

Ride To
Tuckasegee Valley
North Carolina

Wednesday, August 8th, 2018 started with bright sunshine as our group of Blue J's assembled at the Citgo Station in Hiawassee. We had 11 members and one guest riding on 8 bikes as we headed west out of Hiawassee with the weather getting warmer by the minute. Before reaching Clayton, GA on Hwy. 76, we turned onto Persimmon Road and rode along the Persimmon Creek with very little traffic to contend with. Winding through Rabun County on Wolffork Road, we crossed Hwy. 23 south of Dillard, GA and rode into North Carolina on Hwy. 106, passing over Scaly Mountain, into Highlands, NC. Here we picked up Hwy. 64 west and started looking for the elusive Ingles Store for a rest stop. Turns out that the store we are looking for is west of Cashiers, NC and not Highlands, NC as we imagined. So, now our well anticipated rest stop took place in Cashiers at the intersection of Hwy. 64 and Hwy. 107.

Hwy. 107 is the route we planned to take north out of Cashiers as it offers exciting views of Lake Glenville and the Tuckasegee River. Captivated by the scenery and the bright sunny skies, we missed the turn into the Jackson County Recreation Complex and found ourselves entering the village of Silva, NC. Realizing the mistake, we stopped and consulted the trusty GPS to find our picnic lunch location, so we returned to the pavilions at the Recreation Complex. Everyone agreed that it was a very tasty lunch and the price wasn't bad either. After lunch, as always occurs, folks start looking for the bathrooms. Ours was located about 50 feet from the covered lunch pavilion. However, it was discovered that they were closed. We tried the County office, and it was closed. That is when we were told that the County water system was being worked on and all facilities were closed for the day.

We learned of a gas station about one mile away on Hwy. 107. As we prepared to head for the gas station, black clouds appeared nearby and loud thunder interrupted our conversation. It was agreed by all that we would find the gas station then continue through Silva and Dillsboro, NC and take Hwy. 64 back through Franklin, NC to return home. This was in lieu of going by way of Ellijay Road, our intended scenic return route. Following our visit to the gas station, we decided to put on our rain jackets and prepare for riding in the rain. No sooner then 2 minutes from the gas station and we were riding in a light rain. This let up as we rode through Silva and Dillsboro and headed south on Hwy. 64. Before reaching Franklin we were riding in heavy rain. All the way home, we were in and out of rain, some it a downpour, but never so much as to require putting on our rain suit trousers. Everyone made it home safely and declared it another fun day in the saddle.