

Happy Holidays



Made on a Mac

Season's Greetings

It's Tweety again, to bring a little formation to this year's events. The good news is that we won our race at Sun-N-Fun, but didn't do as well at OshKosh. I missed Rob's Colorado ski trip. Just as well, I don't shush down mountains very gracefully. We visited Rob's mother in SC. It's always nice to warm my old bones!

Despite all of Ann's travels this year, she managed to get some house projects done. The screened porch got new paint, carpet and furniture! The garage-oh boy! Ann went to Sherwin Williams in search of their most "obnoxious" color. Turns out its called Electric Lime! Rob calls it "vibrant." I think that's paint speak for, "what the hell were you thinking!" After 6.5 years, the landscaping FINALLY started! I'm happy to report it went off without the usual project drama. It even survived the F1 tornado that came through in July; sadly some of the trees weren't so lucky.

Ann got a new Honda CTX700ND, prompting a summer full of excursions. Planning and executing the motorcycle trips didn't escape Rob's rule of over thinking things. He wanted to build up his butt callouses, so he took a solo day trip to PA. Still working on those callouses, Rob asked Ann to go on the next trip to PA. It was not her idea of fun watching the carp fight for food in Pymatuning Lake. Rob felt it was time to try an overnight trip to WV. Who knew they would become an "item" in a scavenger hunt. The mission was to get a picture of someone on a motorcycle, check that one off their list.

Rob had been talking about the Tail of the Dragon for a while. Ann thought it sounded fun, but wasn't excited about riding that far. Hmm, how to get the bikes to NC? They could borrow a friend's truck or trailer them. You guessed it; over thinking ensued. Chalk lines were drawn on the driveway to determine if the truck bed was big enough, it wasn't. What about putting a deck in the truck so the bikes would fit? It would have been a very high center of gravity and how would they load the bikes? The list of ideas went on and on. Ultimately, the truck was ruled out. Next problem, neither car has a towing hitch. Two weeks and \$500 later, Ann's car was ready. Now, you didn't expect Rob to jump blindly did you? As neither of them had any towing experience, what better way to practice then a day trip to New Philadelphia, OH. Keep in mind that a local road to the highway was being resurfaced; wreaking havoc with Rob's route plans. Finally, confident in his route choice, they hit the road. Not a mile from the house they encountered several cars parked in the street and a little further they were diverted around cones for freshly painted street arrows. They finally got to the highway and arrived in New Philadelphia unscathed. They thought it would be better once they got on the bikes, not so much. The middle of the road seemed a strange place for the farmer's dog to take a nap; but after the tractor-trailer that had been partially in their lane, the sleeping dog seemed like nothing.

Now it was time to head to NC and take on the Tail of the Dragon. I must admit that 318 curves in 11 miles seems excessive; but Rob described it as the "caviar" of motorcycle riding. They encountered elevation and temperature changes and a gang of elk taking an afternoon nap on the side of the road. They stayed with Rob's aunt and uncle while there and visited the Biltmore Estate; so it wasn't all about the motorcycles, but mostly!

Unfortunately, it wasn't all fun and games this year. Rob had a broken tooth extracted and briefly considered buying stock in Extra Strength Tylenol.

We hope this finds you healthy, happy and looking forward to 2014!

