

Ride Report: Local Loops², June 2021

The Riders

Bruce Bartlett..... Florida
 Fred Shufflebarger....Pennsylvania
 John Ritter..... Pennsylvania
 Matt Schnell..... Pennsylvania
 Chuck Lovey..... New Jersey
 Steve Fillweber..... Tennessee
 Joel Samick..... Pennsylvania

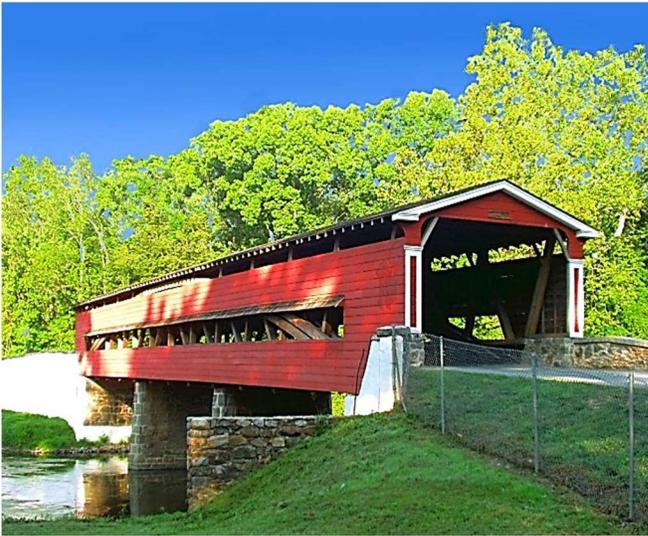
The Bikes: DAY 1

1970 Triumph T100C
 1971 BSA b650 Lightning
 1973 Yamaha TX750
 1975 Suzuki T500
 1976 Yamaha RD400C
 1977 BMW/EML R100S
 1979 Moto Guzzi V50

This (Local Loops)² ride was set up as Saturday only, Sunday only, or both. Six riders converged on the garage in Kennett Square for day one, 3 stayed on for day two.

Saturday's ride took us to 5 nature preserves and 1 taqueria (for lunch). Each loop was 25 miles long +/- and at each stop we enjoyed snacks, cold water, and good camaraderie. Riders were able to switch bikes as desired, so as to sample an assortment of machines spanning the 70's. There was a bit of rain right at the end of the 150 mile day, but no one minded. Besides the rain, we were a little too tired for "the sidecar experience" which allows riders to try driving the outfit in a wide open parking lot. Maybe next time. A home cooked meal and a few cold beers to wash it down was the perfect cap to our day. Thanks Lynn, awesome wife & chef.

STOP #1: Smith's Bridge above..... Parking area below



Our second stop at Stroud's Mill Preserve. From left: Fred, Matt, Joel, Bruce, Steve, Chuck



3RD stop at Right: The Smallest Church in the World



Left is lunch at stop #4. Kennett Square is renowned for authentic Mexican food.



Above: John at Valley Garden Park/Stop #5.

Thanks for taking most of the pictures, John!



Final stop: The visitor Center at ChesLen Reserve

DAY II:

1976 Honda GL1000, 1976 Kawasaki KZ750B1, 1977 Yamaha XS750, 1983 Suzuki GS550ES



Sunday, four of us followed the east bank of the Susquehanna north, pausing at a unique double long covered bridge and for scenic views at The Pinnacles, then lunch in the shadow of the historic Wrightsville Bridge, always a great meal. The ride back was under clear, sunny skies, following the west bank, and the roads were really quite enjoyable, crossing over the Conowingo Reservoir, and through Rising Sun, MD. Back home after 200 miles, we tucked into a delicious dinner prepared by my wife Lynn and enjoyed the company of like-minded individuals before saying our goodbyes.

Above: A long covered bridge spans the Octoraro reservoir, "and a river runs through it".

Right: the view from below the bridge.



The Pinnacles offers sweeping views of Lake Aldred, actually a deep gorge in the Susquehanna River.

Lunch on day 2 was at the John Wright restaurant, with views of the mile-long Wrightsville Bridge.



It doesn't go on every tour, but when it does, the BMW/EML sidecar rig is a classic workhorse. At stops, we tailgate from the humongous trunk full of cold water and snacks. Besides unlimited gear carrying capacity, the chair can also carry a passenger if a non-rider joins a tour. Sometimes, riders try their hand at driving the rig in an open parking lot. This time, the threat of rain after a long hard day meant that sidecar lessons were postponed, er, cancelled actually.