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Fall Ride in Door County - Photo by Cheapshotz Photography



Dear Friends,
I remember the movie "Endless Summer" and I believe they should make a movie called "Endless Winter" based on how long our current winter is lasting. As I write this they are calling for record snow fall in Chicago. If this is like the typical Chicago weather it will probably be 60 next week! Riding season cannot get here soon enough. I may not be able to wait until the end of March for our first tour of the season; Arizona Bike Week. I may have to go and ride our "Texas Hill Country" tour to do additional research for that ride. We are offering the Hill Country Ride in April.

I just received our booth number for the Chicago International Motorcycle Show scheduled for February 11-13 at the Rosemont Convention Center. We have been assigned booth number 1708 and we are several aisles down from the Harley Davidson Display. Please stop by our booth and pick up a free copy of our 2010 ride DVD. It will also be a good time to put a deposit on a tour so bring your check books or credit cards to the show.

I would like to thanks those of you who stopped by our show booth at the Zylkstra HD Open House and the Peotone Motorcycle Show and Swap Meet in January. For those of you that signed up for our newsletter this will be your first Tour On 2 monthly newsletter. Please give us some feedback on what you think of our newsletters and what you would like to see in future newsletters. While our newsletters are to keep you informed of our upcoming rides, We also like to include riding advice that you

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Tour On 2 – 2011 Schedule

**Chicago Motorcycle Show
and Parts Expo
McCormick Place –
February 5**
www.paragonspromotion.com

**International Motorcycle
Show –
Rosemont Illinois
February 11-13**
www.motorcycleshows.com

may find useful and give you an idea on some of the great rides we conduct.

I have asked Ed Richtsteig of Cheapshotz Photography, www.cheapshotzphoto.com, to write a series of articles on photography as it relates to riding and capturing those great shots while we ride. When you ride with us you will get a disk with copies of everyone's photos from the tour. I also create a video slide show for everyone. A better photo means better slide shows and better memories of your trip. This issue will be the first of Ed's articles and I will also include some of Ed's amazing photos. I hope you enjoy the articles and the photos. I encourage you to check out the Cheapshotz Photography website and consider Ed for your future photography needs.

Last month we featured a Ladies Only Ride scheduled for June 3-5. I forgot to mention in my article is that I lowered the price to \$300/rider and that includes all your meals and lodging. The only thing you need to buy is your gas and adult beverages; that can only be consumed after the riding day is over. On June 5 there is a No Boyz Ride sponsored by the Windy City Women Riders MC (<http://wcvr-mc.com>) and scheduled to leave out of Woodstock HD. If there is enough interest in the No Boyz Ride we will reschedule our Ladies Only Ride to July 22-24. Please contact me and let me know which date works best for you.

Finally, I am looking for articles or riding tips written by our readers to include in our monthly newsletter. I also welcome any suggestions you may have for future newsletters. I cannot guarantee that they will get published but it could be worth a "Get Away For A Day" ride if I do use your article or suggestion. The prize would be a guided day ride that would include breakfast and lunch. We will start awarding the prize starting with our April Newsletter. Send your articles, ideas or suggestions to: touren2@aol.com

Ride Safe,
Ride Safe! Bill and Pam Gade



**Arizona Bike Week - March
25 - April 3***

**Texas Hill Country - April
10-17***

**Las Vegas/Utah - April
30- May 7***

**US RT 66 - May 14-28
(Starts in Chicago
and ends in Santa Monica,
Ca.)**

**Ladies Only Tour!
June 3-5 ****

**Great Lakes Tour - June
18-25**

**Illinois RT 66 Tour - July
2-4 ****

**Upper Mississippi River
Tour
July 8 - 10 ****

**Door County Wisconsin
July 15 - 17 ****

**71st Sturgis Rally August
5 - 13**

**Door County Wisconsin
August 26 - 28 ****

**Blue Ridge Parkway/Tail
of the Dragon
September 3 - 10**

**Ozark Mountain Tour -
September 18 - 25**

**Upper Mississippi River
Tour
September 30 - October 2

*** This is a Ship-Fly-Ride
Tour and only requires 5
vacation days
**3-Day Tours include
Meals and Lodging**

Safe Riding Tip - Rider Education

I recently read an article that stated a statistic that many riders do not have valid motorcycle licenses. In Illinois you are required to take a written exam and a riding test before they will validate your license with a "M" (motorcycle) classification. The same article also stated that the majority of the accidents on motorcycle were riders that did not have a valid motorcycle license. This prompted the state police road blocks to check rider's licenses.

I am sure all of you have a valid motorcycle license but may not have received formal training how to ride a motorcycle. I know when I bought my first motorcycle my training was reading the owner's manual, reading Cycle World Magazine and tips from a few friends that rode. I knew nothing about braking, traction, or turning but at 16 all I needed to know was how to start the bike and where to put in the gas. I can tell you I learned by making mistakes and I was fortunate to survive them. Today there are so many options for newer riders and returning riders to learn correctly from trained instructors.

Many are getting back into riding after raising their families and now they can afford the motorcycle they always wanted. The motorcycles many buy today are much larger than what they rode when they were in their teens or twenties. For years I rode BMW motorcycles and when I bought my first Harley I immediately noticed how much heavier the Harley was and how differently it handled. While the physics of riding are the same it took more effort to ride the larger bike than I expected until I learned how to safely ride the larger bike. Many returning riders have problems because they think since they rode in their youth they can ride safely many years later. I encourage all new and returning riders to take a Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) course offered at many community colleges or the Rider's Edge program offered by many Harley Davidson dealers before they get back into riding.

Here in Illinois, MSF courses are taught through Northern Illinois University, Illinois State University, and University of Illinois. These courses are conducted at local Community Colleges or local businesses. They usually start on a Friday evening with classroom work. Saturday and Sunday is for learning to ride and taking of the final exam. These classes cost \$20, they provide the motorcycles, and if you successfully complete the course they give you your money back. We recommend that you donate your refund back to the program to keep it operating. To find out where a course is offered near you go to: <http://msf-usa.org> for more information.

I know many of you are already very experienced riders. MSF offers an Experienced Rider Course (ERC). These classes are usually half day classes with no classroom work. You will ride your motorcycle through a series of "skills exercises" to refresh good riding skills that you may need or have forgotten over time. I am a member of a HOG Chapter that requires all their Road Captains to take the ERC every 2-3 years. I am due to take the class again

Featured Tour On 2, Customer



Name: Neil K
From: Illinois

**Occupation: Occupational
Therapist**

Comment:

I rode with Bill and Pam on the Upper Mississippi Tour in early Oct, 2010. We rode Southwest Wisconsin, Iowa along the Mississippi River and on some great roads and beautiful sights. The best part was meeting some wonderful riders and relaxing after a great day on the bike. Bill plans his tours to the smallest detail to make the ride as good as possible. I plan to ride with Bill on the Route 66 ride to LA and fulfill a dream I've had on my bucket list for 30 years.

Motorcycle Transport Service:

Interested in going to Daytona Bike Week in early March? Talk with Mark Gall at Haulin Hogs Transport about shipping your motorcycle to Daytona . Each year he offers some great rates on this and other events. We use Haulin Hogs Transport for our Ship Fly and Ride tours. You can reach Mark at: 630-800- 8337 or at his web site at: www.haulinhogstransport.com



If you are interested in going to Arizona Bike week in late March don't wait too long. The truck is already over half full!

this year. If have already taken the basic or experienced rider

courses I encourage all of you to go back and read your class manual and start thinking about safe riding skills before the riding season starts. Ride Safe! Bill

Become A Better Photographer

If you're like me you've got a passion for riding that "cagers" will never understand. My bike is my lifeline to freedom and vehicle both literally and figuratively to places and people that I would never see or meet otherwise. A few years ago I started packing a camera on my bike in order to photographically document the places I went. As I am sure many of you are also interested in taking photographs on your journeys. I will touch on a couple of points that may help you in deciding what type of camera you'd like to have with you and the features that may be necessary to meet your needs.

Zoom is not just the sound your bike makes! A camera's zoom is the feature that allows you to get closer to your subject in much the same way as binoculars do. I'm sure most of you already knew this but did you know there are two types of zoom? The first type of zoom is "optical" zoom. Optical zoom moves the subject nearer or farther by means of the glass in the lens. Optical zoom will give you the best images however it may be more expensive. The second type of zoom is "digital" zoom. Digital zoom makes your subject matter appear closer by digitally enlarging the subject you are focusing on. The advantage to digital zoom is that it is often less expensive and though it usually does a reasonable job its clarity does not match that of optical zoom.

Aperture is the size of the opening in your lens that the light passes through on route to the cameras sensor. Though many pocket cameras do not allow you to control the size of the aperture it is a necessary feature for the more serious photographer. Aperture is set by choosing what is known as an f-stop. F-stops may be as low as 1.2 and as high as 22 or even higher. You have to keep in mind when choosing an f-stop the smaller the number the larger the opening therefore and f-stop of 5.6 is much larger than 22. The main reason for controlling your aperture is so you can control your depth of field. A small aperture such as f-22 will create an image in which almost everything in the foreground and background are in focus. Because f-22 is such a small opening in the lens it will require quite a bit of light. This can be done by using a flash if the subject is close enough or placing the camera on a tripod to steady it for a slower shutter speed. If you want a photo in which the subject is in focus but the background is not you would use a larger f-stop such as 5.6 or larger. This setting will give you the desired effect but will also allow a lot more light to reach the sensor. To use this setting you either need to avoid bright light or slow the camera's ISO speed but that's for another article. I hope that these tips help you out as you begin another riding season. All the best.

Ed Richtsteig

www.Cheapshotzphoto.com

Door County Photos



Featured Ride - Illinois River Valley Day Ride

This ride is not like other rides we offer. This is a ride you and your friends to do on your own. It is a 98 mile ride from the starting and ending point I chose at I-80 and Ridge Road in Minooka, Illinois. You can start anywhere you want since I chose this starting point for convenience and being easy to find. Before you start your ride I suggest that if you need gas or a bathroom break make sure you take it in Minooka before you start the route! Take Ridge Road south of Minooka until the ends at Cemetery Road and turn right (west). You will ride about 12 miles on Cemetery Road to Washington St (in Morris) and turn left. Bear right on Jackson St and ride through Morris. At the Nettle St turn left and then right one block later onto Jefferson St. When the Jefferson St splits stay left on County Road 2. CR 2 changes its name to Old Stage Rd. Please note that Cemetery Rd and Old Stage Rd are great roads for riding. There are many curves and some stretches of road do not have a centerline marking. Make sure you and your group ride single file and bear to the right side of your lane. Do the speed limit, which I think is 35-45 MPH, and just enjoy this rural road. In about 8 miles you will come to Main St in Seneca and you will turn left. Just ahead you will see a sign "LST Memorial". During WWII and the Korean LST (Light Ship Tank) ships were built in Seneca and this memorial is to those that supported our war efforts in building of these ships. It is a great place to stop for a break and learn a little history. Continuing south you will cross a large bridge over the Illinois River. Turn right (west) onto River St as soon as you cross the bridge. Stay on this road for 12 miles and turn left when

you reach Route 23 in Ottawa. In about a mile turn right onto Foss Rd. Stay on Foss Rd. until it dead ends into Route 71 and turn left. Route 71 is a great ride along the Illinois River and through Starved Rock State Park. This is a great stretch of road that has some very tight and steep turns but it also can have traffic. From the time you turn onto RT 71 until you reach RT 178 be aware that this is a highly patrolled road so watch your speed. Turn right onto RT 178 and you will now be heading north and riding into the town of Utica. There are several great places to eat in Utica but my favorite is Duffy's located on the left. It is a great Irish Pub. If you like fried mushrooms, make sure you order them; they are as large as baseballs. Unless you are really hungry share them with your group. This is the halfway point of the ride.

When you leave Utica go back south on RT 178 and turn left before you reach the bridge on CR 34. Stay on CR 34 for 8 miles going through Naplate and then left on Boyce Memorial Drive in Ottawa. At RT 6 turn right and stay on RT 6 through Ottawa. Rt 71 and RT 6 join in downtown Ottawa when they split to the east of Ottawa stay on RT 6. Stay on RT 6 to Marsailles. If you have never been to the Middle East Conflict Wall in Marsailles, turn right on Main St and just before you cross the Illinois River Bridge, the memorial is on the right. Each year the Freedom Run is a motorcycle ride to this wall and is a fundraiser to support this Tribute to those that died in Middle East Conflicts. This wall was built from the efforts of the Illinois motorcycle riders. This ride usually takes place on the 3rd Saturday in June. For more information on this ride go to:

<http://ilfreedomrun.org/>

After you leave the Wall go back north on Main St and then right back onto RT 6. As you head back into Seneca just before the BP Station is a great place to stop on the right called Fat Daddyz. You can tell it from the motorcycle that is hanging up in front of the building. Pull into the parking lot and go around to the back of the building. There is a patio in back where you can park your bike and have a burger. Fat Daddyz is a place I go to for lunch since it is only about 45 minutes from my house. When you leave get back onto RT 6 and head east. In about 4 miles RT 6 will turn to the north but bear to the right on Bluff Rd. In about 2 miles, at Nettle School Rd bear left and then right onto Stockdale Rd. Stockdale Rd. will tee at Saratoga Rd. Turn left on Saratoga Rd and then right onto RT 6. Stay on RT 6 through Morris and then to Ridge Rd in Channahon. Turn left onto Ridge Rd and take north to Minooka. You will be back at the starting point. Below is a map of the ride but it does not have all the details of the ride. Use an Illinois road map and this article to create your own route sheet. If you would like a GPS file of this route contact me and I will create one. It is a great day ride and I guarantee you will ride on roads you never knew existed. Ride Safe and enjoy the ride!



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