

The Devil Drove Down to Georgia In a Miata

by Mike Selvy

Here's an interesting find we made for yet another Miata road!

On our trip South, we did the US129 bit over to US 19 and continued on to Gwinnett County, GA. and Sugar Hill where my daughter lives. It was a cross country choice to avoid the Interstate grind. Little did we realize what we'd discover. Hit this link (<http://www.info-map.com/cycle/>) and scroll half-way down the page and note the photo of US 19! Perhaps there are more sites out there but I've not had time to seek them out.

When one does the Tale of the Dragon, the Blood Mountain adventure should be tacked onto the southern trek if one is headed to points South! It's honestly much faster, wider, and safer, than US 129 while pushing your Miata through the turns. I have no idea as to the number of curves etc. We just stumbled upon it and had one hell of a ride to add to the TofD/US 129 drive.

It was dark and I'm sure that during the day, the normal traffic would present some congestion. This area seems to be highly recreational with campers, boats, etc.. We encountered some RV traffic and others pulling boats up the mountain as we headed down and to the South. We never passed anyone as we sped down the mountain and through the curves. US 19 even treated us to switchbacks, speed limits of 50 M.P.H., dual, and triple lanes (depending upon the grades involved). A speeding Miata still had to be cautious of oncoming traffic crossing that yellow center line while staying on your side of the highway.

Perhaps we were lucky to pass over the mountain in the dark and avoid the traffic. But, that presented another challenge...pushing your car through the turns in pitch black, not really knowing the path and what to expect. It was a good, challenging ride!

Most oncoming traffic was never seen until they were into the same curve with you...and this was with head lights burning. That should give you an idea of how tight this road was.

If I smoked, I would have lit one up at the bottom of the mountain!

We ran the TofD/US 129 on the way back North too. I personally like the South run better.

Our plan was to follow the Foothills Parkway back to Townsend after the North run of the Tail of the Dragon, however it was closed.

Overall, the time and drive was Miata perfect!

Classifieds

For Sale: Floor Mats w/ Miata Logo - These mats are about 6 months old so they are basically brand new and in excellent condition. They have the Miata logo in white in the center. Contact Steve Jacobson at 317-570-4598 or steven.jacobson@hp.com. Bargain priced at just \$50.

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