



Door County Tour June 2010

Dear Friends,

From the weather we have been receiving the past few weeks it appears that we went directly into the freezing cold temperatures of winter very quickly this year. Usually temperatures and snow storms gradually build but not this year. It was almost like someone turned a switch from fall to winter. My hopes for riding in the near future are fading. Maybe Santa could bring us a few days of good riding weather? I always try to ride on January 1st each year no matter how cold it is. I believe you need to start the year on 2 wheels not 4!

At least we have to look forward to attending several motorcycle shows in the Chicago area. If I cannot ride, the next best thing is being with motorcyclists talking about riding motorcycles. We have included the URL for these shows in our 2011 schedule (see table at right). They usually offer online discounts if you buy tickets prior to the show. Buy your discount tickets and stop by our booth at one or all of these shows.

As I look back on our 2010 riding season I can say we were truly blessed. For most of our tours weather was not a real negative factor. The weather is always a variable we cannot control so we can only prepare for the worst and hope for the best. We are fortunate to have tools like www.accuweather.com for planning day rides and being able accurately to predict weather changes. This ability allows us to change our ride plan for the day if necessary to avoid bad weather. Sometimes there is nothing that can be done to avoid weather and you just have to deal with it. As I look forward to our 2011 riding season; I cannot wait to be riding in Arizona next March where it is usually 80 and sunny.

I have upgraded my GPS to the Garmin Road Tech Zumo 660 for our tours in 2011. While I had very little trouble with my Zumo 450, I bought the new Garmin and I look forward to using the advance features of the Zumo 660. When you ride with me I will upload the daily routes into your GPS each day. This allows you know where we are at and where we will be going during the day. If you do not have a GPS don't worry; I have a policy that if the group gets separated I pull over and wait until the group gets back together. To date I have not lost anyone!

Again we want to thank everyone that took the time to ride with us in 2010. We hope that we exceeded your expectations with our motorcycle travel services and we will continue that effort on future tours. We have made some changes to some of our tours for 2011 to create a more enjoyable riding experience. We are very excited about our planned 2011 riding season and we look forward to riding with all of you in 2011. If you are interested in any of these tours you can secure your reservation with a deposit. We will honor our 2010 prices until 1/1/2011 if we receive your application and deposit by 12/31/2010. We take cash, checks credit cards, and you can pay over time. We understand that things are tough during this current economic time and we are trying to keep our prices as low as possible. Book before years end and receive a discount.

Ride Safe! Bill and Pam Gade



*Merry Christmas, Happy New Year
and Happy Holidays From Pam,
Bill, Jake, Elwood and Tour On 2*

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Tour On 2 – 2011 Schedule

**27th Annual Peotone Motorcycle Show
and Parts Expo**
Peotone, Illinois
January 23, 2011
www.paragonspromotion.com

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

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

**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.)**

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**

Safe Riding Tip

Many riders would not consider a GPS a safety device. I truly believe it is and I would not lead an organized ride with out one. Here are just a few of the reasons why I believe why a GPS can add to the safety of any ride.

1. A GPS eliminates the need for a route sheet. It is much easier to follow a GPS than reading a route sheet. You do not need a passenger to read the route directions to you or you do not have to clip the route sheet to your windshield and hope it does not blow away. It helps you focus on the road and the traffic while not having to deal with a route sheet.
2. I can upload the route into all the group's GPS units so they all follow the same route. Riders tend to worry about getting lost or separated from the group on a group ride. This anxiety can result in unsafe riding habits such as running traffic signals just to keep together. They know that if they get separated and they can still reach the destination can eliminate the fear of getting lost.
3. Riders with small gas tanks or those that get poor gas mileage are concerned that they will run out of gas. Most GPS units allow you to program the unit to give you a low fuel warning. I will ask the group when they usually need to stop for gas and will program that specific mileage into my GPS unit. When the low fuel warning appears on the screen so does a gas pump icon. Simply touch the gas pump icon and a list of the nearest gas stations appear. Touch one you want and it will route you to that gas station. The concerns about running out of gas can now be eliminated.
4. Some of the roads we travel are very remote and not well marked. I know of a road in Arkansas where they put up this sign:



While this is an amazing road to ride a motorcycle, turns and intersections are not well marked or even marked at all. On roads like these I zoom my GPS to a close setting where I can see the road configuration ahead. As I approach a hill the GPS will tell me if the road turns left, right or stays straight. I am no longer "blind" as to what over the hill when I cannot see beyond the hill. I can be prepared knowing what is ahead before I get there.

5. I know riders and passengers that have "small bladders" and need to stop more frequently than others. We can plan our breaks according to their bladders and they will know how much longer before we stop for a break.

I have just highlighted a few of the safety factors that come with a GPS. The more you use your GPS unit the more familiar you will become with its features and its benefits. I know the Garmin Zumo units can be expensive but a less expensive unit can be used that will still allow you some of the benefits of the Zumo. For years I used an inexpensive unit made for cars. While it was not waterproof or shock proof it still helped me with routes, ride planning and taught me how a GPS unit could also help to make our rides more safe..

Ride Safe!
Bill

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

Featured Tour On 2, Customer



**Name: Mike K.
From: Illinois**

Occupation: Executive Director

Comment: I took the Door County bike trip it was great and everything was taken care of so I could just enjoy the ride and meeting new friends. I will be taken more trips in 2011 thanks Pam and Bill.



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!

Featured Ride - 3-Day Tour - Illinois RT 66 - July 2-4 2011

I created this tour because many of us want to ride the "Mother Road" RT 66 but we do not have the 2 weeks needed to ride from Chicago to Santa Monica (Los Angeles). There is so much history to see on the Illinois section of RT 66. It can be difficult deciding where to stop along the way because there is so much to see. We start this tour by meeting for breakfast at a restaurant outside the Chicago Loop. I picked the weekend of July 4th to take advantage of the July 4th holiday and the light traffic we should experience on that Saturday morning in Chicago. I believe if you are going to ride RT 66 you really need to go to the exact starting point which is Jackson and Lake Shore Drive. After breakfast, we will have a briefing on the day's ride and on the safe riding practices we will be using during the weekend. We will specifically cover safe riding techniques and group riding hand signals. This should be completed before 9:00 AM so we can begin our weekend adventure at 9:00 AM.

After we leave the restaurant will head into the city and the official starting point of US RT 66. We will head west through the city of Chicago and the suburbs. We will stop for a break about an hour after breakfast. After our morning break we will discuss the group riding practices and make any adjustments in the group if necessary. We want to ensure that everyone understands the group riding techniques and be comfortable using them.

We will ride another two hours and then stop for lunch. Lunch will be at very nice restaurant, near Pontiac. We will continue south along as much as the "original tracts" of RT 66 as practical. Some of the original RT 66 has been paved over or is the frontage road for I-55. We will be riding on I-55 for short intervals at times.

We will spend Saturday night in the Springfield Area. After Checking into our hotel rooms we will ride to dinner. While this was a relatively short day in riding miles it will be an interesting and challenging day.

Sunday will start like Saturday with breakfast and a day's ride briefing before we leave at 9:00 AM. We will continue south on RT 66. We will see the last of the three famous RT 66 giants in Springfield before we continue south on RT 66. Here the "Mother Road" heads SW and does not parallel the interstate as a frontage road like it did most of the way after we left Chicago. We will ride through some great small towns that have not changed much over time. We will follow RT 66 to where it ends in Illinois at the Chain of Rock Bridge. Here is where RT 66 ends but our weekend riding adventure will just continue to get better.

We will stop near Grafton, Illinois for lunch and continue north along the "Great River Road". We will continue north following the Illinois River. That evening we spend the night in Pittsfield. I am sure we will be able to find a fireworks display in the area.

On Monday we will continue to head north riding parallel to the Illinois River most of the day. We will stop for lunch will be at a little place in Lowpoint, Illinois! Be ready for homemade duck tenders and the best corn fritters I have ever tasted. The great riding will continue late into the afternoon. The tour will end in the Western Chicago Suburbs. Dinner on Monday is not included with the tour. Several weeks after the tour all riders will receive a CD with all the photos from the trip and slide show of the highlights of the trip. As with all our tours our group sizes a limited so book early to reserve you place on the tour and if you book before 1/1/2011 you will receive an early booking discount.

Illinois RT 66 Tour Photos



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