

George F. Wolfe - RIP

(Born April 3, 1923 / Died November 4, 2003)



George - always first and ready to go!

We all met George for the very first time in the 1991 at the ICOA Rally held at the Pixie Hotel in Pennsylvania. He rode in on his CBX Sidecar Rig. First impressions were of a man in his mid-70's that loved motorcycles.

When he told us about racing at the Isle of Man in the 1950-60's and meeting all the famous racing stars of the eramost of us were thinkingyea right.

When he told us about campaigning in International Sidecar Trials Series in Europe in the early 1960's...most of us were still thinking...yea right.

Then when George showed us the details of CBX sidecar rig that that featured a high speed "leaning" actuator feature he designed and built himself we all started to think this guy just might be for real and we had better listen up.

Then there was that look George had. It's hard to explain, but once you got past George's grandpa appearance...those eyes and the features of his face conveyed a determined and tough look necessary to accomplish the motorcycle racing feats he told us about.

After supper, all the talk in the parking lot centered around George. He was in his element showing us all about his CBX Sidecar. He asked if anyone wanted

a ride in the sidecar...but his small smile told me...don't do it. Paul Brown was not so wary and eagerly volunteered. Last we saw George and Paul was at the right turn at the end of the hotel...sidecar off the ground by about 3 feet and Paul screaming "helppppppppppp meeeeeeeee."

Of course, George was not done: In fact he was just getting started as we were to find out on the Saturday group rides.

The Sport Ride was forming up and I think everyone was a tad surprised to see George with Mikey (Dennis McCartney's 8-year-old son in the sidecar) lined up at the back. Hummmmmmmmmmm. The ride departed and at after 20 miles of "above average" pace we pulled over at a stop sign in the country to do a headcount and check the maps.

As the other riders arrived, we were more than just a bit amazed to see George and the sidecar fourth to reach the stop and in the process, of course, passing many solo CBX riders!!! It was then we all knew everything had told he told us the prior day was indeed true. He was the one.

End of story...not quite.

As we were talking about routes and waiting for others at the stop we heard a CBX exhaust note from a nearby field. In fact it was heading up a steep hill. To our amazement, George was about to show us the CBX sidecar rig's prowess

off road! Visualize a CBX rig bouncing up the hill at speed...then suddenly...on its side with George on his back pushing the entire outfit upright with his legs.

Undaunted, George righted the sidecar without issue as if this was part of his plan, then rode over to where we were and asked if anyone else wanted to go for a ride. No volunteers this time, but all of us knew at that moment in time, we had seen one of the most unbelievable motorcycle happenings of our lives and were indeed honored to meet and know one of the most amazing motorcycle enthusiasts of all time

Over time George adopted all of us and we all loved him. As his health began to fail he continued to come to the rallies with Jim Petsoules and we all missed him at the end when he was simply too ill to attend.

I have this vision of George and Eric Artz talking about bikes everyday. George asks Eric if he wants to go for a ride in the perfect CBX Sidecar. As they disappear from sight, all we can hear is them laughing.



*February 11, 1962
Bob Croly & George*



*In "Westerfield Chalk Pit"
in the "Suffolk Mardle Trial"*