

Day 1

We left Joe and Eddie's on time, sorely missing our friends Cris, Maryanne, and Joe-Joe. We headed up 85 to 331 to 65 to 59, eating up the miles till we got to Gadsden Ala. For me this is where the ride starts. The curving two lane roads, the hills, the sights, some of us even got to see soaring eagles. I learned that George, when chastised by Sam, will slow down for almost 10 minutes. I also learned he apparently has tourette's attacks brought on by a slow moving trucks, luckily the truck made a right so George made a left and soon the roads and sights calmed him down.

We stopped in Mentone, a Sleeply little town with log buildings, and had an interesting lunch, then found a tiny little motorcycle shop that had some good prices.

After lunch we headed out of Mentone on Moonshine Lake Road heading for Chattanooga (man is it hot!) where we hit the interstate and learned Dave & Tina have Tourette's syndrome as well. Their attack was brought on by an SUV trying to side swipe them, (Maybe tourette's is a Goldwing thing will have to keep an eye on Chuck & Dirty Harry) After coming off the interstate to get to the hotel we passed several cars waiting to make a left hand turn by getting in the Right lane then turn left in front of them (Is this a Sandie thing?)



Day 2

We met in the hotel lobby for breakfast, where I watch Dave battle a waffle iron. Dave won this time but my money's on the waffle iron next time. Then we headed out to find a drug store for M2, he got water in his ear from the pool. Then it was off to the Dragon. We stopped at the start of the Dragon where Wanda had a Sandie OOPSIE. Riding the dragon was great. I used the things I had learned in skills and rode my own ride. We hit the bottom of the Dragon too soon for me. Time for a photo and then to say goodbye to the rest of the Sandies.



After some shopping we went down the hill toward Robbinsville stopping along the way at an old lodge, motorcycle shop, church parking lot with a great view, before finding our cabins. We pulled into the Dragon Rest cabin only to find out we couldn't

check in until after 3pm so, back into town to eat, then back upto Deals Gap for some stickers I wanted. We traveled back to Robbinsville and checked into the cabins took a break to cool off.

Around 4:30pm we headed out to do some of the Cherohala Skyway stopping often to shop and take pictures. About 6pm I told John we should head back to get dinner and some rest. He put the cabin address into his GPS and off we went John in the lead. We make a few turns and start up the steepest hill I have ever been on. I look up and there is a Stop sign at the top. I learned that I have tourette's (well I am on a Honda, and I was looking at Goldwings the other day) I swear I could have driven up the side of a building easier. Thank God my motorcycle has Spiderman senses and, for Throttle and Fiction control. We did make it back to Robbinsville had dinner at Wendy's Stop at a store to get more cameras. John used all my film on the Skyway. Back to the cabin where we met Jim from Maryland a nice guy on ST and his 2 brothers on a 650 & 1200 BMW. They got a ticket on the Skyway \$150.00 each. Then they watched a guy go down on the dragon.

Day 3

We slept in the next morning as we were told not to do the Skyway to early because of fog. We headed into town to gas up and get breakfast before getting on the Skyway. I must say this was the most enjoyable day for me. The views bring to mind words like majestic, inspiring, peaceful, serene, and more. The roads were more sweeping curves and just a joy to ride.

We took a side trip to Bald River Fall down a narrow tree covered road, that followed a boulder strewn river to the Falls. Reaching the Falls just made you feel cooler. John had to hike up to the top. I decided to stay at the bottom, he was quiet winded when he got back. Had the lunch at Tellico Plains got gas and headed to the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, where I bought Cris B. a genuine Indian Marshmellow Shooter.

We went onward to Vonore down highway 411 to 72 then back down the Dragon into Robbinsville for dinner at the Phillips Family Restaurant (GOOD FOOD), back to the cabin. This had been a truly satisfying day, that was capped of by finding the creek at the cabin and then sitting on the front porch looking over the field to the mountain range beyond. As dusk approached thousands of fireflies lit up the field. It was a peaceful and serene ending to a good day.



Day 4

We woke up early to get a good start, but it was raining, we decided to try to wait it out. Around 8:30am it finally started to taper off we finished loading the bikes and put on our rain gear and, headed out to fuel up and hit the road. Then Skies opened up and it poured for about 20 miles then the Gods smiled upon us and the skies cleared. We road thru the Cherokee National forest to the Ocoee River (a pleasant ride) to the interstate eating the miles again. We stopped at Clanton and got a hotel around 3pm because it was so hot.

Day 5

Got an early early start , trying to beat the heat, headed for home around 4:30am. Not much of note to say about this ride other than a few 2x4's on highway 65. I had logged 1459 miles on this trip with 1/3rd of those miles being on the 1st day, boy am I glad to be home. What a great trip.

Tourette's syndrome |toʊ'rets|

noun Medicine

a [neurological](#) disorder characterized by involuntary tics and vocalizations and often the compulsive utterance of obscenities.

Bob Lawrence