



A barn on 250...

farmstead sites set in among rolling hills with views of the Rivers' shore as you descend down the hill coming into Bridgeport, OH.

I finally was able to hook up with Dave, Mike and Arlen in Wheeling W.V. From Wheeling we headed out 70 East through Pennsylvania with gas stops only. But I will tell you about a nervous 40 miles stretch I experienced. In between gas stops we were rolling enjoying the scenery when we rolled passed a truck stop. Little did I realize that was the last stop on 70 for more than 40 miles. No turn around options and by my calculations about 35 miles of gas left. This is the time when you throttle back going down hills,

throttle lightly going up mountains and coast when possible. Going around the mountain tops of post card quality views helped to take my mind off the gas situation, but not totally. I finally saw a sign for Breezewood, PA that was a welcome sight. But talk about a long 3 miles . . . Whew.

My favorite part of this route is definitely the tunnels. The tunnels like the Allegheny to me is total engineering cool-



Coming down 250 moun tain road into Bridgeport



ness. If you ever get the chance to check them out, do it. A tidbit of info: Pennsylvania has five of the 15 longest tunnels in the U.S. The rest of the trip to D.C. was really uneventful except for the hard turns Dave makes without warning, leaving us wondering where we were going (since he's now going South and we're still heading East). We all managed to regroup multiple times, and finally made it, a little wet from Hurricane Ida but safe and sound to the hotel.

I spent less than 20 hours in D.C., but I did get to chat with some Rolling Thunder members www.rollingthunder1.com from around the country. There were only 10 or so bikes in attendance due to Ida. The camaraderie was good. Rolling Thunder of Wisconsin Chapter 4 was another that kicked in support for my adventure and attended all of the meeting and sessions of the convention. They will be reporting more on it in a later issue of the FRP.

I did get to run around the Senate building for a couple of hours. After what seemed short of a full body cavity

search to get in the building, I wandered around just popping in on different offices to say hi to the office staffs of Senators McCain, Inhoffe, Dodd Burris, Enzi, Chambliss and Shelby.

For those that don't know, there is a mini tram in the basement that lawmakers and staff use to run between their offices and the chambers. But I can tell you the guards don't take kindly to someone snapping pictures of the tram and them. A few cool historical items are down there and I will attest that the acoustics are fantastic in the dome. Go down there and cough loudly to hear them. (Word of warning though they will look at you funny. But they don't really know me either.)



Rolling Thunder of Wisconsin Chapter 4 Pepper, Wizard, John & Papa.

on the negative. I jumped on the bike and found a little eatery in Bridgeport, OH.

My usual omelette, hash browns and water was a good meal to start the day off. It was reasonably priced and had an an atmosphere that a tripping biker felt comfortable to sit down at.

I got a few minutes after breakfast to retrace some of 250 from the night before. Just as I thought I missed some beautiful scenery. Old

Nov 13th:

That Friday around 2:30pm I packed up my bike, said goodbye to a bunch of the brothers and headed north for a 2-- hour ride in the rain to PA. Heading up 95 toward Baltimore in a drizzle could have been a lot more scenic if I didn't have to keep wiping my glasses. But then again I suppose it could have been worse too. One of my goals was to go through the Baltimore tunnel. I watched its creation on the history channel and thought it would be interesting. But as my numbed brain came to its senses I realized it was around rush hour, raining and I wasn't really sure on my route I decided against the detour.

I shot the beltway around Baltimore and headed up 83 toward York, PA to visit FRP writer Skypilot and his lady Txy. Once I arrived it sure was nice to put my feet up and socialize for a few hours, knowing in less than 12 hours I had a long, hard haul to Columbus, Oh. After ordering some takeout, a short tour of the homestead and a movie I headed to a bed that was calling my name. Talk about a good night sleep. Oh Ya!

Nov 14th:

Being all refreshed, I packed up around 7a.m and again headed out in the rain north so I could catch I-76 turnpike over to OH. The rain was persistent as all get out but as the old saying goes, "a bad day on the scoot is still better than a good day at work." Mother Nature finally ran out of precipitation 100 or so miles west of Harrisburg. God's Glory showed through with some much needed sunshine at this point. In fact the starting temp for the day was 34 and rainy and the ending temp was near 70 and sunny. Talk about a blessed stretch of highway, weather wise.

I did stop in Sommerset, PA for a bite to eat. Summit Diner is what I found. The food was good and the company enjoyable. Next I stopped across the street at Highland HD. www.highlandhd.com I chatted with one of the sales people and headed out again.

The 400 + miles rolled off and I pulled into Columbus at the NCoM Multi-Regional Conference around 5pm. It was dark, cool and there were new bikers I have never met. But what's a guy to do? Start mingling, right! So I caught up with Dave and he introduced me to the main man of the event, Ralph Buss www.ralphbuss.com. Ralph is the Attorney for the Confederation of Clubs www.cocmidwest.com in the Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky region. I was invited to the dinner which I need to say was fabulous (thanks Ralph). While I was eating, I met some other individuals including Strategy Officer Paul from US Defender's.

C.O.I.R or Coalition of Independent Riders. With No Dues or memberships, this non club is a way for motorcyclists to be at the fore front of any action. It is simply a data bank of contact info that riders can be contacted in case of a "Call to Action" or a "community emergency". This is a really interesting group. Check it out www.usdefenders.org. I was sorry I missed the convention but I haven't figured out how to be in multiple states at once. Who knows, maybe next year?!

Nov 15:

5am came to quickly, but we headed out and rode hard till I made it to Milwaukee around 3pm, along with videographer Bryan Thompson. Bryan needed some video of Dave for a documentary he was putting together.

All in all the trip was energizing for me and a well needed run for my soul. Thanks again for the support from the different friends, family (mom) and business's and groups. I will be doing another run or two this upcoming year. If you have somewhere I may enjoy checking out be sure to send me the info to preacher@freeriderspress.us.

Again thanks Kutter HD, Dave Zien, Rolling Thunder Chapter 4 Wisconsin and Mom for making this trip possible.



Some of the Rolling Thunder Members Exiting their Senators office.



Old Congressional Trolley



Highland HD in Sommerset, PA