

The Eagle Times

Colorado FreeWheelers

February, 2006

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Fay Myers Motorcycle World

7:00 pm

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

From the President

Brian Boberick

We are now half-way through February, and for the benefit of our members who now reside in those southern regions where the only stuff white and powdery will get you 20 years behind bars, it's been a wee bit chilly most weekends here on the high plains.

Hearts were warmed this past Saturday evening when the Community Ministries hosted a Spaghetti feed to support and raise funds to help Chuck and Chris Janssen. The gym at Garden Park Church was packed with some 80+ supporters including a dozen or more Freewheelers, many of whom who had spent the better part of the day making reparations and wheelchair accomodating modifications to the Janssen home in anticipation of Chuck's return home in the near future. If you were not aware, Chuck has been hospitalized since early December with complications associated with Diabetes and other ailments. Chuck is now receiving kidney dialysis 3 times a week. Needless to say, the situation has been tough, both emotionally and financially on our dear friends. If you missed the dinner and would like help Chuck and Chris out, please forward any donations to the Colorado Freewheelers and we will be sure it gets forwarded to Chris.

The Ride Committee got busy in early February and put together a tentative schedule. If you weren't able to make the committee meeting and have a particular ride you are really jazzed to see on the schedule in 2006, contact chairman Pat "Thumper" McCombs. There is still time and room to make modifications to the schedule.

While most of us try to get through these idle times by meeting for breakfast on Sunday mornings and swapping lies, a couple of our members resorted to more aggressive tactics. Lisa and Reiner Kappenberger flew over to Hawaii where they met up with some

other folks to take part in what was probably the mother of all "1,000 'n 24" motorcycle rides - The Aloha 1000. Hosted by the Iron Butt Association, the ride was run on February 4th-5th, by some thirteen riders plus our couple riding "two-up" on rented Harley Davidson motorcycles. Nice you say? Well maybe - we are looking forward to Lisa and Reiner reliving this event at our February meeting. Official reports by event organizer Lisa Landry (the evil mastermind behind the past two Iron Butt Rallys) portrays a ride of considerable difficulty made even more difficult by the seasonal rains that frequent Hawaii this time of year, temps in the low 40's at the higher elevations and by the use of rented motorcycles which lack the conveniences we most treasure in long distance riding - extra fuel capacity and high-powered lights. Due to a celebration taking place in the town of Waimea along the northern route between Hilo and Waikoloa, traffic was backed up for miles in both directions so what began for most as a planned 5 lap ride completely around the island turned into a multitude of back - forth legs on two-lane roads between Hilo on the east to the south end of the island. The more adventurous riders took to Saddle Road which traverses the island between a pair of Volcanoes - Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa, where you experience diverse landscapes of ranchland, sub alpine dryforest and rainforest, with striking features such as cinder cones, lava flows and lava tubes. If you have ever been to the Big Island and rented a car, you know that Saddle Road is a forbidden route by the rental agencies, although nearly everyone travels it. It will fun to hear what Lisa and Reiner have to say.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming meetings and rides in 2006. Thank you for your attention.

Brian

Editorial

Floyd Thorne

Yes, the Colorado FreeWheelers have been around for a long time. This is a very good thing everyone will agree. They have certainly done, and continue to do some very good things in the community.

But, from somewhat the outside looking in, I cannot help but be concerned about the future. As you may know I am also a member, first and foremost, of the Rocky Mountain Venture Touring Association. One of the first distinctions that I have seen from the very beginning of my "dual citizenship" between the two clubs is the gender gap that seems to exist. As I understand it, it was not always that way. I hear stories of when there was a very active participation from the female side of the Free Wheelers. This being said, I think that it is the biggest factor in the equation as to why there is more energy and overall enthusiasm at the meetings and on group rides. Don't get me wrong, I enjoy getting out with the guys sometimes but, it sure is good to have a lot of folks happy and excited to get out as a group and go someplace and do something that perhaps they have not been or done before.

We, a society of people looking to recreate, all have different interests. Some people are into boating and or water sports. Some are really into skiing and or other types of winter sports. Some are into the RV thing, although I can not see how they are able to do it with fuel prices being what they are. But, what I notice about most of these activities is that they are generally family, or at least, spousal supported activities.

Motorcycling is one sport that can be done in many ways, I guess. It is certainly an individual sport enjoyed by men and more and more women as individuals. Some households

continued on page 2

GWRRA Chapter "C"... or Chapter "C" Freewheelers... and now Colorado Freewheelers

Pat McCombs

No matter what they call us, it has taken us twenty-five years to get there. You look around, and we still have a lot of members who started the journey back in 1982. Like any group or club we go up and down, and people come and go, in and out of the sport of motorcycling. I, like a number of other folks, have tried for years to figure out what makes a motorcycle club click, but can never really get a handle on it all.

It was easy back in the "old days" of being a biker, because there were not all of the different outside interests that take place today. You went to a club meeting once a week, and that is what that night was set aside for. In today's fast paced world, you are lucky to get your members out once a month. People do not want to be tied down to more projects, and that is why you have only a small percentage of your members getting evolved and taking on what ever projects the club has in mind at the time. This does not make the rest bad folks, it's just that they don't have the time for more projects.

At our club meeting on Thursday night, January 19th we had one of the worse turnouts

I think I have ever seen, since becoming a member in 1982. It was Brian Boberick's first meeting as our new President, and I had the impression that he was ready to bring some new fresh programs to the club. It was sad in one way, but in the other with eight members there we had some very good discussion about the direction the club was headed. Everyone gave some very frank input, and a lot of good points were made.

The club over the years, has taken a major turn from what it was when we joined a number of years ago. This is not to say that it is a bad thing, but a number of events we used to do as a group are not on the table anymore. We used to do parades, special poker runs, bike shows, car shows, and the list could go on and on.

A big piece in this puzzle is, that a great many of the membership in the Colorado Freewheelers have gotten a lot older. We don't like to admit it, but it's the truth. I know in the case of the McCombs household, we are both in our sixties, and the energy level that was there twenty-five years ago for taking on club projects is just not there.

This was again a topic of discussion at the open ride on Sunday morning, January 22nd. The average age of the seven people sitting at the table was 57.5 years old.

The questions were many; things like "Do we really want to recruit younger members?" "Do we stay the way we are?" "Do we slow down the rides, to attract some different types of riders?" "Are we not Social enough?" "Do we want to be more regimented, sign up sheets on rides etc?" These are all good questions, and should probably all be addressed by our membership.

It is our hope in this family that the numbers will increase at the meetings in the future. But if they do not, we will remain Colorado Freewheelers into whatever direction the club may take. It is hard to give up on something you have twenty-five years invested in.

If you have an opinion on the club, or you feel that something needs to change, bring it out at our meetings for discussion. If you do not feel comfortable at a meeting, drop our officers an e-mail.

Thumper

Editorial, *continued from page 1*

have more than one bike ridden. In our household, the Gold Wing is our RV, if you will. We enjoy getting out on it together. We have seen so much of this beautiful county on board the motorcycle. We have also met so many new and interesting friends with this common interest. This interest and these friendships have taken us beyond the motorcycle to enjoy each other's company in other social activities as well.

Another distinction that I have noticed between the two clubs is that there seems to be a more senior age level in the core group of the Free-Wheelers. This is certainly not a bad thing because it represents the longevity of the membership to some extent. But it does make choosing new and interesting ride destinations difficult because most members have been to most of these locations many times before.

One of the biggest gains that we have derived from club affiliation is that we have traveled with some of you 'more seasoned veterans' to some of the most interesting and beautiful parts of the country. Places that we might never have even known about, let alone having gone to on our own. I/we also have been around long enough to have seen many of these destinations several times. The point I want to make here is that we find it very fun and interesting to see many of these destinations AGAIN but, through the eyes and excitement of new recruits, especially if they are younger with a higher energy level. It's like getting all excited all over again about Christ-

mas as we look at it through the eyes of our Granddaughter.

Some people I know have gotten to the point where they could care less if they put up a Christmas tree unless they are planning on having family and loved ones over for the holidays. "What's the use you say, it's for the children and it's so commercialized anyway." I see a lot of that same attitude carried over into the motorcycle trip planning. "I have no interest in going there again. I have been there several times." I can certainly understand that, but maybe it's time you look at it again through someone else's eyes. You might be totally surprised what you see this time around. You can point out things to these new eyes that may not have been apparent when you first saw them. Perhaps someone years ago pointed things out to you.

I know that there is a cyclical flow in and out, like the tide on most all things and maybe this is just one end of the spectrum that the club is in now. But, by the same token, I think that it's something that people need to recognize and take corrective measures to resolve. I don't claim to have the answer either, but some things that I think need to be looked at are:

LEADERSHIP: This is a critical factor in that it seems that the energy of the group is brought out by an energetic and compassionate leader. Leadership is also something that I think needs to be done by **EXAMPLE.**

RIDES: If you are not happy with the ride planning and or destinations then step up and offer some new input. Don't just stay at

home and not participate because "I've been there before." It's not easy coming up with new and interesting places to go and see. Also, I think that there needs to be more spousal participation. Try sharing a lot of these same places with your significant other.

MEETINGS: The attendance at the meetings is also down. Have you noticed? Maybe you haven't noticed because you have not been there. I think there needs to be more energy and excitement at the meetings. This might very well mean that we have to get more of the gals there to whip us into shape.

MEMBERSHIP: One thing that always sparks a new energy level is to get new, enthusiastic members involved. That means offering the club to more people that we meet. Along those same lines we need to do a better job of follow-up with these new members to get them back and involved. Or, if they choose not to return we need to get feed back as to why they made that decision.

These are just some items that can be looked at as constructive bits of food for thought.

Understand that I am in **NO WAY** saying and/or pointing out anything derogatory about current and or past leadership or any individual in particular with these words. I am merely trying to open the eyes of each of us and trying to stimulate your thoughts and ideas as to what might be done to benefit the Club and move it forward. It's your Club, it's my Club. What do we want out of it? Where do we want it to go in the future?

Floyd Thorne, Treasurer

Saddlesore the Island Way

Editor's note: Congratulations to our own Reiner and Lisa Kappenberger on being two of the select group of riders to complete the recent Aloha 1000. The first ever event, hosted by 2005 Iron Butt Rallymaster Lisa Landry, consisted of riding 1000 miles in 24 hours (Iron Butt Saddlesore Award) on the 'Big Island' of Hawaii.

The report that follows was submitted by Lisa and has not been edited. If you have been fortunate enough to have met the Kappenbergers, you will understand that I couldn't do justice to her wonderful accent.

Aloha,

Well we made it 2up through the Aloha 1000 on Big Island. It was a wonderful "vacation" and thanks to Lisa Landry the best organized event we ever attended, in a wonderful setting, a great group of people, with delicious food and lots of umbrella drinks without an umbrella!

The ride wasn't too stressful as one would think. We started out at 5AM. After only 30 miles we encountered the first and only rain, but it was quite soaking. The dangerous part was that it happened on the Northern part, where the road got slippery, because of the vegetation up there. Lucky us, we had Ray Blair in front of us and he seemed not to be afraid of anything, so Reiner kept up with him. We tried to pass him, to give him a chance to relax and follow us for a while, but there was no chance to do so. The next day we paid him back for that with a good Mai Tai ;-). Unfortunately we lost him on the dryer spot, when we got stuck behind a truck.

So once we dried out after Hilo and going through the Volcano NP we were on our own for a while. The rented Harley ran great and Reiner got a good feeling for it coming up into the fun part (twisty) 30mi before Kona. As we did a pre-ride on that part, Reiner knew already some of the nasty turns. He remembered the old Motel and the upcoming turn and knew he can't take it with 30mph. The next day we learned that one of the rider didn't remember and his companion behind him wondered why he is going straight.....well this shifting on the Harley can be tricky! I learned this one the hard way too, because Reiner forgot once to shift down before and needed to brake quite hard so I bumped into his head very hard. Yeah, it's not an 1800, where not shifting isn't that much of a problem!

The first round took us about 4 hours and 30 minutes and while at the checkpoint, we noticed that Reiner's boots were soaked for the first time ever and both jackets were leaking on the front side. But we didn't have time to think about that and we should dry out on the next lap.

Everyone was pretty exited for the next lap as we could finally see how the rainy part of the morning looked like in bright sunlight. Actually it was the most beautiful part of the island at all! So that round was again clockwise, we found a little group to follow for a while and were at the checkpoint again after about 4h.

For the third lap we decided to go counter clockwise to see how the island look from another perspective. On this way we hit

heavy traffic at Waimea, but figured out that a group of 4 riders might hit it even worse coming in the clockwise way. That was the reason almost everyone decided on the forth lap going just back and forward to Hilo. Not so the Kappenbergers, we decided to do it again clockwise and we got lucky as the traffic was gone. But the wind was picking up heavily and the rain started to come in again.

So at the checkpoint close to midnight, we had 100mi to go, but as there was no gas station open for in between 100mi, we needed to go the whole 100mi and back again 100mi. The Northern route and a whole lap wasn't a good idea as for the wind and the rain combined with the cold over the mountains. So we decided to do the Southern route to Hilo back and forward and only dealing with the cold. I felt so miserable at that time that I wanted to convince Reiner to quit. Well, that didn't work and I didn't want him to continue alone the last 200mi. I gave him a hard time for quite a while, I was really mad. On the way down to Hilo it was so freaking cold and I would have given a lot for some electrical plug in for my Gerbing. When we filled up at the gas station in Hilo we saw 3 other remaining riders pulling in, so at least we were not alone out there in the dark and cold.

We pulled in at the last check point around 3:30am. Before checking in with Lisa Landry at the Harley dealership, Reiner needed to drop me off at the Hotel, I was finished. I was cold, my knees hurt and for the last 30 miles I was falling asleep for my typical minute sleep like someone took the switch off.

Back in the hotel we noticed, that we didn't dry out completely, even so it was warm and sunny the whole day. Our boots and socks were still soaked. So no wonder that we were so cold while riding through the night. It was just strange as it was the first time ever since we were in worse rain before and no such leaking occurred.

After only 4 hours of sleep we were up again as we didn't want to miss the breakfast, after a day long having just a few nutrition bars and water. At noon the Super Bowl Party started with food and drinks. The slow game didn't help at all to overcome the weakness. But everyone held up more or less, because the Sunset reception and Dinner on the patio of a private suite was coming up.

All in all it was such a wonderful event. I was happy the next day that Reiner didn't let me quit and we are married long enough that he could take my cranky and nasty bitching for the last 100mi ;-). We are proud that we were the only two up riders for this Aloha 1000 event. The Harley gave us a nice vibration massage all day long so no back pain occurred. The seat was soooooo soft that our butt didn't suffer at all. The only thing for me was the position for my long legs on the back seat that made my knees suffer a bit when the cold was crawling onto me.

And no we won't buy a Harley now, it's not our kind of ride. But it was one of a kind experience for us we didn't want to miss and the group of people was extraordinary.

Aloha, LISA K.

Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2006

The meeting was called to order by new President, Brian Boberick at 7:12pm, a few minutes late because of the falling snow.

Treasurer, Floyd Thorne reported \$2,093.63 in checking, and \$81.33 in cash for a total of \$2,174.96. There has been no money refunded from the Pinnacle Dinner Theater from the nearly \$800.00 deposit given them last September. The play was cancelled by them, and they now appear to be closed. We may have to fire up the D-12 Cat and make a parking lot of the place.

Frank gave a safety report by telling the group not to ride in this kind of weather.

A discussion ensued about having a temporary Activities Chair while Chuck recovers from his illness. Pat suggested we challenge the RMVTA to a bowling night.

Gary Davis held his annual calendar meeting, and the calendars should be ready by March. The club voted to once again to sponsor the long-distance award trophy for the Ladies Run, which will be on July 8/9.

The Ride Committee will meet on February 4th to begin planning the 2006 ride season. The only ride already scheduled is the Steak Ride, July 14-16 with planned stops in Lander, Wyoming and Deadwood, South Dakota.

There was a discussion of ideas to increase membership and participation.

The Mental Meltdown Award was retained by Thumper because he forgot to bring it to the meeting.

Floyd Thorne won a whopping \$13 in the 50/50, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:23

Submitted by Bill Gillespie, Secretary

Benefit Dinner for Chuck Janssen

To all who came out for the benefit dinner for Chuck last night, a **BIG THANK YOU**. The room was full, and was nice to see that Chuck was able to make it for awhile. I understand, that it was a last minute decision, for him to be able to come.

Chris I think was a little taken back, and the many tears showed how much she appreciated everyone coming out.

A lot of big hearts in the room last night. I think everyone enjoyed the evening & the meal. The folks at the Community Ministry did a very nice job.

Thumper

Editor's Note: Chuck continues to improve ever so slowly. It is hoped he will be able to come home soon. Thanks to several Free-Wheelers members and friends, wheelchair retrofitting and other tasks were performed at the Janssen home earlier in the day.

E-mail vs. UPS Snail mail

If you are a member of the Colorado FreeWheeler's (by virtue of your getting this Newsletter) we welcome you and encourage your active participation in the club and its various activities.

Also, as a non-profit organization, watching our expenditures is always a concern. So, we respectfully request that if you are getting the newsletter via the UPS snail-mail and would have the capability of getting it via the WEB please let Bill Gillespie know. You can see him at a meeting, call him at (303) 758-8804 or e-mail him at bgtwice@msn.com. If you can, please spare the club the expense of the physical mailing.

Also, if it has been a while since we have seen you at a meeting and or another function please, confirm that we have your most recent contact information. We want to do our level best to keep you in the loop.

Thanks so much for your cooperation on these matters.

Floyd Thorne, Treasurer

2005 - 20th Annual Toy Run to Children's Hospital

Well, it started out when we woke up Saturday morning, December 3, 2005 with snow on the ground, and predictions of the possibility of more snow in the forecast. We were all wondering if we were going to be able to ride the motorcycles for the Toy Run. As the day wore on, the Colorado sunshine came out and in spite of the cold the snow melted off the main roads at least. However, there were some alleys and roads in developments that were certainly marginal on Sunday morning.

Sunday we awoke to very cold temperatures, down as low at 11 degrees, but the sky was clear and we had not gotten any new snow overnight, so a few of us choose to brave the temperatures. A friend of mine said "It will be cold but, that will be nothing to what the kids were going through." So, it was time to get out of the warm bed, bundle up to brave the elements, and I was off.

It was about 6:10 when I pulled away from the house and it was just breaking daylight so I could see the road pretty well in case of some icy spots.

The numbers of participants was way down this year over the previous year but those of us that braved the weather were warmed to the core by the gratitude expressed and smiles on the children that got to pick out toys as we were sitting around having a cup of coffee and or punch and cake in the sixth floor assembly/reception area of the hospital.

With snow flakes in the air and the warmth of the coffee still lingering, we all made it home safely, and feeling good about the opportunity that each of us had to be a part of such a worth while cause.

If you have the time, and the desire to join us next year, you too will be richly rewarded. After all, it's all about the kids. It's tough enough for a child (and the parents of those children) to be in the hospital anytime let alone around the holiday time period. Even if you are unable to ride you can still help monetarily or with an unwrapped toy taken down by someone else.

Hope to see many of you on the Children's Hospital Toy Run this December.

Floyd Thorne

Colorado Freewheelers Leadership

Last year on a rides some folks have asked who has run the club in years past. I could give them some names, but it was a very short list. It seems that as I have gotten older, things like that come harder to find in the memory banks. The first six years of the club, we belonged to the GWRRA which stands for Gold Wing Road Riders Association, and our leaders were call Area Representatives & Assistant Area Representatives. Our first Area Representative was Jerry Freeman 1982. After resigning from the GWRRA in 1987, our club elected our first President, Dennis Machlica. I went back to the club archives I have kept over the years, and our club officers are as follows.

	Area Representative	Assistant A/R	
1982	Jerry Freeman	Glenn Bailey	
1983	Chuck Baum	Doug Richards	*3 Mos.
1983	Pat McCombs	Bob Norton	*9 Mos.
1984	Bob Norton	Bill Gillespie	
1985	Bill Gillespie	Rex Young	
1986	Rex Young	Mike Ostrowski	
	President	Vice President	
1987	Dennis Machlica	John Vitale	
1988	Roland Atkins	Leo Scott	
1989	Pat McCombs	Jay Arcuri	
1990	Al Harris	Paul Reimer	

	President	Vice President
1991	Paul Reimer	Judy Palier
1992	Jerry Freeman	Frank Heinzl
1993	Pat McCombs	Bob Norton
1994	Walt Roberts	Vince Vincent
1995	Frank Heinzl	Paul Becker
1996	Pat McCombs	Jeff Waites
1997	Brian Boberick	Sunny Norton
1998	Chuck Jansen	Tom Hudson
1999	Bob Norton	None elected
2000	Bob Norton	Frank Heinzl
2001	Frank Heinzl	Paul Reimer
2002	Frank Heinzl	Paul Becker
2003	Frank Heinzl	Bob Norton
2004	Pat McCombs	Frank Heinzl
2005	Pat McCombs	Bob Norton
2006	Brian Boberick	Frank Heinzl

So there you have it. Just add to your list as the years go on, and you will know who was running the club each year. Although these folks did a nice job every year, I would point out that our Editor & Printer of the *Eagle Times*, has held that post going into his 25th year. A lot of hours and time to the Colorado Freewheelers Motorcycle Club. From this member, a JOB DONE WELL, and a BIG THANK YOU.

Thumper

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