

Hi everyone.

One of our members, Mike Woodward, is off on a cross country plus ride on his bike and he has graciously offered to provide us with his observations and some pictures of his trip. I will try to update the HOG website on a weekly basis as Mike travels from Port St Lucie to California, DC, Lake George, back to Colorado and finally home on or about 26 June, 2011.

Week One - day 1

Left Port St Lucie and travelled 550 miles to Fort Rucker Alabama. Mike says he travelled some nice twisty roads and a few good dirt roads too. (Go figure, I've ridden with him and he actually likes dirt roads).



Week One – day 2

Mike rode 500 miles today, from Dothan Alabama to Alexandria, Louisiana. The weather was good, with sunny skies and temperatures in the 80's. Great roads and lots of logging trucks.



Week One – day 3

Mike put another 500 miles on the bike today riding across Texas. Weather was really hot (93) and then Mike encountered some strong winds out of the South, forcing him to lean the bike into the wind for the last 300 or so miles of the day. He also had a close call when three huge deer ran across the road directly in front of him.



Week one- Day 4

Mike rode a little over 500 miles again today, travelling through the Texas oil fields and on into the mountains in New Mexico. Temps ranged from 72 in the morning to the high 50's as he crossed the mountains. His altitudes also varied, ranging from 1,600 feet above sea level to 9,000 feet and finally back to around 4,000 feet when his day ended at Holloman AFB in New Mexico.



Week one – day 5

Mike wimped out a little on us today. He only rode 400 miles through most of New Mexico. He said that it was very cold with temp's hovering around 50 degrees with a 30 MPH crosswind. I bet he was happy to have some cold weather gear with him. Wow, those mountains sure look great and I just didn't have the heart to reduce the picture.



Week one – day 6

Mike rode through New Mexico into Arizona today. He travelled through the Navajo and Hopi Indian Reservations today and spent the night in a lodge on one of the reservations. His plans to ride to the north rim of the Grand Canyon were changed when he was informed that the snow was still waist deep on the road north. Weather was sunny but a bit brisk as temp's never got above 40 degrees. After looking at the pictures, I hope he stays on paved roads and away from the edge too.



Week one – Day 7

It was 27 degrees out when Mike left the lodge this morning. He had dug the heated jacket and gloves out and is wearing his chaps also. He rode eight hours today and covered 275 miles. His route took him through the Zion National Forest in Utah where he headed west back into Nevada. Nellis AFB in Las Vegas will be the final destination for the day and the wee. Mike reported that the sky was cloud free and the bluest he had ever seen. He is heading for China Lakes via Death Valley tomorrow.



And here's a news flash, Mike finally found a dirt road today that even he wouldn't ride on. I'm impressed by that because I have ridden on some horrible roads with him.

Stay tuned for next week's update on this trip that we would all like to make.

Mike Carter