

The Venture Voice



Dick "Trashman" Bush receives the coveted Golden Horseshoe award for finding the best trash on the Fall Highway Clean-Up Ride.



Steve & Karen Burgus, long-time RMVTA members, visit us from Meridian, ID. It was really good to see Steve and Karen again. Welcome.

December 2006

<http://www.rmvta.org>

Volume 22 Issue # 12

Officers

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

Board of Directors

Chair: George Barrett *gsbab1@comcast.net*
Member: Brett Barrett *usdefcon1@comcast.net*
Member: Dena Nielson *denasn@msn.com*
Member: Richard Bush *bushre@yahoo.com*

Officers Speak (none submitted)

A Heartfelt "Thank You"

Submitted by: Christine "Chris" Janssen

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,
Chris

RMVTA Christmas Party

Don't forget the RMVTA Christmas Party on Sunday, December 10, 2006 @ 6:30 p.m. at Landry's Seafood Restaurant on 7209 So. Clinton St. Also, don't forget to bring a "white elephant" gift for exchange. See you there.

"Steamer"

Carrying the Torch

Submitted by:
President-Elect Sam Ashley

As your newly appointed Club President, I would like to thank you for your vote of confidence for this position (hey, come to think of it, I was the only candidate; humm, what could that mean?). Anyway, I will be happy to take charge and carry the torch for awhile. As new members since October 2005, Susan and I were able to participate in all the wonderful rides and events that took place and made a lot of new friends, without really having to lift a finger. All of the planning and most of the work had already taken place, all we had to do was show up for any given event and just tag along, enjoying all of the benefits. I will now be able to contribute more and "pull my own weight", so to speak, and will gladly do so.

I think this is a great club with a great bunch of people, with a common bond of motorcycling and socializing together. The way I see it, I will be just a small cog in a very large wheel. That large wheel is many other members who volunteer and give so much to this group, to make it what it is. I would encourage any member who isn't already committed to a position to step up and help out wherever you can. Just like the Highway Clean up Ride; when we get such large turnouts, the work gets done much quicker and easier when everyone chips in.

I can hardly wait for spring, and the 2007 riding season, with many great rides coming up again this year. Wow, 2006 went by so fast, here we are getting ready for another Christmas party already! It's so true; so many roads, so little time. As of our last meeting, there

(Continued on page 3)

Next Meeting: **Thursday, Dec. 14 , 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
November 9, 2006

Submitted by: Bill Gillespie, Secretary

President Brian Graves called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Visitors were alumni members Steve and Karen Burgus who now live in Boise, Idaho. Both still ride their respective 1800 Goldwings, and say they are forced to ride US 12 over Lolo Pass several times a year. Steve and Karen joined the RMVTA in 1993. Debbie Maynard came in late, claiming she had a minor mishap. Something about just learning how to drink.

Officer's Reports:

Secretary: I made a quick motion to accept the minutes as printed in the newsletter. Dick Bush, being in training for the job next year quickly seconded, and the motion passed without anyone getting hurt.

Treasurer: Sherri reported \$1,220.22 in checking and \$2,731.27 in savings for a total of \$3,951.49. We have a new sponsor in TimberlineCreek.com. It is a gift shop web site from Dianna Gutt.

Committee Reports:

Vice-President, Larry Gutt presiding.

Activities: Ron presented the Golden Horseshoe award from the highway cleanup to Dick Bush for his treasured garter belt. Asked if he still had it, Dick replied he hadn't even touched it with his bare hands. Many other items of interest were found by the twenty people on the chain gang.

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. The cost will be \$25/person with the club picking up the tax and tip. Checks should be made out to RMVTA and must be sent to Ron & Joyce by December 1st.

Ron then garnered some interest in a group activity to Leadville for the holiday home tour on December 2nd.

Member Relations: Steve & Connie reported that some members are indeed

still having relations.

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 was not present to give a report.

Rides: Sam and Susan Ashley came up with an impromptu ride last Saturday. We took a rather lengthy route to Parker for lunch at Cheeburger Cheeburger. Another unscheduled ride happened the next day when George and Brian found some dirt and took highway 67 from Sedalia to Deckers. How the heck did I miss that one? Dena reportedly rode the family Valkerie around the parking lot. The last scheduled ride of the year will be the Fall Polar Bear Ride. Tom Shumaker will no doubt choose another fine route depending on the weather.

A rough draft for the 2007 ride schedule was presented to the club. All ride leaders (you know who you are) need to get final input into George Barrett asap. There are still a few open dates, so if you have a ride in mind, there is probably still room for it on the schedule.

Steve Burgus told the group about their recent visit to the new Gateway Canyons Resort at Gateway, Colorado. The resort is owned by John Hendricks who started the Discovery Channel and several other cable networks. It is also where Hendricks displays a portion of his auto collection. The collection includes his most recent acquisition, a 1954 Oldsmobile concept car known as the F-88. He recently purchased the one of a kind car at the Barrett-Jackson auction for over \$3 million.

A discussion ensued about who should keep the Missing Link award over the winter. I believe Brian got the nod because he's gotten so attached to it.

50/50: We have a new couple overseeing the 50/50. It is the Nielsons, much to Dena surprise. Seems Bill volunteered, but failed to tell his wife. "JD" took it in stride, though, and got right to the business of selling tickets. Tonight the total pot was sales were \$75, so \$37 was distributed as follows: 3rd-Dena-\$7; 2nd-Debbie Maynard-\$10; 1st-Bill Nielson-

\$20. Looks like the new committee cleaned up. Hmmm, time for another investigation?

Other winners included Larry Gutt and Ron Nardiello who won muffin candles brought by the Crarys. Yours truly won a chrome license plate frame compliments of the Maynards.

In nearly oversight fashion, an election was held for 2007 officers. In unanimous votes, Sam Ashley will be the President, Steve Benko will be the Vice-President, Richard Bush will take over the Secretary role, and Sherri Barrett will remain as Treasurer. In a true oversight, the 2 outgoing Board Members were not replaced. I think that December would be a good time to elect them.

The meeting was adjourned at an unusually early 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by outgoing Secretary, Bill Gillespie
Only one more month to go!

December Birthdays

- 1st - Joni Kucharski
- 2nd - Rebecca Nieto
- 4th - Diane Dible
- 5th - Diane Lloyd
- 10th - Joyce Kenaston
- 14th - Erni Paolucci
- 17th - David Todd
- 23rd - Jan Johnson
- 25th - Dale McCargar
- 28th - John Swenson
- 28th - Dena Nielson
- 31st - Richard Bush
- 31st - Brian Boberick

December Anniversaries

- 7th - Charlie & Sally O'Rourke
- 24th - Vaughn & Betty Richards

Goldwingmama's Fun Facts

(As of November 27th)

Submitted by: Sherri Barrett

- November Meeting – 22 people
- October Dinner Ride – 17 people (all in cars)
- Fall Polar Bear Ride – 18 people 13 bikes
- We had the exact same number of events & rides that we did in 2005.
- 43 – Events



31 - Rides

YOUR 2006 POINT WINNERS

Riders

- 1st Place - 67 pts - Brian Graves
- 2nd Place - 58 pts – George Barrett
- 3rd Place - 51 pts – Brett Barrett

Passengers

- 1st Place - 49 pts – Sherri Barrett
- 2nd Place - 29 pts – Linda Thorne
- 3rd Place - 28 pts – Connie Benko & Dena Nielson

CONGRATULATIONS!!
(Prizes are already in the works.)

Favorite Ride of the Year

There will be 18 rides up for this award. I have looked at everyone's attendance. I will be sending out 43 emails to the individuals who have attended at least 2 of these rides this year. I will wait till this newsletter is out before I send out the emails. Then I will give you 1 week to respond. I will be voting first and I will be the only one who will know the outcome, until the M.A.P. Good Luck!!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
"Goldwingmama"

("Torch" Continued from page 1)
were still some open dates for anyone interested in planning a ride this coming year. If you are interested in doing so, please contact Brian ASAP. Also, this winter whenever weather permits, you never have to ride alone, CALL ME. I have been known to sneak out and leave the leaf raking to others.

Fall Polar Bear Ride XVIII

Submitted by: Tom Shumaker

Wow!! What a turn out...13 bikes and 18 riders and co-riders turned out to make to make this a great ride.

We left our meeting place on 6th Ave. and used the C-470 loop to US 85 to Sedalia, then south on CO. 105 to Palmer Lake and Monument where we made a pit stop and stretched our legs. From Monument we headed south on I-25 to exit 146 through Garden of The Gods to

US 24 and east to I-25, south 1 mile to CO. 115. Went south on CO. 115 on the back side of Ft. Carson and into Penrose where we turned east on US 50 and made a fuel stop in west Pueblo.

Brian suggested that we use a little side road which I think was called Ridge Dr. to miss the downtown Pueblo traffic on I-25. What a neat little detour (thanks Brian). Once back on I-25 and north bound, we made an exit at 141 to Sierra Madre then north a few blocks to Giuseppe's Depot in Colo. Springs to chow down.

Leaving Colo. Springs via I-25 the group began to split up and head for home using different routes.

The weather started out cool and stayed pleasant all day long. Thank You to all who were able to make the trip, for it's you who made this a very delightful day.

"Dagwood"

**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 onsite 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 price tag 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 1inch 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 US 35 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.

"Rainman"

141

You are probably a redneck if....

(Submitted by Sam Ashley)

You stand under the mistletoe at Christmas and wait for Granny and cousin Sue-Ellen to walk by.

Your favorite Christmas present was a painting on black velvet.

You go Christmas shopping for your mom, sister, and girlfriend, and you only need to buy one gift.

(This was sent by Brian Graves)

If you're not familiar with the work of Steven Wright, he's the comic who once said: "I woke up one morning and all of my stuff had been stolen...and replaced by exact duplicates!"

His mind tends to see things a bit differently than the rest of us Mortals.

Here are some of his gems:

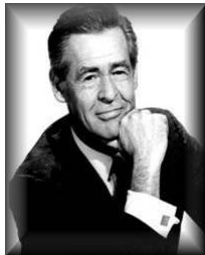


- 1- I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.
- 2- Borrow money from pessimists - they don't expect it back.
- 3- Half the people you know are below average.
- 4- 99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
- 5- 42.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot.
- 6- A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.
- 7- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- 8- If you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain.
- 9- All those who believe in psychokinesis, raise my hand.
- 10- The early bird may get the Worm, but the second mouse gets the Cheese.
- 11- I almost had a psychic girlfriend, but she left me before we met.
- 12- OK, so what's the speed of dark?
- 13- How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?
- 14- If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.
- 15- Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
- 16- When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- 17- Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy.
- 18- Hard work pays off in the future, laziness pays off now.
- 19- I intend to live forever; so far, so good.
- 20- If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?
- 21- Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
- 22- What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
- 23- My mechanic told me, "I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder."
- 24- Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?
- 25- If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.
- 26- A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.

- 27- Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
 - 28- The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.
 - 29- To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.
 - 30- The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.
 - 31- The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.
 - 32- The colder the x-ray table, the more of your body is required to be on it.
 - 33- Everyone has a photographic memory; some just don't have film.
- And the all time favorite-
- 34 - If your car could travel at the speed of light, would your headlights work?



John Russell: In 1942, he enlisted in the Marine Corps where he received a battlefield commission and was wounded and highly decorated for valor at Guadalcanal.



Robert Ryan was a U. S. Marine who served with the O.S. S. in Yugoslavia.



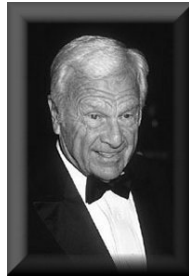
Tyrone Power (an established movie star when Pearl Harbor was bombed) joined the U.S. Marines, was a pilot flying supplies into, and wounded Marines out of, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Hollywood Actors (continued from November Issue)



George C. Scott was a decorated U.S. Marine.

Eddie Albert (Green Acres TV) was awarded a Bronze Star for his heroic action as a U. S. Naval officer aiding Marines at the horrific battle on the island of Tarawa in the Pacific Nov. 1943.



Brian Keith served as a U.S. Marine rear gunner in several actions against the Japanese on Rabaul in the Pacific.

Lee Marvin was a U.S. Marine on Saipan during the Marianas campaign when he was wounded, earning the Purple Heart.



One more next issue. Do you know who it is?

For Sale:

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, phone 303-781-0032 or 303-758-8804.

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 December 23, 2006

2006 RMVTA Sponsors

- Aurora Honda**(303) 341-7200
 200 South Potomac Street, Aurora, CO, 80012
 Http://www.aurarahonda.com
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 18901 E. Mainstreet Suite C Parker, CO 80134
 Next to LePeep
- Fay Myers Motorcycle World**(303) 744-6632
 9700 E. Arapahoe Road Greenwood Village, CO, 80112
 Http://www.faymyers.com
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- The Optical Gallery**(303) 690-1696
 4252 S.Chambers Rd, Aurora,

RMVTA
 PO Box 3744
 Englewood, CO
 80155-3744



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Next Meeting:
 Thursday, December 14, 2006
 7:30 p.m.
Fay Myers Motorcycle World
 9700 E. Arapahoe Road