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For pictures you can visit this Photobucket link:

http://s1050.photobucket.com/user/Timbernard/library/2014_10_04%20Thorn%20Creek?sort=2&page=1

GPX files and supporting PDF's can be found on Facebook "Happy Trails Motorcycle Ride Group"

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/830553910290083/files/>

This is a closed group and just ask for permission to join and it will be given to you.

October is one of my favorite months. Weather patterns are more predictable along with cooler weather make for some great day rides.

We took a nice scenic ride last October to check out some of the area close to Boise.

We left shortly after 8:30 on two DRZ 400's heading for Lucky Peak Reservoir, Arrow Dam and the first stop at Cottonwood Ranger Station.

The ride is an easy ride covering pavement and dirt roads. My best way to describe a road when when somebody asks me about is to give them the level of experience I think it takes to navigate the roads and then always add "Remember this that no matter what I say it is just like the last storm left it. Remember my comment earlier about more predictable weather patterns in October!"

This ride I would classify as a beginner ride with danger due to oncoming traffic around Arrowrock Reservoir.

From where I live we can stay off the freeway and take Gowen road around the back side of the Boise Airport to I 84 intersection of Highway 21.

Highway 21 is a beautiful drive in any vehicle. We cross a bridge over the Boise River and the road is along side a small reservoir from Diversion dam that creates the New York Canal. A few minutes later you are looking at Lucky Peak Dam and we start our climb to Hilltop on Highway 21 from there we descend back down to the reservoir and cross Robie Creek on the High Bridge and take an immediate right turn to NF268 that runs along Lucky Peak Reservoir.

The dirt road begins at the top of lucky Peak and you climb up Arrowrock Dam. Arrowrock was opened in 1915 and when t was built it stood 348 feet high and at that time it was the largest concrete arch dam in the world.

Ther rood along arrowrock is windy with a significant amount of oncoming traffic so caution is advised.

We take a left on FS NF377 and start up the canyon. It is a short distance to the Cottonwood Ranger Station.

The area is typical Forest Service Community with Houses for residences, shower house, barn, storage buildings warehouse, lube rack and other structures. it is a true treasure to walk around and remember yesteryear. One of my friends spent time there as a child and his father worked for the forest service. His father lost his life hauling horses out along Arrowrock in the late 50's.

As you start to ride up the canyon there is a very popular FS Trailhead for hikers and mountain bikers that goes to Thorn Creek Lookout.

We found a FS Campground a few miles further up that had tents staged with no occupants for the upcoming deer or elk season. I consider myself a trail and road preservationist. With so many users responsible use is the only way we can keep these access routes to Idaho Treasures. Many uses occur in this area including mining, logging, berry picking and other recreation opportunities. Idaho has had many fires and that is always another concern, responsible use sustains us and no matter what your point of view it comes down to WISE USE by all users. At the summit the road is closed to 4WD vehicles due to a washout many years ago. ATVs & 2 wheelers make it through just fine. Once you are on the ridge the vistas are unbelievable and we picked a cloudless day for this trip.

At the Thorne Creek Lookout there were some bear hunters tracking their dogs in the canyons below. It was interesting listening to the "hound dog tales" and getting to know the guys a little. All friends at the end enjoying the GEM State.

The ride down to Idaho City was nice and the temperature started rising a bit to the point I had to pullover and shed some layers.

Idaho City has some great restaurants and fun places to get snack. The information Center is worth some time and has displays of past mining and logging.

Now it is time for a nice twisty road ride back to Boise. It is about 42 miles back to Happy Trails.

The day's ride was 114 miles, 3:24 moving and 2:06 stopped, with a moving average speed of 33 MPH.