

BLUE KNIGHTS

INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MOTORCYCLE CLUB

Wisconsin Chapter VI Metro-Milwaukee



July/August 2010

Tiny's Tidbits

Patti, Dennis and I left on the Thursday morning preceding the start of this year's International Convention for a three day ride to Billings, MT. It was a relatively uneventful ride except for one thing; Dennis led the entire way and we got there without one wrong turn. Certainly didn't see that one coming!

I'll let Dennis entertain with the color commentary on the International and I will just touch on the official business. The Board of Governors (BOG) and General Membership meetings on Monday were LONG, lasting about 6 hours, but there was not a lot of big stuff decided. Some of the highlights:

- The 2012 International will be hosted by TX XXXIV in Tyler, Texas. The dates are July 22nd - 26th which is one week later than usual. The host hotel is a Holiday Inn (183 rooms) with a rate of \$94/night, which includes a full breakfast buffet with made to order omelets. There are six hotels within walking distance of the host hotel. The Thursday night banquet will be off-site at the Tyler Convention Complex. Their unopposed bid did not, however, include registration costs.

- President Mulford showed the new dark blue leather vest that will be offered by the International as an alternative to the "smurf" blue vest currently available. There is no restriction on wearing a vest of any other color/material.

- There was a vote to allow the BOG special fund to be used for a spouse or significant other which required a 2/3's majority to pass. There was a clear majority but not the 2/3's needed so it failed.

- Lon Strayer and Jimmy Schneider were re-elected as BOG vice-president and secretary respectively.

- Former member Pat Griffin has a pending lawsuit against the club, but details will not be disclosed because of the suits pending status.

- There were 68 applications for the BK scholarship fund and 5 winner's names were drawn. The winners are:

Zachary Nitch, IL XII

Andrea Baldazo, TX I

Shianne Bolser AR VI

Matthew Navas IL IX

Larissa French IA III

The International this year was a great time. While there were some problems and complaints, seeing, riding with and partying with all of our old and new friends made for a great time. I was especially impressed by the fact that fifteen of our members (24 including spouses/significant others) attended. In fact, we won the award for the chapter with the most people in attendance. Congratulations to all of you!

Remember that the International elections as well as our chapter elections will be coming up soon and I would like to encourage everyone to vote. If you are not familiar with the candidates or the issues, please ask myself, another officer, or any other Blue Knights you trust. Also, please consider running for a chapter office. Our chapter runs best when all are involved. There will probably be some open positions this year and we really need some new people to step up. The old board is always willing to help the new officers (I know this from experience), and it can be a satisfying job.

Our next meeting will be September 21st at Alioto's where we will be voting on the alternative charity motion.

Ride with Pride
Your president,
Jim "Tiny" Kindt

Didja Know . . .

- Before the iconic reclining armchair was dubbed "La-Z-Boy", the names "Sit-N-Snooze", "Slack-Back" and "Comfort Carrier" were considered?
- Statisticians claim that the more money a man makes, the more likely he is to cheat on his spouse?
- It's been estimated that, around the world, 16 million tons of rain falls every second?
- Deaf people who suffer from Tourette syndrome swear in sign language?
- Automated Teller Machines are three times more likely to be robbed between 6PM - 9PM?

Next Meeting



Tuesday, September 21st

"Wrongway's" Road Tales (1) (or 2 weeks of BK madness)

"Give me your passport!" Here we are, standing half asleep at the airport in front of the customs gate after an eight-hour red eye to Brussels, Belgium with a rather official looking dude stopping our progress. Did Interpol finally catch up with me? Nope, this was the start of a great two week adventure in the Blue Knights.

As you may recall, last year at the International in Louisville I won registration for two for the European Convention in Oostduinkerke, Belgium June 4-7 (see, Chuck isn't the only lucky one).

When the cost of flights overseas dropped (and the volcano in Iceland calmed down) Laura and I made our plans to attend our first EC. I had been told by EC International Rep Koen "Dario Sex" Hutse that someone from his chapter would meet us when we got to the airport in Brussels, but he neglected to tell me who! Laura and I had decided to fly over two days early and take in some of the sites before going to the EC.

So here we are at the airport. I present my passport and after having it scrutinized for a few minutes the "official" hands it back to me and says, "Yes, it's you. They told me you'd be tall." And just like that we had made the acquaintance of Peter "Madnick" Van Den Block of Belgium VI, our escort for the week. After five minutes it was as if we'd known him for 20 years. "Madnick" spirited us through customs and out to his car, where he explained that there was a problem with our room at the convention; namely, we didn't have one. He went on to explain that today (Wednesday) we'd be staying at the Police Barracks. Barracks; terrific!

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Chuck Homa

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Past President

Dennis Hafeman

Visit our web site at: www.bkwivi.com

During summer riding months:

Dinner rides leave at 6:00PM

4th Wednesday of each month

Brunch rides leave at 10:00AM

2nd Sunday of each month

Meet at the Park & Ride lot

Hwy 45 & Watertown Plank Road

Monthly meetings

September - May

Third Tuesday each month, 7:00PM

Alioto's - 3041 N. Mayfair Road

When we arrived at our digs for the night, we found that we were being put up in the officer's suite, which was a massive apartment! Here we met up with Past International President Frank Gennari, and International VP Pat Fox and his son Ryan. "Madnick" then tells us to get freshened up, and once we were we'd be taken out for lunch. Well, lunch just happened to be at the US Embassy with the head of security (who happened to be a member of Belgium VI as well). Our first lunch in Brussels: a cheeseburger and fries!

Jet lag was kicking Laura's ass about now, so she decided to try her own remedy: a Red Bull, followed by a large (and strong) cup of coffee, followed by a 5 Hour Energy Drink! Well, jet lag be damned; she was now ready to rumble! "Madnick" wanted to treat us to the fine culture and beautiful buildings of their town square, as well as visit Manniken Pis (the famous pissing boy fountain) and his female counterpart and we turned it into a Belgian pub crawl!

One of the bars was a Goth bar, complete with glass topped coffin tables with (fake?) skeletons inside. The music was all heavy metal and alternative (right up my alley) and the beer was 10% alcohol (also up said alley). By now "Madnick" had given up on culture and was having fun partying.

Now behind the bar were a number of bottles with homemade labels. I asked our bartender what they were, and she told me that they were specialty drink bases. Some of the names: Vampire's Blood, Juice of the Corpse, and Devil's Sperm (not a lot of call for *that* one). I'll stick with beer thank you! 33 hours and several bars later (we'd been up since early Tuesday morning) it was time for some pizza and passing out.

Thursday still didn't have us a room at the convention, so Laura and I'd be staying with "Madnick" and his girlfriend Inge (AKA: "Slappy Simone"). But first, lunch with the members of Belgium VI, International President Dave Mulford and his wife Troi, and Chris Dobek and his wife Rocky from IL XI. After lunch, we took in a private brewery tour where Koen's brother worked. Talk about history. This brewery was founded in 1545, and was being run by the 15th generation of the founder's family. This of course turned into another drinking bout, as they opened the beer hall up to the 20 Blue Knights present for a tasting.

Full glasses of beer! As much beer as you wanted for as long as you wanted to stay.

Next up was a tour of "Madnick's" police station, complete with Laura getting the breathalyzer and a trip to a Belgian holding cell. For the record she was under the limit, so he cut her some slack.

Traffic is always a nightmare on their expressways, so two of "Madnick's" partners saddled up their PD bikes and gave us a blue light and siren high speed (100 KM) escort through heavy traffic. Thank God I had a couple in me, as these guys were lane splitting and riding the shoulder at speed. Let me tell you, these guys can ride! We did a 45 minute trip in about 15 minutes.

On Friday we finally made it to the convention. The host facility was a mere five minute walk to the North Sea where you could watch fishermen on horseback catching shrimp. 450 Blue Knights from all over Europe and Great Britain were present. Laura and I were considered VIPs, and as such had a private room. Remember the holding cell I mentioned? Well, the only difference between that and our room was the holding cell's walls were painted! We would spend the next three nights in our own four by six concrete block cell.

We also found out that a European hostel isn't like a hotel; you need to supply your own toiletries and towels. Fortunately we were close to the beach, so Laura and I bought a couple of beach towels so we could shower (important travel tip). We'd "liberated" a couple of the hostel's towels, which were about 4 feet long, rubberized on one side, and not very absorbent, so the Euros on beach towels were well spent. Back in the hospitality area Laura and I had the honor of being introduced to the Belgian Ambassador. Unfortunately the King and Queen of Belgium were not in the city (they are actual Honorary Blue Knights), so we didn't get a chance to meet royalty.

And can these Knights party! Frank spent the evening introducing me to more people than I can remember, all of whom spoke English to some degree. The beer flowed, the music blared, and everyone was dancing, singing and having a blast. A couple from England V renewed their vows after dinner. Here's another safety tip, when you exchange rings don't do it in a sand volleyball pit and don't drop them. Ten minutes and 20 Blue Knights later the rings were excavated.

Believe it or not, I sobered up in time to make it to the EC business meeting Saturday. The meeting was entirely in English, which was a surprise to me. The 2011 EC will be in Nice France (the French Riviera), and the 2012 will be in Croatia. When this was announced the place erupted in cheers (apparently the 2009 EC in Croatia was a blow out party). No bids for 2013, but 2014 will be in Austria, right on the German border.

Now after a leisurely stroll on the beach Laura and I went back for round two of partying. Duty called, so I had to leave Laura for a bit. I entrusted her to Troi Mulford while I was gone. Well, when I returned Troi told me she'd last seen Laura with the members of Germany XXI, one of the hardest parting chapters in the EC. Apparently, the Germans found Laura (or at least parts of her) fascinating. I wasn't able to find Laura (who wisely went to bed), but I did find several tall glasses of Jack Daniels with a wisp of Coke. Did you know you can't refuse a drink if it's offered; it's considered a serious insult if you do.

I was "saved" by Dave Mulford, who wanted me to come over by the Italians for a "shot." Did I mention the shot was on fire? Well, this shot (called the campari, I think) consisted of a sugar cube floating in evil green liquor on a long handled spoon. This was then set on fire, which you don't blow out. You put the entire thing in your mouth like a fire eater, swallowing the booze and eating the sugar. Did I also mention that common sense and basic fire safety deserted me at this point in the night? For some insane reason I thought this was a great thing to do. So I sat back and ate fire, to the cheers of dozens of Blue Knights. It was at this point that I smelled hair burning, and realized that my shirt was on fire! As I slapped out the flames and my shirt disintegrated, a hush fell over the crowd. When I cheered, they also cheered, cameras flashed and the party was back on!

At one point the music changed to Metallica, Black Sabbath, Guns & Roses and other heavy metal. All the men hit the dance floor and turned it into a giant mosh pit (they may have actually broke someone's ribs during this). By 3:00 AM I was trashed, and with WI VI's reputation enhanced I staggered off to my cell and passed out on the bathroom floor. Needless to say Sunday was a bit of a lost day for Laura and me (we were both

hurting). Fortunately it rained so we didn't miss much.

Later in the evening EC International Rep Koen presented each chapter represented with a bottle of beer and a glass, and further gave each of us from the states a bottle of champagne with a customized Blue Knights label. Then (you guessed it) back to partying! It was here that I introduced Europe to the SNORT Team. 46 new members were inducted. "Madnick" then began doing SNORT with a drinking straw (AKA: "Tiny style"), and the European SNORT Team was born. The only way to earn an EC SNORT patch is to go to Europe and be inducted by Belgium VI. After another late night of partying with these wonderful Knights, and after a lazy day with "Madnick" and Inge at their place it was time to say goodbye and head back "across the pond." I needed to get home because I had to pack up the bike and ride to the MWRC in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Joe, Doni and I passed on the Wisconsin State Convention this year, and instead rode out to Missouri for the Spring MWRC. By leaving a day early and taking an alternate route we avoided all the storms that rocked Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. This also gave us all day Friday to explore St. Joe's, hitting such places as the Pony Express Museum and the Glore Psychiatric Museum (which is actually housed in a functioning psych hospital). The nights were filled with partying, Midwest style, with our MWRC brother and sister Knights. Trip highlights: winning the 50/50 Friday night, learning that Joe's wardrobe is complete with the addition of "another f-ing Harley shirt," and being abandoned at the casino and having to take a taxi back to the hotel. So I guess I can say pretty much business as usual with the club. And only a few minutes of light rain on the ride home!

By the time I finally made it home, I was sunburned, jet lagged, grinning from ear to ear and wondering why I haven't keeled over yet. Two weeks had passed, and I'd had one of the best times ever. I'd met some fantastic new friends, reacquainted with others, and traveled to new places here and abroad. And all due to this great club we belong to.

"Lost in America, and beyond!"

"Wrongway" Dennis



Happy Birthday to You!

Sept 1st - Patti Kindt
Sept 14th - Jim Dunn
Sept 18th - Kevin Porter
Sept 22nd - Daniel Schmerse
Sept 25th - Jim Peterson
Sept 28th - Jim Kindt

"Wrongway's" Road Tales (2)

2010 International Convention

It appears that "Tiny" has designated me to do the color commentary on the 2010 International Convention, sooo . . .

The trip to Billings Montana was well worth the 2,700 miles I put on (and "NO", I didn't get lost!). "Tiny", Patti and I started out on Thursday prior to the convention, with the trip spread out over three very ride-able legs. The first two legs were boring, as anyone who's ridden across southern Minnesota and eastern South Dakota can attest. I swear I saw the heads on Mt. Rushmore yawning as we passed. But what was lacking in scenery was made up for in heat. 102 degrees across The Badlands; so hot that my redneck air conditioner quit working after 15 minutes (a soaking wet T-shirt, if you were wondering). Did I mention the bazillion grasshoppers we ran into? So many that we were waiting for frogs, boils, and the other plagues of The Old Testament to manifest. It took 45 minutes with a power washer just to get the carcasses off our bikes. We got in Saturday night and met up with a thawed out Joe and Doni, who'd spent a 32° night tenting in Yellowstone Thursday night. They scrubbed their plan to spend a second night in Yellowstone and arrived at the host hotel on Friday afternoon. WI VI was back in the saddle, with Joe and me closing down the "hospitality parking lot" that night.

The members of MT I were gracious hosts to the 880 attendees, and did their best when confronted by the issues that arise during large BK conventions. The beer in the hospitality suite running out at 10:30 PM and the suite closing on Sunday did not bode well for the week (the problem was quickly rectified). As Sunday and

Monday passed, the rest of the WI VI crew arrived. It was great to see a few new faces from our chapter at the convention. Steve Bzdusek, Herman Kremkau, Jim Bagurdes and Bob Barr all showed up sporting very Brokeback cowboy hats, purchased right there in Billings! All we needed was a construction worker and an Indian to complete the Village People. There wasn't a whole lot going on at the hotel; the beauty of the area was the main attraction. The area was spectacular for riding. While I was the only member of our chapter to not ride the Bear tooth Pass and Chief Joseph Loop (due to a few late nights with the Belgians and a few new faces) I was told it was fantastic, with enough twisties to make it fun and views to take your breath away. Trust me, I'm not complaining, as the fun I was having with my late nights/early mornings made up for it. How late? Well, I closed the hospitality suite three nights running, getting home on an average of 4:00 AM. I did make it down to the Little Big Horn Battlefield, which was an eerily quiet place "where ghosts walk in the daylight." The park ranger who gave a history of the battle reminded me of R. Lee Emy, and he was both highly informative and entertaining. Of course, the following day the great, great grandson of Sitting Bull was there giving a lecture and signing books. Kevin and his group got the opportunity to meet him, and scored a couple of autographs and photos.

Before you knew it, it was Thursday and time to head to the banquet. WI VI kicked some serious ass in the awards department, with Joe Kubicek winning the Guy Clow Award for best newsletter, and our chapter winning the Largest Chapter in Attendance award from MT I. Bob Barr won registration to the 2011 EC in Nice France, edging me out from a second consecutive win by ten numbers. The mental image of Bob traipsing along the beaches of San Tropez in a floral *banana hammock* may well keep me on this side of the pond next year! Overall, members of the GLRC received some high honors, with Sheldon DeMatteo (OH XVII) receiving the BOG Lifesaving Award, John Long (IL I) the BOG Meritorious Service Award and NY V winning the John T. Bartholomew Special Fund Award. Congrats to the well deserving winners (except you Bob, you thief).

While many were heading home on Friday ("Wacko" was heading south to the WCC in Colorado), Joe & Doni, "Tiny" & Patti and I headed down scenic hwy 212 to Deadwood, South Dakota for the weekend. "Tiny" had never been there so we decided a cultural tour of this historic town was in order. By cultural, I mean two nights of drinking and gambling in the local saloons. Black Jack was the game, played at such historic places as The Gem Saloon and Saloon #10. Hey, I did say there was some culture involved, didn't I? "Tiny" found out the hard way that 16 wasn't very sweet, setting a probable Guinness record for Most Bust Hands Received by One Player. We did tear ourselves away from the tables long enough to ride Spearfish Canyon, a beautiful road best enjoyed on two wheels, running into Blue Knights at every turn. But, as they say, all good things must come to an end and soon enough it was time to point our wheels east and head home. Fortunately, the heat had somewhat abated, and the ride back to reality was cooler and equally uneventful.

Lost in America,
"Wrongway" Dennis

2011 International Motorcycle Show

Steve Schultz has done the preliminary research regarding his proposed group outing to the 2011 International Motorcycle Show in Chicago. (First proposed at our February meeting and detailed in the February newsletter.)

The 2011 dates are Saturday, February 12th (9AM-9PM) and Sunday, February 13th (9AM-5PM). Ticket prices have not yet been announced.

A Coach USA Bus (56 person capacity) would cost about \$850, including tip. That would be about \$15/person if we filled the bus.

In addition there would be the cost of snacks and refreshments for the ride there and back.

Upcoming Blue Knight Events

August 27-29: Summer GLRC, Perrysburg, OH
(host OH II)
<http://www.ohio2blueknights.com/GLRC.html>

September 10-12: Fall MWRC, Grand Forks, ND
(host ND I)
www.rrv.net/bknd1

August 28: 7th Annual Bruce Williams Memorial Ride
(host WI VII)
http://www.berlinblueknights.com/e107_files/downloads/2010_poster.pdf

You Deserve a Medal

Word on the street is that one of our own, Sandy Santoro, was instrumental in rescuing a suicidal man from atop the Hoan Bridge last week.

A local newspaper reports that she "distracted the man", who was sitting on the rail, and as she did so a Milwaukee PD Officer was able to grab him in a bear hug and pull him back over the railing.

Well, if you've ever driven over that bridge, you have seen a lot of light poles up there, right? Makes one wonder exactly how our *Pole Dancing Deputy* "distracted" this fellow!



Whatever the ruse, we salute you Sandy for a job well done!

Hey, Dust Off That Saddle and Ride!

This weekend, August 27th-29th, has many fun and worthwhile events to offer which several of our members have made plans to attend.

For starters, there is the GLRC in Perrysburg, OH, Friday-Sunday. It's a short 323 mile ride from Milwaukee and a great opportunity to meet your Brothers & Sisters from our own conference.

Jake's Ride for Juvenile Diabetes Research is Saturday and Ted will have his posse meeting up for a 10AM departure at the Mobil gas station in Allenton on Hwy 33, just off US 41. Registration is "basically across the street" and Ted says, "wear your colors"! www.jakesrideforjdrf.com

The 7th Annual Bruce Williams Memorial Ride is also Saturday, hosted by WI VII in Berlin. Contact Jim Crouse if you're interested in this ride.
http://www.berlinblueknights.com/e107_files/downloads/2010_poster.pdf