

Crowders Mountain, and Kings Mountain State Park

by Wally Wersching

I remembered earlier this year when I tried to go to the Crowder's Mountain State Park on a Sunday afternoon, it was closed due to the parking lot being full. That's why I left home about 9:30AM last Sunday morning heading east on Rt 74. I followed it until I turned off at the sign for Crowder's Mountain State Park.

I continued on the road, turned right at the intersection, and after about a mile, I turned right again to go into the park. I followed the road to the left, and parked in the paved lot near the picnic area, and then started walking down the Lake Trail.



The Lake

Trail is a very easy trail that just goes around the beautiful little nine acre lake. I walked it counterclockwise this time. I love to casually walk around, and look for turtles or frogs on the logs in the lake near the shore. I stopped to take a picture of Crowder's Mountain with the lake in the foreground. It's really a pleasant view of the mountain.

I really enjoyed the walk. The sounds of the birds' songs, and the occasional splash from animals in the water were very relaxing. I heard the sounds of people talking, and looked to the other end of the lake where I saw a canoe in the water with two fishermen in it. They were rowing to the center to get the fish in the deep sections of the lake.

I continued walking on the trail, and before I knew it, I was by the fishing pier, and the canoe rentals. Canoes can be rented for \$5.00/hr to row around the lake, and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere out on the water or catch the big ones that stay in the deep sections..

In a few more minutes, I was almost around the whole lake when I heard a youngster start crying ahead. I met the young man, and his son. Behind them were the mother and a younger daughter who was being stubborn. She wasn't going any further. Mom just started walking, and said good-by to the little one. The look on the youngster's face when she thought that mom left her was priceless. She went running up to mom, and they all continued walking up the path.

I continued on the path, and went by the shelter. It was empty. Probably in a couple hours, there would be people having fun cooking on the grills, and having a picnic.



When I left the park, I turned right to go to the road that goes through the Kings Mountain Parks. I turned right at the church, and then turned left at the stop sign. I turned right at the next road, and after entering into South Carolina, I stopped at the intersection at Rt 161 with the Bear's Den on the corner. Later after noon, the Bear's Den will be full of bikers in the outside bar in the back. It's a stopping point for many who take Sunday afternoon rides.

I went through to the Kings Mountain Parks - first the State Park where I stopped at the Living History Farm. In the past, they have held many events at the farm with people dressed in costume working in the different buildings. It's a very interesting place when it's manned by volunteers. There's a blacksmith shop, a cotton gin, a smoke house, a car-



pen-ter shop, and a cabin. It has everything that a farm would have from the 18th century. I was just getting ready to put on my helmet and leave when two motorcycles rolled in, and parked next to "Miss Vickie". They were BMW GS's. The two men got off, and we talked for a few minutes. One man was wearing a "Team Penske" shirt. I commented on Joey Lagano (who drives for Roger Penske) winning the NASCAR All-Star race the night before. That's when the man told me that he was part of "Team Penske", and is Roger's golf cart driver. He even showed me a picture of Roger and him on his phone. Then he went into the "Privy".

That's when the other guy and I talked about his upcoming ride in Idaho. He's going to take 16 days to ride on 1,300 miles of dirt roads in Idaho, and tent camp every night with a friend on another bike. He made it sound like a great adventure. I hope everything goes as planned for them.



After they walked up to the farm, I left. I turned left onto the park's main road. After a couple miles, I entered the Kings Mountain National Military Park where I will visit next week for their Memorial Day activities.

The road reminds me a little of The Parkway with its tree-lined sections with twists and turns, and changes in elevation.

After I arrived home, I ate lunch, and stayed around the house for the rest of the day. It was a great way to spend a Sunday morning. I never know who I'll meet when I go out. It was a fun ride and hike.

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Here is a couple of photos from the DC Lobbying Trip. All bikers fighting for your motorcycling rights.



Ribble's Office pic: ABATE of Wisconsin members in Washington DC: (L-R) Front: John Wilkinson, Dr Vern, Seven. Back: Dave Dwyer, Ric Mellon, Rep Reid Ribble, Chubby, Hardtail, Steve Price, Joe Stanek, Megan Ekstrom - newly hired Vice-President of Government Affairs & Public Relations, The Motorcycle Riders Foundation . Missing from photo Steve Panten.