

Adventurers! Yesterday (Tuesday) started out ho-hum...

My 450R is registered in UT, but (ugh) I received notice of a mandatory "safety inspection" prior to registration-renewal. I knew a **Jiffy Lube** could do the inspection, so off-I went. The first Jiffy Lube in UT is in the first town over the state line, St. George UT...



Then, to my (very pleasant) surprise, I discovered Jiffy Lube "was also the DMV" and had a DMV computer there, could do all paperwork/fee's. **Yes!**

I headed south, through Las Vegas to my scheduled overnight stop, Whiskey Pete's casino/hotel right on the CA/NV line...



For \$30/night (Sun-Thurs; tax incl) I expected "low rent". Au contraire! The room was excellent, big/clean, "really nice". Across the freeway are two more casino's, and an outlet-mall (accessed from Whiskey Pete's by a neato robo-tram)...



Whiskey Pete's was intriguing, because it appeared the back parking lot directly-accesses not only the north-section of the Mohave National Preserve, but also a \*huge\* part of the Mojave desert, and offered a dirt-road-link all the way to Barstow...

<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=whiskey+pete,+nv&ie=UTF8&ll=35.610837,-115.402794&spn=0.018631,0.038452&t=h&z=15>

In the above link, the "wide dirt road" heading west is the gas pipeline (very easy ride, no "keep off" signs at all). Departing the back parking lot on a graded dirt road, below is what I saw...



Above, the left (wide) road is the gas line, the right (narrow) road the powerline road. The very top of the far-ridge is 8 miles away. I attempted a "short scenic loop" and got dead-ended...



Barrel-cactus! (temp = 86F; I'll provide temps all day)...



...and I was comforted that W.Pete's "always in sight"...



Having used 20 miles (worth of gas) and an hour, I went over to the powerline road (temp = 88F). The end of this road is 7 miles away (the gas and time-waste will come back to haunt me)...



Below is the very top of the ridgeline seen in the above pic. The road is rougher/rockier than it looks in the pic...



Below is the pic (telephoto) looking back at W.Pete's (8 miles)...



Pretty neat eh? Note in this story the "pics are larger". This is due to my now using a larger/better camera, a Canon A650IS with a 6x ("stabilized") zoom. The actual resolution (640x480) is exactly the same as my previous "pocket cam". With the new/bigger cam, the optics are vastly better.

Crash. Attempting to turn-around, I failed to note the sloping-road, and couldn't reach the ground (with disastrous results)...



To up-right the bike, I had to drag the back wheel around to what would be the bottom of the pic. Ugh. Temp = 92F. Looking west...



...above-left you can see the power/gas lines (approx 20 miles away) running to Barstow (approx 100 miles away). Temp = 94F. Below is the 5x telephoto shot of the same pic...



For my nav-task, I knew I wanted to find the Coliseum Mine (then, exit-east through the Coliseum Gorge to W.Pete's). From a nearby spot, I could see the mine (huge!) and a well-maintained dirt road heading that way. Off-I-went... Oops! The road dead-ended at the back of the mine...



The road to the above point had become rocky/slow. I used another half-hour (making me now 1.5 hours "behind schedule").



Ah-ha! Love route-signs! This one was mis-placed, sending me up a canyon before I found the "real" way east. Note, ah... There were "obstructions"...



How do these beautiful animals survive out here? Temp = 101F.

I continued down a very rocky, steep road, popped-out below...



The big-black-bldg (top-right) is a coal-fired powerplant. Yes the bldgs are the W.Pete's complex.

Arriving in the valley (temp = 102F), looking back up my route...



Below, the route-home looked easy. *It wasn't...*



The problem was sand; the deepest I've ever encountered ☹ ☹.



With a slight-downhill, it took 2<sup>nd</sup> gear, and half-throttle, to keep going forward! This gave 15mph with horrific fuel consumption. As the temp hit 102F, I made the dry lake that borders W.Pete's...



Below: Taking the pic from the exact same spot as the above pic, except telephoto...



There were some real lessons-learned today...

- 1) Stick to the planned route! Deviations put me 1.5 hours behind schedule. This put me in 100F+ for the last hour.
- 2) When "looping" put the hardest part first. I did not, and faced the toughest riding with 75% of the route behind me.
- 3) The ride today was 60 miles, using 60% of my gas. Sand is the mpg-killer, avoid if at all possible.
- 4) **Red Line Water Wetter** was superb. The 450R usually shows "signs of overheating" in sand, at 95F+. Today = OK!

Thanks for reading-along! **Paul P.** [pencipa@yahoo.com](mailto:pencipa@yahoo.com)