

Alan and Laurissa's Great 3 day 2023 January ride and how to cure the winter time blues

Day 1: Even though we have mild winters in Mississippi, I sometimes just feel cooped up and just need a break. After a record cool spell just 2 weeks ago and then rain, my itch now had a fever to go with it. I had a recall on my bike so I thought a ride to Adventure Motorcycles of NW Florida would be a good destination and turn around. Cure the fever and get the recall done, sounds like a plan. Luck was not with me though and the part needed had not arrived, but I still had one exhaust valve that needed to be adjusted, so the ride to the dealer in Pensacola was still a good idea. We all know that Madison straight to Pensacola is about 270 miles but why go the straight path if you don't have to. The earliest I could make the appointment was Friday 1-6-23 at 11:00 am, so that meant we would ride back Saturday. We left out Thursday morning at 8:00 am with a temp of 45 degrees and a sunny sky. As we headed down Green Oak Road we got behind a cement truck and we both stopped at the 4 way. The cement truck lurched as it left the stop sign and a Volkswagen sized slurry of concrete came rushing out. What a giant mess. This is exactly why I give trucks a lot of space even at stop signs. We headed down 43 across the reservoir and turned south on 471 on into Brandon. Good old Shiloh Road is a must when you are in the neighborhood, but remember that deer like it too and it was not long before I got to check out the brakes on the mighty GSA. I turned and went through Pelahatchie then Morton, Hwy 481 south and then 35 to 18 and on to Raleigh, Bay Springs, Laurel and finally a lunch stop at Stateline. The only place to eat, unless you like convenience store roller dogs, is a place called the Snack Shack. It is a yellow shack with no signage but the owner and her 1 employee had a steady business and the food was very good. This town has 2 dollar stores 2 rundown convenience stores and a few stores on Main Street. After a long lunch sunning in the 65 degree weather we mounted up and hit 45 to Mobile. Crossing the north bay bridge offered cool ships and barges to view but then the GPS decided I needed a tour of a ship yard repair facility. After several wrong turns, that Steve would appreciate, we got back on track and headed to the hotel. A short but very relaxing 292 mile day. I was craving a good salad so it was Ruby Tuesday for supper and that will be the last time. I should have known better but they do have a good salad bar.





Day 2 started off slow as we goofed off and made it to the dealer about 10:30. There was one bike in front of me and it was taking much longer than it should have. After finally finishing me up, to my surprise they only charged me 1 hour of labor and just a few dollars for parts to check all the valves and adjust them all back to the middle of the range. WOW. We did have an enjoyable time visiting with people and I got to read a Roadrunner magazine that tested out the Energica touring bike. The magazine also featured a cloverleaf ride in the MS delta that I will check out. We had decided that a seafood restaurant called Peg Leg Pete's on Pensacola Beach, was going to be our dinner spot. We took the 57 mile one and a half hour loop around the bay and beach that was very nice. Peg Leg Pete's was very busy and was extremely good. As we headed back the Pensacola Beach area was booming with lots of restaurants and outdoor eating. This was great to see. And this time with a different route the ride to the hotel only took 25 minutes.





Day 3 was going to be a fun ride down the beach through Perdido Key, Orange Beach and Gulf Shores to Fort Morgan. Fort Morgan is the turn-around for the Mobile Bay Ferry that is also called the Dauphin Island ferry. I like riding ferrys and have been across this one several times. The ferry departure time was 10:15 and the ride to it would be about 1 hour and 15 minutes. We arrived at 9:30 and were glad we did because the spaces filled up fast. As we waited in the parking lot and then on the ferry we visited with several people. One couple had to come admire the bike and shared that they had ridden Beemer's for many years and had lots of memories. They were from Missouri and were just spending time visiting family. We spent almost an hour sharing stories and then he gave us a brass replica of a silver dollar and said this is to remember this visit. I was not expecting that, but it was very cool.



Another couple were down from Madison, Wisconsin riding their electric bicycles. They said they were tired of the cold back home and wanted to make a run down south that was warm and someplace they had never been. It was so funny talking to them because they said they had no idea of what to expect and seemed surprised at how nice it was down here, and they liked it a lot. As the ferry docked on Dauphin Island we mounted up and headed north through Dauphin Island and Grand Bay and then hit Highway 90 west. It was slow going but it did not take long to make Mississippi and then Biloxi, Gulfport, Pass Christian and Bay Saint Louis. We took a lunch break in Bay Saint Louis before turning North to Kiln and then hit Highway 43. Let me tell you how great Highway 43 is, it is just unbelievable!! There are many sections that have fun twisties and for some reason a dude in a coal rolling Super Duty thought he owned the road. Fun watching him in the mirror but when the road turned rough, I have no idea what happened to him. I guess he just got lost in the dust. Crossroads came and went, Columbia then Highway 13 to Highway 49 at Mendenhall. As the day ended it was time to head to the stable after a fill up in Madison. This was a slow 696 mile, 3 day weekend that is just what we needed.









