

## **SHORT LOOP: July 2, 2015 / unscheduled.**

“I will be in Pennsylvania the week of June 29th and am interested in doing a one-day tour, possibly with a friend. I was referred to you by a co-worker of my wife's that had an excellent time on one of your tours a couple years ago. I wanted to see if it was possible to do a fun one-day tour while I'm there and to talk locations with you. If you could please email me back, I would appreciate it. Thank you, Jeff”

I received a phone call (or was it an email?) early in the 2015 season from a rider who wanted to arrange a custom tour. He lived in Los Angeles, CA and sounded like a nice young man; married and with a kid or two. His best friend from college had married and settled on the east coast, not too far from here and also had a youngster or two. Both friends had ridden together back then, not so much since; motorcycling had given way to jobs, wives and families. Now the two families were coming together for family vacations and a visit with old friends.

The guys would be hanging out with wives and kids for a number of days and they thought it might be fun to tell their wives to go shopping and/or take the kids someplace amusing while *da boys* had some time together doing “guy stuff” like maybe cruising around on a couple of vintage bikes. The leashes would be loosened but not by too much: this was to be a short, one day event.

I was game. I asked Jeff and Paul to choose bikes and they surprised me by picking the Norton Commando and the CB500T, two very disparate bikes but both with nostalgic appeal and a connection for these two riders. I happened to ask if either had ever kick started a big street bike before--which they had not--which led me to select the RD400, a fun, little, user friendly, easy to kick start machine, just in case there was a problem with kick starting the admittedly not so user friendly Norton. I also found out that I would have to supplement their riding gear as they did not have or bring everything that would be needed. Luckily, RetroTours keeps a bunch of second hand gear in a variety of sizes on hand for these occasions and both were soon suitably attired.



On a wonderful 80 degree early July summer day we set out under sunny skies for a pleasant romp through the countryside. Turns out these guys did just fine. Although they had not ridden in years, they were both intelligent enough to ride sensibly all day as we sampled a bunch of the local roads and



sights, covering about 125 miles without ever ranging out more than 30 miles from home. It was a very pleasant experience as we switched bikes often, sampled some of Chester County's best roads and took in some lovely sights, all at a pace that was safe and enjoyable. I have to admit that I really enjoyed spending the day with this pair of well spoken, positive young men.



Jeff and Paul:  
decidedly not  
'slackers'.....  
....winners in my  
book! I hope we  
can do it again  
someday.

