

RIDE REPORT: A. & I. X 2. Saturday, October 19th, 2019

Alex and Igor had done a trip or two in years past and they thought it would be fun to bring their wives along this time. I thought so too and designed a one-day ride with a couple of interesting stops along the way to keep everyone involved and to give us opportunities to stretch. BONUS! There would also be some very fine roads to ride. Alex and Tanya would travel two-up, Igor solo, and Alina in the sidecar. Riders and passengers would be free to switch seating positions at will. Alex arrived from Maryland with his wife Friday evening and we put them up in a private room here, while Igor and the Missus came over from Jersey on Saturday morning to meet us for breakfast at 8:30---ish.

The sun shone down as we suited up, prepared for lovely Autumn weather. The three bikes that were chosen provided ease of electric starting, conventional control location, and passenger comfort. Not by coincidence, they were, all three, shaft driven. The 'little' '78 CX500 is able to punch way above its weight, carrying two riders in full cold weather gear in good comfort while keeping up with the bigger motors, no problem at all. Italian bikes are always popular, and the 1976 Moto Guzzi 850T3 combines a super comfortable ride with the classic feel of its big V-twin engine. The quirky, primitive, integrated brake system rewards the rider who uses lots of foot brake, as this controls one front disc as well as the rear. The 1977 R100S-based sidecar rig gave us virtually unlimited cargo space for riding gear, food, water, spares, tools, pocketbooks, or whatever. Alina would ride in comfort; a warm blanket available as needed. Our route would stick to back roads at a sedate pace allowing us to enjoy the scenery and to stay warm. Stops were planned at about 35-mile intervals. Everyone seemed excited for this experience, me included. LET THE SUN SHINE!



Left to right. RIDERS: Igor, Alina, Tanya, and Alex. BIKES: R100S/EML, Guzzi 850T3, Honda CX500.

Many thanks to Igor for documenting this trip photographically.



ABOVE: Igor left, Alex right; friends since school days.

BELOW: The smallest church in the world.





We prepare to depart after our coffee break at the Little Church.



OK, I'm just gonna say it, "That is some FINE scenery; and the back-ground ain't too bad either.

Tanya and Alina at The Pagoda overlook.



The Reading Pagoda: fabulous views and a hot cup of tea.



Our photographer: Igor.

After lunch we stop at **The Joanna Furnace Complex**, an iron furnace that operated in Robeson Township from 1792 to 1901. It was founded by Samuel Potts and Thomas Rutter III and named for Potts's wife Joanna. After the Civil War the



charcoal-fired furnace passed through several hands before the furnace's major technological upgrade in 1889. The furnace continued in operation until it was "blown out" in 1898. The furnace was acquired by Bethlehem Steel, who deeded it to the Hay Creek Valley Historical Association in 1979. The ruins have been preserved and are open to visitors, although they seem to be few and far between except for the occasional special event.



'Roughing it' back at home, we sit around the fire, absorbing oer d'oeuvres as well as heat. #Smiles All Around!



Now we're REALLY roughing it: my very accommodating wife Lynn serves us a home cooked meal fit for a king-- under the stars on the back deck. In the glow of the candlelight, we celebrate the day along with our shared heritage.



I had Lynn puncture Igor's tire while we were away, hoping that he and Alinda would spend the night but he wasn't buying it. I had to stick a plug in it and send them on their way.....until next time.



The controlled(?) chaos of the RetroTours garage. Twenty-five+ great classics await the next adventure. It could be yours.





