

A little something to warm you up during the cold month's. At least psychologically !!

Sturgis

Last year I stated in my editorial that I had zero interest in riding with up to a half million people I have never rode with. To this day I still feel that way, but I did get the opportunity to ride to Sturgis for breakfast, literally! So I decided to see if I was right or wrong on this rally.

Dave Zien called me up on Saturday August 1st saying he has a short speech to give to open the Sturgis Motorcycle hall of Fame Induction Breakfast in Rapid City. After chatting it over with Lorie I decided to tag along. So on Monday morning I started packing up my bike for the trek that I had no idea of what to expect.

August 3rd

Monday around 1pm, I headed out to meet up with Dave and another distance rider Dan Stephans. We were to meet in LaCrosse around 3pm at Lacrosse HD, but for those of you that know Dave, we ended up getting together 5 hours later in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The solo ride across Minnesota was really relaxing to me because I had no time frame to work with. I met some great people at way sides and gas stops. Other than the fields of flowing vegetation and an occasional wind farm, there really isn't much to look at. At least that's what I thought until I got to South Dakota.

August 4th

Tuesday Morning after eating breakfast with Freedom Fighter Sue Menard and hubby Tony Wendt, we headed out with Dan as lead rider. He decided to give us a little scenery, so we got off I-90 and took 1806 (Named after the Lewis and Clark expedition of 1806) along the Missouri river up to Pierre and back down along 14 to Wall, SD. Talk about some beautiful scenery. The sparkling river cutting through gentle rolling hills. Nice ride! We ended the trip across South Dakota with a room at the Four Seasons Motel in Rapid City, after finding out all rooms were booked in Wyoming. This did work out for the best due to the fact we had to be at the breakfast right up the road from our room in the morning. We unloaded (took the stuff off them, not off the trailer) the bikes and headed to Sturgis.



Sue Menard and Tony Wendt



Couple I met from Florida on 1806 road

For those of us that attended Harley's 100th Anniversary in Milwaukee, the traffic in Sturgis was what I expected. Heavy, slow and heating up my bike like an industrial heater between my legs making for an uncomfortable time I really don't like to have. After the initial ride through Main St, we stopped and went to the Sturgis Motorcycle Museum www.sturgismuseum.com were Dave's record breaking bike is.



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Dan Stephans



Dave Doing what he does best. Talk...



I had the pleasure to meet Executive director of the museum Christine Paige Diers. She runs the museum and all it's wonderful treasures. I really enjoyed my time there. (P.S.- It was cool to see part of my Dave Zien story on his bike) While Dan & I waited for the celebrity (Dave), we mosied through the streets taking pictures and admiring the thousands of bikers that made the trip like we did. The sun tanned faces with eye glass outlines, the ladies all showing what they got the best they could while keeping it legal. The vendors, police and riders all made for a favorable scene.



Downtown Sturgis is a must see. At least once...

After a couple hours at the museum, we headed over to the Buffalo Chip Campgrounds, located just outside of town. Talk about impressed! This place seemed to be biker heaven for those that wanted to get lost for a week. (But that's for me to experience next time there. This time was short and for miles to be ridden.) While at the Chip we attended the Michael Lichter

"Motorcycles As Art Exhibition" (www.lichterphoto.com) party where

the who's who of the motorcycle world all seemed to be. Bike builders like Donnie Smith, Dave Perowitz and World Champ builder from Milwaukee, WI Dave Cook. Media from all the magazines like EasyRider, American Iron, Ironhorse, Thunder Press and best of all, the Free Riders Press. (Did I say That?) Some other celebrities in attendance were Steven Tyler of Aerosmith and Dee Schneider of Twisted Sister. One thing I did find out is the fact that there are 1000's of people in Sturgis and you seem to run into a whole bunch of people you know. Small world I guess!



After a fantastic spread of food and some free beverages, we got to check out the gallery. Talk about way cool!!! The prints, bikes and other memorabilia was a trip through the past that seem to have been lost in time. Outside was a different story. High winds, heavy rain and lightning making for a great light show but a bit tough to ride in. The storm moved out and we decided to get back to the room. As we were getting ready to ride, I heard the ever so famous voices of Cheech & Chong on the stage. The crowd was diggin' it. We saddled up and headed back to Rapid City in the crisp post rain air.



Nothin' like a good storm.