

# **July 2002**

#### http://www.rmvta.com

# Volume 18 Issue #7

### **Officers**

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## **Officers Speak**

Submitted by: Gail Hawkins

With your permission, I'll deviate from the normal officer's article this month and talk about a timely subject for us as Coloradoans.

What a dramatic year this has been for Colorado! The drought has truly taken it toll on our beautiful state and we'll all be paying for it for years to come. At present, they estimate it will be mid winter before full containment of the forest fires is achieved.

As the fires continue to rage on, I urge each of you to find a way to help. It may be by housing someone who has suddenly become homeless or simply by donating something that will benefit those brave and tireless individuals who are working to stop the roaring blazes. There are requests for the following items:

- \* Hot sauce (ironic, isn't it)
- \* Bottled water
- \* Gatorade
- \* Sunscreen
- \* Lip block
- \* Power Bars
- \* Bandanas

Take a trip to Costco or Sam's Club and (Continued on page 2)

# Ride Summary - Cabela's

May 19, 2002 Submitted by: Mitch Munson.

total of eleven motorcyclists on eight bikes headed out for the wonderful phenomenon known as Cabela's. The ride left on time without incident but our course was changed periodically to enhance what can be a fairly mundane ride through the plains of eastern Colorado. Thanks to the seasoned expertise of riders like Tom Shumaker, we were able to avoid the doldrums of I-76 for several miles by taking CO 52 through the sleepy Sunday morning farming communities southwest of Ft. Morgan. We pretty much had the roads to ourselves on a beautiful day surrounded by green fields of newly blossomed wheat.

After refueling and caffeinating in Ft. Morgan, we headed due north, pausing only briefly for a picture next to the Nebraska Welcome sign, and pushing forward to I-80. We discovered free coffee at the Burger King on I-80 and then found our way to Cabela's just after noon.

After a brief lunch at the Runza Drive Inn, we were off to Cabela's. To make things a bit more interesting on this less than interesting ride, the ever faithful ride leader offered a free lunch to the rider with the best poker hand on the speedo. After evaluating all odometers, we found two bikes with two pairs, Stotz and Shumaker. Last time I checked, 8's still beat 6's, so Tom won a free lunch with 8's and 2's against Stan's 6's and 3's. I think Tom liked his Runza. Then again, I've never known Tom to walk away from food...free or not.

I can't speak for the rest of the group, but I certainly found a way to drop a few "bills" at Cabela's. I can also report that the fly rod purchased on this trip has already yielded some impressive results.

Though the main group headed home around 2:30, a couple of thrill-seekers

Next Meeting:
Next Meeting:
July 11, 2002
Thursday, July 11, 2002
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Fay Myers Mameda Ave.
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The Venture Voice is a monthly
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publication of the Rocky Mountain
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yenture Touring Association dedicated
Venture Touring Association dedicated
to promoting the club and its members
to promoting the club and its members
to promoting the staff: Stan Stotz
Editing Staff: Stan Shumaker
Lloyd Nicholson Tom Shumaker

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#### **Minutes of June 13, 2002 RMVTA Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Bill Nielson at 7:32 p.m. A total of 26 members were present. Meeting was held at Fay Meyers meeting room.

No guests were present

#### **Committee Reports:**

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept May minutes as written by Debbie Inouye, seconded by Sandi Redford.

Treasurer's Report: Jonna reports there is \$3621.10 in savings and \$1383.64 in checking.

Activities: No activities planned at this date.

Ancillaries: No report

Awards: No report

Finance: No report

**Historical:** Floyd asked anyone with digital photos of rides to please send them to him. He had the DVD player running with pictures of recent rides. Thanks, Floyd, that's a nice "perk".

Member Relations: Sympathy goes to Tom Shumaker for the death of his father in California and Paul Coriell on the death of his wife, Nola, who was a charter member of RMVTA.

**Membership:** Robin announced that personal information for new members was printed on the back of the meeting agenda.

**Newsletter:** Deadline for articles and/or pictures is 20th of June. Items are to be sent to Stan Stotz at stanstotz@attbi.com

Webmaster: No report

**50/50:** Brenda strongly urged everyone to buy, buy, buy!

**Ride Committee:** Mitch Munson discussed the following past and upcoming rides:

#### Past Rides:

The Glen Eyre ride was a roaring success with 11 bikes, 1 car and 20 people. This will probably be the last time we are allowed to tour the castle because motorcycles are not allowed. Brenda suggested we might be interested in attending their "Madrigal Dinner" during the month of December. She'll keep us updated when dates are announced.

The Cabela's ride had 8 bikes and 11 people who enjoyed a morning ride with virtually no traffic and very little wind. WOW! Mitch did a poker hand and Tom Shumaker was hosted to a free lunch as winner. So as not to disappoint everyone, the wind picked up considerably on the way back.

Bill's Animal House ride had a route change due to the fires, but everyone enjoyed the day at the zoo. It should be noted that Dave Menges brought his new "date", Mona, along on this ride. He must have made her angry as they rode around C470, as she jumped off the bike. She was later retrieved and seemed to have survived the jump in good condition. There was a request that Bill not schedule a zoo ride at this same time again, as it seems the animals were quite "frisky" during this particular season.

Ken's Moab ride was a success with 7 bikes and 13 people. Departure was delayed due to the spring snow (what a shock for a Memorial Day ride, huh?) but by noon the weather had cleared and stayed nice the rest of the weekend. Everyone enjoyed their trips to Canyonlands, Dead Horse Point and Arches. After huffing and puffing during their hike up to the arches, our group was somewhat humbled by a man coming down on crutches. He urged everyone to continue to the top and enjoy the view, but even that couldn't convince them. Are we a group of wimps?????

Bill reported that they enjoyed a picnic at Dead Horse Point on Sunday. Seems there was a shortage of shade, so everyone stood under Ken for shade! What a nice ride captain!

To-Hell-U-Ride was attended by 6 bikes and 8 people. In Tim's absence the ride was led by Ken. Chip Long reported that everyone had a good time and that the mountains were VERY DRY!

#### **Upcoming Rides:**

Tom has requested good weather for the Dodge City ride on June 15-17. Rooms have been released so if you haven't made a reservation, you should try getting one on your own

Aluminum Butt is scheduled for June 22 and the route is headed north to South Dakota.

Cherokee Ranch ride on June 29 will be leaving at 8:00am sharp. If someone needs to back out, please notify Brenda, as there are others who'd like to attend. No cameras are allowed in the castle.

Ramblin'Gamblin ride will be changing routes because of the fires. Steve Inouye will post the new route on the web or you can call him.

The Twister Ride is schedule for July 14, not the 13th as has been noted previously.

Steve is keeping watch on the drought situation to see if Jackson Reservoir is still open for the Somethin' Fishy ride. He'll keep everyone informed prior to the ride.

Mitch says Super 8 Motel on Hwy 550 is holding 8 rooms until July 25 for the Durango Tango. Their number is 970-259-0590 and rooms are held under RMVTA, Mitch Munson. Information is posted on the web.

**Old Business:** Bill asked that everyone who has access to the web, please let Stan know that it is not necessary to mail them a newsletter. Let's all help keep the mailing and printing costs down!

**New Business:** Floyd suggested everyone give the ride captain a call to advise them you plan to attend. That would be helpful should there be a need to make last minute changes.

**Missing Link:** There were 3 nominations:

- 1) Tom Shumaker for insisting on feeding the parking meter on a Sunday.
- 2) Dave for kicking his "woman" off the bike on the Animal House ride.
- 3) Bill for taking the zoo tour during the animals' "spring fever" season.

Lucky recipient of this prestigious award was our illustrious president, Bill Nielson! Congrats!

#### 50/50:

Brenda reported they collected \$92, with \$46 going to the club. The winners were:

1st Place: Mitch Munson\$232nd Place Floyd Thorne\$143rd Place: Dale McCargar\$9

A motion was made to close the meeting by Stan Stotz and seconded by Steve Inouye. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

("Officers" Continued from page 1)

buy a case of one (or more) of these needed items to benefit these firefighters who put their lives on the line protecting ours and the Colorado wilderness we all enjoy. Let's show our thanks and support. Let's help preserve our lovely state!

"Tiny Hiney"

In addition to Gail's information above, Floyd Thorne supplied the following supplemental information: There is a need for volunteers to help at both command posts this weekend -- Lake George and Castle Rock. They are expecting to have around 1,800 firefighters to feed and support. Shifts are usually 3-4 hours and help is needed (especially for late night and early morning) serving meals, taking care of

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evacuated animals, and answering phones.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact one of the following agencies:

Name: The Volunteer Center in Littleton - phone 303-779-9662.

Location: Corner of Colorado Blvd and Arapahoe. They will take applications and assign people to areas. They are also a donation center for dropping off needed items.

Name: Salvation Army in Castle Rock - phone 303-866-9280. They can set you up in either Castle Rock or Sedalia.

Name: Salvation Army in Colorado Springs - phone 719-636-3891.

("Cabela's" Continued from page 1)

decided to get a few more "Welcome to the State" pictures and chose to head back to Colorado via I-80 and then I-25. I can only assume they made it home without incident.

The rest of the pack headed south into Colorado, this time of day at pretty much a 45-degree angle thanks to the seemingly ever-present winds in this part of the state. Thankfully, we had them at our back on the western legs of the return trip. We were somewhat disappointed to find our little ice-cream shop in Brush now defunct and had to settle for a pre-fab ice cream bar at the local 7 Eleven.

More wind and more riding eventually brought us back to I-70 safely. My trusty and faithful riding companion (daughter Maggie) happily reported a total of 435 miles for us as we returned to the comfort of our garage. In short, lots of smiles and lots of bugs, a good day of riding and Maggie with hugs.

Mitch

#### **President's Animal House Ride:**

Submitted by: Bill Nielson

We had a nice day for a little cruise to the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. We had 11 bikes, 19 people. Once we entered the zoo, most of us found that "love was in the air". Hmmm, what would you expect when you visit a zoo in the spring time? Anyway, it made for some interesting conversation, on and off the bikes.

We all had lunch and ice cream before we left. Oh yeah, thanks for the "missing link award". Those of you that voted for me to receive it, that is only telling me that you want a repeat ride for next year! Great minds think the same!

"Rumble Buck"

### Dodge City Tour June 15-17, 2002

Submitted by: Tom Shumaker

On June 15, 2002 a band of renegades and angels rode off into the sunrise to visit the notorious town of Dodge City, KS. The day started off in a cool mode and turned "damned hot" by the time we had reached southeast Colorado. As we headed east, we watched storm clouds build in front of us. About 70 miles west of Dodge City, we decided to take refuge on a wide spot in the road next to a natural gas processing plant. After we waited about 30 minutes, we decided to continue, rode about 6 or 7 miles, then decided to stop again and get into rain gear. By this time, the temperature had dropped from the mid 90s to the low 60s. After being splashed by rain and mud from the on-coming traffic, we arrived safe and sound at the Silver Spur Lodge.

In a little while, our 3 groups met up with Merle Bollier who had ridden all the way from Tucson, AZ. We all met up the next morning and headed to the boot hill museum. We spent the day touring the museum on Front Street including a stagecoach ride, then lunch and then on to the wax museum including a gun battle between the sheriff and his deputies against the outlaws. Then back to the Silver Spur and some rest.

By 5:30 p.m., we were back at boot hill and the Occident Saloon for a great chuck wagon dinner and the final shoot-out between the good guys and the bad guys. At 7:30 p.m., the final curtain was near, with a variety show of Miss Kitty, the Can Can Dancers and the bartenders. During the show, we guys enjoyed removing the garters from the legs of the Can Can Dancers (great legs). About midway through the show, Miss Kitty

Russell was sitting on Floyd Thorne's knee singing and kissing him on his head near his nearly hairless spot. Ole Floyd turned 10 different shades of color. What a great day!

On Monday morning, we headed back to Denver. The day was hot, hot, hot and windy, but all made it home by late afternoon.

"Dagwood"





Blondie embarrasses the stagecoach horse with one of her jokes!!

#### **Big Business**

It was recently announced that Amtrak would be out of business if it could not obtain a loan of over 1 billion dollars to keep it afloat. This just proves what we have known all along: It's very hard to float a train!!

#### That "B" Word Again

A highway patrolman pulls up alongside a speeding car on the freeway. As the officer looks at the driver of the car, he's shocked to find a blonde woman knitting behind the wheel. The trooper motions for the driver to roll down her window, and then yells to her, "Pull over!" "No!" the driver yells back. "It's a scarf!"

#### Rides Yet To Do

### The "Twister" Run

July 14, 2002 Submitted by: Stan Stotz

Welcome to the third-annual running of this twisty day ride. We meet at the Sofa Mart at 6th and Kipling at 7:00 a.m. and leave at 7:15 with full tanks and big appetites to drive up Golden Gate Canyon to Nederland for breakfast at the Pioneer Inn. We will go down Coal Creek Canyon, up Clear Creek Canyon, Echo Lake Road, Squaw Pass, North Turkey Creek Canyon, Deer Creek Canyon, etc. and end up in the south part of the Denver metro area. I have a really good ice cream place (home made with all the trimmings) picked out to finish the ride. In total there are 168 miles and only about 10 miles of this run have straight road. It should be a blast. Hope to see you there.

"Steamer"

# Wet and Wild Ride Cancellation

July 20-21, 2002 Submitted by: Dave Menges

I checked with the hotel and as far as they knew, nobody had signed up by June 20th (the last day they were holding reservations). Also, since nobody has called me, I am assuming that nobody is going on the ride. Because of these reasons plus low waters for rafting, we are canceling the 2-day ride. Contact me if you all want to go for a day ride on the 20th of July. We can meet at the same time and place if anybody is interested and take the same ride with no water stops.

"Red Neck"

#### **Durango Tango Ride**

August 3-5, 2002 Submitted by: Mitch Munson

Once again, RMVTA will make a trek to Southwestern Colorado the first weekend in August. The ride will depart from the Village Inn at C-470 and Ken-Caryl at the early hour of 6:30 a.m. I know it's early but this will give us plenty of time for the long 360-mile trip to Durango. We will take 285 south, then west on US 50 over Monarch Pass to Montrose and

then approach Durango from the north on US 550 through Ouray and "The Million Dollar Highway" with a brief stop in Silverton before reaching Durango.

RMVTA has held eight rooms, a mix of smoking and non-smoking, kings and doubles at the Super 8 motel in the southern part of town on US 550. They will be held until July 25th. The phone number for reservations is (970) 259-0590 and are under both Munson and RMVTA.

We will plan our Sunday based upon the will of the group, as there is much to do in this part of the state. I think it's a safe bet, however, that at least part of the group will be heading to Mesa Verde for the day.

Our return trip to Denver will take us east on 160 over Wolf Creek Pass and then north on 285 for a total of nearly 300 miles.

If you have any questions or suggestion, please call Mitch Munson.



June meeting attendees

#### **Another Battery!**

Submitted by: Floyd and Linda Thorne

Let start out by saying that I am not nearly as good about checking these types of things as I should be. After all, you have to remove plastic and in my case if you want to get into the battery you have to remove the after market seat that I just love.

Well, we had gone on the President's Animal House Ride and it was HOT one by the time we got home. We had arrived home and pulled the bike up on to the sloping driveway and hit the kill switch with the bike still in first gear. Dismounted and began getting out of some of the protective riding gear and unloading a few thing from the bike. Got a cool glass of refreshments. You know the routine, you've been there.

Now it's time to put the bike away and get ready for other activities. But, what's

this, the bike won't start. It's won't start, it will not even light up the dash. This is not a good sign. Messed with this and that and still nothing. Well, we had other things to do that Saturday evening so with Linda's help we pushed our gallant steed into the garage to rest for the night.

Sunday I got out and started removing plastic cover pieces and removed the seat. My first observation was that the water level was low. That is not a good sign as I remember from previous sets of circumstances. I removed the mechanical strap holding the battery in and my next observation is that one of the cell caps is broken and just laying there captive. That's odd.

Well, the moral of the story is that I needed a new battery. This one was not a year old yet but I could not find a cap to replace the broken one (extracted from the battery with a screwdriver). So I thought since I have it out I will just replace it anyway and at the very least for \$40.00 that would eliminate that possibility hoping that more expensive diagnostic and electrical repairs were not required.

After talking with a fellow that I work with I learned a whole lot more about batteries that I wanted to share with our readers. A battery produces hydrogen only during the normal charging process of operation. When the water level gets low and I'm talking to the point of allowing the tops of the plates to be exposed and dry. If a small arcing between two of the plates or spark occurs inside the battery in this hydrogen rich environment an explosion takes place to one degree or another. In my case it could have been enough to break and pop the cap off the cell involved.

The lesson is multi fold I suppose. Check the battery more often, regardless of how much of a pain it is to get at, or keep and extra battery in the wings (not literally in our case.) Or maybe, this is the financial justification that one was looking for to get one of the newer sealed units that does not need to have the fluid level checked in the first place all time.

Mr. and Mrs. "T"

# **Spotlight on New Members**

Submitted by: Debbi Farnum

Dan Frase "Mr. Wizard"

Dan was born and raised in the Denver Area. He lived in Lakewood and went to Lakewood High School. After High School he moved to Bartlesville, OK and attended college there. He ended up staying in Oklahoma. He was married and has two daughters. In fact Don tells me, "I've got two of the greatest girls in the world." His oldest daughter, Cheri, is expecting her first child, a son, in July 2002. This will be Don's first grandson and needless to say he is very excited. All you grandparents can fill him in on all the joys. Cheri is married to Marti and they live in Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Don's youngest daughter, Kristin, is 21 years old and a senior at the University of Central Arkansas. Kristin walked on the NCAA division 2 Volleyball team and basketball team at the University. Her sophomore year she was the player with the highest number of points scored in basketball. Kristin attends the University of Central Arkansas on an academic scholarship.

Don lived in Oklahoma for 21 years and Arkansas for the past 10 years. He has always worked in the automotive industry. He has worked in the service departments and sales departments. He was the manager of Kawasaki Suzuki Motorcycle shop in Tulsa, Oklahoma for three years. He has raced cars and motorcycles for 25 years. He raced open wheel dirt cars and road race motorcycles. He would specifically race Kawasaki motorcycles. He is Nancy Frase's brother and he thinks that he was instrumental in getting her inspired to ride motorcycles. Their dad said that girls don't ride motorcycles and of course that was good enough for Nancy to pick up the sport.

He currently is looking to buy a 1500 Vulcan. He has just recently become divorced and moved to Colorado in April 2002. He is currently living with his sister, Nancy. Don also enjoys hiking, riding bicycles, and photography. He is currently the operations manager at American Racing Equipment. They deal in custom wheels. He of course negotiated with this new job time off when his grandson is born. He also helps Nancy out with her consulting business.

The Deadline for the Next Newsletter is July 23, 2002

### **Spotlight on Sponsors**

Submitted by: Debbi Farnum

OPTICAL GALLERY 16741 E. Iliff Avenue Aurora, Colorado (303) 337-5924

Glen Peabody has lived in Aurora, Colorado for the past 52 years. He has owned Optical Gallery for the past 16 years. He has been married to Vickie for 32 years. Vickie works as a paraprofessional for the Aurora School District and has for the past 27 years. She currently works at Sable Elementary School. Glen and Vickie have 2 children. Their daughter, Jody, is 31 years old and their son, Brian, is 28 years old. Jody has three daughters and Brian has a son and a new daughter, 5 months old. Their grandchildren range in age from 5 months old to 11 years old. They enjoy motorcycle riding. Glen has a Honda ST-1100 and has a new ST-1300 on order. They also enjoy scuba diving. They have been to Cozumel many times and have also gone scuba diving at Bon Aire off the coast of Venezuela and the ABC Islands.

Optical Gallery is an independent familyowned business. It has been a retail optical business for 23 years. Glen bought into the business 16 years ago. He has worked in the optical business for the past 30 years. Optical Gallery sells frames, lenses, and contact lenses. They will do pre-operative and postoperative care for Lasik surgery. They have an optometrist on staff. Glen tells me that you can get your glasses within one or two days. Glen feels that you get more personal care at his store and they pay more attention to details. Optical Gallery is located at Iliff and Buckley Road in Aurora. Please keep Optical Gallery in mind the next time you need glasses or contact lenses.

#### SUN ENTERPRISES

DBA/ Sun Honda and Sun Harley Davidson 8877 N. Washington Street Thornton, Colorado 80220 Phone # (303) 287-7566

Sun Enterprises is owned by J.R. Simmerman and Ronald Lang. J.R. Simmerman grew up in Denver, CO and now resides in Oregon. Ronald Lang moved to Colorado from Wisconsin when he was just a teenager. Ronald currently resides in the Denver area with his wife. Ronald is the General Manager for Sun Enterprises and Dave Waggoner is the operations manager for Sun Enterprises. As of the year 2000, Sun Enterprises is the largest Honda motorcycle shop east of California. Sun Enterprises is one of the top Kawasaki dealerships in the United States.

Sun Enterprises has the oldest Harley sales agreement in Denver. This year brought a

significant change for Sun Enterprises especially the Sun Harley Davidson Store. Sun Enterprises expanded this year to approximately 85,000 square feet. The new and expanded Harley Dealership store covers approximately 36,000 square feet accessible from Washington Street as well as Pearl Street. The new Sun Harley Davidson has a large selection of Harley parts, accessories, Harley collectables and Harley apparel. Sun Enterprises has now over 100 employees. Their years of experience with Harley Sales and Service would equal over several hundred years of professional experience.

Sun Enterprises incorporated in 1971 and moved to their present location. They sell Honda, Kawasaki, Polaris, and Buell brands. Sun Enterprises opened their doors to us to have a few meetings after the fire at Fay Myers. Let's give Sun Honda our support and check out the new and improved and expanded store. LET'S SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS!

### FOR SALE

1999 Honda 750 Shadow ACE Deluxe Classic. Must sell; new bike on the way. Black, with extra chrome. Includes saddlebags, windshield, sissy bar and engine guards. 3,700 miles. Will fit person 5'4" or taller. Asking \$4,800.00. Contact Susan at 303-840-1123 or email at panic@soon.com.

2001 Kawasaki ZRX1200R Eddie Lawson Edition Retro Standard. Bike is in perfect condition and has 2,812 miles. Bought new in May 2001 and most miles are ridden on the highway. The bike has all the power and handling of a sport bike but the seating position of a touring bike. Bike has never been tipped over or scratched (in other words, perfect). Custom Givi windscreen (3 1/2" taller and sculpted upward). Must sell because the new ST-1300 will be here in one month. Asking \$6,495.00 or best offer. Call Stan Stotz at 303-690-4133 or email at stanstotz@attbi.com.

2001 Honda Shadow 750 ACE. Twotone blue and silver, approximately 300 miles (yes, 300 miles). The bike has a transferable 3-year Honda extended warranty. \$5,400 OBO. Call

Seat for 1996 Honda Goldwing - \$40.00. Call Mike or Donna at (303) 816-0159.

Mext Meeting:
Thursday, July 11, 2002
7:30 p.m.
Fay Myers Motorcycle World
2015 W. Alameda Ave.

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**RMVTA** PO Box 1461 Wheat Ridge, CO

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