

Continued from page 5

Time For the Timeline

About halfway through the Four-Tee-Five build, Doc Hopkins formulated the idea of making a multi-engine bike that would illustrate the technological progression of Harley "Big-Twins" from beginning to present. He began collecting the parts needed for the seven types of engines that chronicle the history of Harley power plants. By December of 2008, he had Leonardo DaVinci like sketches of his so-called "Timeline Bike" taped to one wall of his dealership, just outside the service counter.

Free Rider's Press visited Hopkins at that time and he told us that the bike would feature seven specific engines: a 1200-cc 10E flathead, a 74-cid (1200-cc) flathead of 1944 vintage, a 1946 1200-cc Knucklehead, a 1948 1200-cc Panhead, a 1981 1340-cc Shovelhead, a 1993 1340-cc Evolution and a 1999 or later Twin Cam. They were to be mounted in a custom frame with two in-line front forks and wheels, double rear wheels and 10 seats. According to Doc's calculations, just the seven engines alone required 13 feet of length.



The adventure ride to Sturgis was deemed a success by all 10 of the dedicated riders.

ed on the overall length and the number of seats. Doc said that his goal was to do everything he could to have the big bike completed in time for the August rally in Sturgis, S.D. He planned to ride it there with nine other Harley enthusiasts and left the door open for anyone who wanted to help.

By June 24, the front end was nearly completed. The bike was designed to have double front ends with four fork legs and tubes per front end (eight fork tubes total). Doc also installed 2 "kick stands" on the bike. An experimental test using just the Twin Cam motor was done to see how the chassis handled.

Final assembly of the Timeline Motorcycle began July 7, 2009. By this time, Doc had found it "a real handful to ride, but not impossible." He added a rear engine guard with two airplane landing gear wheels that enhanced stability during slow-speed maneuvering. Using only the Twin Cam engine for power, Doc rode the monster down the highway and around the block at speeds up to 65 mph. With his hands off of the handlebars, the bike ran straight as an arrow.

After verifying the bike was "rideable," Hopkins turned the frame over to B & J Custom for paintwork and final assembly. With the Sturgis rally less than a month away, the clock seemed to be ticking faster.

The Timeline bike's fenders arrived July 14 and got a classy new black-and-white paint job. Decals were ordered to go all along the top frame rail. The decals were classic images of various motorcycles from each era represented by the seven engines in the long motorcycle. At the front, Doc wanted photos of Harley's four founding fathers, the shed the first Harley was built in and various early models. The Timeline Motorcycle would become a rolling Harley-Davidson history lesson. Sturgis was now 18 days away.

With Ron K. Stratman's help, by July 17 arrangements had been made to display the Timeline Motorcycle at Sturgis Harley-Davidson, in downtown Sturgis, during the 69th annual rally. The dealership was in a perfect setting, just across the street from the Sturgis Motorcycle Museum. Stratman had already started designing a new T-shirt featuring the Timeline Motorcycle.

By July 28, finishing touches were added to the Timeline bike. On July 23, the center five engines had been started and ran perfectly. Ten people were picked to ride the bike. They would leave Doc's Harley-Davidson in Bonduel, Wis., on Aug. 1, make stops in Jackson, Minn. And Wall, S.D., and reach Sturgis by Aug. 3, if all went according to plan. On Aug. 29, it was announced that motorcycle attorneys Hupy & Abraham would co-sponsor the Sturgis adventure.

The Sturgis adventure turned out to be a success. The bike left Doc's with Hopkins, his wife Rhonda, Ben Thomas, Kersten Heling, John Knickerbocker, Jason Schroeder, Jeremy Hacker, Jody and Doug Denamur and Jeff Erdman filling the 10 seats. All seven engines run and contribute power to the machine, but on the highway, only the Twin Cam drives it.

Although the bike was trailered for portions of the trip, it was also ridden for portions each of the three days. It caught the attention of many motorists, including several members of the South Dakota Highway Patrol. The bike proudly flew a large "Watch for Motorcycles" flag. According to Doc Hopkins, the journey to Sturgis aboard the Timeline Motorcycle was, "definitely the trip of a lifetime."

Both the Forty-Tee-Five and the Timeline Motorcycle are on display at Doc's Harley-Davidson (www.docshd.com). Visitors are invited to stop by to see the machines and have their picture taken with these one-of-a-kind bikes.

With 10 riders, the 24-1/2-ft. long bike would require multiple sets of "outrigger" wheels ("training wheels") to keep it upright. Doc calculated total displacement at 8,790 cc or 538 cu. in. Each engine had its own oil tank. Both sets of double wheels, front and rear, would be designed to provide driving power and over 40-ft. of chain would have to be used to that end. A pair of acme thread lathe wheels were to be provided for use as kick stands. The top frame rail would serve as the fuel tank and a 9-gal. reserve tank was to take up the rear.

By April, when we took MSF training at Doc's Harley-Davidson, Hopkins was in the process of rebuilding the seven engines. He had a long row of restored power plants arranged on the floor, across from the service desk. On shelves in the shop he had engine parts from all stages of Harley history. By June 1, 2009, the Timeline Motorcycle was starting to come together. Doc had decid-

Lunch Specials
Eat in & Out
Entertainment

Open 7 Days A Week
11 am to Close

H I A W A T H A

• Broasted Chicken • Fish Fry •
• Soups • Salads • Hot Sandwiches •

Call for Booking a Birthday, Anniversary
or Small Wedding
715-457-2999

Close to Mead Hunting & Lake DuBay
JUNCTION CITY, WIS.
Centrally located between Marshfield,
Stevens Point, Wisconsin Rapids & Wausau

ROADHOUSE

Friday Fish Fry
Live Entertainment Some Weekends
Great Broasted Chicken &
Charbroiled Steaks

608-565-2337

W 5164 State Rd 21 Necedah, WI 54646

Where bikers are family

4 STOOLS SHORT

Open 7 days a week
10 A.M.-2 A.M.

Karaoke-Thur Live Music-Sat
POOL - DARTS - FOOTBALL
SANDWICHES PIZZA APPETIZERS

Wisconsin Rapids 715-421-4544

BONER AGAIN

Home of the Ride for Wishes and Mosquito Fest

Noon til close
Tuesday thru Sunday
Closed Mondays

Free Pool Wednesdays
Adult Entertainment
on weekends
(715) 886-4366

4 miles south of Rainbow Casino
Nekoosa, WI

General Weirdness Free of Charge

Venus
Gentleman's Club

Tuesday - Saturday 7pm-Close
Plus Last Sunday of Every Month

132 2nd Avenue South Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
(715) 423-0220

THE NEW
LOOK INTO IT!!

BODY SHOP

Featuring Beautiful
Exotic Dancers

The New Body Shop
140 2nd St. No.
WI Rapids, WI 54494
(715) 424 1810 Fax (715) 424 1557
email bodyshop@wrcr.net
Melissa & Ron Polzin Owners

CYCLE X

"Shock the World"

WWW.CYCLEXCHANGE.NET

6246 Hwy 51, Hazelhurst, WI
(715) 356-7346