

# The Eagle Times

Colorado FreeWheelers

January, 2008

**NEXT MEETING**  
**Thursday, January 17, 2008**  
**Fay Myers Motorcycle World**  
**7:00 pm**

[www.cofreewheelers.org/](http://www.cofreewheelers.org/)

## 2007 Toy Run to Children's Hospital

*Floyd Thorne*

Well it looked on Saturday night, December 1, 2007, like the Toy Run was going to have to be done in four-wheelers. We had rain that froze to glare ice on many surfaces. All we could do was get a good night's rest and see what the morning had to offer us.

As it turned out, on my north end of town, we had heavy fog but looking up and down the street it looked like they were free of ice and we had no snow. Some had snow in other parts of the city.

So I geared up and headed out (in 21 degree F. temperatures) for my fourth or fifth Toy Run. I had the back seat of the Wing loaded with toys that Linda and I purchased and donated plus Toys that others knowing that they would not be able to attend donated and asked me to transport for them. I would like to thank those folks for caring enough to donate even though they were not able to be there themselves.

I went over and met with another rider up north and we were headed south to have breakfast at the Village Inn near Broadway and C-470. It had now warmed up to 23 degrees F. and the fog seemed to only be up north.

We had breakfast and were joined by several other riders and passengers all with the good hearted spirit and Toys to donate to this very worth while cause. After breakfast we headed over to the rally point to start assembling with thousands of others.

By now it had warmed up considerably and we could wonder around in the parking area and look at all the other bikes and the various toys that they had strapped on their bikes. Many bikes were decorated in Christmas garland,

*continued on page 2*

## Another Toy Run Report

*Pete Chronis*

Colorado FreeWheelers have been a constant in the annual Toy Run to the Children's Hospital since the event began, and the 22nd year was no different.

One of The Originals, Pat "Thumper" McCombs, who has never missed a Toy Run, was present and accounted for (as always) in his red Santa hat on his bright yellow Wing and snapping pics with his digital SLR camera.

The FreeWheelers contingent included such stalwarts as Bill Gillespie, Frank Heinzl, Bob Norton, Floyd Thorne, Norm Roeder, Brian Boberick, Ron Hall, Herb Shaffer and Pete Chronis, among others.

Although the official count was put at about 3,000 bikes, some Toy Run veterans put the estimate closer to 5,000 or 6,000 motorcycles.

This year's run was the first ever to the newly opened Children's Hospital at the Fitzsimons medical campus in Aurora, with most of the 25-mile route on freeways, including C-470, I-25 and I-225.

There were numerous instances in which cagers cut into the procession, which, to say the least made life interesting for the riders. The multitude of volunteers from the local HOG chapters and Rocky Mountain Harley-Davidson did yeoman work of getting the bikes staged at the starting point and then rolling in good order.

What had been a tremendous day (OK, so it WAS cold. So What?) was marred by the news that one biker, Jeff Smith, 45, a single parent from Parker was involved in an accident on his Harley at about Arapahoe Road and I-25. The news turned even more grim when it later was learned he was in Swedish Medical Center in critical condition with a severe brain injury. At this writing, we've learned that his family decided on Friday to "let Jeff go"

*continued on page 3*

# Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by President, Jon Lofstedt. There were 13 members present, and no visitors. This being the last meeting of the Lofstedt administration, Jon took some time to thank the members of his cabinet for a good year and a job well done.

The minutes of the October meeting were wisely approved as printed in the newsletter.

Our Treasurer, Floyd Thorne was unable to attend the festivities, but did give a report via e-mail. In that e-mail he reported \$81.33 in cash, \$1,773.24 in checking, and \$234.00 in the Christmas Fund. All that should add up to \$2,088.57. The October charity bake sale brought in \$700 to be split between the Anchor Center and Community Ministry.

Ride Committee chair, Frank Heinzel recapped the mileage stats for the year. Bob Norton will become the second member of the 300,000 mile club, and will receive his award at the banquet. Frank also reported that eleven members attended Harry's Roamers turkey run, and the RMHD turkey run is this Saturday. The RMHD Toy Run will be December 2<sup>nd</sup>. ABATE will have the Last Brass Monkey Ride on 12/31, and our Polar Bear Ride is 1/1/08.

Sunny Norton has met with the folks at the restaurant about the upcoming Christmas & awards banquet. They gave her a wide variety of choices, which the members narrowed to three. Sunny will get the prices finalized and send an e-mail to everyone outlining the choices. Pat will also follow up with phone calls. The group also went over the various awards. The Bud Davis Helping Hands Award will go to Kathy Yevolli of Rocky Mountain H/D. The Chuck Janssen Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to Donna McCombs. Bob Norton will get his 300,000 mile award, and someone will become the 2007 Rider of the Year. RPM Motorsports will once again sponsor the jackets for latter two recipients. Thanks very much to Jack Starr & RPM! Chris Janssen has made her traditional ornaments for all. We all thank Sunny and Chris for all their hard work.

Long-sleeved shirts like the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary ones were discussed because more members want them. Jon will check on prices and color availability and report back in January.

After a break in the action, 2008 elections were held. Surprisingly, no one chose to sneak out during the break, and Pete "Bedrock" Chronis was elected President in a unanimous vote. Alan "Husker" Hansher became the Vice President by the same margin. Floyd "Mr. T" Thorne was retained as Treasurer in absentia, and I was once again pressured into keeping the Secretary position. Norm "Monkey Wrench" Roeder will enter his twenty-somethingth year as Sergeant at Arms. In the entire run of Norm's reign, there has never been a firearm discharged at a FreeWheeler's meeting.

There was \$28. in the 50/50. Our new President won to the tune of \$14, and donated it to the Christmas Fund. The meeting was adjourned well before daybreak.

Submitted by Secretary, Bill Gillespie

## Floyd's Toy Run article, from page 1

lights, and ornaments. Many of the folks participating were all decked out in red and white Santa hats and some even in full Santa suits. Of course there were a few Elves as well and even a Grinch.

It was now finally 11:00 a.m. and time to head out on our appointed mission. We traveled the highways this year to the new Children's Hospital located in the Fittsimmons Medical Campus. Many went through the Express Drop-Off line and continued on home or about their day.

I, along with many others went inside the Hospital where there were lots of children in wheelchairs and running around all waiting to get a toy. This is where you can really get the spirit and meaning of why we get out and endure the COLD for a few hours. When you see the bright eyes and glowing smiles of the children that are in the hospital and some can hardly raise their little heads, it warms you straight to the core.

One little guy was able to be walking around, and as I was leaving he was talking to another of the bikers. The youngster was holding his little Matchbox car high in the air for the fellow to see while speaking in a loud joyful voice, "See what I got!" It was just a Matchbox car, but you would have thought that it was holding the "Key to the City" and on this day and at that time it was the Key to his City. There

were lots of other toys that he could have chosen. Some of the toys were many times that size but, he chose the Matchbox car above all others and was as proud as he could possibly be.

It's never any fun to be in the hospital, regardless of your age, or the time of year. But, it's especially hard for these young people there, especially this Christmas time of year. The toys can help to make their little hearts sing and hopefully bring them joy to assist in their healing and hopefully soon discharge.

Children's Hospital is one of the best juvenile medical care facilities for many western states around, and as a result there are families that bring their young ones here for care and hope. Most of the time they are stressed emotionally as well as financially and getting out to buy Christmas presents for their children may not be uppermost on their minds. So the blessings that we provide through our generosity help to fill this gap, now and throughout the coming year.

I would encourage you to keep an eye out at the grocery and department stores as they often times really mark down their toys after the holidays and that's when Linda and I try to pick up several for the Toy Run next year.

You will be reading this after the holidays, but we hope that you had a healthy, safe, and joyous season, sharing it with your loved ones and friends. We certainly did.

Mr. "T"



Upper Left: Bikes arrive at the start point.



Upper Right: Plenty of toys to choose from.



Right: The reason we do it.

To see all of Floyd's Toy Run pictures, go to:

<http://www.rmvta.org/photogallery.php?gallery=2007%20Ride%20Year/2008%20Toy%20Run%20Activity>

**Pete's Toy Run article, from page 1**

because his life would be one as a near total invalid in a nursing home.

Local riders, including the FreeWheelers, have rallied to help the Smith's 8-year-old son, Max, by contributing the the Max Smith Benefit Fund at 1stBank branches.

Submitted by Pete Chronis

**UPDATE:** After Jeff was taken off life support, he remained in a coma for some time, but has just recently showed signs of improvement. He has come out of the coma, and is now on the long, tough recovery road. It is not known how close that road will come to full recovery, but we all continue to offer Jeff our thoughts and prayers.

Jeff is without medical insurance, and any financial help would be greatly appreciated by him and son Max.

# Congratulations

A few years back, two of our members Larry & Liz Harkins, decided they wanted to raise their children in small town USA. They packed it up, and moved to Canyon City Colorado to live the dream, and watch their children grow. The entire family would really become involved in the community. Larry is the District Engineer for the City of Canyon City, and is also the President of the local Christian Motorcycle Club. Liz although a engineer in her own right, is a stay at home mom, who teaches music and tutors students. They are all involved in motorcycling, and have a great love of the road.

Sunday January 13th, Ma & Pa Harkins were grinning ear to ear. They had taken their kids Grady & Eischen up to the Annual Colorado Fiddle Champion-

ships at the National Western Stockshow. Both of these young people have become very good on the fiddle these last few years. When Eischen called me late Sunday night, I knew that they had done well. When it was over, Grady Harkins was the new Colorado Junior-Junior Champion, and his sister Eischen was the Colorado Junior Champion. This was also Eischen's 2nd straight win at the National Western, and makes her a two time State Champion.

A number of the Colorado Freewheelers have heard these two play the last few years at the Blossom Festival, and other events, and are a joy to watch.

All our best to Gray & Eischen for the upcoming 2008 Fiddle Season.

*Thumper*

## Motorcycle Humor

One of Colorado's finest senior citizens went down to his local Honda dealership to purchase a new Honda GL 1800 motorcycle. Feeling this might be the last motorcycle he purchased, he put on all the accessories he could find in the store. Heading off the lot and down the road, he crank it for all it was worth, and enjoyed the wind blowing through what was left of his hair. "This is great", he thought as he roared out I-70, and into the Colorado mountains.

As he looked into his rear view mirror and saw the Colorado State Patrol car behind him, lights flashing and siren blaring.

"I can get away from him with no problem", he thought as he rolled hard back on the throttle — 80, 90, 100, 125, 130 mph.

Then he thought "What am I doing, I'm way too old for this kind of thing." He pulled over to the side of the highway and waited for the State Trooper to catch up with him.

The State Trooper pulled in behind the Honda GL 1800 and walked up to the motorcycle. "Sir," he said, looking at his watch, "my shift ends in 30 minutes and today is Friday. If you can give me a reason why you were speeding that I've never heard before, you can go on your way.

The man looked at the State Trooper and said: "Fifteen years ago, my wife ran off with a Colorado State Patrolman, and I thought you were bringing her back!"

"Goodbye, and have a great day, Sir!"

*Submitted by "Thumper"*



# CHROME

Won't help if you can't ride



# COMMITMENT

When you're beyond screwed, but way too stubborn to care...



*Recently elected FreeWheelers President, Pete Chronis takes a few hot laps on the new Buell "Panda" at the Playground Road Course.*