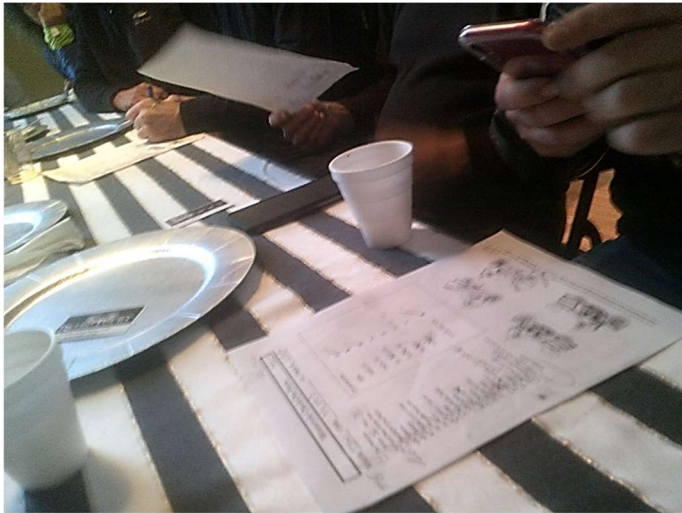


LOCAL LOOPS Saturday November 2, 2019...ride report:



At breakfast, we have a riders' meeting, necessary to keep our group of 12 a group of 12. Various shifting patterns are discussed, along with a preview of the day's activities. Safety, and the need for restraint are stressed. A more interesting group of riders could hardly be imagined. We have a family of barbers who brought three of their associates, two Israeli women, an IT manager, a neighbor, and 'Captain Reserve'.

Nick Berardi..... the Dad/ a barber from Philly
 Nicco Berardi..... Junior/ a barber from Philly
 Joseph Berardi..... the other Son/ a barber from Philly
 Wyatt Bourgeault Stylist/ with the above
 Brian Yachysen..... an architect from Philadelphia/ client of the above
 Andrew Jevremovic.. sculptor/furniture designer from Philly / client
 Keren Saig..... Sabra/ on vacation from Israel
 Sheila Zel-Zion..... Sabra/ Keren's sister
 Chuck Lovey..... IT manager/ commercial banking
 Lou Phillips..... a close neighbor/ I can see his house from here
 Andy Powell..... AKA **Captain Reserve**/ likes the XLCR



Forms to fill out, food to eat, and plenty of hot coffee; it's cool out there! The bikes were pushed out before riders began to arrive at 8:00. They came in cars and on bikes.



Nicco had broken his foot just days before and was in a small cast. Any sane person would have cancelled, but he showed up on his Can Am which he rode throughout the day. Glad you made it buddy; you define hard core.

1972 Norton 750 Commando Fastback
1975 Moto Guzzi 850T3
1974 BMW R90/6
1976 Honda GL1000
1975 Suzuki T500
1979 Moto Morini 500 Strada
1974 Benelli 650 Tornado
1970 Triumph 500 T100C
1977 Harley Davidson XLCR 1000
1976 Yamaha RD400
1977 BMW/EML R100S/sidecar



These are not motorcycles that most riders can just jump on and go. Starting and operating procedures vary immensely and need to be explained first. Amazingly, all 12 of us manage to get away smoothly. We are dressed for the cool weather, the sun is brilliant, we are on a roll. The first stop is just 15 or 20 miles away which will give us a chance to acclimate to the weather, adjust gear if needed, and get rid of some of that coffee.



Today's ride profile includes 6 loops, more or less 25 miles apart, for a total of 150 miles. I had planned one quick top-off for a few of the thirstier bikes, and one full gas stop at day's end. We have an option to stop at the high school parking lot just before returning to home for a sidecar experience in a controlled environment if anyone is interested. Stopping points include 4 scenic preserves, plus a coffee break and a lunch stop. At the stops, the sidecar trunk is opened, providing access to snacks and water for all. Most of the stops had port-a-potties available. We spend 20 minutes bonding, discussing the bikes and arranging to swap rides as desired. The cool morning becomes a lovely Autumn day which morphs into a cold evening. The roads are among Chester County's finest, as we zig-zag along the Brandywine River, briefly crossing into Delaware. Average speed is just 35 or 40 mph; the roads are narrow and very technical.

We have a few minor mechanical issues. The Benelli dies with a dead battery, fortunately at the top of a long hill. After letting the battery recover for a bit, we were able to bump start and ride with the headlight off which allowed the battery to recharge. Andy had all his electrical gear plugged in on the Harley and it refused to crank at one point. Again, a quick bump start kept things rolling along.

The biggest issue of the day could not be blamed on the bike, it was all on me. I was sure the Harley would finish the day without needing gas, but as we were heading for home, tired and shivering a bit, having decided that the sidecar experience would have to wait for another day, and with darkness falling, Andy on the Harley suddenly disappeared from the radar. I got everyone to the final gas stop and circled back to find him standing next to the XLCR which had a bone-dry fuel tank. **Captain Reserve** seems to have a knack for precisely determining absolute maximum range for motorcycles. He was 4 miles shy of the gas station. We emptied a water bottle and prepared to transfer some gas from the EML's 8-gallon tank when a local farmer pulled up in his pickup truck and gave us a few gallons from the gas can that just happened to be in the back. We rejoined the rest of the group at the gas stop and were soon back at home, enjoying a raging fire, a fantastic meal that my wife Lynn had prepared, some adult beverages, and some fantastic camaraderie.

It was a day to remember. Judging from the feedback, everyone had fun. The women from Israel added some spice to the mix and they rode like the seasoned veterans that they are. Lou commented that he had not ridden that far in one day in recent memory. He was dead tired but lovin' it. We were all beat as we didn't get home until after dark, and we were running out of calories after being in the wind all day. Nicco used his Can Am to good advantage, three wheels are especially useful when you only have one foot. Everyone rode well, there were no scary moments. The dinner was fantastic, and we spent a good hour talking about good times and classic motorcycles. Local Loops is the perfect way to get maximum RetroTours enjoyment with the minimal time commitment.



First stop: Smith's Bridge

A popular covered bridge over the Brandywine River, it was burned down by Halloween pranksters in the 1960's and rebuilt in the original style. Keren (left) and Sheila from Israel are not so accustomed to riding in these cooler temperatures but are staying cozy with some borrowed gear. Sheila especially loved the RD, but then, so does everyone.



Second stop:
Stroud's Mill
Preserve

Right (l to r):
Chuck, Andrew,
and Nicco enjoying
the beautiful
weather.



At left: Brian (left)
is leaving the
Benelli and
schooling Nick, who
is about to get on.

Right: Lou (left)
and Joseph are
admiring the yellow
Gold Wing.



Wyatt, center, rear, observes a spirited discussion.

Third stop: coffee shop next to the smallest church in the world.



Fourth stop: Lunch in Kennett Square:



Twelve of us pretty much fills all seats as we enjoy some very authentic delicious Mexican food.

Fifth stop: Valley Garden Park:



Sixth stop:
New
Preserve:





The perfect ending/ perfect day.



The Berardi Boys