

# MISSISSIPPI

**M**OSQUITOS aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah! **MOSQUITO EATERS !!!**

**I**NCREDIBLE NUMBERS OF SNARLING **DOGS !!**

**S**ONG BIRDS

**S**TEAMING MORNING STREAMS

**I**NCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF RIVERS

**S**TORMS

**T**REES **S** IN BLOOM EVERYWHERE !

**H**ILLS: Rolling

**P**INE POLLEN !

FRIENDLY **P** EOPLE

ME MYSELF AND **I**



Tenn-Tom Waterway

## DAY Twelve Pickensville [Corp of Engineers]CG to Town Creek Corp CG, Columbus

April 16/08 Wednesday D 72.71 km M 48.4 A 15.7 T4h38 TT8h total 896.48km

**Wind** slightly into head wind

**Temp** 10C blue sky day up to 20C and full moon night

**Road Condition** no shoulder all day until hwy 50 at the end of the day

**Food: Breakfast** apples /carrots .... Mini breakfast

**Lunch** no towns along the way for coffee so lunch at Subway when got to Columbus

**Supper** soup and sandwiches; muffins for dessert

**Accommodation** These corp CG are very nice tonight we are in the "rustic" walk in sites and all alone!... they have street lights so not so rustic, but on a mini lake with the birds, frogs and all kinds of critters chirping etc Pit toilet in the rustic are the fanciest ones we have ever seen.... Not any smell at all. I guess our thoughts of rustic are a little less... ie no power, lights or water piped in... but hey it's like we are all alone on a private lake in the moon light!

**Overall** really relaxing day as we set off towards

Columbus on hwy 14 we crossed over into Mississippi with no fanfare. Lots of trucks, but not too much traffic.

The town of Columbus is about 100,000 so bigger than any we have been in lately. Went in search of the bike shop, but it was closed down. We need bike chain wax, but I think we are going to have to change to Oil as we met our first other tourer today along the road and he said the closest shop is in Tupelo and we don't intend on going in there. He is from Winsor Ontario and just taking 2 weeks off work He flew down and is going just to Mobile Alabama. Would have been fun to talk to him more as he said he has done a lot of cycling in the deserts. He is a Scot originally. We discussed the issue of protection and he said he often takes MACE spray for wild dogs in the dessert but didn't bring that with him this trip. He was offered a gun to buy once. He was on a REI Novara bike which he said is the best bike he has ever had. [[dmurray19@cogeco.ca](mailto:dmurray19@cogeco.ca)] fun to talk with others along the road. I knew he was from Canada as he came towards me as he had the same MEC bags I have!



We both got a hair cut and Ken went in search of long underwear.... Walmart told him they only carry them in the winter.... He told her... it is cold out there! Anyways I think he is out of luck until maybe Colorado. The Walmarts here are incredibly huge with a full grocery store and then all the other trappings.

As soon as we crossed over into Mississippi it was a huge change in the appearance of wealth of the farms, homes were bigger, neater, the road surface improved and was a bit wider and it's hard to explain, but Columbus is definitely a wealthier town with a more evident number of Caucasians. I saw more 'whites' than I have seen in the past week in Subway. Have to remember we are only seeing a small portion of the state so we will see how the days progress. We did ride thru a poorer part of town, but nothing like in Alabama.



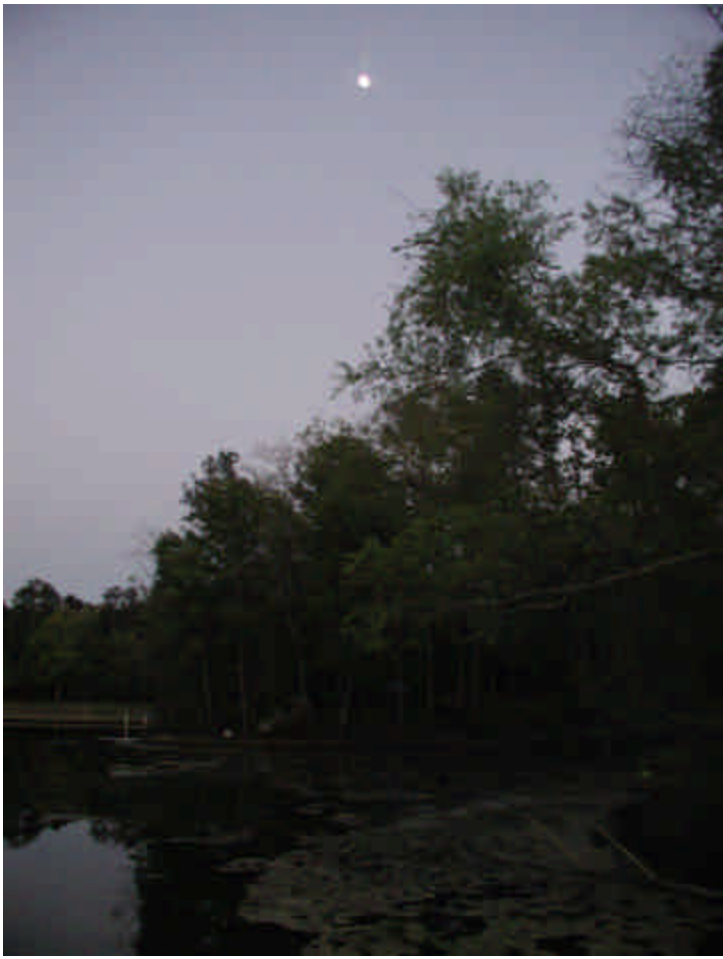
Family graveyards just along the way



Hills and more hills.... And bush!



Enjoying the morning sunshine on the foot bridge over to our camp spot



Moonlight stroll... tent across the water



wild flowers in campsite

**DAY Thirteen Town Creek Corp CG, Columbus to Weaver Creek CG Amory MS**

**April 17/08 Thursday D 76.45 km M 33.8 A 15.9 T4h48 TT7h15 total 972.93km**

**Wind** slightly into head wind ,

**Temp** 10C blue sky day up to 25C and full moon night

**Road Condition** out to hwy 50 with no shoulder; onto 45 with the biggest rumble strip and small shoulder and speed of 65mph [105kph] like being on the Calgary trail with a 1 foot shoulder... not fun... a lot less traffic though. Got off there quick to go on 25 to Aberdeen and then on really rural roads to the campground outside Amory.

**Food: Breakfast** apples /carrots .... Cottage cheese sitting on the bridge over the mini lake

**Lunch** picnic on a bench by the library at Aberdeen

**Supper** mashed potatoes, mixed veggies and corn bread stuffing Very yummy.

**Accommodation** Well Weavers are really nice, but the campground well is rustic. They have an outdoor cold shower which worked, power and water. We are the only campers once again along a little creek. I guess it is still spring so they have a while to rake up the leaves etc. The price sure is right at \$7 for a tent and he lent us an extension cord so we could plug in the computer and night light.

**Overall** started off with 6.7km back to hwy 50 then discovered we could have come a shorter route... oh well not a lot of shoulder all day. West Point's claimed fame is they are a retirement community... we missed the whole town as the route skirts town. Went on to Aberdeen which is a neat old town and very friendly. Stopped at Lann Hardware to get some chain lube and Mr Walter Lann the owner was really accommodating and phoned the campground for us to ensure it was open. We went to the library to see if they had any information on the underground railway... not even heard of this route. Very disappointing we are unable to find any information as we are going along. They don't have a museum, but a lot of neat stuff in the hardware [Ken says it's like WWW Arcade] This store has been there since 1879. We had at least 4 people in town try to give us directions and or offer us assistance. So much for the unfriendly southerners. They don't have a book store [ new or used] so can't even try to get a book on the route. The last few km we were chased by at least 10 dogs! None were a real threat as far as being right at our feet but I really do need a Tazzer! The fellow yesterday mentioned he uses mace. I'm so intent on getting away all I can do is blow on my fox forty whistle! Must note what beautiful country side with so many rivers, now farms and rolling hills with lots of trees. Seems to be a lot more "marsh" land suddenly. We are continuing up the Tennessee-Tombigbee River Waterway which has 12 Locks and Dams in just over 200 miles of river/canals.

Phoned Dagny and Keith for updates.



Aberdeen banners so cute with 3D Lady bugs



look at the ornate shingling pattern... flowers on the roof!



Aberdeen main street

**DAY Fourteen Weaver Creek CG Amory MS to TishomingoState Pk MS**

**April 18/08 Friday D 96.99 km M 45.1 A 14.8 T6h33 TT10h total 1070.30km**

**Wind** off and on not to bother us

**Temp** 10C blue sky day up to 15C and then a thunder storm with pouring rain +++

**Road Condition** good to Fulton where we had lunch early at Subway as all breakfast places end at 1030 Then the fun began the route went down into an area by the river sort of where acreages are with clear cuts and 2 really steep hills to navigate... I was none to pleased as we went 4.5km off the main road which was nice to divert to this waste of time! Got back on John Rankin Hwy which was very quiet with no shoulder. We then went onto Natchez Trace which seems to be a tourist only road with few exits, no housing along... it's a "green" strip of trees on a 50mph road... no trucks or commercial vehicles allowed... very nice... could go all the way to Memphis Tennessee on it! Will give that some thought.

**Food: Breakfast** apples /carrots .... That was all the groceries

**Lunch** Subway

**Supper** hiding from the thunder storm... cookies, chips, gorpe, had pb sands prior the storm under a overpass!

**Accommodation** Well what can I say... first CG we have ever seen with a "chapel" for church. We set up our tent in the chapel and then moved it when the rain slowed down to our site.... Then the sky opened up and we have been holed up in here for 2 hours so far... it has 50 some sites with only one set of bathrooms open and they are a long way from us. Well our little tent is holding it's own in another thunder storm.. the same usual occasional drips, but nothing major. Very confusing CG has primitive sites that she told us were off in the trees, but

one is across the road from us with a table and all... oh well we are very glad to have the light and power  
**Overall** Good day, both very tired.



I love these houses tucked in the trees.

**DAY 14 Weaver Creek Campground (Amory, MS) to Tishomingo State Park (Tishomingo, MS) 92.9**

|  |         |         |
|--|---------|---------|
| Head west on US-278 toward Swan Hill Rd  | 0.6 km  | 0.6 km  |
| Turn right at Hatley Rd S  | 3.3 km  | 3.9 km  |
| Continue on Smithville Rd  | 8.0 km  | 11.9 km |
| Continue on Hatley-Smithville Rd   | 3.1 km  | 15.0 km |
| Turn right at MS-25 <b>Smithville AS</b> Back on Route [T01120]                | 23.0 km | 38.0 km |
| Continue on S Adams St <b>Fulton AS</b> [Walmart/ Subway]                      | 3.6 km  | 41.6 km |
| Turn left at MS-178  | 0.8 km  | 42.5 km |
| Turn right at N Cummings St  | 2.0 km  | 44.5 km |
| Turn left at River Rd  | 2.3 km  | 46.8 km |
| Turn right at Joe Wheeler Brown Rd/River Rd<br>[don't go: stay on John Rankin] | 4.2 km  | 51.0 km |

|   |         |         |
|---|---------|---------|
| Turn left at John E Rankin Hwy this is a better choice No shoulder but Quiet rd | 18.0 km | 69.0 km |
| Continue on CR-4301   | 2.6 km  | 71.6 km |
| Continue on CR-1/John Rankin Hwy  | 3.4 km  | 75.0 km |
| Turn left toward Natchez Trace Pkwy [no trucks or commercial vehicles 50mph]    | 0.2 km  | 75.2 km |
| Turn right at Natchez Trace Pkwy [@ 15.8 km route turns Hwy 25]                 | 18.3 km | 93.5 km |
| Turn right toward CR-90/State Park Rd   | 0.1 km  | 93.6 km |
| Turn left at CR-90/State Park Rd  | 0.7 km  | 94.3 km |

Tishomingo State Park (662) 438-6914 105 County Road 90, Tishomingo, MS 38873  
 Smithville has a Piggly Wiggly 2km south on 25 Fulton has a Piggly Wiggly on route  
 If needed hotel take 178 east out of Fulton to 25 South to Belmont Belmont Hotel (662) 454-7948 121 Main St,  
 Belmont, MS 38827 This would shorten day 15, and add 7km to Day 16



Homes in the woods



Loggers on the shoulderless road



Hiding from the rain

## DAY Fifteen Tishomingo State Pk MS to Battlefield CG Shiloh Tennessee

April 19/08 Saturday D94.47 km M45.4 A 13.7 T6h53 TT8.45h total 1164.80 km

**Wind** out of the south west so if the road would go straight we could have a tail wind, but no such luck!

**Temp** started out cool at 10C and got up to 20C with blue sky morning and fluffy clouds all pm

**Road Condition** well 365 was good, then they took us up over hill and dale with barking chasing dogs and 4 steep hills, then more dogs in pm thru to Shiloh Route should be up Hwy 25 to Pickwick in Tennessee, west on 57 then north on 142 to Shiloh Much better route with maybe no dogs and more services.

**Food: Breakfast** mandarin oranges as no fresh fruit to be found

**Lunch** early at Roy's Grocery on MS365 we had our pb sands inside at their table and bought mountain dew... really nice lady just took over this store, so has minimal groceries and things for sale

**Supper** bought a pizza as restaurant closed in Shilo... actually very good

**Accommodation** Battlefield CG has a scout troop in camp... so far very loud! The wash house is ancient, but clean \$5.00 very reasonable for power too.

**Overall** Well not too bad except for my bickering about the route. No kidding aside we had at least 40 dogs [mostly in 2's, but one case of 6 from one house] snarling growling, chasing, barking, yapping angry mutts! Come racing out to the street after us.... And many more barking and trying to decapitate themselves with their chains to get us. It seems funny to write, but isn't funny when a pit bull or Chow comes snarling after your feet. These don't seem like "pets". Other than the dogs, we left the Tishomingo park after drying out our tent etc... oh I forgot it did not rain anymore over night, but as the concrete slab was a little slanted our way our ground sheet got wet, but otherwise dry little bunnies. Tishomingo a cute little town... finally found a postcard for Dagny... \$1 for one! And 69C to post! Boy your costly! Anyways got some nice bread in the grocery and wandered about town before setting off in the sunshine. The first 50km was great until they sent us wandering up into the clear cuts, past old trailers and mud bogs. A fellow who has lived here all his life told us that that whole area floods and the people are out of home every year. Just got out of there and crossed over into Tennessee [no signs] to more dogs. The route actually has some cycle signs since Tennessee! Also easy to follow with the GPS and our day plans. The road a little rough surface, but no traffic at all which is great as it is Saturday. I was surprised to see them clearing land... I expected it to be all old well established farms, but lots of new mixed farms with a cow or 2, horses, bantie chickens, donkies, and of course DOGS!

### DAY 15 Tishomingo State Park (Tishomingo, MS) to Battlefield CG (Shiloh TN) 90.7

|   |         |         |
|---|---------|---------|
| Head west on CR-90/State Park Rd toward CR-87                                   | 2.4 km  | 2.4 km  |
| Slight right at CR-23   | 0.3 km  | 2.7 km  |
| Turn right at MS-25 <b>Tishomingo G/R/SS</b>                                    | 4.3 km  | 7.0 km  |
| Turn left at MS-30  | 10.2 km | 17.2 km |
| Turn right toward MS-365  | 0.1 km  | 17.3 km |
| Turn right at MS-365 <b>Burnsville G/R/SS</b> [At 33k is Roy's Grocery and Gas] | 32.4 km | 49.7 km |
| Turn left at CR-293 [ALT stay on 365 to MS 350 as no view ++dogs]               | 30 m    | 49.7 km |
| Turn right at CR-304  | 1.3 km  | 51.0 km |
| Turn left at CR-363   | 10.3 km | 61.3 km |
| Turn right to stay on CR-363  | 1.7 km  | 63.0 km |
| Turn left at MS-350   | 3.9 km  | 66.9 km |
| Turn right at CR-375  | 0.6 km  | 67.5 km |
| Continue on Damon Rd  | 7.0 km  | 74.5 km |
| Turn right at TN-57 <b>Damon Rd</b> [motel east on 57]                          | 10 m    | 74.5 km |
| Turn left at Damon Rd [lots of chasing dogs thru here]                          | 2.6 km  | 77.1 km |

|                                 |        |         |
|---------------------------------|--------|---------|
| Slight left at Leath Rd         | 4.5 km | 81.6 km |
| Slight right at Federal Rd      | 0.4 km | 82.0 km |
| Turn left to stay on Federal Rd | 3.0 km | 85.0 km |
| Turn left at Fraley Dr          | 2.9 km | 87.9 km |
| Turn left at Gladden Rd         | 0.6 km | 88.8 km |
| Turn right at Bark Rd           | 1.2 km | 89.7 km |
| Turn right at TN-142            | 0.6 km | 90.3 km |
| Straight on TN-22               | 0.3 km | 90.6 km |

Battlefield CG 69 Jordan Rd. Shiloh, TN 38376 731-689-3098 rustic old wash house

If need hotel take 57 East to Pickwick Dam (Counce) or go on to Crump

Little Andy's Sportsman's Ldg 7255 Highway 57 Counce, TN 38326 (731) 689-3750

Riverheights Motel 3950 Us Highway 64 Crump, TN 38327 (731) 632-4535



Canola crop coming along well. Lots of yards not very well kept