

South Carolina

DAY Ninety-Nine Shallotte NC to Conway SC ~88 km
Nov 16 Friday D88 km M 33.5 A16.6 Th total 7865.13 km



Wind lots of it from the front.... west wind
Temp 0C first thing.... Up to 15C for part of day... rapid drop by 1700h At least it was sunny all day!

Road Condition very busy traffic with little to no shoulder

Food: Breakfast waffles at the Comfort Inn
Then a egg sandwich for Ken at Calabash

Lunch picnic at Wampee IGA

Supper finally a veggie chicken burger.... Oh well I admit we had to make it ourselves.... They aren't in cafés

Accommodation Plans changed.... Big Cypress Lk RV and CG didn't make the grade at \$35 in Nov... so the Conway Motor Inn at \$56 was the winner. Very nice with micro and fridge. She said they get a lot of cyclists

As you can see when we crossed the state line it wasn't all that warm out with my coat on still.

Overall Another great day. Started out cool with warm gloves on and 3 layers of fleece. Not too bad by 10am but never warm enough to be without my blue jacket. Crossed over into South Carolina. Seems to be continuous housing developments all along this route... 2 and 3 acre sites with big homes on golf courses with fishing ponds or hunting clubs. The two don't seem to go together... golfing and hunting? Anyways I think they are being filled with retirees. So far not real impressed with South Carolina drivers. My odometer acted up so no exact km distance... see if can fix it.



I think I forgot to note that the ferry yesterday was \$2 each cyclist for a 40 minute ride.... So why can't BC ferries do that!

The area we passed thru was very treed on the flattest land I have ever seen. [even the prairies]

Randy and Lorna and boys could move here and run this campsite... needs some TLC... we had planned to stay here but plans change. Was on a nice little lake.



We have seen other Blue Star Highways in other states. They really support their troops more than we do. There are lots of palm trees down this way, but none of them seem to be in very good shape.



Carolina Fence Garden



WELCOME TO A CAROLINA FENCE™ GARDEN

What is a Carolina Fence™ Garden ?

This beautiful garden is intended to serve as both a wildlife habitat and an educational showcase of indigenous plants and wildlife as well as cultural and historical symbolism. Native plants are selected with care to provide food sources and shelter to birds, butterflies and other wildlife; water, cover, and nesting sites are also included. South Carolina currently boasts more certified Backyard Wildlife Habitats than any other state; Carolina Fence™ Gardens are an extension of these habitats enjoyed by homeowners, businesses and schools across South Carolina. In 2002, Carolina Fence™ Gardens were installed at each Gateway Welcome Center entering South Carolina.

The Carolina Fence™ Garden concept was first developed by a group of creative volunteer environmentalists attempting to share information about South Carolina's natural and cultural history. Symbols of the state abound in this small space, including

- ◆ The split rail fence, reminiscent of fences used by early settlers to contain their livestock.
- ◆ A piece of blue granite, the state stone, provides a basking site for butterflies.
- ◆ A Carolina Wren house, mounted on the fence, provides a home for our state bird.
- ◆ Yellow Jessamine, (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) the state flower of South Carolina, winds across the fence; this vine, with its abundance of bright yellow flowers, and the many other flowering plants produce nectar which attracts the state butterfly, the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail.

The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc., the SC Department of Transportation, the SC Department of Natural Resources, and the SC Wildlife Federation partnered to install Carolina Fence™ Gardens at South Carolina Welcome Centers. More information can be found inside the Welcome Center.

DAY One Hundred Conway SC to Andrews 86 km
Nov 17 Saturday D86.1 km M A18.2 T4h43 total 7951.23km

Wind South wind at least it should bring in warmer weather so will take the head winds

Temp 0C first thing.... Once again sunny all day. Very warm 22C while having our picnic at the Methodist Church

Road Condition flat with no shoulders all day. Hwy 701 busy; 261 better 41 busy again

Food: Breakfast Conway Inn has coffee and juice so we added our usual apples/cheese/yogurt

Lunch picnic at Methodist Church around Yauhannah SC No restaurants, few gas stations

Supper Chicken burgers and KD First time this trip!

Accommodation Once again no camping in this area so as planned in the Colonial Motel in Andrews... we could have camped in any of the reforested areas, but it is hunting season and I don't think that would be a good idea. Nice, clean with microwave and fridge

Overall We set off after trying to fix my odometer.... I think it is a lost cause so will be asking Ken "are we there yet?" as we pedal along. This area reminds me of Washington state in some ways... they are into logging, clear cutting then replanting, but they replant with only pine trees no deciduous so no changes of the colors. We have been really enjoying the continuation of the trees changing leaf color as we head south... I didn't realize we would see so much down this far. At one spot we heard gun shots and road up to 2 guys in a truck... one in the bed of the truck... with a shot gun and the other just at the drivers door... I didn't feel really comfortable biking past as they just stared at us... I don't think it is legal to shot from the road is it?

Out of Conway to Bucksport was a lot of mobile homes on small acreages. The ditches are littered with garbage and it spreads into the trees. They don't have "ditches" as in a drop down so it is a smooth grass area beside the road with "crap" on it.... The gas stations and public areas have garbage all around too.... Garbage cans overflowing... I just don't get it. Stopped for "coffee" at Bucksport convenience store... kind of weird... not much on the shelves... they might shut down once winter sets in.... beach isn't far off....very "dark" area A term I'm not used to ... The women have such gorgeous hair... braides tight to the scalp going into a fluffy "top knot" Not well described and I haven't had the nerve to ask to take a picture of anyone yet.



We seem to be passing over a river or a swamp every few km... some are pretty some aren't



Continued on thru Yauhannah and Pleasant Hill and Rhems none of which is much of anything other than a service station with a few groceries. At Rhems they were having a Turkey Shoot once again up on platforms... we finally asked about how it works and a lady said they are not shooting Turkeys... they shoot at targets and the one with the best overall shot gets a Turkey for Thanksgiving. We heard the shooting and figured they would have so much buckshot in the turkeys they would break their teeth.... Good to know it isn't the way we pictured it. They have all kinds of other activities in the evening... local bands, pool tournaments etc....

Andrews is a “prairie” town waiting to be discovered. I don’t know what the employment is here other than small amount of farming.



This was an interesting garden... that is Sugar Cane in the background .



The trees are still really pretty as we head south.

**DAY One Hundred-One Andrews to Ridgeville 120.4 km [75 MILES]
Nov 18 Sunday D120.4 km M 36.3 A17.7 T6h49 total 8071.63km**

Wind No wind in the morning but a south wind by afternoon

Temp not so cold coming out of the motel... 10C and got up to 20C in pm

Road Condition very quiet traffic maybe as it was a Sunday... no shoulders though

Food: Breakfast our own breakfast in the motel

Lunch Appleby's restaurant... early supper with baked potato for me and soup / mac and cheese for Ken Ok

Supper Rice noodle soup with sands in the campsite

Accommodation Givhans Ferry State Park... very nice with power and water on all sites and hot hot showers \$13.51 [why it isn't an even number I'll never know] CG is surprisingly quite full... Thanksgiving week here [school out for 3 extra days this week]

Overall: We had some thoughts from the hotels here... in Britain they had a master switch in hotel rooms that you activated with your key card... here they don't even bother with power saving light bulbs!.. the fridges run all the time and they have micros in the rooms... why are we more affluent or more wasteful?

We left at 0700 first light as we had a long journey and not a lot of day light hours. I am still having trouble with dizzy and nausea since the ferry ride... my inner equilibrium must be off. Started the antibiotics from the dentist as that seemed to be the cause 3 months ago... Can't believe we have just over a week left of this great journey. I think for me it will be one of the best rides we have had. We really seem "together" on this one.

Talking... what is the difference between a croc and a gator? As we are going thru "swamp" lands we were just wondering if they come out of the water and get anyone?

23k Stopped in Jamestown pop 97 for Ken's morning coffee caffeine fix. The cashier was doing something with a lottery machine and it kept saying "Congratulations you're a winner!" This guy was so funny... he said how come it never says "Congratulations you're a loser" when you buy a losing ticket... has a point

Bethera has no services Trees trees and more trees this days route. Mostly "moble homes" fully with so much lumber Witherbee no services and the camp site we never saw any sign for and the rangers station was closed so good thing we were not headed to stay there. Dogs chasing us all day... I think I will learn how to wolf whistle so they will come along with us instead of chase us!

62k Moncks Corner... for early supper/ lunch. We can hear the hunting guns once again today. We should have bought groceries here as being Sunday the grocery in Ridgeville was closed. Saw a road cyclist who told us to be really careful as the drivers don't like cyclists here! Especially the logging trucks he said... will be careful!

Small farms with small fields of corn, beans or cotton... still haven't seen tobacco.... What is deer corn or Buck corn... will have to ask. Ken thinks it is the burning corn. They sell it in big bags at the service stations.

Givhans Ferry is up the road from the CG about ¼ m and has 2 convenience stores... no fruit, no yogurt, just junk food, pop, etc... "white" bread... we had enough in our emergency stash to make a meal.

Really nice to sit at the picnic table for supper on a warm moonlight evening like summer! Little coffee cup boiler handy to make the boiling water for our soup. Life is good

We saw a shirt that said... "Not all who wander are lost" I think we will look for some for our trip next spring [didn't have our sizes left]

Phoned Julie and Keith. Happy Birthday #23 Oh to be so young!



Can you believe it we cycled 75 MILES today and the only thing worthy of a photo was this neat gate going into a

DAY One Hundred-Two Ridgeville to South Point SC 81 km
Nov 19 Monday D81.1 km M 35 A18.8 T4h19 total 8152.73 km

Wind no wind

Temp rained overnight but very warm on rising... got up to +25C by time reached the KOA so sunbathed for an hour

Road Condition had a slight rise and fall.... We were 10meters above sea level, but down to below by the time in CG

Food: Breakfast no stores! Canned fruit cocktail !

Lunch stopped at ROADSIDE grocery... neat older guy said he was one of the first black policemen on the local force... retired and set up this grocery... Didn't have a great selection, but we sat on his rickety bench and made pb sands. There were a group of "good old boys" having a beer outside the back of the store and he must have been worried about the impression they would make on us as he got after them to be polite! And mind their language

Supper Well after no restaurants all day we went to a DENNY's and they had a Bocca burger! First one we have had on this trip that I didn't cook myself... even let us make it a mushroom swiss

Accommodation KOA... this is a funny spot A bunch of motels , 2 campgrounds [middle of no where] no grocery!

Overall : Ditches so full of garbage... tins, bags, bottles, paper, boxes, just all kinds of stuff. Went by a spot that had a fire go thru the brush, but didn't burn the trees totally. The bottles uncovered was incredible. I'm not sure if they pitch it out the window of the car or don't put their garbage out to the curb at home.

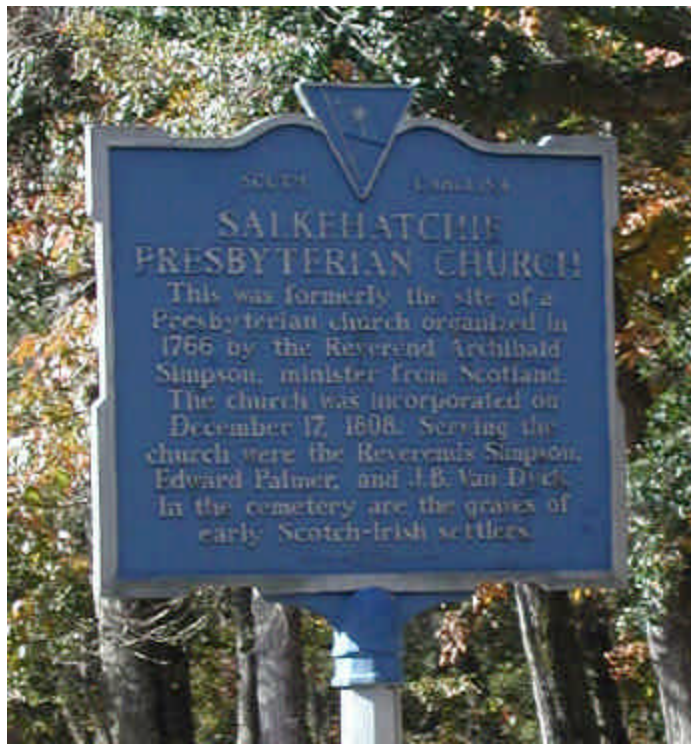
We sat listening to a group of Black men speaking and it was incredible to me they were speaking English. They had such thick accents and spoke so quickly I could barely follow the conversation. They were joking and laughing so that added to the confusion. We are really noting the southern accent now.



These loggers are going really really fast and carrying telephone pole size logs that are really long.

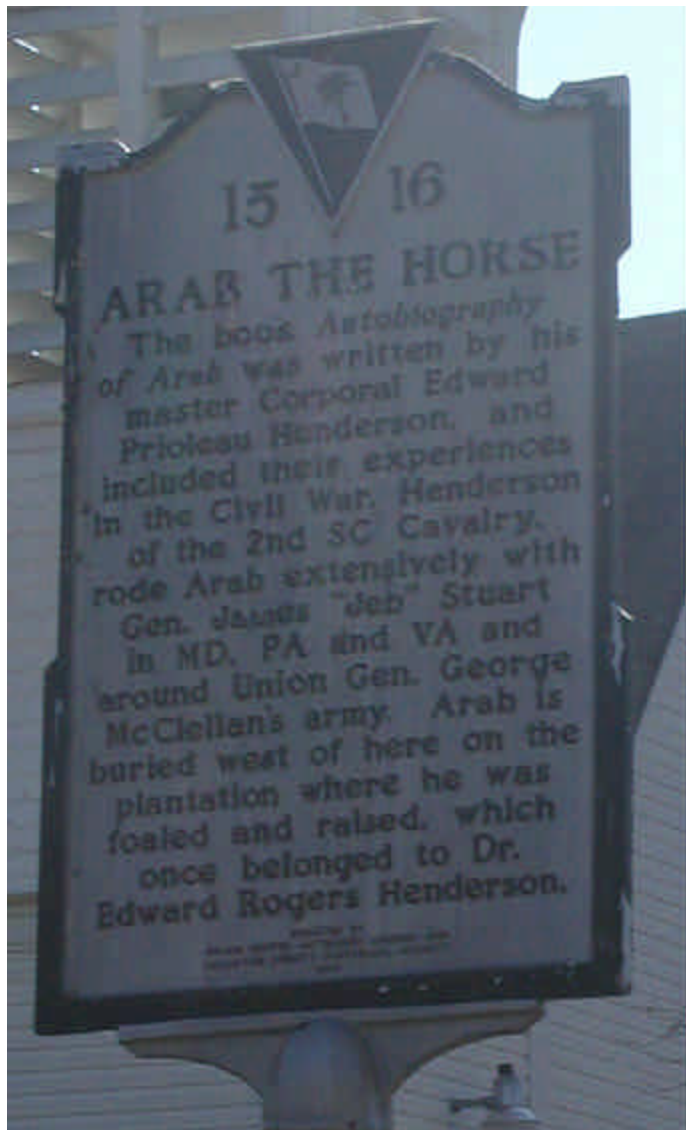


We were really happy to arrive early [1330] and sit in the hot tub and read a book in the sun!



Walterboro probably had a restaurant somewhere, but off the route as we didn't pass one. Thought there were 4 groceries on the map after there so didn't go to the IGA. Hendersonville grocery closed. Roadside open but not much other than beer and snacks. Next corner store closed. Yemassee says all services, but no grocery or restaurant on route. Point South has no grocery, just service stations with snacks, but a McD, Wendys, Waffle House [terrible] Denny's [good] and a pizza place in the KOA.

There are little grave yards in the weirdest places with one or two family names in them. This one dated back to 1766 and there was a large marker with the names of people thought to be buried there, but no markers for them.



There are these history markers about the civil war all over North and south Carolina.. this one I liked by this church.

DAY One Hundred-Three Point South SC 0 km
Nov 20 Tuesday REST DAY

Wind NONE of course and we are not riding

Temp warm overnight 20C

Road Condition walked and walked

Food: Breakfast bananas and bread ... slept in read and just was lazy

Lunch pb buns and then went to the worst Waffle House on earth! I think they were the freezer kind

Supper well haven't decided yet

Accommodation stayed at the KOA... there are a lot of motels but it's really nice out

Overall : we just walked around the little lake that has Alligators and turtles in it... saw a gator and turtle but they were camera shy. The leaves are turning here now too. There is a naval base close by so that is supposedly why there are so many motels.... Parents come to the graduations every week.

Very relaxing day... headed to the hot tub now.





Can you see the gator?



This is a Plantation home that has been restored and is basically open just to sell junk but the interesting thing was... the “moss” hanging from this 300 year old Oak tree does not kill it and is not a parasite and there is another plant that is also growing on the branches that she said when it rains it turns a bright green and is very pretty. I found this moss to be really ugly hanging from all the trees.



Don't look at how tired I look.... There are rocking chairs like these on almost all the houses porches we pass by. Usually painted to match the shutters.

DAY One Hundred-Three Point South SC to Statesboro 121 km

Nov 21 Wednesday D 121.32 km M 33.2 A17.2 T7h total 8274.05 km

Wind None in the morning, but by afternoon from the south west and that was our direction

Temp 8C in am with a fog; up to 30C by 1400 and a nice warm evening 15C

Road Condition Good except for 321 no shoulder and logging trucks

Food: Breakfast Up early awaiting the sun... a banana and bread with cheese for Ken... looking for a grocery soon

Lunch Well at 0930 we found a grocery and had pb banana /raison bread sands.... Oh so good Jessie! On a church steps

Supper made soup with our boiler... watched it so didn't burn this one out and cheese buns

Accommodation Parkwood Motel and CG at Statesboro Georgia Good Sam \$18 with power and WiFi Very nice

Overall : We left Point South at first light in a spooky fog. Both Ken and I did not like South Carolina very much so we will have to return some day and see more of the state. The people are nice enough but the place just doesn't have any "curb appeal"... doesn't say "home" to me. Way to many mobile homes with no plants , shrubs or décor about.. lots of junk in the yards and ditches. Like I keep saying we are only seeing one roads swath thru each state, but this one was a doozy. The ride has been good, but just not a place I would choose to return to.

Hwy 95 [interstate] didn't stop all night, not that it kept us awake as it didn't [also it is Thanksgiving week so mega traffic expected... 15,000 expected to go at least 50 miles this weekend]

Gillisonville.. no grocery that we saw.... 18 miles to Pineland [well named as logging area of pines all the way] No services but a post office

On to Robertville where there is a decent grocery with okay prices... interesting sign on the window... no consuming of alcoholic beverages within 100 yards of this premises... so the good old boys club as Ken calls them.. group of guys drinking at 0900 are across the street on old chairs under the trees. We went across to a church steps to eat our sandwiches as we were really hungry as very little breakfast and on the road for 2.5hrs already.



Churches doors are definitely not open around here... this was our lunch stop. I'm sure someone was watching us!

Clyo was off the route so we didn't stop in there.

Kildare has only a old gas station with minimal grocerys... nice guy who just bought it from his friend as he didn't want to see it torn down or closed. It is on route 21 [Savanah to Augusta] so should do well. We told him he should offer cyclists a camp spot and he was very interested... he said a lot of cyclists go right by as we did [on the route] He is going to look into that for next summer. He has 3 acres beside the store.

Oliver has nothing.

Statesboro has all amenities with a BiLo Grocery on Hwy 80/26 [northside Dr E just off route] We were offered to come for Turkey diner with the staff tomorrow! Very nice also there is a pot luck at this RV CG tomorrow night... maybe there will be one where we are tomorrow.



There seem to be other bike routes to persue



Finally in Georgia!

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