

Bagdad, Az. Jan 19, 2014

Our first Blue Knight club ride of the New Year was a trip to the mining town of Bagdad, Az. for lunch.

We had 16 bikes and 21 people gather at the Starbucks on Gail Gardner. Special thanks to Bob Carrion for riding down from Flagstaff for this event. Unfortunately Mike and Cyndi Borszich had to cancel over a medical condition and Dan and Carol Bonnet had trouble with their Trike on the way to the meet up. We all hope Cyndi is OK and the Bonnet Trike trouble is minor. So, the ride had 14 bikes and 17 people make the trip. This is great participation and it's super to see a resurgence of AZBKII riding enthusiasm.

Due to the size of the group we were broken up into two groups in order to avoid traffic problems from any cages wishing to hit Warp 2 on two lane highways.

We left with the temperatures in the low 50's and by the time we arrived in Bagdad the temps were closer to 70 and climbing.

The ride down to Bagdad was uneventful which is optimal on a motorcycle. In my mirror I did see Ray Hardyman scratching something. Nonetheless, as disconcerting as that was, the riders did enjoy the great scenery and we held a good steady pace.

We arrived at the Main Street Diner about noon and luckily it was not overly crowded. The staff was able to seat us all and the food was served in a timely manner. I didn't hear any complaints about the food except for Mike Beck who ordered a Chili Size burger that was no huge we all could have feasted on it family style. The only disturbing incident over lunch was Larry Hansen's casual remark that he listens to Japanese music while riding. I'm hoping they are not Sumo Wrestler Love Songs.

After lunch a group AZBKII photo was taken in the parking lot for future generations to admire. Thanks to our guest-friends Jeff and Jody Perry for taking the group pictures.

The way back took us south on highway 97 which is another great road for a bike. From there we went southeast on highway 93 to the Congress turnoff. That is some of us did. The second group led by Bill Noe took highway 71 which is a shortcut. I opted to not take that road as it has been 10 years since I was on that desolate stretch and I was sure that once I turned onto it civilization would never hear from us again. I opted instead to take the tried and true highway 89. Of course the rearward group beat us to the Congress gas station by quite a bit. In fact they were there long enough to recharge the massive Prius-type batteries on the Goldwings and it allowed the Harley owners to add missing oil and parts.

Ray Hardyman had a Go Pro camera bolted to his skull so he took (yet unseen) videos of the ride up Yarnell hill. We all hope that none of the video is of Ray scratching himself.

Outside of Peeples Valley many opted to head back via Skull Valley. Those of us who took the twisties had the misfortune to get behind a ratty truck full of scrap steel doing about 25 mph. He would not pull over so we had to wait until we hit the passing lanes before we could race up to speeds in excess of 28 mph. Maybe it was for the best because later two mule deer walked across the road about 200 feet ahead of me. Unfortunately, I did not have a camera bolted to my skull.

All in all it was great day to be on a motorcycle because aside from the great friends, great weather, and great scenery, we have all paid our dues over the years and are now just enjoying life.

Stay Tuned for the next Ride!

Frank Gary Ride Captain - BKAZII

PS: Ray and Larry. Thanks for all you do and I hope you don't mind the kidding. Hell...It's what cops DO!