

Friends:

First things first, we would highly recommend printing this email update as it will provide lots of information that you will find helpful. Don't skim this email, read it carefully!!! Most of the questions that will arise before or on the trip will be answered here. Secondly, we have established a Facebook group page titled Woodlands HOG Fall Ride 2021. It will be used extensively to update information and to act as a connection point before, during, and after the ride. Please feel free to share thoughts, plans, adventures, and pictures with the group. It will also be used to coordinate daily rides during the time we are in Blairsville.

Please be careful and don't "reply all" to this email unless you want your comments to go to all members who are receiving this email.

The ride routes are complete. It has taken a lot of time and 6 revisions to put these routes together. We would like to thank all those who checked our work for their help.

Right now, we have planned for 8 riding groups which are based on members that are very likely to go. We have a few members that are "maybes" for the trip, so we may have to add another group as we get closer to go time. Please note: Requests to be in, or not to be in any particular group will be considered, but can't be guaranteed. When putting individual riders in a particular group, we consider things like riding styles, fuel endurance, riders who just want to get there vs the picture takers, fast riders, slower riders, couples, or those sharing rooms. If you have a strong preference on who you

want to ride with, or who you don't want to ride with, please talk to us about it. There MAY be opportunities to switch groups once we leave, but that will have to be coordinated with those involved. Weather could also have an impact on how many members ultimately go. It's important to understand that unlike local chapter rides, we will not cancel the trip based on rainy weather conditions. If it's raining the day we are scheduled to leave (September 25th) we are still going. The only weather event(s) that might delay or cancel us would be a major storm event like a tropical storm, hurricane, or severe thunderstorms forecast for where we will be riding. There is a 99.87 percent chance that we will depart on schedule.

A note before we review some details: Planning a vacation ride involves a lot of details. Many of those details will require action on your part. Booking hotels, considering park passes, making sure your bike is ready to go, making sure your credit card isn't expired, insurance needs, prescription issues..... are all things that you have to take care of before we go. The more prepared you are, the smoother the trip will go for everybody. In short, we want to be your riding partners, not your parents - so get your homework done. :<)

The dealership has agreed to do a safety check for free on your bike before we leave. Additionally, if you schedule an oil service within 3 weeks of our return date, the dealership has agreed to do it for the cost of parts and fluids. The labor will be free! Please thank Dave Forkner when you see him!

A note to Road Captains: Make sure you carry chapter forms and basic first aid items.

So here we go....

On Saturday September 25th, we will meet up at the Flying J / Denny's at highway 59 and 242. It's been a nice option in the past to meet for breakfast before our ride - this is strictly optional. Plan on having our ride brief at 6:30 am... Bikes need to be gassed up and all bags need to be stowed before the brief. In order to get everybody checked in and get the bikes staged, we recommend showing up no later than 5:30 am, or earlier if you are planning to have breakfast there. Right now, we are planning on a chase car (truck) pulling an enclosed cargo trailer to accompany us. It will hold 3 bikes and its primary mission is rescue assistance. We want to discourage the idea of members relying on it to carry things that won't fit on their bike. Everything you take should fit on your bike. If it doesn't, you're taking too much stuff. And remember, you'll be bringing more stuff back home, so leave room for that. The trailer will follow the last group on the ride and act as a rescue vehicle if anyone has bike problems. All members will receive a "Go Packet" prior to the ride that will include phone numbers for all members and how to contact the rescue car vehicle.

The first day is 396 miles to Vicksburg, Mississippi. With a lunch stop and a few gas / bio breaks thrown in, it will take us about 8 to 9 hours to get to the hotel. We will try to stagger our departures in 5 minute intervals to avoid bunching up at gas stops and to avoid large groups of bikes being in the same place at the same time. Sunrise is estimated to be at 7:11 am, so we are planning on having all groups on the road by 7:15 to

7:30 am which will have us arriving at the hotel by 4:00 pm.  
We have a planned gas / lunch stop in Chatham, Louisiana.

On September 25th, we are staying at:

Best Western Vicksburg

[2445 N Frontage Rd.](#)

[Vicksburg, MS 39180](#)

(601) 636-5800

[Best Western Vicksburg](#)

Our rate is \$89 plus tax and is reserved under a block called  
Woodlands HOG

We have a 50/50 mixture of King bed rooms and 2 Queen bed  
rooms - please specify what you want when you book.

There is a complimentary breakfast and laundry facilities.

There are a variety of restaurants and fast food outlets within  
walking distance.

On Sunday September 26th, we will depart Vicksburg for a  
251 mile ride to Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Our hotel in Vicksburg  
is on the south side of Vicksburg National Military

Park [Vicksburg National Military Park](#). The address of the  
National Park is: 3201 Clay Street Vicksburg, MS 39183.

Sunday hours are: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. The fee to enter the park  
is \$15 for motorcycles and \$20 for autos. The cost of an annual  
National Parks Pass is \$80 per adult and \$20 for seniors 62 or  
over. If you think you will be visiting other National Parks  
during the year, this could turn out to be a wise purchase. A  
park pass is good for one year from the date of purchase. To  
buy a park pass go to: [usparkpass.com](http://usparkpass.com) (orders are generally  
processed within 5 business days.)

Vicksburg was vital to both sides in the Civil War and we wanted to give our members the opportunity to visit the site on Sunday before the ride to Tuscaloosa. It's about a 4 hour ride (plus stops), so that should allow plenty of time to visit the park and make Tuscaloosa by late afternoon.

Note: A lunch stop was NOT included in the route due to the uncertainty of what time each individual group will leave Vicksburg. The group leads will coordinate food stops with their group members.

On September 26th, we are staying at:

Best Western University Inn

[3801 McFarland Blvd E](#)

[Tuscaloosa, AL 35405](#)

(205) 556-9690

[Best Western University Inn](#)

Our rate is \$98.99 plus tax and is reserved under a block called Woodlands HOG

We have a 50/50 mixture of King bed rooms and 2 Queen bed rooms - please specify what you want when you book.

There is a complimentary hot breakfast and laundry facilities.

The hotel is adjacent to [O'Charley's](#) and is open for lunch and dinner (11:00 am - 10:00 pm)

On Monday September 27th, we will depart Tuscaloosa for a 275 mile ride to our destination, [Copperhead Lodge](#) in Blairsville, GA. Check-in time is 3:00 pm or later.

We will be there 5 nights - September 27th thru October 2nd. The lodge has an on-site restaurant [The Flying Trout Restaurant](#) and bar. We encourage you to use the

dining facilities at the lodge as they are bringing in additional staff just for us.

The time at the lodge is yours. You can ride individually, with others, sleep all day, or whatever suits you. Informal group activities will likely be happening every night so there should be no shortage of social opportunities. Grocery stores, liquor stores, and other general purpose stores (Walmart) are available close by. The population of Blairsville, GA is 724. We have created a handful of optional ride routes that should appeal to most riders, which include the best roads and points of interest the region has to offer! A brief synopsis of these rides follows. All ride mileage is planned for round trip from the lodge, with the exception of the "TO" and "FROM" routes to Jack Daniels:

[Blue Ridge Parkway](#): This is a planned 253 mile ride. Sweeping curves, awe inspiring vistas, and ample scenic overlooks await us on a road that has the reputation as one of the best in the United States.

[Tail of the Dragon](#): We have created several routes that include the Dragon. One route (planned at 233 miles) includes a stop at the [Smoky Mountain Hog Rally](#)! A second route (292 miles) features the best of the best "you can't miss these" roads! For reference, Deal's Gap (the start of the Dragon) is 79 miles from the Lodge. For those of you who may only wish to check the box of riding the infamous Dragon, you may simply ride up and back (with a t-shirt stop at the Dealership at the top). The Tail of the Dragon is America's number one motorcycle and sports car road. 318 curves in 11 miles!!! Hang on for some serious Dragon-slaying fun.

[Moonshiner 28](#): This is a planned 228 mile ride. It was once one of the major runs for moonshiners with revenuers hot on their bumpers. It boasts great twisties, wide sweeping turns, mountain vistas, secluded lakes, and a really cool waterfall (Bridal Veil Falls) that you can ride your bike behind. Bring your cameras!!!

[Six Gap of North Georgia](#): This is a planned 113 mile ride. Don't let the short distance fool ya... It will give you a good ride for your money!!! This ride is in the shape of a figure 8, and crosses through six mountain "gaps" or low passes; hence the name Six Gap. This ride may be a good choice for those of you who don't want to ride all day.

[The Gauntlet](#): This is a planned 134 mile ride. #1 best motorcycle ride in the nation for 2011, AND North Georgia's FAVORITE motorcycle ride for 8 years straight! This ride will provide views of the highest point in Georgia, and tons of scenic mountain views and overlooks. The ride literally starts in the Copperhead Lodge's backyard.

[Jack Daniel's Distillery](#): We are including a route "to" (183 miles) and a route "from" (180 miles) the Distillery, taking different roads. If you choose to do this ride, be advised that it will consume a whole day, so plan accordingly. Yes, the distillery is in a dry county, but you are allowed to purchase their delicious whiskey - and even have the bottles engraved to commemorate your visit! There are several tours that offer tastings (or not), that range from 1 hour and 10 minutes to 3 hours, priced between \$20 to \$125. Tours are given daily from

9:00 am until 4:30 pm. See their website for more details.  
Careful.... the last time we were there, we ended up married....  
so drink responsibly!

[Wheels Through Time Motorcycle Museum](#): This is a planned 203 mile ride. Wheels Through Time Museum is home to the world's premier collection of rare American motorcycles, memorabilia, and a distinct array of unique "one-off" American automobiles, featuring an evolution of motorcycle history. It houses a collection of over 300 rare machines!  
NOTE: The museum is CLOSED on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Their hours are 10:00 am - 5:00 pm Thursday through Monday. Admission for adults is \$15, and \$12 for seniors.

After an epic five days, it will be time to start "heading for the barn!" We will have only 1 overnight on our way home.

On Saturday October 2nd, we will depart for our 474 mile day to Pearl, Mississippi. Pearl is just a little east of Jackson, MS. The planned lunch stop is just east of Birmingham, AL at Logan's Roadhouse. There are several restaurants close by, so other options exist if this does not appeal to you.

On October 2nd, we are staying at:

Best Western Airport Inn

[257 S Pearson Rd.](#)

[Pearl, MS 39208](#)

(601) 936-2060

[Best Western Airport Inn](#)



Our rate is \$70 for King rooms and \$75 for rooms with 2 Queen beds. The majority of our blocked rooms are Kings. There is complimentary breakfast available and The Waffle House is next door. There is a nice variety of restaurants and fast food outlets available within walking distance.

On Sunday October 3rd, we will depart for our 412 mile ride home. A lunch stop is provided in Oakdale, LA. The final gas stop prior to Houston will give everyone the opportunity for hand shakes, hugs, and congratulatory comments on an awesome week.

#### Notes:

- \* Everything in this email is subject to change based on CDC guidelines and local requirements pertaining to COVID issues. Please make sure you have masks available, as rules seem to change frequently.
- \* Several members will be shooting videos on the trip, and we will attempt to compile enough footage to share a 2021 Fall Ride Video. Also, participant ride rockers will be distributed to all members who go on the trip.
- \* Group leaders will have discretion on when their group departs the hotels. Some like to leave earlier and some like to sleep a little later. Express your desires to your group leaders.
- \* Get your hotel reservations made ASAP
- \* Ensure you are registered on [The Woodlands HOG](#) page. Under "My account" click "EDIT" and make sure ALL your information is correct including Emergency Contact information. Also, make sure "Send me SMS Messages" is checked. This enables us to contact you with any last minute changes or to provide important information.

Please note: The attached routes provide "NO" specific places for any Harley Davidson sponsored ride programs (i.e. 50 rides, one nation, ride 365, etc).

Robert Casey has graciously agreed to be our Ride 365 representative for the ride. If you desire to visit any of the Ride 365 points, please touch base with Robert.

We are so excited to be hosting this trip and look forward to spending a week with our HOG family.

Feel free to contact us with questions, suggestions, or concerns.

With 44 days to go,

Bill & Delia Knuteson