

DOG TALES



We all arrived at the Loken's Inn at Rushford MN which is located in South Eastern MN early in anticipation of a great ride and fellowship. There were ten Dogs in attendance and at least that many spouses or guests. The newly built motel was super and the management treated us like family. Dennis Coniff, Bob Lynn and Larry Shephard had a conference room all set up and loaded with munchies. A few of us went out for a quick dinner, including Bruno Andreini who became ill shortly thereafter. Unfortunately he was taken to hospital where he stayed for the next two days. He came back smiling even though he had been lectured incessantly about taking it easy and slowing down. We all know you can't teach old Dog new tricks.

By Monday morning we were told he would be OK so off we rode to meet our guides the Valley Crest Riders at M & M Sports, who treated all of us like royalty. Mike Burns, the owner of M & M Polaris paid for refreshments at our first rest stop, and lunch of delicious sloppy joes and potato salad. We had a great ride but the trails were icy from the melt down the week before so some of us were challenged getting up the beautiful but steep bluffs.

Tuesday morning the club guides took us on new trails. By the second day we began collecting data for the (toilet seat) Crapper Award. A few slips, dips, a rollover and blown belt because the hand break was left on were in contention for the award. This gave us lots of choices for the award. By the time we were heading back to Rushford the sunny slopes were getting quite black so we came to the consensus at the Club House we should not even attempt to ride on Wednesday. The club treated us to a wonderful finger licking fried chicken dinner. They must have thought we were hungry lumber jacks with the number of roasters laid out. Since we had the next day to goof off the club members found all kinds of things of interest for us to do. My favorite was visiting a robotic dairy farm, and to my surprise this tour was well attended. It was mind blowing to see a 150 cows being milked by 3 robots with only 1 ½ employees. After lunch in

Caledonia, I (Jean) had a personal chauffer named Dale Vagts escort me all over the scenic countryside and through the streets of gingerbread homes in Lanesboro. I didn't know lots of other riders were doing the same thing, just thought I was special. Others also toured Harmony which is a quaint Amish town and visited an office store and furniture factory, they witnessed firsthand, black wooden buggies and open buggies travelling the country side.

Our farewell Banquet dinner was held at the beautiful Rushford golf course who plied us with delicious steaks, sides and desert all for only \$15.00. Bob Linn won the Crapper Award hands down, thanks to his guest, whose name I will not mention.

This should have been the end of a great Iron Dog ride but it just wasn't meant to be. While getting his sled ready for loading on Thursday morning Ken Larson slipped, doing damage to his shoulder, a severe dislocation and was taken by ambulance to Rochester. He'll be OK but this is a ride he won't forget. All in all it was a very memorable few days for all of us.

Guest editor – Jean Skomoroh

So where to next year? It was decided a year ago we would return to Hayward WI with Dale Vogt hosting this event again.

For 2018 we are going up north to the Iron Range area.

For 2019 I am campaigning that we return to Lead, South Dakota. I haven't run this by Duane Sutton yet, but I think he can be convinced to chair this.

President – Ed Skomoroh