4th Annual Cootnic 10-16-2010

Bluegrass Riders
Old Coots on Scoots

The Shrive Report

It was October 16, 2010 and the Old Coots met for what was the last big event of the year. The annual Cootnic. This year was I think like some of the past, being a chance for Old Coots to relax and enjoy the company of people much like themselves. As I was riding back, a couple of quotes came to mind.

The first was from an old friend named Bilbo Baggins. At his birthday party he said " I don't know half of you half as well as I should like; and I like less than half of you half as well as you deserve." The second thought that came to mind was from the sage Will Rogers. "I don't belong to any organized biker group. I am an Old Coot." More on these later.

Ok, Will didn't say it exactly like that, but it really works out the same. The Old Coots came to the Markland Dam. Food was a plenty, and better than we deserved. Four types of chili, courtesy of Old Coot Jon. We could start on the mild side with his Wimp Chili or go for the bit more adventurous Road Kill Chili, or for a third option the "Devils Own" chili. (Editors side note…… the Devils own chili was a little better if you added a bit of hot pepper to it, to give it a bit of a bite). The fourth was a "chicken" chili. Gordon noted that it was very good if it covered cornbread. Hot dogs, a host of deserts, and scrumptious cheddar cheese gold fish completed and complimented the feast.

Thirty nine Old Coots by my count were engaged in the celebration of friends and bikes. The only rule is there is no rules was cited by several of the more senior of seniors, to the waiting ears of the more junior of the seniors. I personally took that as an excuse to add some of the "hot" chili to the hot dog, add sour kraut and hopefully no one saw the gold fish added to complete the sandwich. It was delicious. The no rules rule will be a staple in my future dining strategy. No organization, I'm an old coot, isn't just a saying…. It can and should be a way of life. To many of us, it has been with the exception of the rule of living well and respecting others.

Still being one of the new Old Coots, I have completed one full year now. That leads me back to the first half of Bilbo's quote. "I don't know half of you half as well as I should like". It has been a tremendous pleasure meeting, conversing with, and riding with all of you. That is without exception. It is also true that not just myself, but all of us know less than half of the group, half as well as we would like. That over time will change more and to the betterment of ourselves and others. It is a great thing to talk to others and see what part of their life excites them. Some small example that I observed was how Linda's eyes light up as she talks about her new grandchild that her children are adopting. I am sure that each of you has been privileged to witness similar things.

In attendance we were blessed to have:

Jon	Jean	Ron	Linda	Ted	Steve
Richard	Danny	Tammy	Donald	Sandra	Don S.

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Doug	Mindy	Good Gary	Jim	Sharon	Ken
Lyle	Nancy	Eileen	Matt & Son	Dave	Pris
NY Joe	Joy	Smiley	Debbie	Bad Gary	Billy
Gordon	Dennis	Alan S.	Mike D.	Harold	Debbie
Kevn	Kay&Dan (perhaps future Old Coots????)				

If your good at counting, you might have noticed that I have 40 names instead of the 39 I mentioned earlier. Somehow I just couldn't bring myself to add Matt's son as an old coot quite yet. Given time, and good parental upbringing, he will be in the numbers.

Don led the blessings for the meal. In addition, we were blessed to have Richard back after his run in with the Del Fuegos earlier this year (or by one account his scooter attacked him). Danny came back safe from his incident after the Kern's Korner meet. We were blessed then by the safety of our riders. I know that some of our group, lost family members to age or sickness. As a group, that is painful. We shall not forget them. Lastly, this has been a year without Charlie. He shall live on in the hearts of those of you that knew him. I know that the group feels blessed to have shared time with him.

Dinner was around noon, and the groups started to leave around 3:30. I trust that all made it home safely, or in the case of a few that did not go straight home, will make it there soundly.

Until we meet again, please keep the shiny side up and keep our Old Coot numbers steady and growing.

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p.s. Can some one please explain to me how the first **annual** Cootnic happened July 19, 2008 and we just had our 4th annual one October 16th, 2010???? Inquiring minds really want to know. (Hopefully the answer is not "there are no rules"). Also I categorically reject the notion that 2008 being a leap year can somehow be the blame.

p.s.s. Ken, please remember to ask your beautiful bride what one barge of coal costs. I know she has bought some before. (I think she bought it to put in Ken's Christmas stocking as he may not have been very good that year).