

The Eagle Times

Colorado FreeWheelers

March, 2008

NEXT MEETING
Thursday, March 20, 2008
Fay Myers Motorcycle World
7:00 pm

www.cofreewheelers.org/

CFW Chaplain, Paul "Boots" Reimer

Some of you may have already received the information, that our club chaplain Paul "Boots" Reimer suffered a heart attack on Thursday morning, March 13th. He was taken to University Hospital in Aurora where doctors performed heart catheterization to instill a "stint" in one artery that was 90% blocked. He will have to return in about six weeks to have another stint placed in an artery thought to be 60% blocked. Paul has a third artery that is completely blocked, but no repair can be made on that one.

Paul had good color and was and very good spirits on Sunday, but a little overwhelmed by the kindness his friends were showing him. As many of you may know, Paul has no family members close in the area, hence he has no support system to deal with something like this. He has no local family to look after for his needs when he gets out of the hospital.

A couple from the Motorcycle Roadracing Association (MRA), another group that Paul has been

Chaplain of for many years, has offered to take Paul to their home in Greeley for a few weeks until he is able to handle things by himself. He appears to be getting a lot of support from the MRA folks. There is a chance he will have been released by the time you read this.

Not knowing where he is going to be at any given point, we would suggest cards only. His address is 5481 East 65th Ave., Commerce City, Colorado 80022.

We're certain Boots has the full support of the Freewheelers as well, and the thoughts and prayers of the entire group are with him. Boots has been there for a number of us over the years, and now it is our turn to be there for him.

Paul was just preparing to leave this week for Mexico on one of his annual mission trips to use his building skills to build or repair churches, schools or other buildings. Unfortunately, his trip will have to wait for a while.

Pat McCombs & Bob Norton

Let The Scheduled Rides Begin

The 2008 Ride Committee has finalized the schedule for the year. Chairman, Frank Heinzl has gathered the information and typed it all into a computer file, and the schedule, at least for the first month or so, should be in print form by the March meeting. There are still a few "Open Rides" in the schedule, so if you have an idea for a ride, there's still room in the schedule. Even if you don't want to lead the ride, get the info to Frank.

As usual, we will start out with Norm's Wild Goose Chase on April 6th. Fay Myers will be having their Spring Open House on April 12th. The club will be taking that opportunity to recruit new members into our ranks. Although not a ride, but very important, our annual fund-raising Bake/Craft Sale to help keep the club free of dues, will be held at the April 17th meeting.

There are a lot of great day rides as well as some overnight rides requiring reservations. The Ride Committee hopes you will enjoy the rides they have put together for the year.

Remembering Santa Claus

by Pat McCombs

In May of 1986 a long time riding friend of mine, Walt Hankinson, Sr. introduced me to a couple from the Rocky Mountain Harley Owners Group by the name of Lon & Sandy Uncapher. I had seen them at a couple of the "Hog" meetings, but didn't know a lot about them. It was a time when a number of our Colorado Freewheeler members were working closely with the Rocky Mountain Harley Owners Group, and were in the middle of organizing the **Ride for Life** jointly with the two groups.

Little did I know at the time the effect of meeting the Uncaphers would have on my life for the next many years. Lon had the idea, of bikers coming together to help the children at Christmas time at Children's Hospital in Denver. It sounded like a great idea, but would it work? At that time of year the weather was a crap shoot at best, and would bikers come out to support it in the month of December?

The first year, looked to be mostly folks from the Rocky Mountain Harley Owners Group, and were trying to get their footing together on the ride. Only two or three outside groups were "pitched to" for the ride, and the Colorado Freewheelers (then GWRRA Chapter C) was one of those groups. At our October meeting in 1986, Walt brought Lon & Sandy to a Chapter C meeting to tell us of his ride plan. It seemed to spark a lot of interest, but again there was the question of the weather at that time of year.

On December 14th, 1986 the first Children's Hospital Toy Run was about to come to life. It was a bitter cold day, and if my memory is correct, we had only 15 to 18 people show for the ride. Four of those riders were from the Colorado Freewheelers; Bill Gillespie, Mike Ostrowski, Walt Hankinson, and Pat McCombs. Bill & Pat have now participated in all twenty-two of the Toy Runs to date. Of course we lost Walt last year.

Over the years, the Annual Toy Run seemed to breath life into Children's Hospital. The event grew bigger each year, and one year we had over 7,000 folks come to the ride on their motorcycles.

The reason I point out some history of the Toy Run, is although the run has grown into a true happening, no one grew more than my friend Delon "Lon" Uncapher.

In fifty years of motorcycling, I have seen only a few hard-core bikers become "Soldiers of God"; Lon, The Rev. Gary Davis, Chaplain "Boots", and Larry Harkins. The work these men have done over the years can never be measured.

For a number of years now I have worn a cap to the Toy Runs that states

"I Believe in Santa Claus." There's a good reason for this, as I have watched a hard-core biker turn himself into Santa Claus. My friend Lon had transformed himself into just that. And if you ever saw the kids at Children's Hospital around him, and the look in their eyes, you would know what I write to be true.

On March 2nd, 2008 my phone was ringing off the hook. My friend Lon "Santa Claus" Uncapher was dead at sixty-seven years of age. As my eyes watered, my thoughts turned to all the good memories I was able to share over the years. On March 7th, 2008 the family held the "Celebration of Life" for Lon at Chapel Hill Mortuary. It was standing room only with people coming to pay their respects. The stories were many, the laughs were those of love for the man. The Rev. Davis did a great job, and numbers of bikers wore their Santa Helper hats to show their love as well.

Some people are truly bigger than life, and Delon "Lon" Uncapher had become all of that. Someone had penned on the notice, "A Kind and Gentle Soul". True words from a broken heart.

For this rider, Lon opened a lot of rooms in my heart that I never knew I had. I will do everything I can to help Sandy carry on his work. I truly believe, that God sent Children's Hospital an Angel, and that Angel was dressed as a biker, and his name was Delon "Lon" Uncapher.

Thumper



by Pete Chronis

The Colorado FreeWheeler's arrived with colors proudly flying to pay their final respects to Lon Uncapher, the original Santa for the Children's Hospital Toy Run and one of the founders of the event that has become a Denver metro area tradition that draws thousands of generous bikers every December. He also was a founder of the Rocky Mountain HOG Chapter No. 421.

In memory of Lon's role as the ultimate Santa Claus, several FreeWheeler's wore their red Santa hats to the funeral services at the Olinger Chapel Hill Mortuary on South Colorado Blvd. The chapel was jam-packed with family and friends who came to pay tribute to this extraordinary human being who passed away March 2 after suffering a massive stroke. FreeWheeler's Pat McCombs, Bill Gillespie, Bob Norton, Brian Boberick and Pete Chronis rode their motorcycles to the funeral and joined more forces with nearly two dozen other riders to provide a motorcycle escort to the gravesite. Also in attendance were Kent Beach, Sue Lindsay, Boots Reimer and Gina Hankinson.

Officiating was the Rev. Gary Davis, a long-time friend of Lon and wife Sandy's, who led the mourners in prayer and encouraged them to share reminiscences of a wonderful family man, friend and neighbor who brightened the world around him with joy. Pastor Gary read the powerful words of the Third Book of Ecclesiastes, which many of us remember as the lyrics to "Turn, Turn, Turn," popularized by the Byrds. (Music by folksinger Pete Seeger, and words from Holy Scripture.) A recap of Lon's life reminded us that, indeed, there is a "time to every purpose under Heaven."

In his eulogy, Pastor Gary recalled Lon's skills as a talented craftsman and carver of wood, and a slide show of his life underscored his remarkable abilities, showing a carousel horse that he carved and painted in bright pastel colors. But perhaps his most memorable achievement was in his Santa Claus persona, putting huge smiles on the faces of children at the hospital. Many of these tykes had suffered incredible hardship and pain, yet for one day, at least, this giant of a man brought some joy into their lives. Knowing that some of the youngsters that he cradled in his arms may have themselves had their lives cut too short was a powerful reminder of how significant, and priceless was Lon's gift to his fellow human beings.

After graveside services, that included military honors rendered by Navy personnel, some of Lon's friends went to a gathering at a neighbor's house, while others made their way to the Platte River Bar & Grill to have lunch and hoist a toast to Lon's memory in traditional biker fashion.

(That rumble you hear is Lon and his good friend, Walt "Pops" Hankinson riding their Harleys around Heaven for the Big Toy Run in the Sky.)

Bedrock

Unfortunate Accident

Linda Thorne suffered not one, but two broken ankles late last month during the RMVTA dinner ride at the Trail Dust Steak House. It seems she was trying to re-live her childhood by sliding down the slide in the restaurant. When her shoes made the transition from the steel slide to the wood floor her ankles were overextended. The breaks, we're happy to report were not serious enough to require surgery, and she is recovering in her fashionable cast type boots. We all wish Linda a real speedy recovery indeed!

Tom Hudson gets Pacemaker

This past week Tom was fitted with a heart pacemaker. He had some heart issues a while back, and was flown at that time to the Salt Lake City VA hospital for a specialized procedure. His pacemaker implant was performed at the Denver VA. He is home now, and recovering from the pacemaker operation. Tom, we all wish you the best, and hope to see you and Anne real soon.

Honda Ending Production of Motorcycles in U.S.

by James Hannah, The Associated Press - from *USA Today* online
DAYTON, Ohio — Honda Motor Co. (HMC) plans to stop making motorcycles in the USA in spring 2009 and transfer the work to Japan.

A Marysville, Ohio, plant, built in 1979, turned out 44,000 large Gold Wing touring and VTX cruiser motorcycles last year and employs 450 workers. Honda said there will be no layoffs and that the workers will fill jobs at its other operations in Ohio. Honda employs about 13,000 at five plants in Ohio. Besides motorcycles, they make the Accord, Civic, Element, CR-V and Acura TL and RDX.



Bikers and the Media

A biker is riding by the zoo, when he sees a little girl leaning into the lion's cage. Suddenly, the lion grabs her by the cuff of her jacket and tries to pull her inside to slaughter her, under the eyes of her screaming parents. The biker jumps off his bike, runs to the cage and hits the lion square on the nose with a powerful punch. Whimpering from the pain the lion jumps back letting go of the girl, and the biker brings her to her terrified parents, who thank him endlessly.

A reporter has seen the whole scene, and addressing the biker, says

- Sir, this was the most gallant and brave thing I saw a man do in my whole life.

- Why, it was nothing, really, the lion was behind bars. I just saw this little kid in danger, and acted as I felt right.

- Well, I'll make sure this won't go unnoticed. I'm a journalist, you know, and tomorrow's papers will have this on the first page. What motorcycle do you ride?

- A Harley Davidson.

The journalist leaves.

The following morning the biker buys the paper to see if it indeed brings news of his actions, and reads, on first page:

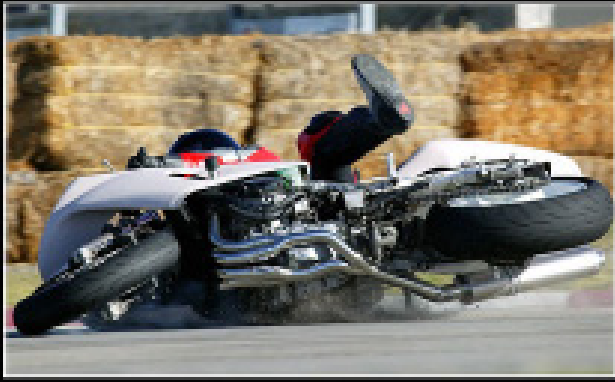
**BIKER GANG MEMBER
ASSAULTS AFRICAN
IMMIGRANT AND STEALS
HIS LUNCH.**

Submitted by Floyd Thorne



A nice day brought out a nice group for a ride on March 8th.





GOALS

JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE THEM DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN REACH THEM.



DONUTS

No I don't have any freakin' Donuts