

The Venture Voice



Hearty RMVTA members brave the elements to ride – Fall Color Ride

November 2006

<http://www.rmvta.org>

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Officers

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Member: Dena Nielson denasn@msn.com
Member: Richard Bush bushre@yahoo.com

Officers Spee

Submitted by: Brian Graves, Prez

Hi all,

I want to thank you for letting me be your president. I have had a great time. I am looking forward to mentoring our next president to ensure that next year will be successful.

This year is coming to an end with one big ride left.....Yes, the POLAR BEAR RIDE. I would bet it will be fun and COLD. Yes COLD. I think that is why we do it. I want to remind you, to look at all your riding and winter gear and make sure it all works. In the past I have seen some of us (myself included) show up for a ride and it has been a little cold and we are trying to fix our gear. I think the day of the Polar Bear Ride will be cold and we need to make sure it all works.

I would also like to talk a little about putting your bike to sleep if that is what you do when the ride season is over. If there is something that needs to be looked at, tires, lights, electric problems, that is the time to do it. Do not wait. It could be forgotten or even get worse.

I hope to see you all at the November meeting. Please remember to bring your

money for the Christmas party. That way we can get an accurate number of people attending and make the arrangements so there is room for everyone.

Talk to you all soon

“Jumpstart”

Christmas Party – December 10

Submitted by: Ron Nardiello & Joyce Hindman

This is just a reminder that this year's Christmas party will be held on Sunday, December 10th at Landry's Seafood Restaurant at 7209 S. Clinton St. The party will start at 6:30 p.m.

At this time, it looks to be a very small party, with just the Benko's and Nardiello's attending. But I'm sure that more of you will have your checks sent to Ron & Joyce ASAP as we need to give Landry's the number of attendee's. Please make checks payable to RMVTA.

The cost will be \$25.00 per person. There will also be a cash bar available.

And, Don't forget to rummage through you attic and basement to find your best “WhiteElephant” gift for the gift exchange.

Either mail a check written to RMVTA to Ron & Joyce or show up at the November meeting with check in hand. As a minimum, call or email your intentions.

Ron & Joyce



Yes Gertrude, that is snow!



Sam & Susan Ashley enjoying the Maroon Bells Ride

Next Meeting: **Thursday, Nov 9, 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

Minutes

October 12, 2006

President Brian Graves called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. He promised a short meeting so we can get on with the bake sale.

If there were any visitors this evening, I missed them. So, let's just assume there were none, and just try to contradict me.

Normally at this point, you would read about fun or interesting things members have done over the past month. However, with all the wonderful things to be consumed during and after the bake sale spread all over the table in the kitchen area, no one seemed to care about those stories.

Officer's Reports:

Secretary: Stan said the minutes for the September meeting were "educational." I'm not sure what he meant by that, but he used his best judgment offering a motion to accept them as printed in the newsletter. Dick Bush wisely seconded, and the motion passed with no obvious dissenters.

Treasurer: Sherri said we got a \$9.00 refund from the Aurora Post Office on the vacated box. She then reported \$85.17 in checking and \$2,729.52 in savings for a total of \$2,814.69.

Committee Reports: Vice-President, Larry Gutt presiding.

Activities: Ron talked about the upcoming highway cleanup detail and a sign-up list was passed around. A breakfast meeting is planned at the Pegasus restaurant in Castle Rock. It should be yet another competitive search for the strangest item found along the highway. Everyone is very excited at the prospect of having their name added in genuine ink pen to the base of the Golden Horseshoe Award.

Joyce told the group that arrangements have been made at Landry's for the Christmas party on December 10th. We will have the upper room to ourselves for cocktails, dinner and a white elephant gift exchange. The fun begins at 6:30 p.m. The cost will be \$25/person with the club picking up the tax and tip. Checks should be made out to Bill Gillespie, no scratch that, to RMVTA and given or

sent to Ron & Joyce by December 1st.

Member Relations: Steve & Connie received an anonymous anniversary card. They wish to thank whoever sent it.

Newsletter: The deadline for submissions is, as always, the 23rd to Stan. I just cut and paste that sentence from month to month.

Website: Brett is currently upgrading the web site to allow each member to have their own photo page with the ability to upload to that page themselves.

Rides: The Progressive Dinner Ride will be this Sunday with the first stop at the Barrett Ranch for breakfast. Lunch will be at the home of Wayne and Judy Laing in Watkins. Wayne and Judy are the owners of Aurora Honda. We will then proceed to Bill & Dena's home in Broomfield for desserts.

George gave a report on the Board of Directors meeting at his house on October 7th. All Board members were there except Cliff, as he was sick. They must have toiled long and hard that day because Stan made a motion to make no changes to the bylaws. A second came from Dena "JD" Nielson, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Ride Committee meeting following the Board meeting saw seven other members present as well. A preliminary ride schedule was presented tonight. Major rides include: Mesa Verde on Memorial weekend; Yellowstone and Wing Ding the end of July; and Bryce Canyon and southern Utah over Labor Day weekend.

Brian has been soliciting for 2007 officers, and offered the following recommendations: President – Sam Ashley, Vice-President – Steve Benko, Secretary – Richard Bush, Treasurer – Sherri Barrett. Other officer groups may or may not be formed, but the election will be held at the November meeting.

Stella Nicholson acted as our auctioneer for the bake sale tonight. George and Stan were her lovely assistants. Stella is a pretty tough auctioneer. You need to watch what you do with your hands around her. A simple scratch or head movement often constituted a bid! She's

a name caller too. She called Brian "cheap." After "accidentally" bidding on several items, Stan finally learned to simply ask if anyone wanted to go higher. Her tactics work, though. The bake sale raised \$1,130. It's Party Time!

Missing Link: The obvious choice for the award tonight was Stella.

Meeting adjourned sometime after the bake sale.

Submitted by Secretary, Bill Gillespie

Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Only one birthday this month
November 2nd - Bill Torrence

Goldwingmama's Fun Facts (As of October 24th)

October Meeting – 29 people
Sept. Dinner Ride – 22 people & 12 bikes & 1 car
Mystery Ride – 17 people & 12 bikes
Highway Cleanup – 20 people & 15 bikes & 1 car
Progressive Dinner Ride – 24 people & 16 bikes

Point Leaders (with 40 events)

Riders
64 pts - Brian Graves
55 pts – George Barrett
48 pts – Brett Barrett

Passengers
46 pts – Sherri Barrett
28 pts – Linda Thorne
26 pts – Connie Benko & Dena Nielson

The year is winding down. Our point system ends with the Fall Polar Bear Ride on Nov. 18th. That's just 3 events left to score. Where did the year go????

What was your favorite ride of the year????

We will be voting on this in December. I think by secret email ballot.



the brakes hard a couple of times. It was a long 120 miles taking us close to 3 hours to negotiate. In addition to the elements and the animals, Al had the added burden of having his fuel reserve light come on, a sight he had not previously experienced. I did not have that worry as I still had 5 gallons hanging off the back end of my bike. When we arrived in Roanoke, we hit the first gas station before bedding down at the motel. Al put 6.18 gallons in a 6.3 gallon tank. That was close!

After a solid nights sleep, courtesy of JD No.7's soothing sleep remedy, we awoke Tuesday to sunny skies and dry ground. As it came with the price of the room, we partook in the continental breakfast – foregoing our usual fare of either Waffle House or Cracker Barrel. We fired up the BMW barges and headed out around 9: a.m. - today's destination being the Chateau Elan in Braselton, GA, site of the Curve Cowboy Reunion. Between us and the Chateau lies the balance of the Blue Ridge Pkwy, which terminates near Cherokee, North Carolina, plus another 100 miles of North Carolina and Georgia roads.

The Blue Ridge Parkway is a 469 mile long piece of motorcycling heaven that was built in the 1930s. The following description was excerpted from Wikipedia:

“The **Blue Ridge Parkway** is a National Parkway noted for its scenic beauty. It runs through the famous Blue Ridge, a major mountain chain that is part of the Appalachian Mountains. Land on either side of the road is maintained by the National Park Service. It is the longest, narrowest National Park in the world and is the most visited unit in this country. In many places, the park is bordered by land protected by the U.S. Forest Service.” Even in those areas not bordered by protected lands, there was a pleasant absence of residential development as most of the land played host to commercial agriculture and ranchland.

“Begun during the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the project was originally called the ‘Appalachian Scenic Highway.’ Most construction was carried out by private contractors under federal contracts.

Work began in 1935 near Cumberland Knob in North Carolina; construction in Virginia began the following February. In 1936, Congress formally authorized the project as the "Blue Ridge Parkway" and placed it under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. Work was carried out by various public works agencies including four Civilian Conservation Corp camps who worked on roadside cleanup, roadside plantings, grading slopes and improving adjacent fields and forest lands. During WWII, the CCC crews were replaced by conscientious objectors.”

“Construction of the parkway took over fifty-two years to complete, the last stretch being laid in 1987. Twenty-seven tunnels were constructed through the rock -- One in Virginia and 26 in North Carolina. The parkway is carried across streams, railways, ravines and cross roads by 168 bridges and six viaducts. There is no fee for using the parkway, however commercial vehicles are generally prohibited. The roadway is not maintained in the winter, and therefore certain sections are often closed from late fall through early spring.”

When the parkway leaves Virginia and enters North Carolina, the 20 foot deep shoulders narrow dramatically to more on the order of five feet. With the narrowed shoulders, culverts were added to control drainage. The culverts are particularly noticeable due to being constructed of flat stones skillfully chiseled into uniform share and sized pavers.

On our trip along the parkway, not only was the lack of commercial vehicles evident, but there was also a conspicuous lack of motor homes. If I recall correctly, we encountered only three motor homes as we neared the end of the parkway, and these appeared to be traveling together. At Mabry Mills, an outdoor museum has been assembled in which historic buildings (a home, a schoolhouse, blacksmith shop, and various tools have been brought onto the sight surrounding the original lumber mill). This is absolutely “must see” display of early American history.

I can't begin to do justice to the beauty and pleasing experience of the Blue Ridge Parkway. I can only strongly sug-

gest you plan a vacation around visiting this area. You won't be disappointed.

(If I still have your interest, look for Part 3 in next month's newsletter)

Emily's Parade

Submitted by: Sam Ashley

On Saturday, October 7th, there was a very special memorial ride for Emily Keyes and the other girls who were taken hostage at Platte Canyon High School. The ride started at Columbine High School, which had a natural connection to the Bailey community, because of their loss in 1999.



It was a beautiful sunny fall day with all types of bikes gathering into an overflowing parking lot. The organizers were totally overwhelmed by the attendance which was estimated at 5,000 bikes. The ride got underway around 12:00 p.m. or so, an hour late because of so many bikers continuing to pour into the parking lot.

There were several speakers including Tom Tancredo, Columbine principal Frank DeAngelis, and others, concluding with a very touching memorial service with music and the release of balloons representing Emily and the other girls. Then Elle Keyes signaled for everyone to "light it up" and rev their engines. I wish I had brought earplugs, as most of the bikes were Harleys and choppers with loud pipes.

Park County Sheriff Fred Wegener then led the enormous group to Platte Canyon High School via C-470 and Hwy 285 on his own bike. The police departments and other volunteers all along the way had every single intersection closed off for this lengthy 40-mile long

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COMPLEMENTARY COPY

Next Meeting:
 Thursday, November 3, 2006
 7:30 p.m.
Fay Myers Motorcycle World
 9700 E. Arapahoe Road