

My Ride

6/2007

I'm not much for putting ink to paper but sometimes you take a ride that you want to share. Last June, the company I was working for decided it was important for me to attend a week long meeting in Minneapolis MN. I mentioned this to my wife Lori, thinking we could make a vacation/business trip out of it. As it happens she had a lot of things to do that week. I would have to go alone.

It came down to a choice, my company would be happy to put on a plane or I could pack up the Jeep and take 4 wheels or I could make it a ride and take my time meandering along the Mississippi River.

Riding for 40 years now, I'm always looking for a good ride. I think you know which form of transportation I decided on.

Leaving early, at 6:00 A.M. on a warm, sunny Sunday morning I headed out of Waukesha on I-94 towards Madison then out I-90 towards La Cross. It was one of those mornings that make you feel content and happy. My FL was kicking out that great exhaust tone and running just right. You know that feeling, being one with your bike.

I got around Wisconsin Dells and the sky slowly darkened and then just opened up. The rain was refreshing and as I rode thru the sprinkles the smells of the cut grass, the cooling pavement and the fresh farm fields were overwhelming. Sure brought a lot of peaceful thoughts and makes you feel how really good it is to be alive.

The sun came out as I got to La Cross and I decided to pull off and relax a moment before crossing the grand daddy of all rivers. I spent about half an hour talking to a couple of truckers, who said the weather was clear and the traffic was light where I was headed.

I crossed the Mississippi at about 10AM. I wish I could have pulled over on the bridge and enjoyed the sight, the river had a smooth but powerful look to it...Picture perfect!

Got off the I system and headed up Minnesota Hwy 61, that's where the scenery became overwhelming. My FL seemed to be enjoying the ride as much as I. Running strong and smooth, she didn't skip a beat and I felt my bond with my scooter getting stronger.

Along MN HWY 61 the river snakes right along the highway. I found myself stopping at almost all the main turn-outs/scenic overlooks to take pictures. The day had become warm and sunny and because I was in no real hurry I spent some time just taking in the sights of the high bluffs and the flowing river. When you take in nature this beautiful it makes you feel small in the scheme of Gods green earth.

I so enjoyed the ride all the way up the Mississippi, as I got to the other side of Red Wing MN the highway separates from the river and I finally stopped day dreaming, but still enjoying the ride. I happened to look down at the fuel gauge. I had been so engrossed with all the sights I hadn't noticed the fuel light was on and the gauge pegging the E. By that time I'm in the country side of rural MN, I started looking for a friendly looking farm to beg, borrow or buy some fuel. God was looking after me that day, I know this because I happened to see a small sign- Marathon two miles. I filled up and completed my trip to Minneapolis.

The week in Minneapolis was un-eventful. The business meeting was boring, the motel was adequate with a hot tube and pool which I did find time to use to relieve the stress of the business world. I found after a day of meetings that taking the long way back to the motel felt good. Not too much scenery on the west side of Minneapolis but the cool evening ride and the wind blowing thru my hair felt good. The week went fast and the weather was excellent, until Friday, the day I had to leave.

At 3PM on Friday, dismissed from my business meetings it was raining hard. Now I'm not much for running an Interstate, in a busy city, in the rain but there I am on 494 going around Minneapolis. Funny how people in 4 wheelers seem to go faster in the rain, feeling they wouldn't see me in the torrent I hugged the right lane. An hour and a half of pure hell as I found my exit the rain stopped.

I took the same route back and by the time I hit the Red Wing exit the weather warmed and the sun came out. The ride along the river coming back was just as beautiful as it was going. I found myself stopping time and time again to take more pictures and enjoy the scenery and reflex on how great this ride was.

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2007 Firefighters Ride for MDA

The 2007 Firefighters Ride for MDA was a huge success. We had over 1500 people registered for the ride and almost 1,000 motorcycles. We will be able to donate over \$50,000 to MDA.

Thanks to everyone that participated in this event. I heard a lot of great compliments about the ride and about our sponsors. Lunch at Mohican North Star casino was fast and excellent, and the parties at Harley Davidson of Wausau were quite entertaining. Having events start already on Friday afternoon really made people happy. They were able to start riding Friday, and continue all the way to Saturday evening.

I look forward to seeing everyone again next year, May 16-17, 2008. Keep an eye on the web site for updates. It should be even bigger and better.

www.wausaufire.com

Thanks for being a sponsor, Free Riders Press.

Sincerely,

Andy Adrian

Wausau Firefighter

Events Coordinator

Firefighters Ride for MDA



The Grand Marsh Area Development Corporation Presents

Join the Fun! **the 16th Annual**

~ Poker Run ~ **CABIN FEVER BREAKOUT**

~ Live Music ~ **May 17, 2008**

~ Door Prizes ~

~ Member Raffle ~

~ Free Camping ~

~ Food ~

~ Raffles ~

~ Live Auction ~

Poker Run starts at the **'WOODEN NICKEL'** County Road E in Grand Marsh Registration and Brunch 10:00 AM - Noon

Featuring Music by **"RAT SASS"**

BIKE BLESSING Cards drawn until 6:00 PM Prizes awarded to top 4 hands

Supported by ABATE of Wisconsin Region 2J-Adams/Marquette Counties

...all this for only **\$15.00 person**

Party at 6:00 PM **Grand Marsh Community Center** 629 Mason St Grand Marsh, WI

for more info contact: BRUCE 608 434-0796 or PATTY 608 369-0887

MUST BE 21 TO ENTER