

Arizona Peace Trail Dual Sport Ride Feb 18 / 24th, 2018

The following ride report was provided to the Arizona Peace Trail, Inc and published at ArizonaPeaceTrail.org. The content has been slightly modified for read ability and flow. The Arizona Peace Trail would like to thank the author, Dave Massingham for providing this content and his willingness to let us publish his story.

Riders: Jeff Osborn, Aaron Osborn, Kevin Askier, Dave Massingham, Chad Massingham, Derick Massingham

Arrived in Lake Havasu Saturday, Feb. 17th, camped outside of town about 6 miles with Mike Cram, Jerry and Kim Byrd and their family to watch Fireworks.

DAY 1....Sunday Feb. 18th, drove to Mike's home in Lake Havasu, parked and unloaded ready to ride around 9am. We turned on AZPT tracks and rode out of town, right away we got into soft sand, not good with 30 to 40 lbs of camping gear on our bikes. I had to adjust my shock, too soft for the weight on the back, hitting license plate holder. We lost tracks right away, I made wrong turn and ended up by Hwy 95, we returned to where we started and took the highway up a few miles and intersected the tracks. Tracks were good all the way across hwy 40, then to RXR crossing, more soft sand wash. We rode along the RXR tracks to Highway 66 into Golden Shores for fuel and lunch with Gary and Joy Bancroft. We went to Gary's home to modify my license plate holder, it was still hitting the rear tire. Thanks to Gary and his beautiful garage, he removed the lower portion and remounted the plate, all good now. We left and headed out to Polaris Rd to the **worst power line road I have ever been on!** All the way to Oatman highway it was BRUTAL rocks and more rocks. We went to Oatman, after 67 miles of riding for a break. Leaving Oatman on the highway, up to tracks to Kingman, 115 miles so far. Got gas and headed to Hualapai Mountain Park Camp, it got dark on the way, finally made it, 6:30pm, 134 miles. Set up our tents, had a little to eat and hit the bags..... Elevation 6600 ft.

Day 2.... Monday Feb, 19th. We woke up around 6:30 to 3 inches of snow on the ground and our tents; it was beautiful but very cold. Now what do we do.....spend the day in our tents? No way to ride with so much snow on the ground. I think Chad and Derick found a cabin "open" and all 6 of us huddled inside with a small heater on. Very nice cabin, 2 large bunk beds, microwave, refrigerator, table and benches, we were saved! The office was closed due to snow and we found two guys working there, told them our story and they signed us up to stay in the cabin, charged for 1 night camping and 1 night in the cabin, \$77.00. They did ask, "how did you get into the cabin, do you have a key?" All we said was it was open. During the day we had a heard of Elk wander thru the camp grounds getting into garbage can and making a mess, very cool right out in front of our cabin. It snowed most of the day.

One of the guys offered to go down the hill to Kingman and bring us Pizza, beer and waters back after he got off work, wow we were blown away by his offer. He returned around 5 pm with 2 extra large Pizzas, 12 pack of beer and 12 waters, we had a feast! Three of us slept in the bunk beds and 3 on the floor, night of freight trains snoring all night long, it's all good.

Day 3, Tuesday Feb 20th.... We woke up to beautiful sunshine and 23 degree temp. I decided not to take main tracks through the mountains, my concern was the snow. We got direction to go around the mountains on the east side. We did connect to East Alternate Tracks, beautiful ride to Wikieup for fuel and lunch at Dazzos. We arrived at 12:10, 197 mile so far. Left 1:15 headed to Lake Alamo, nice ride, took Maggies Wash bypass around what I was told is a nasty rocky road, ended up at a dead end road at the lake. We eventually found our way back to the tracks, crossed the east end of the lake through "The Rabbit Hole". Rode into Wayside at 4:45 pm for gas and maybe spending the night. The young lady came out and we asked for gas, food and to spend the night, she said they close in 15 mins.... We got gas and went into the café; they stayed open for us, fed us dinner and kept the bar open for us, very nice people. We set up our tents and took showers; they were the best showers ever! We met an old guy staying there in his trailer, Mr. B... Bob was his name. He invited us to his site for camp fire, beer and conversation. He is retired and traveling around with his dog, next destination was Death Valley. After a beer or two, and a few shots of Whiskey, we turned in.

Day 4, Wed. Feb 21st....Was very cold last night, they opened the café early for us, coffee and breakfast, very good...cost each one of us \$16.50 for camping, showers and breakfast, loving life. 9:30 all packed up ready to ride to Salome, then maybe Yuma about 180 miles if we make it. Took tracks out of Wayside, went through a gate and lost the tracks, took road out to highway and found tracks. Back on tracks in the dirt, and then more highway into Salome. Got to Salome at 11:00 am, 305 miles and got fuel. Left Salome heading for Dateland for fuel, got to turn off we all agreed to continue to Welton for fuel, another 50 miles. Got to Welton 3:50 pm, just in time, I was on fumes, filled up and headed to Yuma. Got to the outskirts of Yuma, filled up fuel and got some food to go and headed north to Mitrtry Lake, below Imperial Dam for the night. Arrived Mitrtry Lake 6 pm, in the dark, set up camp had camp fire ate a little and turned in.

Day 5, Thurs Feb 22nd.... 7 am, woke up to fantastic weather, packed up and headed to Martinez Lake for fuel and lunch. Arrived Fisher's Landing, Martinez Lake 11 am, got fuel and went into Rio Loco Bar and Grill for lunch. Someone noticed Chad's rear sprocket was wearing a lot and not sure if it would make it the rest of the way. Chad spent ½ hr on the phone trying to locate a sprocket...no luck. We decided there was no way he would finish the ride, so I called my friend in Lake Havasu, Jerry and Kim Byrd. Asked them to go to Mike Crams home, get Chad's truck drive it 3 hrs to Marinez Lake, pick up both Chad and Derick and return to Lk Havasu, Jerry said no problem, we have never been there. As it was, Derick's bike had a leaking countershaft seal, so it was meant to be..... load up and go home. So at 1pm the 4 of us said good bye to Chad and Derick and headed to Palo Verde for fuel. On the way, road was good until we hit a **long sand wash from HELL**, soft sand, rocks, tight turns, it was miserable. Came to Colorado River, rode canal road to bridge over to highway then to Palo Verde for fuel, 3:40 pm and 548 miles so far. After PV, we headed to Quartzsite, at 5:35 pm we decided we would not make it to Qrtz, so we camped on the road, was perfect spot in the middle of Yuma Proving Grounds. 590 miles to here.

Day 6, Fri Feb 23rd.... Up at 7 am, beautiful weather, riding at 8:40 am to Quartzsite. We took the power line bypass around “Good Bad & Ugly” section, went over some fantastic mountain roads, came out where tracks intersected and we could see Quartzsite. Arrived Qrtz. 10 am for fuel and breakfast at Quail Café ½ mile off main street, very good food. 11am, left and headed to Bouse for fuel, arrived 12:50 pm, good ride to here. 654 miles so far. Headed out of Bouse for Midway, old pits for Parker 400 races back in the day. Arrived at Midway, 667 miles, a sided by side pulled up, 2 guys got out and introduced themselves... JC Sanders Chairman of the AZPT and Ron, who are the originators of the AZPT. This could have never happenedif we or they were a few minutes earlier or later, things happen for a purpose, I am a firm believer. We spent ½ hr talking and I asked JC about the rest of the ride to Lk.Havasu. He said after going thru river crossing on Planet Ranch road, we make a 90 degree left turn into another 20 mi+ sand wash from HELL. He gave me an alternate that added 30+ miles to our ride, better than another sand wash. 2 pm, we left Midway and rode to left turn, 690 miles to there and continued on the alternate. 4 pm, 713 miles, we got to Alamo Rd connector, then got on Mesquite Rd, it was getting cold. We came to end of the road at Butch Cassidy Rd, 746 miles, turned left and picked up tracks, going back to original track on a very tight 2 track. About 5:40 pm we decided to make camp, it was getting dark, we had no idea how far it was to Havasu. Found another perfect spot, for camp and fire, all good.

Day 7, Sat. Feb, 24th....up at 7 am to another perfect day, little cool but great weather. Aaron hiked up to top of the hill we camped below, got on satellite and found tracks way to town and sand wash to highway. It would be 10+ miles on tracks to highway and 5 miles on sand wash to highway. Ready to ride at 8:50 am..... We decided to take sand wash out to highway 95 and take it 10 miles back to town. Got to Mikes home at 9:25 am, loaded up and headed for home.

We rode for 5 full days, camped out for 6 nights, averaged 155 miles per day, total of 760 miles and I was ready to R&R.

All and all, it was an epic trip, some very good and some very bad for Dual Sport bikes carrying 35+ pounds of camping gear. I checked this off my Bucket List.

Thanks to JC and Ron and whoever else helped to put this together, they are still working on additional marking with 5000 more AZPT signs.

Thanks to my two nephews from Fresno for helping the old man on the rocky down hills and for everyone who helped me pick up my bike after a tip overs....

Dave Massingham 2/27/2018