

The Ride sign in sheet is attached below.

Attendees: Kellie Becket and John Shimkus

The Ride started at the Woodridge McDonald's. KSU around 7:10 AM

Due to logistics and timing we took major Highways most of the ride up to get there at the peak time of the event --the prime time for the Slimey Crud Run was 10 AM at Pine Bluffs, WI.

Arrived at 10:15 AM after 1 gas/rest stop.

Walked the area to see numerous brands and many varying eras of motorcycles. Very large and well behaved crowd. Bill and Linda Hay were on the grounds but we never caught up with them.

To understand the history of the Slimey Crud Run I took the following from their website:

There are no big ad campaigns, no corporate sponsors, no official website, no local or regional newspaper or TV promotions, not even the usual obligatory one-size-promotes-all beer banners with the name of the event emblazoned on a huge blank white spot.

Despite all the makings of what should be an unknown event, the Slimey Crud Café Racer Run in southern Wisconsin is attended twice each year, on the first Sunday in May and October, by riders from all over the country and routinely has participants from at least five states in the upper Midwest.

Its origins are nearly as murky as Stonehenge, dating back to the early Seventies, according to one of its co-founders, former Triumph/Bultaco/Matchless racer and current Triumph dealer Lyall Sharer. From humble beginnings, the event has become an organic thing that thrives on its own energy. At each gathering, it isn't uncommon for anywhere from 1,000 to 3,000 machines to show up.

The Crud Run meanders across the scenic Wisconsin River valley from Pine Bluff in Dane county to Leland in Sauk County. The distance between the villages is less than 30 miles in a straight line, but the road mileage can vary from about 70 to, well, who knows? No specific route is prescribed, so the best way to go depends entirely on your imagination.

Despite the name, the event is not limited to the sheathed-in-plastic sport bike set. In fact, while there's something for everybody in every class of bike, the event seems much more like a rolling vintage and classic bike show.

After an hour or so of walking and gawking at the various characters and motorcycles from all eras it was time to ride on to the next site--Leland, WI.

I didn't have a planned route we just started heading North and eventually just followed along with other groups that seemed to know where they were going.

Upon arrival in Leland it was apparent that it was the same venue on much smaller surroundings. Parking in an open grassy field was not my favorite thing to do.

Rather than wait in very long lines for food and drink we jointly decided to leave and find a scenic route to begin our trek home. My Atlas indicated a scenic route heading south and further west towards Galena via route 23.

Stopped for lunch and after riding for awhile I decided that if we were going to make it home by 5/6 we needed to rethink our route. Hit the GPS to HOME and then realized that we have travelled far enough west that we were going to follow the same route 23 towards Galena.

By 2:15 the sky turned very dark and the rain gear came out. The stop was timely because shortly thereafter we began driving through rain that at times and most of the time was heavy and poor visibility. I assumed that Kellie was able to see my bright tail lights and had something to follow while I saw nothing in front of me except the pouring rain and kept it between the lines. The rain for me subsided near the Prime Outlet mall in Aurora which made the remaining portion of my ride feel like a sauna. I was not going to pull over just to remove my rain gear.

In summary it was a Great day--7 hrs riding time in very pleasant weather and a not so great day--3 hrs riding in the rain.

Total mileage for the ride was 418 miles.

Hardly compares to where most of our members attended the Motorcycle Sunday ride that amassed maybe 4 miles.