

THE ROAD Less Traveled



So, you see what happens. You sit down with Dennis and give him one stinkin' interview and the next thing ya know, he has you writing a regular monthly article. Well, this may not be such a bad thing. I've always felt there has been a need for someone to spotlight some of the more unknown, secret and hidden establishments found on the many road trips we all take. As the story goes, if you want to go someplace new, have a biker take you there. Bikers always know where to find the best in everything. Whether it's a new road, a new bar or a new restaurant, a biker has found it. Now my idea of an interesting stop is to find one that not many people know about. Having served as the Director of the Kirkwood, MO H.O.G. Chapter for ten years, I have had plenty of opportunities to discover different places to visit, many of which people may not be aware of. This article will allow me to share some of these places with everyone who knows how to read and loves to ride. If a spot is featured here, there must be a reason for it. Many of us are already familiar with the likes of Larry's Bar & Grill in Wildwood or spending an afternoon relaxing at Falling Springs in Dupo. The goal here is to take a look at places you may not find on your own. I have made some of my best discoveries by getting lost on the road and then to come upon a stop that was totally unexpected. Has anyone had a chance to visit the Pole Barn in Puddy Huddle, MO? You can find it just east of Cherryville, MO on Hwy 49 but don't look for a

City Limits sign. The only indication your in the town is by the sign painted on the Gift Shop Barn at the turn in the road. The bar has a stuffed cat in their window. You can't miss it. There are places like this all around the Midwest and these are the types of stops that I will focus on in the up coming months. When the riding season gets into full swing, I will highlight places through out the Midwest with special attention in July for places to visit in South Dakota. You may as well plan now on visiting Moon Shine Gulch Saloon in Rochford, S.Dak. This has always been one of my favorite places to visit while in Sturgis. There are also places here in Missouri that I haven't been to but have heard a lot about. We'll take a ride out to Devil's Elbow north of Rolla and report on this place in the next few months. If a new location opens up, I'll try to have the details here. For example, Big Chief Dakota on Old Manchester in Wildwood has just reopened under the name B. Donovan's. Or check out the new place in Valley Park called Fandango's. It's in the plaza at Big Bend and Dougherty Ferry. I know there are plenty of seasoned riders that will be familiar with some places that will be discussed here but there are always new riders that will find it just as exciting as we all did the first time we went there. This is the plan for what to expect in this space. Next month, I will feature a ride to Calhoun County, IL where I found one of the best places for an afternoon lunch stop. And yes, I was lost when I came across this one. So until next month, make sure your bike is checked out and you're ready to roll. Spring will be here soon.

Ride Safe,
Doug