

RIDE REPORT: NEW JERSEY MOTORSPORTS PARK/ JULY 11-12, 2015

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Four of us made the trip to NJMP. This was the weekend of vintage road racing by AHRMA: The American Historic Racing Motorcycle Association. In addition to racing there is a swap meet, food, music, demo rides and more. The ride from home to the track is about 75 miles, a bit longer by the route we used. We hugged the Delaware River on the way down which opens into the Delaware Bay and the Atlantic ocean as you head south. We passed many small fishing villages and historic spots such as the Hancock House where the British massacred American revolutionaries in the late 1700's.



The roads through this obscure part of New Jersey are very lightly traveled and in spots pass through expansive peach orchards: very suitable for relaxed riding on vintage bikes. Once at the track we were allowed open access to the pits where we closely examined all manner of vintage racing machinery including a Briton, 'kneeler' sidecar road race machines, and a Vincent Comet. We chatted briefly with Dave Roper, the only American to have won a race at the Isle of Mann. Oddly, there were also a half dozen or more all electric race bikes made by Impulse. I'm not quite sure how they get included in a vintage race meet but they are fascinating, fast and eerily quiet on track.

We ate track food and moved around to watch the racing from a number of vantage points. For me the highlight was access to the pits where we could observe the machines, the racers and the pit crews in action. At the conclusion of our afternoon we rode a short way to a reserved motel in Millville. It was a hot, humid and sunny day so I wasted no time jumping into the refreshing swimming pool while a few of the other riders visited a local watering hole for a cold beer. After a bit we walked about a half mile to a very decent restaurant then returned to our rooms for some relaxing and eventually to sleep.

Early on Sunday morning we rode south for an hour to the extreme southerly point of New Jersey: Cape May. Here we waited on line in the shade of a large camper before boarding a full sized ferry boat for a 90 minute cruise across the bay to Lewes, Delaware. Next we found Route 9: good riding which no one uses anymore since it was upstaged by super-slab Highway 1. At the southern end of 9 we pulled into the Dover Air Force Base Air Mobility Museum where the vintage aircraft on display ranged from a wooden World War II glider to a C5 Transport once used to launch an intercontinental ballistic missile while in mid-air. It totally freaked out the Russians! Route 9 hugs the west bank of the Delaware River and brought us over the C & D Canal and back home in 90 miles.

RIDERS: (left to right) Andy Powell, Joel Samick, Rob McMenamain, Tony Myers
BIKES: (left to right) Moto Guzzi V50, Yamaha TX750, Ducati 860GT, Triumph Bonneville



Short coffee break at Duncan Donuts:
Bridgeton, NJ.



Millville, NJ: relaxing at the motel on a warm summer's evening

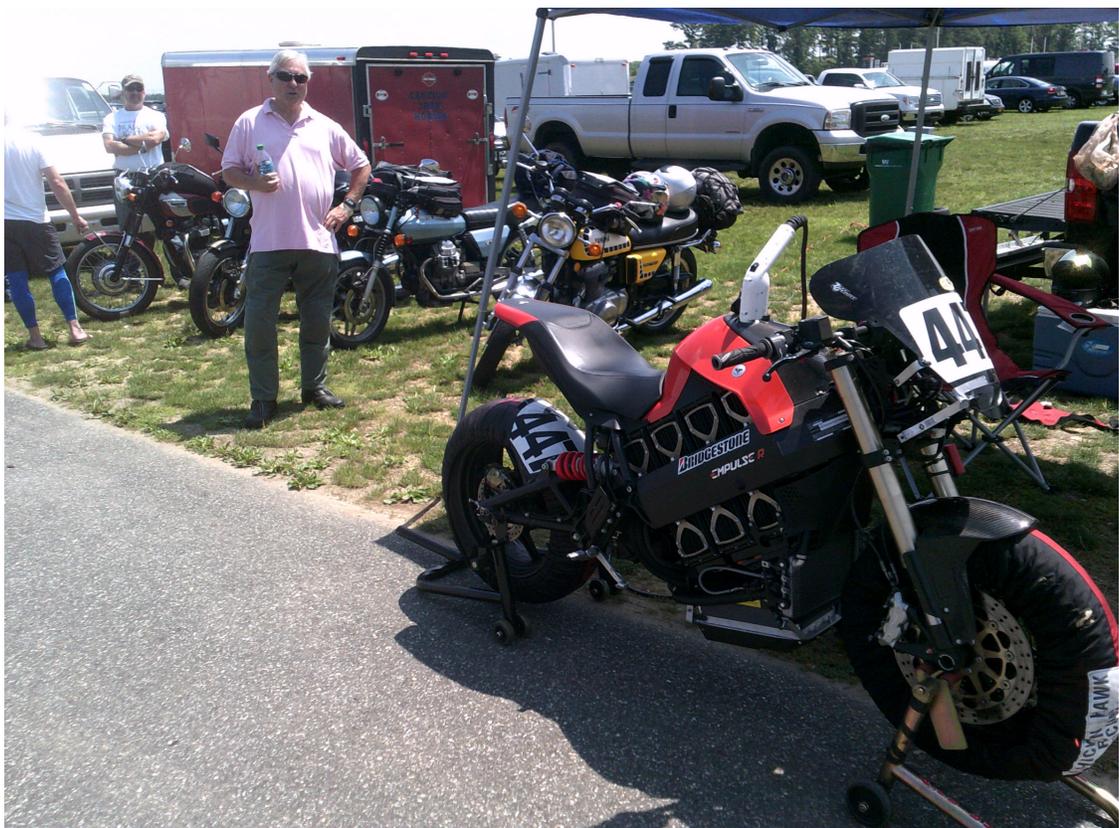


AT THE TRACK:

Foreground:
Impulse all
electric race
machine: #44.

Background:
our 4 classic
bikes.

In between:
good friend
Mac Morgan
with a cold
drink.





We weren't the only riders to arrive on classic bikes: *# lots of eye candy.* A sweet Norton and a fine old BMW. Isn't that blue car also a classic?

Yamaha 250 twin.



Laverda SFC Production Racer.....
.....or is it a replica?

Yamaha 650 twin based "Kneeler".
Wanna Monkey?



It's a Harley, Jim, but not as we know it, not as we know it Jim: a 2 stroke twin racer from the then Harley-Davidson owned Italian company Aermacchi.



God saved the Queen but not Velocette.

A single cylinder Vincent Comet :500cc race special. An unusual feature of the valve design for these motors was the double valve guides, and the attachment of the forked rocker arm to a shoulder between the guides, to eliminate side forces on the valve stem and ensure maximum valve life under racing conditions.



We watched Makoto Endo paint this Norton with CHOPSTICKS!
Incredible.

The amazing Britten from New Zealand may now be a classic but it's still way ahead of it's time.



Dave Roper had his race face on but 2 weeks later he would relax, join us for a RetroTour and keep us entertained with endless stories about racing through the decades

Steve Wittick, one of the event organizers, on his Harley Davidson bicycle, admiring the RetroTours TX750.

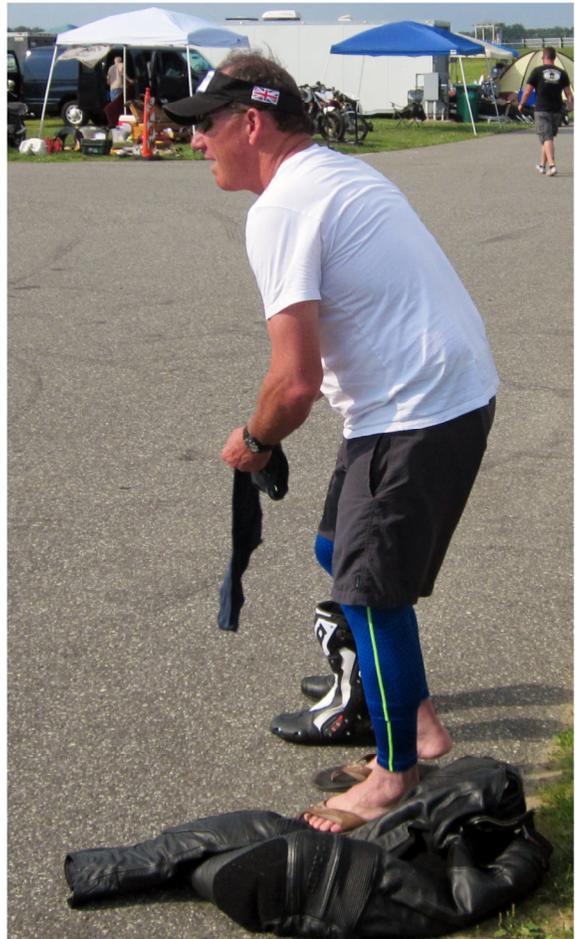


Where there are vintage motorcycles there must be vintage motorcyclists. Like wine, they age well.



Rob: caught with his pants down. A hot day for full leathers but shorts underneath help.

Turn right where???



ON THE BOAT:



The 30 minute wait for boarding was made bearable by the shade next to this camper. We paid around \$35 for the boat ride. Can you imagine what the camper driver paid?



I think the T-shirt pretty much tells you everything you need to know about Andy.

Tony and Andy contemplate the meaning of life.



The view from the upper deck. The dresser was the one other bike on board.





Hear no, see no, do no Kneivel

AIR MOBILITY MUSEUM:



Vintage Wings



Too big to fit into my camera. Big enough to carry **SIX** Greyhound buses.



Left:
Crabs for lunch.

Right:
Rest stop along the
Delaware River.



We'll be back next year!

