

5th Annual Knobbies "Ride the Blue Ridge"

by Wally Wersching

On Friday September 19th to Sunday the 21st, the Knob Mountain Motorcycle Chapter held their 5th Annual "Ride the Blue Ridge" rally at the Catawba Meadows Park in Morganton, NC. The "Knobbies" are a group of over 200 motorcycle enthusiasts who meet every Sunday morning about 8:00AM at the Timberwood Restaurant in Morganton, and then go for a day-long ride. They were originally a BMW Motorcycle Owners club, but now they welcome all kinds of bikes to their rides. They are a friendly and warm group of individuals.

Five years ago, they started holding the "Ride the Blue Ridge" event, and it was a hit with bikers - both local, and not so local. Bikers came from all over the east coast and Canada. They were amazed by the turn-out. Every year, they improve on last year's event.

This year, they had guided "Ride Along with the Knobbies" rides to encompass all kinds of riding - from off-roading to leisurely cruising down the back roads.

The facility, the Catawba Meadows Park, is an excellent facility in Morganton, NC which keeps getting better every year too. The city of Morganton is one of the sponsors of the event.

I decided to ride up to visit them on Friday morning, and bring a stack of current USRiderNews for the participants. I got there at about 8:30AM, and a few bikes were already lined up to go for their "Ride Along with the Knobbies."

They were serving breakfast in one of the shelters, and the smell of coffee and bacon filled the air. I had eaten before I left home, but that food smelled almost too good to resist. It was cooked by the local US Marine group.

Many of the participants camped at the park overnight so they could be ready early to hit the road (or dirt for the off-roading ride). I walked around, and talked with many of the Knobbies along with some of the rally goers. They were all ready to have a great day of riding the backroads of North Carolina and Tennessee.

The backroads group left first. They all had smiles on their faces in expectation of the enjoyable ride. Then the off-road group was ready to leave. They waited for all who signed up to join the group, and then left. They too had smiles on their faces. It was a cool and cloudy day, and they knew they were going on an enjoyable ride.

It was very quiet after they all left. There were only a few people at the rally site to welcome the new arrivals.

Info: www.knobbies.org

I left, and took the scenic way home - south on Rt 64. It started to rain as I rode through Morganton. It would rain hard, then drizzle, and then the road was dry for awhile. This sequence happened all the way down Rt 64, and even after I turned south on Rt 226. It finally stopped raining completely after I rode through Polkville, NC. When I got home about 11:00, Cindy said that it had been sunny and dry all morning.

I changed my wet clothes, and then we went out for a nice lunch with our son, Danny, at Italian Garden in Boiling Springs. The pizza was delicious as usual. They have the best pizza in town. After lunch, I worked around the house. It was a great way to spend a retirement morning.



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1 Samuel 16:7, James 2: 1-4

Black Leather. Tattoos. Jeans.
{ PROPER SUNDAY ATTIRE }