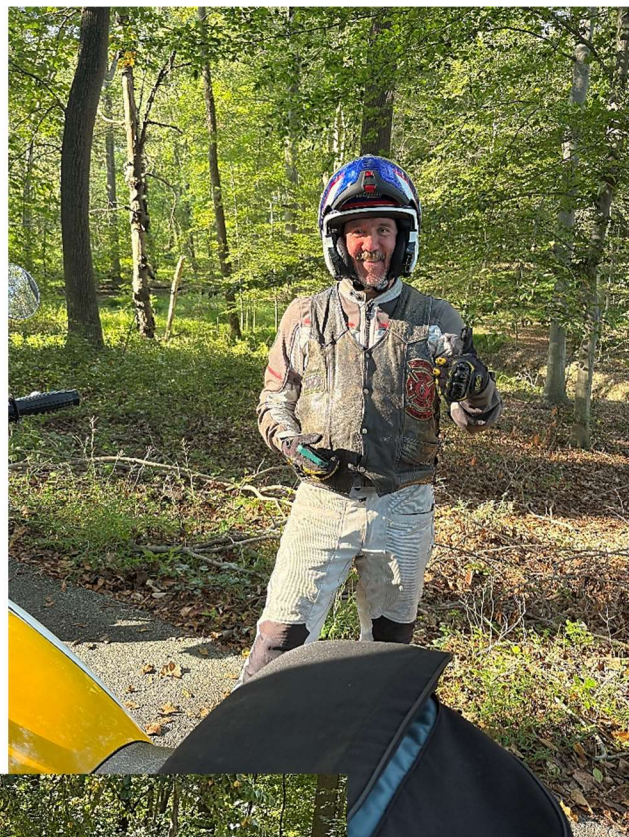


1st Annual Smith Custom Tour

Our good weather-luck continues to hold. Today was a one-day ride; the first, hopefully, of many annual Smith family rides. Cameron decided to give his three nephews who all ride motorcycles a Christmas gift: a one-day RetroTour. How cool is that? Hurray for Uncle Cameron! (at right)

The four riders arrived punctually at 8:15 for breakfast at 8:30 and we got to know each other a little bit over the morning meal prior to departing at 9:45. We rode the Moto Guzzi V65SP, the Triumph Bonneville 650, the Suzuki T500, The Yamaha TX750, and the Moto Morini 500 Strada. Some of the nephews were a little concerned about riding bikes that shift on the right which included the motor Morini and the Bonneville. Both five speeds and fortunately both use a standard one down/four up shift pattern. Additionally, two of the bikes were kickstart only: the Suzuki T500 and the Triumph Bonneville.



Totally enjoying the perfect weather, we set out, wobbly at first, and made our way by back roads through

Jennersville and some Amish country to the very long Pine Grove Covered Bridge where we stopped briefly for a little walk to view the waterfall through the underside of the bridge. It's quite fetching actually.....



Then about 10 more miles with a couple of stops--as people remembered to turn on their fuel petcocks and kill switches (the usual blips)-- until we reached the birthplace of Robert Fulton where we stopped for a granola bar, some water, and a possible bike switch. Continuing on to The Pinnacles is a nice ride up



River Road normally, but this time there was a detour sign. Usually, when I see a detour sign I go right by it to survey the detour. If there are no workers and it's not a missing bridge, we often just drive across if it's safe.

This time I decided to obey the detour sign. The trouble was the detour route was poorly marked, at least for someone of my limited intelligence, and at

one point there were detour signs pointing in several different directions. I had no idea where to go so we just continued on until we came to-- guess what?-- another detour. This time the bridge **was** out so

of course we stopped. I resorted to using my phone to find the way back to River Road and then eventually to The Pinnacles for the grand view. From there, on different bikes, we continued about 20 more miles north along the east Bank of the Susquehanna river to Columbia, Pennsylvania, then crossed the river on a mile-long bridge to Wrightsville where we had lunch at the John Wright Restaurant. After lunch, we did a drive-by view of The Shoe House which (obviously?) is a



house shaped like a giant shoe. A few years ago, you could pay five dollars to get a tour of the interior but now it's an Airbnb costing \$500 a night: good for a drive-by only, thank you very much.

L to R: Joel, Ray, Dan, Jeremy, and Cameron



We then did a loop through some backcountry and regained the west bank of the Susquehanna following it to head north with a brief stop at Indian Steps for a little bit of a rest. Finally, we came through Peach Bottom, crossing the corner of Maryland, and to the Conowingo Reservoir, stopping again for a view of the dam. After a brief break we rode through Rising Sun and to home. Lynn was not feeling up to doing dinner that night, so we actually went directly to El Peña Mexicana for an authentic Mexican meal. Everybody enjoyed that,

then back to the house where everybody picked up their own bikes that they had written in on: mostly big Harleys. We parked the RetroTours bikes, I gave out some merch and said sayonara until next year. All the bikes performed great and everybody rode great. Nobody crashed. The weather was perfect. Couldn't be better. Hope to do it again next year with the same group, making an annual tradition out of "The Smith Family Custom Tour."

