

The Travel Log shares travels and adventures by fellow classmates near to home or from far away.

“Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us or we find it not.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

THE SCHULTZ CYCLE DIARY - 2013

Robert and Jeanie in the Pacific Northwest

Jeanie and I are on our annual motorcycle adventure, exploring the Pacific Northwest coast, Utah Canyonlands and Southwest Colorado.

The rationale for this itinerary started with a family wedding in San Juan Island, WA this past Saturday, June 8th. Jeanie's great niece, a medical resident in Seattle, chose San Juan Island for her wedding. Jeanie has spent very little time traveling in this part of our country and, with much coercing, agreed to a motorcycle tour.

I had planned to ride the bike out prior to the wedding and have Jeanie fly in, however ran out of time. So we cheated and "mailed" the machine out, which with my additional airfare was much less expensive than a 5 day ride.....to say nothing about the wear on my old body.

Sunday, June 9th

After 3 fun-filled days of wedding partying we caught the morning ferry back from San Juan Island to Anacortes, WA and left



our wedding clothes with Jeanie's sister to send back to Ann Arbor. We left Anacortes, dealt with all the detours from the recent I5 bridge collapse, and made our way down 260 miles of I-5 hell to Portland, Oregon for the night.

Monday, June 10th

The main objective for the overnight in Portland was to revisit a funky neighborhood that we had discovered many years ago while on a business trip. The area had



recently been featured in a PBS documentary on America's love affair with great breakfast spots. Jeanie and I are breakfast "nuts" so this seemed like a sensible place to stop and get reacquainted. We were right! Food choices are unlimited; however, The Tin Shed exceeded all expectations, and was definitely worth the visit.

At last we could ditch I-5 just south of Portland (I intend to avoid all other interstates on this trip!) and head for the Oregon coast. And, it is spectacular with great vistas of the Pacific. The weather has cooperated, so far, with lots of sunshine and relative warmth, which is a real treat in this part of the country. We finally stopped for the night about half way down the coast in Yachats, one of many old fishing communities in Oregon.

Tuesday, June 11th

Another day of "puttering" down the coast with lots of stops to explore little towns and beaches. This part of Oregon is pretty remote and quiet, though with the upcoming Summer season will become much busier.





Oregon has a reputation for being laid back, old hippy, tree-hunger, etc., and we've seen it all.....not much of the fast life. We stopped tonight in Brookings Harbor, just north of the CA state line. We had dinner tonight on the local fishing pier with fresh catch of the day.....Dungeness crab rules! Spent the night in a motel on the nearby beach with the Pacific at the open window.

Wednesday, June 12th

More Dungeness crab this morning in an omelette at the pier. Then off to Northern California and the Redwood forests, which are a major point of interest for this trip. If you have not traveled through these forests they need to be on your list of life trips. We stopped at the Prairie Creek Park, just south of Klamath, CA, which is part of the Redwood National Park. This area is part of the "old growth" forest with some of the trees dating back almost 2,000 years and reaching heights of 300 - 400 feet. Lots of interesting hiking trails that we hiked on for a few hours to get a better appreciation for this national/natural wonder. Finally decided to check in to a B&B in Ferndale, CA for a couple nights to take a break from the long hours on the motorcycle.....and relentless winds off the Pacific.



Thursday, June 13th

Spending a lazy day in Ferndale, a quaint Victorianera agricultural town, south of Eureka, CA on the coast. A good chance to walk, stretch and recover. And, Jeanie has found some interesting shops to explore and folks to talk with.



Friday, June 14th

We've enjoyed our stay in Ferndale at the Victorian Inn. And, the owner of the inn has an interesting hobby...and source of additional income. He owns Loretta Jones, a racing mule! Loretta Jones is the terror of fair ground race tracks in Northern California and has a statewide reputation for winnings. I thought that I knew something about mules, however the inn-owner's tales were a new education.

We had our picture taken with a bronze replica of Loretta Jones, who is memorialized in the lobby of the Victorian Inn....though very much alive and active on the race track.

Our route today was across Northern California on CA36 and CA89, some of the most famous motorcycling roads in the U.S., 300 miles of mountains and curves to Quincy, CA. We crossed the Coast Range of mountains, the North Central agricultural valley, and then up into the Sierra Nevada Mountains.





As my motorcycling friends would say, "this was a serious day of 'twistys'". Great riding through mountains and forests of Redwood, Sequoia, and Ponderosa trees.....almost like riding in a cathedral.

Saturday, June 15th

After spending the night in Quincy we headed south to

Nevada, just north of Reno. We scored another breakfast find in Sparks at the Sparks Coffee House, a small place run by a Latino family and a real jewel.

Then on to US50, the "Loneliest Highway in America",

for the trip across Nevada. This is indeed lonely.... a vehicle approximately every 30 to 45 minutes.

US 50 traverses mainly high desert at about 5,500 feet with mountain passes climbing to 7,500, and the 40mph crosswind out of the south was relentless.

Jeanie says the desolation and beauty of this country has to be seen to be believed. Despite the wind it was a great riding day and after a 400 mile day we stopped at a casino hotel in Ely, NV.



Sunday, June 16th

We left Ely early this morning for the ride to Bryce Canyon, UT. The plan was to stop in one of the small towns south of Ely for breakfast, however the loneliest highway got us again. Approximately 175 miles later, with even more fierce winds, we stopped in Milford, UT at the first available place for any sort of food.....talk about distances.



Fortunately we had found a remote, unattended fuel station, or food would have been the least of our wants. Again, almost no vehicle traffic for many miles, so I wonder(worry?) about the inevitable maintenance problem.

We arrived in Bryce Canyon, UT this afternoon, which was another key destination for this trip. We'll stay here for a couple days of hiking and non-riding relaxation.

Monday, June 17th

I had taken a motorcycle tour of the southern Utah, northern Arizona Canyon lands a few years ago, in difficult weather, and remember how dramatic the terrain is. This trip was a chance to experience the area in bright sunshine and great temperatures. Another day of extraordinary experience for Jeanie: ".....have to see this to believe.....".

We rode around the area today and spent a few hours hiking one of many trails in Bryce Canyon. The hike that we took at Sunrise Point down to the floor of the canyon, and a loop back up to the rim has been dubbed "World's best 3 mile hike!", and we felt like we had been tested with the 1,200 foot elevation change!

Tuesday, June 18th

Arrived in Moab, UT this afternoon after a long day on the bike, and exploring both Escalante and Capitol Reef National Parks.

The day started off with some of the best motorcycle roads in the U.S. with miles of sweeping vistas, curving climbs and descents over mountain ranges and great views in Escalante. Temperatures soon

climbed from the mid-60's to around 100 and the winds picked up to 40 to 50 mph, with gusts.....brutal riding conditions. All of the National Parks out here are different, with unique terrain formations, however Capitol Reef is wild.



Utah is cattle country and we've engaged with many locals at restaurants and stops about their lives in this remote, vast country. They are tough, independent people.....real cowboys. And, as seen on this remote mountain road, the cattle are free-ranging!

Wednesday, June 19th

We spent last night in Moab, UT in the Sunflower Hill Inn B&B, and what a great place to hang out....by far our most pleasant accommodation.





This morning we took the recommendation of a "local" for an unplanned ride up UT128 along the Colorado river that cuts through some of the most amazing cliff formations. I have long been in awe of the Colorado and its role as a water source for the Southwestern part of the U.S. And I've enjoyed many days fly fishing on

this river in Colorado and Arizona, so have some experience of the waterway. This Utah view was a new experience!



After the river ride we spent a few hours touring Arches National Park for more of the surreal western landscape.

Then on to Ouray, CO for a visit with old friends from Ann Arbor who now spend their summers in this part of Colorado. The Ouray area of Colorado is often referred to as the Swiss Alps of the U.S., and has been one our favorite Colorado venues for years.





Thursday, June 20th

A hard, 300 mile, day of riding across the Colorado Rockies to Denver. The crossing at Monarch Pass (11,500 feet), with the sweeping curves brings back lots of memories of good motorcycling with friends in this part of the country.

We arrived in Denver at our son, Andrew's, home where Jeanie will visit with his family and our daughter, Claudia, and her family before flying back to Ann Arbor. I'll leave Denver on Saturday to "make miles" back home.....too boring to inflict on Jeanie.

At this point we've traveled a bit over 2,500 miles across some of the most dramatic and remote parts of our country, and met many interesting people. Most of our fellow travelers were from around the U.S., however we were struck by the number of Europeans and Asians who were enthralled and enchanted with the American West.

If you have not visited this part of the U.S., it should be on your "bucket list".



July 8th

I've been dilatory in finishing up all my correspondence and adminitrivia since returning home from the motorcycle trip through the West.

After spending a couple days in Denver with the family I launched out on the long, boring ride across country to Ann Arbor. Jeanie and I drive this 1,300 mile route at least twice each year, so there is absolutely nothing new for us to explore.

The trip from Denver to Omaha, NE on Sunday, June 23rd was a relative pleasure for this time of year with cool temperatures and almost no wind. After 525 miles of fast, hard riding I arrived for the night with old friends from our days of living in Omaha in the 1990's.

Monday morning started two days of absolute motorcycling hell! Thunderstorms, lightning, hail, heavy rain, high winds, etc., a perfect day for trying to navigate I80 across Iowa. I finally gave up on the interstate about half way across Iowa and headed northeast on back roads to Wisconsin to at least avoid the long isolated stretches of highway. I had planned on about six hours of riding on Monday and Tuesday, however after all the detours, hiding out under bridges, hanging around coffee shops, all to avoid the weather, I stopped after 12 hours. I had managed to contact a cousin in Wisconsin and spent the night with her and her family.

Tuesday, the 25th, was more horrible thunderstorm weather. I waited it out for a few hours in Wisconsin and then headed for Ann Arbor, via Chicago. All of the Chicago toll-ways and toll stops on the motorcycle in heavy rains was a special treat! However, after 9 long hours made it home to Ann Arbor in time to get to Detroit Airport to pick up Jeanie, who had flown in from Denver.

The last week and half of downtime and rest has been much needed.

So, even after the last couple days of the ride, I encourage all to get out and explore our vast Country. Lots to see and really interesting people in all places you visit. Jeanie is already talking about our next travel adventure.....even on the motorcycle!

"We should come home from adventures, and perils, and discoveries every day with new experience and character" (Henry David Thoreau)

