

# The Eagle Times

Colorado FreeWheelers

May, 2011

**NEXT MEETING**  
**Thursday, May 19, 2011**  
**Fay Myers Motorcycle World**  
**7:00 pm**

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

## Upcoming Rides

### Run for the Wall

Saturday, May 21 8:00 am  
Leave from: Country Buffet, 301 Englewood Parkway  
Approx: 500 miles  
Ride leader: TBD

This year we will be joining the Run for the Wall riders as they pass through Colorado on their way to Washington DC. The riders will be passing through Trinidad at around 11 a.m. on their way to La Junta for a lunch stop, so we should be able to meet them there and ride at the tail of the group at least as far as Limon were they will be staying for the night..

### Wet Mountain Valley Ride

Sunday, May 22 9:00 am  
Leave from: Country Buffet, 301 Englewood Parkway  
Approx: 350 miles  
Ride Leader: Bill "Wing Commander" Gillespie

The Wet Mountain Valley lies in southern Colorado South of the Arkansas River. Bordered by the Wet Mountains to the East, and the Sangre de Cristo Range to the West, a ride there this time of year should offer some very scenic views of the snow covered Sangres.

### Dinner and a Ball Game with RMVTA

Saturday, June 4 2:00 pm  
Leave from: Fay Myers Motorcycle World  
Approx: 150 miles  
Ride Leader: Bill "Wing Commander" Gillespie

Here's a chance to team up with members of a closely aligned motorcycle club, take ourselves out to a ball game and grab a bite to eat in the spirit of team loyalty and group conviviality. Come one, come all. Check with Bill for ticket availability.

### Top Gun Motorcycle Officer Competition

Sunday, June 5 9:00 am  
Leave from: Country Buffet, 301 Englewood Parkway  
Approx: 50 mi.  
Ride Leader: TBD

This competition matches the top guns in motorcycle competition among peace officers in head-to-head competition of motorcycle riding skills.

### Visit to Cussler Car Museum

Sunday, June 12 9:00 am  
Leave from: Country Buffet, 301 Englewood Parkway  
Approx: 60 miles  
Ride Leader: Pat "Thumper" McCombs

See one of the most interesting collections of vintage and classic cars in the Denver area, if we can get best-selling author Clive Cussler to open his doors for a special tour.

### Breakfast with Bob in Taos

Monday, June 13 3:00 am  
Leave from: Fay Myers Motorcycle World  
Approx: 500 miles  
Ride Leader: Bob "Knight Rider" Norton

Join Bob Norton for breakfast at Michaels Kitchen in Taos, NM. We leave Fay Myers at 3 a.m., enjoy a gourmet breakfast and return the same day.

### Aluminum Butt Ride

Saturday, June 18 5:00 am  
Leave from: Sofa Mart Parking lot, 6th Ave & Kipling  
Approx: 600 miles Aluminum Butt  
Ride Leader: Brian Boberick

This will be the first memorial celebration for Cliff Eudy's annual "let's get out and put some miles on our bikes" ride. We can always have a ball seeing vast quantities of real estate and test our endurance levels on this one.

# Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Pete Chronis. We began, as usual with the Pledge of Allegiance. Visitors were plentiful due to the bake and craft sale auction. There were members of the RMVTA present as well as family members of FreeWheelers.

With the exception of the 50/50 drawing, the regular meeting was suspended in lieu of the auction. Sam Ashley won the 50/50 for \$51.00.

Bob Norton was the auctioneer assisted by Frank Heinzl.

*Submitted by Bill Gillespie, secretary*

## Bake Sale

The Bake held at the April meeting was a huge success. Thanks to all in attendance, as well as those who supported in absentia for their great generosity.



# Head & Eyes Up

Bob Norton

## GROUP RIDING SAFETY



Group riding safety is the business of each individual rider in the group. It's hard to beat getting out and sharing a motorcycle ride experience with a group of people that enjoy riding as much as you do. Group riding can be safe if you keep some common sense tips in mind. You can start by showing up on time or a bit before the designated departure time. It's also a good idea to show up with a full tank of gas. Showing up with a full tank of gas and on time signals to the group you are ready to roll and have a good time.

Before departing, the group's designated leader should hold a pre-ride meeting. The meeting should include information about the days destinations, likely routes (including stops for whatever), riding formations, possible riding position assignments, hand signals, reassurance that no one will be left behind and anything else that might come from the group. This is also the time the designated leader should emphasize the importance of each rider keeping up the pace. This will minimize the affects of "Rubber Banding" and serve to keep the group from spreading out over Hell's Half Acre. This meeting shouldn't take more than a couple of minutes.

It's a good idea to put your least experienced riders toward the front of the pack. It's also a good idea to limit the size of your group to no more than seven bikes (including Leader & Sweep). This is especially important when riding through high traffic areas. On the open road your group size may increase to as many as ten bikes

per group. Both Leads & Sweeps should be fairly experienced in manning those positions. Ride in a staggered formation. There should be several bike lengths between you and the bike directly in front of you. A two second margin is a good rule of thumb. Maintain a separation between bikes that allows for possible evasive maneuvers but not enough for cars or trucks to attempt to squeeze into the group.

**Note:** There may be times when you may need to make allowances for the poor planning of a motorist by allowing a vehicle to break your ranks. That's OK! Remember "discretion is the better part of valor." As soon as you can, safely reformat the formation and keep on rolling.

If radio communication is available between members in the group, try to arrange it so the units with radios are intermingled strategically throughout the group. Directional communications should come primarily from the group leaders. This will reduce confusion and missed communications because too many people are trying to speak over the airways at the same time.

Remember! It's always best to plan the ride, then ride the plan. Unexpected deviations may cause confusion and could lead to problems, even accidents. No one wants that. It may sound rather cliché but it's true. A safe ride is a happy ride!

*Ride Smart, Ride Safe & Keep Your Head & Eyes Up!*

Next month's topic:  
Packing for The Trip.