

The Journey Written by: Jyll Weldon

What once was a dream is now becoming a reality. The Wisconsin Motorcycle Memorial Park. A great example of the brotherhood bikers of all walks have in common. They long for the wind, enjoy the ride, love to hear the roar of the bikes and need to remember the ones they lost. No matter if you ride or not, this life is not about the destination it is about the journey.

Lets take a journey... The journey of a handful of guys who love to hit the open road, a group that was motivated to making a dream into a reality. That is exactly what they did. The group became know as the North Eastern Wisconsin Bikers Association (NEWBA, Inc.). NEWBA is a group of motorcycle enthusiasts, made up of individual riders and other motorcycle club members. The dream of a Wisconsin Motorcycle Memorial was conceived in 2001 and the crew of four dedicated cyclists, Owen Bergwin, Jeff Reinhard, Michael Bergwin and Donnie Melvin took on the great task of finding a location and dealing with the red tape such a project can bring. They met it head on and still pushed forward after their original site was turned down. On Oct 7th, land was donated by the Door Devil's Motorcycle Club and with months of planning and design ground was broke for the Memorial to become a reality. The Memorial is located at 4758 Mathey Road, roughly half way between Highways 42 & 57 in Door County, a few miles north of Sturgeon Bay. "The site itself is beautiful," said Donnie Melvin, one of the contributors to the memorial, "It's not just a Memorial, it's a Memorial Park."



The arched entrance to the Memorial invites all to walk the brick pathway, composed of "tribute stones" engraved with the names of those who have been lost, and leads to where the black granite memorial stone rests. Tom Van Gemert, a motorcycle enthusiast from Green Bay, donated the massive memorial stone and it bears the inscription: "Dedicated to all our brothers and sisters in the wind that we may never forget them. May their souls ride on forever." (Inscription written by: Donnie Melvin) A split rail fence surrounds the park where three flagpoles stand tall, and old Glory, flanked by the Wisconsin State flag and the POW-MIA flag, fly proudly behind the memorial stone. "This is a memorial for everyone," Randy Alberts, a contributor said. "It's not just for people who have passed in motorcycle accidents; it's for anyone who has a connection or enthusiasm for biking."

This dream is truly a site to see! The crew has been raising money and support since 2002 but sadly they lost one of their own since the memorial has started coming together. Jeff Reinhard, one of the founders and supporter of the Memorial was taken to early to see the completion of the park as it is today. In honor of Jeff Reinhard the N.E.W.B.A. group, which has gained more members and recognition since 2002, is raising funds to erect the "Jeff Reinhard Pavilion" at the Memorial Park. Dedicated to Jeff Reinhard for all his time and effort in making the Memorial what it is today.

The project a 1,140 sq/ft, two story, granary cupola style pavilion will house public rest rooms, a kitchenette, a place for visitors to gather out of the weather, and an office with a conference room for board and private meetings. The plans for this building have long been under way, and recently the proper steps have been taken to make this pavilion a reality. This will be a special



place for all who come to celebrate their own loved ones' memories. Preparation of the site has already begun on the north side of the existing Memorial Park. Connected to the building on the south side will be a court yard surrounded by arbors and covered by lattice that will provide shade and create an area dedicated to out door picnics and recreation. This area will also contain a walkway leading to the memorials Walk Of Remembrance, allowing the memorial yard to remain a quiet, peaceful location for reflection and remembering... the wind, the ride, the roar, the people you met and the ones you lost. Check out the website. www.newba.org Don't pick the destination in life, just take the Journey! Ride on Forever!

To the Editor:

Here is a letter I got, and because of printable room I will get right to the 3 points the writer has.

1: They mention we should list different places to eat and go.

Response: Been telling people the same thing in this paper for over five years now. Don't know if everyone's to busy to write about their favorite joint or just to lazy. But I will print anybody's favorite hangout.

This writer mentions a place in Rapid City called the "Rapid City Fire Station" That offers some great food and brew. They recommend the Buffalo Burger, Fries and their own dark beer Micro Brew. Another place is Bugsy's Sports Bar in Rhinelander. If your planning to take in the Fall Ride, Crandon or Octoberfest, stop in and get a Deluxe Burger and Winter Brew. In either place you'll walk out with change from a ten spot.

2: Laura the Potter

Response: You are not the only ones that miss her column, but due to some unwanted bull, she decided to step away with an open door back at FRP any time. I for one do miss working with her. She is in person as sweet as she writes.

3: The issue of "Privacy"

The writer would appreciate it if we sent our paper in a sealed plastic envelope, so the post man, neighbors etc don't see what's in the paper. They also feel that we would have many more subscribers if we did address this issue.

Response. If you want me to send them out in a sealed manilla envelope so as to not offend or give the curious a chance to see what is in the Free Riders Press, feel free

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