



# Northshore HOG News

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug. 4, Members Meeting & Ride, 3:00 pm, NSHD.
- Aug. 11, Taste of Bavaria Ride, 10:00 am, NSHD.
- Aug. 18 LOH Madisonville Ride, 4:00 pm, NSHD.
- Aug. 25, Ride to Rocky & Carlo's, 10:00 am, NSHD.
- Sept., 1, Members Meeting & Ride, 9:30 am, NSHD.
- See the web site for a complete listing of events

ISSUE 93

AUGUST, 2012

### BLUE RIDGE 2012 By Bill and Judy Anderson

After months of planning and discussion, the Northshore Harley Owners Group Annual "long trip" finally arrived on Friday, 22 June. We were literally counting down the days and hours on our Facebook page – Cabin at Blue Ridge, the Smoky Mountains, the Dragon – oh, my! IT'S HERE!

**0700, Friday, 22 June.** Mike Bruno's Northshore Harley Davidson. The gang's all here – Dwight and Britta, Karl and Sonia, COL Rick and Valerie, Dave P., Bob, Buddy Chip, Cathy, Bill and Judy. Dave K. will meet up with us later.



Northshore HOGS (Karl is taking the picture)

Following a discussion on our route, destinations, a group prayer, we saddled up, and prepared to roll.

Aligned in our "sticks" – Stick 1: Dwight, Bob, Dave P., and COL Rick. Stick 2: Karl, Chip, Cathy, Buddy and Bill. 9 Harleys and one Honda "Toaster" hitting the road. Judy had surgery on her foot 3 weeks earlier, and Sonia graciously offered to drive her vehicle so Judy could keep her foot up, and to carry the ice cream maker!

ON THE ROAD. Swinging on to I-10 and heading north. What's going on? Why is stick 1 heading east on I-10 and not north to 59? Stay as a group, follow. Radio contact, GPS on an old track. Head to Mississippi Exit 2 and we'll turn around. At least we are moving and have a lot of riding to do.

Tropical Storm Debby may be churning in the gulf, and heading in a who knows where direction, we are on a Harley vacation and heading north on 59. First stop, Chunky River Harley Davidson, Meridian, MS. A great looking dealership, with a game room and conference room overlooking the main floor. A few purchases were made and then it was off to lunch. The dealership recommended O'Charley's – just up the hill, on the right. A nice, relaxing lunch that seemed to take forever. Finally, the checks were paid, we fueled up, and hit the road.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> planned stop for the day was the Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum outside of Birmingham, Alabama. What a great stop! Beautiful grounds leading up to a 5-story glass building, with a professional motor-cycle racing course in the back. Once inside

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## From the Editor

### Random Thoughts and Road Hazards

### CHANGE FOR NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

As announced by our Director at the last meeting, the August meeting will take place on Saturday, August 4th, **at 3:00 pm**. Please note the change of time and plan on attending.

### THIS MONTH'S ISSUE SETS RECORD

As you will observe, this issue has many more pages than normal. This is due to the submission of a great article by Bill and Judy Anderson recounting their great experiences on the Blue Ridge trip. Thanks to Bill and Judy for sharing their experiences with the rest of us.

Also many thanks to Ralph Preveau and Susan Parish for their articles, and to Karl Fox, who has done an exceptional job as our photographer.

Our newsletter is unusually long this month (23 pages — a record!), this is due, in part, by the fact that Dwight gave me a pass for the July Issue as there were only two rides during the month of June. The other factor contributing to the length of this month's newsletter is the outstanding article from the Andersons, which required the added space.

Thanks to all for your input, and keep the articles coming.

Ride often and Ride Safe,  
Danno

**If you are not a current member of the Northshore HOG Chapter, or you forgot to renew your membership in January, simply fill out an enrollment form (available at the dealership or on the website, see "Downloads").**

the 5-story building, you'll find it almost makes you dizzy. OPEN with every kind of motorcycle and racing vehicle stacked from the bottom floor to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. The first floor is their restoration floor, and then the 4 remaining floors are some of the most amazing motorcycles and racing vehicles to be found. They even have a replica of the garage that Harley Davidson was born. This picture gives you an idea of the size of this place, and these are not "match box" vehicles – these are the real thing from the 1<sup>st</sup> floor to the 5<sup>th</sup>.



Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum, Birmingham, AL

It was fun watching the motorcycles racing on the track behind the museum. A great view, and they really lay those bikes on their sides when running through the corners.

Following a short 40-minute ride to the Motel, we unloaded, cranked the AC down to about 60 degrees, cleaned up a bit, and met up to have dinner. Just so happened that there was a Mexican food restaurant right next door. Table for 12, please. Food was good, and conversation even better.



Celebrated Cathy's 21<sup>st</sup> :-} Birthday.

Reviewed our time-line for tomorrow's trek. We must pick-up the keys to the cabin by 1230. That will make it really tight on the group, so it was decided to send Karl and Bob ahead of the group.

**0700, Saturday, 23 June.** Karl and Bob head out to secure the cabin. The rest of us had a nice breakfast, refueled and were on the road about an hour later.

As we pulled into Kennesaw, GA., we decided to stop for lunch, and try to contact Karl or Bob for an update on

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## JUNE CHAPTER MEETING AND RIDE

By Ralph Preveau

On June 2<sup>nd</sup> the monthly chapter meeting was held. There were quite a number of people in attendance for this meeting. It's always great to see so many of our chapter members show interest in their chapter and attend the meetings. At the meeting several topics were discussed, such as the upcoming ride to Blue Ridge, Georgia. I believe we have thirteen or fourteen people going on the trip. That's a really great turnout and a great chance to ride together and explore new roads and enjoy different scenery.

Also, at the meeting, patches were given out as a sign of recognition and appreciation to the members who serve our chapter in some

capacity. I am fortunate enough to be able to serve our chapter as Head Road Captain and this is a position I thoroughly enjoy. I enjoy being able to help our chapter in this capacity of planning rides, or assisting on rides, and just being of assistance on rides.

After the meeting our chapter took a ride to Bay St. Louis to attend the Bay Bridge Festival. The plan was that we'd park in the Hollywood Casino parking lot and catch a shuttle over to the festivities. Well, being parked so close to the casino, and knowing there was a great buffet inside, our appetites took over. We all recognized the opportunity to attend a great buffet and enjoy lunch. The food was very good and it gave us a chance to recharge in the air conditioning.

After we were thoroughly full from lunch we decided that such a beautiful day should not be wasted, so the decision was made that we should do something to enjoy the rest of the day and that would be RIDE!!! Oh, well, maybe next year we'll check out the festival. We took off down the coast to enjoy a beautiful day of riding. The temps were warm but not blistering. We pulled off for snowballs at the Biloxi Beach Snowball Company, a snowball truck designed to look like a streetcar, where you serve yourself whatever flavor you choose, and as much as you desire on the syrup!!! Delicious!!!

If you were unable to attend the meeting and ride please try to join us next month, or on the Ladies of Harley rides, or any other rides we come up with. Summer is here so let's beat the heat and RIDE and HAVE FUN!!! Hope to see you on the road with us!!

Ralph



## Ladies of Harley June 16, 2012 Ride

By Susan Parrish



When the weather gets hot, the Harley riders get innovative. The June Ladies of Harley ride was planned for the evening to escape the heat and humidity of Louisiana summer. We met at the dealership at 4:00 PM and ventured out at 4:15. I led the 8 bikes and 1 car to Fremaux Avenue to Front Street and on to Hwy 11. We turned

onto Interstate 12 and rode to the Robert exit. We traveled along Highway 445 through farmlands, by cattle herds, near Jellystone Park and beautiful countryside.

A turn West on Highway 16 led us to Amite and our destination. Mike's Catfish Inn is located on this major highway. We had been advised we could park at the business next door so there was ample paved parking for us.

A pre-call reservation allowed us to have a room with an assigned server. Each entrée was allowed a serving from the overstuffed salad bar and the menu offered many choices. The catfish plate was excellent and filling. We enjoyed the food and the company. We were happy to have Nita Newman (Buddy's Mom) and Nancy Wood (Cathy Newman's Mom) as guests for the evening. They travelled in a car behind the bikes. These ladies had met many of us at Buddy's retirement party and wanted to see for themselves what all the fun was about. Nita even brought her own trike – a one lady powered device which she operated with excellent precision. (I did not do well with it.)

We departed the restaurant and headed for I-55 for the return trip home. Darkness soon overtook us and the air cooled considerably. We entered I-12 near Hammond and headed for Slidell and Baskin-Robbins. Ice cream and fellowship capped the wonderful ride and dinner. We again stayed until the door was locked.

Susan Parrish  
Ladies of Harley Officer

their status. We decided on Joe's Crab Shack – imagine that, left the Gulf Coast and drove 500 miles to eat at Joe's Crab Shack in northern Georgia! Once in the parking lot, we checked our phones for messages or missed calls. Nothing! Karl and Bob still have some time to get there.

They sat us all together, and our orders ranged from crab legs, to hamburgers, to salad. It was great watching our waitress put the bibbs on Dwight and COL Rick, Britta and Valerie. WAIT – text received. A simple text with picture from Bob – Text states that “We have dogs” and the picture is of Bob and small black and white dog. At least we know that they made it safely. Sonya received a phone call from Karl shortly thereafter with a few more details. Before we leave Joe's, Bob called and spoke to Dwight regarding the access road to the cabin. Appears that it is made up of gravel and has some ruts in it. Bob says he has a secondary access that will be easier and recommends that when we get to Blue Ridge, we call him, and he will come down and show us the way. Dwight is good with that, and we head on out.

A beautiful ride from Kennesaw to Blue Ridge. Pulled into a bank parking lot and called Bob. We waited about 20 minutes and Bob arrived. A few words were spoken, and then off we went. Next stop – THE CABIN – our base camp and home for the next 6 nights.

Bob's right turn signal is on. What, where are we going? Picture this – turning onto one of 2 roads leading up to a small house and up a hill. Pasture and fence to your right and a plowed garden area to your right. Road is about wide enough for a pickup, with large and small rocks spread between the two lane ruts. Remember this part - this one is the better of the 2 access roads leading to the road to the cabin. We go up this road and stop in the drive way of the small house. From this point, we are looking at what would best be described by AC/DC's titled song – “Highway to Hell”.

a. Part 1: 400 yards of a 30 to 35% incline of a mixture of gravel, rocks and ruts – barbed wire pasture fence to your left and a drainage ditch to your right...and, again just wide enough for a pickup. At this point, you can also proceed straight ahead to the barn area.

b. Part 2: At the top of the 400 yards, there is a 90 degree turn to your right with a 30 to 35 degree incline leading to the cabin about 75 yards away. Where these 2 roads meet the ruts lead both to the barn area and down the hill. Pretty rough spot here. Oh yeah, and don't forget about the rocks and spotty gravel. Just what a 985 pound motorcycle and rider love to ride in!

Bob recommends that he will take the motorcycles up and down the hill for those that may be uncomfortable. Bob, Dwight, Dave P., and COL Rick (on his Tri-Guide) roll on up the hill. Buddy got caught at the 90 degree turn at the top – didn't drop the MC, but needed assistance – made it safely. Chip made it up alright. Bob brought Cathy's MC safely to the cabin, and of course, our Tri-Guide and the Toaster didn't have a problem. Well, much to our surprise, when we got to the top – what did we see? Dwight's MC laying on its side in the grass near the cabin. Dwight's helmet was located several feet down the incline. They say a picture is worth a thousand words – here are two that may help.



Nothing level around the cabin.



The Angle up from the 90 degree turn to the cabin.



That is Judy and I behind Dave and Angelique coming up to the 90 degree turn leading up and down the hill. Note the incline.

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### Update Your Profile

Many of us have had a change in address, telephone number or email. Please go to the website [www.northshorehog.com](http://www.northshorehog.com) and update your profile. Don't forget to do the same thing when renewing your 2012 membership.

Once we were safely up the hill and had everything upright and secure, we discussed the safety issues regarding our bodies, our motorcycles, the Highway to Hell, and if we were going to stay here. Dwight and Bob spoke to the owner regarding parking in and around the barn to allow us to go straight up the hill to a flat area for parking the motorcycles. The owner said that there wasn't a problem with parking there. An item of special note at this juncture is that the barn was a covered area with no walls, and under that cover bails of hay stacked from floor to ceiling the entire length of about 200 feet. Dwight was quick to remind each of us to be mindful of how close we parked our motorcycles with hot exhaust pipes to the dry hay. Nothing would stop that fire! They moved all of the motorcycles to the barn area, with the exception of the 2 Tri-Guides, Karl and Dave P's.



Trixie, Turbo, and Short-tailed Black Cat

The pets. Not only did we have the little black and white dog, named Trixie. We had a larger dog, named Turbo, and a short-tailed black and white cat – with no known name. Yes, they were a little bit strange. Karl has other pictures and can explain what I'm trying to say here. More on the pets later.

Ok, we have arrived, we are safe, we need to finalize the sleeping arrangements and "make groceries"! Sleeping arrangements made, and the unpacking begins. Motorcycles unloaded, the Toaster unloaded. Now for a quick daily menu review and who's fixing what for dinner. Britta, Sonia, Judy and Chip departed on what ended up being a \$750.00 shopping spree for breakfast and dinner items. Dinner consisted of rotisserie chicken, macaroni salad, potato salad, and a lemon-drop cake. Judy made up the home-made ice cream recipe that will be frozen tomorrow.

**Sunday, 24 June.** A day of rest, we can pretty much do whatever we like. Dave P was up and moving at 6 am, heading out to visit with Yvonne. Found out later that he and Yvonne went horseback riding, and she had him doing all of the before ride preps, as well as bathing and brushing following the ride. Kind of a boring day after two previous days of riding and thinking about the week of riding that laid ahead of us. Dave K finally showed up in the early afternoon. Karl tried to warn him about the driveway, too late however, Dave laid his motorcycle over in the corner leading to the cabin. He wasn't hurt, so we were blessed.

Dwight went outside to enjoy the view and came back with a 3-foot black snake wrapped around his wrist and arm. Dwight and the snake stayed outside on the porch, and it is probably good that they did. We found out later that Buddy does not like snakes – I'll repeat that – DOES NOT LIKE SNAKES! When they told Brenda that

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### **NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES**

One Quarter Page - \$20.00  
Business Card - \$10.00

**Buy 6 issues of advertising and  
receive a 20% discount**

Contact Dwight Bradbury if you are interested in placing an ad or have questions.

Open space

Dwight had the snake, she immediately asked what window did Buddy throw them out of!

Somehow, Bob was able to go on a motorcycle ride by himself, just cruising around, taking in the sights. He came back and told us that he found a mountain road that could be called a mini-dragon. ALRIGHT, WE RIDE. Bob, Dave K., Buddy, Chip, Cathy, COL Rick, Valerie, Judy and I saddled up for a quick pre-dinner ride. We probably rode for about half an hour when we saw Dave P., returning from his horseback experience. He turned around and joined up with us, just as we made the bottom of Blood Mountain. Yes, I would say that I am glad I rode this before I ran the Tail of the Dragon. Not as many turns, and not as long as the Dragon, but 6 to 9% inclines and downgrades, 15 to 20 MPH turns, hairpin and multiple S turns, and limited vision turns. We stopped at the top of the mountain, then continued to the bottom. Met up with Bob, Dave K and COL Rick at the bottom and headed back over the mountain to go home. I believe that running the mountain helped build confidence and removed some of that unknown anxiety that seemed to be hanging around.

When we returned from this ride, we found that our neighbor had a problem with us setting up near her house, after we brought the MC's down the hill. She stated that we woke up her baby, and she didn't want us to be riding near her house anymore. This takes us back to the access roads to the property – remember? Now we have to leave via the worst of the two access roads, and can't set up closer to the highway. Oh well, nothing we can handle.

**Monday, 25 June.** A beautiful morning. Left cabin and headed for Tellico Plains, TN. Fueled up for the run over the Cherohala Skyway. Once in Tellico Plains, visited a unique visitor's center. By unique, I mean that it was made up of an antique shop, a telephone museum, a gift shop, and another museum made up of guns, ammunition, pictures, American Indian artifacts, and then the actual visitor's center. The visitor's center actually had 3 or 4 stuffed black bears in it. Interesting to say the least.

We rode a couple of miles and stopped again at the Cherohala Skyway Harley Davidson shop. This is a clothing only Harley shop. Unfortunately, they were out of the poker chips, but had the first pin of the 3-pin set picturing the dragon's claw. The other 2 pins required to complete are located in Maryville, TN., and Tallasee, TN.

We loaded up and drove about a mile and pulled in to a restaurant called CATS. A little place that has a river flowing right behind it, and they give you bread to feed the trout and turtles that hang out under the rocks.



A breath taking view on the Cherohala Skyway

Buddy and Chip at 5,235 feet – 45 feet from being mile-high

The Cherohala Skyway is a beautiful ride. I left out many of the great pictures we were able to take on this ride. If you haven't been there, I didn't want to spoil it for you. This would be a "must ride" if you get a chance!

Angelique, Dave P's daughter arrived at the cabin, and was excited about hang'n with her Father and of course, the Northshore Hogs. The Hogs are truly much more fun. HA! Made homemade ice cream – Strawberry/ Banana. Yes, you know that Dave P was in heaven! His daughter is there, and he's having homemade ice cream.

Karl taught us a card game called Cadillac, that you count up to 31 points, and when you run out of money you go on welfare for one additional round. You continue to win, you play. You lose, you're outta there. Chip took the win on this night.

**Tuesday, 26 June.** COL Rick lead the stick (Trikes in the front), and Dwight was sweep. Time to conquer the Tail of the Dragon. Up and at it early. Chilly morning, but clear. Left the cabin dressed in anticipation of the chill, but added our heavier coats at our fuel stop, and then added our rain gear jackets at our picture opportunity stop on the Georgia Tennessee border.

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Georgia – Tennessee State Line through the middle of town



Stradling the Line

Rolled on to north Hwy 129. Road gets narrow and turns start getting more frequent. Cross the dam and the ride starts going up the side of the mountain, and no guard rails. Beautiful site, but Judy had to tell me that, I had my eyes on the road ahead of me. Deals Gap, North Carolina – home of the Tail of the Dragon. Deals Gap, the only place you can get the Dragon to put on your motorcycle. U have to run it to wear it. And everyone of us were ready to run it and wear it.

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Everyone's in the picture. Ready to run the Tail of the Dragon!

The Tail of the Dragon is a road that requires respect. The day we conquered the Dragon, there were two bad accidents. The following day, there was a terrible accident. A very sobering sight that reminds the Tail of the Dragon rider that you need to be focused and careful on this ride is the TREE OF SHAME.

The parts that you see hanging from the tree are from accidents that have happened on the Tail of the Dragon, dated with the actual date of the accident. Several that we saw were dated the week before.



Deals Gap – Tail of the Dragon – Tree of Shame

The 11 miles took our group approximately 30-minutes to run, but most of that was because I was in front of them. Sorry gang.

I will report that Brother Bob ran the Tail by himself and ran it in 20-minutes. Passing 6 motorcycles. Police experience – professional rider!

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Near the end of the Tail, we pulled over for a scenic moment, looking down on the ride we just made. A long way down to the dam that we crossed a while ago.



Scenic View – Tail of the Dragon

Just a short distance from the scenic view, you leave the Dragon portion of Hwy 129. You drop far enough in elevation that you ride next to the lake that the dam has made. And, the first thing you roll up to is:

This is a Harley Accessories (clothes, stickers, etc). store. It is also the 2<sup>nd</sup> pin required for the Dragon's paw pin set. 2 down, 1 to go on this set. Will get it tomorrow in Maryville. The U.S. 129 Dragon store also has a great photo-op with the chained down dragon.

Bob actually did surgery on the Dragon, just before this picture was taken. Waited for him to finish before pushing the button. Dragon Slayer Bob.



U.S. 129 DRAGON HARLEY DAVIDSON OUTPOST



BIG BOB – SLAYER OF THE DRAGON IN JUST 20 MINUTES 26 JUNE 2012

Following our stop at the Harley Outpost, we started to head south towards the cabin. Once we reached Madisonville, TN, we started talking about lunch. One thing about this trip is that we were able to eat at some places that are not known to SE Louisiana – Dairy Queen, AW Root Beer, and many more. A&W won and it was great.

What a wonderful day we had. Chilly start, conquered the Dragon, and had another wonderful day to ride. Tri-Glides led the way all day. Way to go, COL Rick and Valerie.



COL Rick and Valerie at A&amp;W Root Beer, Madisonville, TN

Once back at the cabin we played Cadillac again. Tonight it was Dave P that carried away the prize. Karl was laughing so hard he was crying. FUN!

**Wednesday, 26 June.** Up and ready to roll early, as this will be the longest day of riding since we arrived. Karl was stick leader and Dwight was sweep. Dave P. took the lead when we came up on Pigeon Forge. A warm

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morning, no need for extra layers today. Heading north to Maryville Harley Davidson. Maryville Harley Davidson is huge, I believe that it is the largest Harley Davidson building I've ever seen. Not only do they have a super large store floor, but they also have an area of equal value that houses the stage, restaurant, cooking area for all of their parties (like Mike Bruno's Northshore Bayou Thunder).



Northshore HOGs are Maryville HD

This is the place for 2 separate pin parts for your vest. You can get the last piece (top piece) of the Dragons Claw and, the first piece (top piece) of the Smoky Mountain Dragon Pin. Maryville also had the orange colored shirt that had Tennessee 2012 printed on the front of the shirt with the Dragon Tail, and on the back they had the Smoky Mountain Harley shops listed on the back. What a great shirt! Covered just about everything we did on one shirt. Proud to have one of these!

David P took the lead and took us through many very narrow, very curvy roads. Funny thing was that as he was our lead, Angelique was talking to him and pointing all kinds of things out. Unfortunate for us, they didn't have a CB, and all we saw was her arms pointing things out to her father. Dave led us to Angelique's employer for lunch – the Applewood Farm House. When you come in the way we did, you would think that it is just a restaurant across the road from a river. No, it is a complete enterprise of food, wine, and much more.



Full and ready to roll again

I would highly recommend their Chicken Pot Pie. Wow, that was better than Mom used to make, but don't tell her I said that – PLEASE! Here's another tip – their Chicken Pot Pie meal is a few times larger than their side-order pie. And here's a picture to prove it:



The Pot Pie Challenge – Applewood Farm House

On our way through Pigeon Forge – what a city. Definitely built as a tourist attraction. Upside down buildings, King Kong hanging from a smaller building, Mount Rushmore with different faces, and then we found the Harley Davidson shop of Pigeon Forge.



Pigeon Forge Harley Davidson – a full service dealer

Picked up the second pin of the Orange Dragon Pin and a couple of their poker chips.

Yet another beautiful day. Rolling on to the Smoky Mountain State Park and on to Gatlinburg, TN. And our Wednesday ride continues. Gatlinburg really not far away, and it is another interesting city as far as how they advertise it.

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Gatlinburg, TN – Hillbilly Harley – Clothing Only.

And this is the last of the second pin sets. The Orange Dragon pin is now complete. RIDE ON!  
Next stop the Smoky Mountains National Park.



Our Northshore HOGs entering the Great Smoky National Park

Absolutely, one beautiful ride. We really enjoyed the stop beside the mountain river, taking our shoes off and realizing just how cold the water really is. What a great time, and what great friends!



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Cherokee National Forest

We rode on to Cherokee and stopped at the Dairy Queen.



We really enjoyed the stop and from that point headed directly to the cabin. As we were about to leave the City of Cherokee, we noticed a small Harley Shop to the left when we were going right. It was just 6:00 PM, so we went on. Thirteen hours from the time we started, we arrived at the cabin. What a great day. Perfect weather. We really couldn't have been blessed any more or better. 5 days down and it has been the perfect Harley vacation! WOW!

Made it to the cabin safely, and had pizza for dinner. Started a Cadillac game that ended at 2:30 AM. And, the big winner tonight was me. So tired, I fell asleep sitting up in the recliner.

**Thursday, 27 June.** Our last full day. Dave K. packs up and heads for Atlanta, our first to head home. Heading out to the town of Helen, Georgia. A small community that has been built on its German heritage. The town is even built to replicate a German Village. Karl had the lead, and Dwight was sweep. Karl covered about every small country winding road he would find until we hit Blood Mountain. Over Blood Mountain for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time, and then down to more winding roads until we reach the town of Helen. A river circles Helen and there are many tubing companies lining the river and offering some great deal for the hour or day (pictures of the river to follow).

The important thing of this trip was lunch (isn't it always?) We had reservations at the Old Bavarian Inn. They put us on the second floor, and gave us one waitress – that Bob was attracted too! Was there a question on whether Bob would be interested? NO!

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Bob with another Beautiful Waitress in Helen, Georgia

Excellent food and yet again another wonderful time with our HOG family. Additional pictures follow:



Floating down the river in Helen, GA



Floating down the river in Helen, GA #2



Bill wetting down his boots to get them to fit right (Helen, GA)

**Friday, 28 June.** Our last minutes in Blue Ridge and the great Smoky Mountains. What a great and blessed trip. When we left Slidell there was a Tropical Storm in the Gulf that we had no idea of which direction it was going. We had no idea on what the weather would bring. Well, we made it through the week with no rain – not one drop. Only one chilly morning. And, the rest is just history. Today, we depart our cabin for Greenville, AL. Our first stop on our way home. We made good time and stopped for lunch at Applebee's.

Bob asked if our waitress was old enough to work there.



Yes, she was



She was the same height as Britta, and here's the picture to prove it.

Our plan was to stop in Greenville, AL and spend the night. We all made reservations. It was rather warm as we cruised through Atlanta. Probably about 102 degrees. Not counting road temperature and exhaust.



Ain't nothing but sweat. Hydration is a good thing. Drink plenty of water, and a PowerAde or Gatorade to keep those electrolytes up.

We made a quick stop at a great place called

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And, Dave P, headed directly to the Ice Cream Section



Then, we checked into the Best Western in Greenville.



Best Western, Greenville, AL (Friday, 29 June 2012)

Bob decided that he didn't want to stop this early and he could easily make it home tonight. He continued towards Mobile and home as we stopped for the night.

We all had dinner at a small restaurant across the street, and all of us can tell you a true story about our service

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and the meal we received. Three words – limited service and cold. They tried, but not hard enough.

Buddy, Chip and Cathy decided that they were going to spend the night, but head out early (around 7 am) to beat the heat. The remaining Northshore HOGs were set to leave around 8:00 AM, after a good night's sleep and a good "free" breakfast.

**Saturday, 29 June.** Judy and I woke up at our regular time and completed our morning routine. Heading for breakfast, we walked out of our room and the Newman's were packing up the motorcycles for their early morning trek home. We talked to them, and we all went in to have breakfast together.

Biscuits and sausage gravy, cereal, milk, toast, coffee, juice (apple-orange), yogurt, hard boiled eggs – Your choice, a great meal to start the day.

Dwight and Britta joined us. As soon as Buddy, Chip and Cathy finished breakfast they started heading for their motorcycles. We walked out with them, hugged them, thanked them, and told them to be safe. The Newman's put the fire to their Harleys and they were off on their way home.

Shortly after the Newman's departed, COL Rick and Valerie headed towards home.

I carried Judy's bag over to the other side of the hotel and Karl told me that Sonia was not feeling well at all, and he was going to bring her up something to eat. Word was passed to Dwight and he and Britta checked on Sonia. Next thing we knew, we were moving. Dwight, Dave P, and I were on our Harley's, and Judy, Britta, Sonia, and Karl were in the "Toaster" heading for the emergency ward. Thank goodness the hospital was located at the next exit to the south, and we were there in no time.



Sonia Smiling, but not really feeling like it.

A couple of breathing treatments, intravenous antibiotics, and a couple of hours and Sonia bounces back. BRAVO – HOORAY! Thank God for our many blessings.

Lunch time, heading back to Greenville and Shoney's for lunch. Everyone had something different, and it was good



and filling.

On our way. Next stop will be fuel in Mobile.

We loaded Dave P's stuff on his motorcycle, and got it all strapped down. He will separate from us at the I-12 and I-10 split in Slidell.

Following the refueling stop, we join in the heavy traffic heading west. Several slowdowns around the Pascagoula area and just outside of Biloxi. We get cut off a couple of times, but they were just people that thought that only their tax money went to the roadways.

Each time, our group did the right thing. Kept the distance and closed the gap when we could.

Said goodbye to Dave P. at the I-10/I-12 split, and headed south on I-10 to the Oak Harbor exit. Only three motorcycles remain – Dwight, Karl and Bill. Once at Karl's house, we unload the Toaster and our daughter Angela

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pulls in, in her car to pick up Mom and anything extra.

We say goodbye to our week-long family, and head for the house. The Trike (STLPNY) knows the way, and pulls directly into the garage for a fueling and a cover. A washing will happen before we take him out in full view.

I truly hope that you enjoyed reading this. This is how it happened, and what happened while we were in Blue Ridge and moving through the corners of three different states. It is a beautiful place to ride, and will challenge any rider that believes that the New Orleans high-rise is the highest point of the area. There are curves, corners, S-turns, and hair-pin turns out there, just waiting for our group to take them on and master them.

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT TIME! WHAT A RIDE!

Be safe and take care of each other!

Luv all of u!