

The Naturally Beemers 2021 Spring Campout

The 2021 version of the Naturally Beemers Spring Campout was held at Cherokee Park near Morrilton, AR the weekend of May 14-16. Since I had never been to this campout, or this park, and several of their members had attended the Doo-Dah Sidecar Rally this year, I decided it would be a courteous thing to do. It also gave me an excuse to go through my camping gear and see if it all still worked. I managed to get my little motorcycle trailer, "Snackbar", loaded with the appropriate gear and headed out on Friday.

Since the I-40 bridge is out of service, I took the southern route through Helena, AR and managed to score a couple of Tour of Honor (TOH) Doughboy Bonii on the way over. The ride through rural Arkansas was quite comfortable as the temps were in the upper 60's to low 70's and there was minimal traffic.

Once I got to Morrilton, I had a little trouble finding the campground but eventually found it, in spite of my GPS's best efforts to the contrary. The campground is a Corps of Engineers site, one located right on the Arkansas River, next to a dam/lock combination. It is a very pretty location and has a restroom and bath house. It floods in the spring, as every good Corps of Engineers or TVA Campground is supposed to do, but not as violently as the Pickwick one does.



Pavilion at Naturally Beemers Campout

I was soon set up and enjoying the fellowship of Butch Turner, Steve Hamilton, Charlie Bishop, Joe Barber, and Clint Madison, as well as the Arkansas Members. The Club had rented a nice pavilion that provided electricity and water for coffee and for cooking. Friday night there was a hot dog feed until gone which was not expected but was nice.

Saturday morning was a little chilly, but we were soon up and moving and one of the members of the Naturally Beemers had taken everyone's name and breakfast order the night before, and a hot catered breakfast was served about 6:30. Don't know about anyone else's meal but the biscuits and gravy was great!



Spencer's Campsite at Cherokee Park

I set out on a day trip to get a couple of TOH bonii and Jonathan Gifford suggested that I make it a point to ride across Petit Jean Mountain on the highway. Turns out he knows his roads as this was a magnificent one that routed up through the woods on Petit Jean and has several good places to stop and take in the view. Truly not to be missed if you are in the area.



View from Stout's Point on Petit Jean Mountain.

I soon got through the woods and back down into the flatter area, which was still good riding and grabbed bonii in Ola, AR, Hot Springs, AR, and then Little Rock. This took me up until about 3:30 which was a good time to get back to the campground. Just as I got back, the Naturally Beemers called their quarterly meeting to order, and I got to be a guest.

After the meeting we headed into Morrilton for dinner at "Yesterdays", a local restaurant on the same side of town as the campground. Food was good, but the locally handcrafted beer left something to be desired. It did keep you from drinking more than one though.

Once we got back to the campground we settled in for the evening and most were turned in by 9:30 as most everyone had spent the day riding. Saturday night was a little warmer than Friday, so I slept very well, only waking up when a barge tow would go through the lock and the sirens would go off.

Sunday morning was beautiful, with a nice breeze and sunshine to get us up and dry the dew off the tent. I was packed up and headed home by 8:30, arriving back to Hernando via Helena about 12:30 or so. A really good weekend and I would recommend that you take it in if you get the opportunity.