



March 2006

<http://www.rmvt.org>

Volume 22 Issue # 3

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**Officers Speak**

Submitted by Sherri Barrett

It's almost here.....the distribution of the 2006 Ride Book. As of my writing, Lloyd Nicholson is working hard at putting it all together. Then it will come to George & me for mass printing & stacking. Then it goes to Bill Gillespie for cutting & binding. If all goes well, they will be handed out at the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. I would like to thank George & Bill for heading up the ride committee this year. Great Job! Special thanks and kudos to all the people involved in putting the ride book out. Some of you may not realize what a time consuming job this is. Just ask Stan and his new silver hairs.

It's almost here.....the first ride of 2006. The Polar Bear ride is scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup>. I wonder where Tom will take us this year. Will the Hatfields beat the snowmobiles up the hill? Will we need a fire in the fireplace to warm up at lunchtime? Or will we be shedding layers as the day goes on? I can't believe I'm going to say this, but I think I'm ready to rumble. I know I'm not the only one ready to kick off this years riding season. Is your bike ready to rumble??? Remember to give your bike that after winter checkup. I've seen the blue light special in a hundred pieces this

winter. It was so sad. Not to worry though, it's all back together and ready to kick it up a notch. I know your asking yourself, what else could George possibly add to his bike??? I know I did.

It's almost here .....Membership renewal is due March 9<sup>th</sup>. If you're not able to attend the March meeting, you may mail you dues to me at my home address please. I would be happy to mail you the new ride book. No Dues... No Ride Book!

F.Y.I ..... For those of you who were wondering what the 2005 M.A.P. cost us. We spent \$ 2,147.88. That's \$ 222.91 less than the year before.

F.Y.I ..... I had an idea for a new award to be given out at the next Member Appreciation Party. It was voted on and accepted at the February Meeting. Here's the lowdown ..... I will ask you to vote (secret ballot by mail or email) for your 1 most favorite ride of the year, for whatever reason. This may be a toughie. So keep this in mind as you ride this year. Of course, you will have had to go on a ride to qualify for a ballot. Rider and passenger both would get a vote. The rides that will not count for this are the Dinner rides, the Sponsor Appreciation ride, the President's Picnic

ride, the Progressive Dinner ride, and the Highway Clean-ups. In case of a tie or ties, we may have to revote on those. Not sure how we are going to handle that. We will vote in December. I will be the only one who knows the results of the voting. Then at the M.A.P. I will hand a sealed envelope over to the President to open and announce the winner. The winner or winners will get a prize. The winner or winners will be the Captain, Co-Captains, or family team, whatever the case may be.

Looking back I don't know if I could have picked 1 favorite ride for 2005. What about you?

*"Goldwingmama"*

Next Meeting: **Thursday, Mar 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

RMVTA Meeting Minutes  
February 9, 2006

President Brian Graves called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. He was urged to get things going by Cliff, who had to get home to take his pills. The lone visitor again this month was James Pasono. James indicated he had seen enough of this strange group to know he would fit right in, and said he was going to join up.

Brian gave a recap of the recent tubing trip. Everyone seemed to have a wonderful time, but the train ride home was a slow one.

Congratulations to Daniela Henn on the acquisition of a new "ride." She has thrown a leg over a 2003 Honda ST1300. She says Jerry's Gold Wing now seems slower.

Officer's Reports:

**Secretary:** The January minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.

**Treasurer:** Sherri reported \$690.33 in checking and \$1,876.92 in savings for a total of \$2,567.25. Dues, of course are due. If you mail your check, please send to Sherri's home, as the mailbox issue is not yet settled.

**Committee Reports:** Vice-President, Larry Gutt presiding.

**Activities:** No report.

**Awards:** Sherri suggested an award for ride leaders. It would be by a vote of the membership indicating their favorite rides of the year. A motion was made and passed to add the award. Also, keep track of your special nominations for fun awards throughout the year. Give your nominations to a member of the officer's group. All awards will be presented at the Member Appreciation Party next January.

**Finance:** Brian & George are still trying to figure out how many matchsticks to put in the various piles. They have removed shoes and socks to get a more accurate count and should have a budget proposal in March.

**Historical:** Floyd is continuously collecting items for the stash. Larry suggested the club scrapbooks be brought to a meeting occasionally for review.

**Member Relations:** Condolences to John and Sandi Redford on the passing of John's father in Dove Creek on January 23rd. Dena Nielson had successful foot surgery today. She will be out of commission for a while, and Bill is trying to be a good nurse. Steve & Connie Benko will also be sending cards for birthdays and anniversaries.

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

**Website:** Brett was under the weather, so "Pop" covered his action. George reported a few "bugs" in the new satellite system. There are many stories as to the origin of that term, but I digress. It seems some have been getting a "page cannot be displayed" message when attempting to access the site. They are working on the problem, and Brian said Direcway is being pretty cooperative because they didn't want any more of those letters from George.

**Rides:** Data from ride leaders must be in to Stan or George for editing by next week. The final Ride Committee meeting will be scheduled soon to go over and proof the final input. If all goes well, and everyone gets their work done the new ride books will be available at the March meeting.

**Old Business:** Brian said he found out the hard way how much powder there was around Winter Park. Seems he wondered off the trail on a recent recon mission for the upcoming club ride and had to dig his sled out of deep snow. There are thirteen people going on the snowmobile outing this Saturday. Since Daniela got her new bike, Jerry has requested a faster sled than hers.

**New Business:** Bill Gillespie received a box full of riding gear from alumni members George "Godfather" and Joan Govea. Godfather indicated in a note that they had come to the realization they were not going to be riding anymore, so had no use for the jackets, sweaters and rainsuits. They hoped someone in the club could put them to good use. The items were claimed in short order. We thank the Goveas for their thoughtfulness, miss them, and wish them well. George has had some heart and back

problems over the last few years, but is apparently feeling well now. Joan seems to be doing great in spite of her Multiple Sclerosis. They are now living in northwestern Missouri close to their daughter.

**Missing Link:** Retired until spring.

**50/50:** Leon Siefken won 3<sup>rd</sup> place for \$10. Larry Gutt got 2<sup>nd</sup> for \$16, and Jerry Henn got the jackpot of \$26. Can you buy a turbo for a Gold Wing for \$26?

Connie Benko brought a Valentine gift. Larry "Wild Thing" Gutt won the drawing to become Connie's Valentine, and also got an animated bear couple on a motorcycle that plays the song, "Born to be Wild."

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary, Bill Gillespie



A scene from the Snowmobile Ride

A Special Thank You

Submitted by: Stan Stotz

I'm sure that many of you have heard by now that last Sunday, while having a really great ride with several RMVTA friends, I had the misfortune of having my FJR1300 slip out from under me on Squaw Pass. We were riding conservatively in an area that had some icy patches and lots of gravel in the turns. It was a freak accident that still has me mystified. It was like somebody had poured a large bucket of ball bearings on the pavement in my path and the bike slammed down quickly without warning. As it turned out, my injuries were many but relatively minor (in light of "what could have been").

An EMT witnessed the mishap and was checking me out for injuries in less than 60 seconds after the accident (guardian angels are a wonderful thing to have) and the rest of the group immediately



secured the area and picked my bike up and called 911, etc. Thanks everybody for staying and encouraging me through a stressful time.

I want to especially thank George & Brett Barrett. Brett got my bike to the Evergreen Fire Station and George took me to Urgent Care for x-rays. George then gave me a ride home on his Wing. George and Brett then went back to Evergreen and retrieved my bike with my truck and trailer since I was in no shape to get it done. Thank you again for all you did. Also, thanks to everybody who stayed at the accident scene and Urgent Care to make sure that I was OK before departing. You will never find better and more loyal friends than you will in the RMVTA! Also, always remember to never try to outrun your guardian angel.

“Steamer”



Stan's FJR "after the fall"

**March Birthdays**

- 4<sup>th</sup> - Shawn McConnell
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Lloyd Nicholson
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Larry Gutt
- 21<sup>st</sup> - Daniela Henn
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - Tim Kah
- 26<sup>th</sup> - Debbi Farnum-Torrence

**March Anniversaries**

- 5<sup>th</sup> - Cliff & Nedra Eudy
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Jack & Cheryl Dunwell
- 20<sup>th</sup> - John & Gloria Swenson
- 24<sup>th</sup> - Tom & Brenda Shumaker
- 29<sup>th</sup> - Evan & Jan Johnson

**Blue Light Special**

Submitted by: George Barrett

It is Sunday February 19<sup>th</sup> and very cold outside. I think they said 0 degrees. Can't go do what I want to do...just too cold. There are always things to do around the house, but I don't want to do any of those things.

The ride book seems to be coming together fairly well, with the help of a lot of people yesterday at the club house. It looked like a Geek squad convention with all the laptops that showed up there. We spent several hours putting the finishing touches on the rides and verifying the mileage and dates. I know Stan was updating the website most of the evening as I could see the lights on the modem to the server just going to town. I know Lloyd was also busy trying to make sense out of the changes he also has to make in trying to get the ride book organized. This is probably the biggest thing that this club has to put together all year, after that it is pretty much smooth sailing and easy going for the most part. The next time you see Stan or Lloyd, make sure you thank them for all the hard work they put in on getting this thing out to you.

If you have been visiting the website, you will see that the 2006 ride year is full of great rides and fun for all. I am already getting excited about getting this thing kicked off. I hope that I will be able to make all the rides and enjoy the fellowship, fun and excitement that go along with all the people that go on these adventures.

I have had the blue light special torn apart most of the last couple months getting some maintenance things done so that it will be ready to go in March. I have been putting on a few more blue lights, adding some safety chrome. Also, changing the antifreeze, brake and clutch fluids, new air filter, oil change and rear tire. These are all things that are easy to get behind on, so don't wait too long before you decide to look at some of these things. Do it now, so the bike will be ready in March. Also remember you haven't been on the bike for awhile and it just might be a good idea on a couple of these cool weekends in the next few weeks, to put on a coat and go down to the local school parking lot and practice your slow speed maneuvers. It won't hurt to get yourself tuned up a little before you put momma on the back and head out for a ride. It might save you from being a recipient of the wonderful missing link award. I would hate for Brian to have any competition for it this year.

Remember to get your reservations in early for the rooms on the overnights, you never know how fast those things will go, and these hotel people seem to be getting a little tougher to work with. Hope you have had a great off season. Now it is time to get ready to ride.

“KMART”



Sunday Ride

**UPCOMING RIDES:  
Spring Polar Bear Ride**

Submitted by: Tom Shumaker

It is nearly time for the first scheduled ride of the 2006 riding season. As usual, the route will be a last-minute decision based on weather & road conditions.

We will meet Sunday, March 19, 2006 in the parking lot of the Hops Restaurant located on 104<sup>th</sup> Ave. 1 block west of I-25 @ 8:15 a.m. and leave @ 8:30 a.m. There is a Günter Toodies at this same location and I will be there early enough to have breakfast. If you would like to join in, that would be great. I will turn my cell phone on by 7:00 a.m. so if you are running a little behind, please call 303-514-1734. I do not want to leave anyone behind. Please have a full tank of gas and be prepared to ride in the conditions that exist and that are forecast for the day. So, come one, come all and let's enjoy the season opener.

“Dagwood”

**Breakfast Chatter**

Submitted by: Floyd Thorne

It was at breakfast where it happened. We were all sitting around finishing up eating and chatting as we all typically do. Something came up about places to eat and or something like that and Pat McCombs interjected (I assume with Valentines just around the corner) that the one of the most romantic places in town to have dinner was a place in the Brown Palace downtown. Well, Donna



his wife, seated right beside him, looked at him and commented that she had never been there!

Well, we all just burst out laughing as you might imagine. We never did find out, at that sitting, if "Thumper" stepped in the middle of it or if perhaps Donna was not as impressed with the place as he was and as a result just did not recall being there.

I am not sure what the moral of this story is (or will be) but, it sure made for a fun time there for a while. We wish the very best to "Thumper" and "Dino." Thanks for a good laugh!!!

"Mr. T"

623

Member List (Photo List)

Submitted by: Floyd Thorne

I was looking through the Member List area of the WEB Site the other day and I could not help but notice the large number of members who we do not have pictures of. It is such a help for everyone to be able to place a face with a name. Therefore I encourage you all to check it out and if your picture is missing, and or out of date, please try to get a picture of you, and your significant other standing in front of your motorcycle (or other another picture) so that we can post it. If you don't have a picture, we can take one right now or during the next riding season. We have many digital cameras in the club and somebody can accommodate you and yours.

"Mr. T"

Should Have Known

Submitted by: Pat McCombs

Someone ask me once, "How it was that I got so hooked and caught up in the sport of motorcycling?" I had never really given this much thought, as it never seems to cross my mind and it had always been a big part of my life style. Some people hunt, some like to fish, and others are into cars, etc. But, as I look back now, it is something I should have known at a very young age. It may well have started back in the fifties when I was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and as an only child hanging out with my parents. My parents, who have both been passed away for some time now, were always very set in their routines. One of those routines

was on Friday nights to stop at the Chuck Wagon on West Colfax. They had good food at a great price, and neither wanted to cook dinner on Fridays.

Now when you are in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, food is just food, but you are caught up in what is going on around you. Now the Chuck Wagon had a very interesting group, that use to come in on Friday nights for dinner. They all rode 2 wheels, all the riders had full leathers, and both guys and gals all wore motorcycle hats that were very cool. I did not know much about motorcycles then, and my Dad explained to me that they were all riding Indian's & Harley Davidsons. They all flew the same colors on the backs of their leather jackets. Now at that age, the word colors had no meaning to me at all. These colors said "Rinky Dink's of Denver" and on any given Friday night there were fifty to three hundred of them hanging out at the Chuck Wagon. I would find out years later, that at one time this club had over two-thousand members. My big moment came the last part of 6<sup>th</sup> grade, when one of the women riders gave me her hat, and her male friend offered me a ride on his Indian Chief. To my surprise, my parents let me take a spin down Colfax with one of the Rinky Dink's. When I got back, the 6<sup>th</sup> grader was gone, and my chest was as big as King Kong. Best part of the evening, the lady let me keep the hat. I might add, that I wore that hat with great pride for many months.

By now my parent's routine had changed, and they wanted out of the inner-city. We were about to move and be sentenced to life in the wilds (Parker Road & East Mississippi) Hog farms, cows, horses, and a lot of bad smells that were new to me. No busy city life, no Rinky Dink's, just sand and animals. There has to be more to life than living in the Gobi desert. Enter a new friend, in the name of Jerry Bisguard. Now Jerry had two brothers who were both much older than the two of us, and one had a new Triumph & the other a BSA Gold Star. So as soon as my parents would drop me at the school bus stop, it was over to the Bisguard's, and off to school on the British bikes as fast as they would run. Talk about a major rush every day.

The sands were shifting on the home fronts again, and looked like my days of fast motorcycles were coming to an end. If living in the Gobi was not bad enough, I was now to be exiled to the mountains, and a little town called Evergreen. Population 1,200, and I knew that count would more the likely include cats and dogs. Chances are pretty good no one there even knows what a motorcycle is.

I get to the Evergreen Prison in the bottom of the seventh grade, only to find others whose parents have moved here for the same reason, with no regard to what they are putting their young inmates through. I bet they have never even seen a motorcycle here. Once again, the "Motorcycle Gods" have smiled on me. I meet up with a fellow by the name of Gary Engstrom. Now Gary's dad Carl rides a 1948 Full Dress Harley Davidson 74 to work every day. It sits there every day while Carl is out running the school bus routes. In the spring of our 8th grade, the temptation was more that either Gary or myself could control anymore. No key was needed, and some how we were able to kick it over. The rush was on, and we were off checking out the many roads out in the Evergreen area. All of this went well, with both of us trying our hand at driving the bike. We were home free, and less than a mile from returning it to the spot we had taken Carl's Harley. On a curve with to much gravel, and two kids that did not have a clue, Carl's 74 went off the road. Gary with a broken leg, and myself with a broken arm, and a fair amount of damage to Carl's Harley Davidson. What I do remember most is that it took a long time to pay for the damages, and as I recall was the last time my Dad used his leather belt on me. I don't think I sat down for three weeks, and the same for Gary. But that was the day also, that I knew I had a love affair with motorcycles.

In 9th grade, Gary, John, and myself bought Harley Davidson Cubs. We rode every day no matter the weather. Hade some great times for two years, and kept up all our costs with our wood cutting business. In 1960-1961 the bikes gave way to custom cars. Not that we

were not in to motorcycling, but it was very hard to get laid on a motorcycle. The car days are stories of their own.

In the fall of 1961, I had joined the Saber's Car Club, was out of school, and had landed a nice job with the Burt Automotive Group. Now I had the best of both worlds. A custom '57 Chevy" two door hard top, and a new Royal Enfield. Now for some strange reason, the Sabers did not want to be known as a car & motorcycle club both. Although 90% of us had bikes as well as cars, we had to find another outlet. So like some of us today, we had dual memberships in two clubs. The Saber's and The Brother's Fast Motorcycle Club. Now in those days, The Brother's Fast was make up of folks who rode only Triumph's, BSAs, Nortons, and Royal Enfields. There was not a Harley in the club. A little side note here, today the Brother's Fast is a 1% motorcycle club, and is your local Hell's Angle Chapter.

In late 1964, I would meet a young very attractive Italian girl by the name of Donna Dardano, and in January of 1965 would marry her. I thought that this may well be the end of fast bikes and cars, but turn out to be the reverse. She was ready to ride anytime you said ride, and would become involved big time in custom cars, bikes, and drag racing.

Well, as they say "The Rest Is History." I have gone on to log some 1 Million miles of riding, and that young Italian girl has been right there for the last forty-one years. Had I not met a young lady years ago from the Rinky Dink's, motorcycling would probably not been a way of life with me and my family. I sure wish I knew her name, so I could thank her for some wonderful years in the sport of motorcycling.

"Thumper" Member # 600

SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS

Brian Graves

Submitted by: Brett Barrett

After starting off with myself in the member spot light I found it a good idea to start out at the top, the big dog, our "El Presidente" Mr. Brian Graves. Brian is a relative new comer to the club hav-

ing only been a member for the past year. After joining in 2005 he blended right in with what the club stands for and that's all about having a good time. Brian attended many of our rides but that's not what set him apart, not what qualified him to become the "El Presidente" and the top dog in my mind. The fact that on the trips that he did go on or the meetings that he attended he was always ready to go get something done or suggest an idea in some way shape or form. He seemed to be the first person on the phone to get meal reservations during overnight rides so that we could eat together or to ask the questions to get the information that was needed to make the right decision.

Wherever Brian was he did his best to take care of the people around him and that quality also shows through not only with his friends, but within his community as well. Brian has always been a leader in the community as he's been a police officer for 12 and a half years. Highly decorated with various medals and commendations he retired as acting sergeant. As Brian was telling me about his awards he went into great detail into the last 2 commendations he was awarded that he's very proud of. He was telling me that he had saved women's life with CPR in a King Soopers while off duty! He was also telling me about how he had arrested a gentlemen wanted for murder who was in the courthouse while holding the court house in constraint. He had accomplished a lot within his police work and takes great pride in that aspect of his life.

After he retired, he set up his own satellite business selling various satellite equipment. Rising to the number 1 seller for the western half of the United States, RS&I took interest into his skills and brought him on. Brian being the natural leader that he is worked his way up and as of a month or two ago is now the Manager of the RS&I branch here in Colorado.

Not all Brian does is work however. He enjoys to golf, snowmobile as some of you know, hunting, and shooting sporting clays for competition. The one thing that stood out to me is that he's a music nut. He earned 122 first place ribbons and trophies in high school along with a

scholarship for singing. He's even sung at a few wedding but has since gotten out of it and tells me that he needs to get back in.

As one last question I asked him if he had any life philosophies that he's tried to live his life around, the phone grew silent for a second and that is when he said to make memories with the loved ones around you because there will be a time in your life when you can't do that.

"Clutch"

Next Month Cruising The Pipe Line by: Pat McCombs

Stan and I are most grateful for all of Pat's articles on motorcycling They are highly entertaining and informational. This one is no exception. There is just not enough room remaining in this issue for it. Sorry Pat, I promise it will show up in the April Voice.

"Packrat"

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 March 23, 2006

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COMPLEMENTARY COPY

**Next Meeting:**  
 Thursday, March 9, 2006  
 7:30 p.m.  
**Fay Myers Motorcycle World**  
 9700 E. Arapahoe Road