



Blue Knights WI VI

August 2014 Chapter Newsletter

PLEDGE: As a Blue Knight, I pledge to act with honor and pride to promote motorcycling and motorcycle safety by being an example of the safe use, operation and enjoyment of motorcycles. I will work at all times to improve the relationship between the motorcycling law enforcement community and the general public. The fraternal spirit will always guide me in relating to other Blue Knights.

CHAPTER WEBSITE: www.bkwivi.com

It is hard to believe we are half way through the riding season (in Wisconsin that is.)

Here are a few stories from the past month.

July 23rd Dinner Ride:

The dinner ride on July 23rd, lead the group to Gus's Mexican Cantina for endless chips and delicious food!!

Chuck Homa, Mark Meyer, Big Steve Schultz, Steve Bzdusek, Bob Barr, Herman Kremkau, Mike Zivicki, Carl Karwacki, Dan Schmerse, Sandy Santoro, and Scott Wysocki were in attendance.



Wrongway's Tennessee Twister Tale

Greetings Y'all! Sandy is always looking for tales that tantalize, so I thought I'd share a story of four men, four bikes, one week, and a bazillion curves.

Our tale begins July 26. It seems that Joe Kubicek, our man in Tennessee, was home alone for the week and in need of some company, so Jim "Tiny" Kindt, Joe's nephew Kevin "Half Sack" Kubicek and I were going to provide a week's entertainment to Joe in exchange for some promised excellent cycle riding. "Tiny" was trailering his Street Glide and Kevin's Dynaglide down south, and I'd be putting some miles on Joe's recently acquired Heritage Softail. Our trip began ominously enough; we were just pulling onto 894 when Kevin's bike shifted on the trailer and fell over onto "Tiny's" scooter, putting a gouge into his pristinely painted tank. Not a banner start to this adventure, but once the errant bike was secured our troupe was southbound and down, and fortunately no further incidents were had.

Now you've all heard me expound on the state of Joe's driveway, and how I view it as an adventure in hill climbing every time I navigate it. Well, he had it "re-graded", but trust me its grade goes from F- to just F. I'll have more on that later. So after a 12 hour drive we arrive, offload the bikes, and commence to party with the prospects of great riding looming ahead.

Sunday rolls around, and we're off to ride the Devil's Triangle, a 44 mile loop just north of Oak Ridge TN. The Triangle boasts 527 curves over

the route and three switchbacks that are challenging for any experienced rider. But bear in mind that first we have to negotiate the Tennessee Pig Tail, AKA: Kimsey Dairy Rd. This mere 4.4 mile stretch is the main road to Joe's home, and it boasts 70 curves of its own, which is a great way to warm up for the day's exertions. We arrive at the start of the Devil's Triangle (TN 116), aptly in the town of Stainville, because I'm confident that's what this road left in my shorts! The Tail of the Dragon is nothing compared to this highway from hell. If you're a twisty fanatic then this is your nirvana. Several hours and strained rotator cuffs later we put this demonic drive on our "done" list and headed home. It turned out the Devil's Triangle was the perfect starting point for this trip; every route Joe had planned the rest of the week was nothing compared to this beast.

Monday (Day 2) begins, and we're off to a museum. Not just any museum, mind you; a gear head's wet dream museum. Our destination is Wheels Through Time, in Maggie Valley NC. This museum is filled with over 320 rare and one off motorcycles and vehicles, all American made and all capable of running. In fact, the museum staff will gladly fire up any bike you ask! The place is absolutely amazing, filled with some of the most incredible machines I've ever seen, and should be on any biker's bucket list. Once we achieved cycle sensory overload it was back in the saddle for the next riding challenge: the famed Tail of the Dragon (US 129). But before we can slay the Dragon, we got to do a little 'shine. In this case a stretch of the Moonshiner 28. This 103 mile route runs from Walhalla GA right to the Dragon's butt hole at Deal's Gap NC. While we didn't run the entire route, which was incredibly scenic with enough twisty sections to keep you on your toes, we did enough of it to catch a proper buzz. After a brief stop it was on to the Dragon. Now I was a Dragon virgin, and I've heard all the horror stories about this thing. But let me tell you after the Devil's Triangle this

Dragon was a mere newt! Don't get me wrong; it's not a road for a novice rider. We're talking 318 curves in 11 miles, so you got to have your head in the game at all times. A short time and some scraped running boards later the Dragon was properly slain, and another route added to the "done" column.

Tuesday (Day 3), and off to the Cherohala Skyway (US 441), AKA: the \$100 Million Road. The Skyway connects Tellico Plains TN with Robbinsville NC, a 36 mile stretch that reaches a max elevation of 5,390 feet. If you do the math this road, started in 1962 and completed in 1996, this road costs about \$2.7 million a mile. Very beautiful views, and is considered a National Scenic Byway. Now I pause this narrative to tell you that yes, at one point I did get lost during this trip (no shock). Seems that my Germany wind-age failed me, and I thought I was somewhere that I wasn't. The rest of the group and I got separated, and let's just say that about 30 minutes later they located their lost sheep who was nearly out of gas and got him back to the pasture safely.

Wednesday dawned cloudy, and it was a day to kick back and relax. Joe wanted to do a "short ride" so we hit the Candy Mountain road, and 60 twisty miles later we were back relaxing poolside with several fermented beverages. A somewhat rainy Thursday kept us close to home as well. Do you remember me mentioning Joe's grade F driveway? Well, by this point in the week it claimed "Tiny." As Jim crested the worst of the worse part the back tire lost traction and swung around on him. Down he went, and fortunately all that rock was there to break his fall. He limped away with a scraped knee and wounded pride; his bike took another hit on the "low side" and now had some impressive scratches on the engine guard to match his tank.

Friday (Day 6) and this would be our last day to ride. Today it was off to Georgia to ride the Six

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY SEPTEMBER
16TH 2014, 7:00PM ALIOTO'S. SOCIAL
HOUR STARTS AT 6:00PM**

Gap; a 73 mile "figure eight" that crosses the Appalachian Trail four times. This road has its share of twisty sections, but it's more scenic than satanic. After a late lunch in Helen GA it was time to head home. Ma Nature had other plans for us. As we were heading home the skies opened up and it was "cow and flat rock" raining hard. How hard, you ask? Well, there was a river with rapids running down the main street outside our gas station sanctuary. After waiting out the majority of the deluge we donned our raingear and headed out. Once we crossed into NC the rain stopped. It was now my turn to contend with Joe's hill climb drive, and the crest nearly claimed me. I was able to ride it out without dumping (the bike or in my pants).

A great week's riding was had by all. The odometer on the Softail showed 998.2 miles, but couldn't reflect the memories this Tennessee adventure gave us.

"Lost in America,"

"Wrongway" Dennis

****Keep me posted on your rides and
I will share them!!**

On behalf of WI VI, I wish to extend our condolences to Jim and Jori Crouse (& family) for the loss of his mother.

And John Karlovich's family with his passing.

Fraternally,
Sandy (LTS) abd

**Check the International and conference
web sites for further information and
registration forms.**

**2014 Summer GLRC
Galesburg, IL**

The 2014 Summer GLRC was hosted by IL XXVI in Galesburg, IL, August 15th - 17th. This was their second time hosting a GLRC, and their chapter is a mere 10 years old. Although it was primarily a camping type event, headquartered at the Knox County Fairgrounds, fortunately there were hotels nearby, including a Super 8 (a generous rating, if you should ask me) just a couple hundred yards away.

As is becoming the norm, more and more people arrived on Thursday for what has traditionally been a Fri-Sun event. Mike "Fried Chicken" Cline had registration set up early and got the early arrivals checked in before the Friday rush.

Tiny & Patti rode down on Thursday, along with Wrongway. I've heard tale that Tiny discovered on this trip that his tank is just a wee bit smaller than Dennis' tank. Of course, I've also heard that his radio performs a bit less reliably, as well but more on that later.

Randy and Peggy Winkler arrived on Thursday, too, proudly astride their new Harley-Davidson CVO LTD, purchased courtesy of the BMW Motorcycle Company! And while it is true that I had called them out publicly, ala face book, for riding in gym shoes not a week earlier, not only were they now sporting boots, but they caught me heading to the fairgrounds on my bike wearing - wait for it . . . yup, gym shoes! God bless Dennis for attempting to cover for me saying, "comfort trumps style", but I accept the fact that I was rightfully busted. Touché!

Also arriving on Thursday were Mark Meyer and Sandy Santoro. You may remember that Sandy had been looking for someone to ride with that was willing to take a non-Interstate route. Well Mark stepped up, set his GPS on "scenic" (a setting featured on the new H-D LTD), and they reported a ride in that would have made Chuck Homa envious!

I left Turtletown early on Wednesday and overnighted in Metropolis, IL at Harrah's Hotel & Casino. That made for a nice midway point on

my 740 mile trip and I, too, arrived in Galesburg on Thursday. I'm happy to report that, courtesy of the Three Card Poker table, I left the casino with \$200 of their money. I'm equally happy to report that only \$40 of that was given back on my trip back home!

Wacko came in on Friday in his toy hauler which, true to its name, was hauling his new "toy". He traded in his Softail and bought a used Police Bike from House of Harley. I guess for a guy that spent most of his entire adult life "on the wheel", this was inevitable. And speaking for myself, somewhat enviable! Hopefully once senility sets in we don't see him wrenching on a side car and riding up Wisconsin Ave. in January.

Coming in on Friday, and rounding out the WI VI members in attendance, were Big Steve, Jared and Tom Listinsky and Paula Salerno, Danny "O2L" and Paul Serdynski. This group was led in by Mike "Z" Zivicki, and Danny told me that Mike planned a great route. It's good to know that we have an able body to cover for Barr in the event he takes another tumble on one of his late night 10-100's!

Our hosts had a large number of raffle items and they conducted their raffle using the same type of tickets and the method used by PA XVIII at the GLRC this past spring in Erie. In a nutshell, you buy a sheet of twenty like-numbered tickets and they keep a list of your number, along with your name. You separate those tickets and put one (or more) into the bucket corresponding to whichever prize(s) most interest you. Then, before the banquet, they cut off sales and pull a winning ticket for each prize. After the banquet they simply read the name of each winner and one of their many members delivers the prize to your seat. A very efficient way to run a Chinese raffle. When that was over they pick one grand prize winner (everyone who purchased a sheet of tickets was automatically entered) for \$200 cash.

It's noteworthy that, of approximately 30 chapter members, all but two were there to work the event. And the two that were not there were excused for legitimate reasons. Kudos for a well-organized event and a fully involved chapter.

The American Legion Post across the street made for an ideal location for our Saturday morning business meeting, and to make things even better, they agreed to show the Packer

preseason game for us on Saturday. Since Saturday afternoon wasn't ideal for riding it worked out pretty well – sitting at the Legion Post, watching the Packers, and drinking \$1.75 cans of PBR!

Speaking of the business meeting, as most of you know this was an election year for our GLRC board. While I had announced that I would not be seeking reelection as treasurer, or a run for any other position, every other member of the 2012-2014 board was running for some position, and every position was sought by at least two candidates.

Chris Dobek and outgoing Chairman Dennis Hafeman were each seeking the position of GLRC International Rep., challenging incumbent Bill Haylett.

The candidates for GLRC Chairman were outgoing GLRC Vice Chair Tom Peed and former International President Mike Ripsch.

The position of Vice Chairman was sought by ONT Provincial & NY State Rep. Paul Croteau, Collette DeFalco and Rich Martinez.

Pam Carleton was seeking reelection as conference Secretary, challenged by Indiana State Rep. Glen Wheat.

And none other than our very own Jim "Tiny" Kindt was looking to take over my spot as treasurer, with IL State Rep. Gayle Murnane and OH State Rep. Brian Arnold also in the running.

The election results (to my great satisfaction!), are as follows:

GLRC International Rep. – Dennis Hafeman

GLRC Chairman – Thomas Peed

GLRC Vice Chairman – Paul Croteau

GLRC Secretary – Glen Wheat

GLRC Treasurer – Jim "Tiny" Kindt

Congratulations, Dennis & Tiny!

After the meeting we set off on a short ride for lunch at the local Harley dealer. On arrival, Nees Harley-Davidson staff was busy grilling burgers for us and, in fact, had been doing so well ahead of our arrival. There was a good supply of them already individually wrapped in foil and being kept warm in Nescoes, which made for very little waiting in line. It also eliminated the usual, "well, that hotdog was great – now where are we headed for lunch?" question which follows most of these type events.

Now, as I mentioned earlier, Tiny had some difficulty with his radio on his trip out of Mukwonago. And I'm not sure exactly why, but for some reason those of us that know him best just assumed it was time to trade the old scooter in for a 2014. And with lunch at the H-D dealer, well . . . ? In fact, I suggested to Patti that she might want to go off and get her nails done while we went to the dealer. You see, for those that don't remember that's exactly what she did in 2007 at the MWRC in Grand Island, NE, where Tiny made a trade for his erstwhile Screaming Eagle. But alas, it was not to be, this day, as Nees had a very limited supply of new bikes, and certainly none to catch the eye of our discerning chapter President. Or could it have been because Patti was there? Hmmmmm?

Later that evening the members of WI VI won the award for the "most members in attendance" with 14, based on preregistrations, I'm sure, because we actually had a total of 16 present. In addition, Jared Listinsky won the award for the "youngest rider", at 24 years old - a far cry from when I won that same award at the Midwest conference a few years back at the age of 47. Perhaps this Club has a future, after all! We were close to winning a third award as Danny was briefly in the running for "oldest rider", but that was not to be, this time.

As for everyone's travels home, I've only been privy to one tidbit, and that was that Sandy had a bit of a mechanical issue. Thankfully it was not enough to require roadside assistance, but I can't help but wonder that, if she and Tiny went to the Harley dealer of their choosing together, perhaps they could work out a two-fer?

Although no bids were presented to host the summer GLRC for 2015, the spring conference will be held in Canton, OH, March 20th - 22nd, at the McKinley Grand Hotel. Doni & I have made our reservations and submitted our registration, and we hope to see you all there!

Ride with Pride
Joe Kubicek



DATE**EVENT**

September 6th 2014	WKSO MAW/JDRF Ride, Registration at 9a (see attached flyer)
September 15 th -17 th	Fall Conference (NEC) Ottawa, Ontario (see attached flyer)
September 16th	MONTHLY MEETINGS RESUME: ALIOTOS
September 27 th 2014	BREWER/CUBS GAME, an invite from IL VI, contact Rich Martinez blueknightsillinoisix@gmail.com
September 28 th 2014	PACKER/BEAR GAME Waukegan, IL (see attached flyer)
October 10 th -13 th 2014	TRI STATE CONVENTION, NY IV www.blueknightsny4.org See attached flyer
November 9 th 2014	PACKER/BEAR GAME: WI VI HOSTS (details to come)
March 20 th -22 nd 2015	SPRING GLRC, OHIO XXV Canton, OH – see attached flyer
June 26 th -28 th 2015	WI State Convention, BK WI XIII, Minocqua Sports Complex butlersupnorth@gmail.com (John Butler) (flyer to come)
July 12 th -17 th 2015	2015 INTERNATIONAL RENO, NV (info @ reno2015@bknv2.org or www.bknv2.org) registration \$150/per person; \$175 after Feb 1
June 19 th -24 th 2016	2016 INTERNATIONAL destination: Harrisburg PA. info to come

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO.....

Steve Lesniewski	August 1 st
Kim Waliszewski	August 2 nd
Peter Simet	August 4 th
Andre Bleickardt	August 11 th
Ron Bethia	August 13 th
Jim Bagurdes	August 15 th
Jesse Benitez	August 15 th
Robin Griepentrog	August 15 th
Michael Hersh	August 23 rd
Dennis Hafeman	August 28 th
George Markopoulos	August 30 th
Colette Powell	August 31 st