

Naples 2010 Tech Day

It was a cold, dreary and wet day in what some call Paradise. There were rumors of ice forming on car windshields as they attempted the run across Alligator Alley for Naples. The 2010 4th Annual Southwest Florida Tech Day will be remembered for many things but the record low temperatures will probably be remembered longest. We never got above 43 degrees on Saturday and it rained off and on all day. It was still a truly record setting tech session for the Florida Airheads though and it is a shame the weather caused such problems.

To start with, the number of attendees topped out at 34. Had it been a typical pristine Southwest Florida day, the numbers would definitely have reached record levels based on pre-event communications and planning. Several efforts were delayed because the bike or owner or both stayed home. Nevertheless, those that braved the weather and made the journey found it a successful, informative and productive trip.

Our group started forming on Thursday afternoon when Kevin Reimer and Ed Miller showed up with not only their tents and sleeping bags but also Judy's chicken and pasta salads. They came early to assist Roger on Friday in preparing the shop for the onslaught of bikes to be worked on. There were lifts to be picked up and set up as well as preparations in the kitchen. Glen Each brought Linda Fenwich to help Kim with kitchen tasks while he was ready to lend a helping hand as needed. Thanks also goes to Cheri Hibbs for her help in the kitchen as well.

Friday night additional attendees arrived so that they could miss the weather forecast for Saturday. After questioning, some did admit they did it for the pizza and baked ziti dinner served up that night. Gator Balough, Florida's nefarious Air Marshal, made no excuses as he chowed down and continued to go back for more.

Saturday's weather kept many less adventurous souls at home. As forecast it was wet all day with a constant drizzle and temperatures not rising above 43 degrees. Coffee was plentiful as were the numerous goodies at the house there to keep spirits up as well as everyone's body temperatures. Dale Hibbs headed home and returned with an outdoor fireplace and wood. With worthless advice from Airhead on lookers, he set the fire pit in front of the roll up door resulting in added warmth to the shop so everyone continued to work on their bikes after lunch. Lunch was ready by 2:00 pm and Kim briefly spoke to the group and thanked all who braved the weather to come and partake in the feast as well as their participation in the day.

No Southwest Florida Tech Day would be complete without the lunch feast featuring Kim's famous pulled pork. Also prepared was roasted turkey with gravy, potato salad, chicken salad, a garden salad, pasta salad, rolls, fruit plate, hot ham and bean soup as well as turkey noodle soup. Homemade goodies of cookies as well as cupcakes from Lois Messer topped off the lunch.

This was the first Florida Airhead Tech session with a planned teaching/learning seminar. Karl Myers came as our guest BMW premier Tech to assist and demonstrate the replacement of steering head and wheel bearings. He demonstrated techniques with several bearing race pullers and went into extensive detail on properly setting steering head bearings and preloading wheel bearings. An effective instructor, he kept the crowd surrounding him involved and answered every question in ways his audience could understand.

In addition to the steering head bearing and wheel bearing jobs that made up Karl's lessons, several other projects were attempted. First, a long neglected but excellent R75/5 was trucked in to be reawakened. What started as a simple effort ended up in major electrical contact cleaning because of corrosion. This is a continual issue for us in Florida. John Zilch showed up with his recent acquisition, a 78 R100 that was labeled DOA. Not sure what he will do with it but it will definitely need more work than a one day tech session. One effort that we were all looking forward to was to get Roger's R90S project up and running. He had reassembled to the point it was ready to fire up with the exception of final carb assemble and a recheck of the wiring harness. The carbs were ready Friday night and rechecks of the wiring harness completed Saturday morning but, for some reason, we never heard it run. Think Roger is saving that moment for himself. Super looking project that I'm sure will end very successfully.

Because the overnight temperatures were predicted to be no higher than 32 degrees, anyone who planned to campout was invited to spend the night indoors on the floors. No one turned down this invitation. The breakfast of pancakes and bacon warmed the bellies and the coffee and juice topped it off. By noon all overnights had gone home. So ends a truly memorable Tech Session in Naples. The food was super, everybody learned a lot and the camaraderie was superb. Those were the result of the unbelievable efforts of the hosts, Roger and Kim Bush. Many thanks to them from all of us that were there and we join them in sayingDAMN WEATHER!!!!











































