



RIDE REFLECTION

DEALS GAP, NC
JULY 2021

Colin Gorey – RR Co-Founder

8/6/2021

Event Donation: \$1000!

We are three weeks post the biggest Reliability Rally yet, and my brain is full of thoughts, feels, and ideas. As I look through my photos, I immediately think about how unbelievably lucky we were with the weather. The skies were threatening the entire weekend, and it never seemed to rain as long as we were on our motorcycles! I believe I was on the verge of a nervous breakdown every time I opened up the my weather app, however the gods of Reliability were smiling down upon us! Next, I feel thanks – thankful that we were able to have all this fun, yet donate \$1000 to the Neighborhood Resilience Project – all made possible by the list on the right. More on this later.



The Nighthawk S and SV650 stand guard at the RR home base



I still find it hard to fathom that Lou and I convinced 40 souls to show up in the mountains of North Carolina for a long weekend. Not to mention, with \$1000 bikes in tow... Thank you to all the regulars, repeats, and many, many new faces that trusted us to provide a fun weekend. How many can we get next time? 50? 80? It is fun to think about! I am sure that this talk scares our fathers, Jeff Turicik and Pat Gorey, who were immensely valuable supporting us the entire long weekend.

Is this heaven? Or just a cloud? On the Cherohaha it's both.



It is also important to note what a great partner Deal's Gap Motorcycle Resort was for our event. Lou and I took a big risk by booking the entire place almost a year ago, and it definitely proved to be a great choice. It is hard to imagine a better venue, close to the action and perfectly suited to a big group like us. The RR will 100% be returning to Deal's Gap!

The Crew:

Lou T.	93' Honda CB750
Colin G.	91' Suzuki Bandit 400
Justin S.	96' DR350
Chris D.	82' Kaw KZ550 LTD
CJ D.	2001 Ninja 500
Tina G.	81' CB900C
Jim G.	73' CB450
Scott S.	Piaggio MP3 500
Mike L.	93' Yamaha TDM850
Charles P.	01' Suzuki SV650S
James W.	79' Honda CB750F
Jim F.	94' GS500
Irv H.	98' Honda PC800
Ian S.	07' Honda VLX600
Chris S.	84' Nighthawk 700S
Ryan G.	80' Suzuki GS550L
Paul D.	V-Strom 650
Dan L.	96' Moto Guzzi California
Jordan K.	06' Virago 250
Travis C.	1985 Maxim 700-X
Malachi R.	88' BMW K75
Alex L.	2002 Ninja 250
Scott T.	09' Kawasaki Versys
Jon P.	89' PC800
Ron P.	99' DR350
Mark G.	91' ST1100
Roland B.	90' Honda CB1
Garrett J.	86' Harley Low Rider
Bob N.	83' GPZ550
Harry C.	74' RD350
Edgar M.	75' Honda CB125S
Road Runner	Kawasaki Ninja 1000
Natural Evil B.	CBR1000RR
Tomonori Y.	Honda FT500 Ascot
Hot Box	Suzuki GSXR1000
Peter H.	79' GL1000
Pat G.	Support
Jeff T.	Support
Brendan S.	Support
Barbara P.	Support



Our
sponsors:



The most empowering part of the entire weekend is that moment when all 40 machines were up and running at the starting line, bright foggy and early at 7:45AM Saturday. I just love that smell of overly rich mixtures and burning oil. Some machines roared to life, others coughed and sputtered with the encouragement of starting fluid... however they all made it out the door and to our first stop in Robbinsville. The sight and sound of all the scrap running in unison is what brings me back!

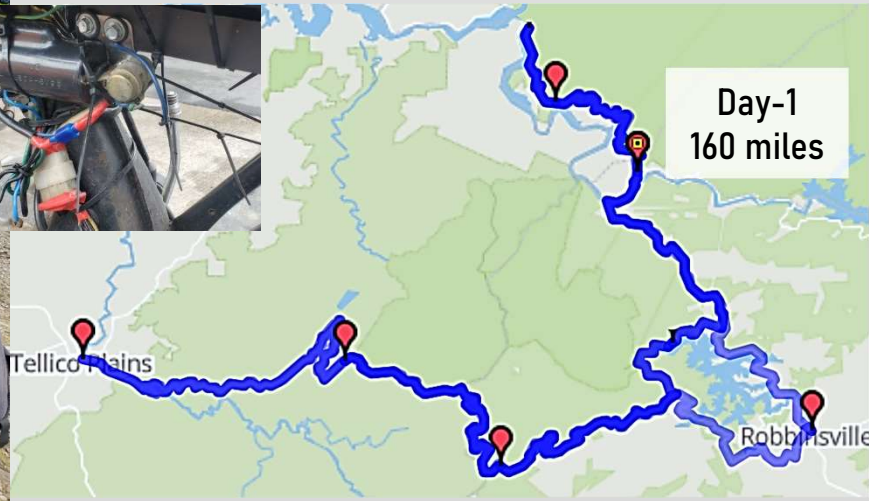
The starting grid: 40 machines



Edgar and Justin "fix" the CB125



Day-1 was a simple route. Breakfast in Robbinsville, followed by an out-n-back on the famed Cherohala Skyway, a trip down the Dragon for the Acceleration Test at Lake Chilhowee, capped with a trip back over Deal's Gap for an early finish to the day. It sounds easy, right? It was not. James's CB750F stopped charging and required a rescue by the chase truck. Another group suffered, "navigational issues" and added around 40 miles and another Dragon trip to their day.



Break time on Cherohala Skyway



In my opinion, The Dragon is the most exhilarating motorcycle road in the country. The hype means there is traffic, however a clean run is the next best thing to a race track. The pictures courtesy of 129Photos.com speak for themselves. I came into this trip nervous about the Dragon. Nervous for RR riders that may be in over their head. Worried for those with tires from the Bush (Sr.) administration and forks that ran dry decades ago. Thankfully everyone kept the shiny side up the entire weekend! Personally I made 6 out n. back trips, and I keep daydreaming of more.

Lou, Roland, and CJ putting on a clinic



Dan on the big Guzzi with a group in tow



Harry leaving some foot peg behind on his gorgeous RD350

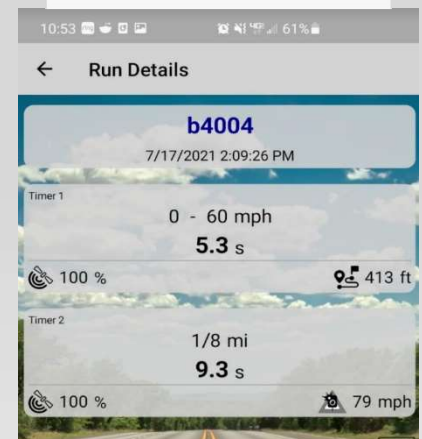


The acceleration test is by far my favorite event. Chris D. took top honors on his built and stretched KZ550. The big four cylinder bikes had a good showing as well. As usual, the accel test comes down to who hates their clutch the most, and who gets a good result out of the spotty phone app used for timing. It's all in good fun!

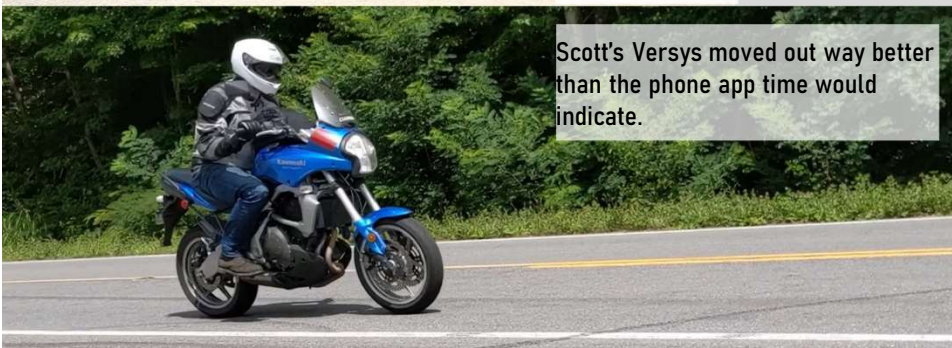
Chris and Ian slay the Dragon as father and son. Ian put on an impressive showing on his custom hardtail Honda.



Not bad for my little 400cc!



Scott's Versys moved out way better than the phone app time would indicate.



FIDDIES 4 LIFE



To steal from Arby's - "we have the meats"



fiddies4life.com/photos

Saturday night was an interesting change of pace for the Reliability Rally. Deals Gap Motorcycle Resort hosted 50cc pit bike racing, which proved to be hilarious entertainment. **Fiddies4Life** is 40mph wheel to wheel racing on the grounds of the motel. This is totally worth seeing on your own time if you are ever in the area. The RR Slow Race was held between pit bike racing heats and MC'd by a hilarious DJ. Scott easily took top honors on his 3 wheeled Italian contraption. He was able to park, and enjoy an ice cold beverage while the rest of us sweated under the pressure of the audience.

Slow Race: point A to point B in as long as possible without putting a foot down



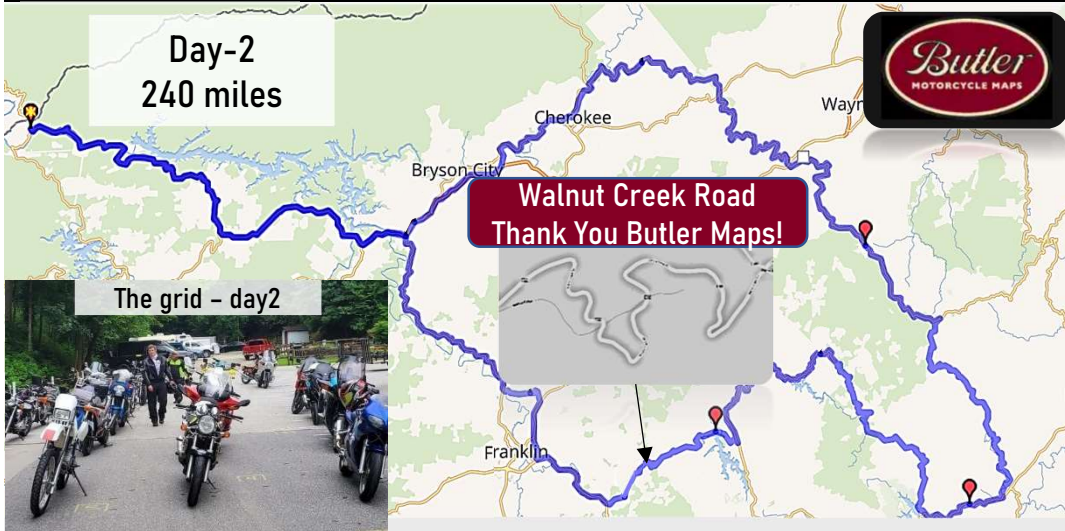
Slow racin' as the 50cc pits look on

Quality food will always be a pillar of the Reliability Rally as long as Lou is in the picture. Why didn't we get catering for this big group? Because it simply wouldn't be good enough. Lou manned the grill for the weekend, while Pat and Jeff managed the sandwich assembly line. Lou's wife Natalie delivered as well with the key lime pies and killer chili recipe. We are forever indebted!



Camaraderie will always be what holds this whole thing together. The crew made good use of the motel porch and ice cold IC Light!





The Sunday ride was a long distance affair through 240 miles of the best road the Smokies has to offer. We quickly tackled the maniacal Moonshiner 28, before working our way down the surprisingly awesome Walnut Creek Road. The discovery of these hidden gems is made possible by Butler Maps. We took a quick rest at The Pines Recreation Area and took in some lake views.

Day-2
240 miles

The grid - day2



Sadly the ignition on Yone's FT500 expired at the stop. Pat and Jeff quickly came to the rescue with The Scooter of Shame! The SOS proved to be very helpful all weekend!

Jim and Tina smile before the next leg



Trash as far as the eye can see as we prep for day-2



The train of scrap proceeded onward and upward, laying claim to NC-281 and NC-215 before our stop at Richland Balsam overlook – the highest point on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Somehow Edgar, his 125cc's and single digit horsepower made it to the top! Cloud base views rewarded all until sprinkles scared us away.



Edgar chuffing in after a long climb to 6053'.



All four ride groups then proceeded to Cherokee, NC – through the tunnels and twists of the BRP. The train of disdain stretched out for miles as everyone set a pace to their own comfort level, with the goal of finishing in once piece. Last stop, gassing up for the Fuel Economy challenge!



It was a feeling of triumph as almost* every bike pulled into the final gas stop for the Fuel Economy challenge. The crowd erupted in applause and awe when Edgar rolled in 20 minutes late on his 125cc machine. We were all extremely impressed with Edgar's physical and mental fortitude, however – the RR team will be implementing a minimum CC rule in his name!



We look on with curiosity to see how thirsty the little 125 actually was.

Uphill 65mph highway

Most patient Sweeper of all time?



Top Speed?

Hazards

Oil Companies hate him! We all want to know what tricks Alex employed to pull off 116mpg on his clean little Ninja 250!



116mpg!!!

The wettest part of the ride was the last 10 miles. Thank you Brendan for the shots!



Bob on his very nice high mile GPZ550

Sunday evening was spent tallying the votes and scores to the tune of a pizza party and brews. After all was said and done, Scott S. came out on top with his unique Piaggio MP3 500. Scott bought this as a non-runner, repaired the fuel pump, and painted the tattered plastics. The three wheeled contraption had no trouble owning the slow race, and it's Italian roots brought a bonus. Lastly, Scott won the hearts and laughs of many with his "unique" customization. Scott took home a coupon for a free set of Shinko tires thanks to their generosity, and several Southern Appalachia Butler Maps were raffled off as door prizes thanks to Court Butler at Butler Maps.

Congrats Scott!



Door Prizes!

oh deer...



In closing, I want to thank our participants – all who kept things safe and fun. The #1 reason for the existence of the Reliability Rally is to enjoy the best winding road rides in the country, all while keeping things hilarious, affordable, and approachable. Without tooting my own horn, I'd say this was achieved!



The chase truck + Scooter of Shame was a welcome addition

From Lou and I – a special appreciation to the many new faces this year. It takes a lot of trust to do something like the RR with strangers! Welcome to the family! I should again note that all of this is done for a good cause. **The Neighborhood Resilience Project** is a Pittsburgh based charity that benefits those less fortunate than us. We have now donated a total of \$2000 since the inception of the RR, and we intend to keep going!

Moving forward, Lou and I intend on tweaking the rules, and refining the way we run the ride based on the valuable feedback we received. Continuous improvement is the name of the game. Stay tuned for future events and happenings. We have announced a Reliability Rally ride in September, and we are actively planning for next year!

-Colin Gorey

2021 RR HALL OF FAILURE



FT500 no longer sparking



Buell Belt Carnage



Off road tires on the street!



Just a scratch....

Rider	Bike	Purchase Price		Breakdown Penalty	10	1/8 Mile Acceleration		Distance (mi)		85.5	Slow Race		Best Accessorization			Rider's Choice			BONUSES		Total Score	Overall Rank
		Price	Points	# stops	Points	1/8 mile	Points	Gallons	MPG	Points	Time	Points	Votes	Rank (1-5)	Points	Votes	Rank	Points	Ride-in	2 Stroke 50 y/o Euro/US		
1 Scott S.	Piaggio MP3 500	\$800	13	0	20	12	3	1.2	71.25	16	24.56	20	6	3	6	2	5	16	0	8	102.0	1
2 Justin S.	96' DR350	\$800	13	0	20	10.5	7	0.99	86.36	19	24.55	19	0	6	0	0	7	14	0	0	92.0	2
3 Chris D.	82' Kaw KZ550 LTD	\$200	18	0	20	8.3	20	2.4	35.63	1	15.97	7	7	2	8	0	7	14	0	0	88.0	3
4 Jon P.	89' PC800	\$1,000	9	0	20	9.4	13	1.71	50.00	5	20.8	17	3	4	4	0	7	14	5	0	87.0	4
5 Lou T.	93' Honda Nighthawk 750	\$1,000	9	0	20	8.72	19	1.7	50.29	6	22.5	18	2	5	0	0	7	14	0	0	86.0	5
6 CJ D.	2001 Ninja 500	\$800	13	0	20	8.85	18	1.486	57.54	11	15.81	6	0	6	0	0	7	14	0	0	82.0	6
7 Paul D.	V-Strom 650	\$1	19	0	20	8.89	17	1.51	56.62	10	0	1	0	6	0	0	7	14	0	0	81.0	7
8 Alex L.	2002 Ninja 250	\$1,000	9	0	20	11.6	4	0.734	116.49	20	18.56	14	0	6	0	0	7	14	0	0	81.0	7
9 Charles P.	01' Suzuki SV650S	\$1,000	9	0	20	9	16	1.52	56.25	9	16.45	9	0	6	0	2	5	16	0	0	79.0	8
10 Scott T.	09' Kawasaki Versys	\$1,000	9	0	20	10.1	10	1.3	65.77	13	18.48	13	0	6	0	0	7	14	0	0	79.0	8
11 Colin G.	91' Suzuki Bandit 400	\$850	12	0	20	9.3	14	2.25	38.00	1	20.5	16	0	6	0	1	6	15	0	0	78.0	9
12 Chris S.	84' Nighthawk 700S	\$0	20	0	20	10.4	8	1.78	48.03	2	18.41	12	0	6	0	0	7	14	0	0	76.0	10



RIDERS CHOICE CHAMPION



Rider	Bike	Rider's Choice		
		Votes	Rank	Points
1 Edgar M.	75' Honda CB125S	9	1	20
2 Ian S.	07' Honda VLX600 Hardtail	6	2	19
3 Harry C.	74' RD350	4	3	18
4 Dan L.	96' Moto Guzzi California	3	4	17
5 Scott S.	Piaggio MP3 500	2	5	16
6 Charles P.	01' Suzuki SV650S	2	5	16
7 Tina G.	81' CB900C	2	5	16
8 Colin G.	91' Suzuki Bandit 400	1	6	15
9 Roland B.	90' Honda CB1	1	6	15
10 Bob N.	83' GPZ550	1	6	15
11 Tomonori Y.	Honda FT500 Ascot	1	6	15



BEST CUSTOMIZATION

	Rider	Bike	Best Accessorization		
			Votes	Rank (1-5)	Points
1	Ian S.	07' Honda VTX600 Hardtail	11	1	10
2	Chris D.	82' Kaw KZ550 LTD	7	2	8
3	Scott S.	Piaggio MP3 500	6	3	6
4	Jon P.	89' PC800	3	4	4
5	Lou T.	93' Honda Nighthawk 750	2	5	0
6	Dan L.	96' Moto Guzzi California	2	5	0
7	Edgar M.	75' Honda CB125S	2	5	0



PURCHASE COST

	Rider	Bike	Purchase Price	
			Price	Points
1	Chris S.	84' Nighthawk 700S	\$0	20
2	Tina G.	81' CB900C	\$0	20
3	Paul D.	V-Strom 650	\$1	19
4	Chris D.	82' Kaw KZ550 LTD	\$200	18
5	Bob N.	83' GPZ550	\$300	17
6	Edgar M.	75' Honda CB125S	\$400	16
7	Travis C.	1985 Maxim 700-X	\$580	15
8	Jim G.	73' CB450	\$600	14
9	Tomonori Y.	Honda FT500 Ascot	\$600	14
10	Scott S.	Piaggio MP3 500	\$800	13
11	Justin S.	96' DR350	\$800	13
12	CJ D.	2001 Ninja 500	\$800	13
13	Malachi R.	88' BMW K75	\$800	13
14	Colin G.	91' Suzuki Bandit 400	\$850	12
15	Jim F.	94' GS500	\$850	12
16	Harry C.	74' RD350	\$850	12
17	Roland B.	90' Honda CB1	\$870	11

FUEL ECONOMY



Rider		Bike	Distance (mi)		85.5	
			Fuel Econ			
			Gallons	MPG		Points
1	Alex L.	2002 Ninja 250	0.734	116.49	20	
2	Justin S.	96' DR350	0.99	86.36	19	
3	James W.	SCOOTER OF SHAME	1	85.50	18	
4	Jordan K.	06' Virago 250	1.04	82.21	17	
5	Scott S.	Piaggio MP3 500	1.2	71.25	16	
6	Ron P.	99' DR350	1.2	71.25	16	
7	Tomonori Y.	Honda FT500 Ascot	1.24	68.95	15	
8	Jim F.	94' GS500	1.25	68.40	14	
9	Scott T.	09' Kawasaki Versys	1.3	65.77	13	
10	Jim G.	73' CB450	1.4	61.07	12	
11	Edgar M.	75' Honda CB125S	1.4	61.07	12	
12	CJ D.	2001 Ninja 500	1.486	57.54	11	

Rider	Bike	Slow Race	
		Time	Points
1 Scott S.	Piaggio MP3 500	24.56	20
2 Justin S.	96' DR350	24.55	19
3 Lou T.	93' Honda Nighthawk 750	22.5	18
4 Jon P.	89' PC800	20.8	17
5 Colin G.	91' Suzuki Bandit 400	20.5	16
6 Ron P.	99' DR350	19.45	15
7 Alex L.	2002 Ninja 250	18.56	14
8 Scott T.	09' Kawasaki Versys	18.48	13
9 Chris S.	84' Nighthawk 700S	18.41	12
10 Jordan K.	06' Virago 250	17.52	11



SLOW RACE



ACCELERATION



Rider	Bike	1/8 Mile Acceleration	
		1/8 mile	Points
1 Chris D.	82' Kaw KZ550 LTD	8.3	20
2 Lou T.	93' Honda Nighthawk 750	8.72	19
3 CJ D.	2001 Ninja 500	8.85	18
4 Paul D.	V-Strom 650	8.89	17
5 Charles P.	01' Suzuki SV650S	9	16
6 Travis C.	1985 Maxim 700-X	9.15	15
7 Colin G.	91' Suzuki Bandit 400	9.3	14
8 Jon P.	89' PC800	9.4	13
9 Malachi R.	88' BMW K75	9.4	13
10 Harry C.	74' RD350	9.5	12
11 Mark G.	91' ST1100	10	11
12 Mike L.	93' Yamaha TDM850	10	11