

The Venture Voice



Wing Commander (Bill Gillespie) steams up the display case at his favorite bike garage/museum

June 2006

<http://www.rmvt.org>

Volume 22 Issue # 6

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Officers Speak

Submitted by: Potential Missing Link Winner (Brian).

(Please note that there is no Officers Speak this month) (See "Newsletter" in the May Minutes, page 2)



A nice shot of Bishop's Castle

Bishops Castle Day Ride

Submitted by: Brett Barrett

As ride leader of my second ride that I've ever lead I set the cross hairs at bishop's castle and set off to find the curviest roads possible. From the feedback I received I must have gotten lost successfully because everyone seemed to have a good time.

We took off from Fay Myer at 8:15 a.m. and tried to get on I-25 south at Dear Creek but the ramp was closed for maintenance so we went on down to Quebec to get on E-470 West. Taking E-470

west to US 285 south we collected Jerry and Linda Hatfield at the exit bringing the total to 20 bikes. Before turning at the intersection that leads down to Pine we rallied up another 2 members Bill and Diane Lloyd in Aspen Grove bringing the total to a healthy 21 bikes. Heading down south through Pine and Decker's we were once again reminded of the Hayman fire that had burned down so much of the once beautiful land. Taking a short little stop we went west on US 24 out of Woodland Park. We continued South yet again once we hit the Florissant Fossil Beds. Going down south till we got to US 9 for another short little westerly hop and south yet again to Silver Cliff.

Taking a short break, (let me rephrase that taking a long break) for lunch at the overwhelmed Mining Company Café we headed off to Bishops Castle. Spending a half an hour at Bishops Castle which is one of those places that you just have to go and see for yourself. Getting saddled up before the heavens opened up on us we took off and headed home up Florence and 115 trying to run out the storm that we had just run an entire circle around. But alas our late lunch put us an hour behind what I had made arrangements with the big guy for and we got a little bit of rain coming through

Colorado Springs.

The day went pretty smooth though and didn't have much of any problems except for a couple dropped motorcycles at the top of bishop's castle. I surely had a good time and managed to keep my mom who was driving a van with my grandma and aunt in tow (they had come down from Michigan for my graduation) in radio range and heading the right direction so I hope everyone had a good time and looking forward to the next ride.

"Clutch"



Sherri Barrett and her sister from Detroit enjoy the Bishop's Castle

Next Meeting: **Thursday, June 8, 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

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Minutes

RMVTA Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2006

Submitted by: Secretary, Bill Gillespie

Our esteemed President, Brian Graves informally called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m., coincidentally, the exact same time as the April meeting. Is Brian in a rut, or have we veered into the Twilight Zone?

Visitors this evening included John Conroy. John recently purchased a Yamaha FJR that was located in San Francisco. He then entrusted George Barrett to fly out, straddle that fine sport-tourer, and ride it back to Denver. He even paid George's travel expenses to do so. We should all have friends like John. George commented that he "warshed" the bike before presenting it to its new owner.

Also present was Dick Paige of the Colorado Beemers BMW club. He invited us to join them on any of their upcoming rides like; *Top 'O' the Rockies Rally, 100,000 Foot Ride*, and any others including their monthly dinner meeting. See their web site at <http://www.coloradobeemers.com> for more info.

The main purpose for Dick's visit, however was to promote the *Ride for Kids* in June, as he is a local director. Fundraising rides for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation are held in locations all across the nation throughout the year. The Colorado ride will begin from Heritage Square in Golden on June 25th. These events have been held for many years, and have raised millions for research programs to prevent and help cure the devastating children's disease. For full info, go to: <http://www.ride4kids.org>

It was also great to have long-standing members, John & Sandi Redford here tonight. We don't get to see "Red Dog" and "Gypsy" much, as John is an over-the-road truck driver, and only gets home every couple of months or so.

Under happenings, Sam Ashley told the group about the FreeWheelers ride to the Blossom Festival in Cañon City. Group two took the scenic route through South Park where they experienced some rather low (27°) temps over Kenosha Pass.. Floyd, in a "take that" tone, said the low-

est temperature for group one was around 40°. Sam then continued with his "yeah, but our ride was prettier" story about the parade through town and his visit to his new best friend Larry's dream garage. You see Larry Harkins, a close friend of Pat McCombs is a collector of Harleys and Harley memorabilia. His garage (about 3,000 s/f of it) is actually part workshop and part museum.

Officer's Reports:

Secretary: Stan noted that the minutes were late as usual. The Secretary reminded Mr. Stotz the minutes were printed in the newsletter, so they couldn't have been too late. Stan must secretly want the job himself. That can probably be arranged... The minutes were accepted as printed.

Treasurer: Sherri reported \$632.82 in checking and \$2,827.76 in savings. The savings is up eighty-four cents from last month. Man that interest adds up! Anyway, the two together add up to \$3,460.58.

Committee Reports: Vice-President, Larry Gutt presiding.

Activities: Dom, or his grandparents had no report.

Historical: Floyd brought two of the club photo albums for reminiscing. He says to "keep the stuff coming."

Membership: Sherri reported Eighty-nine members now, with two newly paid at the April dinner ride.

Member Relations: Steve and Connie continue to send birthday and anniversary cards, but knew of no other member relations at this time. Well, you know what I mean.

Newsletter: The deadline for submissions is, as always, the 23rd to Stan. I just cut and paste that sentence from month to month. **May Addition:** The deadline is firm this month due to Lloyd and Stella's vacation plans.

Website: Brett reported 43,950 page views in April! That has to be some kind of record. There were 929 different people using the site. There must be something interesting there.

Past Rides: The *Spring Highway Cleanup Ride* was a tremendous success. Ron, Joyce and Dommie hosted twenty-

four for breakfast, and we ate them out of house and home. K-Mart arrived a bit late and didn't get all he really wanted to eat. He indicated that would not happen again! There were twenty-eight people for the cleanup itself. Certainly it was the best turnout ever. After all the work was completed Ron took nominations for the Golden Horseshoe Award. Everyone seemed to have what they thought would be the most interesting item of all. But Jamie Melles tossed down the trump card with her item of female sexual stimulation. (I'm trying to keep this printable) After that entry, some others just tossed their items in the orange trash bag admitting defeat. The runner-up was Jamie's beau, Brian who found a partial tube of Super Glue with some coins stuck to the top. Can he glue his eye shut again? The *Bell Museum Ride* had to be altered due to the cancellation of our planned visit by the elderly man who owns the museum. It turned out to be a fun, however short day of twisty roads near Evergreen. All the details on how the ride leader was framed for the Missing Link Award will be dealt with later on. The *April Dinner Ride*, hosted by Team Barrett, was to the Bear Creek Inn in Kittredge. Deer Creek Canyon lived up to its name with plenty of deer spotted. Dinner itself was fine, but poor Larry Gutt had just gotten his chicken dinner about the time everyone was ready to leave. Dena Nielson was astride her new ride, a new Suzuki Boulevard with some great sounding pipes. In fact, she says those pipes say, "Don't mess with me!" The *Sponsor Ride* saw thirty-one people. As we made the rounds of our dealer sponsors, some folks bought accessories, some bought jackets, and Diana Gutt bought herself a new Suzuki Boulevard too! Thanks to Vickery, Aurora, Fay Myers, Grand Prix, RPM, Colorado Power Sports and Sun for their continued support and hospitality. We have other great sponsors too. See the list on the web site and support them all anytime you can. Stan Stotz drew just the card he needed on the last draw to win the poker run for a \$100 bill. Bill Nielson had the low hand, good for \$50.

Upcoming Rides: Brett Barrett said he'll see if we can get lost on the



Bishop's Castle Ride on May 20th. The castle is billed as "The world's largest one-man construction project." I don't know if that's true, but it is one of the most unique. The **May Dinner Ride** will be Wednesday, May 24th this month, the day before usual. This is due to the Yellowstone Ride leaving on Friday morning. And, speaking of the **Yellowstone Ride**, there are some 10-12 bikes going so far. Rooms are getting scarce, so reservations should be made before you read this. The **Buena Vista/Leadville Loop Ride** on June 4th should be a wonderful day ride. The route will ironically include Buena Vista and Leadville. Imagine that coincidence! We'll all see if we can keep up with Daniela's ST... including Jerry. Brian has booked a covered pavilion at Castlewood Canyon State Park for the **President's Picnic Ride** on June 24th.

Old Business: There was a bit more discussion on the Ride for Kids.

New Business: None of that.

Missing Link: Everyone thought it looked good for Diane Lloyd to retain the Missing Link because she forgot to bring it to the meeting. But, I guess I knew that after George Barrett told his tall tale about the ride leader of the Bell Museum/End of Pavement Ride losing his flock, the flock consisting of seventeen motorcycles, Diane didn't stand a chance. George went on to tell the group this big cock and bull story about the leader not telling the rest of the group where to turn, and just going on his merry way without a care in the world for the welfare of the others. Well, let me tell you that none of it was true! But, I took it like the brave man I am, no whining or sniveling, just stood up to that unanimous vote, (well, all but mine) and accepted it with grace and dignity. But it wasn't there. Diane had not brought it. In an obviously planned ploy on the part of both of them, I was then presented with the sister award of the FreeWheelers because George said he was sure it would be bestowed upon me as well.

50/50: Leon Siefken won 3rd place for \$10. Floyd Thorne got 2nd for \$18, and 1st went right along with that Missing Link to yours truly in the amount of \$27.

Ron Nardiello donated two pair of Rockies tickets, won by Floyd and visitor John Conroy, and a wrapped mystery gift brought by the Benko's was a motorcycle desk clock won by Becky Nieto.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m. 11

June Birthdays:

- 4th - Paul Maynard
- 5th - Ron Kucharski
- 6th - Paul Nez
- 11th - Betty Richards
- 14th - Michelle Vinson
- 26th - Stan Stotz
- 29th - Tom Shumaker

June Anniversaries:

- 3rd - Jerry & Linda Hatfield
- 7th - Alan & Suzanne Sanborn
- 17th - Bill & Debbi Torrence
- 26th - Stan & Janet Stotz
- 30th - Bill & Karen Lindquist

Obituary: John Allen McKibbon, Sr.
Submitted by: Floyd Thorne

John Allen McKibbon, born September 4, 1949 in Pueblo, CO, of John, Sr., and Marie McKibbob. He was 59 and died on April 4, 2006 of intestinal cancer. He is survived by an older sister, Kathy, U. S. Air Force Lt. Col., Retired and a son John, and daughter Joannie, all in Colorado. He loved to ride and joined the RMVTA in the 1980s as did his former wife, Janie.

Although he and his wife Janie were divorced about 8 years ago, John Allen was severely shaken by the untimely death of Janie during a scuba accident in Cozumel six years ago. Although John had not been active in the RMVTA during the past few years, he rode with many of the Colorado FreeWheelers and until this past year seldom missed a summer rally in Sturgis. John rode hard, worked hard, and played hard all of his life, until the cancer became overpowering a few months ago. If he was your friend, he was a loyal friend and will be missed by more than a few.

(By Gordon Teall, neighbor of John's father, John McKibbon, Sr. in Lake-wood. Gordon is a former member of the RMVTA.)

Former RMVTA Member Remembered
Floyd and Linda Thorne

It is with a very sad heart that I must pass along information about another of our past RMVTA sisters that has left this earthly life at 5:15 a.m. May 15, 2006 after an extended battle with cancer.

I certainly am not the best person to tell much about this couple of Richard and Elyse Griggs. But I will tell you what I can from looking back at the historical records of the club. Richard (CB handle: Deputy) and Elyse (CB handle: Betty Boop) Griggs joined the RMVTA on July 15, 1989. Over the period of their membership Richard held office of Vice President in 1993 and then President in 1997. Richard and Elyse moved to Florida in November 2001 to work and build their home.

Years ago Donna McCombs, Nedra Eudy and Elyse used to pass the time together, I'm told, while their husbands Pat, Cliff and Richard respectively used to do about seven different 1000-IN-24 endurance runs together sponsored by the Colorado Free Wheelers.

This news hits Cliff and Nedra especially hard because Cliff and Nedra had joined the RMVTA club on April 13, 1989. Over the years Cliff and Richard grew as close, or perhaps closer, than brothers. I believe that Nedra has made a couple of trips to Florida during Elyse's extended illness to be with her.

Please keep all parties concerned here in your thoughts and prayers.

"Mr. & Mrs. T"

Just Another Ride
(Don't Think So)
Submitted by: Pat McCombs

I am sure not many members of the RMVTA, have ever heard of the Canyon Crusaders. They are the local Chapter for the CMA or Christian Motorcyclists Association in Canyon City Colorado. This small but mighty group of some forty members do what they can to spread the "Good Word" to biking groups in the southern part of the state.

Back in April of this year, I received an



email from the Canyon Crusaders President Larry Harkins about their "Run for the Son Ride" that was coming up on Saturday May 6th. Larry knew we would be in the area, and was aware that the Colorado Freewheelers were planning a ride to the annual Blossom Festival the same day. I told him that we would see what interest we could gather, and would get back to him. The idea was thrown out at both the RMVTA meeting and the Colorado Freewheelers meeting in the month of April. There seemed to be a fair amount of folks from both clubs who wanted to attend, so we started putting it together. This ride would have to be in two groups, as a number of folks in both clubs do not like to get up early, or ride in the cold. A plan was put together, and now as they say "Let us Pray" for good weather.

A little "Fast Forward" to May 5th. Have been in touch with Floyd Thorne up north, and keeping an eye on the weather here in Littleton, and with Larry Harkins in Canyon City. The word of the day is still raining, and things look bleak for the ride on Saturday. At 10:00 p.m., was the same story from all areas. What to do? Plan like it is going to be eighty degrees and not worry.

Now I know why folks don't like to rise early. It's 4:30 a.m., its dark, and thirty-five degrees out. Well, this should be fun. My bride of forty-two years, who was planning on the ride today is having no part of the fun. Pulls the covers up over her head, and tells me to have a nice ride. So much for bonding in relationships.

Have gotten all of the "Cold Weather Riding Gear" on, and push the Iron Horse out of the garage. Let the adventure start. Of course the bike was full of fuel. Yea Right! Running close on time in my mind, pull in for fuel, open up all the cold weather gear again, because did not have the smarts to put my money and credit cards in my outside pocket. Now maybe we can get down to the Boulevard Grill to meet the riders, who might think we have a shot at this ride today. Wow! two other bikes, and it is only 5:55 a.m. Darlene, who owns the Boulevard, had let Brian Boberick and Pete Chronis in early to cook breakfast for them. Things might be looking up. Had

Darlene fill my coffee mug, and no charge, now I really know things are looking up. Alan Hansher walks in, first thing out of him is "Kind of early for a ride". Have some coffee Alan, you will feel better. Floyd and his son Patrick just pulled in, so looks like it is a go. Ride leaves at 6:30 a.m. sharp, 6:40 a.m. we are ready to roll, with Bill Gillespie and his Granddaughter sitting down in Castle Rock waiting on us.

The Commander has taken the lead at Plum Creek & I25 and the adventure is under way. Temperature ran between thirty-nine to forty-five all the way to Canon City. Ran in lots of fog, some drizzle, and lots of cool temperatures, but was a nice ride down. Wondered going down how many would be in the 8:00 a.m. group, or would they even pull out.

We pulled into the parking lot of the



Bill "Wing Commander" Gillespie and granddaughter get his bike blessed.

Home Depot at 8:30 a.m. with time to spare for that Free coffee & donuts. The President slept in. Not donuts yet. While kicking tires with a lot of the local Harley riders, Pete, Brian & Thumper and The Commander had their bikes blessed by Brother Howie of the Canyon Crusaders, and Floyd got some wonderful pictures of the event. Every one must have thanked us a hundred times for



Pat "Thumper" McCombs gets his bike blessed at the Blossom Festival

coming all the way from Denver to run their event. The run once we were all signed in, would take us in full view of the Sangué De Christo mountains, and I am here to tell you they were as wonderful as I had ever seen them. We ran the hundred miles, and returned to ICE Engineering for the finish. ICE Engineering is right off a Norman Rockwell painting. The "Old Days" of biking, the riders kicking tires out side the front of the shop, swapping riding stories etc. Inside Mike the owner is talking with Larry, Bill, and myself. All the time looking around in amazement. Anything you would ever want to build, in the way of a motorcycle, could be done right here. The live band is playing some "Oldies", you can smell the fresh burgers & hot dogs cooking. Oh! by the way. It is now 76 degrees. They are drawing prizes for the ride, and the Commander wins a T-shirt, which he gives to his granddaughter. We are done here, and off to the Annual Blossom Festival Parade.

Our first stop is the vendors in the city park. You can smell the Carmel corn, the food courts, and all that goes with a fair. People every where, folks trying on hats etc, and enjoying a great day at the festival. Group two is in town, and they are going to meet us at 9th & Main to watch the parade. Frank Heinzl, Sam & Susan Ashley, and Willy Taylor are in group two. They took the scenic route, and as Susan put it " We got to see 27 degree's and ice on the windshield". So it does pay to get up early.



Freewheeler & RMVTA bikes at the Blossom Festival in Canon City

As our group of riders, half RMVTA members and half Freewheelers, stood on the corner enjoying the parade, one thing came to all of us. This was Small town America at it's best. We left the parade at 2:00 p.m. and were headed back to ICE Engineering to pick up Larry, and a trip up to his house in the foothills of Canon City. Many of you

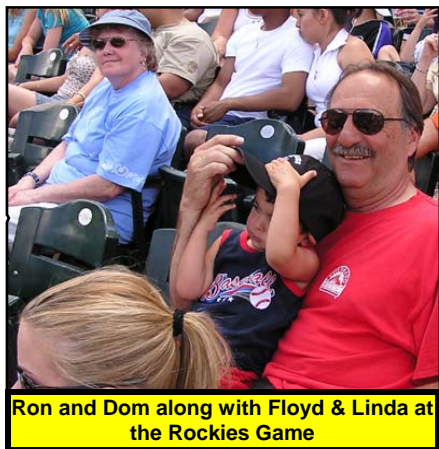


have heard me speak of Larry's collection of motorcycle stuff, and the shop he has at his home. If you ever get the chance don't miss it. I will let Sam & Bill fill you in on those details. Let us just say, it is every guys dream shop.

I guess the point of this article is this. Small Town USA, is still alive and doing well. We saw a lot of flag waving (American only), Lots of babies, lots of hand shaking, the youth taking great pride at marching in the parade, no protestors, and no fights, and lots of people laughing and smiling.

To the RMVTA members who rode this ride, we hope you enjoyed the day as much as us. Was good to have you along.

"Thumper"



Ron and Dom along with Floyd & Linda at the Rockies Game

Thank You

Submitted by: Floyd and Linda Thorne

At the meeting May 11, 2006, Thursday night one of our very gracious, long-time supportive Sponsors, Ron Nardiello with RE/MAX Alliance, donated tickets that were raffled off along with the 50/50 monetary prizes for the May 21, 2006 1:05 p.m. Colorado Rockies game against the Toronto Blue Jays.

Linda and I attended the very pleasant afternoon at the ball park with Ron and some members of his family. Other than it being pretty warm, OK it was pretty darn HOT actually, it was very fun and entertaining. The game moved right along and turned out the way we had all hoped with another "W" for our Rockies.

Linda and I would like to publicly thank Ron not only for the tickets and the opportunity to share the afternoon with him and his family for all that he has done and continues to do for the good of the RMVTA. Once again we should remember and thank all our Sponsors when we get the opportunity.

Floyd and Linda Thorne
Mr. "T" and Mrs. "T"



The Ashleys (Sam and Susan) enjoy one of the many rides they have attended this year. Welcome to the club!

Members Spotlight
Sam and Susan Ashley

Sam and Susan are relatively new members in the club as they are relatively new at getting back into motorcycle riding. Sam rode dirt bikes as a kid but got away from it for several years as he was raising two children. Sam Jr. and Kenna are both in college now and working hard at getting their degrees so Sam and Susan both have a little more time on their hands to go out and do the things they enjoy.

Sam has always had motorcycles in his blood ever since he was a little kid and is incredibly glad to get back into the sport. He enjoys the fact that he can go out with the club and go to places in Colorado he's never been to or didn't even know existed. Even though Sam was born in Oklahoma he's been shuffled between Texas and Colorado for a large portion of his lifetime. He's been in Colorado for 35 years and loves to go up and ride in the foothills and loves that fact that he can come out with the club and go places he's never been. Most of all he enjoys the fact that he gets to spend time with his wife of 27 years, Mrs. Susan Ashley. Even if its just going out for a nice day ride and spending some time with his wife out of the house he loves the fact

that he can enjoy this sport with his wife right behind him.

Susan is a 1st grade teacher and loves her job while Sam has been working in construction since he got out of high school and was a contractor for many years until he got promoted to site supervisor building new homes for Michel Collins Home Building. Sam has always been an advocate of "Do what you like and like what you do" and it really shows through with how he's lived his life. Sam and Susan really like to go out and ride in the foothills and it's for sure that we will most likely find them on many more rides to come. I'd like to extend a giant welcome to them from the club and hope to put many miles on with them in the future.

"Clutch"



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 June 23, 2006

2006 RMVTA Sponsors

- Aurora Honda**(303) 341-7200
 200 South Potomac Street, Aurora, CO, 80012
 Http://www.aurarahonda.com
- Automotive M.D.s**(303) 758-0909
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- Colorado Power Sports**(303) 427-9000
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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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Next Meeting:
 Thursday, June 8, 2006
 7:30 p.m.
Fay Myers Motorcycle World
 9700 E. Arapahoe Road