

The Venture Voice



The 4th Annual Memorial Ride riders stop for group photo...good looking group!

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<http://www.rmvt.org>

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- President:** Brian Graves btoys@msn.com
- Vice-Pres.:** Larry Gutt larrygutt35@comcast.net
- Secretary:** Bill Gillespie bgtwice@msn.com
- Treasurer:** Sherri Barrett gsbab1@comcast.net

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- Member:** Richard Bush bushre@yahoo.com
- Member:** Cliff Eudy cliff1946@msn.com

Officers Speak

Submitted by:
Larry Gutt, Vice President

I would like to reflect back on one or two things that happened at the July meeting. First I believe there are better ways of raising money for a charity. For one, I don't think our club has enough funds in the bank to be of any help. It only creates hard feelings. I think in order to raise money, the RMVTA would be willing to participate if the Colorado FreeWheelers were to have a fund raiser, like a poker run, a bake sale or a club yard sale where every body brings unwanted household or motorcycle-related items and the money going to the needy party.

And there's another item I would like to touch upon and that's the Don Council Memorial Ride. I did not know Don Council. I'm sure he was a wonderful person but I don't think this ride should take a whole page in our ride book, but I think it can be mentioned in the Venture Voice. Those who are invited know what time and place to meet. I feel this ride is creating some animosity among those who are not invited.

I am wondering why we don't have a Memorial Ride for our club founder and first President Jim White?

Wild Card

Elyse Ann Griggs or "Betty Boop"

Submitted by:
Floyd and Linda Thorne

On Sunday July 2, 2006 several of us rode up to Fort Collins to attend a Memorial gathering for one of our departed Sisters. Rick and Elyse joined the RMVTA the RMVTA on July 15, 1989. Rick held the Vice President in 1993 and President in 1997. In November of 2001 Rick and Elyse moved to Florida (Elyse's home state) to work and build their family home. At the beginning of 2002 then they chose not to renew their membership but they certainly had developed lots of friends through the club and we have always stayed current with the happenings in their lives. Several club members have stopped in and visited with the Griggs in their Florida home when in the area.

Elyse, born March 9, 1949 in Bronx, New York, departed this life on May 15, 2006

after a long battle with Cancer in Sarasota, Florida. The funeral services were held there in Sarasota, Florida on May 19, 2006. It was too far for most to travel on short notice so the decision was made that in addition to that service to have a Memorial gathering here in Colorado at a later date.

This Memorial gathering was held at the Son and Daughter-in-law (Chad and



Elyse Griggs - 1949 - 2006

(Continued on page 3)

Next Meeting: **Thursday, August 10, 2006 7:30 p.m. Fay Myers Motorcycle World 9700 E. Arapahoe Road.**
 The Venture Voice is a monthly publication of the Rocky Mountain Venture Touring Association, dedicated to promoting the club and its members.
 Editing Staff: Stan Stotz-Lloyd Nicholson
Page 1



Minutes
RMVTA Meeting
July 13, 2006

Our President, Brian Graves was a surprise guest at this month's meeting, and called it to order at 7:34 pm.

Visitors this evening included Randy Barrett, brother to George. We were forced to separate them a short time after the meeting began for being disruptive. Randy lives in the Amarillo, Texas area, and had come north to do some 'male bonding' on the upcoming Steak Ride. Also present was Tamrin Melies' boyfriend, Richard. Richard was helping Tamrin celebrate her 17th birthday tonight. It was then brought to light that it was also Diana Gutt's birthday. It is not known if they are both the same age.

Bill and Dena Nielson went to Wing Ding in Ashville, then to Camden, Arkansas to visit Dena's 91 year old stepfather, who is still very active and young at heart. They reported having a great trip with very little rain and a flat tire as the only real problem. There were 1,264 motorcycles in the Wing Ding parade.

Officer's Reports:

Secretary: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter. I had my head down writing notes when the vote was taken, and didn't see who the two dissenters were. If anyone knows the identities of these two trouble makers, please let me know. I will deal with them appropriately.

Treasurer: Sherri reported \$268.74 in checking and \$2,827.76 in savings for a total of \$3,096.50.

Committee Reports: Vice-President, Larry Gutt presiding.

Membership: Sherri announced two new members. Frank and Peggy Gregg joined the ranks at the June meeting.

Member Relations: Steve & Connie Benko continue to send cards to members before birthdays and anniversaries.

Historical: Floyd is still collecting photos and other items for the club photo albums. He plans on having a garage sale soon.

Newsletter: The deadline for submissions is, as always, the 23rd to Stan. I

just cut and paste that sentence from month to month. **July Addition:** Stan said he will also take dictation if you spell slowly enough.

Website: Brett reported 43,000 hits in May with no bruises. There have been three Korean hackers attempting to gain access to the private areas of the site, but they have been unsuccessful. They are obviously trying to steal our ride schedule.

Past Rides: A good turnout made the *Moonlight Ride* even more fun. George led the group to Lewis Sweet Shop in Empire. He was easy to follow too, in his bright colored tie-dyed shirt. From the back he looked just like Jerry Garcia. Peggy & Bernie at the Sweet Shop stayed much later than their normal closing time to accommodate our ride. They seem to really enjoy our visits. Brett wired his heated seat and headlights on the same circuit, and it was apparently too much load for the fuse. He not only had a chill on his back side, but he couldn't see where he was going either. He eventually got home very late with the help of the Benkos and their headlights. The *Aluminum Butt Ride*, led by Cliff "CB Squeal" Eudy covered well over 700 miles, and all were home by about 6:30 p.m. Dick Bush led a substantial group to the Pegasus in Castle Rock for the *June Dinner Ride*. He managed to find a new entrance into the parking lot, and ended up in the handicapped area (pretty fitting) and had to ride over the curb and up the sidewalk to get out. The *President's Picnic Ride* was widely touted as the best one in recent memory. But then hardly anyone in this group can remember last years picnic, so it doesn't mean that much. Because of a front-range fire ban, a last minute change was made to have the picnic at the city park in LaSalle. The venue turned out to be well equipped, and the folks there welcomed us with open arms. In fact Brian just couldn't get enough of one local gentleman's conversation. They kept each other entertained for some time with old motorcycling stories.

Upcoming Rides: The *Don Council Memorial Steak Ride* will be this next Friday-Sunday. Some 24 male riders

will unceremoniously gather at the Village Inn at C470 & Broadway to embark on three days of good riding and good food. Since I came up with the routes, they can expect at least a little dirt. The traditional memorial dinner will be held at Sviler's in Hudson, Wyoming. They are regionally famous for their large steaks. Salt will be used in abundance. Floyd & Linda will take a group to Durango over some very scenic byways on July 22/23 on the *Fourth Annual Memorial Tour*. Saturday night dinner on that ride will take place at the Bar-D Chuckwagon. There, the group should enjoy good food with entertainment by the Bar-D Wranglers. On the *July Dinner Ride* we will be following Team Barrett to a yet determined location. The *RMVTA Mini Rally* will start and finish at Fay Myers on July 29th. It will be a fun little scavenger hunt for answers to questions along a 200 or so mile route. After the rally we will have a BBQ back at the clubhouse. Team Barrett will then take us to the *Swetsville Zoo* near Fort Collins on August 6th to see the wild animals up-close and personal.

Old Business: No one could remember any old business to discuss.

New Business: Steve Benko told us about Biker Sunday on July 16th at the First Church of the Nazarene at Hampden and Colorado Boulevard. The pastor there is a rider. He used to ride a Harley, but now has a Gold Wing.

Floyd talked about FreeWheelers members Chuck and Chris Janssen. Chuck passed away recently and Chris is now in real financial straits. She will lose the house they had owned for many years, and there are considerable medical and other bills. Floyd asked the club in the form of a motion to donate \$500 to Chris to help her get back on her feet. Some emotional and heated discussion ensued. Most felt donations would be better suited if made on a personal level instead of by the club, and the motion was defeated. Brett offered to place a note on the web site directing those wishing to make donations. Bill Gillespie offered to forward to Chris any donations members wanted to make. There were several members

tonight who donated in that manner.

50/50: Christina Gutt, Larry's granddaughter won 3rd place money of \$13. Then she drew Connie Benko's ticket stub which netted Connie \$19 for 2nd. Connie returned the favor by drawing one of Christina's remaining tickets giving her the jackpot of \$30! An investigation is currently underway over Christina's odds defying winning streak. She won 70% of the total tonight. Coupled with her \$12 haul last month, she has tapped the 50/50 pot for \$55 in just over a month's time. Closed-door hearings may be held in this matter.

Ron and Joyce donated a pair of Rockies tickets, and Larry Gutt won the Benko Goodie Bag, a motorcycle clock.

Missing Link: There was an abundance of material worthy of many nominations here. Richard Bush was nominated for his sidewalk ride on his own dinner ride. George Barrett was nominated for missing a turn on his own Moonlight Ride and arriving last. Cliff Eudy was nominated for missing a turn on his own Aluminum Butt ride, then he decided, "No, that wasn't it. Yes it was. No, wait, I think it's up ahead. Yeah, I guess that first one was it." But it was Becky Gillespie, not even present at the meeting, who took the honors for her actions on the Moonlight Ride. Being the friendly person she is, and assuming the man in front of her in line at the Sweet Shop was a fellow member, she gave his head a little friendly rub. The problem was, he was a total stranger, and not with the group. He seemed to like it, but his wife didn't think it was nearly as funny as Becky did. She won the award, but since Brian forgot to bring it to the meeting, she may get off the hook altogether.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Bill Gillespie



Let's Celebrate:

August Birthdays

- 1st - Billie Berube
- 2nd - Kathie Fields
- 12th - Paul Coriel
- 16th - Brett Barrett
- 17th - Nedra Eudy
- 17th - Donna McCombs
- 22nd - Gloria Swenson
- 25th - Linda Thorne

August Anniversaries

- 3rd - John & Sandi Redford
- 11th - Bruce & Michelle Vinson
- 18th - Jerry & Daniela Henn

Goldwingmama's Fun Facts

Submitted by: Sherri Barrett
(As of July 29th)

July Meeting – 39 people
 Durango Bar D Ride – 13 people & 7 bikes
 2006 RMVTA Mini Rally – 18 people & 12 bikes & 24 people for BBQ
 (This was a big month of rides.)

Perfect Ride Record Holder
 (With 18 club rides under our belts)

George Barrett – R

Club Stats
 We have 92 members.
 We have 4 chartered members.
 We have 40 couples.
 We have 12 singles.
 We have 22 members who still have 0 points.

Don't forget will we be voting on **YOUR MOST FAVORITE RIDE OF THE YEAR** in December. So I hope your keeping mental track.

"Goldwing Mama"

("Elyse" Continued from page 1)

Steph Griggs) of Rick. They have a beautiful home located on the western shores of Horse Tooth Reservoir just west of Fort Collins.

It was a very light-hearted gathering where there were definitely those who internally had very sad hearts at Elyse's absence but, the tone of it was definitely one of fond remembering of activities and events over the past years. There were photos laying around and an electronic slide show on go-

ing on a portable DVD unit. There was some very good light munchies and food for all to share and of course the visiting and interaction between long time friends, family and loved ones in general.

I would like to thank those from the RMVTA and Colorado Free Wheelers for joining us on this beautiful afternoon of Memorial reflection. We all certainly wish Rick and his family our love and support going forward.

I would hope that when It's my time to check out and move on to new yet uncharted roads in the far beyond, that I am thought of with such fond memories from long time friends and family such as I consider all of you.

Mr. "T" and Mrs. "T"



Blue Light Special

Submitted by: George Barrett

It is Late in the day on the 29th and Stan said he still had room in the rag for a report on the 1st RMVTA mini rally. Since I was busy with the Wing Commander and Mr. "T" was a no show. Nobody was there with a camera. So I thought maybe I would get a quick blurb in here so some of you could read a little about it. After everything was done and over, the Commander and I consider it to be a success.

We had 12 bikes show up for the start and 12 bikes return all finishers. No state or city performance awards given during the day that we know about. The commander is one hell of a rally master. He suckered 3 people into thinking that the best chance to be a winner was to go after the big point bonus and head down to Trinidad Colorado, get a gas receipt and come back. WRONG You will have to nose around and see if you can hear who these folks are, because I ain't going to tell you. We had another rider that spent most of the day up at the Nursery at 152nd and Piccadilly collecting the 3 extra points bonus if you could tell us how many trees where there. We had our beloved President, looking for the Kmart in the cemetery in Longmont. Dick Bush was wondering around mumbling about being some sort of sucker..... Didn't really get out of him what he meant by it. Maybe he will settle down enough by the meeting to fill us in.

Brianna, Brian Grave's daughter was smiling when she got there and was still smiling when she got back; talking about a 10 coupon ride...I think she had a good time with her Dad.

Mr. Boberick was crying something about you would need 10 hours or so to collect all the bonus points that were on the 9 pages that were handed out..... DUH! I think that was the point, HAHA. Paul & Debbie Maynard came back with a dejected look on both their faces, looking as though they had been rode hard and not put up. Upon inspection of their paper work, she had notes written off to the side, (We do not wish to talk about this answer), of course that was just the trigger we needed to start the interrogation. Something about Paul should do the driving and let Debbie do the navigation. And of course after the points were all counted, and Paul & Debbie came in second to none other than the Iron Butt Champion that is in our group. Debbie was sure to point out that if He had listened to her a little more, that they just might have taken home 1st place. I think Paul will be hearing about this for quite a few days. Cliff Eudy calls in on the phone at about 1:40, says he is gassing in LaPorte and will be heading on in....He was having too much fun riding Rist Canyon to do much else with the rally. He would be real late but Oh well. I probably had just about as good a time listening to the stories for 2 hours after the rally while at the BBQ, as most of the riders had while on the ride. The one thing all agreed to was that they had a very good day, a fun route, and the weather, even though on the warm side was very good.

To all the participants...If you like the rally, had fun, good food. I was responsible for all of it. Any part that was not fun or lousy, or bad, talk to Bill, The Wing Commander about it.

So here are the official results.

Brian Boberick 1 st	950 points
Paul & Debbie Maynard	869 points
Brian & Brianna Graves	826 points
Andy Harmon	825 points
Brett Barrett	787 points
Bill & Dena Neilson	756 points
Stan Stotz	669 points
Pete Master	659 points

Cliff Eudy	551 points
Dick Bush	501 points
Larry Gutt	375 points
Parnell Dillard	329 points

Most of these folks have never done any kind of riding of this type at all. I congratulate everyone that came out to try this event, and more important to stay in there and finish it. When someone hands you 9 pages of questions to ride 250 plus miles to find the answers in 6 hours of time, it can be a little intimidating. You all did a great job, and I hope you enjoyed it.

Bill and I would like to add a personal Thank You to Fay Myers Motorcycle World. They open their doors to us at any time to make sure we have the facility at our disposal. Especially to Jim Krebs....he goes out of his way to see that if there is anything we need, it is available to us. He is a great asset to Fay Myers.

"Kmart" (Some place near the cemetery in Longmont)


**4th Annual
RMVTA Memorial Tour**

Submitted by:
Floyd & Linda Thorne

I would first of all like to sincerely thank the thirteen folks on seven bikes who traveled with Linda and I on this the 4th-Annual RMVTA Memorial Tour that we took down to Durango, CO to attend the Bar "D" Chuck Wagon and Supper.



Floyd & Linda Thorne stop the group for a break on the way to Durango

We could not have ordered up a better weekend weather wise if we would have had that ability. We encountered some really HOT weather from Hotchkiss, CO down past Montrose, CO on Saturday on the way down. Then there were a few

sprinkles as we were getting ready to go to the Bar "D" but, we were headed out of town towards that north and ran out of them before hitting the edge of town. On the way home Sunday we traveled on a few miles of road where the rains



Bar D Wranglers perform for RMVTA travelers in Durango

had been there and now passed. Other than that the temperatures were ideal. The biggest pleasure that Linda and I had throughout the weekend was to take some of our newer members on some roads that they had never been on and to attend the Bar "D" Chuck Wagon and Supper activity that a very few of our traveling companions had ever done. Everyone seemed, according to our assumptions, and each followed up verbally, how much fun they had over the course of the two-day weekend. It certainly reminded us how much fun we had the first time we attended that program on our own and the first time we traveled those roads ourselves a few years back by looking at them all over again through their new eyes and comments.



Paul & Debbie Maynard enjoying the show on the 4th Annual Memorial Ride

I mentioned at the outset of our journey that I hope each one of them had the opportunity to think about the members of our club and perhaps other significant people in their individual lives who could not be there with us due to their death and or other reasons. We have some club members who have passed away before us who would have



loved to have been there and who is to say that they were not.

Again, a large thank you and we will see you out there again soon I hope. In the mean time ride safely and have some fun.

Mr. "T" and Mrs. "T"



George & Sherri Barrett lead the July Diner Ride to Elizabeth – Botano Junction

Notes From the Editor...
The July Meeting

Submitted by: Stan Stotz

During the July meeting things got a bit heated toward the end of the meeting when we were voting on a club matter. A few members have voiced their opinions in the following articles. We have an open forum in the Venture Voice and all opinions are welcomed as long as they are coherent and contribute to the subject at hand.

I personally have a few words that I need to say since I was a little too upset at the meeting to trust my big mouth. I have had discussions with many of our members present that night and most members thought things got a little out of hand. Let me first say that the RMVTA membership is NOT "cheap" and I am damned proud to be a member in good standing of the RMVTA! In 2006, the RMVTA, in this man's opinion, is the best all-around motorcycle club in the world.

I really resent the "cheap" remark in light of the fact that several of us RMVTA members had already (without hesitation) taken out our checkbooks and generously contributed long before the meeting. Several members individually contributed cash and checks after the meeting. Bottom line, the club voted per the RMVTA Constitution and Bylaws and decided

to let everybody give according to their own conscience and ability to pay. I am proud that many members of RMVTA stood up and gave generously to this cause.

"Steamer"



Words from the Prez

Submitted by:

Brian Graves, President

Hello all...Brian to Earth; I am here. SORRY, I was on Pluto for a bit.

I would like to apologize for not doing my job completely as your President. I was told by a couple of certain people that I have really dropped the ball when it comes to the newsletter. For that I am sorry to all. I really look forward to reading the things in the news letter, and I need to do better myself. OK, know that is done here we go.

Now for my Soap Box:

I have set back and really looked at the club and the people in it and I must say what a great Club and a great bunch of people. I have enjoyed being your President these past few months and I have a lot to do with the remainder, of it. Yes, the President, It is an honor.

I was asked by some of the members as to what I was doing about next year's President. These same people keep saying that if no one steps up to replace me, I am what they say (YOU'RE IT). Well, I do not have a problem with that. I really enjoy this club and the people in it. All I can say is I hope you have enjoyed me as much as I have you. Please let me know.

I have told them, that I should not have to look for the next President that someone should and I can not believe they would not step up and want to do it.

On that note, I must ask all of you to ask yourself, Why did I join the RMVTA Club. I know why I did. The People, the friends I could make, and have. The Club and the fun of Riding, man do we do that.

I have sat around and heard some things that just make me sick, and I think to myself, then why did they join if that's how they feel. They want to ride but not with us. Get over it, we are friends and adults and yes, you may not like each and every-

thing said or done but, we can not always do the things, each and every person is going to like. We try but it is not possible.

There are people in this world that just want to talk and do nothing about it but talk. Shame on you. I believe it is time to act not just sit around and talk about it. If you feel the way you do then step up and say it (NICELY), I believe we have had enough of the crap. Be President, get on the ride committee and make a difference, do not just talk about it and get mad.

This is a great club and we need to get back to the way we were and I know we can be, just that. I took this position from two great men that believed in the club and I believe made a big difference and I want to do the same. I can not do it by myself, I need the club's help. That is right the CLUB. We are friends and are in a great club.

We do a lot of things that others can not say they do and we have a great time doing it. I see the same people at the rides and meetings and I know we have more members than that. Lets all come to the meetings and rides and have some great fun and memories. The club meeting is only 1 night a month. We are not that busy are we? Let's get back to what we all joined for and keep moving forward.

I must say thank you to the people that have helped this year. We need more of you. It has been fun for me and I would not trade it for anything.

Your President;
"Jumpstart"



Open Letter Regarding Behavior at the July RMVTA Meeting.

Submitted by: Lloyd Nicholson

When an issue is properly presented, properly discussed and properly voted upon the issue should be considered settled and closed. No further discussion should be needed, especially of the type of outburst exhibited at our July meeting. To the member responsible for the above outburst (you know who you are, and the members that were present



know as well). To you, I address this message: I respect the years you have been motorcycling. I respect the historical data and tales you share with our members. I respect and defend your opinions whether I agree with them or not. Your right to express them is a given. I DO NOT, however, have any respect for the manner in which you chose to express yourself to the open family membership of our organization. Maybe I am completely old fashioned but to me there is no place at all for that kind of language let alone at any family gathering/affair. It is MY opinion that your remark was completely uncalled for, out of place, out of order and better left unsaid. Further it is My opinion (supported by others) that RMVTA and ALL the members are owed an apology from you.

"Packrat"



My Sincere Apologies

Submitted by: Pat McCombs

Before I get too far into this article, I need to pass along to all club members who were in attendance at the RMVTA July meeting, my sincere apologies. In what some people would call a heated discussion, when I was talking to the entire club, I made use of the "F" word. It is my understanding that a number of our members were offended by my use of the word, and for that I am truly sorry. It was a moment of strong passion, as it was with some other folks, but I was the one who let slip with the word.

With that said, let me get to the main heart of this article. A lot of the RMVTA membership think that Donna and I are new to the RMVTA. In one sense that is true, as we have only been paying members going on three years now. The other side of that coin is that we have been supporting, riding, dining, and hanging out with the RMVTA membership from before the time the group was founded in 1983. The reason I point this out, is I used to have a great grasp of how the RMVTA motorcycle club was run, and what made the group successful as many other long term-clubs in Colorado. Today, I am not sure I can still say that, as it is not the club I watched the

founding members put together. The RMVTA used to be one of the most visible motorcycle clubs in Colorado. They were involved in every aspect of the motorcycling community in Colorado. They had a number of members who both sat on the board, and ran different departments of the Colorado Association of Motorcyclists, which for almost eleven years, brought all areas of motorcycling together in Colorado. In the eighties, they were in the forefront of running charitable motorcycle events in Colorado. There were members going to the state capitol weekly trying to protect our motorcycling rights. They opened a lot of eyes for a number of clubs in the metro area. When a "Biker" from another club was having difficulties, the RMVTA was always close by, as were a number of other metro clubs. Rides for "fallen riders" or "riders in need" was a way of helping by all the clubs.

My hat is off to Ron Nardiello, who puts together the Spring Highway Cleanup & Ride every year. He has made it a point to make sure the RMVTA, gives at least something back to the community. In this member's opinion, that is where our "good will" seems to end with the community. The debate the other night was not about a member of the Colorado Freewheelers, but of a "biker family" in need. We as a "motorcycle club" did not rise to the moment as we should have, and as I told my wife, "For the first time in forty-five years of riding with various clubs, I was embarrassed to say I was a member of the club I was a member of."

There are some great folks in the RMVTA, who are becoming solid members of what the motorcycling community is all about, and appreciate the involvement and the history. There are also those who think \$20,000.00, a new pair of leathers, and doing one or two short rides a year makes them a biker.

One might say that "Thumper" is all mad or upset. It is neither. I, like any member, can express my opinion. And it doesn't mean I am upset with anyone, or that I will never ride with them, it is just my view on the RMVTA meeting for July. One of the lady members came up to me after the meeting to tell me "You just sent this club a major wake up call". I guess time will tell. I think the RMVTA is a great Motorcycle club, and a twenty-three year track record is proof

enough for anyone. I just feel at this point, that some of our priorities are a little off track.

"Thumper"



Error in Judgment

Submitted by: Floyd Thorne

It has been brought to my attention that there are some hard feelings in the club regarding a ride that has been done for several years (15 years to be exact prior to this year.) I am speaking of the *Don Council Memorial Steak Run* that will take place on the 14, 15, and 16th of July 2006.

First let me say that this is not an official club ride of the Rocky Mountain Venture Touring Association and for that matter it is not an official ride of the Colorado Free Wheelers. This is a private ride that started a number of years ago and continues to be done on an invitation only basis and it just so happens to be a ride for invited male gender attendees only.

The real problem seems to be in that we, members of the ride committee's of both clubs, have put it on the WEB Sites and in the Ride Books - which made it appear to be an official club ride. But, I know that it was put there simply as a place holder if you will, to let everyone who is invited know that it was taking place and for no other malicious reason what so ever.

But, apparently, there are some males and females who take issue with publishing a private by invitation only ride using club funds and official club avenues (ride book and club website) and feel that any exclusionary (males by invitation only) and discriminatory ride (no females) should not be posted under the RMVTA umbrella.

I sincerely regret that this is the way some look at it. I put it in the same light as if Linda and I wanted to have a dinner party at our home and we only wanted to invite those individuals that we choose to have at our home. I feel that each one of us has the right to choose the people that we want to associate with. The individual who brought this to my attention, with all good inten-



s I might add, feels that anybody has the right to invite whomever they choose on any private ride, as long as the invitation is private and does not use club funds or the official ride book and website. Any ride/event posted under the RMVTA logo needs to be open to ALL club members and invited guests at all times.

In an effort to recruit new members to the club, male and female, apparently it is viewed by some of the people from the outside looking in and apparently from some on the inside looking at it that it is discriminatory and exclusionary. It was never intended to be that way, at least in that context, but rather an opportunity for a bunch of the fellows to get away for the weekend. I suppose I can look at it and see how they might feel that way.

The error that has been made seems to be that it was placed on the WEB Sites and in the Ride Books to be viewed by, all making it public, and specifying the fact that it is by invitation only and only the male genders involvement. I can agree with this person in that regard and if I have anything to say about it going forward it will not be on the WEB Sites and or in the Ride Books.

This was my third year to participate in the activity and Linda does not have any problem with my getting out on an extended weekend with the guys. She gets to go on more rides than she often wants to be involved in anyway. But that is just Linda. She is entitled to her feelings also.

I regret publicly in front of all people reading this that there are people upset and feelings are hurt over this and I hope that going forward we can not do that. It was not purposely done. I would like the RMVTA to be free of all indications of discrimination of ALL KINDS and that EVERYONE feels welcomed and respected when we are together.

Mr. "T"

Moving to the Front Seat
Submitted by: Dena Nielson

As most everyone must know by now, I have moved to the front seat – for a lot of the time, at least. My ride is a 2006 Suzuki Boulevard C50T. It’s a 805cc bike that looks pretty classy (metallic gray with lots of chrome and studs) and that will move me down the road faster than I need to go with absolutely no effort. This transition from passenger to rider did not happen without its mishaps and misgivings. So why, one might ask, would a reasonable, usually conservative, heretofore non-risk-taker woman take on such an effort when it certainly was not necessary? The only answer that comes to mind is – because I can – and – because it is great fun. But we have to go back a few months to really understand the driving force behind this seemingly out-of-character experience.

As the 2005 riding season was coming to an end, Bill and I (mostly Bill) decided it would be good idea for me to take the beginner rider course. I had ridden an off-road bike when I was about 20 years old or so and was living in New York. That experience ended when I went over a log and I went one way and the bike went the other. I sat on an air-doughnut for six weeks and vowed never to ride a motorcycle again. But time cures all ills so I signed up for the class through Colorado Powersports and prepared to be embarrassed. Bill was convinced that I would be the star of the class but I was not so sure. But at 7:00 a.m. on a cold, rainy day last October I was at the designated parking lot in Northglenn preparing to learn to ride a Suzuki 250. Thankfully, the teacher was a girl – a really nice girl named Sue that never met a bike she couldn’t ride. Great – just what I needed. The good news was that I was not the only girl in the class and neither was I the oldest girl in the class. Okay – things were looking better all the time.

The class consisted of 2 fun-filled days of parking lot drills and classroom memory exercises. But in the end, I passed both the written test and the driving exam – in fact, I didn’t even put my feet down in the figure-8!! (You riders know what I mean!!) What a relief! I could now trash all the excuses I had made up to tell Bill

about how it was that I didn’t pass the test – instead, on that following Monday morning, I went directly to the local DMV office and got that “M” put right on my driver’s license. I was very proud – and Bill was even prouder. He – I mean we – immediately started looking for a new bike. But ultimately, after much thought, we decided to just get a practice bike and get the new bike in the Spring. The practice bike was a 1984 Kawasaki 550LTD. Pretty basic but still runs good.

Bill and I spent a few hours in the parking lot of my office doing the same drills that I learned in the class. We rode around Broomfield and the surrounding area. We even rode a couple of times around the mountain roads north of Boulder – but never too far and never too fast. All the while, we were looking and planning for the new bike. So naturally, when the bike show came to Denver in late fall, Bill wanted to go and try out all the bikes. I sat on every – and I mean every – feasible bike available. In the end, we agreed on the Suzuki C50T. I really liked the looks and Bill wanted it to be fuel injected. Now I know why and I’m glad he was so attentive to those kinds of details. So on April 6, 2006, we became the proud owners of the 2006 Suzuki C50T – right off the showroom floor – literally. I immediately jumped on it and knew immediately that it was way more bike than the Kawasaki.

You know, when you buy a new car you get to drive it first. But when you buy a new bike, you just buy it with faith that you will be able to drive it. What a crazy idea. I understand the liability issues the dealer has, but really – don’t you think it makes sense to let people try one out first??!! I know it would have really helped my feelings – and Bill’s as well.

So now, every chance we get we are out on those bikes. I’ve ridden on a couple of dinner rides, we went to the Royal Gorge, and – oh yes, I’ve had one minor accident. Well, I can say minor now, but at the time it was pretty major. I guess any time you land on the street and you see your brand new bike on its side, it’s major. Let’s just say that I learned that when it is going to be required that I take a turn too late and too fast, I should just go straight and meet Bill a little later. But I



didn't know that then. Luckily, I was well protected and escaped with only a bruised knee and an achy shoulder. The bike escaped as well with only a few scratches. But a valuable lesson was learned. And Bill was so great about the whole thing – he immediately stopped, ran back to me and was picking up the bike almost before I could get up and get off the street. I expected to get a sermon or at least a “What were you thinking?!” -- but after being sure that I was okay, he just asked if I could ride it home or did I want to call a tow. A tow? Are you kidding? Absolutely not. He thought it was safe to ride so I got back on and rode it home. I didn't want him to think I was that whimpy!! After all, I had made the move to the front seat and I wanted to stay there.

I'm looking forward to many more days and many miles of safe and fun riding. There really is no better way to see the sights of Colorado and beyond – from the front seat!



Energy Costs

Submitted by: Floyd Thorne

This is intended to be my opinion only. Having said that, I think there's an interesting observation as we have the opportunity to travel this country. In view of the current fuel prices, that there are still a great deal of motor homes, RVs, SUVs, and in general, 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 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.

Mr. "T"

Ride safe and have fun!!!!

623



Where Do You Come From?

Submitted by: Floyd Thorne

First let me say that I completely respect the opinions, decisions thoughts and ideas of each of you. It is these differences that make each and everyone of us individuals and of interest, or the lack there of, to each other. We are Americans and we are allowed to share and enjoy these basic freedoms, thanks to the sacrifices and commitments of those in our military forces defending them.

Let me tell you where I come from. I was the oldest son of four, to a ranch hand and his wife in Wyoming. My Dad and Mom worked for the owner and thus did not own. They did not have health insurance and I don't know if they ever gave a lot of thought to it. Maybe they did and I was not aware of it. My Dada was a typical ranch hand other than in my eyes I suppose. My Mom was the cook for the seasonal and other ranch help preparing three meals per day to keep us all nourished and able to put in the long hard hours associated with ranch life.

When I was a junior in High School we were working cows at one of the other places also owned by the same rancher. I don't remember what we were doing with

them but it was at the corrals and there were lots of cattle and lots of other ranch hands as I recall. I started feeling very weak and ill. I was vomiting, what I found out later, to be blood. My Dad recognized it as he had a history also of Bleeding Ulcers.

My Dad and Mom took me to town, Saratoga, WY, to the local square needle we called him and he immediately determined, thank goodness, that this was beyond his abilities. It was determined that the most expedient thing to do was for my Dad to continue to transport me in the family station wagon to Rawlins. There I was admitted into the hospital and blood transfusions began. I think that they went through eight or nine units and did not seem to be making much progress over a couple of days.

It was determined that I would be transported to Cheyenne, WY to another hospital and given a few more units of blood before it finally got stopped and headed in the right direction. I was placed on a diet and medications and released form the hospital – finally.

I don't know to this day why but, the prisoners within the walls of the Wyoming State Penitentiary were starting up a JC's Chapter. I don't know how they came to know of my case as none of us certainly knew any of the inmates. At any rate they, the inmates, took my case on as a project and donated blood to completely pay for everything in Rawlins, to and including Cheyenne, WY. To my knowledge my folks never had to pay a dime.

I later went to the Penitentiary to attend one of their meetings and to thank them all personally for their contributions. They definitely gave the gift of life as they say not only in the life giving blood but in the relief that my folks realized financially as a result.

So, I guess when I think of others being down and out and needing help, I come from a different place than many of you. That does not any of us BAD it just makes us different and how we look at and evaluate things in life.

I think that we were placed on this earth for lots of reasons, regardless of your



religious beliefs and or teachings. I personally think that there are select occasions and circumstances where by we as a PEOPLE, the children or creation of our maker should rise up and take care of one another. I am not saying that this should be everyone and or not necessarily even members of the motorcycling community but as a member of fellow human kind. Charity begins at home and those are the ones that we should provide aid to first.

I hope that you can understand and respect where I come from on this and I will no doubt NOT stop asking you to consider situations and circumstances where we could and should help. It might be one of you it might be Linda and or me. Keep your hearts and minds open. Try to appreciate where members of your fellow human kind are now and where they come from and act accordingly. You know you will to the right thing.

A fellow that I worked for once told me that what ever decision you make today will be the right decision – for you. It will be a decision that you will have to live with the rest of your days.



Steve and Connie Benko enjoying the scenery

Mr. "T"

ICE+Contact

Submitted by: Floyd Thorne

We don't want to think of the worst happening but things do happen. One really clever way to let people know who needs to be contacted, "T"n the "C"ase of an "E"mergency. Today almost everyone carries a cell phone with them.

Simply program your cell phone with the letter "ICE" plus a name of this per-

son who you would want to be contacted immediately. You can also have more than one individual and you can prioritize them by using a number such as "ICE+1Linda in my case.

I hope that we never have to use this method to contact someone close to you. By the same token, I hope that none of you ever have to use this method to contact someone close to me but I DO have a couple numbers programmed into my cell phone just in case. DO YOU?

Mr. "T"



Ramblings of a Retired Mind some thoughts

I was thinking about how a status symbol of today is those cell phones that everyone has clipped onto their belt or purse. I can't afford one.

So, I'm wearing my garage door opener.

You know, I spent a fortune on deodorant before I realized that people didn't like me anyway.

I was thinking about old age and decided that old age is 'when you still have something on the ball, but you're just too tired to bounce it.

I was thinking that women should put pictures of missing husbands on beer cans!

I thought about making a fitness movie, for folks my age, and call it "Pumping Rust."

I have gotten that dreaded furniture disease. That's when your chest is falling into your drawers!

I know, when people see a cat's litter box, they always say, "Oh, have you got a cat?" Just once I want to say, "No, it's for company!"

"Employment application blanks al-

ways ask 'who is to be notified in case of an emergency.' I think you should write, "A Good Doctor!"

Why do they put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office? What are we supposed to do -- write to these men? Why don't they just put their pictures on the postage stamps so the mailmen could look for them while they deliver the mail? Or better yet, arrest them while they are taking their pictures!

I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older Then, it dawned on me, they were cramming for their finals. As for me, I'm just hoping God grades on the curve.



For Sale:

2006 Three Flags Classic Ticket \$250.00 US Contact: Jon (NOMAD) Lofstedt 303-816-6555 home 303-908-3130 cell

1996 Honda ST1100 - ABS2/linked braking system, MR Accessories shelf, Clearview +4" windshield + stock shield, rear luggage rack, MEZ4 tires, 58,000 miles. A well cared for bike. \$6,200.00 to a club member. Seller: Bill Gillespie,

Member Notice Look for your membership number in this issue. If you find it, see the 50-50 ticket sellers at the next meeting for your free brace of 50-50 tickets. Don't forget to check .

The Deadline for the Next Newsletter is August 23, 2006

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COMPLEMENTARY COPY

Next Meeting:
 Thursday, August 10, 2006
 7:30 p.m.
Fay Myers Motorcycle World
 9700 E. Arapahoe Road