

RIDE REPORT: KINZUA, 10/08/21 - 10/11/21



WOW! WHAT A GROUP OF RIDERS! EVERY ONE OF THESE ARDENT ENTHUSIASTS IS AN ACCOMPLISHED RIDER. I MAY HAVE BEEN THE WEAKEST RIDER IN THE GROUP. BUT THAT'S OK, I WAS THE ONLY WHO KNEW WHERE WE WERE GOING, (MOST OF THE TIME.)

MICHAEL DANTUONO AND GINA CADILLAC. MASSACHUSETTS
MARK HEYDE. COLORADO
JOHN AND ROBIN BOVA, OHIO
JOEL SAMICK. PENNSYLVANIA

PLUG: JOHN BOVA RUNS **JOHNNY'S VINTAGE MOTORCYCLE CO.**
EVERYTHING VINTAGE; ESPECIALLY **VINTAGE KAWASAKI.**
GOOGLE IT!





THE BIKES: PARKED OUTSIDE OUR MOTEL IN HERSHEY, PA, ON SUNDAY NIGHT

1976 KAWASAKI KZ750B1. 40,100 MILES (MOSTLY HIDDEN)

1974 BMW R90/6. 40,650 MILES

1983 SUZUKI GS550ES. 8,341 MILES

19984 MOTO GUZZI V65SP. 26,356 MILES

1976 MOTO GUZZI 850T3, 24,245 MILES

1976 HONDA GL1000. 16,905 MILES

SPECIAL THANKS TO MARK HEYDE WHO ORGANIZED PHOTOS & VIDEOS: HIS, MIKE'S AND GINA'S, AND ALSO MADE A FANTASTIC KINETIC GOOGLE EARTH TRACE OF OUR TRIP SET TO MUSIC AND SUPPORTED BY PHOTOS THAT YOU CAN LINK TO FROM THE NEXT PAGE.

WORTH REVIEWING, IMHO

Mark did a ride down under recently, where the clever Aussies shared this APP with him. It uses the smart phone GPS function: techy & cool. Follow these links to share our adventure, overlaid onto Google Earth:

Day One: <https://www.relive.cc/view/vrqorAJpmy6>

Day Two : <https://www.relive.cc/view/v1Ow3J285XO>

Day Three <https://www.relive.cc/view/vYvE5JZRZwv>

Day Four: <https://forgot to turn it on! : NOT A LINK>

I will let the pictures below do most of the talking. All 5 riders spent the nights before and after here. John and Robin drove here and stayed in the mother-in-law suite. Michael and Gina were in the spare bedroom with private bath. Mark flew into Baltimore, then took Amtrak to Wilmington, DE where I picked him up on the BMW/EML sidecar rig. He slept in the 'Depravation Tank': a tiny light-proof, sound-proof, windowless room next to the workshop. The six of us rotated bikes every 75 miles when we stopped for gas, so over the course of the 4 days, everyone got to ride every bike.

On the first day, about 75 miles out, I pulled away from a red light and turned right, riding onto the solid white line that marks the right side of the lane. You know how they say to "stay *between* the lines"? Good advice. In this case, the line was a thick strip of fresh paint. There was no sign and the GL front wheel just washed out as if it were on glare ice. I DID NOT SEE THAT COMING! No real harm done. Six months later, there is still white paint on the front and on my right boot. New respect for painted lines, even in the dry! I hoped at the time that this would be the worst disaster of the trip and thankfully it was. The rest was pretty smooth. Friday night we stayed over at The Bison Farm. There is nothing I can say about these unique accommodations, except check the photo link below. The host even served us breakfast in his PJs!

Saturday, we rode long and hard. There were rain suits involved, and a stop at Mountain Top Provisions for a heavy lunch, winding up in Coudersport (rhymes with "*cloud-ers-port*"), a quaint mountain town with a vintage movie theatre—we watched James Bond, but the theatre was more interesting than the movie—and a history steeped in railways and lumber. The last 15 miles were through cold, pea-soup fog that totally obscured our vision, but I'm telling ya', nothing fazed these guys.

Sunday, we rode 35 miles to arrive early at the Kinzua Sky Walk, always fantastic, but even more so on this sunny Autumn day. We finished this longest day of our tour by breakfasting in Emporium, then following the scenic Susquehanna through Renovo and on down through Snow Shoe and the mansions of Bellefont, PA. We popped out of the low mountains and into Hershey, PA for Saturday night, enjoying fine weather and a short walk to a terrific dinner. Slept in a bit Monday, then visited the Antique Auto Club of America's museum, where a fascinating display of old mini-bikes held our attention for an hour plus.

We only needed 80 miles to reach home Monday where a fine meal was waiting, prepared by the RetroTours culinary staff (my wife Lynn). On the way, we overcame a minor mechanical, when the KZ750 battery suddenly and completely expired. To make sure it was well and truly dead, I basically blew it up. Then we found a replacement at a very nearby by Auto Zone.

Photos from trip: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/NGkxitpzVEtQ5UeK6> also tell our story.



WHAT'S IN *YOUR* GARAGE?



NOT SASQUATCH. IT'S JOHN BOVA. ROBIN BOUGHT THIS TOUR FOR HIM AS A GIFT ABOUT THREE YEARS AGO. IT TOOK HER THAT LONG TO PRY HIM AWAY FROM WORK.

LOOKS LIKE 'HAIRY JOHN' IS HAVING FUN!!!