

Black Hills BMW Stampede 2005 Spearfish, SD

The 2nd Annual Sturgis BMW Black Hills Stampede was held July 8-10, 2005 in Spearfish, SD. Spearfish, population approximately 11,000, is located along I-90, 20 miles west of Sturgis, SD, home of the Black Hills Motorcycle Rally, simply called Sturgis.



HCBMWR member in front of Sturgis BMW dealership

Sturgis BMW is the principle sponsor of the Black Hills BMW Stampede. It is the only BMW shop that is open all year in the area. This years events included an optional ride to Devil's Tower, WY, a ride to downtown Spearfish, Friday evening, July 8, a poker run, all day Saturday, July 9, a meal of Buffalo burgers Saturday evening, door prizes. Brock Finn provided Saturday night entertainment.



Main Street, Spearfish, SD

Camping was located at Chris Campgrounds on the east side of town. The admission fee paid for two days camping, a chance at winning door prizes, and the Buffalo burger meal. Sturgis BMW puts on this event with the hopes that people will come. Indeed they did. While 100 to 200 participants is not large for a motorcycle rally, it is the beginning. Hopefully it will grow with more participants, events, activities and prizes.

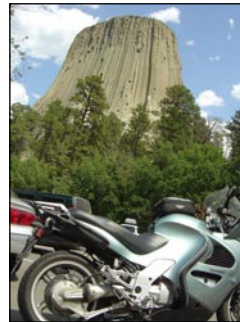
During this rally, motorcycles of all makes were seen in the area. I don't know if that is usual, or it is because the Black Hills (Sturgis) Rally begins within a month. Most of the other motorcycles were found on the highways going to and from the area. Very few were seen on the narrow highways within the Black Hills.

The major attractions in the area are Mt. Rushmore, Devil's Tower, and Crazy Horse monument. The Crazy Horse monument has been under construction since 1948. Also there is the town of Deadwood, which has gained some notoriety from the HBO series with the

same name. It is a quaint town whose principle industry appears to be gambling. Casinos are small and abundant. Kevin Costner owns and operates a restaurant above Diamond Lil's Casino on Main St.



Mt. Rushmore



Devil's Tower

Crazy Horse



Deadwood's most famous citizen was Wild Bill Hickok who was murdered at the age of 39. He was shot in the back while he was playing poker with friends at the original Saloon No. 10. He was holding black aces and black eights, now called the "Dead Man's Hand". He is buried in the local Mt. Moriah Cemetery. Calamity Jane is buried beside him.



Wild Bill's grave in foreground, Calamity Jane's grave in background

Other places to go are Boondocks a 1950's area in the hills. It has a old style mechanic's garage, old cars, drive up eatery, and tons of souvenirs. Keystone, SD where parts of Alfred Hitchcock's "North by Northwest" was filmed, is down the road from Mt. Rushmore. A steam locomotive powered train ride out of Keystone is available for those interested.



The Boondocks

For riders who love crooked roads, Hwy 16A is a must. It intersects Hwy 244 near Mt. Rushmore and ends at Hwy 36 after passing through Custer State Park, home to buffalo herds. There are pig tail bridges, short tunnels carved in the hills, lots of pine trees, and once and a while spectacular views of Mt. Rushmore.



A pigtail bridge on Hwy 16A

Just northeast of the Devil's Tower is the Town of Hulet, WY. Hulet hosts a party the Wednesday of the Black Hills Sturgis Rally week. It is a small town with a rather interesting collection of stuff. Note the 1880's jail on the left of the stuffed bison in the picture.



Hulet, WY

The 2nd Annual Black Hills BMW Stampede was worth the trip. The riding was great and the sights were plentiful and interesting.

A footnote:

I started back from Spearfish, Monday, July 11. My route took me to two other little know landmarks, Chimney

Chimney Rock, NE



Geographical center of lower 48 states, near Lebanon, KS

Rock, Nebraska and the geographic center of the lower 48 states.

The geographic center of the lower 48 states is near Lebanon, KS (Lat. 39° 50' Long. 98°35'). This stone pyramid was constructed in 1940, before GPS, before Alaska and Hawaii statehood.

~ Robert Odendahl