

The Eagle Times

Colorado FreeWheelers

July, 2005

NEXT MEETING
Thursday, July 21, 2005
Fay Myers Motorcycle World
7:00 pm

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

Thumper's Corner

William Paul Becker, Jr.

1949-2005

I, as I'm sure is true with a lot of people, have never been very good at dealing with obituaries & memorials. I always have had this thing in the back of my head, that the right words will never be spoken, or be written down on paper like they should, or the right comments to comfort those that are in need of it at the time will be made.

On June 27th we gathered to honor Paul Becker, a fallen Colorado Freewheelers member. It seems that over the years, we have lost a number of our members at what would be considered a young age. Today we honor the memory of Paul, who passed away on June 22nd. Paul had been fighting a major battle to regain his health for many months, and lost that battle on the 22nd.

I met Paul in the summer of 1984, and it was shortly after that, he came to join the Colorado Freewheelers (then Chapter 'C' of GWRRA). I can remember the first few rides some of us did with Paul, and was wondering if he was just a little off center. He was always playing with all of the buttons and toys on his Goldwing, and rocking out to a good tune of music. As time passed, we would learn that this was just Paul's style. He was a very unique individual. One thing that was never in doubt is that Paul, for twenty-some years, was one of the hardest working members that ever called himself a Freewheeler. He was always one of the first to step up on any project the club was taking on. In 1999 when the club ran the check point for the Three Flags Classic, Paul was the back bone of the project. Working long hours, taking extra shifts, with a smile on his face all the time with very little sleep. He also dedicated much of his time and resources to the Kempe Center for abused children for many years.

The riding community and the Colorado Freewheelers have lost a very good person, who had a great love for motorcycling. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Rhonda; his son William; and all the Becker family.

In the Monday Rocky Mountain News, was the quote "Paul will be sadly missed." I think as we look back after a few months, we will all have great riding memories, and the things Paul added to the motorcycle club he loved so much.

Rest in Peace Paul,

Thumper

William Paul Becker, Jr. was born on November 29, 1949 at Madison Lake, South Dakota to William Paul and Opal Becker. Paul entered eternal life on June 22, 2005 after a lengthy illness. He was the eldest of three children, including one brother, Jeffery, and one sister, Charlene. He attended Flying Ace grade school & High school in De Smith, South Dakota. Attended college in Brookings, South Dakota, pursuing an electrical engineering degree, which later served him well in the armed forces. He moved to the Denver area in 1971. Paul served in the United States Air Force, stationed at Buckley Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado. He completed his duty in Viet Nam, and received an honorable discharge. His vocations included, but were not limited to; a snow plowing business, a chef & manager of a well known restaurant chain, motorcycling tour guide, and later as a cabbie. He met Rhonda Willen in 1987, who became his bride on June 30, 2001 at Daniels Park, Denver, Colorado.

Paul's hobbies and interests in life were shooting pool with friends, and being avidly involved in motorcycling, long time member of the Chapter "C" later known as Colorado Freewheelers, for twenty years. Paul built his first motorcycle from a used lawn mower at the age of fifteen.

He is preceded in death by his Father, a brother and Grandparents. Surviving, and sadly missing Paul are his wife, Rhonda; Mother, Opal Norland, one son William Paul, III and a sister, Charlene Sturgis along with a host of relatives and friends.

Memorial services were held on June 27 at Parker Colorado, Chaplain "Boots" Paul Reimer officiated.

Submitted by Paul Reimer

"Tears" Revisited

Thumpers Corner in the May issue of the **Eagle Times** featured a reprint of a 1991 article from the *Colorado Rider* by the late Don Council simply entitled "Tears."

The following note was received by Thumper from Carol Council following that issue:

I started to read the Eagle Times tonight beginning with your article. and immediately thought by the first paragraph, how pleased Don would be that his old buddy was displaying his patriotism, once again. Little did I know that I would be crying by the end after I realized you were reprinting Don's article. He truly was a patriot and was very disappointed with people who did not show their respect for the president, the vets, and above all Old Glory. I remember how he would chastize people at sports events if they talked or didn't remove their hats during the National Anthem. Yet another beautiful lesson I learned from my husband - thanks for making my day by remembering Don.

Carol

Some of the male members of our group will be taking part in the 15th Annual Steak Ride this weekend. It will be the second such ride dedicated to the memory of our dear friend, Don "Spider" Council. Spider only occasionally made club meetings and other rides primarily due to his work schedule. But, he was a mainstay on the Steak Rides.

We will always miss our friend, and know that he will be riding with us in spirit this weekend.

Member Reports

Chuck Janssen

Chuck was in the hospital recently for some tests. At first it was thought that his heart needed some attention. Apparently however, it was in good enough condition for him to go home after a brief stay.

We could have told them his heart was just fine. Continued good health, Chuck.

Marilyn Mesch

The former Marilyn Davis was recently married to John Mesch, who accompanied her to the FreeWheeler's Christmas Banquet last December.

Congratulations to you both!

Ride for Kids

Over 300 people on 252 motorcycles participated in the 2005 Ride for Kids. As you can see from the photo there was a total of \$43,330 dollars raised from the day's activity.

We were told that ninety-one cents of every dollar collected by the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation goes directly to the various programs and research to help the kids and families affected by the largest killer of kids today.

If you have healthy children and grandchildren, count your blessings as I do. But, for those families affected by this terrible disease our donations mean EVERY-

THING.

If you participated this year, I thank you. If not, I hope you can find it in your heart to become involved in next year's ride.

God Bless,

Floyd Thorne



Photo by Floyd Thorne



Photo by Floyd Thorne

President, Pat McCombs presents the coveted "Mental Meltdown Award" to George Barrett for his recent portrayal of dirt bike legend Malcom Smith in the off-road documentary film "Sand Hog, Conquering the Canyonlands."

Upcoming Rides

See your ride book for more detail.

July Dinner Ride

Thursday, July 28

Leave from: Sofa Mart, N/W corner of 6th and Kipling
Ride Leaders: Stan & Janet Stotz, 303-690-4133

6:30 pm

1000-IN-24 Recon Ride

Saturday, July 30 - Sunday, July 31

Leave from: Fay Myers, 9700 E. Arapahoe Rd. Approx. 1,000 miles
Ride Leader: Frank Heinzel, 303-295-7137 freewheelinfrank1@msn.com

6:00 am

12,000 Feet in The Dirt

Saturday, August 6

Leave from: Village Inn, C-470 & Broadway Approx. 400 miles
Ride Leader: Bill Gillespie, 303-781-0032

8:00 am

We'll only tackle Cottonwood Pass (elevation 12,128) this time around, so the only dirt will be from the summit down to Taylor Park. Route home will be US-50 from Gunnison to Canon City, CO-115 to Colorado Springs, and I-25 home.

Sturgis "T" Run

Saturday, August 13

Leave from: Perkins Restaurant, 120th west of I-25 Approx. 890 miles
Ride Leader: Pat McCombs, 303-971-0568

6:00 am