

RT 66 - Chicago to Santa Monica Pier May 15 - 27, 2875 miles



Dear Friends,

Wow has this been a month for riding! On Sunday May 15 we embarked on our RT 66 tour. We started in downtown Chicago and ended at the Santa Monica Pier on the Pacific Ocean in California. This was more than a motorcycle ride; it was a ride through the history of the "Mother Road - US Route 66". Built in the 1930's to connect Chicago to the west coast, RT 66 was the primary link for all vehicle traffic until the Interstate highway system was built. I can remember traveling parts of RT 66 with my grandparents when I was a young boy. I can't find any photos from my childhood trip, but the memories of that trip still remain etched in my mind.

Our customers shipped their bikes back and flew home. Next year we will be doing this RT 66 tour from LA to Chicago. We will fly to LA and use rental bikes. It will be a 10-day tour and should be very comparable in price when you factor in shipping your motorcycle back from LA. There will be more details later in the year as we finalize our 2012 plans.

The weekend of June 10-12 was the Illinois State HOG rally in Rockford, Illinois. Our ad in the rally guide generated a good turn out for our Saturday morning ride. We rode all day in NW Illinois and SW Wisconsin but still made it back in time for the closing ceremonies at the rally site. Despite of the cool weather, we rode some amazing back roads that many in Illinois do not know exist. We stopped for lunch in Elizabeth at Sharks Rendezvous. We had approximately 25 motorcycles with over 30 people on the ride. Thanks to everyone for taking the time to ride with us and learn a little about how we organize our rides.

Tour On 2, Inc . May Newsletter 2011



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Remaining Tour 2011 Schedule

**Illinois RT 66 Tour – July
2-4 ****

**Upper Mississippi River
Tour
July 8 – 10 ****

**Door County Wisconsin
July 15 – 17 ****

**71st Sturgis Rally August
5 – 13**

**Door County Wisconsin
August 26 – 28 ****

**Blue Ridge Parkway/Tail
of the Dragon
September 3 – 10**

**Upper Mississippi River
Fall Colors Tour
September 30 – October
2 ****

****3-Day Tours include
Meals and Lodging**



I have had to deal with jealous wives lately. Not Pam, but wives of riders who want to come on our tours but do not want to be on the back of a motorcycle all day. While we keep our riding days short, approximately 250 miles, they simply do not want to ride that long or for that many consecutive days on the back of a motorcycle. We have a solution to that problem. If your spouse or friends want to tour with us but would prefer to ride in a car that is fine. You can follow behind the motorcycles and see the great sights and experience what the riders experience but from the seat of a car. If this interests you please contact me and we will include you in our group's tours.

Finally, I am still looking for articles or riding tips from our readers to include in our monthly newsletter. I also welcome any suggestions you may have for future newsletters. I cannot guarantee that they will get published but it could be worth a "Get Away For A Day" ride if I do use your article or suggestion. The prize would be a guided day ride that would include breakfast and lunch. We will start awarding the prize starting with our April Newsletter. Send your articles, ideas or suggestions to: touon2@aol.com

Ride Safe,
Bill and Pam Gade



Your Hosts Bill And Pam Gade

**Tour On 2, Inc
Customer of the
Month**



"Riding with Tour On 2 on the Route 66 tour was a once in a life time experience. We rode in rain, heat, wind and cool weather. Met many friends from many countries and had a great time along the way."

Phil M, Indiana

**Motorcycle Transport
Service:**

We use Haulin Hogs Transport for our Ship Fly and Ride tours. Your can reach owner and operator Mark Gall at: 630-800-8337 or at his web site at: www.haulinhogstransport.com



Mark Gall

RT 66 Ride Photos

JAMMIN' 4 Vets

Sponsored by Global Hope and American Legion Riders - Post 80

July 30th, gates open at 3-9

Live music, Pig Roast & Beer Garden

Alexander Bradley Burns Post 80
4000 Saratoga Avenue - Downers Grove, IL 60516

bbq Served 4-6

(Tickets: Adults \$15.00 Children-12 and under \$5.00)

Dinner Tickets at the door - Adults \$18.00

Concert Tickets only - \$10.00

Music By - Local Favorites



Grand Prize: Autographed
Guitar by Gary Sinese

1st. Prize - Mongoose Mountain Bike

2nd. Prizes - Two American Flag Leather Jackets

Raffle Tickets - \$5.00 donation

bring lawn chairs or blankets

Profits benefit

Midwest Homeless Shelter & Hines Hospital Wheelchair Olympics

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

Contact: Steve - 708.473.5620 or John - 630.712.1834 for Tickets

Here is an event we can all get behind. I wonder if I attend will they sing Happy Birthday to me?

Safe Riding Tip

Riding in the summer heat can create problems we need to be aware of. Dehydration can occur if we do not drink enough water during the riding day. On our rides to Sturgis and RT 66, temperatures can frequently reach 100 degrees. I recommend that everyone use a "Camel Back" type water pack that you wear on your back, while on these rides. You can drink while riding with this system simply by sucking water through the attached hose. Gatorade, tea or flavored water can be used in place of plain water. If you ride with a passenger you can share drinking from the camel back to keep both of you hydrated. Riding in areas with low humidity can mask the effects of dehydration because your sweat evaporates without you even knowing you are losing body moisture. That is why it is very important to keep drinking even if you do not feel you are thirsty.



What we wear can also help to keep us properly hydrated. I recommend mesh riding jackets to provide protection while helping to keep you cool. Several companies are making vests that help keep you cool while riding. I know several people that have vests made and they claim these garments really help. If you do not have a mesh jacket or one of these high tech vests wear a long sleeve, light colored, cotton shirt. I wear long sleeve shirts since they protect me from the sun and can help to keep me cool. I also wear a bandanna that is filled with water retaining beads. All you need to do is soak this bandanna in water for about 30 minutes. This will cause the beads to swell and retain the water. Wearing this bandanna around your neck keeps you cooler because the water evaporates from the bandanna creating a cooling sensation around your neck.

Finally, use sunscreen and lip balm to protect your skin. Apply sunscreen in the morning and then reapply during the riding day. Use lip balm frequently - dry split lips can be very painful. Exposure to the heat and sun can create dangerous situations that can ruin a motorcycle trip. This can be prevented easily, if your daily riding routine includes a little planning to stay hydrated and your exposed skin protected.

Ride Safe!
Bill



Riding the Blue Ridge Parkway/Deal's Gap/Cherohala Skyway

I really love riding in the western mountains, but for most of my adult life I never really understood the attraction of riding the Appalachian Mountains in the eastern part of our country. This last year was the second time I rode the Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP), US 129 - the "Tail of the Dragon", and the Cherohala Skyway. But it will not be the last time I ride there!

It is hard to believe that such a road (BRP) exists in the United States. The BRP is 469 miles long and does not have a single stop sign or a traffic signal along its entire length! The BRP is the kind of road that you enjoy like a fine meal, fine cigar or fine glass of wine. That is, you need to take your time and enjoy it and not rush through it just to get to the end. To help you take your time, there are numerous scenic overlooks all along its entire length. Local law enforcement also help you take your time by strictly enforcing a 45 MPH speed limit. While the BRP is not a difficult ride, it is a long ride with constant changes in elevation and lots of curves. You cannot get lax with your riding concentration because this is the type of road on which you cannot lose focus. Fatigue can be your biggest enemy, but frequent stops, keeping hydrated, and light snacks between meals should keep fatigue at bay.

From the north, the road (BRP) starts just east of the town of Waynesboro, Virginia and ends in the town of Cherokee, NC. We take three days to ride it with overnight stays in Hillsville, Va. and Asheville, NC. Riding the BRP requires that you plan ahead for fuel, meals, and lodging. There are no gas stations on the BRP so filling up in the morning and getting off the BRP mid-day for lunch and gas, should be included in your day's ride plan. Remember that gas stations are not at every exit of the BRP and you may need to ride 10-

20 miles off the BRP to reach a gas station. Make sure you plan ahead, especially if your motorcycle has a small gas tank.

There are 26 tunnels on the BRP, 25 of them in NC. I can tell you that going into a dark tunnel from bright sunlight wearing dark sunglasses is a little "exciting" the first time you ride though one. I suggest that you look over your glasses so you can see! I was also told that Black Bears like going into the tunnels in the summer because it is cooler in there. I just kept thinking, when riding through these tunnels, nearly blind, that a big black bear with teeth and claws could be standing in a tunnel in front of us! Fortunately we did not see any bears but we did have some close encounters with deer and turkeys that are very numerous all along the BRP.

A required stop on any trip on the BRP, just 5 miles off the route is the Wheels Through Time motorcycle museum in Maggie Valley, NC. There are 100s of motorcycles on display, most of which are still in running condition. We were fortunate enough to get to the museum just before a heavy three-hour rainstorm. The museum curator/founder, Dale Walkster, took time to walk with us through the museum and even start up an "old board track racing motorcycle" from the 1920s. WOW!

Make sure you go online or call to make sure the museum is open before you go there. You can reach them at: 828-926-6266 or www.WheelsThroughTime.com. I can assure that every future trip we organize on the BRP will include a side trip to the Wheels Through Time Museum.

While Cherokee is the south end of the BRP, with the first and final stop sign on the road, it is just the beginning of some amazing riding. Just a short ride from Cherokee is the Iron Horse Motorcycle Lodge in Stecoah, NC (<http://www.ironhorsenc.com/>). It is a great place that caters only to motorcycle riders. It is a beautiful facility with a modern lodge (with Wi-Fi!), cabins, bunk houses, and camping sites for tents and recreational vehicles. We spent two nights at the Iron Horse Motorcycle Lodge, so we could ride the Dragon and the Cherohala Skyway without our all our gear on our bikes. The Iron Horse Motorcycle Lodge is located 28 miles from the south end of, US 129, "The Tail of the Dragon", and it is a great ride along the Little Tennessee River just to get to the "Dragon" from the lodge.

The Tail of the Dragon at Deal's Gap is a unique road that is 11 miles long with 318 curves. It is located along the NC and TN border and is a road that all motorcyclists need to ride at least once in their life. The "Dragon" has a strictly enforced speed limit of 30 MPH but many get aggressive and ride much faster than the speed limit. At the south end of the Dragon is a store where you can buy your Dragon souvenirs. While there, check out the "tree of shame". It is a tree covered with motorcycle parts, crutches, and even X-rays from riders that had unfortunate endings to their rides on the Dragon. The Dragon is not a road for novice riders, but if you take your time and ride within your abilities you can successfully ride The Dragon!

One of my favorite roads to ride in the area is the Cherohala Skyway, NC 143. It is 53 miles in length, starting in Tellico Plains, TN. on the west, ending in Robbinsville, NC. on the east. In my opinion, "The Cherohala" is like a long romantic evening starting out with drinks, dinner, dessert, and ending with a romantic interlude. I like to start in the west at Tellico Plains with a stop at The Tellico Plains Motorcycle Outfitters (www.tellicomoto.com) and then check on the road conditions on the Cherohala. The last time we were there we were told that wild boar had been seen on the road and to be careful not to run into one!

The Great Smokey Mountains National Park is another great place to ride, but because of time and traffic we did not ride through the Park on this trip. Instead we chose to ride on the Foothills Parkway on our way north to Knoxville. Located just North of the Dragon, the Foothills Parkway is a great 18 mile long ride along the north side of the Smokey Mountain NP. It is less difficult than most of the roads in the area, and the 45 MPH speed limit reflects

that. Unfortunately, we came upon an accident where a rider was going well above the speed limit and crashed. We were one of the first on the scene and provided those already helping the injured rider with supplies from our first aid kit. We also helped by contacting EMTs, since others could not get cell phone service. We stayed until the ambulance arrived before heading north to Knoxville. This accident had a very sobering effect on all of us, reminding us that we need to ride within our abilities and follow the posted speed limits.

Riding in this part of the country is amazing, but it is not for new or inexperienced riders. You have to be familiar with riding curvy roads for many consecutive miles. You need to be able to focus on the road in front of you and not get caught up in the scenery around you. While it is challenging, it is very enjoyable! We have scheduled to make this trip again on 9/3-10/2011. This is Labor Day weekend so you will only need 4-days off of work to make this great trip. If you do not live in the Chicago Area but would still like to ride with us, we have a solution: You can fly to Dulles or the Baltimore/Washington Airport and rent a motorcycle. From there you would ride to Waynesboro and meet us to begin your ride. If you would like to make this ride and rent a motorcycle, please contact us for pricing. We can be reached at touren2@aol.com if you are interested in riding with us on this amazing ride in 2011. I know you will have a great time!

Blue Ridge Parkway - Deal's Gap



Outerwear Outlet

7507 N. Milwaukee Ave. Niles, IL 60714

(847)647.1010



The Outerwear Outlet is a great source for fashionable, functional biker apparel and accessories. They are located in Niles, Illinois- about 5 miles from Chicago's Ohare Airport. The Outerwear Outlet carries the largest selection of bike apparel and accessories in the greater Chicagoland Area. They have in their inventory a full range of sizes for men, women and kids,, including tall and large sizes. They are located in a strip mall which allows you to ride up to their door. You can try on their saddlebags, sissy bags, tool bags, tank bags or any motorcycle bag on your motorcycle before you buy. They are an American owned business and their products meet the needs of the most demanding bikers. Best of all, their products are high quality and are are some of best prices you will find. Go to their web site or stop by their store when you are in the market for a new jacket, vest, chaps, or accessories for your motorcycle; you will not be disappointed in the price or quality of what they offer.

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