

Folly Beach

# A Day Trip To The Edge of America and Back

**S**unday, May 2nd, 2021. I rumbled into the empty Publix Market parking lot at 6:59AM, just one minute before the manager opened the store. The air was cool with overcast skies; however, the weather report insisted there would be no rain until after midnight. Temperatures were to climb in excess of 80°F. I decided to put my trust in the National Weather Service.



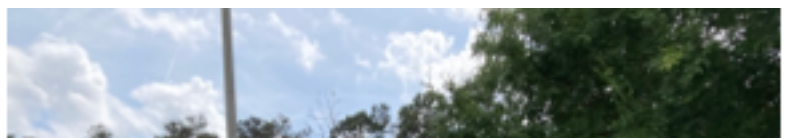
At 7:12AM Larry "Tank" Moore rolled into the parking lot to join me. We waited until 7:30AM for other HOG members. The Publix manager, Jon, came out smiling, offering to take our picture before we began our journey. With no other arrivals, it was "Jiffy Stands Up." With the Harley signature clunk into first gear, along with the turn of the Milwaukee 8's throttles, we were on our way to "The Edge of America," Folly Beach.

Parking proved to be a challenge once we reached our destination. We pulled into a lot that charged 25.00 to park for the day, and were informed by the property owner his lot, actually his backyard, was full. His face, and eyes reflected genuine disappointment. I said, "hey, I understand. It's the weekend." His face suddenly brightened. He said, "I'll tell you what, you can ride around the corner and pull into my private driveway. I've never owned a motorcycle, but I've always loved them. I won't even charge you for it." We accepted his generosity, and after more conversation we thanked him. At 12:30PM we parked and made our way to the restaurant.

Just steps away from Folly Beach and the pier stands "Rita's Seaside Grill." They have indoor and outdoor dining on their "dog friendly" patio. That's me wearing the black glasses, Larry "Tank" Moore, right, and Christina Copeland, left. Christina had been enjoying the beach since Friday. She arrived before us, and was kind enough to get us a table. She was enjoying boiled shrimp, and iced tea. Tank had the seafood platter, and I had the grouper sandwich with lemonade. The decorations on the wall, the sand on the floor from the feet of many of the diners, and smiles of the staff all came together to enhance the Folly Beach experience.



A Walk To The Beach Before Our Return After eating, we walked in the sunshine to the public access beach. I was stunned at the number of people, some baking in the sun, others under one of the many umbrellas. The pier was closed for renovations. It reaches 1000 feet into the Atlantic Ocean.



## The Ride Home

We all had a safe, sunbathed ride home. We made a few stops along the way to stretch our legs and have some laughs.

I arrived home at 6:34PM after riding 475.7 miles. The entire trip cost me less than \$60.00.

I look forward to many more rides with my friends, especially rides to our beautiful southern beaches.

