

The Eagle Times

Colorado FreeWheelers

July, 2006

NEXT MEETING
Thursday, July 20, 2006
Fay Myers Motorcycle World
7:00 pm

www.cofreewheelers.org/

Chuck Janssen

1951-2006

We have lost a treasured member of our group. Chuck Janssen passed away on July 6th.

As many know, Chuck suffered from a variety of health issues for the past several years. He was hospitalized on the day of the club Christmas party last December, and remained in one facility or another until early spring.

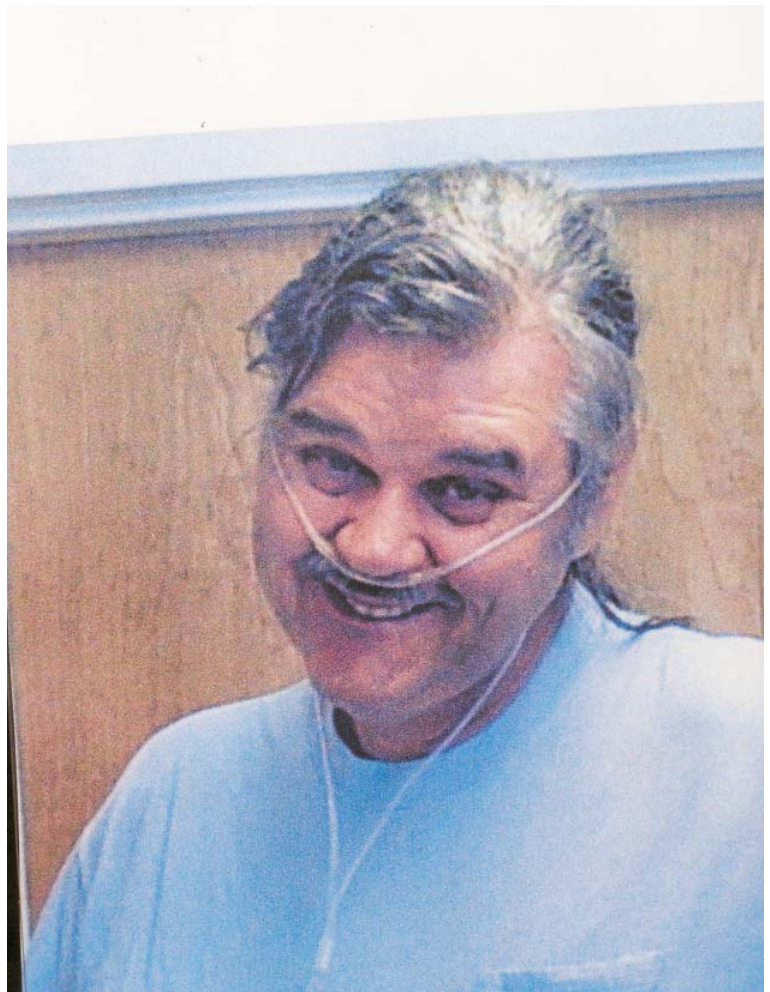
A Denver native, Chuck graduated from West High School and was accepted into the first coed class of Loretto Heights College where he studied to be a math teacher. Chuck served in the United States Navy from 1969 until 1971.

Chuck was the consummate volunteer. He had been a proud Boy Scout as a youth, and continued to volunteer for that organization into adulthood. He was a volunteer at the Community Ministries food bank for the last several years. For the FreeWheelers, he arranged many club functions.

Chuck's smile, kind words, his jokes, devilish sense of humor, and his physical presence will be missed by all. But, Chuck will ride with the FreeWheelers just like some other folks we have lost, in our memories.

A memorial service was held on July 11th, and many club members attended. A fund has been set up to help Chris get back on her feet financially. If you would like to contribute to that effort, contact Sunny Norton or Bill Gillespie.

All our best wishes, thoughts, and prayers go out to Chris, and also to Chuck's children Starr and Casey. Your husband and father was a good man.



Sadly, More Memorials

Elyse Griggs



On Sunday, July 2nd a number of Colorado Freewheelers & RMVTA members rode to Fort Collins for the memorial service of Elyse Ann Griggs. Elyse and her husband Rick Griggs were long time RMVTA & Colorado Freewheelers members. The last several years Rick and Elyse have lived in Sarasota Florida, enjoying the good life.

A ride like this is never a pleasant one, but while you are riding, some of the old memories start to drift back to you of days and rides gone by. It was nice to see the following folks come out for the memorial. Paul Coriell & Billie Berube, Vaughan & Betty Richards, Tom Shader, Floyd & Linda Thorne, Bob Norton, Pat McCombs, Bob Swanson, Cliff & Nedra Eudy, and Mark Bolles. It was a quick ride up I-25 to Fort Collins for the Memorial, and a scenic route on our return to Denver, and some 200 miles.

The Memorial was held at the home of Elyse's son, Chad Lachance. Chad and his wife Stephanie have a wonderful home that sits right on the shore of Horsetooth Reservoir. As we rounded the sweeping curves of the reservoir, we could see them waving at us across the pond to guide us in.

As we pulled in, it was all hugs and well wishing from folks we had not seen in a number of years. Rick came down the drive to let one and all know that Elyse would have loved the moment.

I remember Elyse well from riding days gone by. I remember that when you saw Elyse, that Rick, Cliff, and Nedra would be very close by, as the two couples were very close. She loved motorcycling, and all the activities that went with it. She left her mark on the RMVTA as well as on our club.

Elyse Ann Griggs, was born on March 9th, 1949 and passed away May 15th, 2006. She was a very young fifty-seven years old, and too young to be taken from us.

I cannot thank Chad & Stephanie enough for inviting us in to their home to share all of the great memories we all shared with Elyse. It was very heart warming, and will remain with me for some time. Our prayers and thoughts went out to them, and of course, to Rick. It was wonderful to remember the great riding times we had with them both in years gone by. Rick was even talking about coming out and riding the Steak Run and 1000/24 in 2007.

Gone but not forgotten, Elyse has joined the big club in the sky.

Thumper

Final Tribute to Paul Becker



On Sunday June 18, 2006 amidst fantastic weather which included a signature Colorado blue sky, five Colorado FreeWheelers members finalized the passing of one its long time members Paul Becker. Rhonda Becker, accompanied by Frank Heinzl, Bob Norton, Rex Young, and Roy and Fay Hansen carried out Paul's final wishes to have his ashes committed to the wind from atop the 14,000 plus foot summit of Mt. Evans. Frank, who had been friends with Paul long before either of them joined the FreeWheelers, remembered him with a few heartfelt words before performing the rite.

Paul was one of the great contributors to FreeWheelers's activities over the years. His generosity and good nature will be missed by all who knew him. Rest in peace, Paul.

Knight Rider

William A. Heinzl

Condolences to Frank Heinzl on the passing of his father William, at age 83 in Burlington, Iowa.

From the Chaplain

Colorado FreeWheelers' Resident Chaplain, Paul Reimer - "Boots"

Editor's note: Boots is currently recovering from hernea surgery. I spoke with him today, and he said he is going to follow the doctor's orders this time. The club sent him a fruit and snack basket to help him recover.

In March he spent a week in Mexico on a missions trip doing construction work, a trade he is all too familiar with. You'll be able to read about that trip in an upcoming issue.

Boots then spent two weeks on the Harley with his cousin, Helen from Nebraska. They toured through New Mexico, Arizona and southern California before returning home. And finally he just returned from a weekend of motorcycle road races at the new Miller Sports Park in Salt Lake City. Boots is event staff at the races, performing corner worker duties as well as chapel services.

Needless to say, Boots has been very busy so far this spring and summer, and we wish him a speedy and full recovery from his surgery.

Energy Costs

This is intended to be my opinion only. Having said that, I think that it's an interesting observation as we have the opportunity to travel this country, and in view of the current fuel prices, that there are still a great deal of motor homes, RV's, SUV's, and in general a lot of vehicles that could very definitely be considered gas/diesel (fuel) guzzlers on the roads. Let me also say that I am one who owns a SUV (2000 Ford Explorer), so I am as guilty as anyone.

But, I think that so long as people in America feel the need to own and operate these aforementioned vehicles, I guess I fail to see the need on the part of BIG OIL COMPANIES to lower prices. Why should they? We continue to use their products regardless of what it costs. So it seems and now that summer is here and we see still see many motor homes on the road there is really no incentive on the part of the oil companies to attempt to reduce their prices.

I know that there are those out there that will argue that you can travel in a motor home, eat and spend your nights on board cheaper than you could travel otherwise eating out three meals and spending nights in motels/hotel. That all may, or may not, be true. I do know that it is a pretty comfortable way to get around and see the country, as we have done a bit of that our selves as well.

Anyway, in the "for what it's worth" category, I sure do enjoy riding the motorcycle around the country in spite of the fact that now it can pretty easily take \$16.00 +/- to fill it up. After leaving the station we can pass just about anything on the road, smell the smells and feel the great outdoors in our faces. I guess that is what it is all about. It's therapeutic to do so, and makes paying the prices at the pump a little less harsh throughout the week in our iron cages.

*Floyd Thorne
Ride safe and have fun!!!!*

Foothills Ramble (part 1) Recount

by Brian Boberick

For those of you who missed out on this local, yet loco ride (and we know who you are since only Freewheelin' Franklin, Monkeywrench and myself participated), you should know that you missed out on one fun frolic of a day and I want to thank Frank for laying this one out. Call it ignorance, but I continue to be pleasantly surprised by the presence of little back roads that I suspect few people know even exist. The FR One began with a scoot up one of my favorite local roads – Deer Creek Canyon to Conifer via Pleasant Park Road. From there we weaved and bobbed up and down nearly every canyon and gulch between Hwy 287 and I-70 including the commonly known Turkey Creek, Indian Hills, Lil Cub Creek, Morrison Canyon, Witter Gulch, Upper Bear Creek, Brook Forest, Kerr Gulch, Lookout Mtn and more. In total this ride was under 200 miles and we spent the better part of a day dodging bicyclists and Elk and exploring the edges of our tires. I suppose the route could have been covered in under four hours, but then you would have probably been exhausted at the end. As it was, the leisurely pace we maintained left us with enough energy to tour the start and finish local of this season's TV hit "the Amazing Race" – that's right, the Red Rocks Amphitheater. Have you been to the new visitor center there? Well, the centerpiece of the visitor center would have to be their very own Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame including photos and posters of all the major rock bands and artists of the 60's through the 90's who have graced the stage at Red Rocks. There are autographed guitars from the likes of Sting, Stevie Ray Vaughn and others. If you have the time to relax, you can sit down for a short documentary comprised of interviews with many more artists. This ride would be a great one to keep in your back pocket for those early or late season rides when the weather keeps you from delving too deep into the mountains.

Foothills Ramble (part 2) Recount

by Herb Schaffer

I joined the crew this morning for the second part of the second annual "Foothills Ramble". We started out at Boulevard Grille with five for breakfast, but eight for the ride.

After Frank Heinzl dragged us

up and down every imaginable canyon, plus a few I had never even travelled, I left the group at US-6 & CO-119 to head north through Nederland and Lyons back to Longmont. It was a great ride to say the least.



The Foothills Ramblers

Thanks to You

by Floyd Thorne

I would like to thank the Colorado Free Wheelers for their generous contribution of \$100.00 to the "Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation" via the "Ride for Kids" held June 25, 2006. I should say that I thank you on behalf of the PBTF or even more importantly than that, on behalf of the kids with brain tumors that these funds collectively help, and certainly the parents of these patients.

The motorcycle community is the primary source of funding for research across the nation for the PBTF. I am proud to say that I am a member of that community, and more directly a member of the Colorado FreeWheelers. My affiliation with this fine organization has shown me that you are among the most benevolent

groups that I know of. You, the club, have several different organizations that you support throughout the year.

Might I also say that this charitable help and support you provide is done without having membership dues or sponsors? It is done strictly from your support of the bake sales we have twice per year and to a smaller degree the annual 1000-IN-24 activity.

I extend my compliments and sincere gratitude to you as a group of motorcycle enthusiasts calling yourselves the Colorado FreeWheelers with large and benevolent hearts. You should all be as proud of yourselves as I am to be one of you.

Floyd Thorne, "Mr. T", Treasurer

Jaurez, Chihuahua, Mexico - Mission's Trip

March 17 - 25, 2006

by Paul "Boots" Reimer

Zero Three Hundred hours, comes very early when you're not accustomed to rising at that hour. Our mentor, driver and fellow comrade [Paul Needham] with a big three quarter ton extended cab Dodge pickup arrived at my house with trailer tagging behind. The truck also carried five salvaged reconditioned computers, which were acquired in Denver for use in Mexico. Two other male volunteers were eager to begin another MAPS [Missionary Abroad Placement Service] trip. As we commence with another journey down Interstate 25 to Pueblo, Colorado, where we stopped to load five medical exam tables, a baby incubator and other medical equipment, secured by the Aurora chapter Rotary club. All of this equipment is donated from various doctor's offices and clinics as they upgrade or close businesses. A donated ambulance is not far behind, as per our cell phone conversation between vehicles. The ambulance was donated by an Oregon firm, driven to Denver where two comrades from the Aurora Rotary club drive it to our destination.

By this time the sun has gained a few degrees in the sky and we head toward Raton, New Mexico, where we stop for breakfast, & a rest stop. We see a few herds of antelope as we mosey down the freeway at cruising speed, exchanging drivers about every two hundred miles. We pick up highway 84 and head south where we pick up route 54. By now we need to refuel at Las Vegas, where we ran out of fuel just a quarter mile from a station, luckily, we coasted within a few hundred yards of the pump. It's about lunch time when we arrive at Carrizozo, and we stop for a quick bite to refresh our bodies, and re hydrate. On down the road to El Paso where we pick up Interstate 10, and to the Howard Johnson motel. where we are intercepted by a group of Rotarians from Northern Mexico. We cross the border and are hosted to a fabulous Mexican dinner at a local restaurant, by the local Rotary club. Our group splits for the night and are hosted by local families.

Saturday morning our host family prepares Italian coffee & juice. Then the entire group reassembles at a meeting place, where we meet up with the

ambulance, and are hosted to a delicious breakfast. La Tenda di Cristo 16, is an AIDS care center and hospice. Founded & sponsored solely by the Catholic church from Italy. We toured the facility, and the Director is presented with documents to the ambulance. Local ambulance services will not transport HIV - AIDS patients to hospitals. The Director asks us to consider sharing one exam table for his facility, which we honor. We enjoy an abundant lunch before departing to the local hospital, and are given a full tour of the facility. The balance of the exam tables are unloaded here. Earlier, in the year, the Rotary clubs donated a mammogram and x-ray equipment and is up and running. This hospital provides free medical care to seven colonies, in Jaurez. Across the street is a sign "breakfast 12 and under for 1 Peso' - equivalent to 10 American cents.

The sun is setting in the horizon and we head back to El Paso, where we meet up with our mission's group for orientation at the Howard Johnson's. Grab a quick meal & bed down and rise early Sunday morning for breakfast with brief devotions. Leaving our truck & trailer behind. we load the computers & luggage to another van, & head across the border. One other van from Iowa and a local pickup, carry twenty-two workman to our work site. Another "no problem crossing." We head for the jobsite, and arrive about 10:15 where we are assigned our duties for the week. Work a half day. Dinner at the site and then proceed to our motel thirty minutes away, where we will spend the next six nights. Each morning returning to the work site. Three meals each day are graciously supplied onsite in a dining hall, by local Spanish ladies. Always more food than one plate can hold.

Monday morning the construction trailer [onsite] loaded with tools and equipment is unlocked and we begin what will be an exciting week of hard labor. For some it will be a new experience, learning a new trade. The original building houses an accredited Spanish Bible school, library and dorm rooms, [La Biblia Antioquia] often is in need of repair. We had the opportunity to work in a new addition as well this time, only the masonry walls, floor & tin roof were in

place. Getting materials locally is sometimes difficult if not impossible. My experience at the local Home Depot was quite interesting. Some locations require that the materials come either from Chihuahua, or Stateside in advance. A trip back to El Paso may be necessary.

Our volunteers/workman, include both men & women and are kept busy with tasks that are required to complete a mission's trip. Some of the tasks include but not limited to construction; laying concrete blocks, forming and pouring concrete for walks, steps etc., roofing - metal sheathing & composition, carpentry, doors - windows - walls, soffits & facias, ceiling tiles - grid, tile work, drywall & patch plaster or stucco, electrical - new & upgrades, plumbing new & upgrades., painting interior & exterior, welding - stair cases, railings, & trusses. Ladies are involved in all phases as well as street ministry and outreach. The librarian had hundreds of books which needed computer entry, categorizing, name stamped & filed. Believe it or not, even landscaping & maintenance. Cleaning and kitchen duty is always appreciated. Often medical care is given on site and optometry evaluation with donated eyewear.

Tuesday evening we had the opportunity to visit & tour one of the many orphanages. One group brought new sandals, dresses, jeans, candy and toys for the children. As one may observe, you may well realize this may be the first for some of kids. Our tour guide was a small 15 year old Spanish boy who took great pride in showing us the facility, an avid soccer player and fan. The kids take advantage to exchange hugs, and playmates.

Each year several leaders pick a new site that requires lots of dedication and hard labor. Many folks travel from Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma. Texas & Colorado, some bring their own hand tools. The group consists of tradesman, doctors, teachers, attorneys, grocery store & pizza restaurant owners, engineers, clergy, truck drivers & students, just to name a few. And a biker like myself. Regardless of the diverse qualifications, religious back-

continued on page 5

by Brian Boberick

ground, ages 18 through 75, all work together with great harmony, and poke fun at each other when something doesn't quite line up to par. Each day begins with a devotional & singing lead by one from the group. Often in dirty work clothes we gather at some evening church services in the area. Some services have interpreters, others do not. Ending the day, wouldn't be complete if we didn't stop at an ice cream shop, before heading back to retire. Some would say, did we go to Mexico to work, or go for ice cream? Well, actually both. One afternoon may be left open for shopping if the desire is yours?

The new facilities will accommodate, additional dorm rooms, usually two to four bunk beds each room. A lecture / study hall, & a brand new library, with over 3,000 volumes, all in Spanish. This is where the computers will serve the students. Many students will attend night classes, as they are already fulfilling the role of pastors and missionaries. Psychology, Biblical, & Economical studies are taught as well. Many graduates will go to underserved areas, and must be self sustaining, in all areas of life.

Funding of our travel, lodging, meals and insurance are covered by each volunteer. And many contribute additional funds for materials etc. At this location, monies may be given for scholarships, books, food and or maintenance of the facility. You will find and appreciate the sacrifice that volunteers undertake, to make these one or two week mission trips possible. Often a crew is sent in before us and following us. I guarantee that if you should choose to go with these groups or sponsor an individual, you will return with a change of heart. The culture, climate, food, work ethic, & materials, is often very different, and one needs to adapt accordingly. We are apprised with the three "Bs" Be patient, Be Understanding, Be Flexible.

Should you have any questions or more clarification, please don't hesitate to ask. Writing a letter like this, one can only highlight minimal experiences, work tenures, and of course all the fun. Each trip draws you closer with new experiences, testimonials, stories and photos. Meeting new recruits and working with some of last year's crew, exchanging the year's stories in the absence of our labor together. Looking forward to when we can do it all over again next year.

Boots

AIN'T NO SUCH THING!

Certainly, some days are better than others, but if you are able to get out and ride, there will be some qualitative value to take away from the ride. This past weekend was no exception as a few of the boys went for a ride to honor the life of former Freewheeler Don "Spider" Council.

Tasked with the responsibility of route planning, Bill "Wing Commander" Gillespie did not disappoint – while a few folks may not have thoroughly enjoyed every mile of the route, I have little doubt that any serious complaints were raised. You may or may not be aware, but the Commander has a bit of a reputation for finding roads that lack "tarmac." This past weekend was no exception. In fact, by the end of the day on Saturday, with the assistance of both WYDOT and SDDOT, he had pretty much delivered the "Tri-feca" of road surfaces.

We had the absolute joy of new pavement (although not much of that), some of that tire-whistling concrete, the old throw-back red-colored pavement on the eastern edge of the Big Horn Mountains in Wyoming and some tire-howling "roto-mill" between Cheyenne Crossing and Hill City in South Dakota. In the "dirt" category of road surfaces, there was about 11 miles of construction that ranged from wallow-sand interspersed in loose gravel to somewhat-tight gravel to hard-pack gravel to freshly laid rock. I think a few folks were contemplating backtracking around the construction, but 10 miles forward of construction beats 100+ miles of backtracking most anytime. The worst of the construction zone wasn't really the road surface, but the 30+ minute delay under a 105 degree, cloud-free Wyoming sky. Man was it ever a hot weekend.

The heat out on the road was pretty brutal and led to frequent and extended breaks throughout the weekend. We saw every possible method employed to battle the heat, from handlebar mounted drink

caddies, to cooling vests totally saturated in cold water, to dumping of water on heads and torso alike, to my windshield-wiper-pump powered hydration system (thanks to George Barnes for that little gem). With my electrically-powered watering system I could both keep hydrated by drinking and cooled by spraying myself down as I rode. It was further discovered that other riders could be cooled, albeit only momentarily, by riding in my wake while I sprayed water into the air. Bob "Knightrider" Norton was the inaugural test dummy for this experimental rain system which worked best when the trailing rider stood on pegs to rise above their windshield and take a nice mist of water straight to the body at 60+ mpg.

The Friday portion of this ride was highlighted by the ride over the Snowy Range followed by a terrific steak dinner at Svilar's Bar & Dining Room in Hudson, WY. The highlight of Saturday's portion of our adventure was the absolutely delightful ride from Greybull, WY to Ranchester, WY on Highway 14 over the Big Horn Mountains.

Sunday, we topped off the weekend with a little memorial service for our recently departed friend and brother Chuck Janssen at Bridal Veil Falls in Spearfish Canyon where a small piece of Chuck's ashes were cast into the falls and will forever mark a spot of remembrance for our brother on our future visits to the Black Hills of South Dakota.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Pat "Thumper" McCombs, Don "Spider" Council and Chuck Janssen for a most memorable weekend.

While I have never really warmed up to any particular CB handle for myself, I kind of like one that came to me late Sunday afternoon where inspiration was found in the mixture of heat and hydration.

*Respectfully, RAINMAN
(Brian Boberick)*

Hang-M-High Ride

Saturday, July 22 8:00am

Leave from: Boulevard Grill, 1500 W Littleton Blvd.

Approx: 280 miles

Ride Leader: TBD

This ride originally planned by Rex (Road Commander) Young, may be lead by someone else as he may be unavailable. It will include a scenic ride through the South Park area then South on CO-9 to Canon City where we will tour the old territorial prison there. The tour includes 32 cells filled with exhibits and life sized models that link the past to the present. There have been 77 executions of which 45 were by hanging, and 32 by gas chamber at this facility.

RMVTA July Dinner Ride

Thursday, July 27 6:30pm

Leave from: Old Sam's Club parking lot, Abilene & Jewell, Aurora

Approx: ? miles

Ride Leaders: George (K-Mart) & Sheri Barrett

Join with George, Sheri, and their friends for a dinner out. Their keeping quiet about their destination, but you can be assured that there will be a ride involved, some great food, and wonderful company. Bring your appetite.

RMVTA Mini Rally

Saturday, July 29 8:00am

Leave from: Fay Myers Motorcycle World, 9700 E Arapahoe Rd.

Approx: 200 miles

Ride Organizers: Bill (Wing Commander) Gillespie,
& George (K-Mart) Barrett

Another small version of a motorcycle rally where you can answer questions and gather points for prizes. There will be a cookout at the finish at Fay Myers. Show up early for the riders meeting at 7:00am and to have time to plan your strategy to win.

1000-IN-24 Pre-Ride

Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 5-6 6:00am

Leave from: Fay Myers Motorcycle World, 9700 E Arapahoe Rd.

Approx: 1000+ miles (500 miles each day)

Ride leader: Frank (Freewheelin) Heinzl

This ride is to reconnoiter the route for the clubs annual "Day" ride to raise funds for the club. We'll be stopping overnight at approximately the halfway point. So advance reservations are necessary, call Frank at 303-295-7137 or email him at freewheelinfrank1@msn.com for more information.

Sturgis "T" Run

Saturday, August 12 6:00am

Leave from: Perkins Restaurant, 120th West of I-25

Approx: 890 miles

Ride Leader: TBD

If you always wanted to just ride up get your "T-shirt, pin, patch or whatever memorabilia from the rally, spend an hour or two up on Main St., and then ride home, the same day. This is the ride for you.

22nd Annual 1000-IN-24

Sat-Sun, Aug. 19-20 2:00-4:00am

Leave from: Fay Myers Motorcycle World, 9700 E Arapahoe Rd.

Approx: 1000+ miles (in 24 or less hours)

Ride Organizer: Frank (Freewheelin) Heinzl

After doing this annual club fundraiser for 21 years you'd think we'd have run out of routes that were not duplicates of previous rides, but we still have a few tricks up our collective sleeves. The longest running event of its kind, this years ride promises to leave no one involved disappointed. As in the past discounted IBA SS-1k certification is available upon ride completion in the allotted time. Pre-registration only by Aug. 4. \$50.00 entry fee per motorcycle, includes hat, shirt, & pin. \$90.00 for couples. Extra goodies available to club members at cost, if they volunteer to work the event, and are not entered as riders. Go to the club web site for more information and an entry form.

www.cofreewheelers.org