

STR 2008
By Roy Peche

We left for Honeymoon part 2 (otherwise known as STR'08) on Thursday evening around 7:00 p.m.

After seeing twelve a.m. twice (once Eastern and once Central) we decided that a straight drive to Boiling Green, Kentucky wasn't in the cards. Especially since Nancy couldn't sleep with worrying about whether I would fall to sleep and drive us off a mountain. We spent the night at a Holiday Inn in some town whose name starts with a "C".

After a hot breakfast at the Inn, we loaded up the bike and luggage. Off!!!! We were on our way to Boiling Green. We arrived at the Hampton Inn just in time to check in and head out for the Corvette factory tour.

The tour was supposed to start at 10 o'clock. There were so many tandemers, that our group started 45 minutes late. We saw how the Corvette was build and all the tests that they put it through before it left the plant. If anyone wants to buy one, you can go up and pick it up on the day after the tests. Nancy's really glad I'm a Ford man.

After a quick lunch at Arby's, we made it to Friday's remote start location with a few minutes to spare. I was much more frantic than Nancy was. I had to get the bike ready (put both wheels on and pump the tires up, since we took Nancy's car instead of my truck) and get myself ready as well.

On to the ride, Friday's ride was thirty-two miles of beautiful country and low traffic roads around Mammoth Cave National Park. We met and rode with some people that were riding at our speed. So we always had someone to talk to. To me, the most memorable part of the ride was the long slight uphill out of the park.

In our goodie bag, was a coupon for dinner at a local steakhouse. Whose name escapes me, but the location was great. It was right beside the Hampton. After steak and shrimp and many beers, it was back to the hotel for the **ICE CREAM SOCIAL!!!!** Although it wasn't ice cream exactly, it was three flavors of frozen custard.

So after socializing for a few hours, it was off to bed. So we could get ready for the big ride Saturday.

We got up at 6:00 a.m. for breakfast and coffee. Saturday's ride started at 8:00 a.m. from the Hampton Inn parking lot. The temperature was a nice sixty-five degrees with partly cloudy skies. The ride was fifty-five miles of rolling hills, light traffic and one really nice truck driver. Nancy and I were going up a long hill, when we heard a big truck gearing down behind us. He was nice enough to stay behind us until we made our left turn onto another road. One of our rest stops was at a Shaker Museum. That was very interesting, I learned a lot about the Shakers and their way of life. Later on to the lunch stop!

Lunch was a boxed affair of both ham or turkey sandwiches, chips and ice cream for dessert. After lunch, it was about fifteen miles back.

We rode the last three miles through neighborhood streets with lots of twists and turns. I thought it was fun, but I don't think Nancy thought so.

After a shower and a nap, we toured downtown Boiling Green before we headed to the convention center for STR '08 banquet. The food was a feast of roast beef or roast turkey plus plenty of veggies and fruit. After a couple of hours of food, drink and good company, we were on our way back to the Inn with a six pack. After a couple beers, it's beddy-bye time.

Sunday morning dawned cloudy and a mild sixty-three degrees. Today's ride was a thirty-five rolling miles. Once again good roads, rolling hills, and good friends to talk to. Too soon the ride and rally was over.

We went back to the Inn to pack and check out. The trip back was nearly as exciting as the rally itself. But that's another story!

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Posted on Nov. 19, 2008