

Ride them don't hide them North of the Border

August 2009 found several DVNR members riding their Nortons on their "Great White North" trip to Ontario Canada.

A loosely formed group of British Bike enthusiasts from Southeastern Pennsylvania make up the Brit Bike Boys who have planned and taken a "long ride" every summer for the last eight years. The "long ride" had traditionally been a 4 or 5 day trip avoiding 4 lane super slabs and major highways wherever possible riding various marques of British Motorcycles. Last fall, after a 4 day tour of New York State, the Boys decided to cross the border into Canada for their '09 ride. The ride route would be flexible and evening stops would be pot luck with camping gear taken as back-up accommodations. The dates were chosen to be Aug 16 – 22. 5 riders, 3 being DVNR members, committed to the plan. The group would do their duty to "Ride them and not Hide them" and the 5 riders grew to 9.

Sunday morning came and after two weeks of almost daily rain the sun came out and nine riders set off for their "Great White North" trip. The route started from Reiglesville and wound through Easton, Stroudsburg, Hawley, up to Hancock New York. Day 1 ended at a motel in Oneida NY. The riders headed North to the border on day 2 and crossed the St. Lawrence River at the Thousand Islands Bridge. Riding into Canada the group rode toward Smith Falls then Perth and on to Calobogie where suitable accommodations were found for use as home base for the next two days.

Riding back roads in Ontario was a bikers dream, little to no traffic and cool weather prevailed while folks back home were sweltering in a Pennsylvania heat wave added to the joy. The evenings at Lake Calobogie were perfect for swimming, enjoying local restaurants and the consumption of copious amounts of drink with fellow British bike enthusiasts.

The ride home was just as much fun as the initial ride into Canada, riding two lane roads to Kaladar, Perth, Smith Falls, Brackville and across the border at Ogdensburg. The trip across the 3/4 mile open steel grate bridge with turns is something this vintage bike rider will never forget. Day 4 ended at the resort town of Alexandria Bay on the St. Lawrence River. The threat of 2 days of high winds, hail and rain led to the decision to reduce the New York state riding and the

group headed South to Hancock NY for the evening. The 6th day with constant heavy clouds influenced the group to follow their original route home through Eastern PA.

The ride amounted to 1200 miles +/- with only a few maintenance problems with a Norton oil leak and a Triumph loose wire and other minimal bike adjustments. A tribute indeed to the riders who maintain their 35 year old and older equipment. British bikes making the journey: C. Davis on 67 Atlas, D. Rank on 69 Triumph, R Weisel on 71 Triumph, D. Neatroun on 74 Norton, D. Sellers on 75 Norton, T. Weisel on 76 Triumph, D Varney on 2005 Triumph.

Submitted by Dan Sellers



Photo 1.

Riders Chuck Davis, Don Rank, Richard Weisel, Tom Weisel, Ryan Weisel, Jim Barnitz , Dave Varney, Dan Sellers, Dwight Neatroun.



Photo 2:
DVNR riders Dwight, Dan and Chuck stop by a “Norton Road” sign near Calabogie Canada



Photo 3:
DVNR riders and their road captain Don Rank on his 69 TR6 pose for a photo in Calabogie



Photo 4

Norton Riders take break



Photo 5

Riders relax while their road captain checks the map. No GPS for this group of vintage riders.



Photo 6

Dwight's Norton Mk II is used as transport for evening beverage purchased from the package store.