

**Cass & Dave's Big Adventure
"The Panhead Cruse around Wisconsin"**

There comes a time in your life when you need to step back and slow down. I'm not talking about grabbing a rocking chair and sitting on the porch, I'm talking about taking a ride around your state on an antique bike. Never hitting an interstate or going over 60 mph. Taking a trip like this takes you back to when times were a lot simpler. This is just what Cass Kuzba and I did the end of July 2010. We had talked about doing something like this for awhile, just never found the time. Our wife's kind of set it up so we had no excuse not to do it. Cass has a 1951 FL Utility Solo and I have a much newer 1964 FLH Super Sport Solo. Both bikes are hand shift, foot clutch, and kick start bikes; this really is a whole different type of riding.

I also ride a newer Ultra, as far as tools go, all you need with a bike like that is a cell phone. The Panheads are a different story. I'm not worried so much about breakdowns, just regular maintenance. So bringing a set of tools along is only a smart thing to do, as well as oil. These bikes leak for a reason, they're suppose too. My bikes oil runs through the motor and back into the tank, the oil that's fed to the primary chain, drips on the chain and there's a pipe that lets it run out of the chain case onto the ground, it doesn't recycle back into the motor. This was a nice feature when they had dirt roads, it kept the dust down.

I also fitted a late 60's King Tour Box to the 64'. I have side bags, but with one full of tools and oil and a rain suit in the other I thought a little more room couldn't hurt, Cass add a standard tour box to his bike as well. The night before we left I checked all the fluid levels and hit all the zerks with grease. Cass called me and told me of a small problem he was having, no oil presser! This would have put a stop to us leaving but he called me later and said it's a go, the problem was repaired.

We planned to leave from his shop, *Deluxe H-D Restorations*, in Dousman, WI by 8:00 am. That morning when I left to meet Cass on my 1964 Pan the temp. was 64 degrees, kinda weird. Once at the shop, Fred took a look at our bikes and asked about the "Steamer Trunk" on the back of my bike and the "Hat Box" on Cass's, I thought this was pretty funny. These early bikes never had tour boxes available.

Our first gas stop was in Marshall, as we made our way west, it started to rain by the time we hit the town of Wanakee. We thought now would be a good time for breakfast so we pulled over at the Main Street Diner, this turned out to be a great idea. This place had tons of flavor and our waitress told us all the town's history. In fact the building behind the one we were in was once on the foundation of the very diner we were in. By the time we were finished it was just drizzling so we headed

west once again. The temps. were just right for the Panheads. We took Hwy 60 along the Wisconsin River to Hwy 61 north. A stop in Coon Valley for a beverage was long overdue, then back on the road for La Crosse.

A stop at the Harley dealership in Onalaska to see what all this talk about an electric start for motorcycles is all about, I don't think it will ever catch on. From



there we hit a few bars in the downtown area and checked into our hotel, unpacked the bikes and looked for a place to get some grub. At one of the bars in town we were told of a place that had great Cajun food and low and behold we found it. Buzzard Billy's turned out to be as good as we were told, great food and no disappointments. We continued to walk around the downtown area after dinner seeing the sites then headed back to the hotel; we wanted to get on the road by 7:00 am.

68 degrees this morning, checked the oil, chain, and a once over for another big day of riding. North to Osseo for breakfast and a piece of pie at the Norske Nook. We didn't have any time limits so we traveled at an easy pace; our goal was Tomahawk for the night. We rode through the Chequamegon National Forest and ended going to Timm's Hill. This is the highest point in the state at 1951 feet above sea level; from there we headed to Tomahawk. We parked the panheads on the sidewalk in front of the Harley-Davidson plant in town and got a great picture. We stopped at some of the local bars in town and then to the place we were staying. I know a guy that has a place on Somo Lake and worked it out that this is where we would stay. When we got there we took care of the maintainance on the bikes so we could leave in the morning. That night our wives drove up to meet us, we all went out for a fabulous dinner on Clear Lake. I enjoyed a great steak dinner and afterwards we took a walk down to the lake, very nice place. Back to our cabin for drinks and good conversation. Slept good in the cool north woods, my wife made some coffee and looking at the old bikes in the morning fog was pretty cool, takes you back in time. It was so quite we hated to leave but it was a long ride home so we had to say good bye and get back on the road. We took 107 south along the Wisconsin river to Mosinee where we stopped for breakfast at Ma & Pa's Café. We got so much food I didn't eat the rest of the day, not to mention it was some of the best food I've had. We made it a point to stay on the back roads all the way home through small towns and past lots of farms. I was leading and had a bunch of geese try to cross the road in front of me but a blast from the Jubilee Trumpet horn changed their minds. Cass was behind me and at the next stop asked what I did to piss them off so much, he said they were all honking at him.

I wasn't sure my bike could make a ride like this, of course in the back of my mind



I didn't know if I could make a trip like this on the old bike being spoiled with the Ultra.

We made it back home that evening after a long hot day and 750 miles. No problems with either bike, we saw country and life one would never see from an Interstate.

By: Dave Haasch

Your One Stop Leather Shop!

LEATHER
Headquarters

Jackets ★ Vests ★ Chaps ★ Gloves
Accessories ★ Helmets ★ Bags

Winter Hours
MTW 10-6pm
TF 9-7pm
Sat 9-6pm
Sun 12-4pm

Get Your Patches Sewn Here!
Stitching by Rachel

4230 W. Loomis Rd. ★ Greenfield, WI
Just off I-894 Loomis Exit
(414) 727-5898 ★ Formerly "Real Leather"

10% Military Discount

Blue Highway Motorcycle Lodge LLC

RESERVE YOUR GET AWAY FOR THE 2011 RIDING SEASON DATES FILL FAST!

"a unique destination for motorcyclists"
Located in Southwestern Wisconsin, in Hillsboro

Group Discounts

For rates and more information call (608) 489-4131
www.bluehighwaymotorcyclodge.net