

January 2017

Apex

Looking Through The Curve

Official newsletter of Bluegrass Beemers, Inc. Lexington, Kentucky
MOA #146 RA #49 <http://www.bluegrassbeemers.org>

LIVINGSTON
TRAILHEAD



Photo by John Rice

New Year, same requests....

By Jeff Crabb

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you survived the holidays and are looking forward to this year.

For us working folk, it was two three day weekends and now back to the grind. Just hope I can adjust to a five day work

week.

This month John takes us along on a ride to the lesser ridden paths in eastern Kentucky. As a matter of fact, some dirt and gravel roads that some of us wouldn't mind finding ourselves.

Please enjoy John's story and

pictures and please keep sending in your stories and pictures.

Please send all of your contributions to
apex@bluegrassbeemers.org.

Thanks



Spotted at the 2012 Mid-Ohio Vintage Days

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Lexington, Kentucky MOA #146 RA #49

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Deadline for submissions is the last day of the month.

Back issues of *Apex* can be accessed on our website

Join us at Frisch's on Harrodsburg Rd.

in Lexington, Kentucky on any Saturday, 7-9:00 a.m.

BMW Club
Bluegrass Beemers



LAST RIDE FOR 2016

By John Rice

Sunday, October 23, the day of the Last Ride before my four month confinement for foot surgery. Jay came by at 9:30 in the cold air on his XT so we could start from Winchester. Our first destination, as always, was pie at Opal's in McKee. Never ones to go any direct route, we traveled a large circle from my house, down 974 to Trapp and then took 89 down to Irvine. There are deer and other critters finishing up their morning rounds out

here, using these roads with us, so we give them a wide berth.

From there, 89 continues south, but gets a lot twistier and more narrow as it makes its way through the hills to end up in McKee. Down here the asphalt follows closely the sides of a ravine, rising and falling, turning back on itself. The canopy of trees, still holding on stubbornly to the last few colored leaves admits light in slanted sheets, leaving dark



Tree inspection site, by the Sheltopee Trail



XT 250's in their natural habitat

patches that could hide gravel or leaf residue or a wandering possum. But it is that softer light of fall, that almost textured light, that painters and photographers wait for and less talented folks like me just appreciate. Lovely.

We make a short stop for a photo op and tree inspection and find that we are at the cross-roads of a portion of the Sheltopee Trail. It is very tempting, 14 miles to S-Tree one way and 7 to a campground the other, but there will be no serious off-roading in the mud today. I won't have time to clean up and re-winterize the XT before my confinement starts on Tuesday, and, showing up on the day of surgery with the OTHER leg broken or sprained would not be a good idea.

At Opal's our luck with timing continues. The last few times we've been here, the pies have just come out of the oven and cooled

barely enough to put on a plate. How can the world be any sort of bad place when there is warm butterscotch and coconut cream pie such as these at the end of a twisty country road?

Well fortified, we go south on 89, where a few miles north of Livingston we come across an inviting looking gravel road off to the right and decide to just see where it goes. We followed it for about 200 yards and learned that it connects again to the Sheltopee Trail and presumably would go back up to the S-Tree forest and McKee. We continue on the gravel and dirt road for another quarter to half mile or so, thinking that it must go somewhere for the county to have gone to all this trouble to bring a lot of gravel down here to pave it. However it eventually dead ends with what may be a trail going off to the right and we decide our exploration has gone far enough for today. In



the spring, when I'm back on my feet, we will come down here and see where all these end up.

Back on 89, we quickly arrive in Livingston where we find Rt. 1955 that seems per the map, to meander back north through territory we've not yet tried. This turns out to be a real "find", in that it is a narrow road following a long ridge line splitting the northward difference between Rt. 25 and Rt. 421, nearly devoid of any traffic and with decent pavement for the most part. The XT's are in the on-road side of their dual-personality now, relishing the sweeping curves (which would be tight on a larger bike) soaking up the bumps, staying in fourth gear just where the power curve likes to be. From our vantage point on the high ridges we can see the endless valleys with trees putting on their last big show for the tourists like us. I'm not sure how many miles this route

takes, but it seems far too few as we reluctantly tee into 421 just south of Big Hill. We stop at the sign and just look over at each other, barely able to believe our good fortune this day.

From there it is the usual route back into Richmond, where we take 25 north up to the Boonesboro split with Jay going to Lexington and me to Winchester. The sun is dropping low over the darkening hillsides and I think there's a warm drink and an easy chair waiting for me at home. It will be a long time before I can do this again.



The Sheltoew Trail, just north of Livingston



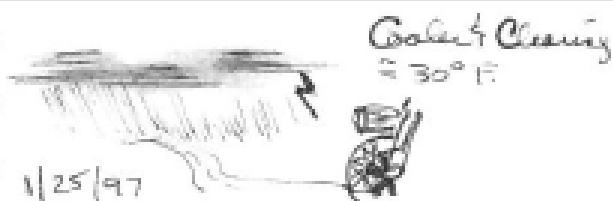
Livingston
Trail Head



These riding gloves were left at Frisch's on December 24th.

If they are yours, please contact Ray Brooks.

rayb@twc.com



THERE WAS THUNDER LAST NIGHT IN THE VALLEY,
 AS A FRONT SWEEP ACROSS THE PLAINS,
 THE LIGHTNING FLASHED AS I SAT BY THE FIRE,
 AND LISTENED TO BLOWING RAIN,
 BUT NOW IT'S SATURDAY MORNING,
 THE STORMS ARE FAR TO THE EAST,
 TIME FOR THE CLAN TO GATHER AGAIN,
 TIME FOR THE BIKER'S FEAST...



Here's the group for today:

- 1). Joe Bark
- 2). Phillip's Baugh
- 3). John Mcie
- 4). Boone Sutherland
- 5). Chester Martin
- 6). Ron Adkins
- 7). Jim Brandon
- 8). Pete Galskie
- 9). Tom Sutherland
- 10). Mike Gill
- 11). Chris Warner
- 12). Bill Voss and Jessi
- 13). Paul Elwyn
- 14). Ben Pruitt
- 15). Bob Gies
- 16). Bob Etzcorn
- 17). Drey Neal
- 18). Randy Scott
- 19). Darlene Huffman
- 20). Gary Huffman

*
 NO RIDERS!

Boone

Books available on loan

The following books are available on loan. Email me when you want to borrow one, and I will bring it to breakfast (or whatever other arrangements need to be made...I can deliver within reason) and I'll put your name beside it on my list.

I don't mind if people keep them a while (it takes me forever to read a book now....I keep falling asleep and then have to re-read the last 10 pages or so) but I don't want to give them away for good. At least not yet.

John Rice
Rickey@aol.com



Bahnstormer By LJK Setwright
Streetwise By Malcolm Newell
The Bart Markel Story By Joe Scalzo
Mann of his Time By Ed Youngblood
Yesterday's Motorcycles By Karolevitz
The Scottish By Tommy Sandham
This Old Harley By Michael Dregni
Racer: the story of Gary Nixon By Joe Scalzo
All But My Life: Bio of Stirling Moss By Ken Purdy (OK, not a motorcycle book, but who doesn't like and respect Stirling Moss?)
Investment Biker By Jim Rogers
Obsessions Die Hard By Ed Culbertson
BMW Twins & Singles By Roy Bacon
Bitten by the Bullet By Steve Krzystyniak & Karen Goa
Cafe Racers of the 1960's By Mick Walker
More Proficient Motorcycling By David Hough
Tales of Triumph Motorcycles & the Meriden Factory:
By Hancox
Sport Riding Techniques By Nick Ienatasch
Total Control By Lee Parks

Smooth Riding By Reg Pridmore.
A Twist of The Wrist (Vol 1 & 2) By Keith Code
Triumph Tiger 100 and Daytona By J. R. Nelson
This Old Harley (anthology) By Dregni
Side Glances By Peter Egan
Mondo Enduro By Austin Vince
Big Sid's Vincati By Matthew Bieberman
101 Road Tales By Clement Salvadori
Riding with Rilke By Ted Bishop
Legendary Motorcycles By Luigi Corbetta
Red Tape and White Knuckles By Lois Pryce
A Man Called Mike By Hilton (bio of Mike Hailwood)
The Perfect Vehicle By Melissa Pierson
One Man Caravan By Robert Fulton (first known circumnavigation of the world by motorcycle)
Monkey Butt By Rick Sieman
Ariel: The postwar models By Roy Bacon
Short Way Up By Steve Wilson
Endless Horizon By Dan Walsh
Leanings (1 & 2) By Peter Egan
Into the Heart of Africa By Jerry Smith
The Last Hurrah By Des Molloy
(Autographed copy, with DVD of the trip)
Whatever Happened to the British Motorcycle Industry
By Bert Hopwood
Down the Road By Steve Wilson
Motorcycling Excellence
By Motorcycle Safety Foundation
Leanings 3 By Peter Egan
Ghost Rider By Neal Peart

