

Local Loops: April 27, 2025 ride report

WOW! I really have to start writing these ride reports immediately after each ride. Apparently, I am an expert procrastinator. Looking back 11 months later, I can't believe what a large group it was: 14 riders + 3 passengers! My recollection of this ride is quite fuzzy, but my files have info, so here is an attempt at reconstructing the flavor of the ride....

From notes that I dictated that day:

"Cool weather, windy at first, but sunny and especially warm later. Poor Paul P. kept getting lost or left behind. He finally bailed after lunch. Liz plus two 18 year-old girls. Eggplant parm for dinner. Tacos for lunch. Two riders on their own bikes, including a GL VJMC guy and a CD175 that leaked and got swapped for a KTM. The TX750 ran out of gas, then would hardly run, barely limping to the lunch stop. I ran it home and swapped out for the CX500. My bad: I should have stopped for gas and lunch in Rising Sun, but for some unknown reason, decided to just press on, pushing a bit beyond the range limit of the thirsty TX. Very close to 200 miles all told."

Vintage bikes that were prepped:

- 1—1984: Moto Guzzi V65SP for Steve W
- 2—1973: Yamaha TX750 for John M.
- 3—1972: BMW R60/5 for Ed R.
- 4—1977: BMW/EML R100S sidecar rig for me and Liz R.
- 5—1979: Moto Morini 500 for Fred S.
- 6—1973: Norton Commando for John McG.
- 7—1976: Moto Guzzi 850T3
- 8—1976: Honda CB400F
- 9—1976: Honda GL1000
- 10—1983: Suzuki GS550E
- 11—1978: BMW R100/7
- 12—1978: Honda CX500
- 13—1976: Kawasaki KZ750B1

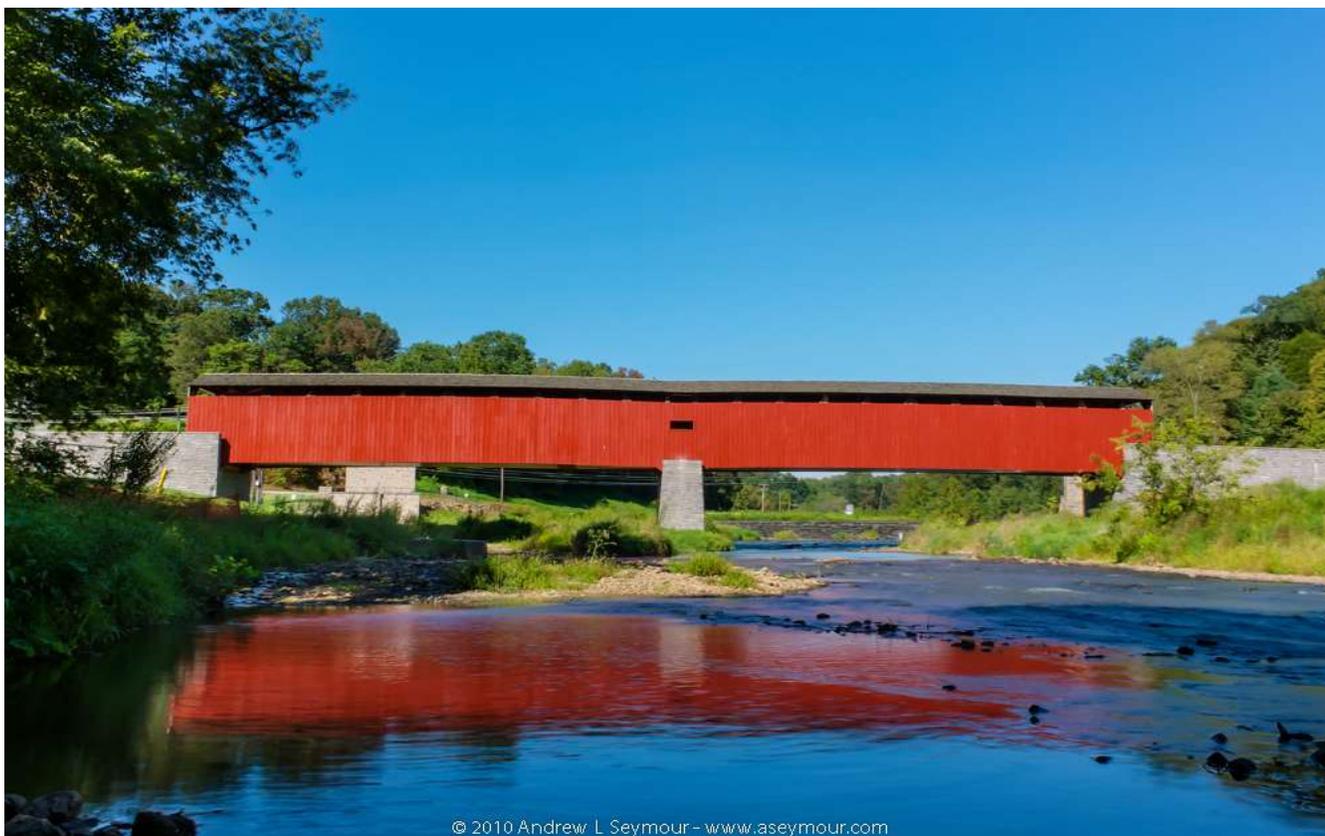
Vintage riders that showed up:

- 1—1966: Paul P: Wilmington, DE
- 2—1969: John P: New Castle, DE
- 3—1968: John M (& daughter): Millville, NJ
- 4—1965: Ed (& Liz) R: Allentown, PA
- 5—1956: Ed S: Newark, DE
- 6—1961: Paul R: West Grove, PA
- 7—1966: Adrian B: Downingtown, PA
- 8—1965: John McG: Coatesville, PA
- 9—1948: Fred S: Landenberg, PA
- 10—1966: Steve W: Bridgeton, NJ
- 11—1950: Dallas P: Bridgeton, NJ
- 12—1966: John L (& daughter): Vineland, NJ
- 13—unknown: Robert W: Bear, DE
- 14—not tellin': Joel S: Kennett Square, PA

So, with 13 bikes prepped and 14 riders plus three passengers we were a large-ish group. About half of the participants were repeat clients and an equal percentage requested specific bikes from the RetroTours fleet. The others chose bikes upon departure and in any case, everyone was free to swap bikes throughout the day if so desired. Two riders elected to ride their own bikes, with their entry fee adjusted accordingly. One of the two had issues but was able to do a quick bike swap and continue.

Local Loops is structured a bit differently from other tours. The price for the day is all inclusive, including gas, snacks, and three meals: breakfast and dinner here, and lunch at a local tateria. We ride about 25 miles at a time on small back roads, stopping at various nature reserves or other points of interest for breaks and to switch bikes. It's all very unstructured: if you want to try a different bike, you have to talk to whoever is on it and convince them to switch. Some riders opt to stay on the same bike all day, while others want to try different models. At the stops, people compare notes while getting to know one another. When the weather is sweet, meeting like-minded folks and riding fine old bikes on scenic back roads is hard to beat. Interesting conversation, good food, and a couple of women folk ads to the fun, while challenges like getting lost, severe leaks (on a private bike), and running out of gas (my fault) only add to the adventure.

Stops this year included:



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The Pine Grove (double) Covered Bridge



The Holtwood Pinnacles



The Conowingo Dam at Shure's Landing

Local Loops has been an annual RetroTours event for at least a dozen years. Usually, there is a decent turnout of 10 or 15 riders, mostly locals. Most versions cover around 150 miles and with stops every 25 miles or so, the physical demands are well within reason. Sitting together for 3 meals on top of riding and taking short breaks together throughout the day helps build a real group dynamic that makes this a special event which will return each year. Several newbies at Local Loops later sign up for an extended overnight trip which just confirms the positive aspects of this recurring event.

Parked up at the pump house by the Octoraro Reservoir



Having these 2 teenagers along added some much needed youthful vigor to our seasoned (mostly OLD!) group of riders.



Ed's wife Liz is an excellent sidecar passenger with experience on previous tours. It is always a bonus to have a few passengers along. Driving the sidecar rig means I can carry extra snacks in the trunk, along

with everyone's spare gear or whatever. An early start means cool temperatures and long shadows for the first hour or so.



At the last stop before final gas up and dinner back home, riders are free to rest in the shade, ride any of the bikes on a 7-mile self-guided loop, or try their hand at driving the side car outfit with yours truly as ballast; in a closed parking lot of course! Ed watches from behind with a knowing grin as the current student driver puzzles out the controls while I look on in horror from the chair. I think I can see Fred also laughing at us, reflected in the fairing.

