

The Eagle Times

Colorado FreeWheelers

February, 2010

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, February 18, 2010

Fay Myers Motorcycle World

7:00 pm

www.cofreewheelers.org/

Pete and Kent's Most Excellent Adventure

Or How We Drove All the Way to Hayden, Idaho, in the Middle of Winter to Bring Back a Vintage Motorcycle.

By Pete "Bedrock" Chronis

"You Can't Go Home Again" was the title of a novel by Thomas Wolfe, published posthumously in 1940, but the author was only partially right: You may not be able to go home again, but you can get awfully close. My first motorcycle was a 1955 Matchless 550cc G9B twin, bought used from a college student in Grand Junction, but more than two years of searching on the Internet failed to turn up a vintage bike like that one.

There was a reason: The G9B is extremely rare and was especially made up to Cooper Motors' specifications to compete with the hotter Triumph 650 twins in the booming California market. The standard 500cc Matchless G9 was given an additional 50cc and higher compression. But in 1956, the G9B was

supplanted by the 600cc G11, although the 500cc G9 was still manufactured.

Turns out the closest I could get to that first Matchless was a 1957 G11 that was listed for sale by Gary Fleshman-Kubodera of Hayden, Idaho. He e-mailed me pics of the bike, which is pretty clean for a 53-year-old motorcycle, and, as he noted, has all of it's constituent components. We struck a deal, and I sent him a cashier's check by certified mail. Long-time shooting & riding buddy, fellow Colorado FreeWheeler & friend Kent Beach graciously volunteered to help me drive to Idaho with the club trailer generously provided by Bob Swanson & stored at Rancho Boberick. But the weather wasn't exactly cooperating in January, and Kent had some jobs to complete, so the trip was put off until Feb. 5.

Meantime, Stacy had thought I was putting her on about having bought the old Matchless until she saw me pull up with the trailer in tow behind my Isuzu Rodeo the day before. If you thought it was cold outside the Casa de Chronis, the inside was like a deepfreeze.

The usually unflappable Mrs. Chronis announced that she was, ahem, "pissed." (At this writing, it isn't entirely clear if she will ever get over it or if I'll end up sleeping in Kent & Sue's garage, next to my motorcycles & gun collection.)

Like Ulysses setting departing Ithaca for the Trojan War and other adventures, I wheeled out of South Pearl Street and 6:45 and headed for Kent & Sue's home in Golden.

We sort of missed our planned starting time of 7:30 a.m., hitting the road about a quarter after 8 a.m., but made good time in getting up I-25 to



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Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2010

The meeting was called to order promptly at 7:00 by President Pete Chronis. We began, as usual with the Pledge of Allegiance and a hoo-rah. There were no visitors.

Secretary's Report: The reports for the last few meetings were printed in the newsletter and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Our treasurer, Floyd Thorne reported \$81.33 cash on hand; \$0 in the Christmas fund; and \$2,160.59 in the checking account, for a total of \$2,241.92.

Ride Reports: A small group of hearty riders logged 240 miles last Sunday. Bob Norton, Pete Chronis, Bill Gillespie, Tom Tanenbaum and a neighbor of Frank Heinzl rode down to Two Sisters in Florence for lunch.

Upcoming Rides: It was decided to try out a new venue for the Sunday breakfast before the winter rides. This Sunday we will meet for breakfast at 9am at Country Buffet in Englewood. They offer a breakfast buffet for \$5.99.

Frank noted that the RMVTA has left the server maintained by George Barrett. A discussion followed about how that might affect our club. Floyd said he thought there would be no problem staying with George. Pat and Bob will talk to George about the situation.

Tory Brown brought the new registration and license plate stickers from Bob Swanson for the club trailer Bob donated last year.

There was no 50/50 because we are out of tickets.

Mental Meltdown: Award seems to be missing. If anyone knows who has the award, please advise.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.

Submitted by Bill Gillespie, secretary

Matchless, from page 1

Wyoming, passing up the usual gas stop in Cheyenne in favor of that teeming metropolis of Chugwater, where we also had lunch. Wyoming was as windy as always, although I-25 was remarkably dry and free of ice and snow.

Kent's great company, and we spent much of the trip talking about motorcycles and guns – two of our favorite subjects.

After gassing up again in Casper, we soon found ourselves on I-90, with a gas stop in Billings before heading to Bozeman for the night. In Montana, we ran into some snow-packed and icy spots, but the Rodeo, with Kent at the wheel, did fine in four-wheel high, and the trailer was impressively well-behaved and roadworthy. We stayed at the Bozeman Inn, which is somewhat dated but clean, and were on the road again Saturday, when we picked up the Matchless in Hayden, which is right next to Coeur D'Alene.



Gary advised the bike had been sitting for about nine months, and although he'd tried to start it, the Matchless refused to budge. I tried the same, and it almost started before backfiring once. (Not surprising if you've ever owned a Matchless. The bike came to life once I got it home.) Gary also gave me a thick packet of documentation on the Matchless, which originally had been shipped to Australia and was imported into the U.S. as a used, vintage bike by a Virginia resident in 2003. He also provided a certificate of authentication from the AJS-Matchless Owners Club of the United Kingdom that shows

both the frame number and engine number are original.

Back on the road, we made for Missoula, where we checked into the Holiday Inn, and headed for the lounge/restaurant to watch the Super Bowl, drink white Zinfandel, and eat some excellent chili. The place was practically empty, but the staff was enormously pleased by the Saints' victory over the Colts.

Next day, we were back on the road, headed for home and hoping that we could avoid the bad weather we heard about in Colorado. There were a few patches of snow but nothing serious before we rolled into Denver. About the biggest problem of the whole trip was a doofus coming down the alley from the opposite end as we were unloading the bike who started screaming about "blocking the road" before finally backing up & turning around. (Did I mention that I packed my Springfield .45 XD? No? Well, I didn't pull it.)

After a day or so of rest, it took a heap of kicking the starter before the engine finally caught & roared into life. You don't get that much exercise with a Bowflex! The old Matchless has a beautiful exhaust note that harkens to the day when Brit bikes abounded on the world's roadways, and their riders had an ample Anglo-Saxon vocabulary.

I subsequently got a temporary plate for the bike and took it for a short spin in the neighborhood – it needs a battery for the lights to work, so taking it to DMV to have the frame and engine numbers verified will have to wait.

Howard "Bud" Davis Helping Hands Award

I would like to thank the 2009 Christmas Party Committee and members of the Colorado Freewheelers Motorcycle Club for making my trip to the annual Christmas Party a most enjoyable evening.

Over the years, I have had the good fortune to receive a number of awards in the Motorcycling Community here in Colorado. When the year end awards were being handed out this year, I was more than taken back.

To receive the 2009 Howard "Bud" Davis Helping Hands Award was very humbling to say the least. I have always admired the folks who have gotten this award each year. In fifty plus years of mo-

torcycling, this I believe will move a couple of awards off the top of the list.

I was able to ride with Bud for a number of years, and he was always a joy to be around. When you travel the country with people, you really get to know them, and Bud was the real deal. I've never known anyone who enjoyed our sport as much as the "Dairy Queen Bandit".

Again, my thanks. The award will be displayed proudly, and I will enjoy the memories of who this award was named for.

Pat "Thumper" McCombs

For Our Troops

The Rocky Mountain HOG Chapter 421 has "adopted" the 82nd Airborne Division-4th Brigade Combat Team in Afghanistan to provide some basic supplies that aren't readily available to the troops serving in that distant and hostile land. Items in short supply range from tooth paste to gun-cleaning gear.

Collection barrels have been set up at Rocky Mountain Harley-Davidson, 2885 County Line Rd., Littleton, and that's where FreeWheelers can drop off stuff for the troops.

All this came about when Bill Cochran, a Harley rider who's a member of the unit serving in Afghanistan, joined the HOG chapter in January and communicated with the chapter's secretary, Cindy Muesing. Cindy in turn passed the word to the members at the group's monthly meeting. CFW President Pete "Bedrock" Chronis e-mailed Bill Cochran to find out if gun-cleaning supplies were needed and received a positive response, so those items have been added to the list, which includes:

Baby wipes; deodorant; toothpaste; tooth brushes; mouth wash; lotion; personal hygiene items; lip balm, and razors.

Also, beef jerky; chewing tobacco; hard candy; individual coffee packets; individual water flavors; sealed granola bars, and sealed trail mix (no chocolate).

Also, gun-cleaning supplies, including white T-shirts; gun-cleaning pads, and .22-cal. rifle-cleaning kits. (The current service rifle, the M16-A2 is .223 cal.).

Additionally, writing paper; stamps; note pads; envelopes; reading materials (books and magazines); footballs; volleyballs, and frisbees.

No aerosols, alcohol, pornography or home-baked goods, please.

And, if you like, e-mail Bill Cochran at williamc84@gmail.com and let him know that he and his comrades are in our thoughts and prayers.

For additional information, contact Cindy at secretary@rmhog.org.

Submitted by Pete Chronis

Freewheelers Find New Restaurant

Pat McCombs

At the Colorado Freewheelers January meeting on Thursday night the 21st, one of the ideas brought up under new business was where we were eating on Sunday mornings for breakfast. Bob Norton made a pitch for the Country Buffet. Bob pointed out that the way the economy was, and that some of our members were also on tight funding these days, it might be worth looking into. For quite sometime now we have been meeting on Sundays at the Village Inn at C/470 & South Broadway. While the VI has always been very accomodating to us, their pricing has continued to rise, and the food has average at best. After some discussion, and before the vote, my first thoughts were "Oh goody! rubber eggs, pancakes you could use for the discus throw, coffee that sugar couldn't help, bacon dripping in grease, lots of noise, and lousy service".

Well, the vote was taken and passed in a landside to change locations, to move our Sunday breakfasts to the Country Buffet at 301 Englewood Parkway in Englewood. It is a half block north of West Hampden Ave between South Elati & Cherokee Streets. Plenty of parking, big tables, and very clean.

I will be the first to tell you, that on our first test run this morning, I was more than pleased. My cost was \$7.46 which included the tip. The food was well displayed, well prepared, had great taste, and more things to eat than I could count.

As the Commander always states "The coffee had better be good". Their coffee was WONDERFUL!! I noticed that some of our members went back for seconds and thirds, so I would say our first test run was a success.

Was a little cool this morning on our first outing to the Country Buffet as it showed to be thirty-four degrees out. But that did not stop some of our members from riding in this morning. Joining our merry group this morning was Bill Gillespie, Richard Knudson, Don Lyle, Sunny Norton, Bob Norton, Pat McCombs, Pete Chronis, the clubs First Lady Staci Chronis, and her lovely sister Eleni Zouzouli from Athen's, Greece, Frank Heinzl, Dennis Yamaguchi, and Norman Roeder.

With a good meal in us, and some funny conversation behind us it was 10:00 a.m., and time to ride. Has warmed up to thirty-nine degrees, and three of our members decided to get in a ride for the day. Pete Chronis, Don Lyle, were following Bob Norton down the road. Bob's plan head south, with lunch at the North-Forty in Elbert, and on in for some football action.

You don't know if you don't try it, and the Knight Rider did good on this one. So if your free on Sundays, come join us for breakfast at 9am, and if the weather is good we depart for a ride around 10am to enjoy the day and friends.

Thumper

Political Correctness

Editorial by Pat McCombs

Why would anyone belonging to a motorcycle club want to take on this subject? The words "Political Correctness" to this member, is like waving a red flag in front of a bull, who you know is already pissed off to start with.

For the last number of years now, I have had to bite my tongue in some areas of conversation, because the input was not as they say "Politically Correct". My mouth has gotten me in to trouble a number of times over the years, but 99% of the time I feel much better once I have let it out.

One of the reasons I have enjoyed motorcycling so much over the last fifty years, is for the most part motorcyclists are very straight shooters. They will tell you the way it is, with no punches held back. They are very proud of their country & flag, and show it in their clothes, paint jobs, hats etc. If you burn a flag in front of a motorcyclist, I can almost guarantee you that "Political Correctness" will go right out the window.

I was listening to one of our fellow motorcyclists the other day on KHOW Radio. Peter Boyles has the drive time show from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. five days a week. Peter, in the 5:00 o'clock hour had been speaking with callers on "Political Correctness", but for some reason it didn't grab me right away. I had tuned in late to the show. My good friend Peter Chronis (aka. President of the Colorado Freewheelers) called me as I was getting my

first cup of morning coffee. Pete knows I am up early, and he was fuming. "Have you been listening to Boyles this morning?" I explained I had caught part of it, and did I miss something? "You let me know after the 6:00 a.m. hour".

So after a good shower, and a fresh cup of coffee in my hand, I am ready for the Peter Boyles show at 6:00 a.m. sharp. Peter, as myself has had it with "Political Correctness." His show today was heating me up by the minute, and soon I knew why our club President had called me.

Have you ever heard of a greeting card company by the name of Blue Mountain Arts out of Boulder, Colorado? They have been around for sometime, but had never really come up on my radar even once. Today, I can tell you a lot about Blue Mountain Arts; the folks who own them, and part of their game plan toward the folks who buy their products.

Blue Mountain Arts put out some very nice calendars each year. They are top of the line, and at times some are a little off beat. But, you have to remember that they live in the "People's Republic of Boulder". This year, owners Colorado U.S. Congressman Jared Schutz Polis and his Anti-War-Activist mother Susan Polis Schultz created a complete "Train Wreck", turned off their brains, and had a complete "Brain Fart Moment".

It should be noted here that Jared was born Jared Polis Schultz, but changed his

name in the late 1990's "to honor his mother's maiden name." These folks at Blue Mountain Arts have added some great moments in their 2010 calendars. August 11th is depicted as the First day of Muslim Ramadan; November 16th - The Muslim Eid-Al-Adha. I could have listed more, but I'm sure you the get the point.

When I got to the month of December, I could see why the callers to the Peter Boyles show were so incensed. The December 7th square, which I have never, and will never forget on any calendar is Pearl Harbor Day. Well, Pearl Harbor Day apparently is not a big deal in the eyes of Jared Polis & Susan Polis Schultz. They have taken Pearl Harbor Day off the 2010 calendar, and replaced it with Islamic New Year.

I have written to Blue Mountain Arts, but as of January 31st have not had a response. If I receive a card from someone, and it says Blue Mountain Arts on it, it is going back to the sender with a little note as to why.

This member has grown very weary of the "Remake of America", "Political Correctness", I feel the American Dream is fast becoming a Socialist nightmare.

On December 7th 2010, I will say a prayer, and thank every veteran I know for what they have done for this country. It will be a time to reflect on those who's lives' were taken at Pearl Harbor.

Pat "Thumper" McCombs

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