



Blue Knights Wisconsin V

August 2011 Chapter Newsletter

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Greetings y'all! I'm still channeling my inner redneck. Why, you ask? Well, let me tell you about a circuitous (nod to Chuck) ride I took with Joe Kubicek to the 2011 Summer GLRC in Canton, Ohio this month.

Hearken back to your 2011 June newsletter for just a moment. You may recall me talking about Davor's Ring; a 1,200 km (or 745 miles) ride completed within 24 hours, meeting two Blue Knights chapters along the way. Well, after finding out that only 3 Americans have attained the ring (out of 81 rings awarded) I got the fever to get me one! And fevers can be infectious, because I managed to spread it to Joe. My initial game plan was to make the attempt on my way back from the Fall MWRC in Spirit Lake, Iowa, but when I found out that there weren't many rings left (19 to be exact) I knew I had to get a move on. As luck would have it Joe wanted to head down to the thriving metropolis of Turtletown, TN to check out a house. Well, as you can imagine there's no hotel (or anything else) in Turtletown, but there is a nice Holiday Inn in Murphy, NC. Joe figured the distance from the Speedway on S. 60/W Layton to this hotel was 755 miles, not factoring in meeting up with two other BK chapters. This would be just enough mileage to qualify us for the ring! So, on Monday, August 15 at 3:23 AM the quest for Davor's Ring began.

Have you ever wondered what the definition of a good friend is? Well, it's someone willing to meet you in a parking lot at 4:00 AM to take a picture! 44 miles into the trip Joe and I met up with Jim "Mac" McCarthy, the president of IL X. Without more than a "we need a favor" explanation Mac was upright, dressed and waiting for us at the McDonald's lot in Waukegan to sign our verification letters and snap a quick photo. With chapter #1 knocked out, it was now time to twist the wick and pile on the miles. 529 miles into the ride had us at Wildcat Harley-Davidson meeting up with chapter #2, the members of KY XVIII in London, KY. President James Sizemore (who we'd never met prior to this) agreed to meet us, again with really no explanation about what we were doing. In true Blue Knights fashion Jim brought several chapter members with him, and after a couple of quick photos and more signed verification letters it was off to lunch. These folks were the epitome of southern hospitality, even beating me to the check to buy our lunch!

With a good meal in our bellies it was time to get back in the saddle and beat the clock. The hours flew by as the odometer clicked off the miles through Kentucky and into Tennessee. Have you ever heard of Deal's Gap? It's US 129 in North Carolina, also known as the "Tail of the Dragon;" a road with 318 curves in 11 miles. Well, in Tennessee you have TN 68-S, by my definition the "Wang of the Dragon," a sh*tload of curves in about 9.5 miles! Not exactly the type of road I wanted to be riding with evening approaching and my 5 Hour Energy wearing off. But before I knew it the North Carolina State Line was before me; only 20 miles left to our destination! When we put our kickstands down for the last time we were 775 miles from home, all ridden in 15.5 hours. Davor's Ring was ours! But the riding didn't stop there (didn't I say it was a *circuitous* route to Canton?) After taking care of all of Joe's business on Tuesday, we had all day Wednesday to do some "casual riding." So with a hearty breakfast in us we were off to put another 320 miles on the odometer, riding into Georgia and South Carolina, then back to Sale Creek, TN to visit former WI VI members Jerry and Evie Pieper. Needless to say the thought of a Mason jar filled with Jameson's whiskey back at the hotel kept me sustained. This would be my motivation as we ground out another 600 miles on Thursday, riding from Murphy, NC to Canton, OH for the 2011 Summer GLRC.

The convention itself was a great time. Our late night cocktail party poolside didn't endear us to the rookie security guard, but once she got her undies unbunched it turned out to be a fun night. As usual, there was a business meeting Saturday morning, with Joe and I serving on the GLRC board as treasurer and vice chairman respectively. Highlights, you say? Well, here's the one you've been waiting for: WI VI will be hosting the 2013 Spring GLRC right here in Milwaukee. Based on the motion made back at the May 17 meeting, a suitable venue was found and a reasonable package compiled, so we put on a bid to host the convention. It wasn't a cakewalk, as we had stiff competition from WI VI. Yes, you read that right; we bid against ourselves! Two hotels offered such great packages that Joe bid the two hotels against each other, with the GLRC membership deciding which hotel they wanted. The Wyndham Airport hotel was unanimously selected by the GLRC voting membership as the convention location. The dates of the convention will be March 1-3, 2013. Details will be coming out at chapter meetings as things develop, but with the convention in our home town there's never been a better opportunity for *you* to plan on attending (and helping make it a success). Indiana I (Muncie) bid to host the 2013 Summer GLRC; the convention will be in the latter part of August (the exact dates weren't known due to the chapter still locking in a venue). That GLRC will be an old school camping weekend. Registration forms were available for the 2012 Spring GLRC in Niagara Falls, NY and the 2012 Summer GLRC in Collingwood, Ontario, Canada. As these events get close I'll get them out to you. It was also my privilege to present the 2010 GLRC Traveling Recruitment Award to WI I (Madison). Unfortunately there were no members of their chapter present, so I'll have to make a little road trip to Madison to present the plaque to them.

After the meeting it was off to visit the NFL Pro Football Hall of Fame. If you're a football fan, it's a must see place. It was a great opportunity to see memorabilia such as uniforms and helmets from the beginning of the "pros" through those worn by many of the legendary names of the game. There are plenty of interactive displays for the young and the young at heart, and tons of video displays showing highlights of games many of the inductees played in. I took in the "Road to the Super Bowl" movie in the mammoth screen theater and watched the Packers beat the Steelers all over again. Every Super Bowl ring was on display, including the elusive Minnesota Vikings ring (Brian, it was the empty ring stand in the case!) and the Lombardi Trophy. There was something for every fan, whether you're a die hard Green and Gold Packer Backer or someone who follows the other lesser teams!

At the banquet Saturday night Joe won the Longest Distance Award, with 1,750 miles to the convention! I received honorable mention with 1,738 miles. Of course the shenanigans continued, with a shotgun wedding vows renewal for Mike and Rita Hornbrook (past Indiana State Rep). Love was in the air; around midnight I awoke to find a live wedding cake top standing in my hotel room. It seems Joe and Tom Luellen (MO I) ran into an actual bride and groom from the wedding reception also going on in our hotel and ushered them into my room! Later, another member of this reception pulled the fire alarm, which we all slept through. You just never know what will happen at a GLRC! After another 487 mile ride Sunday (with the usual crap ride through Chicago) I was finally back home. I'd been on the road for seven days, putting on 2,284 miles and riding into nine states along the way. Next up, Spirit Lake, Iowa and the Fall MWRC.

REMEMBER: Chapter meetings resume next month! September 20 is the next scheduled chapter meeting, 7:00 PM at Alioto's Restaurant. If you have an item you'd like on the agenda PLEASE get it to me as soon as possible.

“Lost in America”

“Wrongway” *Dennis*



ROLL CALL

2011 Summer GLRC

Dennis Hafeman, Joe & Doni
Kubicek, Jim & Patti Kindt, Brian
Bortmess and Joanne, Chuck
Homa, Michael Zivicki

2011 UPCOMING EVENTS

2011 Fall MWRC
Okoboji IA

September 16-18
www.blueknightsmwrc.com

Crying Towel Classic game 1
Kickoff at 3:15 PM

September 25
Location TBA



Happy Birthday

Steven Lesniewski-August 1st
Kim Fischer-Waliszewski-August 2nd
Peter Simet-August 4th
Andre Bleickardt-August 11th
Ron Bethia-August 13th
Jim Bagurdes-August 15th
Jesse Benitez-August 15th
Dennis Hafeman-August 28th
George Markopoulos-August 30th

Chapter Rides

Brunch rides are held the
Second Sunday (10:00 AM)

AND

Dinner rides are held the
Fourth Wednesday (6:00 PM)

Rides begin in March and run
through November

Meeting location is the park and
ride lot adjacent to the Milwaukee
Children's Center
HWY 45 and W. Watertown Plank
Road

Locations TBD