



# DISCOVERING AMERICA AGAIN TOUR THROUGH GRACELAND

APRIL 28, 2014- JUNE 12, 2014

Southern Rensselaer County Rotary Presentation  
October 23, 2014, Roberto Martinez, MD

# DAATtg

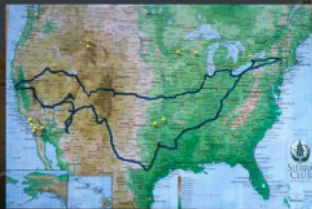
Welcome to Discovering America Again Tour (through Graceland)! This is an open ended tour through America looking at our country from a different perspective. In the past I've done segments of the trip with family and friends, but never on a Honda Goldwing motorcycle. The trip is not a race but an adventure so each day will define itself as the trip goes along. I will be making stops at historic sites, national parks and of course to visit with friends and family.

Graceland is drawing me because of the song by Paul Simon and because although we lived in Nashville for 2 years, we never made it to this site of Americana.

Cheers.  
Roberto

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Summary stats: The photo below shows the trip route with some backtracking involved. The yellow pins were hopes and possibilities at the start of the trip. I may have been able to include them had I not intended to stay with anyone and just 'drive through'. That just leaves openings for future tours.



Goldwing Mileage: 10,045 miles  
Days: 46  
States: 17  
Countries: US and Canada  
Sun Screen: Two tubes of SP 100  
Temp ranges: 34-113  
Photos: over 3200  
Goldwing: 900 plus pounds  
Cargo weight (tools, clothing, camping gear, supplies, electronics): 150 pounds  
Trip Cost: \$5,200: \$1100 gas, \$1200 food, \$1600 hotels then other

#### Lodging:

- Camping: 0
- Hotels: 17 days(1/3 of the time)
- Staying with friends: 29 days

Body Mass: up 1 pound  
MPG with Trailer 28mpg into fierce headwind to 40 mpg  
Fast Food:

#### Honda Goldwing 2008 & Escapade SE



#### Blog Archive

▼ 2014 (43)

▼ June (13)

▼ Jun 19 (1)

Summary stats: The photo below shows the trip route...

► Jun 12 (1)

► Jun 11 (1)

► Jun 10 (1)

► Jun 09 (1)

► Jun 08 (1)

► Jun 07 (1)

► Jun 06 (1)

► Jun 05 (1)

► Jun 04 (1)

► Jun 03 (1)

► Jun 02 (1)

► Jun 01 (1)

► May (27)

► April (3)

This is a screen shot of the invitation only blog:

- Didn't want people to know I could be gone for 2 months
- Needed some structure in documenting the journey
- Needed a vehicle for others to follow my progress





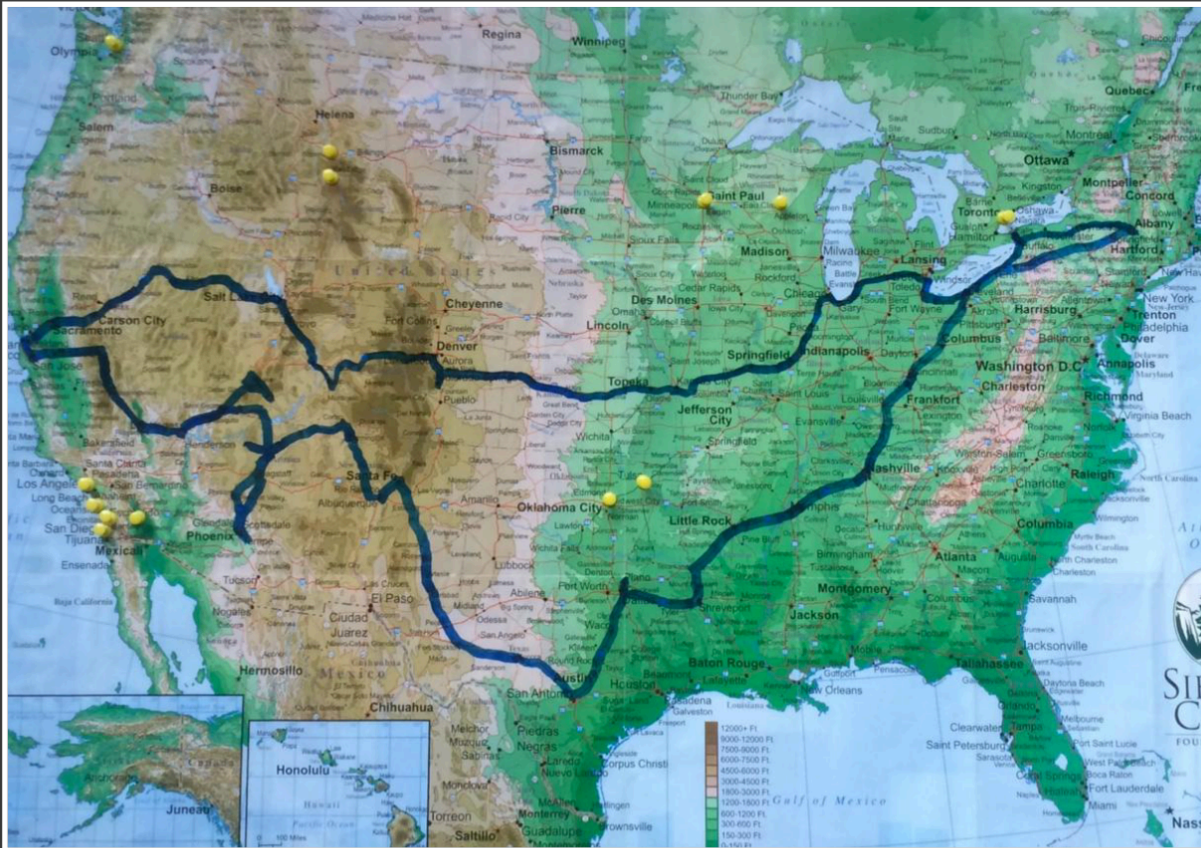
Safety and communication were big concerns:

- Several folks had 24/7 access to my location via Apple's "Find Friends"
- Cell phone was connected via blue tooth to the Navigation System
- CB backup when there was no cell service
- Full maintenance on the bike and trailer
- Bright colored clothes when riding
- Daily checklist before starting the ride



Why the trip...and why now?

- To rediscover America
- To experience the journey on an open air machine that became my pony
- To expand my comfort zone in traveling alone and testing skills
- To do this while I am still able



Proposed and Final Routes





### Statistics

- 10,045 motorcycle miles
- Over 3,200 photos on the Nikon
- 17/46 days in a hotel (1 in 3)
- "0" days camping
- Weight: up 1 pound
- Sunscreen: 2 tubes of SP100
- MPG: 28 to 41
- Favorite fast food: Subway
- 2008 Goldwing @ 900 lbs
- Escapade Trailer @ 250 lbs
- Cargo weight @ 150 lbs
- Trip Cost: \$5200
  - \$1100 gas
  - \$1200 food
  - \$1600 hotels
  - Other



### Likes:

- Being in the moment: smells, touch, hearing, visuals
- Situational awareness
- Seeing more because you were not in an enclosed structure
- Noting the transitions of terrain...many times in one day
- Visiting with friends and meeting new ones
- Freedom of man and a machine...although in the west was more like a cowboy on a horse
- Having to be resourceful and independent...planner, navigator, decision maker and the accountable one



Santa Fe, above  
Grand Canyon, L





Dislikes:

- Stop and go traffic especially with construction
- Heavy side winds
- Semi's
- Rain and snow
- Worrying about the next gas station
- Worrying about where I would be staying for the evening

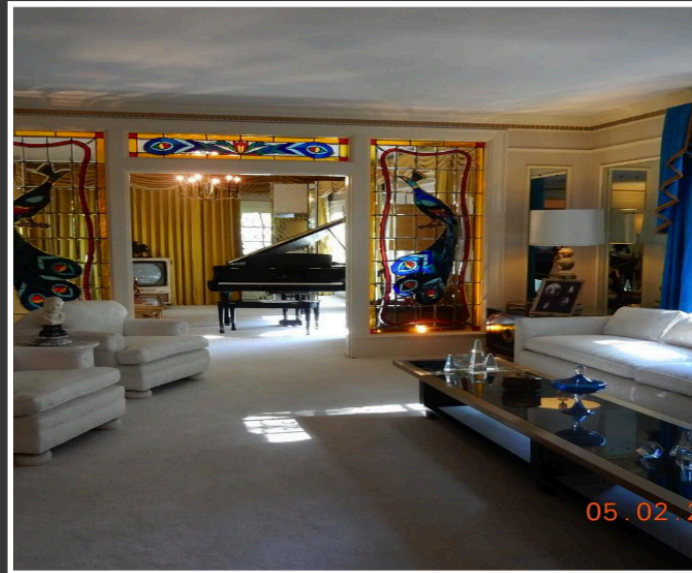


He lives...

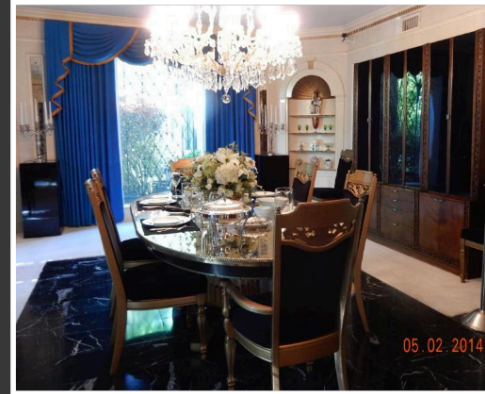


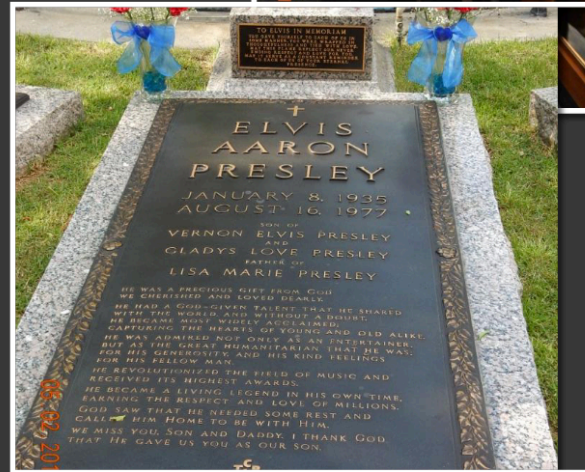


Graceland









## Graceland Museum





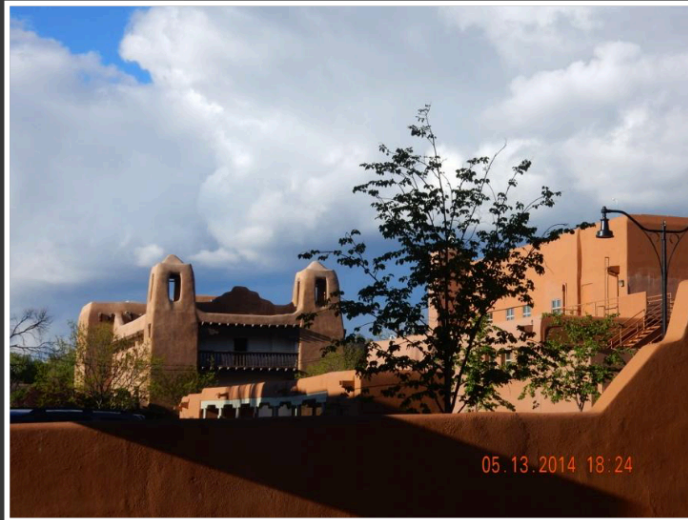


Attractions: National Corvette Museum

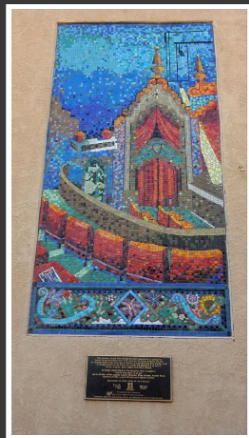
1953 Polo White Corvette, L  
2014 Corvette, Below



## Architecture

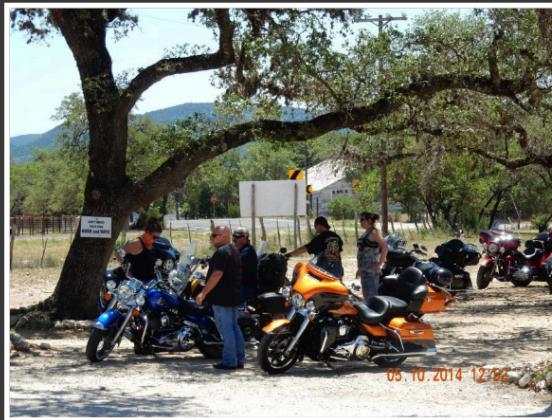


## Santa Fe Art





## Other Bikers





Ok, one more....

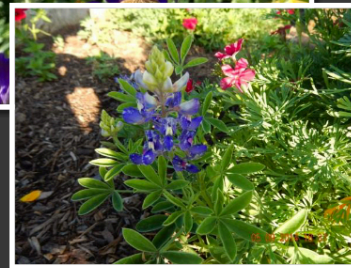
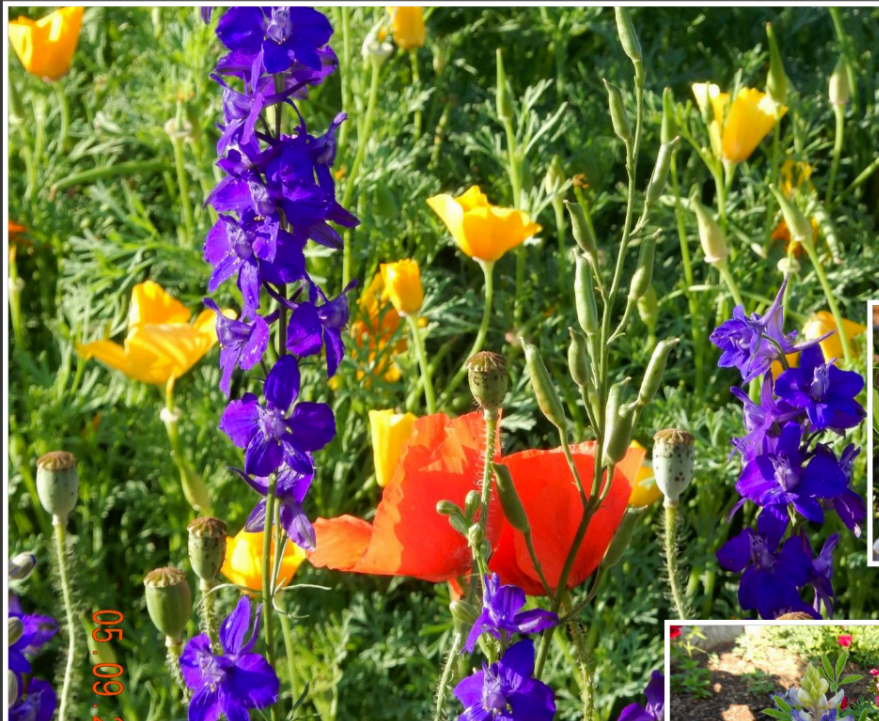
## Texas Foods





## Dallas History

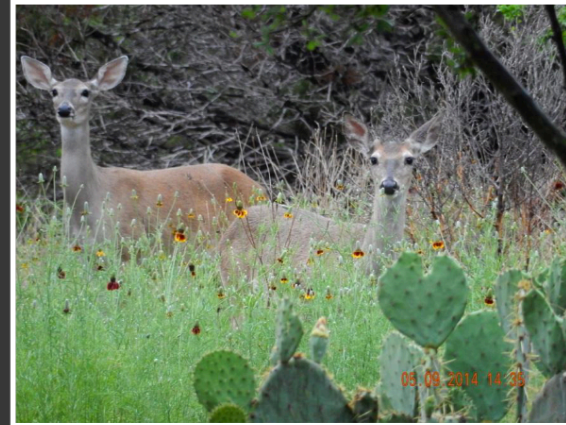




Texas Wild Flowers



## Wild Life

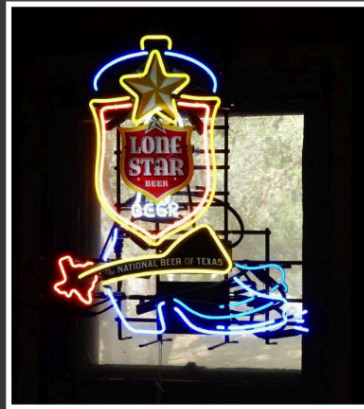




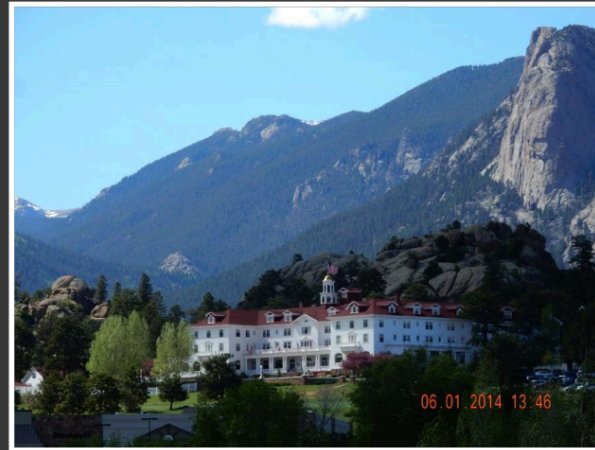
## Landscapes



## Luckenbach, TX



## Landscapes





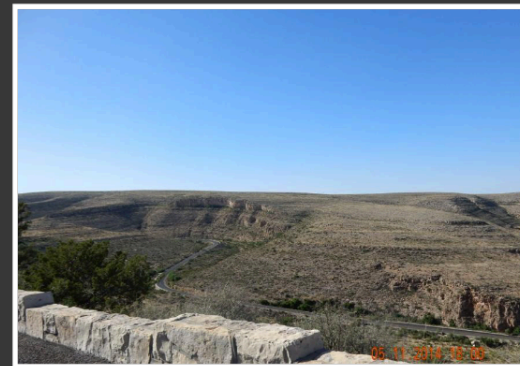
## Diversity in Landscapes



## Parks



## Carlsbad Caverns, NM







So why is everyone  
looking down?



## Marmots





First and last day of journey with  
drastic change in vegetation







"It's not about the destination. It's about the journey."

