

Cover Story

I have strived to bring to the table an association between bikers/clubs, citizens and communities in which we both co-exist. This is one of those stories that I hope will encourage all to make the world a better place.

Have you heard the expression, "You never know what you got till it's gone." To some people this never has a chance to be lived out due to disabilities. For some of these folks, the gone seems to far away to achieve in the first place. But this is not the case for one young man who is wheel chair bound and respirator dependent. At age of 8 Travis was diagnosed with encephalomyeloneuropathy, and has had many mountains to conquer over the last 13 years.

Travis Mathe of Plover, WI wanted to go for a group motorcycle ride. With the help of Mary Hollman, a member of the Harley Classic Riders out of Central Wisconsin a wish was about to be granted. (The Harley Classic Riders purpose is to promote and improve the desired image of motorcycling among the general public, and to enhance the public's knowledge of motorcycles.) (www.classicharelyriders.com) The CHR got a sidecar together, met for a quick meeting, then headed over to an anxiously waiting Travis. Hearing the bikes start up, Travis knew his dream was about to come true.

So what do you see when you look at me?

By Travis Mathe

A young throat attached to a long, blue hose?
Two eyes slightly different above a commonplace nose?
Do you stare at a neck that isn't quite up and down?
or at me in a special chair as if I wear a crown?
How 'bout the machine that is always turned on
Knowing if it weren't I surely could be gone?

So what do you see when you look at me?
Do you see that I tell stories to people young and old?
Do you know that I craft artwork that is ever so bold?
Can you tell that I'm a gamer from dawn of day to night?
Or that when faced with a challenge, I put up a good, brave fight?
Do your eyes see me talking to make another new friend?
Do you see that I'm a Redwings fan until the bitter end?

So what do you see when you look at me?
I'd like you to see that I'm a kind, hardworking guy.
I'd like you to know that I light up a from a simple hi.
I'd want you to know that my faith is strong and true.
I'd hope that you would know that I'd never hurt you.
I'd wish you to know that I'm capable in my own right.
I'd yearn for you to know that my life is a delight.

So what do you see when you look at me?

On Saturday June 13th, I was asked if I would like to be a part of this ride by Rick and Cheryl of Heckey Computer in Waupaca. www.heckeycomputer.com After thinking about it for, "oh, 2 seconds", I agreed to meet the group. I know from the past, that when an event like this happens, it is more often than not rewarding beyond belief. The feelings that are brought up in me by the honest, vibrant and jubilant recipients make for some satisfying contentment on my part.

Travis who enjoys poetry, Hockey (especially the Red Wings), is a huge Star Wars fan (as noticed by the walls in his room), likes doing crafts and is planning on writing a book. He also enjoys reading to young children and encourages them to accept people as they are. No matter what they look like, their disabilities etc. (I think adults should take this lesson to heart)



Travis' Family

I asked Travis what he thought of the ride. He said, "The ride was awesome, the feeling of the wind rushing in my helmet, it was great." In fact he said, "I told the driver he can go faster" After the 40 mile ride and a stop off at a small park in Cobtown, the day was topped off with a BBQ at the Mathe home.

"Laugh, Love and Learn= The three I's of Life" is what Travis believes, and wants to let people know that you should never let your problems, trials and tribulations get you down. Being an inspiration to others is Travis' goal and I personally think he is an excellent roll model.



Rosholt Motorcycle Co.



Complete in house Machine Shop
Antique Restoration
Parts & Accessories
Leather Repair, Patches, Clothing, Black Hills Gold & more!
9-6 Mon-Fri • 8-12 Sat
715-677-4738
207 N. Main Street • Rosholt, WI
www.rosholtmotorcycle.com

TORBLEAU TRIKES, INC.



Quality Workmanship from Design to Build

501 Business Park Circle
Stoughton, WI 53589
Phone: 608-873-0200
e-mail: torbleautrikes@sbcglobal.net www.torbleautrikes.com

Trike Conversions
Harley
Honda
Suzuki
Yamaha
Victory & more!

WISCONSIN



Midwest's ONLY H-D authorized
Antique & Classic Restoration and Repair
on site dealership
WWW.WISHD.COM



EVERYBODY WINS AT

Sack's Sach & Lisa
RENDEZVOUS
(715) 674-7600
Bar & Wildlife Display 27 State Hwy. 139
Tipton, WI 54542
200 YARDS FROM THE MICHIGAN BORDER!

