

## FLairheads Tech Session 100605

On Saturday, 5 June 2010, I trailered the 1989 BMR R100RT to the Florida Airheads tech session in Homosassa, FL. The bike had 9,011 miles on it. It has been purchased, sight unseen, off the internet in November 2003 while on bed rest for a back ailment. Something to dream about while recovering.

Circumstances prevented the RT from being ridden much and here it was 6 ½ years later with only 1,000 more miles on it. Time to change things!

Frank Zimmanck was kind enough to host the Tech Weekend at his place. Although a member of the Airheads Beemer Club, off and on, and owning BMWs since 1976, I had not done any “socializing”. The adventure was about to begin.

Somehow, the Airheads at Frank’s thought it odd to see an RT show up with one Mikuni carb and one Bing carb installed. Did I mention that the bike wasn’t operational?

The RT came to me with Mikunis installed and that had to change. After rebuilding the Bings, when installing them, I became exceptionally frustrated by all the electronics and plumbing on this ’89 from California. Hence my turning to the more-than-knowledgeable Airheads.

Bob Messer introduced himself and then made arrangements for the RT to be worked on. Tom Gaitanis did most of the work with assistance from many others. Notably Bob, Kevin Reimer and Kenny Bryant.

The tach wire had been broken at the coil and a bad repair job done. A clean soldering job was done by Kevin and Tom. The new carburetor cables were routed, threads on the Bings repaired, the plastic airhorns gasketed and installed. Most importantly, the Airhead knowledge base informed me of how to remove the electric fuel valve and the California-only plumbing under the starter cover. Straight, simple gravity-fed fuel lines into the carbs and “Voila!!” the bike purred to life!

A quick 5-mile ride to warm everything up and then the carbs were synchronized by Tom. The bike runs perfectly!

I was so happy, that I refused to trailer the RT home. The RT purred for 60 miles on the way home. Later, my wife provided a ride back so I could drive the pickup and trailer home.

I am sincerely grateful to the Airheads for getting this beautiful bike back on the road. Perhaps the ’89 RT will be back for its first 10,000 mile service at the next Tech Session. Many more thanks to Frank for hosting this session and Bob for coordinating things.