

## Adventure OtP 2014



When we received the news from Hans-Ove Goertz (President of Gtr Club Europe) -in Europe the Concours is named Gtr- in January 2014 that we had been chosen as OtP-Traveler in 2014, we could not believe it at first! We had envied the OtP-Travelers of the previous years and wished us well even be a lot of times. So long we had been waiting for - and now this should be true?! Unbelievable!

And then it was already going on with uncoordinated rush: We made plans rejected this again, met with Bernd Neumann, who gave us as a former OtP-Traveler valuable tips and hints. We searched cities and landmarks which we wanted to visit, we made tour plans, which finally were not supported, because we had miscalculated something in the distances in the USA. With great fervor Mike Aldea finally created perfect tours we drove back to Lincoln after the COG meeting in Johnson City.

To find out exactly where we would get the motorcycles organized by Victor Salisbury and sponsored by Kawasaki USA so we were able to book our flights, many emails between Ted Adcock and us were sent back and forth, in which we asked many questions, all were answered patiently. And as we end of May 2014 received 8 pages "Da Plan", where Ted meticulously had listed our planned itinerary and all caregivers with names and contact details, we were "utterly amazed". How much work had made this man!

Before we knew where we are -after many weeks of anticipation, excitement and planning- had already come 06/06/2014. With packed suitcases (which we -God thanks- could assume at Chris Baum's home), our helmets and the best of intentions we started expectantly our OtP adventure – surely the trip of our life!

Facts	
<p>Total duration</p> <p>driven kilometers</p> <p>crossed countries</p> <p>traveled mountain passes</p> <p>highest traffic point</p> <p>Our caregivers</p>	<p>25 days (thereof 22 days with the bikes)</p> <p>ca. 10.400 km (6.462 Meilen)</p> <p>Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa</p> <p>Tennessee-Pass 3.177 m (10.424 ft.)  Loveland Pass 3.654 m(11.990 ft.)  Cameron Pass 3,132 m (10.276 ft.)</p> <p>Mt. Evans Colorado 4.346,5 m (14.260 Ft.)</p> <p>Chris Baum, Rick Hall, John Hoogewerf, Rob Jamison, Brent Marshall, Andrew Martin, Ed Ostermeier, Gary Pinkham, Thorsten (Ted) Reichelt, Jorge Silva, Phil Tarman</p>
Highlights	
	<p>participation at 25. COG Treffen in Johnston / Tennessee</p> <p>The Green Eyed Snake (Highway 421):  33 Meilen (53 km), 489 Kurven und über drei Berge</p> <p>Mt. Evans Colorado Höhe 4.350 m (14.264 ft.)</p> <p>New River Gorge Bridge (zweithöchste Brücke der USA)  in Fayetteville (West Virginia)</p> <p>Mt. Mitchell - Highest Peak East of Mississippi River  6.684 Ft. (2.037 m)</p> <p>Henry Ford Museum</p> <p>Indianapolis Raceway</p> <p>Baseball Stadion in Lincoln</p>

## Travel journal of OtP-Travelers 2014 – Walter Jung und Richard Reinke

Day 1 - June 06, 2014

We flew from Frankfurt am Main to Lincoln / Nebraska where we landed after about 19 hrs. Flight duration. Chris Baum met us at the airport with a welcome sign in his hands. After a short city tour we reached the house of the Fam. Baum. There we were greeted very friendly with the words "You are not only my guests, but my home is also your home. We were very impressed. Chris showed us the house of himself and his family, and then we moved into our spacious guest rooms in the basement. And now we just wanted to sleep ...



Arrival in Lincoln / Nebraska

Tag 2 – June 07, 2014

Today was a relaxed day: visit Lincoln with Chris Baum, eg. the Nebraska Memorial Stadium.. In the evening visit to a restaurant that brews its own beer. We tested 10 different beers each (in small glasses). Conclusion: No more mango beer!



Haymarket Park Stadium, Lincoln



Sculptures in front of the stadium

Day 3 – June 08, 2014

After the breakfast we shopped for the BBQ to be held in the early evening. On the way back we visited a large Kawasaki dealer in Lincoln. Back in Chris' home already met the first guests from around. Norman, Jerry, William, Virn, Rick, Dallas, Don, Mike and a few others. That was a feast ...

Day 4 – Juni 09, 2014

Today we took over after a tour of the Kawasaki plant in Lincoln -there are ATV's, Mul-cars and locomotives manufactured- the bikes that were provided generous and free to us by Kawasaki USA for our journey. These were handed over to us personally by Mike Boyle (Vice-President of KMM). Shortly after noon we set out together with Chris, about Paxton (until then escorted us Chris) to Fort Morgan / Colorado. In Paxton we were already expected from Rob Jamison, who accompanied us to his house, where we arrived and after 530 miles (853 km) day trip in the dead of night.



Day 5 – June 10, 2014

After a quiet night and a good and hearty breakfast in a Dennis restaurant we drove with to Rob Mount St. Evans. There we met Rick Hall, who accompanied us the next days and who provided us his holiday home. At the parking place at 4.248 m altitude the thin air niggled Walter so that he was dizzy. After a lunch in Idaho Springs Rob left us, and we drove with Rick Hall a few passes [Tennessee-Pass 3.177 m (10.424 ft.), Loveland Pass 3.654 m(11.990 ft.) und Cameron Pass 3,132 m (10,276 ft.)]. In the evening we reached Frisco / Colorado and after a dinner we felt dead tired in our hotel beds at the Holiday Inn.



Without words



Rick and Walter



riders in the snow



Isn't it great?!

Day 6 – June 11, 2014

In the morning we continued our ride over Walden and Cameron Pass, where we held a small snowball fight, to Lyons Colorado to Rick's house. Rick treated us to a dinner in Lyons. Then we left the evening with a beer in his house.



Biker loving it!



Playing children ☺



Day 7 – 12. June 12, 2014

With Rick we drove the Peak to Peak Hwy over Russell Gulch, Coral Creek Canyon, Black Hawk City (old gold mining town with only 116 inhabitants, but 16 casinos) and Central City to the Langmont-Airport. There, Rick rented a small plane and took a flight with us. Then we went back to spend the night in Rick's house.



Houses in an old gold mining town



Rick proofs his plane

Day 8 – June 13, 2014

08:00 am standing up and pack for the trip back to Lincoln. After breakfast we headed back on the road. At the rest stop Loves we met up with Phil Tarman, who escorted us to Lincoln to Chris Baum. These were again nearly 500 miles (804 km) straight on, and approximately 400 miles (640 km) of it we had strong wind from the south side. Exhausted from the long drive, we arrived Chris' home about 09:00 pm.

Day 9 – June 14, 2014

Quick finish packing and off we go to the first stage to Johnson City / Tennessee. Today we drove through 5 states: Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Illinois. In St. Louis / Missouri, we marveled at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, a memorial, its most imposing building is the 192 meter tall Gateway Arch (arch) whose shadow is reflected in the Mississippi River. The stopover was in Carbondale / Illinois. Gary Pinham donated us the overnight accommodation and a great breakfast in a restaurant nearby.



Gateway Arch St. Louis



Shadow on the Mississippi

Day 10 – June 15, 2014

Last stage to Johnson City. In Cooksville / Tennessee, halfway between Nashville and Knoxville, we all met "by chance" Anette and Bernd. Together we drove another 200 miles and arrived Johnson City in the afternoon. Then it was time to stand in line for the hotel room, register for the COG-Rally and existing people welcome. Here we also got to know Ted Adcock personally who supported us in a known manner.



Walter – Annette – Bernd – Richard



Walter – Ted - Richard



Day 11 - June 16, 2014

During the day we rode in the Roan Mountains / Tennessee and had evening activities on site at the hotel.

Day 12 – June 17, 2014

Today we drove to South Lake Holston, Cherokee National Forest and the "Snake", a legendary road with a length of 33 miles (53 km) and 489 curves.



Cooling the tires after a hot ride!



Part of the "Snake", length 33 , 489 curves

In the evening at the hotel there was a meeting of all previous OtP-Travelers. Here there was also the traditional OtP-eating with Hans-Ove (Surströmming = in brine pickled smelly fish. Furthermore, Chuck Kimball let shave his beard in a very funny performance. But for that it was to PAY! And then a ZL900 Eliminator was raffled off and of the proceeds we received 50% There were a lot of \$\$ for our travel budget. super power - thank you very much again for that.



before shaving



after shaving



the raffled ZL900

Day 13 - June 18, 2014

Ride to Blue Rich Parkway, a specially built road for the recreational along the Blue Ridge Mountains, a part of the Appalachian mountain range. Chris took us to walk through a very steep path down to the Linville waterfall. We walked through a forest with tall trees, the bottom is overgrown like a jungle with rhododendrons and is not visited by many tourists as the descent and the then necessary ascent are very demanding. Then we rode to Mount Mitchell, with 6,684 ft. (2,037 m) the highest mountain of Mississippi. After some rain in the mountains we arrived in time to the COG group photo at the hotel.



Linville waterfall



on the top of Mt. Mitchell



#### Day 14 – June 19, 2014

Today Walter put a rest day; the last few days were very stressful for him. Richard rode with Ted Reichelt (who speaks a good German language and helped us with translations) 179 km long, many small twisty roads. In the evening there was a grand finale of the COG-25anniversary-meeting, a banquet for 500 guests. The whole meeting had dimensions, starting with the number of participants, about the organization, support of members, etc., we did not know of our CGE meeting in Europe! America is just but the land of unlimited possibilities! Nice that we were allowed to participate and were treated as if we had always been one of them.



#### Day 15 – June 20, 2014

Departure in Johnson City. Today we are led by Andy Martin from Johnson City by Kentucky to West Virginia. This country seems to consist only of dense mixed forests and mountains layered in the coal that is mined there. Through the valleys are roads wind to which nestle the cities. Arrived in Charleston / West Virginia we felt -not quite dry- tired in our hotel beds that Martin had donated us.

#### Day 16 – June 21 2014

Even in the company of Andy Martin, we rode in the morning to the Kanawha Falls and to the River Gorge Bridge, the second highest steel bridge of the USA. We finished our trip and Sight Seeing in Buckhannon / West Virginia.



little rest



River Gorge Bridge

#### Day 17 – June 17, 2014

In the morning Andy Martin picked us up at the hotel and we went to Sistersville. There, at the ferry dock (John Eckels Landing - a historical point), Martin said good bye to us. We crossed the Ohio River, which forms the state border of the Land Ohio there, and on the other side Brent Marshall were waiting on us. On the way to his house in Dover / Ohio we visited the world's largest excavator shovel of their time. Which is so impressively large that a slightly larger choral society already had a presence inside there.

#### Day 18 – June 23, 2014

Today we went to Dearborn / Michigan. Brent joined us, when he got a call in the early afternoon that we should hurry up because of an approaching storm to reach our destination before the storm front. But that did not work, as we arrived at the Great Lakes, already drew a menacing front in front of us. The sky was scary black, and accompanied by rain and strong storm that was breaking the branches of trees, huge lightning struck into the soil. When we met the first drops of rain, we turned around and waited (during a nice dinner) at the end of the storm. (Later we learned from the news that this storm had caused serious damage.). Dry we reached the hotel in Dearborn, where we surprisingly have expected John Hoogewerf (Hoogi). He had the return journey from Johnson City extended and stayed there.

#### Day 19 – June 24, 2014

In the morning we ordered a taxi, with we three drove to Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn. There was waiting for us Doug Grandjean, a technical museum staff. He was an avid cyclist who ran a current lines faired bike, showed us with a contagious enthusiasm the technical achievements of the American economy, from agriculture to economic mobility to economic housing. Afterwards we rode -about small streets and the Michigan Sea- to Hoogi's house in Lansing / Illinois. There we were greeted warmly by his wife with a couple of bottles of German beer. In the evening we still made with Hoogi a 2-hour Chicago city tour.



Entrance Henry Ford Museum



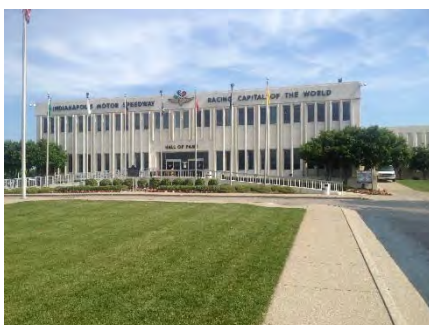
on the road again

#### Day 20 – June 25, 2014

After a delicious breakfast we left Hoogi and headed towards Anderson / Indiana. We dipsy-doodled on smaller streets away. In Anderson was waiting for us Jorge Silva with a friend. We went to Jorge's house, where we were received by his wife already with grilled chicken and delicious side dishes. After a nice and entertaining evening for were joined by a couple of nice friends, we went a few bottles of beer from American later to bed.

#### Day 21 – June 26, 2014

Jorge Silva let us today to Springfield / Illinois to the Indianapolis Museum. There we visited as part of a tour and guide the racetrack and the Museum. After we had said goodbye to Jorge and his buddy, we continued to Ed Ostermeier to Springfield. With Ed was agreed a meeting at a BP gas station. There we had to wait over an hour for him because we were too early due to different time zones. for one hour meeting place. Ed took us through streets and corn growing areas to his house where we stayed over night.



Entrance Idianapolis Speedway



the champions are ...



## Day 22 – June 27, 2014

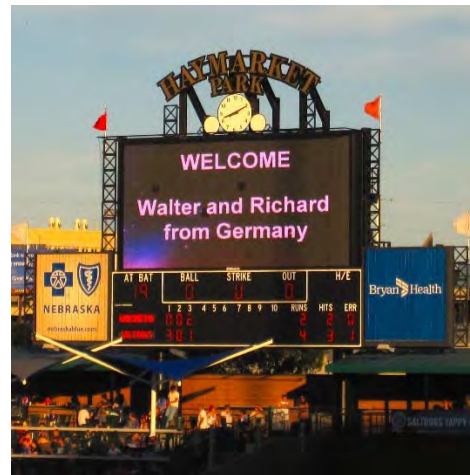
The next morning we left to drive back to Lincoln to Chris Baum. We arrived Lincoln after a long day's ride (430 miles - 692 km) in the evening, where we were again greeted very friendly, although we already had taken for the third time. In just the usual way we were well looked after and marched to bed soon.

## Day 23 – June 28, 2014

Today there was breakfast at the crackerbarrel from Chris in Omaha. We went to a big motorcycle dealer who had an "open day". Back in Lincoln, Chris joined us on an extensive city tour (with souvenir shopping), where we got to see impressive, e.g. an old locomotive, which were standing in the middle of the city. In the evening we visited with Chris and his son Jacob a baseball game at Haymarket Park Stadium, which was one of the highlights of the trip. The family atmosphere during the game in Lincoln has absolutely loved it. And we were -Thanks initiative of Chris- even greeted by name on the stadium screen!



standing in the middle of Lincoln



in the Haymarket Park Stadium

## Day 24 – June 29, 2014

We visited the "Linoma" -Leuchtturm between Lincoln and Omaha, which is right in the land without water and the very interesting Strategic Air und Space Museum in Omaha. We learned that the Strategic Air Command (SAC) was the strategic air forces within the US Air Force during the Cold War and until its dissolution in 1992. Then we had to wash the Motorcycles and bring these in a return state. In the evening we went with Chris and his family for dinner at a great restaurant where we had great steaks. Then it was time to pack because we had to go home the next day.

## Day 25 – June 30, 2014

On the last day, there was still a lot to do: together with Chris Baum we gave the bikes safe and sound (only with a few more miles on the odometer) back to Kawasaki and visited also the State Capital Building of Nebraska. Then Chris took us to the airport and it was time to say goodbye.



A great pity that it is already over ☹

Arrived in Chicago, it first couldn't go on. Because of a monster storm (Derecho) all flights were cancelled.



Chicago at 06/30/2014 afternoon

We had to stay and were able to fly the next day to Houston / Texas. All Intercontinental flights were booked, and it went on only after a further night. We landed at 07/03/2014 tired but in good health in Frankfurt am Main.

Our report is only a small summary of what we have experienced in the United States. We could see a lot and visit, we had good fun and met anywhere (even outside the COG meeting) on friendly, helpful people who seemed to rejoice with us when we told that we come from Germany and were in the process to experience a sponsored COG members and GCE trip to the USA.

Therefore, we would like to thank once again explicitly to Hans-Ove Goertz as the initiator of OtP, to Ted Adcock for organizing our trip and the tireless answering all of our questions, to Mike Aldea for his tour plans, to Mike Boyle of Kawasaki USA for motorcycles and Victor Salisbury for the support in this regard, to Ted Reichelt for his translation services, to all members of COG and GCE and friends of them who have donated a lot of money for us to all hosts / guides who not only managed super, but also took a lot of cost.

A special thanks to Chris Tree, who shared his home with us a total of 9 days and who was also always there for us during the COG meeting.