Golden Eagles Motorcycle Club

November & December 2026 Newsletter

Members edition

GOLDEN EAGLES

WANTED

Grand Theft Pony





Last seen making off with the pink pony in broad daylight. The yellow pony saw the whole thing. The blue one refuses to talk. The sheriff suspects an inside job: not one hoofprint was found.

Rumor has it the pink-pony bandit had an accomplice. The sheriff has found no official evidence.

BOUNTY: ONE SILVER DOLLAR

Payable in imaginary coin for the best tall tale about the getaway. Bring your story to the next club meeting.

Year-End Mileage

Have you sent in your mileage? In his October message, the Prez asked members to report mileage for all their bikes through October 31. Send your figures to him by Monday, November 30, so he can include them in the totals and awards planned for the December 4 meeting.

Club Calendar

November

Sunday, November 22, 9:00 a.m. | Tropicana Craft Spirits

See the members' Meetup listing for the meeting location.

December

Friday, December 4 • Board Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Friday, December 4 • General Meeting and Pizza

8:00 p.m. The Prez plans to present the year's mileage totals and awards at this meeting.

All times are local. See the GEMC Meetup calendar for locations and updates.

October Ride Reports

Christian's Tellico Plains Trip October 2026

I started out Saturday morning around 6:30 October 3rd after the Meeting. The usual fastest way out of Florida. Going up the Veterans and then 19. After a short Breakfast at the HuddleHouse in Chiefland I continued on my route on 19 all the way to Camilla GA 'till I finally had to make a turn. My route took me onto 37 and 39 which lead me eventually into Alabama. The day was overcast, and the temperature was very comfortable. After a very nice ride and about 500miles I arrived at my destination for the day in Carrollton GA around 17:30. THE CROWN INN!!! I guess if choose a hotel for 60 bucks a night I can't complain too much, but a little. I had a no smoking room which was apparently all of the second floor is no smoking, because the first floor smelled like a "Hostel" in Amsterdam aand - Everybody seemed to have a dog and/or Kids to yell at.

So after not having such a great night I started out continuing on to Tellico Plains. I had breakfast at the closest WaffleHouse and went on to meet with Mike Matthews in Ellijay GA at a park. Even though there was a 90% chance of rain, 10% was good enough for Mike to go for a ride. I arrived at the park exactly at the same time as Mike and so did the rain. After a short break under cover we put on our rain gear and went on our way toward Tellico. While travelling on 76 it was raining so bad that you couldn't see the Semi that just passed. After about 3h of bad weather riding and replenishing some refreshments we arrived at my destination of John and Sheila Taylor's house. After Mike headed back home to Athens, John and Sheila took me out to a good Mexican Restaurant in Tellico Plains. On the way home John took the scenic route and I was glad we were in the car, because we saw a lot of deer!

Monday morning John and I started out to meet Mike at B&B Restaurant. Sheila called it a hole in the wall and she was right, just how we like it. I played the big shot this morning and picked up the big bill of thirty dollars for a breakfast for three😊. After that, Mike took us on a nice ride along Foothills Pkwy to Dandridge TN. We had a sprawl through the historic town and had lunch at Tinsley-Bible and Drug Store. We headed home toward Happy Valley Rd. While refilling in Tellico Plains we had a break behind the Gas Station to discuss the plan for the next day when Mike pointed out a Bear Mama with two cubs going between two buildings. I guess just another day in TN. After the excitement we all went back home for the night.

Tuesday morning I got up to meet Mike at his house to go 'off-roading on purpose" for my first time. It's about a one hour ride from John to Mike. I started out on Mike's Suzuki DR650 'till we hit gravel and I switched to his Yamaha 225 Moped which I definitely preferred.



We travelled on fire roads thru the woods which was a lot of fun. At some point we came up on a 90 degrees bend where I could already see a dog darting out of a property while Mike rode past. It is not that easy to outrun a dog on a dirt road if you are off-roading for the first time. After this excitement we continued on to meet up with John and Sheila on their SidebySide. As we started to follow John the roads got a little rougher, 'till we finally reached a mud hole. Mike was a little hesitant since he didn't really have the ride tires on his bike for mud, but finally we all rode thru, just to find out we would have a break on the other side before we went back the same way we came from😊. After a little bit more riding we ended up at the Taylor's place for a quick refreshment before Mike and I headed back to his house, so I could get my bike. Half way back, with about 70miles on the little moped my butt started to really be uncomfortable, and still 30miles to go☹. By the time we got to Mike's place I couldn't wait to get off that bike. With only about one hour of daylight left it was time for me to head back for the evening. I thanked Mike for a good ride, left his dirty bike in the driveway (Sorry), and got on mine. You REALLY appreciate a good seat so much more after a ride like that!

We started our Wednesday at B&B Restaurant again for breakfast before we headed out to Maggie Valley. Our route was Cherohala Skyway, and I was leading😊. After a nice ride up to one of the look-out points we had a short break and Mike and I swapped bikes so I could try out his new Yamaha Super Tenere. Pulling out of the rest stop I could already tell that there was a huge difference in power compared to my bike. We had the best weather I have ever experienced on the Skyway, it was warmer than when we are usually there in June. Besides some idiots pulled over on the side of the road to make pictures of their bikes or cars, we had a pretty good ride. I pulled into Joyce Kilmer Overlook for another break and to switch bikes. I asked everyone what they thought about the people pulled over on the side of the road and Mike and John said they called them names too while riding past them (At least we were all on the same page). We continued on to Maggie Valley, upon arrival there it was time to get something to eat so I pulled into Bearwaters Creekside Restaurant for dinner and then we finished that day's ride at the hotel. Mike and John found a nice park by the creek across the street. I decided I had to get some beer for the night, and ABC Liquors was only 0.2miles from the hotel. After a quick walk I found out "Again" that Liquor Store up there means just that, so I walked back to the hotel to get my bike and find a gas station. After I got what I was looking for, I joined John and Mike at the park.

The next morning we took it easy since the Wheels Through Time Museum wouldn't be open until ten o'clock. After about 3h we had to get John out of the museum to start our ride back to Tellico. We had a quick snack at Subway and then started out on the Blue Ridge Pkwy. As we came up on the first tunnel there was a box-truck blocking our lane which apparently couldn't fit. I guess there is a reason some vehicles are not allowed on the Blue Ridge. After we made it around this obstacle, we were behind some slow cars 'till they finally went into one of the lookouts on the left-hand side. On the other end there were three motorcycles lined up to pull out - the first one did, the second one decided not to and got rear ended. As we were passing we all could see them tip over to the right in slow motion. We continued on our way. By the time we got to 441 we experienced a lot of traffic, I guess people arriving for the leaf change, but it got a lot better on the Foothills Pkwy. After we got back to Tellico, John and I got some delicious burgers at Tellico Beach Drive-In. When we got back to John's house I checked the weather again - I decided I had to cut this trip a day short since the forecast for Saturday was 100% chance of rain starting at 4am.

I got up early Friday morning and at 7:30am it was light enough to hit the road. It was overcast and the temperature was comfortable. I had about 7h of relaxed riding on the saddle when it started to sprinkle. After crossing from GA into Fl it was pouring again, but I only had to make it to Cross City since I was spending the rest of the weekend with some friends there. I arrived around 18:30 at my destination. I would wait until Sunday to ride the rest of the way home since the weather wasn't very good on Saturday either.

I had an AWESOME time again in the Smoky Mountains - Good riding with great friends, it doesn't get any better!



I hope next time YOU can come along with me!!

Thank you for reading,

Christian

THE OLD MAN'S RIDE

We got together and decided we needed to get out of the house on Thursday. By "we" I mean Grant, Charlie, Tom and myself. We meetup at the gas station on Hwy 50 just east of the Sun Coast Parkway. We take turns planning a ride to lunch and get back home late afternoon. This week Charlie planed the ride to the Richloam General Store and

lunch after the store visit. Now you have to understand, that to Charlie picking a location and leading the ride are two different things. This may be a Hile thing, I don't know, but anyway we had to convince Charlie that since he picked the location, he had to lead the ride, which he did most of the way. When we got to the store Charlie said he had completed his part and someone else would have to pick and lead the ride to lunch. Since Tom was out in California, doing who knows what, that left it to Grant or myself, remember that Hile thing I talked about. Since the Southern Harmony Cafe was just down the road and Charlie wanted to be home in time to watch the Rays play (the game had been moved from 6 to 1 because of possible rain). When we got to the café we found it was closed, possibly for good. Knowing how Charlie likes a brewery for lunch I start out for the Dade City Brewery, about half way there I remember I don't like their beer and do not care much for their food. I turn right and head for the newest Florida Cracker location outside of San Antonio. We had a great lunch and an adult beverage and we all made it home by the second inning. If you have nothing to do on a Thursday and would like to join us just let one of us know your going to be there, and I can only hope Tom will be home soon.

The Prez







New Members

Meet Rick Michaud



Hello, Golden Eagles!

At our last meeting, I was asked what brought me to the club. When my wife and I moved to Florida, we left our friends and riding buddies behind. We wanted to meet people we could ride with and get to know Florida together. The Golden Eagles felt like a good fit for us.

We’re looking forward to the rides and club events, but what also drew us in was the way you support charities and show up for community events. We respect that, and we’re eager to get to know you.

Thank you for voting me in. I really appreciate it!

Rick Michaud

Meet David



I’ve been riding for almost two years now, and my ride is a Heritage Softail. Every mile on it has taught me something: how to read the road, how to trust the machine under me, and how good it feels when the engine settles into a steady rumble and the world falls away.

But somewhere along the way, I realized the road is better when it’s shared. Riding is a solo act, but the best rides are the ones you take with others. That’s why I wanted to join the Golden Eagles Motorcycle Club. I’m not looking for just a patch. I’m looking for brothers to ride with, people who show up, who have your back, and who make a long stretch of highway feel like home.

I want to make new stories with this family of riders: the early morning meet-ups, the wrong turns that become the best part of the trip, the stops for food and laughs, and the quiet moments at sunset when everyone just looks at the road ahead. That’s the kind of life I want to be part of.

I’m grateful to be a Golden Eagle, ready to learn, ready to ride, and ready to earn my place. See you out on the road.

David

2026 Sea to Sea: Daytona Beach

Submitted by Gwen Klamer

Friday morning members gathered at the corner of 301 & 50 to begin the annual Sea-to-Sea trip. This year's destination same as last year, Daytona Beach. We were a group of 15 (Grant, Beth, Charlie, Terri, Eden, Tammy, Rob, Christine, Tom, Cathy, Trike Mike, Bruce, Mike M, Jay and me.) Our ride leader, Jay, led a quick and relaxing ride (until traffic interfered) to a lunch stop at "Castaways". Once again, Charlie's personality was remembered and the waitress presented him with a miniature beer mug before he could complain he needed a drink!

It was a bit confusing checking in and finding the rooms at Perry's Resort (thanks Charlie for getting our rooms), but enjoyable once we all were settled in. Rusty, Barb and John H had already arrived at the hotel. The location provided a fantastic view and short walk to the Atlantic Ocean. After a day's ride, members took the opportunity to enjoy the facility with Tiki Bar and indoor and outdoor pools. Rumor is a couple members opted for a nap! Group consensus was that it was a pizza night at the hotel. Our illustrious Treasurer, Eden, with assistance from Tammy, ordered and picked up the pizza, which we enjoyed in the pool area.

Saturday morning, after sampling the "free" assorted donuts, members headed in various directions. Tom led a ride through the country, where we met young David at a gas station. Lunch was at Three Bananas in Crescent City. A quaint location overlooking Crescent Lake. Great food and a great waitress "Anna Banana" made the lunch even more enjoyable.



Meeting at 301 & 50



Gas Stop



Charlie's "little" beer

Returning to the hotel, members met to enjoy some adult beverages while enjoying the ocean view. During the conversation it was discovered Jay's birthday was the 5th and Bruce's birthday the 8th. Rusty rose to the occasion, found his pitch, and sang Happy Birthday to Jay and Bruce. Three hearty souls, Trike Mike, Rob and Rusty, braved the waves and went for a dip in the Atlantic. We were keeping an eye on Rusty, when a wave crashed down on Mike and gave him a bit of a scare. The brave souls prevailed but looked extremely worn out!

Sunday morning, I awoke at 6:35 a.m. to the sound of a BMW pulling out of the parking lot. Quite a bit earlier than I had planned, but Grant did say he needed to pick up the dogs before noon, so I guess he was making sure he made it on time! The group broke up into various groups, some heading straight home, others heading for Destination Daytona. Tom, Cathy, Eden, Tammy, Jay and I chose to stop for breakfast in Deland and then make our way home. The weather was spectacular, best I can ever remember for a Sea-to-Sea trip. Hopefully you will be able to join us next year!



Rusty breaks out in song



The "boys" take a dip



Tom & Cathy take one last look!

Safety Corner: The Ride Home After Dark

A lunch ride can end on a dark road this time of year. On the way home, ease off the throttle so you can stop within the stretch of pavement your headlight shows you. A curve you know by heart can still hide a fallen branch.

Give the rider ahead more room as daylight fades. When the bike ahead passes a sign, count at least three seconds before you reach it; leave more space if visibility gets worse. Wear something reflective so drivers can pick you out among the taillights.

California DMV, Motorcycle Handbook: Riding at Night

From the Editor

Thank you to everyone who led a ride, brought up the rear, or sent in a story this year. Have a favorite moment from another fall ride? We'd love to include it in the next newsletter.

Newsletter editor: Rob Schmitt