

ONTARIO GUZZI RALLY, 2007 - RETURN TO ANCHOR BAY

Once again the Ontario Guzzi Riders and friends enjoyed a great get together at Anchor Bay the weekend before Labor Day, but it very nearly didn't come about because everyone in the organizing committee were so disappointed at losing our fabulous site in Utopia that we really couldn't summon up much enthusiasm for a rally we felt would not be up to our previous standard. But we felt we owed it too everyone who had attended our rallies in the past to put on some sort of event, so as an interim measure, and as we had to announce something quickly, we decided to return to Anchor Bay Campground on Pigeon Lake.

Anchor Bay is where we had held five rallies before moving to Utopia and it is a lovely area with great roads and beautiful scenery, it's just that the campsite itself doesn't offer the same sort of facilities that we had at Camp Saulaine. So we scaled it down to just a barbecue and campout with no frills and waited to see what happened. As the event got closer, we got a little bit more enthusiastic and decided that we could maybe offer a couple of frills.

In the years since we held rallies at this site, Klaus and Rose Schulz have retired and moved just a few miles down the road, so with Rose's help and urging, we decided to cook a chili for the Friday night. In previous years we had rented a large barbecue and we provided salads, rolls and condiments while rallygoers collected portions of their favorite protein from local stores to toss on the barbie for the Saturday night dinner. As rally time grew closer, Rose also found a local supplier of good bratwurst, so we figured we could also have a few of those on hand for the Saturday meal as well as the salads and rolls.

In the end, everything went very well. The usual crew of early arrivals showed up on the Thursday evening and we had a quiet evening catching up on all the news and relaxing before the rally began in earnest on the Friday. This year attendance was good, at 38 people. Small by some Guzzi rally standards, and compared with previous events at Camp Saulaine, but more than we've had at Anchor Bay before, and we all enjoyed ourselves. Weather was mostly good, the only rain at the campsite being on the Friday evening when most people were enjoying themselves indoors anyway. The camp owners are renovating some of the buildings that we used to use and now there is a pretty plush bar area, complete with pool tables, for those so inclined, and there were also some camp activities that we were invited to join in with as well. I believe some of the rally goers checked out the "Casino Night" after our Saturday supper, but I'm not sure how successful they were!

Another local guy, California II rider Jack Elliott, also attended this year, but unfortunately only for a couple of hours, by car, driven by Carol, his wife. He has been having all sorts of health problems lately and it was touch and go for a while, but he now seems on the mend, thankfully. Hope you'll be riding soon, Jack.

We didn't have any awards this year, but Joe Katz, all the way from Deland, Florida should have been in the running for one if we had. Mind you, he does spend most of his summer out of the heat of Florida going around rallies in the North, so he just wrote "very long way" in the mileage column of his sign-in sheet!

Also deserving a special mention were Ron and Judy Good from Lititz, PA. Ron had trouble with the voltage regulator on his '93 SP3, but luckily Klaus found a spare one at home and lent it to them to get them home. Also from Pennsylvania was Bill Wegener, but probably the ones that should have gotten the Long Distance Award were Rick Huczinski and Hank Telpuk from Thunder Bay, Ontario, approx. 860 miles. A lot of people don't realize just how big Ontario is, but if you double the size of Texas, then add a bit, you're getting close!

For 2008 we're going to be at Anchor Bay again, as everybody thought that it was a great place and a really nice area for a rally. We'll be getting much better organized, with dinners Friday and Saturday and events, door prizes and awards. In '07 our plans to have demo bikes from the Guzzi importers didn't quite work out, but the president of the importers did show up on the Saturday afternoon (unfortunately most of the Guzzis were out riding!) and he promised lots of support for the '08 event. So come on up and see us and enjoy some Canadian hospitality.

Border Crossing: This year, to get back into the US, you will need either a government issued photo ID such as driver's license PLUS proof of citizenship such as a birth certificate, OR a passport.

Sorry there are no photos this year. I took along my digital camera with the intention of taking lots of pictures for this report. Unfortunately the electronic gremlins invaded my camera (or maybe it was my brain) and the pixels refused to re-arrange themselves into anything resembling facsimiles of rowdy bikers. But I've got it sorted out for '08. I think.

Lots of Thank-Yous must go to Klaus and Rose Schulz and Joe Greer of the Anchor Bay Campground for all your help.