

Hub & Spoke (3 DAY) Ride Report. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday May 20, 21, 22 2024

The hub is RetroTours home base. The three spokes are one day rides starting and ending at home base. During these rides, riders may elect to swap bikes. Each day a different group of motorcycles is rolled out, so if there are three riders, 9 motorcycles will be available to sample. In addition, the expense of overnight accommodation is greatly reduced or eliminated: local riders can go home each night; out-of-town riders can stay here in our B&B suite (with hot tub) for the outrageous fee of \$25 per night which includes dinner. Everyone gets breakfast each morning. But why, you ask, run this tour on weekdays? That's a great question.

Garry, from Mooloolah Valley, Queensland, Australia is a member of the TX Down Under (TXDU) crew that I have been in touch with for several years via email. It all began when someone down there saw something about the RetroTours TX750 on line. Who knew that there was a group of dedicated Yamaha TX750 riders in Australia? Every year they do a major group ride. Being somewhat isolated from the rest of the planet, Aussies have become adept at mechanical improvisation, and this is reflected strongly in the bikes that they run. One example: when his TX750 engine exploded (as they are wont to do) one member grafted a SOHC CB750 engine into the frame. The result looks factory, and it works charmingly well. Now TX750's are not exactly the most popular vintage models, but this only endears them all the more to clever folks like the TXDU crew. OK, I feel the same way; after all, these bikes were WAY ahead of their time, and the engines, when in one piece, have a flat power delivery that delights. Plus, the handling is/was above par. Just ask Alan Cathcart:

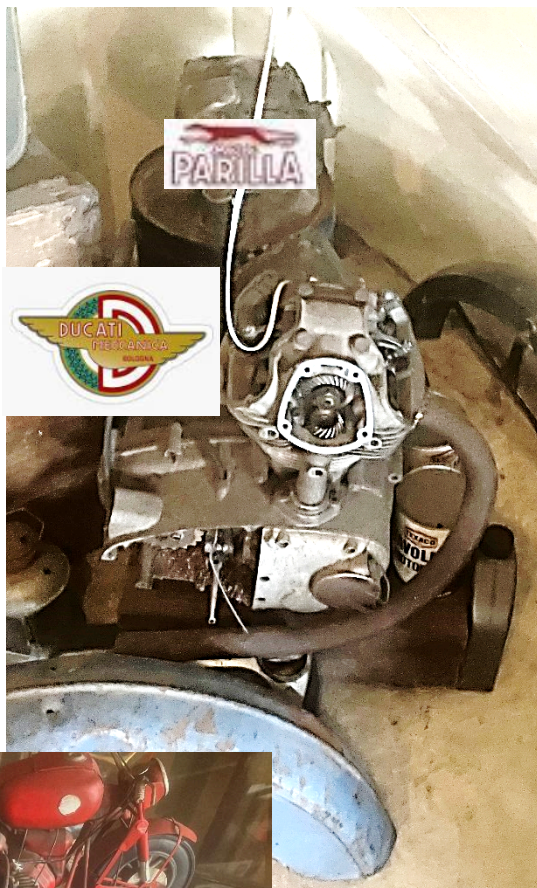
https://www.retrotours.com/media/press/Classic_Bike_Yamaha_TX750.pdf

So, Garry let me know some months in advance that he was planning to visit the East Coast for a wedding in New York, about 2 hours north of here. He was hoping to fit a RetroTour into his itinerary, but his available dates were the weekdays after the weekend wedding ceremonies. When I made the 2024 schedule, I thought it might be interesting to accommodate Garry by scheduling this 3-day ride around his travel plans. Obviously, attendance for a weekday ride would be limited, but that's fine, small groups are easy for me and we riders get to know each other all the more.

Garry and I were joined by Aaron from Saint Inigoes, Maryland who took most of the pictures, and his photography is excellent; thanks for that Aaron. On day three, Fred, a local rider and avid RetroTour-er joined as well. Eleven bikes were prepped and riders were free to choose. On Day One Garry, Aaron, and I rode the Suzuki T500, the Honda GL1000, and the Moto Guzzi V65SP. We ran Local Loops, a 150 mile day consisting of 25 mile segments divided by short social breaks at different land preserves and other points of interest. On Tuesday, we three chose to ride the Yamaha TX750, the Benelli 650 Tornado, and the BMW R100/7. We visited the Reading Pagoda which was another 150 mile round trip. On Wednesday, Fred joined us and we took the Triumph T120 Bonneville, the Kawasaki KZ750, the Yamaha RD400, and the Suzuki GS550ES up to Columbia, PA on a route called The Pinnacles. This included a stop at a very special custom vintage shop in Craley: J&B MOTO. You can read specifics of each of these routes in previous ride reports posted to www.retrotours.com . I will let Aaron's excellent photos tell the rest of this story. Suffice it to say that we had good weather, great rides, and especially fine camaraderie, not to mention really good food. Link to Aaron's photo album: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/zutJ5vzrTA3WUjiR8> .



treasures.



They say that one rider's trash is another's treasure.....

LEFT: I think it's a Moto Parilla.

RIGHT: Looks like an old Ducati single.

The proprietor was kind enough to let us browse his impressive collection of rare



BELOW LEFT: Specializing in painting, powder coating, and custom, mostly café style builds, this T500 Suzuki 2-stroke twin is truly a rolling work of art created by J&B MOTO.

BELOW RIGHT (L to R): Our host—I believe his name is Brian Leonard, Aussie Garry, and Aaron from MD.





LEFT, DAY ONE: One stop along Local Loops is the sprawling ChesLin preserve.

RIGHT, DAY TWO: Garry and Aaron enjoying the fine weather at the Reading Pagoda.



LEFT, DAY THREE: Fred and Aaron up on The Pinnacles.

