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New Year's Day Ride!!!

by Kim Wilson

We can officially say we rode on New Year's Day.

It did help that the weather was nice. It was a damp, cool 65; yes 65 on Jan. 1, 2005.

Ruth and I took the ride that we were supposed to do back in November for our November meeting.

Let me back up and tell you the story about our "Halloween Ride," on October 31 of course. Ruth, Connie, Glenda and I, met up to do a practice run of the ride we would take after our November meeting, weather permitting. We met at a gas station on Wanamaker and headed north. We rode for a bit and made a turn that looked good at first, but we ended up on some gravel. I think I'm the newest rider in the bunch and I was a bit nervous. Well I was saying to myself, "I sure am glad I have ridden on gravel before," but was still a little bit, well a lot, white knuckled. We come to a corner, made a stop and one of us lost footing (I'm not going to point a finger or mention names here). I just want to say, unlevel ground and gravel are not a good combination. Well, we discovered we can pick up a bike and we can also make U-turns safely and, maybe, a bit slower on gravel. We did eventually get back to good smooth roads. We called it our "spooky Halloween ride." It did turn out to be a good ride. And it was a good experience. You never know when you may take a wrong turn, or be lead astray by your trusty leader ;-) and need a bit of the riding on gravel experience. It's not something I want to do on purpose too often. We ended up around Lake Perry which was the planned destination. After leaving the lake dam area, where we stopped for a break and stretch, we headed toward the town of Perry and Glenda headed home from there. The rest of us headed back to Topeka and home.

We now return to New Year's Eve 2004. It is unseasonably warm for this time of year. It got up to 62 degrees, I believe. I got the itch to ride so I called my friend Pam. No answered at her phone so I told my oldest he "needed" to baby-sit his little sister, 'cause mom "needed" to take a ride. I headed south, took Auburn road out of town and went riding until I thought it was time to turn back, this time at Osage City. (Last time was with Glenda and we didn't turn back until we hit Lebo.) The last day of the year was a great day for a ride.

New Year's Day, by the time I'm up and getting around, I was just doing the "Lazy Day" thing. It had been sprinkling a bit, so thought I will pass on the riding this time, since I had ridden on New Year's Eve. Had to run to the store and pick up a few things, and while I was gone I got a call from Ruth. We had earlier discussed maybe doing a New Year's ride a few weeks on our carpool to the December Christmas Party meeting. I called her back deciding the weather was as good as it's going to get. Like I said earlier, it was a damp cool 65 degrees. We decided to do the ride we did in October, without the gravel road. We headed north and what a day it was for a ride. I was almost bundled up too warm. Roads were a bit wet in areas, but all in all it wasn't bad at all and we can say we rode on New Year's Day. We can't even call it a polar ride since it just wasn't cold enough to call it that.

I want to add that I am glad I found this group of ladies. "Thanks Glenda" I am enjoying the riding with you all.

Hope everyone is having a good winter and hope spring gets here soon.