

A September Trip

by Robin Moore #13645.01

We went 1580 miles. We loaded up our bikes (mine looked like Jed Clampett's truck), and left last Sunday, September 24. We cruised down into Oklahoma and threw down our tent and sleeping bags at Lake Tenkiller, a beautiful lake. The next morning we ate some breakfast then motored down highway 82, a beautiful drive in the Oklahoma mountains (yes , Oklahoma has mountains, just not tall ones) till we got to Talihina. Then we hit the Talimena Trail to Mena Arkansas, then on to Hot Springs where we camped again. The Talimena is about 55 miles long and a great ride. My wife was on it several months ago and they had a small bear run across the road in front of them. Anyway, in Hot Springs, we spent the evening in the Longshot bar, where they serve free food during Monday night football. It was spaghetti and meatballs this night. The next morning, we motored up highway 7 and eventually got to Eureka Springs, Arkansas, where we stayed at The Riders Rest. It's a cycle only motel, real nice, spotless rooms and the hosts are very nice people! All the pictures in the rooms are of motorcycles and motorcycle people. And they have cleaning supplies and rags underneath the parking area to clean your bike. It has covered bike parking as well. The next day we rode into Lowell Arkansas and mooched off relatives for the next 3 nights. Wednesday we cruised thru the mountains stopping at little hidden cafes and bars. Thursday, it was cold, so we hung out with relatives. Friday, we went downtown Fayetteville where the Bikes, Blues, and BBQ was being held. I think they expected a quarter of a mil people there, and I think there was. Lots of nice bikes!!! Saturday, we cruised the mountains again and rode to Branson, Mo. to visit my parents. Then Sunday we made our way home. One thing we do when we travel is we never eat at franchises unless there's no other choice. We always eat at the mom and pop places that are on the dead end roads that the locals know about. We can always eat at Pizza Hut at home so why not try something different on the road?