

True Story
346 Mile Day Ride to Copper Harbor

By: Daniel L. Wiedenfeld

The Border Boys (the Ladies are the Border Babes) finally received some good weather on the Border (Lower UP Michigan-Upper Wisconsin) and they put it to good use taking a 346 mile round trip ride from Boulder Junction WI. to Copper Harbor MI and back. Turn out for the ride was low because of the good weather, some went Fishing, some had Visiting Family, one had to pass a Kidney Stone, but come on guys, lets ride!



Everyone topped of their tanks in Bruce Crossing, feeling the excitement of finally being able to get in a good ride for the first time this year. With Grizz (riding a Harley Davidson 100th Anniversary Edition Dyna Wide Glide with some Mill Work and Ground Pounders) leading out the pack, the Ride gets under way, under hazy skies that would eventually burn off to reveal clear skies later in the day around 1 pm. The air temperature averaged out about 70 degrees with a light breeze, perfect for a ride.

It doesn't take long for the excitement to begin as, heading up Co. Hwy. 141, Grizz almost eats Venison, literally! Just as Grizz is rumbling down on her, a sleeping Doe lying by the side of the road wakes up and decides to cut across two lanes of traffic instead of taking the safe route back into the woods. If you know Grizz he never backs off of the throttle and misses Doe Tail by just inches! From where I was riding back in the pack, I thought he was going to eat Venison Steaks for sure.

Then, not 10 miles down the road from there, a big red (and dumb) long hair Labrador retriever, decides it wants to play Road Race'n with Jonny J. Well that dog put up a good show for the first 25 yards, but Jonny J's Yahmie FZ1 with 140 HP laughed in the face of this weak challenge. The dog thinking he's chased off another one, breaks off pursuit and turns right in front of my bike (A Yamaha VStar 1100 Silverado). Boy am I glad it has 3 disc brakes! Needless to say, that was one lucky dog. (Me!)

Lunch and the first real break in the ride is taken at Murices in Houghton MI were I have my first 'Grinder' Sandwich. (Nobody knew where the name came from, but they're great!) It's kind of like a Sub-sandwich but these are cooked hot and are wider than a Sub. I had the 8" Ham & Turkey Grinder and couldn't finish it all.

Everyone tops of in Hancock on the other side of the 'Houghton Isle Royale River' just across from Houghton. Crossing the 'Houghton Isle Royale River' you pass over on a huge 'Iron Grate Draw Bridge'. Brave riders can look down as they cross and see the water and passing boats 75 ft below, as the iron grate roadway pulls this way and that at your bike tires, making the bikes wiggle and squirm under you as you pass over it.

The rest of the trip went smoothly and we enjoyed the fantastic scenery along the way. A Waterfall emerging right out of a solid Rockwall, cascades down only to disappear again back into the rock. We passed through Gay MI, and passed the famous 'Gay Bar' packed with bikers of all types. (Gay because it's in Gay MI, not because they are

'Carefree & Gay'). We roll-up along side of Lake Superior for the first time on the trip and it won't be the last, you start to get a feel for how really big Lake Superior is! You'll run along side of the Great Lake for miles and miles.

The air temperature has dropped; you can feel it on the bike, caused from the wind blowing across the Great Lake. The Lake temperature was 55 degrees, there was actually a guy with a hand-held thermometer measuring it while we were there stopped at one of the roadside parks (no really!) Pulling into Copper Harbor we head East to the very beginning and end of Hwy. 41 there the road ends in a cul-de-sac around a monument explaining that you can ride from here all the way down to Miami FL. on Hwy. 41, through 7 States; we'll have to try that ride on another day.

Our Day Ride is halfway over now, and going home is always bitter-sweet, you want to get back, but you don't want the ride to end. Luckily for us we've got 4½ hours of riding left just to get back home (including stops for refueling and water breaks, as needed) Heading back we passed some old historic towns such as; Eagle River MI, Phoenix & Allouez, Calumet, Laurium, and again through Hancock/Houghton, past South Range & Painesdale, through the Copper Country State Forest and on past Rousseau, Nisula & Victoria.

I left my home in Boulder Junction WI at 6:30 am and reluctantly return at 5:00 pm after an unforgettable riding adventure with some of my friends in the 'Border Boys Motorcycle Club'. Through some of the most beautiful country that God has put on this planet, (it's been rumored that the Garden of Eden was found somewhere in Upper Michigan).

Am I glad that I didn't go Fishing, or Visit with Family, or pass a Kidney



Stone? You bet! Because I was out doing something that I've wanted to do all Winter, and that is Ride!

Take this Ride for yourself and see how truly wonderful the Upper Peninsula of Michigan is and until our next trip, 'Keep the Shiny Side Up the Rubber to the Road and Ride On!

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