



ON THE ROAD FOR A SHORTY

Editor escapes for a short tour of home state



→ IN LATE JULY, longtime *Adventure Cyclist* contributor and photographer Chuck Haney and I hit the road for a short bike trip of north central Montana. We met in Virgelle, a spot along the Missouri River just south of Big Sandy where there's a mercantile/ antique shop, the owners of which offer guided canoe trips of one of America's

longest waterways. The mercantile also features a B&B and you can rent nice little cabins on the property if you like a quiet hideaway. All in all, a very interesting place, but that's not where we started. We drove back to Lewistown, left my Dodge Durango in the local Safeway parking lot, and headed back to Virgelle, overnighing in Denton and Fort Benton along the way. The riding was excellent, the solitude welcomed, and the history of the place fascinating. I'll be planning more rides like this in Montana in the near future.

Years ago, I would never have imagined that I'd be enjoying three-day bicycle trips. I may have even scoffed at the idea. My trips were longer, grander, less scheduled, and, most importantly, more frequent. But, as I'm sure has been the case with many of you over the years, professional obligations mounted, the mundanity of life crept in, injuries piled up, and

other interests took precedence over bicycle adventures.

Fortunately, we all have *Adventure Cyclist* to keep the pilot light burning in the hopes that we'll one day again be able to crank the flame up to 11. My plans for a bicycle trip taking in southern England, Wales, and Ireland have languished on the drawing board as has a hoped-for second tour of Iceland, but these short trips, of which I've now done three, have stoked my flame up to mid level at least. That's fine for now, but I'm hopeful that 11 is again in my future.

This news may interest some of you: we now offer a flip-book digital version of *Adventure Cyclist*, and

you can find out more about it here: adventurecycling.org/adventurecyclist/adventurecyclist-online. The most recent four issues are now available to members of Adventure Cycling. We're still

in the experimental stages of our digital existence and I'd be interested in hearing any feedback you might have after checking it out. Ride well my friends, and stay thirsty.

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