

A & I Custom Tour: Thursday May 16, 2019

Custom tours are becoming more popular. They can be fitted to the clients' schedule and desires. In this case, two young men whose families moved to the USA from Ukraine when they were young were friends and riding buddies growing up, but had since each followed their respective careers, and now lived far apart, having kept in touch primarily through email and social media. Alex contacted RetroTours months in advance and he and Igor planned to reunite on a day that suited their busy work schedules. This worked out to be the third Thursday in May.

In designing their tour, it was decided that 2 short loops would allow them to experience twice as many bikes as 1 long loop, so a route was planned that included a return to home base to switch all 3 bikes midway. After a hearty breakfast here we set out on the first loop. Alex and Igor had chosen 4 bikes to ride, and I thought it would be best to use the less user-friendly bikes first, while everyone was fresh. So, it came to pass that the Harley XLCR, the Laverda 750, and the Triumph Bonneville were wheeled out first, while the GL1000, the R90/6, and the TX750 were readied for the second loop.



We did 15 miles on local back roads first as a check out loop, stopping for a break at historic Smith's Bridge. Everything was going well so next we set out on the 45- mile ride to Hopewell



Village. Here we explored a bit, I earning about iron



casting and smelting in Revolutionary times. A different set of curvy back roads led us back to Kennett Square for lunch at a very authentic Mexican taqueria. With our hunger sated, we returned to the RetroTours garage to swap bikes.



Alex (left) and Igor (right) at the lunch stop. Two old friends, reunited on a warm spring day, riding vintage motorcycles on scenic back roads.

At this point Igor got a phone call and had to leave for family obligations. He was having a great time, but sometimes life just gets in the way. I know he will be back if he can just make time for himself. At least the two old friends got to spend some time and ride together again, just like old times. Alex and I used the GL1000

and the R90/6 to make a second loop to the north west, stopping at The Pinnacles, a scenic overlook, and then heading south into Delaware to attend bike night at Powersports East, where we were able to also score some chow. In addition to the food there was music and lots of bikes to gawk at. A short ride home finished off the perfect day ride.



The Pinnacles Overlook



Alex got to try all the bikes he dreamed about as a teenager. Here he enjoys the warmth of the sun at a rest stop on the second loop of the day.



Being the only vintage bikes on the lot, we did draw some attention. Interesting contrast between our 1976 GL1000 and the 2017(?) GL1800. 200 pounds heavier, much faster, a lot more bells and whistles for \$20K+, but is it any more fun?



The Kawasaki Versys seems like such a nice bike. This one is loaded down with some super-sized saddlebags.



The young lady on the Harley says it all with her facial expression: it was a very pleasant summerlike evening, enjoying riding, some music, good food, and the company of like minded individuals. A custom tour to remember.