

Loyal Readers... Yogi Berra says... *It's déjà vu all over again!*

My last dirt-bike was 1978. Today I made the maiden voyage on my newest, a Kawasaki KDX-200 (2-stroke, you must mix your own oil/gas). WooHoo!

I am up at my Mammoth apartment, here's a shot departing Los Angeles...



Note my mountain bicycle is bungee-suspended between the motorcycles... I'm so proud of that! Otherwise I'd have to take the bicycle inside the PT Cruiser (it does fit, "not pretty").

I'm pulled over because the bikes have shifted, and I must adjust the straps. View from the front...



Note my trailer is a Trailer In A Bag and is totally assembled from component parts, without tools. Note the pins/clips protruding from the trailer. I've used it as single-rail (one bike) it works really well, two bikes is a real hassle to pin it all together due to weight. But, after 8 hours of assembly, prep, and packing I'm on the road. Trailer info...

<http://trailerinabag.com/>

Well off I go, heading for the traditional first stop (groceries/liquids) in Mojave. Hot! Seek shade!



So Off I go and... Heading up the Bishop Grade...

Warning! Warning! Overheat! Overheat! Uh-oh...



Checklist!

A/C >> OFF

Speed >> Reduced

Transmission >> Shift-down

Course >> Enter turn-out



I let the engine run, the temp started reducing immediately, back-to-normal in 5 minutes. Close call!

Arriving at Mammoth safe/sound, I unpack and check in with the upstairs landlady (Shirley, a world-traveler via pedal-bicycle, story forthcoming).

Well max-zzz's and in the morning BBBRRRROOOOOMMMMMMM...

The neighbor across the street runs a construction company out of his home. Monster-trucks etc. Jeez I thought after last winter I would be done with this but lo... **Mammoth alarm clock** ☹



OK, I'm up now. Clean-up, and head-out... Arriving at the Mammoth ski area to get my Summer Bike Pass (allows unlimited use of the gondola, which is rigged to carry mountain bicycles). I notice "not running". Hey no-problem "I'm early". **Yeah, by 2 days. Gondola/bike season doesn't start until Saturday. Bummer.**



Hmmm what to do? Dirt-bike still on trailer! Launch!

Off I go to the local (10-min-drive) dirt-bike forest. Amazing. Never have I seen a place like this...



Many trails, never very far from civilization...



Fabulous roads through the trees...



Lots of kids whizzing by on the dirt roads...



Beautiful trails...



Mayday! Screwdriver-through-tire! Honest!



Wow close-call. Either get a flat, or fling the screwdriver off at high speed. I was sooo lucky to have stopped to take a pic, just at the right instant...

Onward! Follow the power lines...



I really liked the “vertical” of the terrain. As I recalled from 30 years ago, I am much better at maintaining-speed going *up* the hills as opposed to coming down. Total fun!

More powerlines, with rapid up/down terrain known to dirt-bikers as “whoops”...



Heading back into the Inyo National Forest...



...where I found BIG trees that had fallen across the road, and were cut...



And campers by the zillions arriving with kids/bikes/dogs...



The main road back to my car/trailer is dirt, and is in-fact a state-maintained road...



..but as for the “Mammoth Scenic Loop” I took this road (never found the loop) and in fact entered the forest from the other side, followed the same sign, didn’t find the loop there either...



Most dirt-bikers navigate via GPS (satellite navigation). Today I got lost repeatedly, always (quickly) turned around and backtracked to a known location. Forest = forest and it all looks the same. The signage was terrible, many signs “XYZ this-way >>” then nothing.

I came across two lady mountain-bicyclers. Lost. I guided them to Rt.395. They told me they use GPS but “forgot it at home” this trip. Uh-oh.

All along the trail that paralleled Rt.395, and on the (state) dirt road back to Mammoth, were Orange posts. I was thinking **Great!** Trail markers! Umm... Not quite... Buried fiber-optic cable!



Hi-tech is everywhere in America...

Near my base, I came upon this dead tree, a great pic I thought...

Look how big it is compared to the bike!



Well that's it for the day...

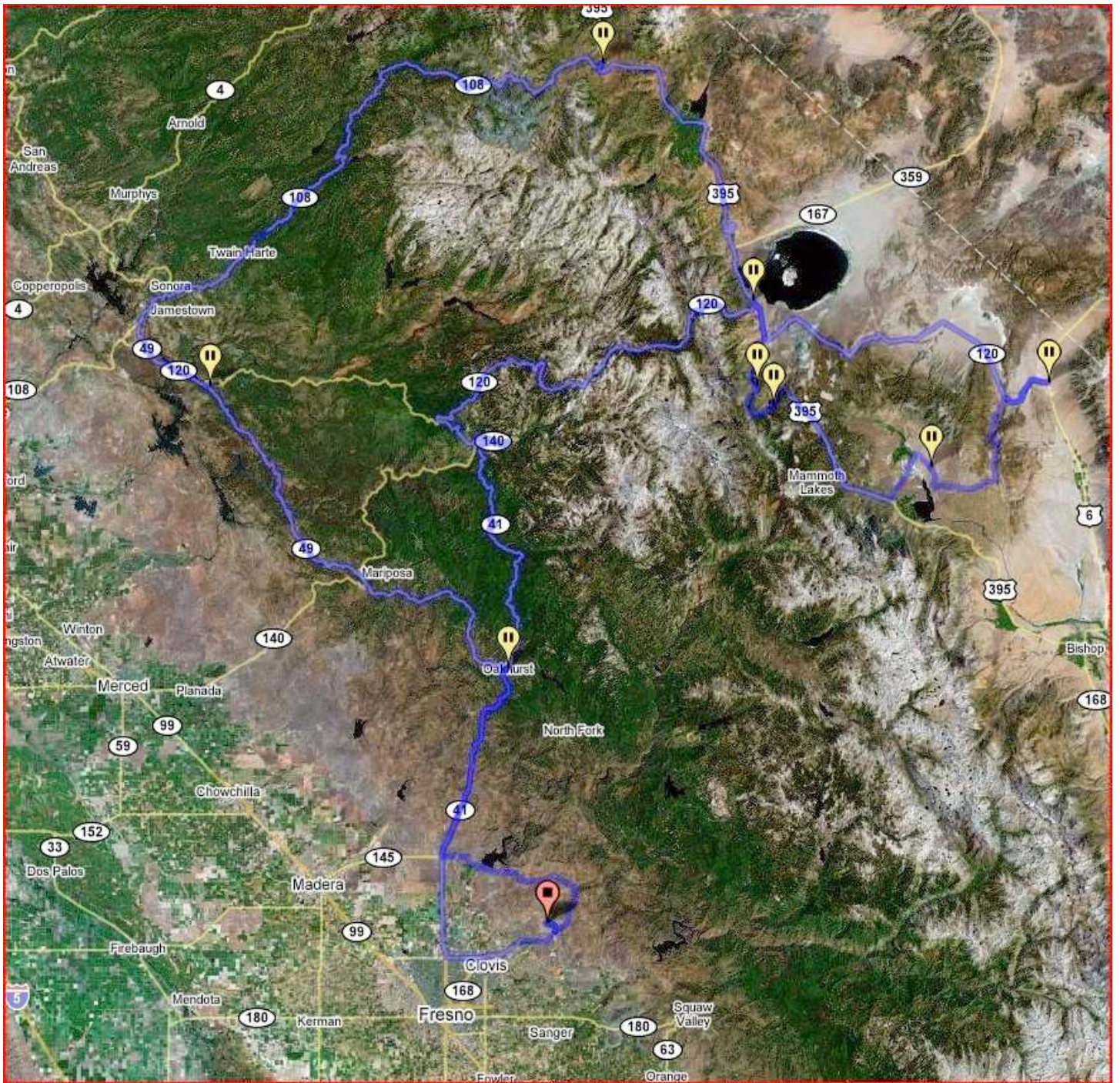
Getting the bike back on the trailer was easy, and I'm learning to be an accomplished trailer-backer.

Arriving home, I saw that my travels were **49 miles** quite a day for an old-timer reliving his youth!



Tomorrow (Friday) I'll be on my street bike, for the Sonora Loop...

The route will be north on Rt.395 from Mammoth to Rt.120 west through Yosemite (to Jamestown), then Rt.108 east through the Sierra's back to Rt.395 and home. This is approx 160 miles, an all-day trip when taking pics.



If I make it home before dark, I'll try and get the story/pics published...

Enjoy the day!

Paul P.