

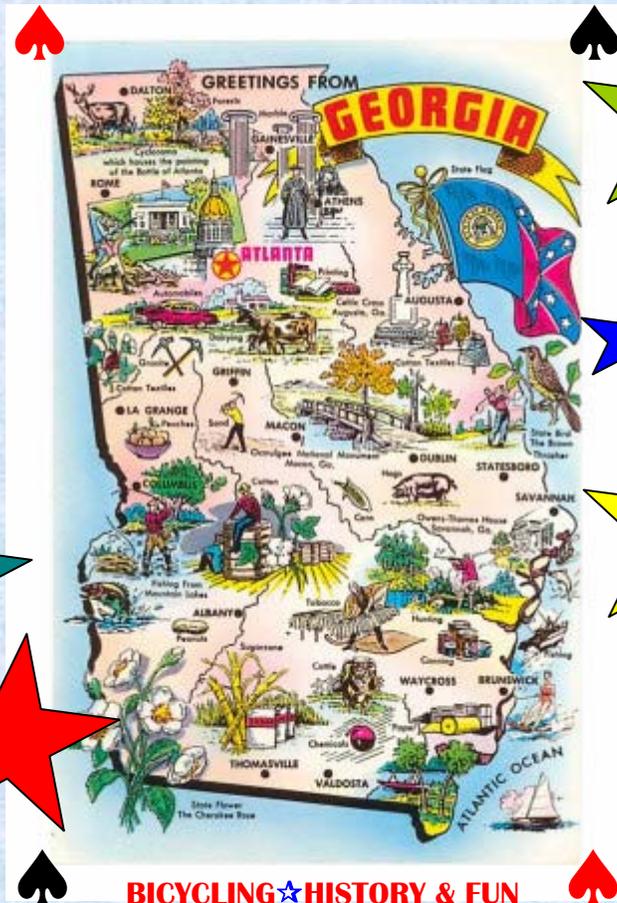
Spring Classic
May 10-20 + 2009



Souvenir
Recession Edition



GEORGIA ODYSSEY REDUX 2009



BICYCLING ☆ HISTORY & FUN



SWAMP to the SEA... again



BeaverMan Adventure
XVII



GEORGIA ROCKS!



We're talking about the State of Georgia and not that small country recently in the news.

To get you up to speed, here's a little information on the place....

As a member of the original 13 colonies, Georgia offers the history traveler some amazing opportunities to learn first hand about America's beginning. With a coastline that's the most undeveloped on the eastern seaboard, you'll be able to experience plantations, forts and islands much as they were when originally settled. Included in your journey is a visit to a unique natural treasure... the Okefenokee Swamp. At over 600 square miles in size, the "great swamp" should provide ample opportunity for you to get close & personal with its most famous resident, HRH (caution, it's mating season) Alligator mississippiensis. When you arrive, take a tour, hunt some 'gator (it really does taste like chicken) and dodge the insects that call this place home.

Your route north is planned to be an easy rider. Not only is the terrain flat, the roads, according to a recent AAA survey, are the best in the

nation. This journey through time follows the road less traveled: Georgia's famed Colonial Coast (Highway 17), from Brunswick to historic Savannah. In Savannah, Georgia's First City, you'll take a day off the bike to experience this beautiful city like a conventional tourist. There's much to see and do. So, start planning now. Your visit to this great state is guaranteed to give you miles of smiles.

HISTORY

Most are familiar with Georgia's discovery by the Spanish and its founding as a British colony by James Oglethorpe in 1733. What you may have missed in your quick read of history is Oglethorpe's vision of the ideal colony; one without slaves, hard liquor, and my personal favorite — no lawyers. While this utopia never came to fruition, it's still a terrific place to ride a bike, eat some excellent seafood and visit a remarkable primeval swamp.

Another little known fact is that Brunswick stew was invented in Brunswick, GA.



STATE DATA

Sobriquet: Peach State



Beverage: Cold Beer

Flower: Cherokee Rose

Bird: Bed Thrasher

Citizens: Crackers

Motto: Wisdom, Justice
& Moderation

Coif: Neo-Mullet

Song: *Georgia on My
Mind* 🎵

GEOGRAPHY



This is where I give you a short lesson on the state's geography. It's really not necessary. While the State of Georgia is a very diverse place, the coast is f-l-a-t. Yes, there are a few bridges and causeways to challenge your loins. But the fact remains... the steepest climb you'll likely encounter along Georgia's coast is the curb.

You'll enjoy your visit to the state's famous barrier islands, standing guard over Georgia's semi-tropical coast and swamp wilderness along the Florida border.

DONTLEAVEHOMEWITHOUTIT

That's industrial strength insect repellent with lots of DEET or kryptonite in it.

It bears repeating, so I will: Where there's water and humidity, there are bugs. Lots of **Big**, hungry bugs. You can take a passive approach and see what happens. This is a bad strategy. These flying carnivores will have you for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Take aggressive action and protect your comfort and health. Keep these guys away and live to ride another day. Dengue Fever, West Nile Virus and Malaria are no joking matter. Smear on lots of your industrial grade insect protection and thrive.



WEATHER

Like most southern states, Georgia in May expresses itself with heat & humidity. Both should be in full force when you arrive.



Buck up! Mama says sweat washes off. Along with the triple digit humidity, expect some brief, but intense, thunderstorms. Keep hydrated and protect yourself from lightning.

Important... You are required to take your cell phone. If you get lost or someone is injured, your phone could make a life saving difference.



ODYSSEY HIGHLIGHTS...

- ♣ *Cycle through one of America's most historic & beautiful areas*
- ♣ *Eat the world's best shrimp*
- ♣ *Earn your Georgia citizenship*
- ♣ *Stay at a funky hotel, plush B&B's and a swamp motel*
- ♣ *Learn a little more about real American history*
- ♣ *Tour beautiful & historic Savannah*

BROOMWAGON

Your support vehicle is a minivan from:



National has very competitive prices and their vehicle fits our needs. Insurance coverage should be provided through your personal auto policy. If you have any questions about coverage while driving the rental van, check with your agent or insurance carrier before leaving.

YES! SIZE MATTERS

The 7-passenger minivan has limited space, so please pack compactly. Your Georgia Odyssey is casual. The recommended equipage for your adventure should include 3 sets of riding outfits, and whatever else will fit in a small piece of luggage. To save room, pack tight & travel light. If it doesn't qualify as airline carry on baggage, it's not going to fit in the miniVan and you're going to pay a hefty baggage fee.

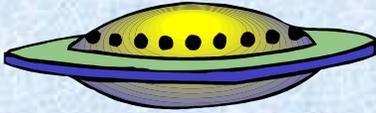


In the Georgia heat & humidity, your cycling clothes can quickly become a biohazard. Participate in the "kitty sponsored" laundry day or risk being ostracized by your traveling buds. Being designated persona non grata by the local health authorities can be a handle that's hard to live down.

EMERGENCY PAPERWORK

It still holds true... the job's not finished until the paperwork's done. While you won't need a passport to visit, you are required to complete both the Emergency Form and Liability Waiver before our "Grand De'part."





AIR TRAVEL

Unfortunately, air travel continues to be one of life's major hassles. There's not much that can be done to make your airport visit a happy one. Try wearing as few clothes as possible and try getting a close shave (your face) before going to the airport.

Got security questions?
Call the President.

To avoid the life threatening affects of budget travel,

and to make the long flight as comfortable as possible, I suggest that you reserve an aisle seat. **REMEMBER:** Sitting on a long flight can cause blood clots to form in your legs. Don't become a victim. Get out of your seat and walk around. Your life may depend on it.

Got questions? See your physician.

NOTE !!! Delta Airlines continues to struggle. On many flights, meals (such as they were) have been eliminated. To make sure that you arrive properly nourished, take a snack.

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

If, for some reason, you are unable to complete the trip, Delta Airlines, for a fee, will change your reservation to a flight leaving at a future date.

There are no refunds on tickets.

Prepaid room reservations are also not refundable. If either you, or the group, are able to find a suitable replacement traveler, it may be possible to get a refund on some of your prepaid expenses.

PRECIPITATION

A day without rain in this part of the country is considered a draught. Expect it and plan for it. When the temps hit triple digits, pray for it.

SHIPPING YOUR BIKE

Ship your bicycle via **FedEx** ground on Friday, May 1 to the



Your bike is your vacation. Track it to its destination. Since bad things do happen to good people, be sure to buy the insurance offered at **FedEx**.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Once again, overnight accommodations provide that special combination of value, comfort and uniqueness. Your lodging for this adventure includes a rustic hotel, historic B&B's and a cozy motel in the swamp. All provide indoor plumbing and air conditioning. And, as in years past, you'll stay in the same place the first and last night of the trip. This allows you to save your bicycle box to safely return your bike home.

THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES...

GASTRONOMES

The best way to get to know this region of the country is by enjoying the food the natives eat. Let me begin by stating the obvious:

This is not FRANCE.

Like most of the south, BBQ is the religion and beer is a sacrament. In Georgia, the 'Q is made from pork & the beer is served ice cold in either a can or bottle.

Swamp food is meant to satisfy your inner carnivore. Specialty items include 'gator, beaver & rattlesnake. And yes it's true, they do taste a lot like chicken.

On the coast, seafood is king. Georgia's shrimp is reported to be the world's best. They're served everywhere and

prepared in many ways. I think the're best, deep fried.

Georgia's official state beverage is sweet tea. For the post-pubescent male Cracker, it's beer. There is only 1 thing a Cracker loves more than beer, and that's naked women.

For a real local treat (really, what could possibly be better than naked women & beer) try the stew in Brunswick, its place of birth.

Most hotels and B&B's provide breakfast. Expect these meals to be hearty and include many of the region's most tasty ingredients. One thing that's certain, you'll be treated to some great food before you hit the road.



Ricardo's Law of the Swamp: "It's every man for himself.
If you get snake bit... you are going to die."

SUNDAY & MONDAY

MAY 10-11

TRAVEL DAYS

LAX → ST. MARYS, GEORGIA

RIDE PROFILE

Travel Day
2086 Miles
Buckle Up!

Meet the group at LAX at 8:45 pm. This should give you enough time to clear security, get dressed again and catch the 10:55 pm flight.

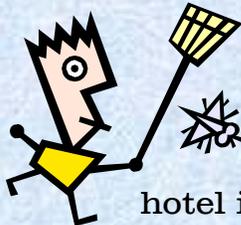
Remember: Your goal is to begin the adventure away from the airport. The strategy here is to catch the flight to JAX and avoid terminal related delays.

Have questions? Call Delta Airlines.

FINISH LINE

**Riverview Hotel
St. Marys, GA**

This funky, dwarf-sized establishment has been a legend in St. Marys since 1916. "Best hotel in town. Only hotel around." All 18 guestrooms feature air conditioning, private baths, TV (one even works), fly swatter, and a deluxe continental breakfast. The hotel recently underwent a major remodel. It's going to be interesting to see what kind of changes were made on their \$3 budget. Want more info, try checking www.eagnet.com/riverview.



FEED ZONE

Seagle's Saloon, the hotel's restaurant, is recommended.

PROLOGUE

St. Marys is the gateway to Cumberland Island & is said to be the second oldest town in the USA. With tree-lined streets and an interesting waterfront, this historic coastal village is considered to be one of Georgia's best-kept secrets. Assemble your bike and get in a test ride, then explore the town's U-boat museum. You'll have time today. Dusk comes late. The sun sets after eight.

*I'VE BEEN RIDING A BICYCLE FOR OVER 55 YEARS WITHOUT TAKING ANY BANNED DRUGS. I FEEL ASHAMED OF MYSELF.
RICARDO SHEFF DS*

TUESDAY

MAY 12

STAGE 1 

ST. MARYS TO FOLKSTON

RIDE PROFILE

52 Miles
Swamp Prairie
Very Flat



The odyssey begins. Cool is the rule. Today's ride is a nature lover's delight. You'll see 'gators, eagle, beaver and lots of snakes. And let's not forget the plethora of flesh eating,



blood-sucking insects that are everywhere. To them, you are "the other white meat and you taste like chicken."

You'll chase the sun and go west. Destination Folkston: Gateway to the Okefenokee Swamp and home to all of Pogo's friends.

To avoid even the remotest possibility of traffic, you'll be quickly routed off Hwy 40. The terrain today is mostly swamp prairie or ground which is barely on this side of dry. Lunch is available in Folkston at, what else, the Okefenokee Café.

When you arrive at the entrance to the Wildlife Refuge, take the Swamp Island bicycle tour. This 4.5-mile loop snakes through the land the Indians called "trembling earth." The experience should bring back memories of home.

FINISH LINE

**Western Motel
Folkston**

FEED ZONE

Your host for this evening is Raj from Mumbai. Your air conditioned luxury cell is located adjacent to the road that leads to the Suwannee Canal Recreation Area.

The **Folkston Family Cafe** is conveniently located across the street from your motel. Their menu features just about everything found dead that the locals will pay to eat.

FOLKSTON TO BRUNSWICK

RIDE PROFILE 54 Miles
 Swamp
 Very Flat

Your return to the Georgia coast includes travel through Burnt Fort, Tarboro & White Oak. Each year, thousands of style conscious men, just like you, make the Hajj to these towns to get their hair cut in



the region's most famous style, the inimitable *Mullet*. If you have the time and \$2, buy a Mullet. It will change your life.

For shrimp lovers, destination Brunswick will be like a Cracker experiencing the rapture. Proclaimed by locals as the shrimp capital of the world and hometown of Brunswick's world famous stew, there is no better place for a hungry cyclist to stop and get something delicious to eat.

And for the Renaissance man, our expert on these things (that's me), will lead you on a special tour through the Mary Miller Doll Museum. Early reservations suggested.

FINISH LINE

**WatersHill Bed & Breakfast
 Brunswick**

Tonight's lodging is located in the heart of Brunswick's Old Town National Register District. The neighborhood homes reflect architectural styles that include everything from Eastlake to Queen Anne. If you go on the walking tour, remember to take your camera. Jack Waters is your host. He's reserved the Mamie Ola Room for the Mirror Man. Dick, this is not

a family vacation. Check out your room @ www.watershill.com .

FEED ZONE

Dixie Dining (Put Some South In Your Mouth) recommends **Willie's Wee-Nee Wagon** (really). "Jack H₂O" is partial to the **Crab Trap** on St. Simons Island. I ♥ **Sonny's BBQ**. For about \$7.95, you get all the meat you can eat. For my money, Sonny's is hard to beat.

We sleep in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm.

George Orwell

*

BRUNSWICK TO DARIEN

RIDE PROFILE 55 miles
Flat

"For a change of pace & a change of place," point your bike north and follow Georgia's Colonial Coast to the quaint Village of Darien. Scottish Highlanders originally settled this area. Nearby attractions include the Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation and Fort King George. Plan for a short stop at each. The plantation illustrates how rice was grown before the Civil War. Be sure to take a tour of the home which is furnished with period items.

Ft. King George, one of the oldest European forts in the USA, is a short bicycle ride away. Darien loves cyclists. The city fathers built a tree-lined bike path to the Fort just for you. How about that for Southern hospitality!



You'll eat lunch then complete the DART portion of today's ride via the Darien Scenic Byway.

Remember, seafood is still king and GA wild shrimp are the thing.

FEED ZONE

Archie's Restaurant has been a Southeast Georgia tradition for over 60 years. I remember eating here when I was 2 years old. **Skippers Fish Camp** is steps away from & convenient to the Sail Fish Inn. It's the best place locally for seafood. Meet Jimmy & Ken virtually, 2 of the idiots that own the place, at www.skippersfishcamp.com.

FINISH LINE

**Sail Fish Inn "non-traditional" B&B
Darien**

Scottie is your host. The B&B is casual to the extreme, has no pool, but there is a view of the water. A light continental breakfast is provided. Behave yourself. You're booked to return here on Sunday. You can access their website at www.sailfishinn.biz.

*

FRIDAY & SATURDAY MAY 15-16 STAGE 4  & REST DAY

DARIEN TO SAVANNAH

RIDE PROFILE 51 Miles
Flat

Follow Wayne to Savannah, home of Georgia's soul. Once you approach the city limits, the roads begin to get congested. Exercise caution when riding in town. Like most places you'll visit, the roads have no bicycle lanes and the locals aren't familiar with people dressed like you. Celebrate your safe arrival by taking a day off the bike. There's so much to see, you'll appreciate the additional time.

With 21 of Oglethorpe's parks remaining, Savannah is beautifully set up for walking. Weather permitting, take a stroll through town and actually touch some history. Don't want to walk, consider taking one of the local transit system's buses. These babies are cheap, air conditioned, slow enough to give you a good look at the sites and include a return to your departure point.

FINISH LINE

**Oglethorpe Inn & Suites
SAVANNAH**

Your home for the next 2 nights is a very nice hotel that's close to Savannah's historic district. A deluxe continental breakfast is provided.

FEED ZONE

The Crab Shack is the place "where the elite eat in their bare feet." Get ready to catch crabs and do the limbo. You'll love the food, Jimmy Buffet's music and their unique Tybee Island location. www.thecrabshack.com

Pirates House With a tradition of hospitality

dating back to 1753, this place did, indeed, cater to seamen early on. These days, it's got a more sedate clientele, and they're more inclined to gluttony than marauding.

Geneva Geneva's Home Plate
2812 Bee Rd. 912-356-9976
is a local favorite and award winner.

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SUNDAY

MAY 17

STAGE 5 

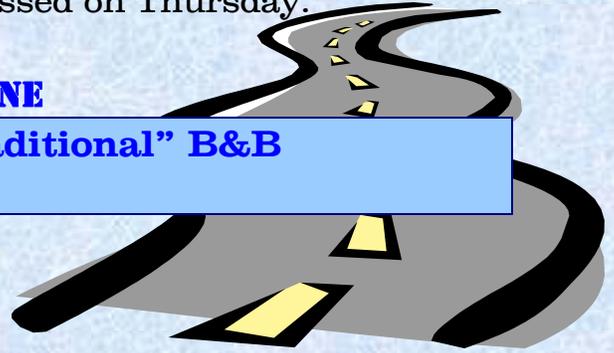
SAVANNAH TO DARIEN

RIDE PROFILE 61 Miles
Flat

Remember what you did on Friday? Just do the reverse and include scenic Route 99 and you should end up back in Darien. That's where you're going today. Get back on Route 17 and head south. When you arrive in Darien: **STOP**. There should be plenty of time left to see those things you missed on Thursday.

FINISH LINE

Sail Fish Inn "non-traditional" B&B
Darien



MONDAY

MAY 18

STAGE 6 

DARIEN TO BRUNSWICK

RIDE PROFILE 46 miles
Flat

It's going to be another beautiful day of riding. Today's cruise includes a return to Brunswick with a tour of Ft. Frederica on St. Simons Island. To reach the island, you will cross the famous *Marshes of Glynn* & ascend Mt. Torras, the

highest point on Georgia's coast. Your reward for completing this killer 3.2-mile, 7% grade is a fantastic view and white-knuckle descent to St. Simons Island. Actually, it's only the Torras Causeway and the climb requires no more effort than crossing a local freeway.

FINISH LINE

WatersHill Bed & Breakfast
Brunswick

TUESDAY

MAY 19

STAGE 7 

BRUNSWICK TO ST. MARYS

RIDE PROFILE 47 miles
Flat

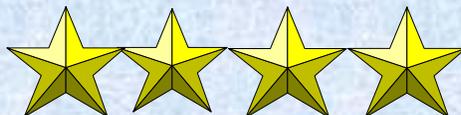
We're going to wrap it up today. The ride goes country and heads inland. You'll visit the rural towns of Waverly, Woodbine and Seals before returning to St. Marys.



When you arrive in St. Marys, get your equipment ready to ship home. To avoid delays, we'll van the bikes to a local FedEx shipping center.

If time permits, check out some of the places that you may have missed earlier. The U-Boat museum and harbor are both good bets for exploration.

**Congratulations on successfully completing another
4 Star Adventure.**

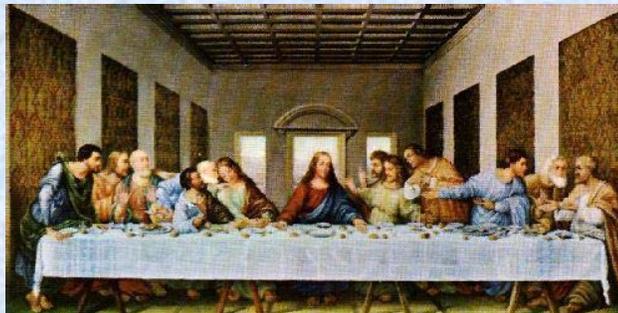


FINISH LINE

**Riverview Hotel
St. Marys**

THE LAST SUPPER

For dinner, try Pauly's Cafe or Lang's Marina Restaurant. Both are very good and within walking distance of the hotel.



A GOOD FRIEND IS LIKE A MASTERPIECE ... PRICELESS.
ANON.

*

WEDNESDAY

MAY 20

TRAVEL DAY

JAX → LAX

RIDE PROFILE Travel Day
2086 Miles
Buckle Up!
Flat to rolling

Anyone can take a vacation. It takes someone special to willingly participate in an adventure. Now that the adventure is over, it's time to head home. Enjoy another great local breakfast, pack up your remaining gear and be ready to roll about 7:30 am. Delta departure is 10:50 am. This should allow for driving time, a stop for a snack, vehicle return and security clearance.

Many thanks to this year's traveling experts. Without their forgiving nature & fun-loving attitude, this tour could not take place.

Richard Sheff	Directeur Sportif & Team Founder
Wayne Broadhag	Domestique & Route Scout
Dick Bird	Domestique & Tour Safety Chair
Ken Clasen	Domestique & Team Pilot
Scott Oberle	Domestique & Tour Digitizer
Dennis Miller	Stagiaire... Launder-maven & Team Poseur

► **UBIQUITOUS CAVEAT**

This is a work of fact & fiction. Many of the names, places & incidents used here may have been fabricated. The SWAG* method of research has been adopted & used with enthusiasm by the author. Any resemblance to actual people, living or dead, places or locales in this publication is probably coincidental.

Richard S. Sheff
Directeur Sportif

*SWAG or scientific wild-ass guess.

Finis