

## JIM'S "5 FLAGS" RIDE -9/9/2011

### Day 1:

On Friday morning, September 9, small bands of Coots began moving toward the Cracker Barrel in Somerset, KY. By 11 a.m. the group had assembled, indulged in the requisite hellos, visited the facilities, and embarked on what would prove to be an odyssey of grand proportions. Although no Cyclops, Sirens, or Golden Fleece was spotted, the merry band was destined to travel many leagues, navigate a multitude of curves, ride a Dragon's Tail, and wiggle through Knoxville on The Worm (where Eileen O.D'd on traffic signals).

We took Route 27, then Route 441, The Worm through Knoxville (you know the Snake, Dragon & Hellbender but you haven't seen nuthin' till you've ridden the Worm), and then down the Tail of the Dragon and Hellbender to Robbinsville. What's that - like 580 curves! Had a safe trip with only a few protestations and subsequent sparks flying from "Chubby." Butts were dragged into the Microtel around 7 p.m. Food then bed.

### Day 2:

The intrepid Coots reassembled at 9 a.m. for another assault on the curves and scattering of the squirrels. Jim lost his mind, but not his way, and led us down Highways 129, 19, 74, 28, 469, 441, 64, 107, 344, 214, and the Blue Ridge Parkway. We saw Bryson City, Franklin, Dry Falls, Bridal Veil Falls, Highlands, Cashiers, Brevard, and Cherokee and spun our wheels in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia! By this time we had all done "5 State Flags," but Smiley had done SEVEN! Butts dragged cheerfully into the Microtel at 8:45 p.m. Food and bed!

### Day 3:

Time to begin the homeward trek. Steve and Eileen left earlier at 8 a.m. via The Dragon in order to get home to Bowling Green in time to get Cash out of doggy jail. An hour later Dave & Pris, Jim & Sharon, and Smiley hit The Dragon's Tail and headed toward Knoxville. Smiley split for a slab ride to Indianapolis and the remainder of the Coots headed to Somerset on Hwy. 27. The final split - Jim & Sharon to E-town and Pris & Dave to Lexington.

WHAT A RIDE! Great weather overall, especially when it counted on the curves. Fantastic organization and execution. Thanks Jim for leading us through it. And thanks for skipping the Alabama segment. Maybe next time ☺.

