

Laura the Potter- May 2009

Salute all woman who ride! Even with all these years of so called "Womans Liberation" I still get the "You have your own bike?" Ummm...Yea!

I'll admit that if something goes wrong with it I quickly become a damsel in distress, but I do love to ride! Last year was an increasingly annoying problem I had been having though...Mostly in the spring, but running thru June...I seem to get "something" up my nose! A yellow butterfly smashes into my face, and I am suffering for DAYS!!!! One year - mid April, I see a farmer spreading his fields with manure...I see this big cloud of dust going across the highway. I'm thinking...OK...going thru some dust. Once I am in the middle of it, I realize - its pig shit! There is NO mistaking that smell! Well, I mean, an hour later I wish I could just rip my nose off it itched so bad, and my eyes were watering, and I was sneezing like there was no tomorrow...I was going to ABATE U in Alexandria, MN, and I was begging for drugs for my poor sinuses when I got there - Thanks Micky...and that went on for days. Last year this bout was happening on a weekly basis, so I have decided to get a windshield. I know that will help the problem. I had a windshield for a short time with my ape hangers, and I was going thru a death wobble if the wind was right, going around a corner...very scary, so I have to do some checking into that, because I really do like my handle bars...Its not the best look I don't think - ape hangers, custom bike - and then you have that God awful wimp shield, but - function over form...there it is. Anyone else have this problem?

Last year Dave and I went on an awesome trip. We were gone for 13 days, and visited the following states: WI, IL, IN, OH, WV, PA, KT, TN, back to KT, IA, WI again and then home. Penn. had the best food. Did you know that West VA. Is nothing but one big mountain? Even the freeways are spectacular! We were at a gas station and talked with a local there. He suggested we take this certain road - he said the most scenic around. Holy Crap!! It took us forever to get around and around and up and down this mountain. It was beautiful, but Dave was a little spent once we reached the bottom. All the local drivers were stacking up behind us - they are used to these twisty's, and the deal was - there was absolutely no shoulder on any road, and when you went off the pavement, it dipped down into this bunch of loose hunky gravel. But we did that a few times to let the locals pass us by. The homes along there were right next to the road, you could toss a wrapper in the window. It was so different than anything here.

We were in the "Bible Belt." Now, you know the stigma given to southerners - and their - missing teeth - well, its true...and man would I get the looks! Now, with the bible belt Baptists everywhere, we would walk into a place and here I am with a big smile, tattoo's on both arms, white teeth, and leathers...I'm not really sure what they thought - I think they just don't see anybody like me much...People would just stare! It was funny.

We got an education about all the coal mines within the area. That was the major business all around us for days, and you could see active mines, and then places where they moved on. We rode from 8:30am and by 7:00 we were always in a room. Some days, because of the twisties and slow going, we would only put on 180 miles, but some days close to 500. It never rained the entire trip...That's lucky.

Our main goal was to get to Pt. Pleasant, WV. To see - the Infamous - MOTHMAN MUSEUM. No, I'm not kidding. We watched this movie about these mysterious events occurring there in the 70's, and then this huge bridge collapsed with tons of vehicles on it - much like the 35W bridge in Mpls., and just before this bridge collapse there were all these sightings of this moth like creature by area residence...So - we decided to skip the largest ketchup bottle in the world, (although I would like to see that some day), and head to Pt. Pleasant. You will see a picture of Dave protecting me from the creature. The owners of the Museum were exceptionally cool guys. Check out www.Mothmanlives.com - see for yourself if you are in to quirky things like that. Its just about like Bigfoot is around here. We visited the local café there and the little lady who ran the place was around then. Her X-husband and son were on that bridge and died during this event. She made me grits - special.

Both her and the waitress came outside to wave to us as we rode off - what a cool town. There is a lot more to see there than just the museum.

Enough about our trip - it was just - awesome! My work has been going well...parents continue to sign their kidlets up for Clay Camp. Yea. I love my job! I've been making pots...and now - I am into glass fusion. I make these pendants - and they are quite the little beauties. Scored and broken pieces of glass stacked next to and on top of eachother, and then melted in my kiln...intricate firing process. I LOVE THEM! I sell a TON of them! Even better! Its like little glass canvases - I can see and create and then melt together. Also...I have melted cremation remains into the glass. I have done 2 dogs, and one Young Woman's remains into pendants. How special is that! And now...I'm sad to say, I will be doing my little buddy boy's ashes in there as well. My



little dog "Clay" was killed last week. HORRIBLE! I had him since a pup and he was 5 1/2 yrs. Old. He always did like going on little "adventures" and would never stay in the yard. I miss him terrible. He escaped. And he didn't come back. I called the police, and an officer came to me to tell me the sad news. If you ever had a dog that this happened...its crushing - I really did love that little guy. I'm going to put his ashes into a pendant and wear it so we can still go on walks together.

Whew...I have lots to say - sorry guys - please bear with me...its been a while. And a lot has happened!

I've moved - again. But I still have the same studio at Dave's. I only live 1.3 miles away. I live with my oldest daughter (22), her boyfriend, and my grandson who is 3, and my 17 year old daughter. I needed to get a place for all of us to be together...and I love it. My daughters needed a stable living environment with lots of Mom love...and they've got it! We are so happy! I live in an old house just on the edge of town with lots of wood framing - like built in buffet's, old hot water radiator heat, and lots of character. It is actually 2 lots with big yard and garden space. Awesome apple trees, lilacs, pear tree, and a small garage for my bike and storage. 3 bedrooms - perfect! It was a miracle coming across this place like I did...for sure. When you are a Mom, and your kids need you...you are there for them. I had to leave Dave's house...and get a place with my girlies. It was a quick, big decision, but I do believe the right one. Dave and I are on very good terms about all of this.

Plant your angels on your shoulders people...it works. Hey...in the near future I want to write about the roads of Wright County. This area has so many fun places to go to, and great windy roads to ride on, lots of lakes, and good grub.

Please...sign up to be an ABATE member within your area. You wouldn't believe what the government is trying to do! These ABATE guys watch our backs, and help to continue to give us the freedom we deserve - make a note that I helped to make that decision - and I get credit for it - I am a Lake Chapter Member in MN. Look it up on line and Sign Up! Serious! You don't have to do a thing if you don't want to - but it is fun to get involved. Just do it to support our political rights to be on the road, ride what we want, and not wear a helmet if we choose not to...You will receive the monthly Road Noise Magazine keeping you updated on all kinds of things, let you know of upcoming events in your area, give you some life insurance, fun articles to read, and it's a privilege to live in this area and ride, cuz it could really be a lot worse. Do it! Take Care, Laura the Potter in Buffalo, MN





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