We were sitting in our living room surrounded by an amusing collection of curiosities and trinkets, feeling a connection with hundreds of fellow riders from around the world who wondered: What is all this stuff? - and we knew the effort was a success!



# Recognition

- **Special thanks to a few of those who in addition to riding helped to organize the relay and keep it going...**
  - **Gustavo Ramos:** First to say “Let’s go”
  - **Alex Kharnam:** Patch v1.0 Manufacturing & XJ Relay Banner Creator
  - **Devon Jarvis:** Bag Contributor
  - **Greg Norman:** South Central U.S. Coordinator
  - **Craig Hahn:** Southeastern U.S. Coordinator
  - **Paula Rothman:** Southeastern U.S. Web Design
  - **Brad Bowen:** New England Coordinator & Patch v2.0 Manufacturing
  - **Simon “Jasper” Beever:** European Coordinator & Web Design
  - **Mariusz Duszczyk:** Poland Coordinator
  - **Brian Evans:** Eastern Canada Coordinator & Online Polls
  - **Mike Winiarz:** Mid-West U.S. & Western Canada Coordinator & Web Design
  - **Rev. Carlton Larson:** Inspiration & Humor

# In Memoriam

The XJ Relay is dedicated  
in fond memory of

**Jeffrey J. Mountin**  
**1969 – 2004**

To us he was:

**An XJ Owner Expert,  
Our Mailing List Moderator  
A Relay Organizer & Rider  
and most of all... Friend**

