

I always wanted my own motorcycle shop from about 13 when I convinced my Dad I had to have a bike or die! That's what started it and FINALLY on April 1st of this year I did what I had otherwise just dreamt and talked about! This Old Bike the name, came late at night about 15 years ago when a buddy and myself were joking late at night about a show dedicated to the restoration of old bikes. Of course it died but was never forgotten, until now! Look out Biker Reality Shows! The young dude on the old F Head HD in the photo of my Logo is my Grandpa, taken in 1917 on his Harley in North Dakota. He later traded it for a horse and started farming. Oh well ! Basically I'm a Parts Finder/BUY/Sell/Trade/Service/Consign/e-Bay Sales kind of shop. I do deal with other brands as well. We have quite a few used Harley parts, mostly Big Twin. We also go to swap meets and buy outright so our inventory keeps changing. Visit our web site at [www.thisoldbike.us](http://www.thisoldbike.us) Email: [Dave@thisoldbike.us](mailto:Dave@thisoldbike.us) or call Dave at 1-866-EARLY-HD (327-5943) or 715-442-2228 with your requests. We are located 5 miles NE of Pepin in West Central Wisconsin, near the Mississippi River, 70 miles North of La Crosse, WI. Ride Free and Safe and Remember: Old Motorcycles Are Our Friends!

Dave and Sandi Dykema



The Shop



1914 like grandpas



**Toy Haulers**

How many of you have went in the last year to a major event? Now how many said to yourself, look at that wanna be in the big ass camper or motor home? I know I have done my share of cursing about it. But in today's riding community there is some major coin involved.

Now seeing this in the past few years I have come to the conclusion that there is more than one reason for this. I've talked to a few of these travel trailer owners about why they don't ride in on a scoot and pitch a tent like in the old days. Well the number one reason seems to be that it is just easier to throw everything needed in the vehicle and go. I have to agree, this is easier than trying to limit the old lady to just one small bag. And number two is the fact that a lot of the riders today including the old timer's just can't handle sleeping on the ground in the cold anymore. Again I have to agree with that, it takes me a good hour to get moving well enough to get a refreshment in the morning.

Now the reason I am writing this is not to make excuses for anyone. The main reason for this story is to bring out some of the positives in the toy haulers of today.

Some people drive a motor home to an event that sleeps 8 people, while the rest of the party rides in. Hell, there's a stove, fridge, shower and most importantly a shitter close by. Others drive to the event in a bus or other vehicle that is used as a party vehicle, which in my opinion is the way to go when you have a big group of people camped in one area.(ever try to haul enough fire wood for a weekend on the bike, just don't work well!)

I went and checked out some of the Toy Haulers that are on the market, let me tell you talk about comfortable! Chuck Thatcher at Hilmerson RV in Little Falls, MN [www.hilmersonrv.com](http://www.hilmersonrv.com) took some time to show Lorie and me some of the units that are available. You can get a hauler from 18' to 41' plus. Prices can range from \$16,000 and up, depending on the accessories your looking for. With anything from sliding out living rooms to screened in porches that attach out the back. With the capacity to hold up to 5000# of cargo, the haulers are ideal for a sporting family.

For me personally when we go to an event, I normally ride the scoot while Lorie drives the suburban carrying all the stuff we need for the paper. Since the vehicle is there we don't need a tent. (And that suits me fine, I Like heat) But call me old, a wuss or just plain whatever. I am looking at an 18' hauler for my bike and paper things. Tell me I'm stupid but I'll have the cold beer if you want one. Just remember we gotta talk paper though, at least for the first beer.

Don't get me wrong I am still having a problem with the people that rent an RV for a big event to make themselves look important. But to each his own. So if you got a few bucks that is just sitting around collecting dust, a toy hauler might just be what the doctor ordered.

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