

Ride Utah! by Dave Magdiel

A Book Review By Wes Fleming #87301

JUST LIKE BETWEEN 5,000 AND 6,000 of the people reading this magazine, I'll be heading to the Crossroads of the West Rally in Salt Lake City this July. Some of us will ride straight there from wherever it is we live and ride straight back home. Some of us will wander about the country for days or even weeks on either side of the rally, both leaving home and heading back there when the mood strikes.

No matter which method of travel you prefer, if you are going to the rally, you should take the time to read Dave Magdiel's book *Ride Utah!* (published in 2007 and updated in 2013 by Abajo Media). It is not only worth the money, but more important, it's worth the space in your tank bag or pannier.

If I wasn't planning on stopping in Utah, the advice and routes in Section IV, "Riding Through," are worth the time. It's easy to blast through a state on the interstate highways, but even if you don't have the time to stop and see all Utah has to offer, knowing about the Heritage Highway and other non-freeway routes through the state enables you to get where you're going and still see

some of the state. Both US 50 and US 6, once major east-west paths across the USA, go through Utah and hold both national and motoring history in store for riders.

are the sections in each chapter that clue travelers into the best gas stations, campgrounds, hotels and restaurants along the way. Since it's been a while since the book

was updated, it's probably a good idea to phone ahead and make sure those businesses are still open, though.

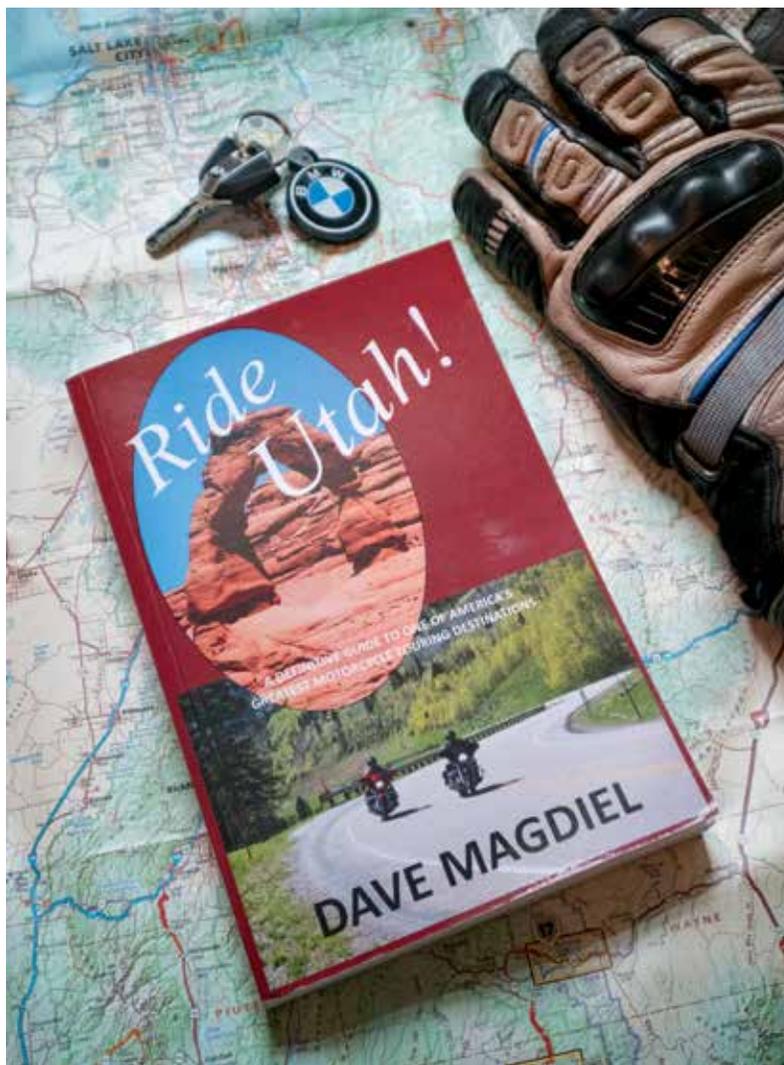
Ride Utah! is filled with color photos that show off Utah's amazing landscapes and feature plenty of smiling faces and motorcycles. The one major weak spot of the book is the maps; while it's handy to have them and get a visual idea of the routes being described, the maps themselves show little detail. Many of the maps lack even nearby major roads. You'll have to rely on reading the text carefully to find out how and where to access the routes Magdiel lays out.

The book also contains handy tips and other information that can benefit any motorcyclist, not just one spending time in Utah. Several appendices are included that give addresses and phone numbers for motorcycle dealerships across the state, clubs for just about any marque you can imagine, and a long list of links to motorcycling

and travel websites.

The book's subtitle is "A definitive guide to one of America's greatest motorcycle touring destinations," and it lives up to that claim.

Available at www.amazon.com 



Magdiel's writing style is personable and warm. It's easy to tell that he's ridden these roads many times, and his tips for getting the most out of your gas tank and tires in Utah are invaluable to anybody planning on spending any time there. Especially helpful