

Cover Story

Honda Rat

By Carl Lindbeck, Owner

I'm a quiet person, not because I'm standoffish, but because I have to total laryngectomy. Having served with the 101st Airborne in Viet Nam in '68-'69, one of the unseen wounds would not show up for years. Exposure to Agent Orange took its toll some 20 years later when I was diagnosed with cancer. Being quiet makes it easy for me to work on my passion, hot rods. I've built rods that were slick from top to bottom and some that looked like they were never finished (primer and rust are colors). Not having ridden a bike since the late 60's I rekindled the itch while working at the 2005 inaugural Midwest Cyclemania show in Green Bay, Wisconsin.



show in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

At the show I kept passing by a mocked up frame with a front fork, handle bars and rear tire. The bare skeleton kept saying, "Buy me, build me, ride me!" The frame was built by Dan Rosinsky, an outstanding fabricator and builder in Green Bay. We made a deal for a roller I could finish. He had an idea for how the bike should look and I had ideas on how MY bike should look. We collaborated on the overall styling, but since it was going to be my bike and I had the cash, my ideas floated a little higher in the water. I wanted a bare bones chopper and Snoopy (as Dan is known) was thinking along the lines of a traditional chopper with extended upswept exhaust, full fenders, a sissy bar and mid-rise bars. I wanted the bike to appear as it does here; more hard-core than traditional.



Snoop fabricated the gas tank with its concave sides and bobbed the rear fender. He fabricated the oil bag, battery box, ignition box and forward controls in stainless. The ape hangers were bent from thick wall 1" DOM tubing.

The engine is a stock early 80's Honda CB750 four banger. They're plentiful, cheap, and (usually) reliable. The stainless exhaust blends two 1 1/2" pipes into 2" pipes on each side, ending mid-wheel. The pipes are covered in black heat wrap secured with stainless clamps. The shields (beer cans) each serve a purpose; the front cover provides protection for my heel and the rear covers the slices from the kick start.



While the bike appears to be rusty, the finish is Japanese Brown Patina from Sculpt Nouveau. To get the finish the frame, fender and tank were sandblasted lightly, heated with a torch and the coating brushed and sprayed on. After it cooled, it was topped with a matte clear. Because I wanted the bike to appear "aged", I chose not to polish any of the stainless.



The tail light is an updated '39 Chev truck unit with LED's. There are also LED's in the end caps of the frame. The headlight is a backup light from a farm tractor updated with an H-4 halogen bulb. Hi/Lo beams are controlled by a toggle switch with a 1/8" jewel indicator light. The '38 Ford tail light holds the Drag Specialties speedometer.

The seat is suspended with two mountain bike shocks to help smooth out the ride. The shocks were fitted with standard motorcycle seat springs, modified to fit flat on the shocks. There are also dampeners on the shocks to adjust rebound. The seat is covered with sheepskin and deer hide. The skull medallion was an after-thought. I was cutting skulls with my plasma cutter and just threw this extra one on the seat and I liked the look.



A very cool set of saddle bags were snatched on e-bay and the front bag found in a friends garage.

It's well balanced, scoots along nicely and attracts a crowd wherever it goes. The nice part about it is, that I can blow it apart, paint, powder coat and polish everything and it'll be a new bike. But, for now, it's just a fun ride that provides salve for the itch.

*Pictures and Story by Colleen Swartz www.digitalmagicbigshots.com*

Continued from Page 5

Some of the items include family pictures printed on pillow cases as gifts to the soldiers, and school supplies to be handed out by the troops to Iraqi school children. He had also been involved with the Harley Owners Group and Abate of Wisconsin. In the recent past, Floyd had helped in the search for Benjy Heil in the Town of Saratoga.

Being a very patriotic American, I received many article from Floyd that he e-mailed to me, during his searches on the internet, including the piece that was heavily spoken about pertaining the proper display of the American Flag.

I will miss "chappy" as will many others. Be free my friend and keep watch over us all till we meet again.

2nd Annual  
**Howl at the Moon**  
Mukwonago Chapter  
**Poker Run**

FREE Tap Beer! Live Music!

**August 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Sign up  
9am to 12noon  
Start at Dawn's Trolley Pub  
W297 S10698 Phantom Woods Rd.  
Mukwonago, WI  
1-262-844-2980

\$15.00 per person  
\$20.00 per couple  
Party Afterwards!!  
Food starts at 4p.m 'til gone

**DIGITAL  
BIGSHOTS  
MAGIC**

COLLEEN SWARTZ  
WRITER/PHOTOGRAPHER  
414-380-9005  
WWW.DIGITALMAGICBIGSHOTS.COM