Tallahassee HD to Wiregrass Restaurant, Quitman, GA

Route Notes: June 10, 2017

Wiregrass Restaurant – Good food, nice staff, should have a table set up for the whole group.

**Remember, It’s NOT the destination, it’s the Journey**, so here it is:

Brief jaunt on I-10E to position us east of the city, Exit 209 B for US HWY 90 East. I’ll be using the far right lane and approximately 65 MPH. First traffic light turn left onto Crump Rd. From here on out for the rest of the day, there is no shoulder area along the road. When the pavement ends left and right, it’s grass or a ditch.

At first stop sign (first intersection) turn right onto Miccosukee. Miccosukee is a wonderful canopy road offering a welcome, cool respite from the omnipresent, and at times, intense sun. There is the secondary effect of the canopy and that is shade. Like me, most of you will be wearing sunglasses or a dark visor. That combined with the “welcome” shade results (possibly) in the road hazards being hidden or masked by the shade. Slower speed allows more of a reaction time when presented with those “last second” hazards.

On Miccosukee, the recent rains have washed dirt and gravel from the side roads onto Miccosukee. This will be true for multiple areas of Miccosukee and on multiple roads we will use during the ride.

There were multiple, small road kill on all roads yesterday, but notably at the north end of Miccosukee before approaching Moccasin Gap Rd. Turn right onto Moccasin Gap Rd, followed shortly (quarter mile or less) by a left turn onto Veterans Memorial Hwy.

In less than a mile (7 tenths, actually) turn right onto T S Green Rd which can be difficult to execute correctly as it is a 90-degree right turn followed immediately by a 45-degree left turn. T S Green quickly becomes Lake Road (name change only).

After approximately 5 miles from making that turn onto T S Green, turn right onto West Lake Rd. There is a yellow highway sign announcing the intersection, but it can come up quick. There is a slight uphill slope as you approach the intersection. This right turn CAN BE DANGEROUS. It is a turn onto a narrow one lane pavement, and historically it has that washed out sand / gravel in the apex of the turn. Slow speed required during the turn. Again, a reminder that there is NO shoulder. The edge of the road collects debris and there are damaged road areas on the edges. I will signal for single file for the entire ride on West Lake Road. One lane road but it is a two-way road. There is one 90-degree right turn that will sneak up on you. Be aware! Shadows mask road hazards here.

After touring the whole of West Lake Rd (approximately 9.5 miles), turn right onto Lake Road (yes, the same Lake Rd we just left) but only for a quarter mile. Left turn onto the beginning of the Boston Hwy. We will cross US Hwy 19. It’s busy, it’s 4 lane. Be careful, take your time and choose your entry carefully. We will wait for you on the other side.

The Boston Monticello Hwy is in good condition, but still no shoulder. Crossing into Brooks county, however, the road quality diminishes. I will call for single file here, also, as the edges have been patched but have poor surface quality. Single file is best here.

Shortly after crossing FL / GA border, turn right onto Mitchell Road. This turn is not obvious and easy to miss. Also, it is another 90-degree right turn followed immediately by a 45-degree left turn. Too much speed approaching this turn will result in a bad line for these turns. Slow is the key. This pavement is good quality.

This pavement becomes Grooverville Hwy and it, also, is of acceptable quality. We cross one set of RR Tracks on this road. They are bumpy but not terribly so. I WILL slow down to cross them.

Approaching Dixie Rd intersection, there is a 90-degree left turn with sand / gravel and debris accumulated in the turn.

Turn right onto Dixie Rd, and in 1.2 miles you will approach US Hwy 84. Turn right and proceed the 1.5 miles into Quitman and look for the Flash Foods market on the right. This will alert you to the appropriate right turn onto Washington St.

The restaurant is immediately on your right and parking is just beyond that. The entrance to the parking lot, which is small to begin with, is rather bumpy. Be careful. There is a second right turn to another parking area just beyond the first entrance.

There is only one bathroom and it is a shared (not gender specific) bathroom. Choose your time to use the facility wisely.

To recap, I want to emphasize the hazards to be on the lookout for during the entire route: no shoulder after leaving I-10 and US 90, rain washout (sand/gravel) on road edges, debris and/or roadkill, road edges have poor conditions on some roads, livestock, wildlife, and possible feces from either. Finally, canopy shadows will hide all of this from us. Ride smart and this will be a fun ride. Just be mindful of the concerns listed here. Enjoy!