

Death Valley Airheads Rendezvous

February 17-19, 2006

Here are some pictures a little story to go along with them of a 3-day weekend trip to Death Valley for the annual gathering of Airheads. (In case you don't know, that's a BMW motorcycle engine they don't make anymore. And I've got a 1983 Airhead R100RS.)

I took off Friday morning by myself, after my riding buddy wimped out because the weatherman said there might be rain. But being up for the challenge, I was on the road by 7 AM solo. The weather was perfect Friday, as you can see here on Emigrant road heading towards Furnace Creek.



I arrived in the afternoon in time to pitch camp along with maybe 100-200 other riders. The wind picked up and it was chilly, but not too bad. By the way, Furnace Creek is 214 feet below sea level.



I camped with these 4 guys (fellow members of the South Coast BMW Riders Club), who I deeply thank for making coffee in the chilly morning.



Four of us took off for breakfast in Beatty, NV, about 50 miles away. On the way we stopped by this deserted remnant of a turn-of-the-century town. As you can see, the weather is sunny, but still chilly.



After breakfast we headed back to Death Valley to see Scotty's Castle, a mansion built around the 30's in the middle of nowhere. Pretty interesting place, with it's own power generated by water wheels turned from local springs.



Here's a crater in the volcanic part of Death Valley. And yes, it's still chilly. Too cold to remove the helmet.



Sunday morning I broke camp and headed east to take 395 home, but I got lost. I couldn't find the road anymore. There's a 5000 foot pass on the way home, but at 4000 feet the road disappeared in a sheet of white stuff. So I turned around and took the long way home through Baker. The ride home was pretty easy - no more white stuff.



Well, that's about all. It was adventurous and well worth the cold. Death Valley is an amazing place with lots to see. I highly recommend it – when the weatherman doesn't predict snow.