



January 2010

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SBBMWRiders meet every 3rd Monday of the month at Sizzler @ 5555 Hollister Avenue in Goleta (Hollister & Kellogg) Dinner is around 6:00 PM and the meeting starts around 7:30.

Next meeting: Jan. 18th.



Random Thoughts & Pics Pg 1

Tony's Epic Ride

Pg 2- 3

I have nothing. Oh wait a minute. What's this???
Nope. Still nothing. Let's rest a little. Ahhh finally!
False alarm. It was nothing.

Do you have anything for your newsletter?

Tony's Epic Ride *cont'd*

Today (early June '09) I'm going to spend some time in the Canyon Country part of Yellowstone, then head up the Lamar Valley to the northeast exit and the Beartooth highway. Granted, it would be 144 miles shorter to ride out the north exit on the way to Glacier, but that's not the point. It's a cloudy, but dry morning while I pack up. A couple I had talked to yesterday ride up on their Honda and chat for a while. They trailer the bike and do day rides from the campground. Two-wheeling is certainly a thorough method of experiencing the Park. There are showers scattered around in the distance so I go ahead and gear up for rain. I do get to ride through a few sprinkles. My first stop is at the Lower Falls of the Grand Canyon, probably the second most photographed spot in the park (after Old Faithful).

Lower Falls (cropped from a larger photo to appear closer than it really is).



Even better are the upper falls as you can get right to the top of the precipice. It is a bit of a hike to get here and riding gear is rather cumbersome while on foot. There are few enough people in the park that I recognize some from yesterday and

vice versa. It's sort of like travelling with friends. That is a lot of water! I'm so used to the western rivers that it seems strange to see a river flowing north. I case anyone else is curious, the Yellowstone River flows north and east across Montana before its confluence with the Missouri River in the upper part of North Dakota and on to the Gulf of Mexico. (I had to look that up.)

Upper Falls



Upper Falls up close and personal.

Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River.



I stop at the Canyon Country visitors' center for lunch. Even if they didn't offer motorcycle only parking right at the front door I'd like this place. The displays and explanations of the geology of the area are fantastic, quite educational.

Lamar Valley (note the lava layers in the mountain sides)



Mountain sheep, big horn sheep, prong-horn antelope, but no wolves.



I could easily spend a week in Yellowstone. The campground and most of my stops are mini social events. Fantastic people. I like seeing all the animals. Give me my fly rod or hiking boots and daypack I'm content for much more than a week. For now, its north to Glacier Nat'l Park.

There is a lot of road construction on the way up the Beartooth Highway. Several miles of the road were taken right down to the roadbed. It is less than fun to be riding a fully loaded RT on the dirt and gravel, no roadbase (that would come a few miles later). It is really less than fun when I see the water truck coming at me spraying down the dirt to control the nonexistent dust, it's been raining off and on for the past several days

you bozos. At least he shuts off the water as he drives by me. Where road

base has been laid down it hasn't been compacted, oh joy. Winter has barely

left as I head up the pass. The lakes above this point are all frozen and snow covered.

Winter is still around further up the highway. I'm sure the view from here can be spectacular. The fog is condensing on the windscreen as frost! This is a



Lodge, MT to get off the main highway and have a 47 mile leisurely ride up highway 78, note the Rockies on the left. While hardly an exciting road, I feel like I've found a hidden jewel.

I stop at a Subway for dinner in Columbus, Montana. I've got to ride I90 for just over 300 miles before I turn north at Missoula and might as well get in some of those tonight.



highway I have read about for years and have no doubt from the multitude of twists and turns that it can be great fun. Today I'll simply cruise, but it's a kick nonetheless, festive in the uniqueness of the conditions. There is probably a spectacular view from the top, but today I'll have to use my imagination. Riding gear does work for stomping around in the snow. I take a left at the town of Red



Sunset from the Subway.

Just after 10:30 I check into a motel, my first noncamping night of the trip. While hardly as enjoyable as camping, it does save time. Ride on.

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