



Northshore HOG News

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 5, Chapter Meeting & Ride, NSHD @ 9:30am.
- Dec. 12, Christmas Party, The Wine Market @ 6:00 pm.
- Dec. 19, Secret Santa Delivery Ride, Time & Date TBA.
- Jan. 1, 2010, Cold Butt Ride, NSHD @ 9:30 am.
- See the web site for a complete listing of events

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ISSUE 64

DECEMBER, 2009

BOURBON, CIGARS AND THE CUMBERLAND MOUNTAINS

By Dan Wehr

I had not been on a long ride since June and was itching for some saddle time. That day finally arrived on Thursday, November 12th. Jim Carothers, Greg Peterman, Dan Schewe and I decided this would be an opportune time to tour the Tennessee River Valley. We met at the Exxon Station at Military Road and Gause Blvd. and departed shortly before 7:00 am. Our destination was The Holiday Inn in Guntersville, Alabama – a trip of approximately 450 miles.

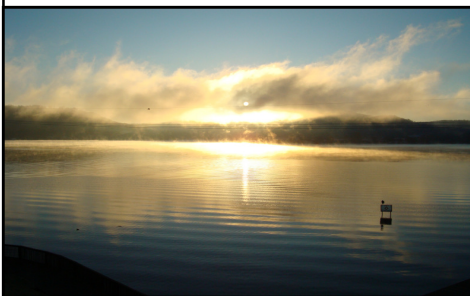
It was cold (low 40s), but the skies were clear. Our plan was to use the Guntersville Holiday Inn as our base and to tour the Cumberland Mountains, which surround the Tennessee River Valley and its lakes. One of those lakes is Lake Guntersville, which extends 60 miles from Guntersville northeast to Stevenson, Alabama.

Since Dan Schewe planned the trip, he was designated as the Road Captain. Consequently, I was a follower on this excursion and my memory of the routes we traveled may be impaired by the distractions of the spectacular scenery and great roads we encountered on our trek. We took I-59 north through Mississippi and across the Alabama border to US 80 East. After 40 miles or so we headed northeast on Alabama (AL) Route 69 to AL 25 through the Talladega National Forest. The ride on US 80, AL 69, and AL 25 was outstanding. US 80 from the Alabama border eastbound is a well maintained two lane that branches out to a divided four lane highway with rolling hills, gentle curves, and great views of woods, lakes, and farmland. AL 25 was even more picturesque with sharper turns, tree-lined roads, rolling hills, and spectacular views. We motored northeast on US 231 to AL 79 into Guntersville, arriving at The Holiday Inn at 4:30 pm.



GREG WITH A LAKE VIEW FROM OUR ROOM

Located on the southwestern shore of Lake Guntersville, The Holiday Inn is a full service resort with a fine restaurant, lounge, exercise facility, boat docks and wireless internet access. All of the rooms have a terrific view of the lake with their own balconies furnished with outdoor table and chairs. Our views of the lake from our second floor rooms were spectacular! After a fine meal of steaks, followed by cigars and bourbon overlooking the lake, we settled in for the night.



LAKE GUNTERSVILLE @ 5:00 AM FRIDAY

Friday morning we were blessed with clear skies, brisk temperatures, and a sunrise view of Lake Guntersville to die for! After a complimentary breakfast of eggs, bacon, biscuits, gravy, potatoes, orange juice and coffee, we were on our way. Our destination for the day was, of course, the Jack Daniel's distillery in Lynchburg, Tennessee. We traveled north on US 231/431 to Tennessee (TN) Route 10 and 50 into

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(VACANT)

From the Editor

Random Thoughts and Road Hazards

2010 OFFICERS ELECTED

All of the 2009 officers were nominated and elected to serve another one-year term at the last meeting. This was the result of an absence of new nominees or volunteers to serve the club. Nevertheless, we all stand ready to enhance your riding experience and enjoyment.

BODY COUNT NEEDED FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Keep your calendar open for the Chapter's Christmas Party. Vick has reserved a private room at The Wine Market, 2051 Gause Blvd., in Slidell, for the evening of Saturday, December 12th. The party will begin at 6:00 pm. Food will be served and bar services will be available. The cost will be \$25 for members and \$45 for non-members. Additionally, there will be a "Mad Santa" gift exchange. Male attendees should bring a wrapped male-oriented gift; female attendees should bring a wrapped gift suitable for feminine participants. This event was a hit last year, so don't miss this one.

Vick needs a body count for this event. If you plan on attending, please let him know by telephone or e-mail before the end of the next chapter meeting on December 5th. You can pay in advance, by mail, in person at the next meeting, or at the door of the Wine Market. In any event, **we need to know whether you will be attending** in order to advise The Wine Market of the number of attendees and to ensure that enough food and beverages will be provided.

ARTICLES STILL NEEDED

If you've had a great riding experience and have photographs and/or a story you would like to publish, please send them to me by e-mail. Photos should be in original format and sent as attachments with a description of each image. Text should be sent as an attachment in "Word" format.

Thanks, 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").

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Lynchburg. It took half of the day, but the ride was outstanding over well-maintained two and four lane highways that traversed a wide variety of meadow lands, hills, and mountains. After a brief stop at the Harley Shop in Lynchburg (no bikes, just clothes) we meandered our way to the Jack Daniel's Distillery.

The Distillery, an obvious tourist attraction, was choked with vehicles and no visible parking spaces anywhere. We continued to ride on the right side of the lot and discovered several parking spots reserved for motorcycles that were unoccupied! We ended up parking within yards of the entrance.

All of us signed up for a tour of the facility, which lasted approximately one hour. It began with a stop at the charcoal-making part of the plant, followed by tours of the 'cave water' source of waters used in the process and the "corn mash" mixing and fermenting plants. Throughout the tour all were astonished by the aroma of the fermentation process which permeated the entire grounds of the Jack Daniel's plant. As pointed out by our tour guide, that aroma carried evaporated vapors of 100-plus-proof spirits. These vapors caused a black-colored mold to form on the stems and bark of the plants, shrubs, and trees within a hundred feet of the facility. While this black mold did not harm the plant life, it was a flag for government agents indicating the location of stills (legal or otherwise). Those who paid the taxes for the production of whiskey were not bothered by this phenomenon. Those who did not could count on being raided.

We left the distillery and made our way back to the hotel enjoying the striking beauty of the Cumberland Mountains and the two-lane roads that skirted their peaks, bordered their lakes and bisected their valleys. By sundown, we were back at the Holiday Inn.



GREG & JIM AT LYNCHBURG'S TOWN SQUARE



ARRIVING AT THE JACK DANIELS DISTILLARY



GREAT VIEWS AT BUCK'S POCKET STATE PARK

Having traveled over 200 miles that day, we decided to stay put and enjoy the culinary delights of the resort's restaurant. After a copious meal, we parked our bodies on the second floor deck of the hotel and enjoyed bourbon, cigars, great views, conversation and good company until exhausted.

The morning of Saturday, November 14th, brought a significant change. The beautiful sunrise we encountered the previous morning was contrasted by a dense fog which did not lift until 9:30 am. We spent the morning eating a late, but bountiful, breakfast. As the fog lifted we saddled up and spent the day touring the shores of Lake Gunter'sville. On its eastern banks we traveled north on State Route 227 to Buck's Pocket State Park.

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Last Month's Minutes By PAT SCHAEFER

November 7, 2009

The Northshore HOG Chapter social get-together/meeting began a little after 9:30 AM with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a prayer.

"Vick" Vicnair, our Chapter Director, briefed the members on their last opportunity to volunteer for, or to nominate any new Chapter officer candidates. Last year's slate of officers have volunteered to remain though 2010. Russ Davis made a motion, which was seconded and the members

chose to retain the existing Chapter officers.

Vick reminded everyone that if anyone desires company during an impromptu ride, a ride not already scheduled on the Chapter web site calendar, please use the web site to announce your ride's meeting place and schedule. The Chapter quarterly activities calendar is posted on the Chapter website and on the Chapter bulletin board at Mike Bruno's.

Vick also briefed on the Christmas Party. The Slidell Wine Market is the location. It begins Saturday, December 12, at 6:00 pm. Cost to Chapter members is \$25.00; guests \$45.00.

Members desiring to participate in the "Mad Santa" gift exchange should bring a wrapped gift, anywhere from \$5.00 or \$10.00 to about \$15.00, only marked by the gender of the gift bringer. Each gift giver will receive a numbered "raffle" ticket. When the gift exchange begins, tickets will be drawn and the first ticket holder will get the choice of any of the gift-wrapped packages. The second ticket drawn will have the option of choosing from the gift-wrapped gifts or taking the gift that the first ticket holder has opened, forcing that member to select a different gift-wrapped package. The third ticket drawn can choose either of the previously opened gifts or a gift-wrapped one. It sounds complicated but is a lot of fun. Danno will keep tabs on how many times a gift has been around. The third person choosing a gift gets to keep it.

Dan Schewe briefed on the Slidell family, with the wheel chair-bound young mother and a father with medical issues, who have a 4 year old daughter, facing hard times. A motion was made and seconded that the Chapter donate \$300.00 to the family. Anyone wishing to donate cash for this family is encouraged to place it in an envelope marked "Slidell Christmas family" in the Chapter Lock Box at Mike Bruno's. Please, no checks written to "Northshore HOG". On Saturday, November 21, interested members can meet at Mike Bruno's at 1:00 PM to go to their home to put up Christmas decorations. There are also plans for a Chapter "Toy Run" to the family on December 19; with a police escort, details to follow.

Mike Werda, our Asst. Director, briefed on the 2010 HOG Louisiana State Rally; Thursday till Saturday, February 25-27, sponsored by the Hammond HOG Chapter. The Hammond Chapter is looking for some volunteers from our Chapter to assist with the Bike Games on Saturday. Let Mike know if you are interested in helping out on this.

HOG at the national level has requested all Chapters to pass the word to all members that wearing a third "rocker" identifying any geographical location underneath your HOG "colors" is NOT authorized. HOG

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This paradise is situated on the peaks of the Cumberland Mountains about 30 miles (as a crow flies) north of Guntersville. We spent about an hour here taking in the beauty of this mountain-top overlook and the fall colors displayed by its hardwood forest. Thereafter, we spent the rest of the day touring Sand Mountain, crossing the Tennessee River, and enjoying the twisties of Route 79 southbound back to Guntersville.

Our last night was occasioned by a superb meal at "The Top of The River" restaurant on the east shore of Lake Guntersville. We feasted on a wide variety of seafood with sides of fried pickles, pickled onions, coleslaw, potatoes, and hush puppies. My entre' of broiled catfish was the best I have ever had. The portions were huge (more than any of us could eat); the service was exceptional (our meals were served within 10 minutes of our orders and were hot); and the food was fresh, tasty, and well-prepared.

Despite our full stomachs, we spent the rest of the evening enjoying sour mash whiskey and cigars until the wee hours.

Sunday morning, hung over by the abundance of food and drink from the previous evening, we reluctantly departed Guntersville under moderate fog. Our return trip was via US 431 to US 231 to US 80. For the first 90 miles we were plagued by periodic heavy fog until we hit the Talladega National Forest. Thereafter, our return trip was as beautiful as our outbound venture.

We logged 1230 miles on our four-day excursion, and were blessed with good weather, great roads, good food, good lodging, and great company – all of which created exceptional memories. I'd do it again in a minute!



ENJOYING CIGARS, BOURBON, AND FULL STOMACHS



SUNDAY MORNING IN GUNTERSVILLE

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receive a 20% discount**

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

Update Your Profile

Many of us have had a change in address, telephone number or email. Please go to the website www.northshorehog.com and update your profile. Don't forget to do the same thing when renewing your 2010 membership.

 <p>AZALEA ESTATES</p>	<p>Linda Timberlake Executive Director</p>
<p>Assisted Living and Retirement Community</p>	<p>354 Robert Blvd. Slidell, LA 70458 985/641-2827 (ph) 985/645-0659 (fx) aeslidel@bellsouth.net www.azaleaestates.com</p>

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recommends only the Chapter rocker identifying the Chapter's city above the HOG emblem. Since HOG Chapters are not recognized "motorcycle clubs" whose members wear three patches that must be earned; out of respect for those riders who are wearing "earned" three patch colors – HOG members don't try to look like club members. So if you are ever passing through a strange city or area and you hear the "suggestion" to remove or turn your vest inside out; it is highly recommended that you do so without any protest on your part. It is all about respect. Don't cause them any problems and they won't cause you any.

Dan also briefed us on safe methods to avoid traffic tickets in places like Sturgis. When stopped for a Stop sign, place both feet on the ground for a count of three. This way no over-eager officer will accuse you of making a "rolling stop," which can be expensive while attending Sturgis.

Everyone was reminded to keep their National HOG membership current.

Bruce Bryant won the \$25.00 "Secret Greeter" gift certificate and also the 50/50 pot.

The Chapter gained 2 new members. Welcome aboard, Terrina and Linda.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned and the members enjoyed some delicious hamburgers donated by Mike Bruno and skillfully prepared by Ward Blakeman.
