

## Wildcat or Bust

On Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30am, sixteen JPC members assembled at the BP station on IL-72 and 47, eager for a 4 day event to Hillsboro, Wisconsin and the Wildcat Mountain area. Frank Wenzon was our leader. The weather prediction was dismal at best with rain expected on Thursday, all day Friday and on Sunday. Many of us on the 11 bikes wore our raingear, and the 3 members who drove 2 cars anticipated the worst, unwilling to “drip” along with the rest of us!

### Day 1, Aug 3rd

Rising under a very cloudy sky, we stayed dry until we reached Grandma Mary's Café in Arena, Wisconsin, just outside of Black Earth. As we climbed off our bikes, a light rain began and became heavier as we ate lunch. Drizzle continued as we left the café, but we rode out of it within 10 minutes. After an uneventful, pleasant afternoon ride, we arrived at the Hillsboro Hotel at 3:30pm. At 4:30, the skies opened “monsoon style”. Someone was definitely watching out for the JPC's! At dinner at Beezer's Bar and Grill which attached to the hotel, we rehashed the day's events and applauded our ability to stay dry.

### Day 2, Aug 4th

The day began with a drizzle, then improved to a misty 54 degrees. By delaying our departure by just one hour, we were able to take off under heavy clouds, but dry pavement. For added “insurance,” some of us donned our raingear. But no rain fell on us the remainder of the day!

Our destination was the LaCrosse area, experiencing beautiful rolling hills, and challenging curves on WI-33 through Wildcat Mountain State Park, WI-35, 56, 58 and 82 to Viroqua to for lunch at the Viroqua Family Restaurant. After lunch the sun broke out, it became warmer into the mid 70's, we dropped layers of clothing at various stops and arrived back in Hillsboro at 4pm, well satisfied with our day's ride. We were dry and happy “campers” .....

While at dinner at Beezer's, a former JPC member, Bob (?), who now lives in LaValle near Hillsboro, showed up on his CanAm Spyder to see if there were members present that he recognized. He was pleased to find a few familiar faces. Good to know that the JPC “blog” is being read and enjoyed not only by current members, but our past members too!

### Day 3, Aug 5th

Bright, sunny and a bit warmer (57 degrees) weather greeted us on Saturday morning. Frank led the group via WI-33 to 82 to 70 through Elroy...then to WI-131 through LaFarge, Steuben, and along WI-60 to 80 to US-14 to the Country Kitchen at the Ramada White House Inn. We followed a gorgeous route planned by Frank and Steve Penczak. I won't mention the few roads that Frank took that weren't in the plans (causing us to double back a couple of times), just more scenery that we would have missed had we actually followed the planned route!!! Yay, Frank! Seriously, there were some amazing vistas that would have been missed!

The ride back to Hillsboro included lots of sunshine, roller coaster hills, quaint little towns (one had 117 residents) and warm but very comfortable temperatures.

Dinner for some included Beezer's again, but for the majority of the others, a short walk to the small but upscale Hillsboro Brewing Company for nachos, grinders (sandwiches) and locally brewed beer. We retired to another outing at the lobby campfire, more snacks, ice cream and more stories about our day.

### Day 4, Aug 6th

Cloudy, cool weather met us outside as we packed our bikes (and cars) for the return trip home. As the hilly terrain on WI-23 began to flatten into Illinois cornfields, we headed toward the Sand Burr Restaurant in Brodhead for an early lunch, then on to our respective suburbs.

Kudos to Frank, who had assistance from Steve Penczak for the absolutely gorgeous, challenging, winding routes over the four days, and to the Big Guy in the sky for granting us beautiful, dry weather and safe travels! We were truly blessed!

This is definitely an area for a repeat performance next year!

**Candi Wenzon, Correspondent**