

Ride to Georgia Racing Hall of Fame

On Wednesday, July 25th we had one of our largest groups ride to Dawsonville, GA to the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame and Lunch. There were a total of 12 bikes & trikes with 20 Blue J's gathered at the Marathon station in Blairsville. The weather was cloudy and as we rode over Blood Mountain we encountered some light fog. But, on continuing south the clouds dispersed and the sun came out to make for ideal riding conditions.

We rode Hwy. 129 into Dahlonega, GA where we picked up Hwy. 9 taking us to Dawsonville and the Hall of Fame. Upon our arrival the attendant offered us a discounted entrance fee, so that greeting was good news for all. Everyone seemed to enjoy the many race cars, videos and hundreds of trophies displayed throughout the facility. The Elliot family (hometown Dawsonville) was highlighted with a timeline display revealing the history of the parents, siblings, aunts and uncles of Bill & Chase Elliot, both major participants in the NASCAR legend. Many of Bill Elliot's race cars were on display including one totally destroyed car wrecked during a race in Daytona. The car that he drove to win the first \$1M payout was present. A video highlighting the history of moonshine running that later led to the start of professional racing and then to NASCAR was very enlightening.

In the same building as the Hall of Fame is located a moonshine distillery. This presented an ideal meeting place following the tour of the museum. Also, while at the distillery a brief rainstorm hit the area, so spending a few more minutes in the distillery made sense to all. As soon as the rain stopped we walked some 200 yards across the business center to the Dawsonville Tavern for lunch. Here, we were offered a private room for our group but, with one waitress doing her best to take care of 20 people, it took nearly 2 hours to complete the meal. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food despite the long wait.

With some dark clouds threatening our area, we decided to head back to Blairsville. The only variation was to take a side road west of Dahlonega to avoid going through the city and contend with the traffic lights. We arrived back at our homes without encountering any rain.

Roger LeRoy