

**GOLDEN EAGLES  
M C  
TAMPA, FLORIDA**



**NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2020**



**RIDE TO RED WING**

A group of 10 left Sunday morning February 9th to ride to the Red Wing restaurant. It has been awhile since we've ridden Green Pond road and it was a treat to find the road completely repaved. After checking out the animal pen next to the Red Wing, Louis did say it was hard to look at something he might be eating later.

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**CHILI COOKOFF**



CONTESTANTS: Bruce, Gwen, Jesse, Mike, Robert, Mike & Grant



HOTTEST & BEST OVERALL

**OR: GUESS WHO WINS AGAIN!**

Once again Grant wins the Best Overall and this year Bruce won Hottest. However, they both really had to work for the votes because there were several great chili variations presented and they were all tasty. Well, except for Bruce's which was soooooo hot most of us could only eat one taste. Thanks to those who participated and congrats to Bruce & Grant.

PS: Bruce also won the "count the chili bean contest."



**Be sure to check GEMC website and meetup.com for current info.**

# Ride Around the Lake



Mike, John, Charlie, Louis, Christian, Dan, Jay, Vick & Mike



## GEMC 13th Annual Lake Okeechobee Tour

The 2019 ride took place on Friday December 27<sup>th</sup> leaving from the GEMC Clubhouse at 6AM. I'm often asked why the ride leaves so early and the answer is really quite simple, it takes the entire day to complete a 400 mile ride and still leave ample time for proper hydration. The runs original intent was to build endurance in preparation for future tours and uncover unknown equipment deficiencies.

From Tampa the ride is a mix of freeway and high speed secondary roads. The beauty of the run is that it traverses roads rarely traveled by other GEMC rides. This year's ride for the first time experienced heavy mist and rain in the morning and overly warm conditions in the afternoon.

The first 100 miles of the ride had a culinary destination, breakfast at the Pioneer Restaurant in Zolfo Springs. The ride across central Florida incorporates a mix of agricultural farms and cattle ranches. The roads are well maintained and easy on rider and machine. About an hour after breakfast the group fueled up in Okeechobee and made its way south towards the lake. South of Pahokee the group encountered a fast moving thunderstorm. Luckily, everyone was prepared and garnered their raingear before the storm cut loose.

The ride along the eastside of the lake is an interesting mix of well-maintained homes, ghettos and well used commercial properties. Due to the wetter than normal winter the air normally laden with smoke from the burning cane fields was clear and fresh. From Belle Glade the group made its way to Clewiston for lunch at a waterside tiki restaurant for burgers and seafood. There may also have been some beer involved but I'm not sure .....OK I'm sure. After lunch the group broke into smaller groups and made their way home via the shortest routes. Mike (M) and Mike (B) and Christian chose to campout near the lake.

A special thanks to Euro Cycles of Tampa Bay for lending me a 2020 BMW R1200RS to lead the ride, since my bike was in the shop.

**The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Lake Okeechobee Tour is scheduled for Monday December 28<sup>th</sup>, come join us.**

Ride Right Ride Safe. *Dan Carbone*



# Rustic Camping



The DuPuis Campground - located East of Lake Okeechobee — is a Free Camp Ground in the South Florida Water Management area and was the camping destination for Christian, Mike and Mike. Thanks to Mike Matthews for the pics!



The trike makes an excellent wood hauler!



# Wine Tasting Night



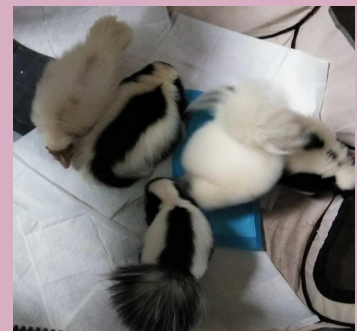
On the evening of December 27th, after 2 years Michelle's wine tasting party finally took place. Besides club members, Michelle's friends from the skunk rescue attended.

We learned that there are five S's to fine wine tasting: **SEE, SWIRL, SNIFF, SIP & SPIT** — luckily we were only asked to do the first four. The instructor gave information on the different wines and told us that \$2 to \$4 per bottles sold would be donated to Hospice. Upon the completion of the wine tasting, we were instructed as to the proper way to give a toast.



Those who wished to remain after the tasting were able to view/hold the skunks. So I guess we still did get in our five S's.

**SEE, SWIRL, SNIFF, SIP  
& SKUNKS**



# THREE CORNERS



Eight Eagles started out on January 10th, leaving Brandon at 6 AM headed to the 3 corners of Florida. The 3 corner destinations were the Keys, Fernandina Beach, NE of Jacksonville and Gulf Breeze, SW of Pensacola. Riders were Grant, Charlie, Jay, Kent, John and Jess and Tom. We picked up our 8th rider in Arcadia, Kent's long time friend, Steve.

We stopped for gas in Homestead and lunch at the No-Name bar in Big Pine Key Florida about 30 miles north of Key West. Charlie wanted to head to the southern most point in Key West while the rest of us returned to Homestead for the evening. We were too tired for dinner, but we did have enough energy for a couple of drinks after our 500+ mile day.

On Saturday the group headed north from Homestead with the destination of Fernandina Beach in the northeast corner of Florida northeast of Jacksonville. We stopped for lunch in Daytona Beach at Miller's Ale House which was a familiar stop for most of us with great food and refreshments. After getting settled into our hotel we walked across the street to the western most bar in Nassau County for a refreshment and an appetizer. Only 425 miles today.



Sunday brought some excitement as Kent's bike, affectionately known as the Vulcan, failed to start. Fortunately Kent had some roadside mechanics that removed the entire tank and got access to the coil and other components. Upon the assembly of the tank etc. the bike miraculously fired up. We were on the road an hour late, but the group was intact. With our later start, we took more interstate than anticipated, arriving in Gulf Breeze Florida southwest of Pensacola, our evenings destination.

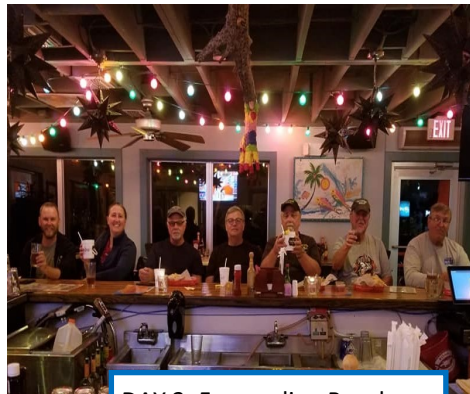
We had a beautiful hotel on the water and a hotel bar with fabulous drink specials. Dinner was pizza delivered by Pizza Hut, in the Maglott's hospitality room, with a couple additional refreshments. 410 miles today.

We headed home Monday morning after an all night rain. We traveled US 98 along the coast going through Destin with miserable traffic. Fog at times was so thick visibility was about .2 mile at best. Once we left 98 traveling across Florida 20, travel was very comfortable with very little traffic. We stopped for lunch in Perry plus one final stop in Crystal River for gas. The group dispersed for our individual destinations, getting home about 5:30pm. All in all, we had a fantastic time putting on about 1800 miles in four days with a lot laughs and a new stories to tell our friends!

Submitted by *Harry Pitts*



DAY 1: No Name Bar



DAY 2: Fernandina Beach



DAY 3: Gulf Breeze