

## Saddle Sore/Bun Burnout

It was a good plan gone sour. I was attempting to go the 1000 miles in 24 hours on a trip to Phoenix. It would be a dual purpose visit as I have two sons and two grandkids the youngest of which I hadn't seen yet. My plan was to start at noon and stop over night for about 4 hours and then continue on the next day. I left Austin about 1 o'clock out 290 west toward I 10. My body wasn't cooperating and I had to stop about 3 or 4 times before I reached it. Then I ended up stopping several times after that. Eventually I got up to about 150 miles without stopping. Well, it got so cold that by the time I got to El Paso I was looking for a room. This would still have worked out time wise, but I ran into an hours delay in the mountains this side of Tuscan, AZ. It was backed up for miles. Finally I went down the side past all the cars to the front and there was one lane passing by the over turned car. I guess the police were so busy they didn't notice me. After that it was a race of time. As I neared Phoenix I was looking at the time and at my odometer and scanning for a gas station to get the last receipt. My time was running out fast. Finally, I spotted an exit for gas only to come upon a ma and pa station that did not offer a printed receipt. So, I went on down the road and found one that would. I frantically put a gallon in the tank and got my receipt. Wala, one minute over 24 hours. Then I sat in the station tallying all my receipts and figuring the mileage, and it seems I was about 30 miles short according to the maps even though my odometer said 1030. What a let down.

Well, I reported all this at our gathering of the Gutter Gang at Lone Star BMW and the Iron Butt Queen, Ardys, told me it was pretty stupid to start out at noon and I was a "wus". Well, so much for Iron Butt medals. But I don't feel bad, I almost did it and I discovered some things about myself and biking and that is I don't like forced riding. If I decide to ride any long distances in the future, I'll take my time and smell the roses and take more pictures.

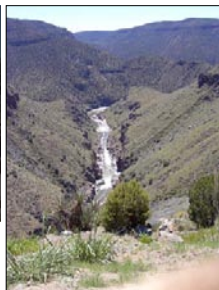


"wus" ???

Speaking of pictures, I've included a few I took on my way back. I did take a little more time on the return trip. Although I picked up a warning ticket in AZ in a real pretty area with nice curves. Right after that I stopped at the Salt River bridge and park. Very nice. Then drove through Salt River Canyon. All this in the Fort



Salt River, & Canyon



Apache Indian Reservation. Also went through some snow on the field next to the road on the Mt. Baldy pass in the white Mts. After that I dropped down in elevation and went by the VLA. Next on to Carrizo for the night in a nice little local motel. The next morning I drove through some mountains into Ruidoso. I hung out there all morning, mostly on Mt. Sierra Blanca. This was the

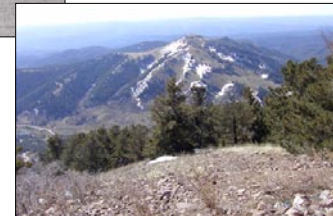


Mt. Baldy Pass



Looking for E.T.

Mt. Sierra Blanca



most enjoyable part of the whole trip. Then I took off for home about noon. I should have taken one more day as the ride home took another 12 hours. Phew.

Post script: After several visits to my Chiropractor and some down time my body has fully recovered. And I thought I was in pretty good shape. I still love bikes and biking, but I'm going to look closely at what kind of biking I will do in the future.

~ Harley Blake

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