

Swamp Stompin'



Okefenokee Swamp in South Georgia

The question is... Where do we ride Memorial Day weekend? Our friends, Chris & Kathy O'Neal and Karen & I were interested in a big trip over the 3-day weekend and the Okefenokee sounded like the place to go!

(From Wikipedia) The Okefenokee Swamp is a shallow, 438,000-acre, peat-filled wetland straddling the Georgia-Florida line in the United States. A majority of the swamp is protected by the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and the Okefenokee Wilderness. The Okefenokee Swamp is considered to be one of the Seven Natural Wonders of Georgia. The

Okefenokee is the largest "blackwater" swamp in North America.

(According to Sherpa Guides) Okefenokee hosts an estimated 10,000 to 13,000 gators.

We headed out Friday after work. Temperatures were great since a cold front just moved through. We stopped for gas at the Winfield, AL exit on I-22. Next door was a Huddle House, so we decided to eat dinner. Not the best choice, but it was quick!

We continued to Birmingham, then headed south on I-65 toward Montgomery. By now, it was dark

and the traffic in Birmingham was thick. Just north of Montgomery, we exited off I-65 toward Wetumpka.

Wetumpka is a little town in Alabama made famous by the TV show, "Home Town". Ben & Erin Napier picked a small town in the U.S. to renovate. This was our planned stop for the night!



Wetumpka, Alabama

Saturday morning, our plans were to stop at some Tour of Honor (ToH) and Roadside America sites on the way to Waycross, Georgia.

Eufaula, AL is right on the Alabama-Georgia line. There we stop for a picture of a "ToH Doughboy" and the "Bass" statue.



Doughboy

Our next stop was Jimmy Carter's hometown of Plains, GA. There's a peanut statue with his smile on it!



Plains, Georgia

I had read online about this big chicken in Fitzgerald, Georgia. They began building it in 2019. It was to be a huge topiary with a Bed & Breakfast room inside. The topiary is 62 feet tall!

When we arrived; we were surprised to see this ugly creation! Even though the chicken is complete, foliage has yet to grow on it. As it stands now, it's just a rusty metal chicken with a room inside it. Good for a laugh anyway! 😊

Next, we rode to Broxton to see the Andy Griffith mural painted on a small building. Out in the middle of nowhere, next to the road, was the mural. We almost passed it! Well, that took all of one minute, now on to Waycross.

We spent the evening in Waycross. At the LL Creek bar and grill, we had a chance to try some of the best gator tail in town! Pretty good! Just don't try the Blackberry Chipotle Chicken Tacos!



Waycross, Georgia

Sunday morning we're up and out of the hotel by 8:30 am. We arrive at the swamp early to take pictures and prepare for our boat tour at 10:00. The boat takes us into the swamp through trees and other swamp vegetation. Our tour guide had been working at the swamp for over 60 years! We had a great time!

After the boat tour, we took a train ride a couple of miles around the park. Another informative tour! We completed our visit with a seminar by a local conservation lady showing us a small alligator. The gator was about 3 feet long and it was 3 years old! They don't grow very fast. Think how old those big gators are!



3-Year-Old Gator

Alligators are just cool, like living dinosaurs!

As we leave the Okefenokee Swamp, we stop at several ToH sites for pictures on our way to Dothan, AL. This is where we spend Sunday evening.

The Rodeo Mexican was where we ate dinner. It was great! And, the Margaritas were even better! From here, we stop to get a picture of a ToH Huey Helicopter in the middle of town.



Tour of Honor Huey

When Chris & Kathy stop at the side of the road to get a picture of the Huey, a city policeman pulls up behind them and blocks traffic for them. How cool is that! Great respect! Especially for Memorial Weekend!

Dothan is near Ft Rucker, known for helicopter pilot school. As we headed toward home on Monday morning, we stopped for more helicopter pictures.

Along the way, we ride through Enterprise, AL where they love Boll Weevils!

The Boll Weevil migrated into the U.S. from Mexico and destroyed cotton crops in the 1920's. This had a huge effect on the south. Due to

this insect, the area around Enterprise switched over to peanuts as their major crop. Since then, the area has thrived! They thank the Boll Weevil for their prosperity!

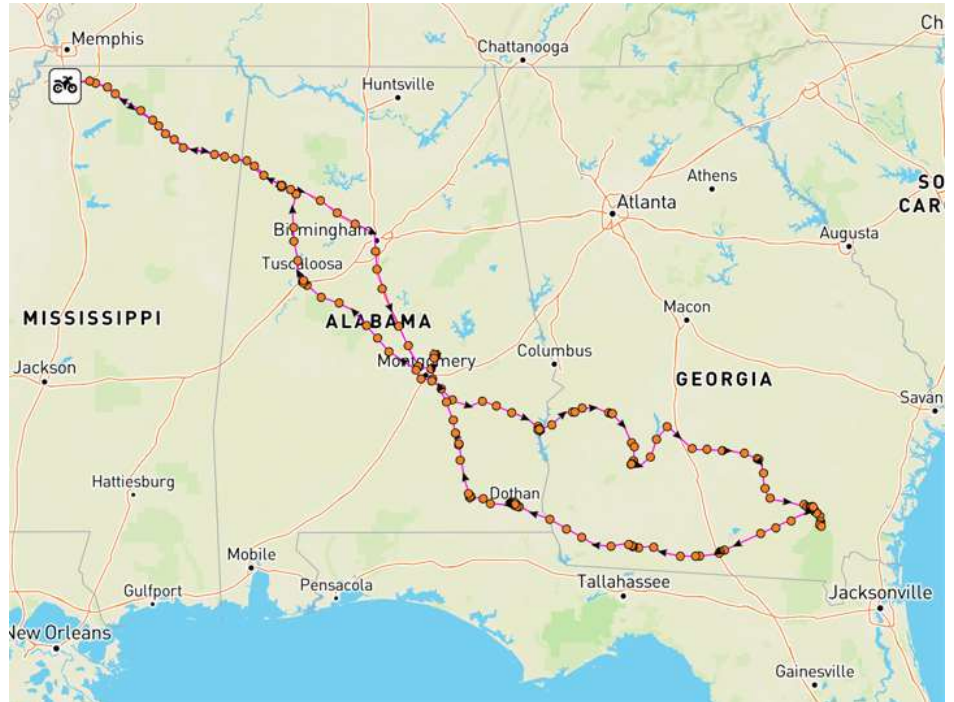


Boll Weevil Mural in Enterprise

Next stop was Tuscaloosa, AL for lunch. I found a BBQ place online. Archibald's & Woodrow's was the "premiere" BBQ joint in town! When we walked in they told us it was takeout only! But, since we were on motorcycles, we were allowed to sit in there and eat as long as we sit around the corner and clean up after ourselves! The man/lady taking our orders made that perfectly clear! This wasn't Memphis BBQ that's for sure!

The ride back to Hernando was hot! But, we made good time and the sun was shining!

It was a great weekend! Riding through the south, enjoying the countryside and some roadside attractions along with Tour of Honor sites over the Memorial weekend with great friends! Priceless!



1,500 Mile Holiday Weekend Trip



Enterprise, Alabama