

The Eagle Times

Colorado FreeWheelers

August, 2009

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, August 20, 2009

Fay Myers Motorcycle World

7:00 pm

www.cofreewheelers.org/

If you would like to know about upcoming rides and all the exciting, beautiful places we're going, you'll have to come to the meeting.

25th Annual 1000-in-24

an after-action overview by Don McKee

Thanks to Peter "Mr. President" Chronis for greeting me as Floyd-Rex-Young-Don (the four cowboys) returned at 10:30 pm Saturday night upon completion of the 25th Annual CFW 1000 miles-in-24 hours classic. Nice. Seemed like about seventy-five riders stood up to the challenge. Only Frank knows for certain.

Cliff Eudy, Brian Boberick, Bill Gillespie and Herb Schaffer (and probably others) did the safety-check honors at 1:30 am Saturday morning. Thanks for checking me in after the ride. Some 21.5 hours is a long day. Great to have a friend on-the-spot upon departure and arrival.

THE RIDE; Young Willingham, Rex Young and Don (me) fell in behind Floyd Thorne for the ride of a lifetime. There were many locations where the temperatures dipped close to "freezing," but there was no fog, snow, sleet, hail or freezing rain... a blessing. We stopped to add or remove layers perhaps six times. Those who brought their electrically-heated clothing were well-advised. Floyd's advice to this old man; keep that stuff at-the-ready in a saddle-bag all the time. {For some strange reason, it didn't help... sitting in my closet.}

NOTE; Floyd Thorne did a marvelous job of leading the "Four Cowboys" CFW rider group on this challenging ride. His advance planning resulted in a flawless GPS-routing and a joy-filled ride for us. My hat is doffed to him... "Oh Captain, my Captain."

Those who do their Iron Butt qualifier at 85 MPH on super-slabs miss out on the local flavors. 12 hours on interstates cannot come

continued on page 3

19th Steak Ride

by Pete Chronis

It was back to the Black Hills of South Dakota on July 23 as the 19th Annual Don Council Memorial Steak Run rolled out of the Village Inn at C-470 and South Broadway, headed for a weekend of high adventure in Deadwood, a town made famous by the infamous murder of gunfighter, gambler, and dime-novel hero Wild Bill Hickok.

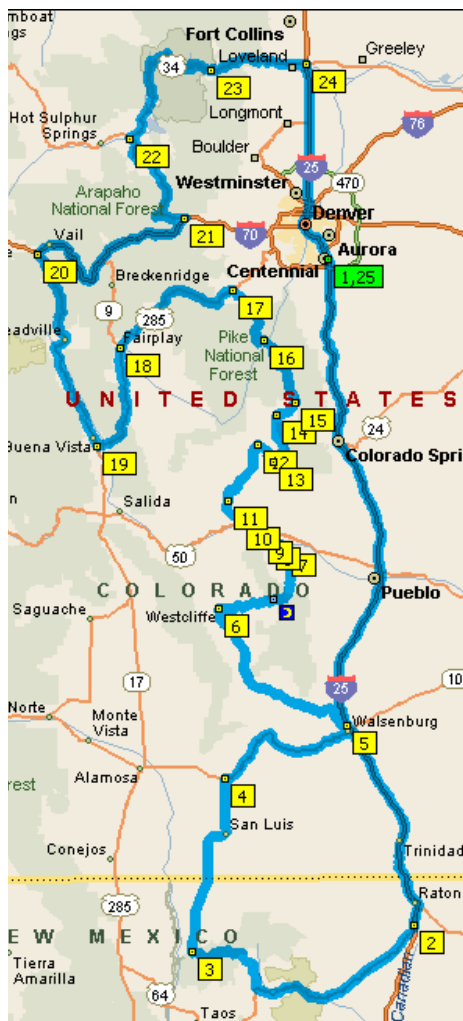
The Steak Run, an annual event named in honor of the Don "Spider" Council, who passed away in 2003, and whose exploits during Steak Runs of yesteryear are the stuff of legends, is an invitational event organized by Pat "Thumper" McCombs. The riders owe a debt of gratitude to the "Wascally Wabbit" for researching the best hotel accommodations and finding a restaurant of superior quality at which to enjoy the steak dinner from which the run got its name.

This year, the riders included: Thumper, Bob "Knight Rider" Norton, Al Harris, Rex Young, Brian Boberick, Brian Graves, Al "Husker" Hansher, Frank "Freewheelin'" Heinzel, Don Lyle, Don McKee, Bruce Vinson, Dean "Kickstand" Bartos, Kent Beach, Gene Porter, Bob Junker, Cliff "Pipe Bender" Eudy, Floyd Thorne, Stan Stotz, Young Willingham, and Yours Truly, Pete "Bedrock" Chronis.

Most of the group gathered at the Village Inn, but Pete, Kent, Floyd, Brian Graves and Bob Junker hooked up at Johnson's Corner, home of the world-famous killer cinnamon roll to await arrival of the main contingent to head out for the Black Hills.

Unlike previous years, when riders stopped in Lingle for breakfast, the group rode on to Lusk on U.S. 85 to have lunch at the Outpost Café because, sadly, the Stagecoach Inn in Lingle had gone out of business.

continued on page 4



Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Pete Chronis. He was right on time this month. We opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag on Don's vest. There were no visitors tonight. Rex Young was recently in the hospital, but is now home.

The **Secretary's Report** containing the minutes of the April meeting was approved.

The **Treasurer's Report** was accepted as well. Our treasurer, Floyd Thorne reported \$81.33 cash on hand; \$64.50 in the Christmas fund; and \$1,529.30 in the checking account, for a total of \$1,675.13.

Ride Reports: Bill Gillespie was ill, and could not lead the Wet Mountain Valley ride. But Frank and Jon told of a nice ride and great scenery. The Cañon City CMA Poker Run was postponed due to weather, so Frank and Alan staffed the club tent at the Fay Myers open house that day. The ERC taught by our own Bob Norton was a good refresher for all who attended. Some members went to the new High Plains Raceway for A Day at the Races Ride. Frank, Don Lyle and Bruce Waters met the Run for the Wall riders in La Junta. Frank & Don rode with the group to Limon.

Upcoming Rides: Trail Ridge Ride-5/31, Ride for Kids-6/7, Aluminum Butt-6/13, Six Canyons-6/21.

Frank reminded everyone to keep track of their points for the Rider of the Year award. He also noted that the 1000-IN-24 route is firm, and 1,046 miles.

Don McKee won the 50/50 for \$15.50. Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Submitted by Bill Gillespie, secretary

One year, a husband decided to buy his mother-in-law a cemetery plot as a Christmas gift. The next year, he didn't buy her a gift. When she asked him why, he replied, "Well, you still haven't used the gift I bought you last year!"

And that's how the fight started....

My wife and I were watching *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire* while in bed. I turned to her and said, "Do you want to have sex?" "No," she answered. I then said, "Is that your final answer?" She didn't even look at me this time, simply saying, "Yes." So I said, "Then I'd like to phone a friend."

And that's how the fight started....

Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm by President Pete Chronis. No Pledge of Allegiance this month, as the flag has disappeared from the clubhouse. There were two visitors tonight; Zach Powell and Paul Wyles.

News: Larry Harkins was seriously injured during a motocross class, but is home now and doing much better. Rex has recovered from his hospital experience enough to head for Nebraska to visit family. Brian and his daughters were involved in a car crash on their way home from a recent Rockies game. They were hit by a car, the driver of which did not heed the red light. All walked away with some minor bumps and bruises. The Honda Civic did not fare as well.

Secretary's Report: A rough draft of the minutes of the May meeting was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Our treasurer, Floyd Thorne reported \$81.33 cash on hand; \$95.50 in the Christmas fund; and \$1,744.30 in the checking account, for a total of \$1,921.13. Brian Boberick wanted to submit the bill for the clutch repair on his newly acquired BMW K1200GT, and was told he could submit anything he wanted to.

Ride Reports: Frank gave a report on the Trail Ridge Ride. The Aluminum Butt Ride was over 700 miles – Dawn to dusk.

Upcoming Rides: Six Canyons-6/21, Haunted Places Tour-6/28, Figure 8 Ride-7/5, Ladies Run-7/11-12, CMA Ride for the Son (rescheduled)- 7/18.

Frank noted the accumulated club miles for the year stood at 53,613. Willy and Jon are close to their 50,000 mile awards. Frank outlined the 1000-IN-24 route for all. He needs anyone planning on riding with him on the pre-ride in August to contact him so he can make motel reservations. He also needs pictures from the Hysterical Historical Tour.

Safety: Bob outlined the evils of dehydration. He gave examples of signs of dehydration. The overall effect of which are bad decisions.

Rider of the Year: 2008 ROTY, Alan Hansher went over the program for the visitors.

Mental Meltdown: Don McKee was the recipient of the coveted award for failing to place a cup into the coffee machine downstairs and the coffee just went down the drain.

Don Lyle won the 50/50 for \$11.00.

Submitted by Bill Gillespie, secretary

Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by President Pete Chronis after a brief wait for Thumper. Thumper was a no-show. There were no visitors. Chaplain Boots was not present, so Pete gave the invocation.

Secretary's Report: No report.

Treasurer's Report: Our treasurer, Floyd Thorne reported \$81.33 cash on hand; \$107.50 in the Christmas fund; and \$2,376.97 in the checking account, for a total of \$2,565.80. A thank you card was received from the Pueblo Collie Rescue organization for our donation in remembrance of Dian Boberick.

Ride Reports: Frank needs volunteers for the 1000-IN-24. Two newbies from Pueblo joined us on the 6 Canyons Ride. No ghosts were seen on the Haunted Places Tour, but all had a fun time, even though they couldn't find the Mountain Muffin Café in Hartsel. The Figure 8 Ride was cancelled, but some rode from the restaurant in Pine Junction anyway. The Ladies Run was well attended again this year.

Upcoming Rides: The Fill In The Blanks Ride (7/19) has been cancelled due to lack of admin. Some will attend the Run for the Son poker run in Cañon City (7/18) instead; 1000-IN-24 Pre-Ride (8/1-8/2) with the overnight in Florence; Sturgis T-Run (8/8); 25th Annual 1000-IN-24 (8/15). Iron Butt Saddlesore 1000 certificates will be available for riders of the 1000-IN-24.

Frank outlined the Honor Run to benefit returning military personnel from Middle East duty. We could join the riders in Burlington, and provide escort to Denver. There will be a reception and picnic at Rocky Mountain H-D.

Mental Meltdown: Jon and Pat won the award jointly for failing to do the Fill in the Blanks Ride. Bill will deliver Saturday morning.

This scribe won the 50/50 for \$14.00. Meeting adjourned at 7:44.

Submitted by Bill Gillespie, secretary



Son, someday you will make a girl very happy, for a short period of time. Then she'll leave you and be with new men who are ten times better than you could ever hope to be. These men are called Bikers

1000-in-24, *continued from page 1*

close to 21.5 hours up-close-and-personal amongst the fine people of Colorado and New Mexico. To his credit, Frank set a long, grueling, magnificent course. Awesome planning job. Frank is the best. Sans his efforts the 1000-in-24 would not happen at all. "Free-Wheelin' Franklin invested perhaps 300 hours in this "best ever" 1000. Unsung hero, in my opinion. Thanks a thousand, Frank.

Must tell you that the achievement of riding the 1000-in-24 is on my top ten list. Powerful experience. Floyd and Rex (his 25th 1000-in-24) and Young are fine folks, and excellent riders. At the risk of repeating... Floyd did an especially great job as the leader. His hard work and advance planning paid off handsomely for all of us.

Other than stops for potty, fuel, etc, our only vice was a hearty breakfast just after 7 am in Fort Garland, CO. Though many pretty women were encountered along the way, Rex restrained himself admirably.

Leadville was the busiest ever seen; 25,000 groupies were there to see Lance Armstrong ride the mountain-bike classic. Gentlemen... We actually stopped on the main street as two ladies and their kids used the crosswalk.

Winter Park was likewise busy (longest M/C parade in Colorado) as they honored the military and vets. Cops everywhere. One side

of the divided US-40 parkway was roped-off for bike-parking. Tons of bikes, parked in rows similar to Sturgis. As we passed through near sundown, the festivities had ended.

Rider and public safety was and is paramount on this ride. Not one cop stopped us during the ride, though they may have had cause. Also, not one close-call with bambie or other wild animals, though we spotted many deer along the way... and some friendly elk stopped us for a few minutes. A hawk dipped low to accompany me for a few moments at mid-day... sweet experience.

Our zooming visit through the RMNP was the fastest ever in my experience; less than one hour. The Park was nearly deserted. As we entered the Park from the west (at the risk of repeating), a small herd of elk stopped traffic as they ambled to wherever. One magnificent buck and his many ladies, it seemed. The three federal cops (yes, three cop-cars at different locations) with radar-active were kind as they allowed us our "push" in chilly, damp weather. Maybe they are bikers too ?

The winds atop the Continental Divide were gusting at perhaps 60 MPH. Exciting, as the scudding clouds literally kissed the highway with a film of dampness. It was "cause for concern." We noticed the blue H-D parked about 20 feet off the road near the top, and wondered.

One of the radar-cops was seemingly

guarding the bike... maybe completing the necessary "accident report" sitting in the warm car... waiting for the tow-truck? Yes, it was one of ours. A rider all the way from Belgium rented the H-D for "THE Ride" and experienced a minor crash just before sundown near the Continental Divide in the RMNP; McKee Medical Center hospital in Loveland treated him for broken bones in one foot. Fortunately, a relatively minor mishap, for which we are all thankful. We wish our foreign guest all the best. Frank spoke with him via phone from the hospital to make sure he needed no further assistance from the Club. And Pete, being the stand-up guy he is, phoned the man's wife in Belgium to reassure her. The CFW example you guys set is one to be proud of.

The only other similar winds to those atop the Continental Divide we encountered were the in-your-face westerlies coursing through the canyon as we rode US-64 in New Mexico toward Red River and Questa.

The twisties on US-34 as we rode toward Loveland were "busy." The experience of rounding a blind-curve and coming face-to-face with bright headlights is "exciting." Occasional damp roads just add to that adrenalin rush.

To those gathered on Sunday morning at the Village Inn, sorry I missed breakfast. I slept-in.

Orange Bear



Don's High Definition, Wide Screen, Home Theater GPS.



25 in a Row

A Silver Anniversary tip of the helmet to Rex Young, the only person to have ridden all twenty-five 1000-IN-24 events.

Congratulations, Rex on a great accomplishment. You 'da Man!

Steak Ride, continued from page 1

This year, the riders stayed at Hickok's, a historic building that was recently renovated as a hotel and casino. The spacious rooms and suites are decorated and furnished in a style that is true to Deadwood's Western/Victorian roots, but with beautiful modern tiled bathrooms, luxurious beds, air conditioning, television and other amenities. And of course, the casino is conveniently located, so that those who wished to try their luck didn't have far to go. Indeed, the casino bar was fortuitous for those who wished to have a couple drinks without having to worry about riding back to the hotel.

A few of us left rather more dollars at the casino than we would have wished but one lucky rider brought home the bacon playing the slots and beating the odds to win several "long." The card players in our group had to search diligently for a stud poker game because, it seems, "Texas Hold'em" is all the rage in the casinos of Deadwood. (If you ask me, Texas Hold'em sounds like something residents of the Lone Star State do when kicked in the crotch.)

Riders were free to choose their own activities, much as they did in the early days at Spearfish – kick back, gamble, have drinks and tell tall tales, or ride to points of interest in the Black Hills, such as Spearfish Canyon, Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse, Custer, Hill City, Rapid City, and Sturgis.

With the Sturgis Rally only days away, some souvenir vendors already had set up in Sturgis and Rapid City, hawking everything from T-shirts to patches and pins. Meantime, bike and accessory manufacturers built up suspense by keeping their 2010 lines under wraps until rally events get under way. Large numbers of motorcycles began showing up on Saturday and Sunday, and some actually were ridden, not trailered!

A serendipitous treat was the Days of '76 celebration, which honors the pioneers who came to the Black Hills in search of gold. There were two parades on Main Street, featuring beautiful horses pulling vintage wagons and carriages, plus costumed re-enactors, vintage autos, and a marching band that played the stirring marches of John Philip Sousa. Some of the cutest kids you ever saw lined the streets to watch the parade, a tradition that harkens to an era when small-town folks were justly proud of their country and their history. It was pleasing to see parade-watchers remove their caps or place their hands over their hearts whenever the American flag passed by.

Highlight of the trip, of course, was the steak dinner Friday night at Jake's, atop the Midnight Star casino. Although the sight of so many bikers may have shaken other diners, the staff at Jake's put on a beautifully coordinated dinner. Everything was perfect: The salad, T-bone steaks served hot and cooked exactly as ordered, the baked potato, the corn on the cob, the rolls and bread, the deliciously decadent ice-cream and chocolate dessert. Although

the AAA guide rates Jake's as a three-diamond establishment, if our experience is any indication, the upscale eatery rates five for superb food and impeccable service.

Don Lyle, a long-time friend of Pete Chronis who joined the FreeWheeler since returning to the Denver area from Houston, and Bob Junker, a member of the RMVTA well-known to the CFW, were the rookies for this year's Steak Run. The two put on a kick-ass skit during the steak dinner, much to the delight of attendees. The two honored Cliff Eudy, longtime organizer of the annual Aluminum Butt ride, with an, uh, unusual award, no butts about it.

Saturday saw some riders making side trips while others took it easy and hung around Hickok's, where the jingling sound of coins pouring out the slot machines proclaimed the good luck of one FreeWheeler who is an astute aficionado of the One-Armed Bandits. Don McKee proved once and for all that some guys can wear pink and get away with it, and also bought several pink T-shirts to support the fight against breast cancer as gifts for friends.

On Sunday, six riders took off at 6 a.m. and the remaining crew wheeled out of town after breakfast at the Iron Horse. Unlike other years when part of the trip to and from the Black Hills was "made by submarine" through heavy rain, only a few droplets sprinkled on our windshields on the ride home. Most riders arrived in the Denver area before 4 p.m. after one of the most memorable and successful Steak Runs ever. Bravo, Thumper!

Bedrock