

TRAVELS WITH DAFFODIL

Helen Beer tells how she enjoyed her prize from ROADTRIP-USA



Whiskeytown beach

MARCH 2003 A very lucky person won a holiday for two for a fortnights motorcycling in the USA. Sadly he was unable to spend his prize and it was auctioned for Comic Relief at The BMW Club National AGM where we were the lucky successful bidders. At this point I would strongly recommend that the original winner and our opponents in the bidding (whoever you were, hiding at the far end of the room) skip to the next article! For the rest I have tried to make this article both informative (with enough detail for you to follow our route on a map if you so choose) and enjoyable, and if it aids your insomnia then it has been worthwhile too.

We left Heathrow on Sat 27th Sept and after a plane swap at San Francisco (where we had time for a taxi ride around the city to view the Golden Gate Bridge and Lombards movie's famous twisty and steep roads) we landed in Bend, Oregon. We were swiftly transferred to the Phoenix Inn Suites, the start and finish point for our adventure.

Scotty from Roadtrip arrived Sunday morning with Daffodil (well, what else do you call a bike that colour?) an 11-month old R1150R complete with panniers, tank bag, top box, rack and new tyres. Over a very excitable and sociable coffee we went through our route: this was highlighted on various maps, with hotel details with directions were also provided. A star system was evident: no stars meant get up early, one star get up very early and two equated to well before sunrise. The plan had come together by us putting a 'request' list to Scotty of places we would like to see. He then put it all in order, adding his knowledge and Las Vegas to come up with an itinerary that would take us 4275 miles, through 6 states in 13 days. Along with the bike we were also given spare oil, an adjustable spanner, puncture kit, pressure gauge and pump. Scotty also gave us practical advice that included keeping her filled up, no riding after sundown, keeping an eye out for 'critters', checking the weather station and a list of emergency telephone numbers with a phone card. There had been

some unseasonable weather prior to our arrival and a flurry of snow had brought some early chaos.... but of course we are used to unseasonable weather in the UK!

WE WERE LED out of town by Scotty shouting 'You guys will love it' and, with me up front trying to get used to riding on the wrong side of the road: we were off. We were soon relaxed and enjoying the twisties of the Cascade Highway with lakes, trees, mountains and sunshine. Our first stop in Chemult was a real taste of American hospitality that was going to be the norm throughout the whole holiday. People were warm, welcoming, friendly and so helpful nothing was too much trouble and the iced cold water hit the table before we had chance to sit down. We were also keen to try the many and varied menu options: so many different ways to serve your eggs, tea, coffee, huge meat portions and the excellent variety of bagels and muffins. Next it was on to Crater Lake where we listened to an informative and enthusiastic ranger and purchased a season ticket for the National Parks. We

planned to visit several of the Parks and so this was the most swift and economical way to do so. Our day ended at the Edgewater Inn at Shady Cove, where we enjoyed the cool pool, hot spa and sunset over the Rogue River. The run was only 234 miles, but a short day was in order due to the late start and concern for jet lag.

Our journey the next morning took us to Glendale - beautiful hills, undulating and twisty roads with chalet style houses, picket fences, flower tubs and autumn colours. Next came Winston and a break at Camas Valley, before heading to the Pacific Coast. Everyone along the way wished us well with instructions to enjoy our vacation; as if we needed telling!

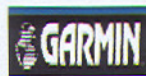
This was now mainly wooded landscape with logging a major industry. At Coquille we headed to Bandon and then Harris Beach for a paddle. As we travelled through the Redwood National Park we watched the sunset on the Californian Coast and after 407 miles rested at Arcata.

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