

Trike Talk Rally in the Valley #4 Blondie Gal and Scalp Hunter Go Trikin' - Again!

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It was a dark and stormy night. Well, it was dark at 3:00 a.m. on June 20, when we pulled out of our driveway in Killeen and headed north on another one of our 'adventures.' By 6:00 a.m., we were getting close to Dallas and saw clouds on the horizon.

"Just put on your rain jacket," John said. "Doesn't look like more than a little shower."

Ten minutes later, we were engulfed in a downpour that was very much like those that Noah must have known. Some lightning was around us, but tractor-trailers and (idiotic) drivers swamped us in the backwash of their passing. Exit 59 on IH-30 seemed so very far away.

We made our meeting point almost on time, and found our friends from Azle (near Fort Worth) there, waiting for us – they were soaked to the skin, too. We all managed to down most of the left side of Waffle House's menu before we started out again. There was light in the sky, but the sun hid from us as we headed toward Texarkana, then Little Rock and points east. Intermittent rain kept us uncomfortably damp, and frequent gas stops didn't seem to help much. When your butt is wet, more rain isn't what you need. But we soldiered on...

We made Memphis by 6:00 pm. – that's 15 hours of trike-ridin' for you amateurs – and got well fed and rested up. We needed both for the next day's travail.

Leaving East Memphis at 7:30 a.m., we

found more rain, no sun, some hail, fog, and occasional thunder for the next 19 hours as we passed Nashville and Knoxville. Rain was so hard that, a couple of times, Scalp Hunter followed the white line off into exits – found some really nice folks who offered shelter and coffee, but the weather didn't relent. We passed Newport and pulled into Maggie Valley at 2:30 a.m. on June 22, battling the foggy mountain roads the last fifty miles.

Even with the long trip behind us, we were anxious the next morning to see the friends we'd made at last year's TrikeTalk.com Rally and with whom we'd chatted on the TrikeTalk Forum for the past year. Many were at our motel and we reconnected with them and met new trikers among us. Escorted rides on Friday, Saturday and Sunday were offered to The Dragon, The Cherochala Skyway, Blue Ridge Parkway, Cherokee, Asheville, Pigeon

Forge, Gatlinburg, and other local attractions. The rally directors provided maps and detailed information for those who wanted to join up. For those of us who were resting our behinds for the day, there was shopping, restaurants, and just sittin' around, telling lies and half-truths among our buddies, new and old.

We rode out on Saturday to Cherokee, NC, visiting Harrah's Casino and other local landmarks like the Cherokee Indian Reservation, Museum and Village. Next year, we plan to attend the world-famous play, "Unto These Hills," that is presented evenings during the summer.

On Saturday, over 220 trikers came together for a catered dinner at the Wheels through Time Museum, a bike museum in Maggie Valley. Dinner included hot dogs, hamburgers, chili, potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, macaroni

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salad, all the fixin's, soft drinks, tea, and oreo pie. Mmmmm! There were over 50 donated raffle prizes and laughs all around.

The weather all weekend long was perfect – a few clouds that lifted midday, warm days and cool nights with just enough sunshine to remind you that it was, indeed, summertime.

Monday morning saw us waving goodbye to the friends we met only annually (but good friends still), and we wove our way through Asheville up back mountain roads to visit relatives in Marshall, NC, on to Johnson City and Kingsport, Tennessee.

We started home a few days later, two weeks earlier than we'd planned, because of the intense heat covering the South, and we found the heat getting even worse. While tracing our steps back IH-40, IH-30, IH-35 and Highway 190, each day seemed to get hotter and hotter and hotter. We were most grateful to pull into the garage and find the air conditioning going full blast, and that our cat and dog had survived in our absence.

We had a magnificent adventure for the Fourth Annual TrikeTalk.com



Rally, our second in a row. Yes, it was wet going there; yes, it was hot coming home, but we found great company among old and new friends and made some lasting memories. Isn't that what adventures are all about?



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Thunder in the Pines Concerts Starting Thursday



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- Ridin' For Teal
 - * Wed, 09/14 - Houston to Nacogdoches
 - * Thur, 09/15 - Escort for Iron Cowgirl Missy'
 - * Fri, 09/16 - Nacogdoches-area Fun Run*

- Harley's Angels
 - * Sat, 09/17 - Nacogdoches-area Fun Run

Cowgirl Missy is riding both Thursday & Friday!

For more information:
WefightLikeAGirl.com and HarleysAngels.org

