

MOVING VIOLATIONS TOUR: 2012

August 25 & 26, 2012



My good friend and riding buddy, Peg Preble organized this second annual ride for members of The Moving Violations, a Boston based national club of women riders. (www.movingviolationsmc.com) Like last year, this ride was not listed on the RetroTours schedule; we run unscheduled rides for small groups, individuals and/or clubs as requested, so if you have something in mind, get in touch.

Last year's Moving Violations tour was terrific and I was pleased that of the six riders this year, only Peg was a 'repeat'. I had thought that maybe last year's group was the exception but once again I was totally blown away by the skill levels that these gals displayed. These women are very dedicated motorcyclists. Julie works at a motorcycle dealership. I learned that one of the riders was still limping a bit after surgery to set a broken leg. Another had expressed concern about hard to pull clutch levers. At first I thought, 'here we go' but then I learned that she had corrective surgery to both thumbs only weeks before. The truth is that these folk take their riding very seriously; most candidates would have cancelled in the same situation. I did my best to choose bikes that would accommodate their concerns but in the end there were no problems: everyone rode very well indeed and even unfamiliar control layouts and lack of electric starters failed to faze anyone in the group. I decided to ride the EML sidecar as a support vehicle. Peg is an accomplished sidecar pilot so I knew she would spell me if I got tired out driving the big rig.



This unscheduled ride made it three weekends in a row for me and I have waited until the winter lull to post about it so I will let the pictures do much of the talking. As you can see in the photo above we rode out on the Kawasaki W3, the Yamaha TX750, the CB500T, the KZ750, the BSA and the Moto Morini. This was a two day RetroTour and riders from out of town began arriving on Friday. This gave us a chance to check out the bikes and figure out how to load everything. A couple of local riders came in early on Saturday and we were able to get an early start in fair weather.



We followed back roads north and west, passing through Danville on the way to a motorcycle friendly campground on the Susquehanna near Lewisburg. Steel Steeds made us feel very welcomed and the women were soon settled into three campers while I got comfy in a tiny cabin built onto a large pallet which allows for rapid evacuation when the river rises. The site is extremely close to the river bank: very lovely but prone to flooding most years. Our hosts, Bob and Diane provided towels and our accommodations included comfortable beds and clean linens. Snacks were waiting for us along with cases of beer. Did I mention that this group of riders consumed impressive quantities? We all showered and after the sun went down steaks and potatoes were prepared for us on the open fire. It was delicious: the perfect way to cap off a long day of riding.



Some of us retired early while others sat around the bonfire until the wee hours, enjoying the mild weather and the sound of the river flowing past. It would be difficult to imagine a better place to spend the night. The next morning we rode a few miles to an excellent breakfast restaurant for a mad chow down then jogged west to pick up one of the bestest roads around. PA Route 235 climbs up and down three mountains on its way southeast and we also found a sweet rest spot on a reservoir where Sue demonstrated one aspect of the pledging ritual for MV prospects: walking on water! After that riding motorcycles seems easy.





The ride home was lovely, including a stop to look at an old Moto Guzzi that belonged to a guy I met at the campground. I wound up buying it for RetroTours. In the end we said our goodbyes and the locals headed home while several others spent another night before riding out on their own modern bikes Monday morning. I can't wait until next season when hopefully I'll get to meet some more riders from Moving Violations as well as seeing some of the past participants returning for more. Thanks again Peg for helping put this one together.

Sue, Gin and hostess Diane on the right



Peg, Julie, Heather, Kath, Sue and Gin