I decided to do one last 2021 states trip to complete more states with at least 100 KM cycled and at least one night accommodation. I have now cycled at least 100KM in 48 states (and spent at least one night in each of the states), now I only have two more states (Louisiana and Kansas). On this trip, I rented a car and drove 1609.4 miles in the rental car. I cycled about 333 miles (535.9 KM).

Day 1, Friday, November 5, 2021

I walked from my house to the max with my luggage. I put \$5.00 into the ticket machine for my max ticket and it was supposed to coast \$2.50, but I got \$3.50 back, so it only cost me \$1.50. I did not wait long for the max at Rosa Park's transit center, but there was a slight delay due to police activity at Killingworth max stop. At the Rose quarter I had an 8 minutes wait for the airport Max, I took the green line to gateway instead of waiting at Rose Quarter and transferred at gateway to the airport max (same max as I would have taken if I would have waited at the Rose Quarter). I did well on the max, I left my house around 5:30 PM, walked to the max, took the max to the airport and checked my bags in for my flight by about 7:00 PM. I quickly checked in my bike suitcase at Delta, I noticed the bike bag weighted in at 49 lbs., I thought it was more like 45 lbs. I guess I need a better way to weight my bag at home. If the luggage weighs over 50 pounds per bag, it is quite expensive to fly with the heavy bags. I saved \$40 by taking the rest of my stuff as carry on, I had to carry the stuff in the airport and it might have been worth the \$40.00 not to have to carry all the stuff around the airport. I like to walk around the airport while waiting for my flight, the duffle bag made the waiting less enjoyable. The flight to Detroit was great. I had a row of 3 seats to myself and was able to lie across the seat to sleep.

North Carolina

Day 2, Saturday, November 6, 2021

I arrived in Detroit a little after 5:00 AM and walked around the airport until I boarded my flight to Charlotte, I little before 7:00 AM. On the flight to Charlotte, I had a row of two seats to myself. All the flights arrived early and I was able to quickly get my rental car. When I got my rental car from slot J18, it was not the car I was supposed to get (I found out when I was trying to leave the garage that the car, I was in did not match my paper work. I was supposed to have a Rave 4, they gave me a Chevy Malibu – no adaptive cruise). I backed into the garage and looked for the correct Red Rave 4, but it was not there. I ended up taking the black Malibu that was originally in slot J18. The car had the Android app, great for navigation with my android phone. When I left the airport, my paper work for the car I was

driving did not match the car and the Malibu had fleet license plate – no expiration date, I thought I should get things straightened out at an Avis dealer (I never did). I was able to easily drive to Durham and find my hotel, I checked in and drove to the American Tabaco trail head (~mile 6.5). The hotel in Durham was the only hotel I had pre-booked before leaving for my trip. All the other hotels I stayed in I found as I traveled - mostly using the google search – Cheap hotels near me and then finding the hotel, I liked the best). I started cycling around 2:00 PM and cycled all the way to mile 22 and then back to my car. The trail was flat, the first half of the trail was paved and the second half of the trail was smooth packed dirt. Once back to my rental car I got groceries, went back to my motel and had microwave meals for dinner. I was very hungry I had no breakfast or lunch earlier that day. I had stopped for breakfast at McDonalds near Charlotte at about 10:30 AM, it was super packed, so I skipped breakfast. No lunch because I wanted to get some quick bike miles in for the day. I worked on my journal until about midnight. I ate excessively food on that night (including all the sun chips and most of the coco puffs I had bought.). I went to sleep around 10:00 PM.

Day 3, Sunday, November 7, 2021

I did not sleep great, I first went to sleep around 10:00 PM, the people above me where makes lots of noise. I woke up around midnight and did not get back to sleep until 2:00 AM. The people above were still walking heavily and talking very loudly. I wanted to get up around 6:00 AM, but ended up waking up around 8:00 AM. The motel-included breakfast was to make your own waffles, package sweet rolls, juice and coffee. Close to nothing. I had breakfast, then I drove back to the American Tabaco Trail and cycled north to Durham. I cycled around Durham. There is a lot of Tobacco history along the trail and in the town of Durham. I saw an old tobacco-drying cabin near the trail. In Durham, there are historic Lucky Strike and Bull Durham tobacco advertisements. There was an extensive historic area in Durham, after checking out Durham I cycled back to my car.



		NORTH CARECINA INVESTIGATION
Fountain at Southpoint mall in Durham.	Ted with his bike at Durham historic area.	Durham historic area.
	ROLL YOUR OWN AND SAVE YOUR ROLL OF LANCE BUILL DUR HAM TO AACCO	
Ted near a bike rack in Durham historic area.	Historic Bull Durham Tobacco advertisement.	Ted and his bike in front of Bull statue in Durham.

Then I drove towards Greensboro, North Carolina and cycled the Atlantic & Yadkin Greenway bike trail. Along the trail, I quickly stopped and checked out Guilford Courthouse National Military Park. The Atlantic & Yadkin Greenway bike trail was very nice with great fall colors and trailside lakes.



Bulfford Carethause Rational Matteries Rational Matteries		
Ted in front of Guilford Courthouse	Ted at Guilford Courthouse National	Trail sign on the Atlantic & Yadkin
National Military Park entrance sign.	Military Park.	Greenway trail.
Bridge on the Atlantic & Yadkin	Lake next to Atlantic & Yadkin	Lake next to Atlantic & Yadkin
Greenway trail.	Greenway trail.	Greenway trail.

Then I drove towards Mount Mitchell and stayed at a Super 8 motel near exit 55 in Ashville. I drove into town (waste of time), got groceries (self-check did not take cash, had to pay with credit card) and then drove back to my motel and ate microwave meals. I worked on my journal and stuff until about 11:00 PM.

Day 4, Monday, November 8, 2021

I had another bad night sleep, had a cough with slight weird feeling with deep breaths. I am sure it was not COVID, no fever, but I suspected COVID (the throat felt better the next day). I think I had just not been drinking enough water. I finally woke up around 6:10 AM, packed up my car and got the minimal motel-included breakfast. I got a blueberry muffin, a sweet roll, coffee and an apple pie. I started eating the sweet roll, but it was not tasty. I ate about 2/3 of the sweet roll and threw away the rest. My GPS said the Blue Ridge Road was closed and the internet said it was only open from May to October. The person at the motel said the other route to Mount Mitchell was closed and the Blue Ridge Road to Mount Mitchell was open. I left the hotel around 7:15 AM and drove to Mount Mitchell (highest point in North Carolina). It turned out the shorter Blue Ridge Road to Mount Mitchell was open (like the person at the motel indicated), even though Google indicated the road was closed. I hiked the short 300 yards to the summit, took photos, walked back to my car and then started driving to Clingmans Dome.

Ted on the summit of Mount Mitchell.	Ted near visitor center half way down the mountain from the summit of Mount Mitchell.	Ted with his rental with the fall- colored tress on the road descending from Mount Mitchell.

Tennessee

It was a long drive to Clingmans Dome, but I was glad I did all the driving. When I first entered the Smokey Mountains, I stopped at Oconaluftee Visitor Center and checked out the farm. At the farm, I saw several people at the river taking photos. As I was walking over to their location I could see a large elk, I got a single picture of the elk before it disappeared into the woods. I just missed getting photos of the elk crossing the river. A man showed me the great photos he had just taken of the elk crossing the river. Then I drove up to Clingmans Dome parking lot and hiked the step 0.5-mile paved trail (access road) to Clingmans Dome. The trail and area were very crowded. Clingmans Dome is on the boarder of North Carolina and Tennessee. It is also the highest point in Tennessee.

Farmhouse at Oconaluftee Visitor Center on the way to Clingmans Dome.	Elk seen near river next to Farmhouse at Oconaluftee Visitor Center.	Ted at Clingmans Dome,
Ted at Clingmans Dome,	Ted on trial to Clingmans Dome,	Ted near base of trial to Clingmans Dome,

Then I drove to the Maryville-Alcoa greenway trail and cycled a loop by accident. Then I went back to where I thought I made a mistake, at a trail closure. From the closure, I asked a man where the trail continued and he pointed it out. After that I did a lot of biking on the trail and all the branches near where I was, it seemed like the branches on the trail were everywhere.





I was thinking about getting a nearby hotel, but I was slightly concerned about getting all my miles for the four states I was visiting. I have 2 days per state, but the rain was on its way Friday. The weather was currently great. I ended up deciding not to go to Knoxville, I do not think I missed anything. Then I started driving to Chattanooga. I stopped to get gas and then I could not get my cell phone to get me directions to Chattanooga on the car's android app, I think my cell phone does not have great coverage or I was doing something wrong. I kept thinking I needed to slow down, so I decided to stop in Athens instead of going all the way to Chattanooga. I went to get food at the market near the motel, but they had no frozen TV dinners, so I just got ding-dongs. Then I went to the Taco Bell, but due to COVID they only had the drive-up window open and I was walking. Then I went to the nearby Krystal fast food. New place to me, they just had slider burgers cooked in onion and chicken sliders. Since I do not like onion, I got the three-chicken slider meal, not a great fast-food place. I think I preferred the TV dinners in the motel microwaves. I went to the motel to eat my meal, watch TV and work on my journal. I went to sleep around 11:00 PM.

Day 5, Tuesday, November 9, 2021

I woke up around 7:00 AM and cycled 11 miles on Athen's roads.



Then I went back to my motel, packed up and was on the road by 8:45 AM. I smoothly made it to the north part of the Chattooga River walk trail, I first cycled to the dam and then into Chattanooga, I had a hard time figuring out the trail in town and went over the walking bridge, around the water front, then back over the walking bridge and found the bike trail going south of town. I cycled south for a distance and then back to my car.





I returned to my car and decided to go to Lookout Mountain. I ended up in some woman's driveway and she was on her way out. She asked where I was going, I told her I was looking for Lookout Mountain, she said I was at Lookout Mountain and I thought she wanted me to follow her to the visitor attraction. I started following her, then she pulled over on the side of the road and she told me to go the other direction. I think she thought I was a creep or dangerous person. I gave up looking for the tourist attraction on Lookout Mountain (I could not figure it out using google) and then I started driving towards Rockmart. When I returned to Portland, I tried to figure out where I wanted to go at Lookout Mountain and still could not figure out how to get to the Lookout Mountain attraction near Chattanooga. I found plenty of photos and think it would have been worthwhile place to visit.

Georgia

I then started driving toward Rockmart, Georgia, stopped at a rest stop on I-75 and the rest rooms where closed. I made several mistakes, but finally made it to Rockmart. Then I found the Silver Commit Trail, then I went to try to get a room at the Gardens Inn and suits, they had no single rooms, but had doubles. The person running the motel did not seem to want to rent me a room and suggested another hotel. I did not really want to stay at her hotel. It seemed fine until I tried getting a room. I then went to the Econo lodge and found a fine room. I got groceries for the microwave, worked on my journal, checked email, ate my microwave meals and posted Facebook photos until about 11:30 PM. Then I went to sleep.

Day 6, Wednesday, November 10, 2021

I woke up around 6:30 AM, got my breakfast (Waffle machine out of order), package rolls (sweet roll and 4 blueberry muffins), two packs of oat meal and large coffee (used my McDonalds cup). I left for the Silver Comet Trail at about 7:30 AM, I wanted to leave by 7:00 AM, sunrise was about 7:10 AM. Once on the trail I parked on the road and asked a woman if it was OK to park all day, she said not on Thursday's due to farmer's market. She said otherwise yes. Since it was, Wednesday I could stay parked there all day. The trail from Rockmart (mile marker 37.6) was great, cement for first half and second half was perfect pavement. I came across leave blowers on the trail three times. They do a lot to maintain the Silver Comet Trail. The tunnel was the main highlight on the trail (Brushy Mountain Tunnel – mile 30.8), there was also a high trestle bridge (Pumpkivine Creek Trestle – mile marker 23), but the Trestle bridge was not as nice

as the one on the Banks-Vernonia trail near Portland. I cycled all the way to mile 5 and then back to my car. I still needed more Georgia miles so I continued on the trail east for a few more miles and then cycled back to my car.



Ted with his bike on the Silver	Ted with his bike on the Silver Comet	Ted with his bike on the Silver Comet
Comet Trail.	Trail Pumpkinvine Creek Trestle	Trail.
Ted with his bike on the Silver	Ted with his bike on the Silver Comet	Ted with his bike on the Silver Comet
Comet Trail.	Trail.	Trail Brushy Mountain Tunnel



Then I drove like crazy to the high point in Georgia, Brasstown Bald. It was sunset when I arrived at Brasstown Bald. No one stopped me from entering the park, so I raced the 0.6 miles up to the summit. I did not see anyone up there and the visitor building was closed. It was dark by the time I started down, so I used my headlight. When I arrived in the parking lot, my car was the only one there, with the exception of two ranger trucks. The rangers did not say anything and waited for me to leave.



South Carolina

I then drove the long distance to Easley and found a room at the Days inn. Then I got groceries and microwaved them at the motel. I went to sleep around 11:00 PM.

Day 7, Thursday, November 11, 2021

I woke up around 6:30 AM, cycled to the Doodle trailhead from my motel and then cycled back to my motel. I packed up my car and drove to the Doodle trailhead (same place I had biked to) and started cycling. The rain started slightly after I began cycling. It lightly rained continuously throughout my ride. At one point, there was a bridge out, no warning and no alternate route. I cycled roads until I arrived in Pickens and took the trail back. I cycled back to where the bridge was out and found a better route back to the other side of the closed section of the trail (Just one bridge was out on the trail and they had no alternate route designated. It would have been easy for them to put up a couple of signs to make an alternate route.). Then I bike back to my car and into the town of Easley. I was very wet by the time I got back to my car (I wet even though I had rain pants and raincoat on).





Then I drove to the high point in South Carolina, Sassafras Mountain Tower. It was rainy and foggy, no view from the top. This was the only rainy day on this vacation, all the other days on this trip were sunny.



Then I made my way to find the Prisma Health Swamp Rabbit Trail and cycled for a couple of hours. At that point, I was down to 25 more miles of cycling in South Carolina to get all the miles I wanted for this trip. Then I found a hotel in Piedmont, I meant to find one in Greenville, but did not want to keep looking so I stayed at the hotel I found. It was fine. I went to sleep around 11:00 PM.

Day 8, Friday, November 12, 2021

I woke up around 6:30 AM and got my hotel included breakfast. It was only sweet rolls for breakfast. I left the hotel at about 7:30 AM. I got my real breakfast at McDonalds and drove to Falls Park to start cycling. I cycled south for a while and took a bike route that was designated to bypass a busy road (I think it was Laurens Rd Bypass bike route). The bypass road was hilly, had plenty of assigns so you knew where to turn and was on mixed road (mostly low traffic neighborhood roads). Not a great route for cycling. After a few miles on the bypass road, I used google on my cell phone and found I was getting further from the Prisma Health Swamp Rabbit Trail (The one I was planning to cycle). Therefore, I went back to Park Falls and biked in downtown Greensville. Then I returned to the Prisma Health Swamp

Rabbit Trail and cycled back to the place I had parked the previous day. Then I made my way back to my car and put my bike in the rental car.



Ted with his bike at the end of the Swamp Rabbit Trail.	Bike shop next to the Swamp Rabbit Trail.	Ted with his bike next to the Swamp Rabbit Trail.
		26
Ted with his bike on the Swamp Rabbit Trail.	Ted with his bike on the Swamp Rabbit Trail.	Ted with his bike on a Furman University trail near the Swamp Rabbit Trail.

Ted with his bike on a Furman University trail near the Swamp Rabbit Trail.	Ted with his bike on the Swamp Rabbit Trail.	Ted with his bike on the Swamp Rabbit Trail.
Ted's bike next to the Swamp Rabbit Trail.	Ted near school off Laurens Rd Bypass route.	Ted with his bike on Liberty bridge at Park Falls.

Ted's bike on Reedy River in downtown Greensville.	Ted with his bike in downtown Greensville.	Ted with his bike in downtown Greensville.
Ted with his bike in downtown Greensville.	Ted's bike near roots in Falls Park near Liberty bridge.	Ted with his bike at Falls Park with liberty bridge in the background.

Then I drove towards Columbia to check out the capital, I had a lot of time so I decided to see what I wanted to see near Columbia and decided to first go to Congaree National Park. I went there and I hiked the 2.6-mile boardwalk loop trail, by the time I was done with my hike the sun had set.



Trees seen from boardwalk trail at Congaree National Park.	Distillery seen from boardwalk trail at Congaree National Park.	Plants seen from boardwalk trail at Congaree National Park.
Ted near the boardwalk loop trail at Congaree National Park.	Ted near the boardwalk loop trail at Congaree National Park.	Lake near the boardwalk loop trail at Congaree National Park.



Then I drove towards the capital building in Columbia and then to find a motel. I checked out the Days Inn and did not like the dark location. Then I drove about 6 miles and checked out the Super 8 Motel, it looked like a much better location. As I was moving in, I noticed women around, I think it may have been a prostitute type motel. I unloaded my car and locked myself into my room and ate the TV dinners I had bought at the Food Lion (I went there between getting my room and unloaded my car into my room). I worked on stuff and went to sleep around midnight.

Day 9, Saturday, November 13, 2021

I woke up around 6:30 AM, got my motel included breakfast (sweet rolls, oatmeal, toast, biscuits and gravy). Then I packed my car and drove to Columbia Canal and Riverfront Park to do some cycling. I cycled the trail to the dam, several people walking. I do not think I saw anyone else on a bike. Bikes are allowed, the signs said that bikes should allow walkers to have priority on the trail. I wanted to take the trail to the capital and found the trail was to the dam (I was going the wrong direction for the capital). I got back near my car and found the trail closed going towards town. I looked up the capital building location on my cell phone and cycled the roads to get there. Then I cycled to Granby Park and along the not-so-great trail. Then I looked up the Three River Greenway trail and cycled across the river to

check out the trail. The trail was a little narrow with lots of walkers (especially near the town of Columbia). I continued south and there were fewer walkers the farther I was from town, the trail went a long way and by the time I got back to my car, I had cycled over 30 miles.



Ted's bike on trial near Columbia Canal and Riverfront Park.	Ted in front of Capital building in Columbia, SC.	Ted on Three River Greenway trail in Columbia, SC.
Warning sign on Three River Greenway trail in Columbia, SC.	Ted's bike at north end of Three River Greenway trail.	Ted crossing bridge over Congaree River in Columbia, SC.

North Carolina Part 2

Then I started driving towards Charlotte, I really did not know what I would do there. I stopped at the I-77 welcome center and they gave me several pamphlets. I looked through all the pamphlets in the parking lot of the rest stop. I finally decided I did not want to do anything in Charlotte and decided to go closer the Lake Normal for something to do on my last day (one of the places the person at the Welcome Center suggested). My flight out was not until 8:00 PM the next day. I went to the Days Inn in Mooresville and they had no rooms, they said there was a tournament in town. Then I went to the Quality Inn and they had rooms. The rooms are about the same as at the Days Inn, but the Quality Inn cost about 50% more than the Days Inn. This night was my most expensive night on this trip. I worked on stuff for a while and watched a funny movie. My alarm clock batteries went dead, they have been in there for years, the batteries were corroded. I bought new batteries at the nearby (about .25 miles from motel) Wall Mart. I fixed my alarm clock and set the time. I repacked for my flight home and watched TV until about 11:30 PM.

Day 10, Sunday, November 14, 2021

I woke up around 5:00 AM and could not get back to sleep. I got out of bed around 6:30 AM and got my hotel-included breakfast (Packaged egg burrito, packaged egg sausage meal, toast, small coffee and three packages sweet rolls). Then I watched TV and took my time leaving. I left the hotel around 8:30 AM and drove to Lake Normal. I hiked the dragon trail and alder trail near the visitor center at Lake Norman state park. The fall colors were spectacular.

Ted at pond in Lake Normal State Park, NC.	Alder trail at Lake Normal State Park.	Ted on Alder trail at Lake Normal State Park.
Pond at Lake Normal State Park, North Carolina.	Pond at Lake Normal State Park, North Carolina.	Pond at Lake Normal State Park, North Carolina.

Then I drove to Statesville and cycled the Statesville Greenway trail. I thought it was a 7-mile ride. It turned out to be only about 2 miles. I also cycled roads for a while in Statesville.





Then I dove back to Troutman to cycle the trails that I had seem when I drove to Statesville from Lake Norman. That trail was also only about 2 miles, but I did more highway riding there and found a park with a short trail.



Then I drove towards Charlotte for my flight home. I made mistakes checking in, the check-in machine did not allow me to input my code and then it went to an error screen (I think I took too long to get my bags paid) after I paid for my bags and before I got my boarding pass. I went to check in my bags and they asked for my boarding pass. I told them the machine went to the error screen, the lady took my bags and sent me to another person to get my boarding pass. The other person that was going to help me get my boarding pass told me to get in another line. Then the second line woman got my boarding pass (she had also helped me input my flight code – I was having unusual problems), I could not select a seat, I ended out getting a center seat. The center seat was not too bad. The person on the aisle side was a little bit of a hand rest hog and the lady near the window, kept her distance and slept against the window. The flight home was smooth, it landed a little late and the line for getting a taxi was very long. I ended up sharing a taxi with a woman from North Portland. It really did not save any money, about the same I paid last time I took a taxi home. I ended up getting home around midnight and went to sleep around 1:00 AM.

Day 11, Monday, November 15, 2021

I woke up around 6:00 AM and thought it was 7:00 AM, daylights saving time had changed the previous week and I

had not reset my clocks yet. The previous night when I got home, I actually thought I got home at 1:00 AM, not midnight (I was wondering why it took me so long to get home). I cycled to work at 7:00 AM and started working at 8:00 AM.