



North Breakfast Ride 3/6/2016

Well, Maude, y’see it was this-a-way. Thursday it snowed—those nice Canadians up North keep sending that stuff down this direction, but Friday the Alabamans or somebody down south sent enough warmish (above freezing anyway) air up to the ‘Burgh to melt the stuff back off, so this morning, Sunday, the temps though a bit frigid (33°), nonetheless showed up with clear, dry roads. Not necessarily being like Hardly Ableson riders who seem to like to huddle inside or under bridges during inclement weather (cold, rain, mist, fog, or what-not), but instead hardy BMW riders, a bunch of us, 11 in all, showed up at the VIP Drive King’s Family Restaurant to partake of their fine breakfast cuisine, and our own self-provided camaraderie, conversation, and tire-kicking in their nice front room they always reserve for us. As Walt Halaja’s fine picture of this jolly gang indicates, From left to right there were Bob Mahalics, ‘Cap’n’ Walt Halaja, Jack ‘The Blue Knight’ Bramkamp (peering around the right side of “Ruby’s” [ReddyK’s ‘new’ 400 Mini-Pferdstärke* scooter] windshield), John Hetzel, ‘Doc’ Sean Barrett, Ron ‘ReddyK’ Latkovic, John ‘The Long Rider’ Allen, Ron ‘Camper’ Kranz, Larry ‘The Manager’ Morley, me (Ralph Meyer), and ‘Prof’ Frank Beatrous. A KLR, ‘Ruby’ the scooter, and a number of R-RT bikes, older and newer, were clearly in evidence.

Our interior munching and machinations were followed by exterior tire kicking and discussions, the temp by then having risen to about a balmy 39°. Ron’s new Burgman was a fine center of attraction, and a neat scooter with numerous interesting details. I’m not sure where everyone else was headed, but I had some foraging to do at our local Rite-Aid in Gibsonia, and Bob and ReddyK were headed to Cycle Gear on Rte 8, so we made at least a short ride over 910 East to our couple ports of call. I made it home right about noon with the temp just touching 40°, not bad for riding at all given the presence of an unplugged Gerbings under my BMW jacket, and long-johns and some quilted Carhart pants. Quite comfortable, I must say, even without the niceties of heated grips and seat on the old ’89 RT. As with the rest of the bunch, I consider it a morning well and happily spent!

Ralph

*Pferdstärke—Bayerische Motoren Werke Sprache für ‘Horsepower’ in Die English.—in this case 400ccs and ‘mini’ horsepower as compared, say, to a big block Chevy V-8.