

# The Eagle Times

Colorado FreeWheelers

January, 2006

## NEXT MEETING

**Thursday, January 19, 2006**

**Fay Myers Motorcycle World**

**7:00 pm**

<http://www.msnusers.com/RHNWebPages/cfwhomepage.msnw>

## A Message from our New President

*Brian Boberick*

WOW, the calendar has just rolled over and it is now 2006 which means, among other things, that I am no longer 40-something. Yep, I've just eclipsed the "half-century" mark and have been elected President of the Colorado Freewheelers. I could be in for a rough year!

This past year marked a few milestones – the single-year Club Mileage record was blown away in 2005 when you folks put down in excess of 250,000 qualifying miles. I can't begin to imagine what the cumulative mileage total is for the 25 year history of this club but some ten members alone have more than 1.5 million club miles between them.

The 1000-in-24 marked its 21<sup>st</sup> birthday – while this does not mean it is now legal to consume alcohol while participating in this event, it does translate into the Freewheelers being directly responsible for the accumulation of more than 1 million miles being ridden in the span of 3 weeks time and the burning of some 30,000+ gallons of dinosaur juice. Some pretty astounding figures accompanied by an equally astounding safety record.

We closed out 2005 with another stellar holiday party aptly organized by Chuck & Chris Janssen. Unfortunately, this was the very day Chuck was rushed to Denver Health Medical Center and began the long

medical ordeal he is still dealing with. And we all wish Chuck a speedy return to good health. No new nuptials or reaffirming of wedding vows at this year's party, so everyone just dove right for the cocktails and conversation. This is always a night to be treasured as members frequently appear at this function that don't necessarily appear on rides or at meetings on a regular basis and we also get to catch up with many of the supporting cast (spouses and dear friends).

While the extreme achievement in club mileage this past year might indicate a very healthy level of club participation, the truth is that a few select events had major impact on the miles. When you factor out the mileage attributed to the Three Flags Classic and the Iron Butt Rally, you get the real picture which reveals that attendance at monthly club meetings and regularly scheduled rides was somewhat disappointing.

Clearly, we are not meeting the needs of our members and we are looking for your thoughts and suggestions for bolstering the participation of club members with regards to meetings, activities, rides, etc.

If you feel the Freewheelers have lost their compass and changed direction, please offer up your observations and suggestions to put us back

on the right road. Likewise, if you feel that it is you who has changed and the Club has failed to change with you, we would appreciate the opportunity to reach out and reconnect in this situation as well. If you have ideas but are not comfortable presenting them in person, please feel free to contact me or someone in the club you do feel comfortable approaching. My home phone number is 303-933-7074 and my e-mail address is [blboberick@hotmail.com](mailto:blboberick@hotmail.com).

The one idea I have for increasing participation is to open up the ride schedule process to anyone who wants to participate. We will be looking for fresh ideas on ride suggestions and hope that more folks will contribute both to this process and, perhaps, in leading various rides. Please join us at the January meeting to express your interest. We will begin the process of focused ride committee meetings by very early February and hope to have this business completed by the end of March.

Remember, our Club, like any other organization or business, will only thrive if it meets the needs of its members. What can we do to better serve you?

Thank you for your attention.

*Brian*

## *Some Things are Worse than Being* "Older Than Dirt"

Pat McCombs

This year, as in many years gone by, I received Christmas presents from a couple of our Colorado Freewheeler members. It is no big secret, that they are better known as *Wing Commander*, *Knight Rider*, and *Warm Weather Willy*.

When I joined the Colorado Freewheelers, I was a young thirty-eight years old, and as of this little article will have rolled over to the ripe old age of sixty-three. Now I can deal with that, but from the gifts I received this year, it is obvious to me that they think I have entered a dark vortex of being "Older than Dirt." The *Knight Rider* and his bride Sunny sent me a care package with every remedy known to man, to carry me through the year. I will have to say the Geritol tonic was quite good. The *Commander* went one better, and got me the *Homedics Ultra Foot Pleaser*. Now after a long days ride, my feet and veins will be well cared for. I will have to say, that when I get back from those cold open rides the foot thing along with my blanket feels good in front of the old fireplace. Now, none of these three think I can find my way to the next Dairy Queen, so *Warm Weather Willy* gets me the *Streets & Trips* software. Maybe now in 2006, I can finally lead a ride after twenty-five years in the club. If I start shopping now, and my memory holds out, just maybe I can return their kindness for Christmas in 2006.

I am not sure that being "Older than Dirt" is all that bad. One thing for sure, is I will not change my ways from the past many years. I have thought about getting a GPS, but there is no need, as I can follow everyone else in the club that has one. If they go off the end of a cliff, I will just follow them. I don't need an XP-3000 or what ever they are with two million songs. As when I can't get a radio station, Donna can always sing to me over the inter-com.

One thing that I have really enjoyed for the forty-eight years of riding, has been out-of-the-way "Truck Stops." They just love "People Older than Dirt", and you know a good one when you get there from the start. Lots of trucks on the outside, and when you walk in you can smell the smoke & grease. The

## "Older Than Dirt"

waitresses have some of the best off color jokes in the world, and they never miss a moment to flirt a little along the way. It's "Honey this, and Honey that". It's not just bikers that tell tall stories. If you listen to the truckers, farmers, ranchers, and other folks it's just good old Americans hanging out for a decent meal and a cup of Joe.

On our return trip from Tucson, Arizona after Christmas, Donna and I stopped at one of our favorite truck stops between Pueblo and Colorado Springs. For years, at least a couple of times a year, I make it a point to roll into the Piñon Truck Stop. If you want to see American Culture at its best, spend two or three hours hanging out there, and grab some pie. While we were there, and working our way through the gift shop, (by the way, all good truck stops have a gift shop) I ran across the bible for people "Older than Dirt". It is written by an "Old Trucker/Biker" by the name of Ben Goode. And as you might have guessed by now the title of it is "Some Things are Worse than Being Older than Dirt". Some of his reviews include, from the *New York Daily News*; "A great guide book for those who finally have the time to do the things they've always wanted, but who now realize that it takes too much effort". Will Grovel writes, "A fairly optimistic view of life on the trash heap". *Alzheimer's World* writes, "A great gift for people who may be a little old and yet still have no class. And my favorite, from *Geezer's Digest*, "A bright, fresh and totally unrealistic approach to Geezerhood".

So to my friends, I say a big thank you. When you all reach "Geezerhood" I will be there to guide you to the dark side.

And as Ben Goode writes, "There are some things worse than being older than dirt". Sky diving while chained to a walrus, or waking up to another corpse, or hitting a bull moose while going 70 miles per hour on a Vespa motor scooter.

Thumper

## Thumper's Corner

Pat McCombs

We have come to the end of 2005, and it was a year of many up's and down's for a great number of our members. I am sure there are a number of us that will say "Thank God 2005 is behind us". It was a year, it seems that there were many tragedies through out the world, as well as on the local and personal levels. Let us hope that 2006 is a much better year for us all.

With that said, I would like to thank all of the Colorado Freewheeler Members, and a number of folks from The RMVTA Motorcycle Club for all of their help the last two years while I held the post of Club President for the Colorado Freewheelers. Over the years, as I have filled the post of the President I tried to bring energy and I hope, some new ideas to the job. I tried to make the club a fun place to be, and a place for all our members to hang out and do a lot of riding. This last year, I am not sure that I brought to the table the same level of interest that I had in past years. Why, is a question that I do not have the answers for, and may never know. I hope to answer some of these in 2006, and maybe get my Colorado Freewheelers batteries recharged.

I would like to wish Brian Boberick, our new President for 2006 and his supporting cast a great year of running the club. From what I have seen already, they are going to be bringing some fresh new outlooks in the way we do things. We are coming into our 25th year as a club, and let's all give Brian and his staff our support for a great 2006!

Thumper

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## Chuck Janssen

As you know, Chuck has been in one hospital or another for over a month now with a myriad of health issues. While his condition slowly improves, this past month or so has been a very trying time for both Chuck and Chris. Trying, not only physically and emotionally, but financially as well.

The caring folks at Community Ministry, where Chuck has been working for some time, have organized a benefit dinner on February 11<sup>th</sup> to raise funds to help them out a little. Please see the invitation on the following page for information, and plan to attend if you possibly can. I'm told it will be a spaghetti dinner.



## **BENEFIT DINNER FOR CHUCK JANSSEN**

*Dinner of Love*

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 11, 2006

**WHERE:** Garden Park Gym  
1755 S Zuni St.

**TIME:** 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

**DONATION:** \$10.00 per person  
or \$15.00 per couple.

If you are unable to attend but would like to  
make a donation you can mail it to:

*Christine Janssen  
1406 S. Mariposa St.  
Denver, CO 80223*

R.S.V.P by February 7<sup>th</sup> to Christy or Sonja  
at 303-936-0469 ex. 101 or 102.

*Thanks for your love and concern for Chuck  
in his time of need.*