

Picnic Ride to Garner State Park

22 April, 2017

Saturday morning started off a little cooler than normal but that didn't stop us from looking forward to our ride to Garner State Park to enjoy a picnic lunch with members of Chapter H & K2. Donna & I have lived here for over 25 years and this was going to be our first time to the park and we really wanted to see some of it.

We headed off to Kent Powersports to meet some of the other Chapter U members. When we arrived, **Sal & Phylis Pesta** were there already. Soon, **Rick & Pat Kendrick** arrived along with **Tom Hendricks** and **Charlene Young**. We were ready to head out to meet some more folks at the Valero Station on Hwy 46. When we arrived we met **Mike Whiteside** and our newest members **Charlie & Janie McPhail**. While there we found out that some of the expected folks had decided not to join us because of possible weather and an unexpected illness. Before we headed out again, Mike told me that he hadn't felt well the night before and had decided that he wouldn't make the ride today.

We headed down the road on Hwy 46 towards Hwy 16. We started to run into a little bit of drizzle when we turned onto FM 470 and headed towards Utopia and the temperature dropped into the upper 50's. FM 470 is always a nice ride and there was very little traffic so we just moved along at a nice pace and took in the scenery. We arrived at Garner State Park at 11:15 am with no turn arounds...Yea!! But that didn't last long. Mike Pineda, Chapter K2 CD, had told me that when we come into the park, make a right turn at the first two intersections and you'll come to Shelter #5. Well, we did that but there was no one in sight, so we turned around and rode through some more of the park to see what was there...that's my story anyway! As we were getting ready to turn around again, Mike caught up to us and we followed him to the picnic site. When we got to Shelter #5, we saw where we had first been but everything at the picnic site was covered with trees and you couldn't see it from the road unless you knew exactly where it was located.

When we got to the shelter, we saw that Chapter H & K2 were already there and eating. We unloaded and got out our lunches and joined them. The shelter was a very nice building with all the kitchen amenities that anyone needed and it was warm inside!!



Wasn't long after everyone had finished lunch and shared desserts that folks had brought, that the drawings began. There were some nice giveaways and all the money from the ticket purchases was put into a 50/50 drawing. There were two drawings for this with each winner receiving \$67.40 for their cash prize. Chapter U didn't fair very well during the drawings as the only winner was Donna for a very nice 2017 Bird Calendar. Surprisingly, even Tom didn't win anything. Chapter K2 seemed to be the big winner, as they took home most of prizes.



As folks were getting ready to head home, everyone was saying they had a great time and wanted to know if this was going to happen again next year. We hope so, as this is a great time to get to know the folks from these other Chapters that we haven't met already and catch up with the one's that we already know. Garner State Park is a great place with lots of things to do and see that we didn't get a chance to this year but maybe next time.

This was a great day and time with our friends from K2 & H and we look forward to doing it again!!! A big thanks to **Mike Pineda (K2 CD)** and **Carl Blatts (H CD)** for their work and support in making this event happen!!

Write Up and Photo's provided by **Steve & Donna Van Gilder.**