

LOCAL LOOPS 2012



The weather simply could not have been better with mild temperatures, brilliant sunshine and low humidity. I got up early and with help from early bird Steve Fillweber of New Jersey we got a bunch of the bikes pushed out of the garage so access to any one bike was assured. All 5 participants were ready to go by 10 AM and after coffee we did several 5 mile loops just to try out a variety of bikes and to give everyone a chance to get their bearings. Then everyone chose a bike they were more seriously interested in and we did two 10 mile loops and a 15 mile loop. Each loop was different and we eventually explored in all directions. The back roads close to the RetroTours Garage are really excellent for riding and we enjoyed lakes and rivers, covered bridges, and lots of curves. After a 30 mile loop we were feeling a might peckish so lunch was served.

We sat outside in the shade and ate turkey and tuna subs with chips and cold drinks. It really hit the spot and despite feeling very full we managed to drag ourselves out of our chairs and back to the garage. Several longer loops ensued and everyone got to try a wide variety of classic bikes. By day's end, nearly every one of the 23 fleet bikes had been run. The TX750 battery decided that 9 years was enough and gave up the ghost. That and my forgetting which way the kill switch worked on the Ducati Desmo 500 Sport were really the only problems that we had.

Favorites?

Steve really loves the Triumph but today the Benelli was his choice of fleet. He rode it twice! Ugly and with a questionable front brake perhaps; but such a *great motor*.

Scott just can't get enough of the Triumph Bonneville although he admitted that the Moto Morini 500 Strada was a close second. The Triumph does possess a certain je-ne-sais-qua....*Presence*.

Mark really enjoyed plodding along on the Moto Guzzi Ambassador.

Jack thinks that shifting down for up is just WRONG and stayed away from bikes that work that way. He came away with dreams of classic BMW's in his head. He loved the R90/6 but obviously not as much as his own Harley Davidson. .

Michael came down from New York City and after trying many of the bikes decided that the Laverda was the most thrilling. Especially when he tried to stop quickly! Can it be true that the SF in 750SF stands for 'Super Freni' or super brakes? What were they smoking?

My wife **Lynn** came through big time with chili and salad for supper. It was made with venison and it was a little weird watching the deer in the pasture watching us eat their cousins. Tasted great though. A cold brew capped the day nicely as the sun faded.

This venue seems to work very well and the event has grown since last year. Riders can try lots of bikes and they can ride exactly as much or as little as they wish. It's all very laid back. Hopefully things can continue to grow and we can expand to two days and offer camping, music, movies and naked dancing women. Think about it OK?

Mark photographing (l to r) Michael, Steve, Scott, Jack and Joel

