

Tuck Pence local guitar legend

By: Captain Ron

I was getting ready for a gig in my tour bus living like a bankrupt rock star taking showers in an outdoor solar powered shower at the race track in Tomahawk. When I heard some one doing a sound check on the main stage with an acoustic guitar. Figuring it was the guitar tech for the headlining band that night I went about my business. After listening for a few minutes I realized this was no ordinary guitar player and had to go and investigate the source of this incredible sound. After listening to a couple of songs I had to ask. Who the hell is this guy? The reply " Tuck Pence". His reputation had preceded him as I had heard of him at other venues I have played. Unfortunately I couldn't stick around to enjoy any more of his phenomenal talent. As I had to get to one of the 4 shows I did in 3 days.

A couple of weeks later I was running around with Preacher in Stevens Point when I seen "Thursday Tuck Pence" on the marquee of a local bar called Partners. Having that night off I just had to go. After paying the 2-dollar cover I found a table right in front of him with only one chair. How much luckier could I get. The last seat available in the whole place. He was playing "Wish You Were Here" and went straight into "Take it Easy" by the Eagles without missing a beat. A little later he did my favorite song "Can't You See" by Marshall tucker. Wow! Drop D tuning on the base E string and capo'd up a few frets I heard the best acoustic version I have ever heard. Then on to songs by Styx, some bluegrass and really got the crowd going wit "Ring Of Fire" by the late great Johnny Cash. And kept them singing with Neil Diamonds "Sweet Caroline". He later switched guitars and played "time" by Pink Floyd. Holy S#*T. This is one you have to hear and see to believe. Thumping a string with his thumb like a base player then hitting the face of his guitar with a combination of his palm, knuckles and finger tips in technique I have never seen. Just absolutely AMAZING. This guy is the guitar players Guitar player. I had only one disappointment. He didn't do "Tree Top Flyer" by Steven Stills. But I'm sure he will add it soon and do an awesome rendition. He did redeem himself when he did my request for "Green Grass And High Tides" by the Outlaws. This guy is a must see and local legend who is down to earth and ego less. One warning: If you are a guitar player you will probably leave with the same feeling I had. You'll either want to practice your ass off or just bust your guitar and find a new hobby.

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2004 Helmet Challenge

This summer, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) teamed up with the Rider Wearhouse and Minnesota Motorcycle Monthly (MMM) for the first-ever motorcycle Helmet Challenge. DPS recruited five volunteer riders who previously did not wear helmets and provided them with new, full-faced helmets to wear every time they rode for three weeks beginning in early September.



The primary goal of the Challenge is to show riders that wearing a helmet can be comfortable, and even make riding more enjoyable. A secondary goal is to demonstrate to the general public-riders' peers and loved ones-that if a rider has access to a helmet that fits properly, he or she may choose to wear it for comfort.

DPS estimates adult voluntary helmet use in Minnesota at 36 percent. However, some riders have never tried a properly fitting modern helmet. Many of these riders' only helmet experience came from an old helmet they might have borrowed to take their riding test. Wearing an ill-fitting, worn-out helmet is usually a bad experience and can push impressionable riders away from safety gear forever. However, for many riders, once they become used to a helmet, they enjoy wearing one. A rider that chooses the comfort of a helmet also has the benefit of DOT-approved protection in a crash. www.motorcyclesafety.state.mn.us, or call 800-407-6677 to find training locations.