

RetroTours Ride Report: The Pinnacles November 1st 2025

Today we rode The Pinnacles. Fred, Richard, and Nico came by for breakfast at 8:30. Lynn was out of town, so she had left me some fixings, and we had a good breakfast. Left here at 9:30. The temperature was probably around 51° or 52°, but it was warming and we rode 30 easy miles to the Pine Grove Covered Bridge which was closed for construction. They had equipment barring both ends. We were able to sneak around the blockade at one end, and we rode through the very long, double covered bridge, but then we couldn't get out past the next barricade, so we did a U-turn and went back, found a detour around it, and continued on our merry way. Stopped at (Steamboat) Robert Fulton's house to change bikes, then rode up to The Pinnacles where we met Tim who came on his nice BMW R100RS to ride with us for a while. There were some colors for Autumn, not a lot but some, and the air was very clear so the view from the high cliff above the deepest part of the Mighty Susquehanna River was nice. Eagles soared overhead and also below us as we stood atop the precipice.

Then we continued on up entertaining River Rd. towards Columbia, but a few miles shy of our destination Nico on the R60 toaster tank ran over a nail and got a flat tire. I don't know why he ran over that nail; he should've gone around it. Anyway, that's a good bike to get a flat on because the rear wheel is easy to take off and the tool kit has a pump and tire irons. I had a spare tube, took the old tube out, took the nail out, and put the new tube in. Couldn't quite get the tire to seat perfectly with my hand pump, but got 37 pounds into it and just rode it easy for 3 or 4 miles to the restaurant for lunch and then another mile to a gas station with air, where we pumped it up to about 50 pounds which seated things nicely; final pressure adjustment and on our way!

Rode by the Haines Shoe House which is all barricaded now unless you pay \$500+ dollars per night, then meandered around scenic farm lands to make our way back to The Susquehanna and followed the east-bank south. After a brief pause to gawk through the windows at cool café racers in Craley, PA we crossed into Maryland at Peach Bottom: nice curvy roads with no traffic. Stopped briefly at the Conowingo Dam then passed through Rising Sun and directly into Kennett Square, PA. We got to the Thai restaurant just past nightfall where we had a really good spicy meal, courtesy of RetroTours. It was quite satisfying, especially the hot tea and Pho, not to mention mango sticky rice for dessert. We chatted one another up and had a great time.

Finally, we rode the bikes back to the house. It was well past dark by now and everyone made a prompt exit. I would say yeah, it was a great day. The weather was fine. It got a little cold at the end, nearly dipping into the high 40's, but we really enjoyed it. We covered 200 miles with lots of breaks. After leaving at 9:30AM we got to the restaurant at 7:30PM, so 10 hours, yeah, and all smiles. Autumn really is a great season for riding. This was the first tour for the '81 Moto Guzzi V1000G5. With it's police style handlebars, floorboards, and small-ish saddlebags, it is quite different from anything else in the fleet. The motor makes wonderful scads of delicious torque, and it is super comfy. Everyone loved it so much that I never got to get back on it after the first 40 miles. It's a keeper for sure; you should give it a whirl.

Watch for the 2026 RetroTours schedule, out soon!



Latest addition: Super comfy, good solid handling, ample torque everywhere, decent brakes; what's not to like?

“Road Closed” is only meant for cars, right? We usually ride up to the obstacle to see if we might get past. In this case, after scouting things out on foot, we squeezed by the barricades to enter the double long covered bridge as shown in this photo.

But it was not to be; the far end was well and truly totally blocked, and though we tried, in the end we had to turn around and find an alternate route.





At the Robert Fulton house, Richard shows off his corn cob pipe making skills. He looks a bit like Popeye, no? And if Popeye rode a motorcycle, of course it would be a Harley Davidson, no? The XLCR is a Harley for riders who would never ride Harley. It is actually quite a lot of fun to ride and might just surprise you if you can keep an open mind. Richard rode it for the first time and liked it a lot! But then, you can see how manly he is; a prerequisite for handling this Milwaukee Monster Machine.



Parked up at The Pinnacles, and Tim has joined our group on his lovely BMW R100RS.



The pictures tell the story, but the third picture reminds me of a joke: How many riders does it take to fix a flat tire? FOUR: Three to coach and one to do the work!" But seriously, help, or even just encouragement is always appreciated, and I admit, I don't mind an audience.





At the John Wright Restaurant, by the foot of the Columbia-Wrightsville bridge; food makes us smile.

J&B Motor Company always has visual treats on display: Cb400F café racer and ? mid-engine car.





The Conowingo Dam-- you can see it in the background-- was an engineering marvel when constructed nearly a century ago, and it continues to operate today. Located on the lower Susquehanna River in northern Maryland, Conowingo has served as Maryland's largest source of renewable energy since it began operation in 1928. The dam currently has 11 turbines, which can produce up to 572 megawatts (MW) of electricity.

The R60/5 'Toaster Tank' strikes a lovely pose in the late Autumn afternoon light, reflecting fall foliage.



Left to right: Richard, Nico, Fred, Tim, Joel.