

The Eagle Times

Colorado FreeWheelers

November, 2006

NEXT MEETING
Thursday, November 16, 2006
Fay Myers Motorcycle World
7:00 pm

www.cofreewheelers.org/

Many Thanks!

The October bake sale was, once again, a rousing success with the proceeds being split this year to benefit both the Anchor Center for Blind Children and our own Chris Janssen as we continue in our efforts to help her upgrade the mobile home she now calls home. The auction got off to a terrific start with the bidding for the two "Thanksgiving-themed" bears donated by Chris herself. Chris is very crafty, and I mean that in only the very best way. For the past five years or more, she has purchased a pair of plush toy bears which she then proceeds to cleverly craft and outfit in relevant period attire. Over the years, the club has experienced bidding frenzy over the likes of Biker Bears, Christmas Bears, Halloween Bears, Patriotic Bears and so forth. The enthusiastic bidding has usually resulted in the bears going to separate homes, yet joining the families of those who came before. Over the years, members Sunny Norton, Mike Woolery and others have established some pretty substantial collections. This year, however, both bears went home with Bob Swanson – a man who up until now, had only admitted to collecting motorcycles.

Also a big hit on the "craft" side of things, were the wares of Donna McCombs – a wicker Cornucopia adorned with artificial flowers and such in a fall-color theme, a wicker "Turkey" similarly adorned and a Christmas basket filled with pine cones and such and complete with its own string of lights. Like Chris' bears, Donna's baskets garnered much interest and brought in some serious cash for the auction.

Folks apparently arrived hungry this night as several of the baked wares never made it out the door as many in attendance were getting their sweet tooth's accommodated.

To those who came to the auction, a very big thank you. To those who were unable, but whom sent cash and/or their proxy along with someone who did show – thanks to you as well as we had much fun spending your money.

2007 and Club Elections

Just a reminder, at this month's meeting we will be holding elections for Club Officers for the 2007 Ride Year. This is your opportunity to

influence club direction and focus by nominating and electing the member or members you feel will best lead the club. Who knows, that may even be YOU! Over the past 10+ years, if memory serves me, the Freewheelers have elected only four or five different individuals to the position of President. With perhaps the exception of myself, these individuals have done fine jobs in the position. Their acceptance of the position has too often been with reluctance as a result of other members' unwillingness to step forward. It would be really appreciated if someone else would step forward this year and take the reins. If you are unsure of yourself, I believe I can state with confidence that you will receive all the advice and counsel you seek, and maybe more. And what's more, this year all the dues paid into the Club from its membership will go toward raises for the elected officers. ;-).

Thanks again, and we hope to see you at the meeting in November.

Brian Boberick
"Outgoing" President

Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 by President, Brian Boberick. There were no visitors.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

The Treasurer, Floyd Thorne reported on the condition of the treasury, but I have misplaced that report. So, if you want to be updated on the financial condition of our club, you will have to either come to the November meeting, or wait until the January newsletter comes out. Sorry.

Pat and Sunny, the Christmas party team this year noted that the year end extravaganza will once again be held at the Neighborhood Grill. The date is December 16, 2006, and the time is 6:00 for drinks and 7:00 for dinner. Awards will follow dinner.

Gene Porter thanked the club for the fruit basket he received during his recent illness. He said he had never gotten one before, and thought the delivery man had the wrong address. Jon Lofstedt also thanked the club for the basket he received after his surgery. Both men are doing well.

Pat gave a report on "Emily's Ride" from Columbine H/S to Platte Canyon H/S. It was a ride to show support for the students, parents and staff of Platte Canyon H/S after the hostage situation and tragic murder of Emily Keyes. No one really knows just how many bikes participated, but it was certainly several thousand.

Brian gave a report on the most recent travels of Dick Fish. Several of us in the FreeWheelers know Dick from long-distance events. Mr. Fish is a "rider of extreme rides" of sort. A few years ago he logged a bit over 17,000 miles in hitting the four corners of North America (Prudhoe Bay, Alaska; Labrador City, Newfoundland; Key West, Florida; Cabo San Lucas, Mexico) in about seventeen days. This time he shattered the time record for a ride from Prudhoe Bay to Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, the southern tip of South America. He accomplished that feat in a tad over 21 days.

Thumper won the 50/50 for \$28.

It was a short meeting due to the bake sale. The sale netted \$1,235. of which \$600. went to Chris Janssen, and \$635 to the Anchor Center. Meeting adjourned after the bake sale.

Submitted by Secretary, Bill Gillespie

Oldies but Goodies

or "Old members still hanging out"

One of our Colorado Freewheelers members, (Becky Gillespie) told my bride of forty-two years some time ago, that the Thumper has way too much time on his hands since his retirement. Donna would probably agree with her, as I'm sure that her daily routine has been greatly been changed. But in my defense, I still work two days a week. In my book that is a good amount of break for anyone.

What prompted this article, was the fact that I was going through some old editions of the Colorado Freewheelers *Eagle Times*. I came across an article written for the the 1983 *Eagle Times* written by Bob Norton, who at that time was the "Official Chapter C Photographer." Bob had captured, our first attempt to win the best club display at the 26th Annual Tri-State Auto Show. Bob would describe this adventure as "Successful, interesting, enjoyable, and demanding, but lots of fun." Before I had gotten too far into the article, I had noticed a great photo of CFW member Bill Gillespie. Bill was proudly displaying his 3rd Place finishing plaque, that he had won with his 1982 Honda Interstate & Equalean sidecar. What was even better in this photo was the growth on the Wing Commanders face. He looks like the twin brother of Jake "The Snake" Plummer the Denver Broncos quarterback. One of the driving forces behind this adventure, was one of our members who we have toasted on the road many times over the years, by the name of Doug "Slow Poke" Richards. As I look back now, this 26th Annual Tri-State Auto Show would be the launching pad for many events the Colorado Freewheelers would take in over the next twenty-four years. The club would fill a very large trophy case over the years with all the awards from the events they would travel to. A number of these awards are still on display at Burt Chevrolet today.

Over the years, I have been told that maybe I go back to the past too much. That could very well be a true statement. But the Colorado Freewheelers wouldn't be what it is today without the past and a number of the members who got us here. Some of what we are today is what was instilled by members who have believed they were too old to ride, have passed away, have gotten out of motorcycling, etc.

One thing I know, is that when you travel all over the country, ride thousands

of miles, and break bread on the road with these folks, you can't just forget them. The memories, the stories, and the adventures are many. Folks like Steve & Jackie Kearns, Danny & Linda Ashley, Dick & Jeanne Young, Glen & Vicky Bailey, Jim Hoff, Pete Martinez, Karen Gillespie, Bud & Marilyn Davis, Daryl & Barbara Gates, Dave LaFevre, Frank & Bobbie Jefferson, Jim & Barbara Allen, Bill & Ellen Britton, Harold & Esther Bjorklund, Don Bert, Bob Campisi, Virgil & Nancy Crutchley, Jim & Sharon Powers, Larry & Bev Shelton, Ted & Janeen Williams, Gary & Patsy Penman, Bob Rifley, Marc & Jeannie Beaulieu, Bob Gray, John & Delores Randolph, Jerry & Linda Freeman, Jerry & Nina Billinger, Karen Young, Charlene Young, Miles Cowan, John & Joan Wangensteen, Denison Woods, Todd Cecil & Andra Ariyoshi, Bob Richmond, Bob & Trudy Shafer, Dennis Machlica, Bev Renbarger, Jack & Anne Squire. These are just a few of past Colorado Freewheeler members who rode with us, and help lay a foundation that has let us be a club for twenty-five years.

Today our club has a number of members who started the journey with the folks above, and it is this member's honor to have ridden with them all.

A little "Oldies but Goodies Trivia", to go with this. At the June, 1983 meeting the club handed out thirty-two 1,000 Miles Awards to Colorado Freewheeler members. At the 2006 Colorado freewheelers Christmas Party, one of our members Bill "Wing Commander" Gillespie will receive his 300,000 mile award. Bill has a total of 311,516 miles ridden with the Freewheelers as of this writing. Twenty-three years as a member, and an average of 13,545 miles ridden each year with the club. Who would ever have thought. Two of our members (Bill Gillespie & Bob Norton) have a combined total of 602,840 miles ridden with the Freewheelers. Nine of our members have logged in over 100,000 miles. You think they all might have some great memories and stories?

Over the years, our club has taken a lot of different directions. The one thing that has remained over all the years, is we are still a very aggressive riding club, and it seems to get better each year. Better riding equipment, motorcycles that are much more advanced than in our early riding years, and more experienced riders in the Freewheelers.

Thumper

GEORGIA, on my mind... (the Final Stretch)

By Brian "Rainman" Boberick

...When I left off, Al and I had finally arrived at the Inn at Chateau Elan after enduring nearly 700 miles of touring bliss in the form of Skyline Drive and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Chateau Elan is a winery northeast of Atlanta that was established within the past ten years by a husband and wife (both Physicians) from Georgia. I am not sure how much grape growing really takes place on the property – it appears much more to be a very upscale development including a restaurant at the winery itself, an authentic Irish Pub (purchased in Ireland then disassembled, shipped to Georgia and reassembled on site at the winery), a hotel complete with all the amenities (banquet facilities, spas, pool and plush rooms), an equestrian center, a golf course and million dollar homes. It apparently does well enough that a second resort was purchased in Scotland and a third is being developed in Palm Springs, CA.

After checking into the Inn on Tuesday evening and unloading our gear into the nicest hotel room I have ever stayed in, Al and I headed to the bar where many other CCR attendees were hanging out. We ordered one drink apiece and the tab was \$18. Needless to say, we didn't rush to down those drinks. The next morning, however, we rode back towards town for breakfast at yet another Waffle House. After a leisurely meal, the friendly waitress was more than happy to point us in the direction of a liquor store where we both found our own particular brand of medicine and were now set to enjoy our evenings at a far more comfortable cost. We spent the balance of Wednesday loafing around the hotel, checking out the numerous vendors and listening in on a couple of maintenance seminars specific to the K1200LT.

With 2,500 miles already under our belts, there were still several asphalt serpents beckoning to be ridden. Some 100 miles north of Braselton lies Deals Gap and two more incredible stretches of tarmac – the Cherohala Skyway and the Tail of the Dragon. And so when the Sun dawned on the Chateau on Thursday morning we headed out, stopping for breakfast along the way in the little alpine-themed resort town of Helen. A tourist trap much like Estes Park, CO, Helen is nestled in the Georgia mountains in the heart of some prime motorcycling roads. Unfortunately, our plans and time constraints did not allow us to explore this immediate area and so we continue north to Robbinsville, NC and our intended targets.

Northwest out of Robbinsville into the heart of Deals Gap the road leads to the Deals Gap Motorcycle Resort – a very modest facility offering motorcycle-only camping, motel rooms, a café and retail store catering to those fun-seekers who have come to experience the Tail of the Dragon. An eleven mile stretch of road with a claimed 318 corners, the Tail of the Dragon is so known because it provides a rollercoaster-like experience to those willing to test their motoring skills. The roads were

damp this day so no serious testing could be performed, however, Al and I both enjoyed our 22 mile round trip jaunt out and back over the Dragon's tail.

The Cherohala Skyway, completed in 1996 after more than thirty years of construction is North Carolina's most expensive highway carrying a pricetag of \$100,000,000. Beginning just west of Robbinsville, the Cherohala Skyway runs west to Tellico Plains as it winds up and over 5,400 foot mountains for 15 miles in North Carolina and descending another 21 miles into the deeply forested backcountry of Tennessee, all the while offering up long, sweeping corners and scenic views as it crosses through the Cherokee and Nantahala National Forests thus the name "Chero...hala".

After traversing the Skyway from east to west, we headed back south and east to the Chateau arriving shortly after 8pm but getting in just at the tail end of the CCR's casual dinner of burgers, dogs, sloppy joes and the usual side dishes.

We had no real plans for Friday other than to attend the closing banquet dinner. However, when I went to put on a T-shirt I had purchased the prior day at the Deal's Gap Motorcycle Resort store, I discovered that I had inadvertently picked up a XXXL. With that it was quickly decided that we would have to return to North Carolina in order to exchange the shirt for an appropriate size. It was dry and it was Friday and the activity level had picked up substantially on the Tail of the Dragon. We had gotten a late start this day so we chose to forego another run up the Dragon, opting instead to head east along the south side of the Fontana Dam across to Cherokee, NC. Due to construction detours we had not actually ridden to the terminus point of the Blue Ridge Parkway back on Tuesday and I was determined to get to Cherokee and the official end of the parkway. It was now pretty late in the day and so we dead-headed the 120 or so miles straight back to the Chateau from Cherokee.

Arriving back at the Chateau we made a timely entrance to the closing banquet dinner where we were entertained by a local 50's band and dined on steak. After lauding credit where credit was due and announcing the site of the 2007 CCR, the party ended and it was off to bed as tomorrow would dawn soon enough and we would begin the 1,500 mile journey back home.

We arose Saturday morning to partly clouded skies. Begrudgingly we entered the interstate heading southwest toward Atlanta with our eyes set on our first stop in Lynchburg, Tennessee to tour the Jack Daniels Distillery and to meet up with a buddy of mine who moved to Tennessee six years earlier after retiring from the Anchorage (Alaska) Police Department. I had not seen Mitch in close to 24 years – would I recognize him?

We were more than an hour late arriving at the Distillery as we were delayed northwest of Atlanta by an all-too-familiar

downpour (at least 1 inch of rain fell in the span of an hour). After hanging out awhile under the protective awning of a Shell gas station, Al and I walked next door to the Cracker Barrel for breakfast before we continued on and met up with Mitch (I doubt I would have recognized Mitch if I had not been expecting to meet up with him). We wandered about the shops and lobby of the Jack Daniels visitor center before joining Tour #6. Randy, wearing overalls and a ratty straw hat, proved a very entertaining tour guide – his telling knowledge of the distillery and the distilling process, as well as the history of Mr. Daniels and his lot dating back more than 100 years was extremely colorful for Randy was a local. My guess is he was born in a shack within hollerin' distance from here and grew up breathing this "Tennessee whiskey" flavored air. After the distillery we toured the Lynchburg town square before following Mitch, in his red, Corvette-powered Chevy SSR truck, along the backroads to his home outside Columbia, TN. Mitch has always been a car nut and he and Al, for many years an automotive mechanic, got along splendidly talking rear ends, trannies, heads, etc. Mitch showed us his current projects – a '67 Mustang for his 20 year old son, and an Opel GT (poorman's Corvette) for his 16 year old daughter. Mitch caught me up on many mutual friends from our teenage years in Anchorage – who's married, who's not, who's not anymore, you get the picture. After a right nice steak dinner, we retreated to the living room with JD on the rocks before heading off to our respective corners for the night.

Sunday morning, after a home-cooked breakfast, Al and I continued on toward home. As we didn't cover a whole lot of miles Saturday, Sunday was going to be a push, particularly since Sunday's route included Hwy 160 which runs nearly border to border along the south end of Missouri. While 160 passes through quite a few small towns, traffic was sufficiently light so we were able to average close to 50 mph over the 300 or so miles of twists and curves. After leaving 160 south of Joplin, MO we headed northwest into Kansas and meandered along the smaller state highways, watching the sun set ahead of us, until we picked up northbound US35 at Wichita. After a quick dinner stop on the north side of town, we road on into the starlit night pulling into Russell, KS and the Super 8 just past midnight, clocking just over 900 miles for the day. Monday morning brought bright sunny skies for the final stretch - a straight shot across I-70 to Limon then Hwy 86 west to I-25 arriving at home just after noon.

It was a great trip with a great riding partner that delivered some memorable riding experiences.

Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Missouri, GEORGIA – no longer just the stories of other riders, but now personal experiences that will forever be ...on my mind.

Thanks for riding along.

Think You're Pretty Tough?

Bill Gillespie

At the last two meetings, Brian Boberick has kept us apprised about the record breaking ride from the northern most point in Alaska to the southern tip of South America by Dick Fish in a scant twenty-one days. His ride is certainly inspiring, and makes one mumble, "wow", and there's no denying that Dick Fish is one tough rider.

We all enjoy motorcycling, and have all spent our share of long days in the saddle. Well, I don't know about you, but the most recent reports about Ardys Kellerman have humbled and inspired me. The BMW Motorcycle Owners Group, a large world-wide organization for riders of that particular marquee conducts a mileage contest each year. Participants must document their odometer readings once in April, and again in October. So, the contest runs for six months. The readings must be verified by two other BMWMOA members.

This year Ardys Kellerman from Austin, Texas has set a new record for the contest in the female rider category. She rode 80,129 miles in that six month period! That's over 13,000 miles a month, or about 425 miles a day – EVERY DAY – for half the year!

I've had the pleasure of meeting Ardys on several occasions and I'm proud to know her. I've never 'ridden with' her because she prefers to ride alone. She says she makes better time that way. I doubt I could keep up with her schedule anyway. She has competed in five Iron Butt Rallies (completed four), and has numerous IBA Certificate Ride awards.



Yes, Ardys is one very tough lady, and I congratulate her on her accomplishment. Oh, did I mention that she has five great grandchildren and is seventy-four years young?

Our 25th Year

Pat McCombs

Hard to believe, but Donna and I have been hanging around with the Colorado Freewheelers Motorcycle Club, all of these years. It is always of great interest to us when we run into someone who use to ride with the club, or has quit riding for some reason. It is Always the same question "Are you both still riding?, and are the Freewheelers still a club?"

As I am writing this article for the Colorado Freewheelers Eagle Times, it pretty well takes care of the second question. Donna and I both continue to ride, and attended the Colorado Freewheelers meetings on the third Thursday of every month. I guess after twenty-five years, it is kind of a way of life for the two of us. Not only do we still ride with a great bunch of folks, but we have twenty-five great years of memories and friends we have both traveled all over the country for those many years.

We have seen great times as a club, and bad times as well, but we are still a club. The AMA states, "The average life of a motorcycle club is around five to six years". So it looks like we threw those numbers out of our way a long time ago.

For the McCombs household, this has been another banner year of riding with the Colorado Freewheelers. We put on some 15,000 miles + on club rides this year and were able to take in

some super riding all over the country. We have been in Mexico, Canada, and Traveled the United States. We were show new roads in Colorado that we have not traveled, and met many new friends along the way. We did a number of other club rides with various motorcycle groups, and were able to take part with the Freewheelers in some great community rides.

It was a year, that the Freewheelers showed their best with helping out a number of people in need. The Freewheelers always seem to be a their best, when a major concern of some type is thrown their way. They are very aware of what takes place in the Colorado Motorcycling Community, and always rise to the needs of that Community.

This year we saw six of our members ride well over ten thousand miles with the club, and another eleven members who were just below the ten thousand mile mark. I think this speaks well to the ride committee for some of their rides for 2006.

To all of the Colorado Freewheeler members who have let us hang around all these years, a special thanks. To all of the unsung members who make this club go an even bigger thanks.

Looking forward to 2007 with new roads and good times with friends.

Thumper & Dino

300,000 Miles

At the Colorado Freewheelers Christmas Party this year on December 16th, a very "Special Award" is going to be handed out to one of our members. How do you put 300,000 miles ridden with one motorcycle club into perspective? It is without a doubt a great milestone for someone to achieve. This member who came into the club in early 1983, has reached a level, that maybe only three or four club riders will ever reach. To reach this level, this rider has been riding an average of 12,500 miles a year with the Freewheelers. And if you figure the riding time in Colorado, he rides almost 1,800 miles a month with his club as well.

I think I can safely speak for all Colorado Freewheeler members both old, new, and those who have retired from the club, a BIG CONGRATULATIONS! to Bill "Wing Commander" Gillespie. Truly the jacket & plaque he will receive for this achievement, is something he can stand back and look at and say "A JOB OF LOVE WELL DONE".

From a number of members, who had the pleasure of riding some of those miles with the "Commander", we say thank you for some great rides and memories. We hope we see you hit the 500,000 Mile mark.

Thumper

Humor

submitted by Floyd Thorne

On his 90th birthday, the man's friends celebrated with him at a hotel. While the old man was in his room, his friends hired a hooker for him. The hooker knocked on his door and when the old man opened it, the hooker stepped inside, saying, "I'm here to give you super sex!" The old man pondered for a moment then said, "I'll have the soup!"

Murphy's Lesser-Known Dictums

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

He who laughs last, thinks slowest.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine;

Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.

The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.

If you lined up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them, five or six at a time, on a hill, in the fog.

If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.

The things that come to those who wait will be the things left by those who got there first.

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat all day drinking beer.

Flashlight: A case for holding dead batteries.

The shin bone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of 12 people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

A Heartfelt "Thank You"

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincerest gratitude for the enormous outpouring of support and assistance I have received following Chuck's passing.

So many of you expressed your love and support through cards, gifts, financial assistance, and assorted acts of labor. I can't begin to express all the emotions I have experienced as a result.

Your generosity has eased my transition, provided shelter for our pets and myself, and given me a secure knowledge that I am not alone in this difficult time. I'm sure Chuck has smiled a thousand times over for everything that has been done to assist me. I know I certainly have.

To all of you whom Chuck and I have been so blessed to have known as family and friends, Thank You! May God bless each and every one of you.

Warmest regards,
Christine "Chris" Janssen

For Sale

Tuareg touring jacket by Gericke w/zip out thermal liner, size L, \$250. Tour Master Cortech Overpant pants w/removable armor, size L, \$100. Contact Mike Woolery, 303-972-0461.



Donna's Centerpieces

Pictures from the October Bake Sale



All the Goodies



Chris's Bears



The Dapper Mr. Lofstedt



The Accounting Crew