

THIRD ORLANDO AIRHEAD TECH DAY JAN 31, 2009

For us Florida boys, it was a chilly ride over to Jerry Watt's domicile in Orlando. The promise of food prepared by Michelle (wife) and Christine (daughter) was probably what encouraged 28 of us to put on another layer and launch. Sure Airhead camaraderie played a role but it was the food that sealed the deal. As expected it was excellent and most of us went back for seconds or thirds.

It seems we have almost completely repaired or whatever most of the airheads that showed up at Jerry's. Pete Strunk tuned up the carbs on his R100 and Larry Meeker finally got new bearings in his R100GS paralever. Larry was on one of his business trips from Jacksonville but supported the Tech Day by delivering at least one task by car, with all the right parts so the paralever is finally ready to go back on the bike. Know Larry is relieved because it took three tech sessions to make it happen. After these two relatively minor tasks, the experienced wrenches we had gathered looked all over the place for something else to fix. I think Michelle, being somewhat concerned about the appliances in her kitchen, suggested Jerry attempt to get his R80 to quit leaving spots on the garage floor. The woman knows about bored airheads!!

Jerry wasn't really ready for this project and only had the pushrod tube seals on hand. He thought hard about it, but after looking at his wife decided he had better get on with it. This was not a simple little reseal job because we first had to remove Peyton's (grandson) sidecar off the 86 R80. Once we had direct access both sides were attacked and the worse possible situation was soon realized. Both jugs definitely needed new base o-ring seals and we didn't have them. A quick call to Orlando BMW confirmed that they did not stock archaic parts. We began to consider riding all the way to Daytona to get the parts when I remembered that I was ready to reseal the engine on the R80ST I am rebuilding and had the parts in my garage. So, off I rode to get the o-rings, along with a slightly used lifter that was needed to replace a damaged one in Jerry's bike. With the correct parts in hand the resealing went very quickly, and after two cycles through valve setting, the R80 was purring again. With multiple hands available, the sidecar was remounted and everyone was happy with the day's accomplishments.

On the ride home, still cold if not colder, I thought about all the memories days like this will give all that attended. We had Airhead companionship along with the stories and lies, great food and a sense of having accomplished something. It just doesn't get any better than that.... except maybe a little bit warmer. Damn, it didn't get above 63 degrees all day!!



JERRY LISTENING



JOE LAUGHING AT JERRY'S CONFUSION



I TOLD YOU IT WAS COLD. THOSE AREN'T DEW RAGS.



I'LL HOLD IT WHILE YOU HIT IT



JOE LISTENING TO THE PROBLEM