

The Eagle Times

Colorado FreeWheelers

February, 2008

NEXT MEETING **Thursday, February 21, 2008** **Fay Myers Motorcycle World** **7:00 pm**

www.cofreewheelers.org/

Polar Bear Rider

by Bill Gillespie

This winter, like the last one, has been just snowy enough to keep us off our bikes for the most part. We were graced with a nice December day for the Children's Hospital Toy Run, and we've seen a Sunday or two nice enough to take a short ride. But, as for me, I've got more snowblower time than saddle time since I

can't remember when. We'll all be looking forward to warmer weather.

The first ride of 2008 was as always, the Polar Bear ride. As stated usual, the weather was dismal. It was very cold, and there was still a lot of snow and ice on the streets. However, one stalwart member braved the low temperatures and icy

streets to uphold the Walt Hankinson motto of "Snow? What snow? Let's ride!" Yes, Floyd Thorne rode all the way from Thornton on New Year's Day. Pops would be proud of you, Floyd.



Fortunately, Floyd's neighbors had shoveled their sidewalks, as this was his path from the garage to some dry pavement.



News Briefs

Jeff Smith Benefit

The recent fund-raiser for injured Toy Run rider Jeff Smith was a great success. The organizers thank all who attended for coming out and helping them help Jeff and son, Max.

The grand total was an amazing \$10,285.00!! Ed Benko, one of the organizers said, "I'm still in shock, but it's a good shock.:"

Jeff will need quite a lot of rehabilitation, but seems to be improving all the time.

Two-Bits Rally

Friday, June 6, 2008

Starting and Ending in Frisco, Colorado

The Two-Bits, a 6-hour introduction to 24-hour rallies, will offer a challenging and fun experience for those that have always wanted to try their hand at this type of rally, as well as to those with many rallies under their belt. Previous Two-Bits have had a good mix of rookies and those with considerable experience, including winners of the LOE-1000 and Waltz Across Texas Rallies.

Scoring will be broken into two classes so everyone can compare themselves to their peers.

Check <http://www.concours.org/co/two-bits.htm> for more details and the registration form.

Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by new President, Pete Chronis. Guests were Don Spillman and Donna Franklin, guests of Tory Brown. Don and Donna were welcomed by all and not questioned about their choice of friends.

Chaplain Boots was not present, but President Chronis, being a veteran Marine, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jeff Smith, the rider injured on the Toy Run is now up and walking with help, defying the doctors' prognosis. Jeff had been pretty much written off the day after the accident.

The minutes of the November meeting were once again wisely approved as printed in the newsletter. Don McKee made the motion to accept, and Bob Norton provided the second.

Our Treasurer, Floyd Thorne reported a lot of recent expenditures – over \$2,000 since September. He stated, "We can't be as benevolent as we have been in the past." One expense was our share of computer server repairs. Floyd then reported \$81.33 in cash, and \$548.73 in checking, for a total of \$630.06. Don was in an approving mood, and offered a motion to accept the report. Tory seconded, and the motion passed.

Ride Committee chair, Frank Heinzl has scheduled a Ride Committee meeting for this Sunday at the VFW post in Englewood. All members are welcome. The web site calendar will be updated after the meeting. The 1000-IN-24 will August 16th. Frank also talked about the upcoming motorcycle show and swap meet.

Bob Norton, Safety Committee chair, asked members to suggest topics for his presentations this year. He felt that would make his reports more interactive and topical.

Rider of the Year: Frank is the current holder of that award. He outlined the program, and all categories for obtaining points toward becoming the 2008 Rider of the Year.

Jon Lofstedt was either working or snowed in, so we don't know if he is planning another order of fancy-dancy long-sleeved shirts.

All members were encouraged to invite friends and acquaintances to meetings and rides like Tory has done tonight. Pete was concerned about the seemingly dwindling membership, and said it would be nice to increase participation this year. Bob suggested that Pete not get his undies in a bunch, and Tory said if new people come to meetings he will try to remain quiet.

There were no nominations for the Mental Meltdown award, but that's sure to change with this group.

There was \$38. in the 50/50. Don McKee won \$19 of it. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47.

Submitted by Secretary, Bill Gillespie

2008 Rides

Pat McCombs

Although I am on the 2008 Ride Committee for the Colorado Freewheelers, I was unable to attend the ride committee meeting do to some health problems. I had sent three rides into the committee for the meeting, and they were kind enough to work them all in. My thanks to the committee for making that work.

Judging from the list of rides that Frank Heinzl sent me, it appears that the 2008 Colorado Freewheelers Ride Committee really did a nice job of planning out a nice riding year. Looks to be a fun year, with something for all our members to enjoy. Go Karts to Drive Inn movies. Dinosaurs and Train Rides. Festivals and Charity Rides. Long Rides and Short Rides.

Having set on many Ride Committee meetings over the years, it is always hard at times to find a balance that will fit the needs of all of our members. It is also hard, to find roads that we as a club have not ridden over the years. When you have been around as a club for twenty-six years, it seems you are always on a road we have traveled at some point in Colorado.

It looks to this rider, that the committee really took their time to make sure no one gets bored with the rides this year. The important thing is that we as members turn out to support all of the committee's hard work and time they put in to this years riding events.

Can we as members make every event? Probably not. But if you can catch a few, it would show good ride support for all of these members hard work in putting the ride year together. They show the first ride to be on April 4th. In the mean time, and the weather is good, you can always catch breakfast and a ride on the Open Ride Sundays each week at Your Neighborhood Bar & Grill in the Woodlawn Shopping Center. Breakfast is at 9:00 a.m. and rides pull out at 10:00 a.m. or close to it.

If you have not ridden with the Freewheelers in awhile, come on out and play. It is always fun to kick some tires, ride some miles, and visit with some old friends.

Thumper

The Rides

- 4/6 Wild Goose Chase (Norman Roeder)
- 4/12 [Open] (Bill Gillespie)
- 4/17 Club Fund raiser Craft/Bake auction (Sunny Norton)
- 4/19 Alt LTH [Open] (Bill Gillespie)
- 4/26 Ride for the Cure [Charity] (Frank Heinzl)
- 4/27 Wet Mountain Valley (Bill Gillespie)
- 5/3 Ride for the Son/Blossom Festival (Pat McCombs)
- 5/4 St. Michael the Archangel Work Camp [Charity] (Alan Hansher)
- 5/10 Go Cart Run (Don McKee)
- 5/17 Armed Forces Day [Wings over the Rockies/Ft. Logan] (Don McKee)
- 5/18 ERC (Bob Norton)
- 5/24-25 Open
- 6/7 Drive-In Movie Ride (Bill Gillespie)
- 6/8 Fill In the Blanks Ride (Pat McCombs/Jon Lofstedt)
- 6/14 4 Canyons (Frank Heinzl)
- 6/14 Aluminum Butt (Cliff Eudy)
- 6/22 Haunted Places Tour (Alan Hansher)
- 6/27-30 Buffalo Bill Museum [Cody, WY] (Pete Chronis)
- 7/5-6 Open
- 7/12-13 Ladies Run of Colorado [Charity]
- 7/19-20 Rio Grande Scenic RR Ride (Bill & Becky Gillespie)
- 7/26-27 Open [Don Council Memorial Steak Run 7/24-27]
- 8/2-3 1000-IN-24 Pre-ride (Frank Heinzl)
- 8/9 Sturgis T Run (TBD)
- 8/16-17 24th Annual 1000-IN-24 (Frank Heinzl)
- 8/24 Natural Bridge Ride (Bob Norton)
- 8/30-31 Open
- 9/7 Mt. Evans/Beau Jo's Ride (TBD)
- 9/12-14 Dinosaur National Monument (TBD)
- 9/20-21 Open
- 9/28 Fall Color ride (Alan Hansher)
- 10/4 Fall Color ride (Frank Heinzl)
- 10/16 Charity Bake/Crafts Auction (Sunny Norton)

Charity & Bikers

Commentary by Pat McCombs

As a twenty-two year rider of the Annual Children's Hospital Run, I find myself caught between some issues that are starting to come out since the 22nd Annual Toy Run on December 2nd of 2007. It has always been my understanding, that this event was started and under written by the Rocky Mountain Harley Owners Group, who are sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Harley Davidson Motor Company.

Now after reading various articles in the print media, and articles on the internet, and emails I have received, it appears that Children's Hospital is trying to control some of the guide lines of the annual ride. A quote in the article by Julie Poppen in the December 3rd 2007 Rocky Mountain News, states that "Organizers said it was the first crash in the event's history. It came after hospital officials told riders that helmets would be required next year". If you look at the picture, that went along with this article, you will see that eight of the ten riders are not wearing helmets.

Although this rider of the event has worn a helmet the last few years, it is by my choice only. Colorado has not had a helmet law since 1970, and leaves the choice of motorcyclist's wearing a helmet to the rider. Now Children's Hospital tells us, if you want to ride the 23rd Annual, you will be required to wear a helmet. I find this to be of great interest, because at the 2007 event, less than thirty-five percent of the riders were wearing helmets.

I wonder, if Children's Hospital is really

going to flush 65% of their revenue of toys-money-etc down the drain on something that is not even state law?

What is sad about this, is that this rider believes the decision came about with the crash of Jeff Smith on the 2007 event. I have nothing but high praise for the Rocky Mountain Harley Owners Group and Rocky Mountain Harley Davidson Motor Company, as safety has always been the #1 priority for the event. It angers me when I see people make comments like Bill Craft, who stated to the Rocky Mountain News the day of the ride "I said, somebody is going to go down today".

I was sorry to hear of Jeff Smith's crash, and since his mishap have heard more than enough rumors as to why he went down. In the twenty-two years I have ridden this event, it was by far the safest route we have ever taken. It was well laid out, and it was clear the safety was a prime concern to all who put on the event.

Anytime you have three to five thousand motorcycles together, there is always a chance of a mishap. At the 2007 event, I had riders on all sides of me who had never ridden the event. I explain to all what to be aware of, how to ride the event, etc. All arrived at Children's Hospital with out any problems.

I truly hope the Children's Hospital rethinks this action on helmets. I would see this event suffer, on an over reaction.

Will I make the 23rd? That will depend on how riders rights are addressed.

Thumper

Motorcycle Humor

Pat McCombs

A successful proctologist decides to fulfill his life's dream: give up medical practice and become a motorcycle mechanic.

So he gets out of the medical business and enrolls at a mechanic's seminar with the Honda Motorcycle Company. After many weeks of training comes the final examination, taking apart and then re-assembling a randomly chosen Honda engine. He grabs his tools and sets to work, but soon he gets worried: while he is still working on the valve covers, everybody else is already busy with removing the cylinder heads.

As he falls more and more behind, and as he is just starting to put it all back together, everybody else is already finished. He manages to put the engine back together, barely in time before the exam ends.

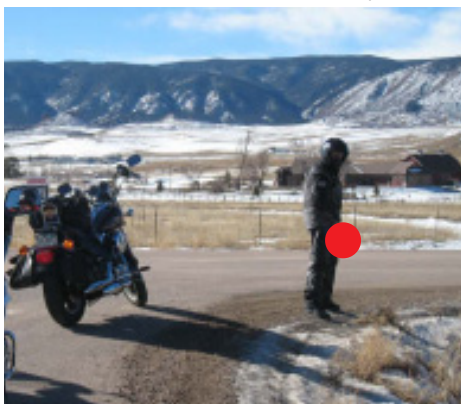
Because it took him so much longer than everybody else, he goes straight to the instructor to ask how he performed. "Well" the instructor says, "Out of one hundred points you scored 150" "But how is that possible?" the former doctor asks.

"Well, it breaks down to this: You get fifty points for correctly taking the engine apart. And you get another fifty points for putting it back together perfectly." "And what did I get those additional fifty points for?"

"For doing it all through the exhaust."

Thumper

Photo by Bob Norton



Sunday, January 27th was a nice enough day to take a ride. Our new President, Pete "small bladder" Chronis stopped along CO-105 to set the tone for his administration.

Photo by Thumper



The "American Icon" and "Pipe Bender" discuss the ins and outs of winter riding.



New Freewheelers recruit, Topper McCombs trying out his new Harley Davidson hat.

For Sale

2002 Firefighter Edition Harley Davidson Road/street FLHRI Road King Color is red, (of course)

Displacement (CCs), 1,450; 5-speed transmission; Dry weight 723 pounds; High Performance Chrome Exhaust; Saddle Bags.

Only 2000 miles - \$14,750
303-588-1958 or 720-870-1923 (Jim)



ADVENTURE

is taking inappropriate equipment to out-of-the-way places.



*I can't respond to any e-mails today.
Something has crashed on my computer.*



The ever inventive Hiney Brothers, Big Red and Thor, plan to ride the world's heaviest motorcycle on the FreeWheeler's 1000-IN-24 this year. According to Thor, "We're never concerned about encountering deer or other animals with our 10,450 pound unit. But since the 1000-IN-24 will involve night riding, we could use a bit more than the three D-cell flashlight we're using as a headlight now." The Brothers built the motorcycle and side car around an 800 horsepower engine from a Russian T55 tank.

Cousin Vance Hiney has been quoted as saying, "After years of searching the world over, I think I finally found the perfect touring machine."

Colorado FreeWheeler's
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