

# The Eagle Times

Colorado FreeWheelers

June 2003

**NEXT MEETING**  
**Thursday, June 19, 2003**  
**Burt Chevrolet**  
**7:00 pm**

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

## Upcoming Rides

### Fish and/or Float Ride Sunday, June 22

Ride Leader: Sunny Norton, 303-973-9222

A ride to Lake San Isabel in southern Colorado. Details about this ride will be available at the regular meeting before the ride, or may be obtained by contacting the Ride Leader.

### Bent's Old Fort Ride Saturday, June 28

Leave from: Fay Myers, 9700 E. Arapahoe Rd. 7:00am

Approx. 386 miles

Ride Leader: Frank Heinzel, 303-295-7137

[freewheelinfrank1@msn.com](mailto:freewheelinfrank1@msn.com)

A visit to the historic recreation of the first fort built along the Santa Fe Trail in the Colorado Territory. The National Historic Site is located near La Junta, Colorado.

### Fireworks over Mount Rushmore 7/4 -7/6

Leave from: Cracker Barrel, I-25 at 120<sup>th</sup> 7:00am

Approx. 400 miles (Friday & Sunday)

Ride Leader: Pat McCombs, 303-971-0568

Just a reminder of our ride on the 4th of July weekend. We will be leaving on Friday morning the 4th of July, and returning on Sunday, July 6th. We may catch a couple of quaint small town parades on the way up. Saturday will offer up some riding in the Black Hills, a nice dinner in Keystone South Dakota, and then up to Mount Rushmore to see the fireworks over the top of Rushmore. This just a reminder, that we have reserved 7 rooms at the Super 8 in Keystone. They are under the name of the Colorado Freewheelers. Each rider will need to call for their room. The phone number at the Super 8 is as follows. 605-666-6666. I will be closing out any on claimed rooms on the 26th of June. Of course talk is cheap, but I have been told this fireworks display is in the top 20 in the United States. Hope to see one and all, should be a nice outing for the Freewheelers. remember, this is a two night stay. If any questions, please give me a call at 303-971-0568.

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## Ride Committee Report

The ride committee would like to thank everyone, who have been turning out for the rides. It's just the 1st of June, with the whole summer ahead of us! Already we have ridden close to 40,000 combined miles. The schedule that was put together for 2003 seems to be appealing to a lot of our members. We have seen a variety of rides from short to long. Since our last meeting on the 15th of May, we have had a dinner ride to the South Forty in Albert Colorado. The weather was good, and a nice full moon. The group did the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo and the Garden of the Gods for a picnic. A very SPECIAL THANKS to Chuck & Chris Jaansen and Tom Hudson for rounding up all the chow, and hauling it down to the Garden of the Gods. On Memorial Day the club was off to Sandia Peak in Albuquerque New Mexico. Bill & Becky Gillespie get the five star award for this trip. They put together a wonderful three day ride. One of the riders on this trip, Willy Taylor said "This is the best club ride I have ever been on." Another rider Dale Beal "Best group of people I have ever ridden with." This turned out to be the longest ride so far in 2003. The group covered 1079 miles for the trip. And to follow that up Frank Heinzel took us up and over the top of Trail Ridge Road. Was a nice day ride covering some 260 miles. Was a nice 37 degree's on the top, and lots of snow to ride between. If you missed some of the above, not to worry. you got the whole summer ahead of you.

Pat "Thumper" McCombs  
Ride Committee



Still "a few patches" of snow left on Trail Ridge Road during the Over The Top Ride.

Photos by Pat McCombs

# Meeting Minutes

## May 15, 2003

Freewheelin' FH called the meeting to order shortly after 7pm and noted that we had a special guest speaker tonight at the invite of Bob Norton who himself was temporarily AWOL (he did arrive later as you will read).

Chaplain Paul "Boots" Reimer was then called upon to provide an invocation. Boots opened with the reading of a slightly sarcastic "Peace Plan" which included suggestions that the US withdraw from all foreign soil, discontinue funding of all humanitarian, military and other aid to foreign nations, cease the importation of crude oil and oil products, develop the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska to cover the balance of America's oil needs, deploy our military troops (which would have withdrawn from foreign lands as previously suggested) along our nation's borders bringing to a halt the entry of illegal drugs and alien persons, halt the flow of foreigners seeking "a better life" in America from any/all nations and return all non-citizens to their respective homelands, etc. (*Scribe opinion insert here: The common suggestion to deport illegal aliens, etc. implies that unemployed Americans would gladly take up the role of farm laborer, New York cab driver, 7-Eleven store clerk as well as other menial, yet necessary jobs in this country. Newsbreak – it ain't gonna happen*). Following the above reading, Boots blessed our members and the riding season.

Minutes of the April meeting were approved as published in the Eagle Times. Chuck was asleep in the back and, therefore, there were no objections to said approval.

Next, club treasurer Mike Woolery reported that the coffers had grown by approximately \$830 to \$1,827 as a result of last month's Baked Goods & Craft Sale. Receivables were approximately \$390 representing pre-payment to the Country Dinner Playhouse for members who have committed to attending the June performance of "Footloose" and will be reimbursing the club summarily. Someone made a motion to accept Mike's report. It was probably Bill Gillespie who has been very supportive of Mike for taking this reporting burden off his shoulders these past couple of years. Mike's report was accepted and approved.

Pat "Thumper" McCombs, our very own "ghost of rides past, present and future" floated to the podium to update the Club on immediate ride

activity.

May 11<sup>th</sup> - The Canon City Blossom Festival ride was a fractured success. Seems that there were quite a few members on this ride although it took about 3 different groupings to get them all there. Bob Norton and I met up with Sunny Norton and formed the last and smallest contingent to arrive (about 2:30pm). We took off for Pizza Mania for lunch as the earlier groups departed. Thump reported that Frank exposed the riders to some roads which none had previously ever ridden. It seems there is this road that heads east just out of Jefferson (off Hwy 287) that Pat had not been on since before it was paved. We're not talking years we're talking decades.

May 16<sup>th</sup> - Friday night dinner ride - This casual ride is scheduled to rendezvous at the South 40 Grill & Saloon in beautiful downtown Elbert for Burgers or Mexican faire. The choice will have been made by the proprietor. I hope it was good. (A couple of us members opted for a cup of Chili and a campfire on the south side of the Grand Mesa.)

May 18<sup>th</sup> - Cheyenne Mountain Zoo & Picnic. Freewheelin' FH will have led the club down to the Colorado Springs area where, I believe Tom and Anne Hudson were to have arrived earlier with grub provided by the Club. (Those of us that went to Grand Mesa were fjording the rain back from Grand Mesa to Carbondale, but it was great!)

June 12<sup>th</sup> - While not on the schedule, Pat is leading the Club on a group ride to the RMVTA meeting which begins at 7pm at the old Fay Myer meeting room on Alameda Ave. This is a show of support to say thanks to those who have helped fatten our rider turnout between January and March.

**Activities** - Chuck & Chris - Country Dinner Playhouse performance of "Footloose" reminder. \$32.90 per person including late lunch/early dinner, however, you want to look at it.

**Special Guest Presentation** - Bob Norton introduced Kevin O'Grady with the Speed Channel. Before our guest could open his mouth, Bruce Waters suggested that "Two wheeled Tuesday" be expanded to Thursday. Unfortunately, Kevin has no influence over television scheduling at this Fox Sports' owned channel. Kevin's purpose tonight was to invite local riders to their 3-day event coming in August. This event will include demo ride contingents from most of the major brands (Honda has yet to commit) including street and dual sport

machines. Daily ticket prices are \$15, a three-day pass is just \$35, yet clubs are being offered the three-day pass at 50% off for purchases of 20 or more.

**Experienced Rider Course** - While better than a dozen folks showed up for the classroom session on the evening of May 9<sup>th</sup>, only 7 folks were able to make the Sunday parking lot session. (While originally scheduled for Saturday, snow pushed the outdoor session to Sunday). This exhausting range session was followed by a short ride over to Hooters. A make up date for the other 5 gents has yet to be determined for the outdoor range session. Additional classes may be scheduled - contact Bob Norton if interested.

**Safety** - Still commanding the floor, Bob Norton reminds us to always keep raingear handy. Bob further noted that, while on the subject of rain, remember that the first few minutes (20 or so) of heavy rain is the most dangerous as oil and other residue on the road surface are slick and take a few minutes to get washed off the road.

Wow! That was a long half hour. We took the obligatory chain & drain break at 7:45pm.

Returning from the break, we took up the subject of new business.

A member stood to announce his support for the Humdinger Poker Run to be hosted by the Front Range Gold M/C Club on June 22<sup>nd</sup> with proceeds benefiting the "Missing Children Task Force" (contact: Jim @ 303-772-3755 or Mike @ 303-774-7602). Also, the first ever All Patriots Poker Run will be held later this year to benefit the Colorado State Veterans Nursing Home. Flyers and updates on all such rides are or will be available at upcoming meetings and may get further mention in the Eagle Times.

Long-time member and all-around good guy Dennis Yamaguchi won the 50/50 drawing taking home \$24.50 after Kevin drew the winning ticket. The remaining \$24.50 will be split between the club treasury and our Xmas Fund for a needy family yet to be identified.

The meeting adjourned at just after 8pm.

*Note: This rendition of the Freewheeler meeting has been brought to you by Anne Hudson's stunt double.*

## Sandia Peak Ride Recap

and restaurant review

Bill Gillespie

Seven members on five motorcycles made the trek to New Mexico over the Memorial Day weekend. Saturday saw the group take the short route to Albuquerque via Fort Garland and Taos.

A wonderful ride up the world's longest aerial tramway took us to the summit of Sandia Crest. It was there that we enjoyed several things: 1) A spectacular view of Albuquerque and the surrounding area to the west, and forested mountains to the east. 2) An absolutely average meal at the High Finance Restaurant. 3) Several million Miller moths. After dinner some of us had a nightcap in preparation for the short scenic day ahead.

Sunday morning the group decided to revisit Sandia Crest via the highway on the east side of the peak. NM-536 is a favorite road of sport bike enthusiasts. There is no other sound like a Ducati with a good rider aboard having fun on a great twisty road.



After breakfast it was on to Taos by way of the "Jemez Trail" and the "High Road to Taos." Some veteran 1000-IN-24 riders will remember those roads. Other than a slight route error by the leader (can you say lost?) and a hailstorm/deluge near Los Alamos, the day's ride was a great one.

The motel in Taos was only a block or so from the famed Taos Plaza. After a short walk we found the Back Alley Cantina and some wonderful, authentic New Mexican food.

Memorial Day breakfast was consumed at Michael's Kitchen in Taos. I always look forward to a New Mexican breakfast at Michael's. Then a fine ride back home retracing our Saturday route as far as Walsenburg. Then we stayed off the Interstate by going through Westcliffe, Florence, a short stint on I-25, Palmer Lake and Sadalia.

All in all, a very scenic, relaxing weekend.



*A thorn between two roses atop Sandia Crest.*



*Colorado's Mount Blanca as seen from just south of the Colorado/New Mexico border along NM-522.*

Photos by Willy Taylor

# Colorado Freewheelers' History

Pat "Thumper" McCombs

When I left you last, the Colorado Freewheelers had just completed their first year as a motorcycle club. What a year 1982 was, but now it was on to bigger and better things.

We have a new leader, and a new year ahead of us. Jerry Freeman has stepped down as our Area Representative and is looking forward to just riding in 1983. Our Assistant Representative is a fellow by the name of Doug Richards, (better known as Slow Poke) a fellow you will get to know as we continue on with our club history.

We have a few dollars in the bank, so let's try something new. Our first project since the "Pizza Party" is going to be a show. Not just any show, the TRI-STATE Auto Show. The club is sharing a booth with the A.M.A. and Mr. A.M.A. Marc Beaulieu is thankful to the Freewheelers for their help and support of the A.M.A. To make the booth area shine, some of our members are going to show their bikes in the display. John Randolph and his 1982 brown Aspencade & trailer. Bill Gillespie and his very shiny 1982 Interstate with the Equalean side car. Bob Campisi and his 1982 black Interstate, and Pat McCombs and his 1980 "Thumper II" Honda Gold Wing.

One of our club members Bob "Knight Rider" Norton described our first outing at the Tri-State as "Successful, interesting, enjoyable, demanding, and an experience I shall not soon forget." Bill Gillespie takes 3rd Place for Full Dress Motorcycle. And this, despite the rumor Bill had heard, that no one wins the first time he or she enters a machine in the TRI-State Auto Show.

Something else new at our meetings. Members will take turns bringing refreshments for the monthly meetings. Who do you think did the first time? Bill "Wing Commander" Gillespie. Glenn Bailey is doing a fine job as Safety Officer, and is riding motorcycles for the Littleton Police Department. Things have been running along very nicely since early 1982, but we are about to see our first bump. At our April 1983 meeting I had to read a letter to the membership. Chuck Baum & Doug Richards turn in letters of resignation. Pat McCombs & Bob Norton will handle the duties for the remainder of the year.

We have our first Poker Run, which is a big hit with everyone. Bill Gillespie gets the "Hard Luck" trophy for failing to get his bike out of the garage. The first six months of 1983 have turned out to be some of the worst riding conditions we have ever seen. But there are some hearty riders in this club. At the June meeting we had 23 Gold Wing & Silver Wing riders get there 1000 mile patches & two members get there 3000 mile patches.

The club makes its first trip to the Great Bend Grand Motorcycle Rally in Great Bend Kansas. We have our first night Poker Run. Best ride of 1983 was our trip to the Black Hills of South Dakota. Our biggest turnout of some twenty-four members on thirteen bikes. Best memory of that trip "The Dinner Walk," and who better to report it than our editor of the Eagle Times Bill Gillespie; "After a fine day's ride, everyone seemed to be ready for a good meal. Someone said they heard there was a good steak house about four blocks up the street.

Having just put the Wings away for the day, some of us decided to walk. After all, it's only four blocks. About a mile UP the road we finally stopped at a gas station to see where the Hell we were. The attendant there said "Yeah, it's about four blocks up the street." Having heard that line before, it was determined that we should call a cab so the guys could go back to the motel to get the bikes. When the cab arrived, we told the driver there were seven of us. He said he could only take five. Thumper told him there was an extra five bucks in it if he could take us all. He then indicated that he hadn't seen the likes of our act since the Shriners hit town, and said "Get In!" Picture if you can, maybe \$60,000 worth of Gold Wings in the motel parking lot, and here we are, eight grown men in one cab. What a ride." Some quotes to remember from the Black Hills Ride that a lot of us remember today. "Where are we?" "Can you do something about this wind?" The late Bud Davis. "Is it raining out there?" Well spoken by Alyssa, Karen & Bill Gillespie's daughter from the side car. "Thumper, plug in your helmet." Bill Gillespie. "My ass is cold" It said Anonymous in the old newsletter, but I know it was CY to RY. And the one that has lasted for the past twenty years "Norman your turn signal's on." Well, folks that's some of 1983, and we all had a blast this year. Next year we start into our 3rd year, and our new leader, Bob "Knight Rider" Norton will help lead us through the guidelines of the GWRRA.

See you next month when we start down the path of 1984.

## Upcoming Rides, *continued*

### Ladies Ride of Colorado

July 12/13

Ride Leader: Sunny Norton, 303-973-9222

The ladies' annual shindig in Fairplay. Flyers available at the meetings, or call the Ride Leader.

### Boys Steak Ride

July 18-20

Ride Leader: Pat McCombs, 303-971-0568

This ride has been by invitation only for the past 12 years. This year it will be open to all FreeWheeler Boys and invited riders, but still men only. While the ride has always gone to the Black Hills, the old Thumper is looking elsewhere for this year. You do need to confirm to the Ride Leader to participate in this ride.

### Children's Hospital Run to Blackhawk July 27

Ride Leader: Pat McCombs, 303-971-0568

Sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Harley Owners Group, a number of Colorado FreeWheelers have done this ride over the years. It is always a full day of fun and rubbing elbows with all types of bikers. It is a poker run on bikes and on foot. We will meet for breakfast, then ride to the sign up. Details at meetings, or call the Ride Leader.

## Odds & Ends

### RMVTA Visit

Several FreeWheelers attended the Rocky Mountain Veturine Touring Association meeting on June 12th. George Barnes gave a very informative computer assisted presentation on the 2001 Iron Butt Rally.

We also got an insight to the runnings of another club. What a concept, they actually have a meeting agenda. The RMVTA is a fine organization that has enjoyed great participation for many years. Don't let the name fool you. They also have all types of bikes in their ranks. The RMVTA currently meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at the old Fay Myers, 2005 W. Alameda at 7:30. They have a web site too: <rmvta.com>

### Foot Loose

Thanks to the Activities Committee (Chuck and Chris Janssen) for arranging the Fathers Day outing to the Country Dinner Playhouse for the musical Foot Loose. Fifteen people enjoyed the afternoon. The dinner was the usual buffet, but the production more than made up for any shortcomings. The play was lively and well performed. My personal favorite was Playhouse regular Kenny Moten in the role of Willard.



Photo by Pat McCormick

*You say you want a snowblower? How about this bad boy recently seen on the Over the Top Ride.*



*This interesting picture of Tory Brown was shot on the Trail Ridge Moonlight Ride by Willy Taylor with his digital camera using the "night exposure" mode with no flash. That's the full moon over Tory's left shoulder. A recap of the ride and more pictures will be published in next month's Eagle Times.*

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