

RELIABILITY RALLY 2019 FAYETTEVILLE, WEST VIRGINIA

Colin Gorey: Reliability Rally Co-Founder and Route Master, www.reliabilityrally.com

Late May, 2019: Twelve riders met in Fayetteville, West Virginia, near the famous New River Gorge for the 3rd annual Reliability Rally. We rented a large house in the hills above the New River for two full days of riding, and three nights of eating too much grilled meat and consuming too much of West Virginia's finest craft beer. For those that don't know, the Reliability Rally is an annual event where contestants ride jalopy motorcycles purchased for \$1000 (or less) on a tour covering 300+ miles on some of Appalachia's finest twisties, with several fun competitions thrown into the mix.



2019 RR Fleet: The Largest Yet!

See Above Photo: Left to Right

RIDER	BIKE	PRICE
James W.	1979 Honda CB750L	\$450
Justin S.	1984 Honda CB700SC "Knighthawk"	\$900
Lou T.	2001 Kawasaki KE100	\$700
Charles P.	2001 Suzuki GSXR 750	\$1000
Connor Y.	1999 Honda CM250 Rebel	\$1000
Scott S.	1978 Vespa P200E	\$1000
Chase H.	1979 Honda CB750F "Supersport"	\$800
Colin G.	1985 Honda V65 Magna	\$900
Jim F.	2007 Honda Shadow 600	\$1
Irv H.	1982 Honda CX500 Silverwing	\$700
Paul D.	2005 Harley Davidson 1200 Sportster	\$995
Alex L.	1982 Yamaha XJ650 Maxim	\$800

This year the group again grew, with 12 different jalopy bikes showing up. The machines ranged from 99cc to 1200cc, and featured marques from around the globe. The bikes' original intended missions varied greatly: The KE100 is a 3rd world commuter. The GSXR is built to scorch a race track. The UJM Maxim and "Knighthawk" were muscle bikes in their day, and the Rebel was intended for teaching new riders the basics. This weekend, the mission for all was the same: ride 300 miles on some of the toughest roads in the country without breaking down, and try to stay out of the hospital...



Paul's Heavy Metal Harley



Yes. They all run.



Tour-ready Jim, showed off ultimate reliability by riding in from Pittsburgh.

Friday 5/31: Riders filtered in, everyone began unloading bikes, gear, and claiming sleeping spots. Lou fired up the grill and made hotdogs and wings. James realized that his bike was no longer charging, so he spent the evening with a multimeter and soldering iron attempting to repair the charging system.

James's Friday night date:



Yamaha Maxim Mood Lighting



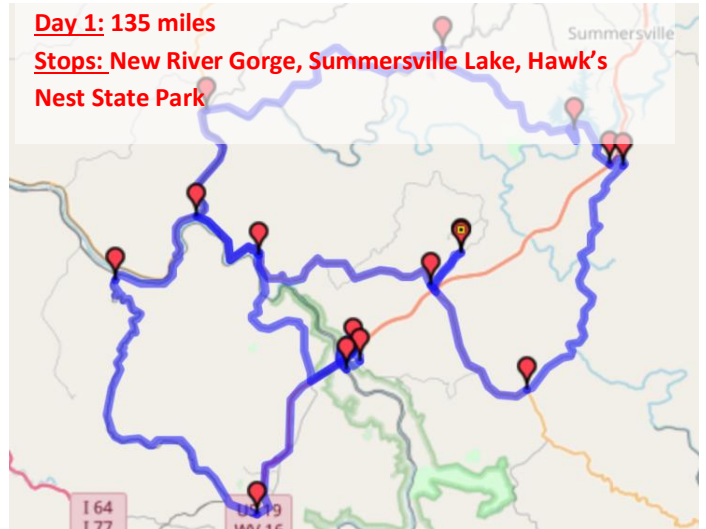
Saturday, 6/1: The group woke, some of us shook off our hangovers, and we all made the 5 mile trip to our first stop: breakfast at Biscuit World! One thing became immediately evident: Lou's KE100 struggled to exceed 55mph pinned in 5th gear. This was sure to make things interesting! We had a special guest for the ride as our buddy Simon surprised us all by showing up at breakfast! He and his wife's were expecting a baby any day, but he was able to make a LONG day trip to hang out and ride with us!

No trip to WV is complete without Biscuit World!



Day 1: 135 miles

Stops: New River Gorge, Summersville Lake, Hawk's Nest State Park



New River Gorge



After breakfast we worked our way through the switchbacks of US-60, and made a large loop to the New River Bridge, where we took in the vistas both at the top, and at the bottom of the gorge. The narrow road down to the Fayette Station bridge was a blast! The bridge there is a sight to be seen, sitting almost 900ft over the river below.

Sadly, James was not able to rectify the rectifier issue on his CB750. Amazingly, a total stranger (house neighbor) lent out his badass 1971 Honda SL350 for the trip. The saying "You meet the nicest people on a Honda" never rang more true! Our new friend had a collection of around 40 bikes, which we all went over and geeked out on. After the bridge visit and a pizza lunch, we set off on the second stage of our 135 mile figure-eight route. We again torched the corners



Loaner Honda 350: This thing is a time machine!

of US-60 on our questionable machines, then proceeded to do a Fuel Economy Challenge over the final 60 miles of the day. Unfortunately for Lou and his KE100, we had our first breakdown. His fuel line popped off, draining off about a gallon of fuel. Luckily Charles was the MVP,



being prepared with some emergency zip ties, preventing some awkward 2-up riding. At the end of those 60 miles, Connor's Rebel 250 came out on top, achieving over 70mpg! My V65 Magna came in last place, with 40mpg. Lou's 99cc 2-smoker didn't do much better due to the dumped fuel.

Sunday 6/2: Sunday began with an acceleration test, where used a phone app to test the 1/8th mile acceleration times of our bikes. The KE100 was the slowest, limping through the 1/8th in 14.6 seconds @ 43mph. The Magna barely edged out the Gixxer with a time of 7.99 seconds for 1st. Last place in fuel economy eventually paid off! The lot of 4 banger bikes managed 9-10 seconds.

After the acceleration runs, we embarked on our 165 mile journey through the rivers and hills of WV Appalachia. Once we got to the (very neat) town of Lewisburg, James reported that the shifter on his rental SL350 bike no longer worked. It should also be noted that the poor old bike leaked oil worse than the Exxon Valdez. James split from the group and rode home after we did some roadside engineering on the bike to get it roadworthy.



Corners for days on US Route 60

Vice grips, zip ties, safety wire, and epoxy should do the trick

Thankfully, the rest of the ride was smooth sailing. Everyone made it back to the house safely, where we finished off the ride with a slow race. The slow race is a balance contest where the rider must travel about 40' in as much time as possible, without touching the ground. Chase H. again came away with the win. A 3-peat sweep of this RR contest!

We then cracked open some beers, voted for best custom accessory and coolest bike (Magna won both!), then tallied up the points. Congrats to Lou, who came away with the win with his KE100. Despite finishing mid pack in most contests, riders of two-stroke bikes are awarded bonus points for their suffering, which proved enough to win the contest. Every mile ridden was hard earned on that tiny bike. Runners up included Paul on the first ever RR Harley Davidson and Chase with the ultra cool CB750F Supersport.

To close, I want to thank everyone who came out to participate and support the rally. We realize that it is a big commitment out of our busy lives to shop for bikes, fix 'em up, and spend a long weekend away. I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as we did, and I hope that we can continue to grow the event, while keeping it fun and safe. The Reliability Rally shows how much fun riding a motorcycle can be, even if it is a complete jalopy. The quality of bikes that were found for under \$1k continues to amaze. The field just gets better and better with each event!



Lou's hard earned trophy

I look forward to Lou's video recap, and for next year's Reliability Rally! Happy hunting and keep the shiny side up!

-Colin

Big Thank You to the RR 2019 Crew!

