

Black Hills Trip Summary 8/20/11- 8/27/11

Kellie's Iron-Butt Ride

Total Miles 2,965 (Bill's odometer)

Bill & Linda Hay, Bob Didrickson, Lee Grunwald, Ken Kutschke, and Kellie Becket attended this ride.

Saturday-Forecasted rain in Wisconsin altered our initial course to a more southern route. We skirted some showers and zigzagged through northwest IL, northeastern Iowa, and eventually got on I-90 in Minnesota, stopping in Watertown South Dakota some 14 hours after departing. An enjoyable, but long day!

Sunday- Ken broke off from our group to return home, as the rest of us wound our way across South Dakota, crossing the Missouri river at Pierre and stopping for the evening at a KOA in Deadwood. ***Kellie Becket started her Iron-butt odyssey at 3:30 am in Warrentville, ending the trip some 13 gas stops later and 1,008 miles, she arrived at our camp in Deadwood at 8:30pm.***

Monday-We rode Spearfish canyon for the first of many times, a route with such scenery we concluded that someday you'll probably have to pay to drive this beautiful route. We met up with Bob's cousin and friend from Colorado at Spearfish lodge for breakfast. Bob's cousin, having been to the Black Hills some twenty-plus times became our guide for the day. We spent the day touring some great roads, Needles Highway in Custer State Park, Iron Mountain Road, cruising by Mt. Rushmore and Crazy Horse. **During the day, Kellie's bike rolled past the 100,000 mile mark!** An event which included photos and celebration, but no champagne.

Tuesday-We did a loop out into Wyoming stopping in Aladdin at a rustic general store, and then Devils Tower. The late afternoon was spent in Sturgis, where we met some motorcyclists from Switzerland.

Wednesday-We broke camp, left Deadwood via the Spearfish Canyon Scenic Byway repeating some great routes through tunnels, past cathedral spires, majestic overlooks, and lakes. We stopped for the evening in Hot Springs S.D. spending the night in a hotel.

Thursday- We made our trek across the Badlands in near record heat. We arrived at a KOA campground near Interior S.D. and enjoyed the pool for a few hours. In the evening we made a run to Wall SD through the Badlands. Our return to camp after dark was enhanced by a distant storm which lit up the night sky.

Friday-One more trip though the Badlands, then regrettably getting on I-90 eastbound and leaving the Black Hills in the rear-view mirror. We stopped in Mitchell SD at the Corn Palace then on to Rochester MN for the evening.

Saturday-The group split up, some to visit relatives and friends in Wisconsin, while Bob and Kellie took the scenic way along the Mississippi from Lacrosse to Dubuque.

All agreed this could easily become an annual ride!