

**GOLDEN EAGLES  
MOTORCYCLE CLUB  
TAMPA, FLORIDA**



**NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2020**

**FROM THE PREZ**

We are coming up on our busy time of year. The weather will start to cool, and our riding and events will start to pick up. It's also busy season for our club. Yearly dues are being collected, and in November we will have our nominations for election. I want to urge every member to think about how they can contribute to the club. It does not have to be a big gesture; maybe take the trash out, wipe something down, anything helps. But I'm also looking for people to step up with ride ideas and new events for our club to try out. Remember this is a social club run by its members. We have no paid employees and it is up to us to continue the Great legacy of The Golden Eagles Motorcycle Club.

John Maglott / GEMC President

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**CLUB MAINTENANCE**

Maintenance is always an issue and thanks to Mike (Blair) and Grant, the terminate infested wood on the bar has been replaced. On the same day, Charlie, with Tom's help emptied out the non-working beer cooler. I heard the rumor that a couple of tears were shed when they had to dump the beer. Thanks to Bruce it is up and running again!



1st flat broke the taillight and we lost the license plate.

And then there is the club's motorcycle trailer. While using it to go to West Virginia, the trailer got a flat. No problem, Jay replaced the flat with the spare. No problem. Two hours later, the spare tire blew. Problem. Luckily a Tractor Supply place nearby had 2 mounted trailer tires. Flat number 2 fixed and we were on our way.

*EDITOR'S NOTE*

Many of you may have heard me use the phrase "Never say never" so it was with great surprise that "someone" sent me this picture of GRANT RIDING A HARLEY. I would NEVER have believed I would see Grant riding a Harley. Looking good Mr. Hile. *Ride safe & ride often. Gwen*



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

## RIDER REVIEW: USA 4 Corners Tour – Part Two

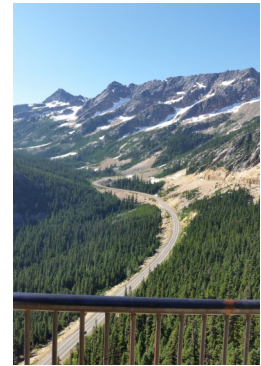


Embarking on a USA 4 Corners Tour is one of the most exciting experiences I have had. Many would classify it as the ride of a lifetime. I tend to think of it as a quest with obstacles, challenges, and roadblocks to overcome.

One of the most important factors in finishing the tour is to pick a compatible riding partner. Three weeks is a long time to spend with anyone and a mid-tour disagreement could end the tour for everyone. It has been my experience that two riders is the ideal number to ensure the best use of hotel accommodations and to reduce the impact of 55+ year old bladders.

In planning for the ride, factor in 21-23 days to complete the tour. This includes the time to and from the first and last corner traveling 500 miles each and every day. The actual time needed to complete the tour should take between 16-18 days. That leaves ample time for site seeing and minor breakdowns

While it may sound daunting, 500 miles per day is very achievable provided your riding day begins at 7AM and ends around 5PM. These statistics are all predicated on traveling secondary roads and not interstate highways. One of the reasons to ride the USA 4 Corners Tour is to see the country and you can't really see it behind a myriad of four wheelers. It has been my experience that touring the perimeter of the country is about 10,000 miles and a crisscross pattern is about 11,500 miles. I prefer the crisscross pattern as it offers more options to travel around major cities which are huge pinch points and time wasters, plus I just like desert riding.



In addition to the tours' time commitment there is a financial commitment as well. It has been my experience the average travel expenses range from \$3,000 - \$4000. This includes: motels (split with a riding partner), meals, fuel, bike preparation, incidental expenses like craft beer. Expenses can of course be reduced by camping, deferring meals or eating chili around a camp fire and drinking water or Bush beer.

A tour of this magnitude also requires some physical preparation. Riding for 10 hours a day for 20+ days out in the weather takes endurance and stamina. I strongly recommend getting an annual physical, beginning a daily walking regime and riding in the heat of the day to build heat endurance. Like military basic training the first three days are very hard but after that it becomes easier each day. By the second week everything is on automatic and the miles just fall away.



There are a number of USA 4 Corners Tour finishers in the GEMC. If you're interested seek them out and get their perspectives of the tour. It's the ride of a life time and well worth adding to your bucket list.

Stay tuned for the next installment containing rider insights and observations about traversing each of our countries diverse geographical areas.

**Dan Carbone**

# TELLICO PLAINS



Fun riding and tire kicking was enjoyed by: Gregg, Tom, John, Charlie, Al John, Bruce, Grant, Mike, Dave, Louis, Jesse, Christian, Kent and Jay.



Brother-in-laws, Kent and Gregg arrive at Tellico Plains and pay their debt to Jay! And, yes, Jay had to share and all was gone by the end of the trip!

John's bike breaks down (NOTE: while Jay was riding it) during the trip.



John in charge of the camp as always!



## PONTOON OUTING 8/22/20



Mike said he was not planning on fishing but Robert gave him his pole. He said he was tired of feeding the fish. After a couple of casts, Mike caught a small fish so he used it to catch a bigger fish — a 3 1/2 foot bonehead shark or shovelhead. It was the highlight of his day. Thanks to Robert for lending Mike his pole!

Boating, swimming and fishing—it was a great day.

## ***The family that rides together, BETTER GET ALONG!***

The Spoolstra brothers Gregg and Kent along with their sister Gwen, spouses, and a couple of friends from Tennessee, meet at a chosen location each year for a “Brothers Ride”. This year the location was Beckley WV. Gregg oversaw setting up the daily rides and hotel accommodations. We met up at the hotel on Sunday night and enjoyed some adult beverages while talking about the next three days of riding. Gregg had given everyone an electronic copy of the daily routes to load into our GPS.



Monday’s ride was to see the New River Bridge and some of the great back roads WV had to offer. Within 5 miles of leaving the hotel my GPS was crying for mercy. It wanted me to make so many U-turns it started calling me Christian and then just gave up and said, “go wherever you want”. We ended up on Hwy 16 (which is now one my “top 10” roads in the US) and crossed the Gauley bridge. At that point Gregg realized we were nowhere near the New River Bridge and we started working our way back to the hotel. More great roads back to the hotel and happy hour. Rain was forecast for the next two days but as Grandfather Clock on the Capitan Kangaroo Show would say, “It’s going to weather, whether you want it to or not”.

So, Tuesday it was up and, on the bikes, this time to find the New River Bridge. No rain but more curvy and twisty roads. We found the bridge and stopped at the visitors’ center and a walk to the overview. Taking the very narrow and twisty one-way road under the bridge, it is hard to believe that it was at one time a two-way road. Stopped at a H/D dealer for shopping and a chat, then back to the hotel for happy hour.



Wednesday morning still no rain but the ladies decided they would like to see some of the local shops. So, the boys had the day to themselves and decided to find some new roads. This time it was off to the South and West for curves and mountains. Not Colorado or Wyoming mountains but up and down just the same. We made a stop at a local H/D dealer to kick lies and tell tires with the locals. Kent had the lunch pick and found a nice bar with good food. Next time you see him, ask him what kind of bar it was. We made our way back to meet up with the girls and you guessed it, more adult beverages.

Thursday morning, we all said goodbye. Kent and Gregg went North, the friends went West, and Gwen and I went South. Another great “Brothers Ride” is in the books. I cannot wait to see what they will come up with for next year’s ride.

*Invited only because I married right,*

**Jay**