Last weekend good riding buddy Vohn Busby and I did a tour with <u>Retro Tours Classic Motorcycle</u> <u>Tours</u> from Kennett Square, PA to Chincoteague, VA. The owner Joel, a retired Motorcycle Mechanic does an excellent job of route planning on skinny back roads, see the route we took here: <u>Shared View:</u> <u>Gene Hunt Jr. - SPOT Tracking (findmespot.com)</u> set the date range to 11/06/21-11/07/21. And he always includes interesting sights, points of interest, and of course he as a fantastic collection of twin cylinder motorcycles.

The plan was to arrive Friday in time for dinner, final preparation of forms/payment and checkout how we would pack our gear. Vohn chose to arrive via plane , train, and automobile. Flying from SC up to BWI, then Amtrak to Wilmington, DE where Joel picked him up, wish I had been there to see Joel arrive with the BMW Sidecar to pick up Vohn. I loaded up the FIAT spider and did the traffic filled drive up in 3 ½ hours. The dinner, prepared by Joel's wife Lynn was superb, I cannot stress this enough, a fantastic meal, as was breakfast the next morning. It's also a lovely home so spending a night there was quite a treat. After dinner Vohn and I sat out on the back patio for a cigar with some JD for me and Makers Mark for Vohn. We finished the evening inside by the fireplace and some chit chat.

The next morning Ed joined us for breakfast, and as I said it was superb. We then loaded the bikes and got familiar with the controls, feel, weight etc. Each bike was fitted with a tank bag and in my case a rear rack, there were no issues with packing. I had chosen the <u>1984 Moto Guzzi V65SP (retrotours.com)</u>, Vohn was on the<u>1983 GS550ES (retrotours.com)</u>, Ed on the<u>1970 Triumph T100C (retrotours.com)</u> and Joel was on the<u>1976 Honda CB500T (retrotours.com)</u>. Usually the idea is to switch off during the ride. I had made up my mind I dd not want to do that this trip but when I saw the Triumph I thought well maybe, but then when Ed had some problems with the kickstart I decided well no I think I will pass. But later that day and for the rest of the trip Ed had no issues starting the bike.

When we started out, we were on some nice fun skinny roads, but I really did not know exactly where we were, then we picked up some roads I was familiar with, then I wasn't. Which pretty much explained the trip for 2 days, so I started looking at my spot track on my iPhone whenever we stopped. I loved all the roads, and it was nice not to be leading but following, at a very safe distance, these old bikes have old brakes compared to what I am use to. Our first stop was the Air Mobility Command Museum <u>Air Mobility Command Museum (amcmuseum.org)</u>. That was very special, and I really enjoyed it and remembering the planes I had jumped out of and seeing the tail gunner position on the B-17, which is what my dad was during WWII. Amazing he survived that. We left the museum and headed out and in short order we got to a road that was closed. Joel decide it wasn't closed and we followed without incident, I'm not sure if my M900 would have made it through the opening, but nothing else in my garage would have.

The next stop was a small country store for lunch, that was interesting, then onto the first ferry crossing for the day, that was neat, and free. The next ferry crossing was a no go. Joel had called ahead that morning and the Ferry was operating but by the time we got there the high tide had arrived and the ferry wasn't operating. We backtracked to Salisbury and got on some roads I knew finally from 4-5 years ago on a trip to Chincoteague, Rt. 349, Rt 12, Rt 175 to Chincoteague and the Chincoteague Inn. We unloaded, took some showers and walked down the road to dinner at <u>Steamers – Restaraunt & Sports</u> <u>Bar (steamerschincoteague.com)</u> I had a good dinner of oysters, crab cake, and hush puppies. A good meal, nice walk back to the motel, then Cigar and JD with Vohn on the porch in front of our rooms, a Good Day.

Sunday morning we wandered down to a local Vietnamese Bakery had croissants and coffee, with a plan for Brunch in Ocean City. It was a good plan, I enjoyed it and then the ride around the island then up to

<u>Assateague Island National Seashore (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)</u> to try and spot some horses. We did but they were at a distance. Had a look at some rugged seas, then north to Brunch at a Denny's, which was quite good, and the service was excellent.

After brunch we headed back to the barn as the saying goes. All of the roads were perfect for the bikes we were riding and fun to ride, Thanks to Joel the route Master. Once back at the barn dinner was ready and smelled fantastic but I had to pack up and get on the road, my apologies to Lynn I'm sure it was fabulous. I arrived back in Chantilly at 9PM. I had a great weekend, well worth the cost and the chance to ride with everyone on a great classic bike with the added bonus of another trip with riding buddy Vohn. Joel sorry you had to hold the bike for me at every stop, but deploying the center stand without a side stand was just more than I could handle with that tail bag, I'm cursed with a short inseam that is getting sorter with age.

I'm ready for another adventure on a classic ride, maybe in the spring. Who is in? We can just let Joel know what we have in mind. Somewhere in PA with nice hotel/motel, perhaps if Classic bike goes to seven springs or is Wellsboro too far? Words by Gene Hunt. Thank-you Gene.



At Air Mobility Museum, inside a big transport plane. How big? It can hold 6 Greyhound buses!

## A SHORT FERRY RIDE



LUNCH ON THE DELAWARE -MARYLAND STATE LINE.





JUST CAUSE THE SIGN SAYS ROAD CLOSED...THAT MEANS CLOSED TO CARS, RIGHT?



"WILD HORSES COULDN'T DRAG ME AWAY"



FROM LEFT: ED, VOHN, GENE



MIND THE WAVES! ED TESTS OUT HIS WATERPROOF BOOTS

