

OLDE STONEHOUSE WEEKEND II

October 17-18-19, 2008

Hardy, Arkansas



If you had a machine that you could use to plan a Motorcycle Weekend and you were able to chose your Destination-**CLICK**, Route-**CLICK**, Weather-**CLICK**, Activates-**CLICK** and Your Friends-**CLICK**..... It would have been just like the Motorcycle Weekend Trip we had to Hardy, Arkansas.

When we headed out early Friday morning we just knew the weekend was going to some special. The weather was awesome and the route that Rick had planned was going to be GREAT and with lots and lots beautiful scenery and twisties and hills.

We traveled along I-30 until we reached Arkadelphia, from Arkadelphia on Hwy 7 and AR 128 to Hot Springs. From Hot Springs we got back on AR 7 to AR 27. Then we real hit the scenic route, from AR 27 to AR 16 and then we got over on AR 92. From there we rode AR 25 to AR 167 all the way into Hardy.

Before we reached Hardy, we made a stop in Mountain View to check out what was going on there. This is another small Arkansas town that we love to spend weekends in also. To our surprise, it was hustling and bustling with tourist. So we decided to look around for a little while and stretch our legs.

While the wives did some shopping Rick and Tommy listened to some good 'ol folk music. It didn't take long before Rick had his guitar out of the case and was jamming with a group. After a couple of hours we decided it was time to get on over to Hardy.

I just can't say enough about the weather, cool, comfortable and lots of sunshine. We got back on our Goldwings and heading for Hardy and the **Olde Stonehouse Bed & Breakfast**. This was the second time that we have been the guest of the Stonehouse and we just love staying there.

We arrived in Hardy around 5:30 Friday afternoon and to our surprise, we found out that we had the house all to ourselves. Greg and Beth Bess met us at the door and gave us a real warm and friendly welcome and helped to get us settled into our rooms.

As soon as we got unloaded and settled in, Rick made reservation for us at the **Bluff Steakhouse**. We had eaten there the last time we were here but this time we made reservations and we didn't walk to it. The food was real good and we really enjoyed it.

Before we headed to the steakhouse, Gregg informed us that across the street from the Olde Stonehouse was his Café and that there was going to be live entertainment that was going to start around 6:30 that evening and we were welcome to come over and listen.

We went and ate and had a real good relaxing evening meal as we discussed our ride up to Hardy, nice it had been and what we were going to do tomorrow.

The first thing on our agenda for Saturday was the breakfast that was going to be prepared for us. The next thing was to do some shopping. We didn't realize when we made our reservation for this weekend trip that the **25th Annual Old Hardy Town Fall Arts and Crafts Festival** was going on the same weekend, we got a **two-for**.

After returning from eating back to the Olde Storehouse, we walked over to listen to the live entertainment. It was not the best we have ever heard but it was free.....

Saturday morning at breakfast, Gregg also agreed that it was lacking and told us that he had a different group playing that night and that they were real good. A couple of them were studio musicians and had preformed with several top name entertainers.

Rick and Tommy finished up shopping long before Vicki and Aileen did. They decided to make a ride over to Mammoth Springs and check it out and also check out the restaurant that Gregg had recommended.

Mammoth Spring State Park bears the name of the park's world famous, natural spring that is a National Natural Landmark. Mammoth Spring is the largest spring in Arkansas and the second largest in the Ozark Mountain region. It flows at an average rate of 9.78 million gallons per hour with a constant water temperature of 58ø Fahrenheit.

After we looked around we headed into the down town area to see if we could locate the La Pastorella Bistro. This was the place that was recommended to us. As we rode up to the front, there was an elderly couple sitting at a table on the front side walk next to the door. We quickly found out that they were the owners. They tried to get us to come on in but we explained that we would be back a little later and would be bringing our wives back with us.

We all returned back at the bistro a little after 6:00 Saturday evening and if you are ever in the area you must stop in and eat and enjoy the food and company of the couple that owns and operates it. They have strict rules that you must abide by. Believe me, you are in for the eating experience of your life and the food is **AWSOME**.....

We had a nice cool ride back to Hardy and were wanting to get back so we could hear the live music at the Café. After we parked the wings and got them covered, we walked across the parking lot and were entertained by a group who were **FANTASTIC**.

This group could just about play and sing anything you wanted to hear, from Country, Rock'n Roll and Rhythm & Blues. They played and sing for over two hours with out taking a break. While we were listening, we also made plans for tomorrow (Sunday).

Sunday morning we were treated to another great breakfast. After breakfast, there were a couple of items that we purchases from a couple of the Arts & Crafts folks before getting ready to head home.

We planned on leaving from Hardy and going to Harrison and then thru Kingston. In Harrison, there is the Maplewood Cemetery. It has acres and acres of Maple Trees. If you are ever in the area during the fall colors, it's a **MUST SEE**.

There is an antique store that Vicki and Aileen wanted to stop at. We were there about an hour, long enough to make a couple of purchases and stretch our legs.

From Kingston we worked our way until we got on Hwy 23, Pig Trail. This is one of the excellent roads in Arkansas that you must ride during

the fall and see all of the beautiful color. We rode Hwy 23 until we hit Hwy 71 south just north of Waldron.

We stayed on Hwy 71 the rest of the way back to Texarkana. We had the fortune of getting behind an 18-wheeler just south of Mena and were unable to pass. This truck was driving the speed limit and not one mile over. If the curve warning sign was posting 25 MPH, he drove 25 and if it was 45 MPH, he drove 45. We followed him all the way to DeQueen.

You have always heard that sometimes things happen for a reason. Well, this was one of those times. After we had stopped in DeQueen to eat supper and started home, Rick noticed a thump-bump sound coming from his rear tire. The tire had worn down to the cord and by us following the 18-wheeler at the slow speed saved the tire and allowed us to make it the rest of the way home safely.

We are going to have to be extra careful on our return trips from Hardy. If you have read about our last trip to Hardy, you will understand.

We will be going back again. It is so enjoyable and so much to do.