

# The Eagle Times

Colorado FreeWheelers

November, 2005

**NEXT MEETING**  
**Thursday, November 17, 2005**  
**Fay Myers Motorcycle World**  
**7:00 pm**

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

## Thumper's Corner

Well, here we are wrapping up another year, and seems like the start of summer was just here. I was thinking as the typing goes on here, that over the last twenty-four years I have submitted a number of articles to the Freewheelers' *Eagle Times*. I'll ask an important question with this one. As we start into our 25th year as a club, the \$64,000 question would be, "will we make it another twenty-five." Well, nobody has a crystal ball, and one can never tell what the future will bring to a bunch of motorcycle riders.

Freewheeler members who have been in the club for a number of years have seen our club do a number of very rewarding things that we can all be very proud of. Some great friendships, contacts with other riding groups,... and the list could go on and on. I know for this rider, some of the bonds I have made since joining in 1982 will last a life time.

What I do wonder about, is what direction the Colorado Freewheelers will take for the years that lie ahead. Let's face it,

some of our membership is getting up in years. We have lost members do to them giving up motorcycling and unfortunately, to death. People who have been the backbone for a number of years are losing thier interest or the drive to carry through with the projects we think we would all like to take part in.

Someone asked me a while back "Are we a riding club, or a social club?" I think at one time we were both, but over the years we have leaned more toward just riding, which of course, is not for everyone.

At our November meeting on Thursday, November 17th, these may well be some of the things you'll want to bring to the forefront. Our November meeting is ELECTION DAY for the Colorado Freewheelers. We are going to need some strong leadership, and people who really want to get involved to insure the club will last another 25 years.

I sure hope we have a good turnout. Remember, it's your club!  
*Thumper*

## Christmas Banquet

*The annual Christmas party and Awards Banquet is fast approaching. Here are the details:*

**Date:**

Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005

**Place:**

Boulevard Grille  
1500 W. Littleton Blvd.  
(Woodlawn zCenter)

**Drinks & Visiting:**

6-7 pm.

**Dinner & Awards:**

7 pm.

### Menu

Pasta primavera	\$10.00
Honey-Dijon Fried Chicken	\$10.25
Filet of Salmon	\$15.00
Sirloin Steak	\$14.25
Margarita Shrimp	\$14.25
Boulevard's Best (steak & shrimp)	\$25.00

**Please make your choices  
& payment by the  
November meeting.**

Chuck & Chris: 720-495-2897

# The 2005 Iron Butt Rally

## Through the mind of Brian Boberick - Part 2

*Editor's Note: In the last issue of the Eagle Times, Brian was still in Canada making his way back to Denver on the final leg of the rally having already ridden over 9,000 miles in nine days. He had visited lighthouses in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, Canada. He had been in Maine twice, while returning to Denver in between visits. Oh yes, he had also bopped down to North Carolina through Deals Gap to the Fontana Dam in his spare time.*

*A fellow rider, Paul Allison had just experienced a mechanical breakdown. It is a hardfast Iron Butt rule never to knowingly leave a fellow competitor in a lurch. Brian continues...*

With assurance he was secure, I left Paul at a small motel in Canada and continued onward. I had about 2-1/2 days and 2,200 or so miles remaining with planned bonus stops at the Soo Locks near Sault Ste. Marie, a another lighthouse some 25 miles off the beaten path in the upper peninsula of Michigan, and the Sioux Falls in the heart of Sioux Falls, SD. As Paul's ride was coming to an end, the rains began to fall again (the remnants of the storm that spawned Katrina was now crossing through Canada). I was headed toward Quebec city when I came upon Sgt. Steve Hobart of the California Highway Patrol, who too was riding in his first Iron Butt. Steve and I continued on together and grabbed a motel room on the western edge of Montreal. Hoping to get a bit further west of Montreal than we did, we lost a good 30 minutes negotiating the maze of highway construction and detours in and around Montreal. I knew the highway number I wanted to be on west of Montreal, and after what seemed an eternity of riding in circles following the detour signs, we were finally spit out of this web and, miraculously, found ourselves headed in the proper direction. Steve and I grabbed a good 5 hours of sleep this night (the most sleep in one stretch I have had thus far) and continued our sojourn on Wednesday morning (Aug 31<sup>st</sup>). Our goal this day was to arrive at the Michigan lighthouse before sunset yet again. We ended up passing up the Soo Lock bonus for fear of not beating the sunset to the lighthouse. As it turns out, we arrived at the lighthouse with about 30 minutes to spare.

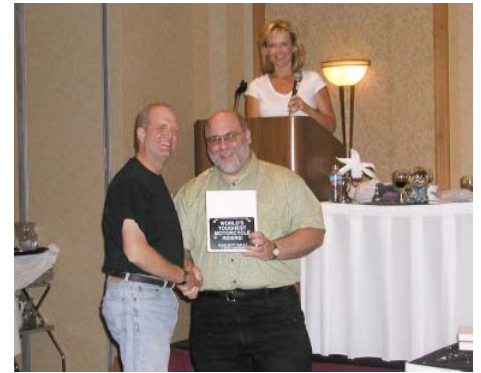


Steve and I hooked up with Dean Tanji and Thane Silliker (a Canadian) at the lighthouse and all agreed we should celebrate with our first relaxing sitdown dinner in, what, 9 or 10 days. Afterwards, we grabbed a couple of motel rooms and nearly 6 hours of sleep. We awoke Thursday am, and set our sights on Sioux Falls, SD and the finish in Denver. We were still some 1,200 miles away from the finish, but had nearly 24 hours in which to get it done. We all rode into Sioux Falls together, but shortly after leaving our photo-op, Thane and I split off from Steve and Dean as they wanted to stick to the interstate heading toward Omaha, NE. Thane and I liked the optional route west of I-29 that took us south on Hwy 81 through Yankton, SD and Norfolk, NE allowing us to bypass Omaha entirely before rejoining I-80 near Grand Island, NE. This optional route shaved nearly 70 miles from the route Steve and Dean opted for. It was probably about 9pm when Thane and I finally transitioned onto I-80. It would take us until nearly 4am to finally make it into the Doubletree Hotel at Quebec and I-70 after a brief 30 minute nap at the rest area just outside Sterling, CO.

While running south on Hwy 81, Thane and I were joined by Dave Biasotti on a Yamaha GSX 1000. Somewhere in western Nebraska, I made the offer of buying the first round of drinks when we got back to the Doubletree Hotel. Well, Dave called his wife on his cell phone as we rolled down the highway and learned that the bar would be closing at 2am. As it was pretty clear at that point that we would not make the finish by the 2am closing time, Dave's wife offered to meet us in the parking lot with refreshments. Upon dismounting my K12LT in the parking lot, I was presented with a very delicious Margarita whose rocks had long since melted. It didn't take long for the Tequila to make its impact on my weary brain, and it felt great! Unfortunately, I still needed to pull my fuel log and bonus photos all together. Moving slowly and purposefully, I was able to garner enough concentration, despite the cloud in my head, to correctly pull my documentation together. I processed through

the scoring tables and promptly headed to my wife's van where a mattress and sleeping bag had been waiting now for the past 11 days. It was LIGHTS OUT!!

The 2005 Iron Butt Rally culminated in a dinner banquet that got underway at 5pm on Friday afternoon. My wife and I joined George Barnes and his wife and daughter at one of the 25+ tables filled with riders, their families, rally staff and volunteers and other riders who weren't fortunate enough to be drawn to actually ride in this event. After a delicious buffet-style dinner, the rally hostess, Lisa Landry proceeded to read off each finisher's name while Lord Michael Kneebone handed out the finisher's plaques and stood for photo-ops. In all, 70 of the



original 92 riders finished this rally. Of the 22 who failed to finish, most were caused by mechanical failure of one sort or another, one succumbed to a deer strike and another was taken out late in the game by a road gator near Green River, WY. In the final analysis, the riders of the 2005 Iron Butt Rally logged nearly 1 million miles with no serious injuries to report. An amazing result!

To conclude on this report, I wish to thank both the Colorado Freewheelers and the RMVTA for their spiritual and financial support. A special thanks to George, Sherri and Brett Barrett and Bob Norton for their solid support in getting me back on the road for Legs 2 and 3 after my GPS crapped out on me late on Leg 1. Additionally, my thanks go out to Bill Gillespie and Floyd Thorne for the enthusiasm and encouragement both provided at the start of the rally and at checkpoint 1, to Ray Stoye for the use of his BMW luggage shelf, to Brian Graves for the use of an XM radio system, to all the others whose thoughts and encouragement made this possible, but MOSTLY to my wife who gave me the ultimate kitchen pass.

Thank you all!

# Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Vice President, Bob Norton as Pat McCombs was ill once again. The visitor this evening was Steve Donnafield who rides a Honda VTX as well as a Yamaha FJR. I must say that's a nice beginning to a fleet!

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as printed in the *Eagle Times*. Apparently, nobody reads the minutes. Or if they do, they weren't at the meeting to object.

Treasurer, Mike Woolery reported \$151.83 in cash; \$3,860.14 in checking; for a total of \$4,011.97. There is \$248.50 in the Christmas fund. The Christmas Fund balance will be added to the Community Ministry's portion of the proceeds from tonight's Bake Sale.

**Activities Committee:** Chuck recapped the Flying J outing on September 4<sup>th</sup>. He reported about 10 people attending. He also reported that the activity scheduled for the Pinnacle Dinner Theater on October 9<sup>th</sup> had been cancelled by the theater. Money fronted by the club will be refunded.

**Rides:** Floyd Thorne will lead the dinner ride on October 27<sup>th</sup> as Bob Norton will be out of town. The deadline for Rider of the Year applications will be the November meeting.

Our visitor, Steve Donnafield won the 50/50 as many a visitor has. He netted \$20.50

It was a short business meeting so we could get on to the bake sale. For the first time in many years there were no "Thumper Killer Brownies." However, we did raise \$658.00 to be split between the Community Ministry and the Anchor Center.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 after the bake sale.

Submitted by  
Bill "From the Temp Pool" Gillespie

# Rider of the Year

At the 2005 Christmas Party we will be honoring our 22<sup>nd</sup> "Rider of the Year." As the recipient of this award last year, it is my job to tally the points that will determine the 2005 Rider of the Year. Judging from what I have seen on the rides this year, and the various articles in the *Eagle Times* there are a number of members who have a good chance of winning. If you are going to take a shot at winning the award, time is getting short.

**All Rider of the Year information should be turned in at the November 17th club meeting.** I can be bribed to accept your application as late as the following weekend, but it will cost you.

I would remind everyone, that you do not have to be a driver to win this award. It was designed so any member in the club could win the award. Passengers have won in the past. If you are not sure what the guidelines are, listed below are the categories to be met;

1. Club Rides 2005 - 5 points each  
15 rides minimum
2. Committees 2005 -  
10 points each - 1 minimum last 3 yrs
3. Charity Events 2005 -  
5 points each - 1 minimum
4. Club Meetings 2005 -  
9 points each - 8 minimum
5. Major Motorcycling Events 2005  
3 points each - 1 minimum
6. Prospective Members becoming Regular Members  
25 points each
7. Activities Organized  
5 points each
8. Articles for the Eagle Times (last 2 yrs.)  
10 points each - 2 min. last 2 yrs.
9. Other Club's/Chapters Meetings attended 2005-  
3 points each - 1 minimum

So, gather up all your information and tally up all your points for the 2005 year. If you cannot attend the November meeting, or can't get the information to me by then, give me a call ASAP! 303-781-0032.

Points booklets have been available at meetings throughout the year, and will be there at the November meeting.

For our newer members, we have had two of our lady members win the Rider of the Year award. Becky Gillespie was the first lady to receive the award in 1989, and the second was Sunny Norton in 2000.

Bill Gillespie

# Winter Rides

With the changing of the season also comes a change in our ride schedule. At the beginning of October the Colorado FreeWheeler's ride schedule began "Open Rides." What this means is that every Sunday morning we meet at The Village Inn Restaurant (C-470 and Broadway) at 0900 for breakfast. Weather permitting, most Sundays a ride will commence at 1000. Usually there is no pre-planning for these rides and anyone with an idea about a place to go is encouraged to lead the ride or pass along the idea to one of the other long time ride leaders (Bob, Frank, Bill etc.). The length of the ride usually depends on the weather guessers' forecast.

Each attending member will receive 50 ride miles just for showing up on 2 (or 3) wheels and 25 ride miles for showing up on 4 (or more) wheels. This is one of those times when more is less. Those joining the ride will receive the reported mileage for that ride.

Come on out and join us for the winter ride Open Ride schedule. Just think, you won't have to winterize your bike and you most likely will not have to fight off the dreaded "cabin fever" this winter.

And don't forget about our annual Polar Bear Ride on January 1, 2006. New Years is on Sunday next year, so it should just come natural to you.

Bob Norton

---

# Odds & Ends

## No December Meeting

As usual, there will be no meeting in December. The next scheduled club meeting will be January 19, 2006.

## Mailing List

Those of you receiving a mailed copy of this newsletter that have not signed in at a meeting since May, 2005 will not be getting one in January. That is unless you notify me that you want to be kept on the mail list. You can call me @ 303-781-0032 or e-mail me at bgtwice@msn.com.

Bill Gillespie