

Adventurers! Today we *Ride the Spanish Peaks!*

Well, not-exactly, but close-enough. I rode 20 miles of the 300-available-miles. To begin... Below is Art on **my** new bike. He rode it first, because (I think) I said something "very wrong" the night before (no doubt in a virus-induced delirium) that went something like "I'm too sick to go outside. If you go and get the owners manual, you can ride it first, in the morning".



Well Art **did** fetch the book, **did not** read it, claimed "First ride!" the next morning. The bike **KTM-300XC-W(e)** is awesome! Note the bike has been lowered 2", and the suspension softened, by guru **Neil Hores** horesneil@aol.com of Hitchcock Industries. This so any of my "altitude challenged" friends can ride a world-class machine! See the 2nd pic below...



Before departing, I was allowed to stand next to "my new bike" ☹️



So, I loaded the bike, and set off. Yes, with my new bike. But I (graciously) left my (beloved) KDX-200 in Evergreen, so Art could "hone his dirt-skills". Really: Am I a super-buddy, or what?



Memorize the above pic. As close to "smiling" as this guy gets. Below: Elk are pretty-much in everybody's front yard...



That evening (after locking myself out of my running car, and waiting for a locksmith to come up from Denver)... I arrived at space-buddy Bills' neat Colorado Springs home...



...whereupon it snowed (again)...



...but I did get to play with a neato puppy...



...and tape a hide-a-key into my car...



But at last I was on my way! Gas prices in CO not-so-bad...



...except for diesel! The day never got above 50F...



...and I arrived late-afternoon at the Spanish Peaks area...



Time-limited, I would ride just 20 miles of a 300-mile route...



...which is "beautiful dirt-road" and... Ghost Towns!



Smooth, gorgeous...



Super-scenic...



Lots of horses...



All roads are "county road" and perfectly marked...



More ruins...



Don't speed!



The rock-scenery was awesome...



...ever-changing views...



A close-up of the rocky hillsides...



Trailing south to the New Mexico border, antelope!



This is the Capulin Volcano National Monument. Closed, just a half-hour before I arrived... Oh well...



Thus ended the CO segment of my trip. I **will** get back (this summer, I hope) to Spanish Peaks, and if time allows, Moab. Both places are "novice" rides. And so I'd like to link-up with my novice ride-buddies and spend a week up there.

Thanks for reading along!

Paul P.