

Another Excuse to Ride

The life that we live is filled with opportunities to get on the motorcycle and ride - we just have to look harder nowadays, since fuel prices and other expenses are so high. I used to just walk out of the house, straddle the XS Eleven, and ride to nowhere in particular, just because I enjoyed riding. I would ride to work, to the store, to the park, to anywhere, just for the ride of it! Now I have to have someplace to go, to justify getting Ol' Blue saddled up, filled up, and started up. It IS about the money for us, and we can't afford to go all the places we used to go, whether in the four wheeler or on the bike. So, when something like the following true story takes place, it is an occasion to remember, and write about.

The past two weeks have been very trying - and tiring. The thing is... I lost my keys somewhere during the last weekend of June. The weekend began on Saturday morning and a trip with my wife, Beverly, on Ol' Blue, to Fond Du Lac for a "rendezvous" wedding. That afternoon we rode down to Portage to prepare for our Sunday worship service at the PETRO truck stop, pausing for refreshments at the drive-in in Fox Lake. Then, on Sunday afternoon, we rode to Mauston to meet up with many Son Light Riders, and from there, we rode to Rockton for chicken dinner and the SLR monthly meeting. After the meeting we visited the Hillsboro Drive In for the traditional ice cream stop. Sunday evening found me in my driveway, fishing for a house key that was nowhere to be found. The last I thought I remembered seeing my keys was when I reasoned, "I don't want to carry these things around all day, out here in this heat." Then I put them in a safe place, so they wouldn't get lost. When or where that took place was the mystery which would drive my life for the next few days.

Monday, we called to make sure that no one had found them at the rendezvous grounds, and I resided in the false hope that I had accidentally left them in the trailer at the truck stop. I could almost get the gnawing feeling of loss to leave my brain, until I could get down to PETRO and check, on Tuesday. When it just so happened that they were NOT anywhere at the truck stop, I had to retrace my steps, back to Fond Du Lac, to scour the grassy park where we had tied the knot for a couple a few days before. A quick stop by the burger place in Fox Lake assured me that I had lost the keys for certain, and conventional wisdom stated that they would never be found. On Wednesday, Beverly called the chicken place out of desperation, only to find that they had found a gob of keys with similar configuration to my own, on the ground near the dumpster. Needless to say, my "high-flying" trip to Rockton, my second in a week, was capped with the satisfaction of finding those precious keys which had been lost. Of course, the desperation of the moment did not take away from the exhilaration of having to ride some hundreds

of miles, all over again! We human beings are like those keys, which had fallen to the ground and had no possibility of ever finding their way back to their owner.

Isaiah 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned--every one--to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

In an ironic twist, the patron of the bar in Rockton is the one who went out and found the lost keys, providing for them to be restored to their proper place.

Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man (Jesus Christ) came to seek and to save the lost." The efforts I expended on trying to find my lost keys represents the futility of human activity in saving that which was lost. We do the best we can, but apart from divine intervention, all that we have lost spiritually, stays lost.

Titus 3:3-7 "For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

What I could never do, has been done for me. How about that?

Sam Downey



LITTLE CISCO...
 A RIVETING GUITAR SLINGING
 ROCKIN' BLUES EXPERIENCE!
 (920) 435-3554
 website:
littlecisco.com

WISCONSIN'S BEST INDEPENDANT MOTORCYCLE SHOPS **THE INDEPENDENT SHOP ASSOCIATION** check out shops near you

HOBAN'S CYCLE SHOP #101 NEWTON, WI 53063-9783 (920) 726-4990
 WEMMER'S MOTORCYCLE #104 REDGRANITE, WI 54970 (920) 556-0560
 SUTER'S SPEED SHOP INC. #107 MADISON, WI 53718 (715) 677-4738
 ROBHOLT MOTORCYCLE CO., INC. #110 ROSHOLT, WI 54473 (715) 677-4738
 GOPHER'S CYCLE PARTS & REPAIR #115 LIVINGSTON, WI 53554 (608) 943-6533
 APPLETON AVENUE CYCLE #117 MILWAUKEE, WI 53218 (414) 527-54808
 RUSS'S CYCLE SHOP #119 OCONTO, WI 54153-1725 (920) 834-6085
 CYCLE EMPIRE, INC. #120 GREENFIELD, WI 53221-2049 (414) 281-4770
 MIKE'S ENGINE WORKS #122 DARLINGTON, WI 53530-1471 (608) 775-2304
 BOB STADLER MOTORS #125 WATERTOWN, WI 53094-7504 (920) 261-3717
 ZANDI'S V-TWIN SERVICE INC. #127 SUSSEX, WI 53089-1202 (262) 248-4266
 MOTORCYCLE REPAIR DEPOT #130 SCHOFIELD, WI 54475-1025 (262) 359-0889
 TJ PERFORMANCE #132 BROWNSTOWN, WI 53522 (608) 966-1340
 CYCLES PLUS, INC. #133 ELKHORN, WI 53121 (262) 723-1415
 DJ'S CYCLES #135 CRIVIZ, WI 54114 (715) 834-3326
 FLYING EAGLE MOTORCYCLE LC #137 CAMPBELLSPORT, WI 53010 (920) 53-595
 BARGAIN BARN CYCLE #138 EDGERTON, WI 53534-0047 (608) 884-1184
 HD ONLY, #139 AL'S CYCLE LAKE MILLS, WI 53551-9624 (920) 648-5475
 TIN PAN ALLEY #141 PRINCETON, WI 54988-8954 (920) 295-6987
 TOMMY'S CUSTOM CYCLE, INC. #142 APPLETON, WI 54913 (920) 739-8242
 MILWAUKEE BIKE WORKS, INC. #143 HALES CORNER, WI 53130 (414) 427-1155
 CORN'S REPAIR #147 POYNETTE, WI 53955-9456 (608) 635-2672
 AJR CUSTOM CYCLE #149 JANESVILLE, WI 53545 (608) 735-0114
 S/Dz #152 CUSTOM BIKE BUILDING & REPAIR CRIVIZ, WI 54114 (715) 757-8977
 DWD MOTORCYCLE SERVICE #159 MILWAUKEE, WI 53222-3860 (414) 445-7402
 ADVANCED LAND SPEED #160 PLYMOUTH, WI 53073 (920) 893-3114
 KJAN'S V-TWIN #161 WAUKESHA, WI 53189-7984 (262) 549-4009
 HILL TOP REPAIR & CUSTOM CYCLE #162 NEW LONDON, WI 54961 (920) 892-2290
 J-TECH MOTOR WORKS #164 WALES, WI 53183 (262) 988-6764
 THE SCOOTER SHOP #165 COLOMA, WI 54930 (715) 228-3005
 MOPDOC #167 MILWAUKEE, WI 53212 (414) 963-1020
 DOOR COUNTY CYCLE #169 STURGEON BAY, WI 54235-8883 (920) 743-7686
 DODGE COUNTY CYCLE & SPORTS #170 RUSKON, WI 53078 (920) 625-2999
 HERITAGE MOTORSPORTS #172 PARDESVILLE, WI 53954 (608) 220-5393
 HAWG PASTURE MOTOR CYCLES #171 WEST SALEM, WI 54669 (608) 796-3050
 CAMERON'S SERVICE & REPAIR #174 WAUPACA, WI 54981 (715) 268-8721
 THIS OLD BIKE #175 PEPPIN, WI 54759-0111 (715) 442-2228

Over 50 years of "Bikers Helping Bikers" *Available 24 Hours*
 FREE Consultation & Investigation *Technical Staff Includes: Medical Doctor, Engineer & Investigators*

Injured? Don't drop the ball. Make the call!
(800)486-0106

Weigel, Carlson, Blau & Clemens
 INJURY ATTORNEYS

3732 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee WI. 53208

BACKSTREET CYCLE & MACHINE #176 IRONWOOD, WI 49938 (906) 932-9080
 JOHNNY'S CYCLE SHOP #177 APPLETON, WI 54913-9712 (920) 734-2720
 OUTPOST CUSTOM CYCLES, INC. #178 SIREN, WI 54872 (715) 349-7637
 HOGWILDDESIGNS LLC #180 BARRONETT, WI 54913-0032 (715) 822-3701
 WILDSIDE CUSTOM MOTORCYCLES #181 MARSHFIELD, WI 54449 (715) 389-2363
 SIGNATURE CYCLES #183 ELEVA, WI 54738 (715) 878-4800
 MID-AMERICA CYCLES #184 APPLETON, WI 54914 (920) 830-1903
 WRENCH'S GOLDEN EAGLE #185 HATLEY, WI 54440 (715) 454-6793
 FLICKZ GRAPHIX #186 STOUTICHTON, WI 53589 (608) 205-9370

**Spring Tune-up
 time at your
 local ISA Shop**