

## Springs Wings



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### Harder Happenings

The “Wing Dingers” are back from yet another full-filled Wing Ding in Billings, Montana. “Wing Dingers” is the name they lovingly called us, both in the newspaper and on television. The Billings Gazette ran front page articles about us every day along with publishing that day’s event schedule. Our very own Rich & Donna Noah were interviewed and quoted in Thursday, July 5<sup>th</sup>’s issue. It was the 4<sup>th</sup> of July at the MetraPark and Rich & Donna were wearing their matching patriotic outfits. That’s what caught the reporter’s eye, the matching patriotic outfits. Next time you see Rich & Donna make sure to get their autograph since they are celebrities now.

Wing Dings have come and gone over the last thirty years with this one being the 29<sup>th</sup>. There is a lot of work and research put into the selection of the hosting city. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> time it’s been hosted by Billings and if you attended you know exactly why....the city’s friendly welcome. We aren’t saying that the other host cities haven’t been friendly and welcoming. There’s just something special about

Billings.

We arrived on Monday afternoon, which gave us a chance to scout out the city and find the MetraPark. We picked up our registration packet and t-shirts on Tuesday. We thought that by doing that one day before Wing Ding officially began it wouldn’t be as crowded. WRONG!!! As we pulled into the huge parking lot there were wings parked as far as the eye could see. It was truly an amazing sight.

There are a few events, that in our opinion, you should experience at least once if not every year at Wing Ding. The following are just a few of those events/programs. The selection of the International Couple of the Year is always done the afternoon before the start of Wing Ding. The region couples wishing to participate present themselves to the judges and audience. There are cheering sections in the audience for these couples with loud speakers, fire horns, pom-poms and lots of applause. It is so uplifting to hear the couples talk about their GWRRA lives, which include programs/events that they have implemented in their chapter,

district and region.

The next event to witness would be the opening ceremonies. The International Couple of the Year is announced along with the disclosure of next year’s host city. Then it’s a sprint to the vendors who open immediately after the opening ceremonies. Safety chrome here we come!!! The talent show is always a must. It gives you a chance to see just how amazing many of our members are whether joking around or acting serious. Another amazing sight is the performances of the drill teams. You are in awe when we see the precision and expertise these riders exhibit. Next is the grand parade. This year approximately 1,200 riders took part in the parade that stretched for miles through town with residents standing three deep in many areas cheering on the riders. The parade concluded downtown where they had the streets closed and hosted a huge street fair with food and live music. As Wing Ding draws to a close there is always a concert near the end. This year’s performers were the country band Lonestar. It was a great concert

## Harder Happenings (cont.)

and a nice way to finish out our stay in Billings. We aren't able to vouch for closing ceremonies as we've always had to head back home before the final day.

Next year's host city for Wing Ding 30 is Greenville, South Carolina!!! They handed out housing info as along with a guide to the city. The dates they have for the actual Wing Ding is July 1-7. For housing info and booking your rooms use the website [www.greenvillevb.com/housing](http://www.greenvillevb.com/housing). We will bring the housing info, city guide and housing applications to the next meeting. From past experience, if you are planning on attending get your reservations made as soon as possible.

Our next meeting will be our annual chapter picnic as well at the Air Force Academy on Saturday, August 4th. We hope to see you there.

Friends for Fun, Safety & Knowledge,

Tom & Monica Harder  
Chapter I Directors

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* I need pictures and articles for the newsletter. Share places \*  
 \* you have been, including restaurants, scenic roadways, \*  
 \* museums, towns, etc. \*  
 \*  
 \* Remember—this is **your** newsletter. I count on all of you \*  
 \* to help me make this a winning newsletter for our chapter. \*  
 \*  
 \* Thanks, Linda \*  
 \* Lshelley@animail.net \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

### Ride for Kids Rebel Winner



## Things I have learned this summer

During our travels this summer I have learned many things that I would like to share—some may be helpful while others are informative.

1. A fifty pound dog with very short legs can move fast enough to tree a squirrel and leave the squirrel wondering — “Where did that thing come from?”
2. A 15' two by six can be balanced on the top of a pickup cab to get it home from the hardware store, until you have to stop fast or make a sharp turn (see picture on page 4)
3. It doesn't matter if you are traveling on the Interstates, off the beaten path, through a big city or small-town US, there is going to be—road construction !!!!!
4. There are festivals to suit anyone's needs, wants, personalities (see picture on page 9)
5. If you are staying in a campground and want to dry your clothes overnight, the CB and radio antennae can be folded forward and your clothes draped over them (UNTIL your husband shows up and discovers your ingenuity and decides that the bike antennae are more precious than your articles of clothing)
6. If you are on a trip and need to do laundry, you can usually wash your clothes in the hotel room, but they may not dry overnight.
  - To dry your jeans, just bungee them to your trunk bag
  - To dry undies you hang them from one of your antennae (unless they are large or extra large and may case your Wing to become air-born, in which case you will want to bungee them to a different section of your trunk bag)

## Steamboat Trip

Page 3

YEEEE HAW!

That's Steamboat speak for "Man, I gotta get out of this town and see me a rodeo!"

Our weekend is fast approaching and July 27th just around the corner. Our plans thus far are this:

We'll leave Colorado Springs after breakfast on Friday. Plan to meet at the Safeway parking lot at 31st and Colorado. Have your tanks filled and ready to roll out of there at 9:30.



We'll head up over Hoosier Pass and through Breckenridge. We might want to do a leg stretch there in Breckenridge. Then we'll wander through Silverthorne and through Kremmling. However, we are always open to other ideas and if there's a route you've been wanting to take, please say so. Those traveling by RV may want to take a different route. If so, let me know so we're not waiting for you at the Safeway.

Question: For Friday night's dinner, would you rather share a meal there in the campground or go to a restaurant? Either way is fine with us, but I would like to know before hand so I know what to throw in the cooler. If some one to do one thing, and others something else, that's fine too. We don't have anything planned for Saturday afternoon - some might light to visit the town, others may enjoy a ride. I'm leaving that day open.

I confirmed for the third time that we can get our rodeo tickets right from the Steamboat Campground and that sure seemed easiest to do. So we can pick them up once we get checked in.

So here's who I've got going:

Camping: Wrens, Schlossser/Cruzan, Erskine

RV: Reislers, Irish, Ray and Bea

Cabin: Harders, Damschen and Childs

**TOM AND MONICA - Please forward this on to the Doug and Marilyn Irish - I don't have their email address.  
Thanks!**

Any questions, just give me a call or email me. See you next weekend if not sooner.

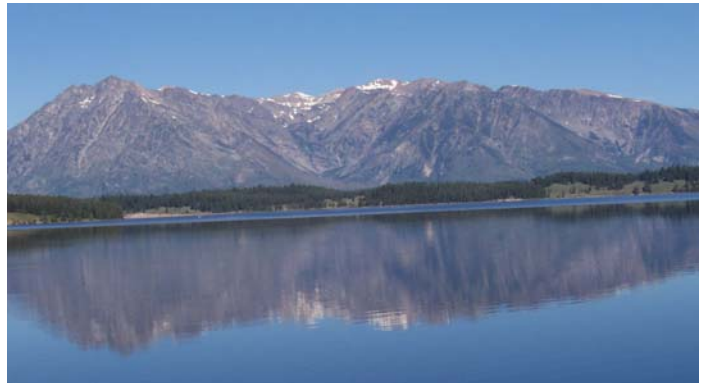
Sandie Erskine

[serskine01@comcast.net](mailto:serskine01@comcast.net)

265-5962







Hello all of you Wingers...it is time again for our Annual Picnic and we hop ethat you will all come to eat food, play games and just have a good time. Of course it is also our monthly meeting which we haven't had for a couple of months.

WHEN: SATURDAY, AUGUST 4TH

WHERE: U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY PICNIC AREA 2

TIME: 10:00 - WHENEVER WE GET DONE

WHAT: As usual the chapter will provide the meat/buns/condiments and drinks.



Things we need from chapter members:

1. We would like for every family/member attending to bring your favorite side dish to share with your fellow members.
2. Riders need to wear bright clothing and show driver's license to enter academy grounds.
3. Everyone should enter through the south entrance off of North Academy Blvd. Anyone having military ID can enter through either the South Gate or North Gate.
4. **VERY IMPORTANT: We would like everyone to RSVP by either e-mail or call us at 481-9044 and let us know how many in your family are attending the picnic so we can get a good idea of how much food we need to purchase. Heaven forbid we let any Wingers go hungry!!!**
5. See map on page 5 to locate the picnic area. If you have any problem finding us or getting into the Academy, please call Mark Damschen at 719 237-8937 (cell) or Tom & Monica at 719 330-9789.



#2 of things I learned this summer

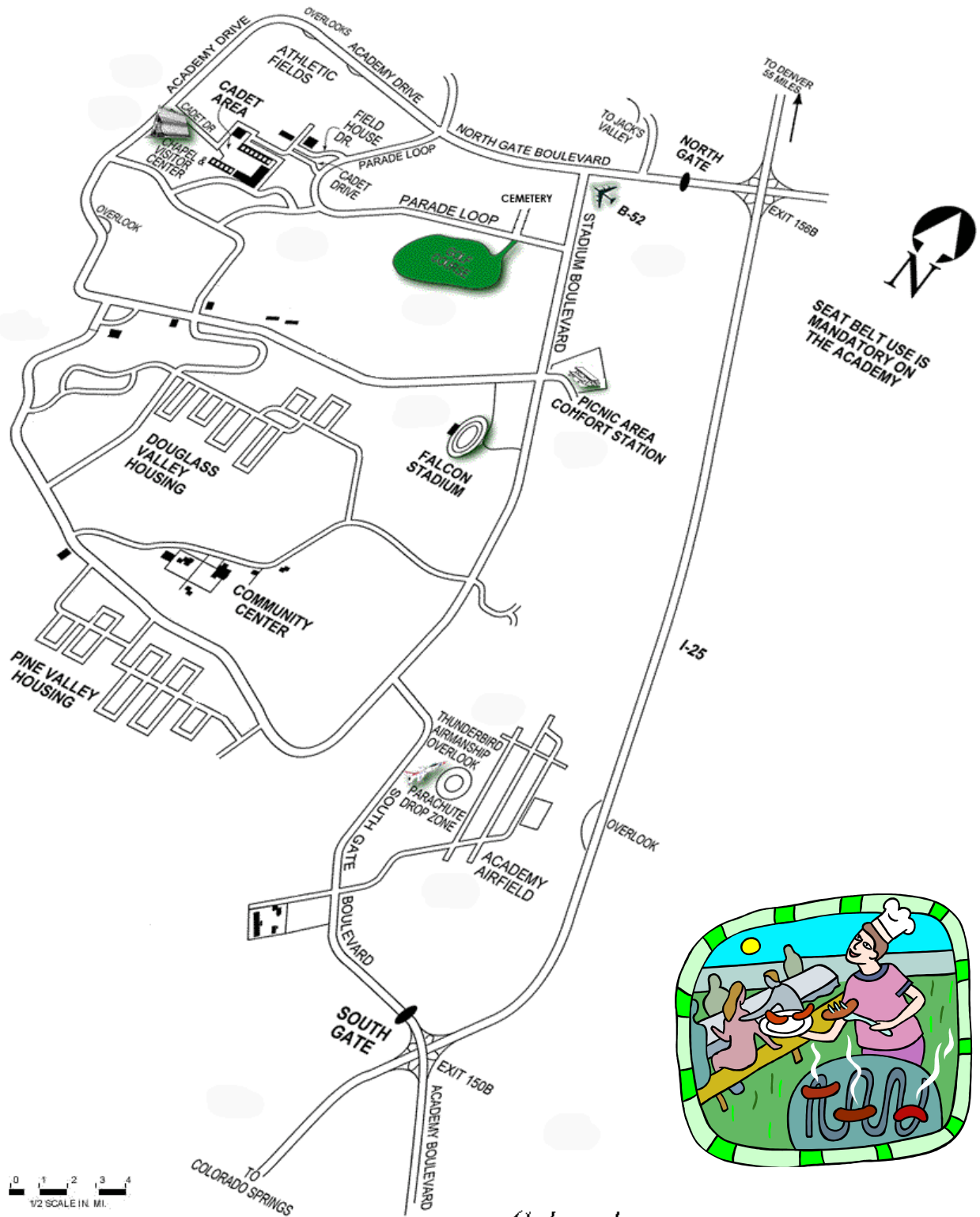


**Yellowstone**





# Air Force Academy Map



Colorado



# A Man's Trip to Wal-Mart

You are in the middle of some kind of project around the house. Mowing the lawn, putting a new fence in, painting the living room, or whatever. You are hot and sweaty. Covered in dirt or paint. You have your old work clothes on. You know the outfit, shorts with the hole in crotch, old t-shirt with a stain from who knows what, and an old pair of tennis shoes. Right in the middle of this great home improvement project you realize you need to run to Wal-Mart to get something to help complete the job. Depending on your age you might do the following.



In your 20's. Stop what you are doing. Shave, take a shower, blow dry your hair, brush your teeth, floss, and put on clean clothes. Check yourself in the mirror and flex. Add a dab of your favorite cologne because you never know, you just might meet some hot chick while standing in the checkout lane. You went to school with the pretty girl running the register.

In your 30's. Stop what you are doing, put on clean shorts and shirt. Change shoes. You married the hot chick so no need for much else. Wash your hands and comb your hair. Check yourself in the mirror. Still got it. Add a shot of your favorite cologne to cover the smell. The cute girl running the register is the kid sister to someone you went to school with.

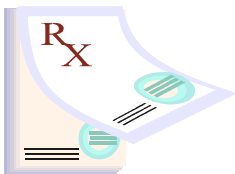


In your 40's. Stop what you are doing. Put a sweatshirt that is long enough to cover the hole in the crotch of your shorts. Put on different shoes and a hat. Wash your hands. Your bottle of Brute Cologne is almost empty so you don't want to waste any of it on a trip to Wal-Mart. Check yourself in the mirror and do more sucking in than flexing. The spicy young thing running the register is your daughter's age and you feel weird thinking she is spicy.

In your 50's. Stop what you are doing. Put a hat on, wipe the dirt off your hands onto your shirt. Change shoes because you don't want to get dirt in your new sports car. Check yourself in the mirror and you swear not to wear that shirt anymore because it makes you look fat. The cutie running the register smiles when she sees you coming and you think you still have it. Then you remember the hat you have on is from your buddy's bait shop and it says, "I Got Worms".



In your 60's. Stop what you are doing. No need for a hat anymore. Hose off the dog crap off your shoes. The mirror was shattered when you were in your 50's. You hope you have underwear on so nothing hangs out the hole in your pants. The girl running the register may be cute but you don't have your glasses on so you are not sure.



In your 70's. Stop what you are doing. Wait to go to Wal-Mart until they have your prescriptions ready too. Don't even notice the dog crap on your shoes. The young thing at the register smiles at you because you remind her of her grandfather.

In your 80's. Stop what you are doing. Start again. Then stop again. Now you remember that you needed to go to Wal-Mart. Go to Wal-Mart and wonder around trying to think what it is you are looking for. Fart out loud and you think someone called out



An in-depth study has been published by the Association of European Motorcycle Manufacturers (**ACEM**). Officially titled *Motorcycle Accidents In Depth Study* (MAIDS), the report is based on investigations of 921 [motorcycle](#) accidents (including 103 fatality accidents) from study areas in France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Spain for Powered Two Wheelers (PTWs). There are significant differences in the roadway structures, cultures, cars, PTW's (more scooters), and other factors between the European countries where the study was conducted and the United States, still there seems to be many findings in the MAIDS report that are useful and relevant to American riders.

**Didn't See Him.** In half of the collision accidents, the driver of the other vehicle was judged to have made the primary error that caused the crash, and that driver failed to "perceive" the motorcyclist in 70 percent of the two-vehicle collisions. In 37 percent of the accidents with a "partner," it was the motorcyclist who created the problem. As in other studies, drivers with motorcycling experience are more likely to see and avoid motorcyclists. The object motorcyclists most often collided with were passenger cars, so the two-vehicle accident is the major concern for motorcyclists, at least in Europe. The failure of drivers to see motorcyclists reinforces the need for motorcyclists to dress conspicuously, and in this study as in others, riders wearing dark clothing were more likely to crash than others. A recent study in New Zealand found that simply wearing a white helmet significantly reduces the likelihood of a crash.

**Solo Crashes.** The second most common point of impact was "the roadway" itself. Some of these non-collision accidents happened as the rider attempted to avoid hitting a car, but plenty managed to crash all by themselves. In rural areas over half the accidents studied happened without the involvement of another vehicle. This still leaves plenty of opportunity for serious injuries from curbs and roadside "furniture," especially those barriers intended to corral out-of-control cars. The authors note that collisions with such barriers often results in "serious lower extremity and spinal injuries as well as serious head injuries."

**Mistakes Riders Make.** Rider inattention was cited in 10.6 percent of the crashes. Both riders and drivers "failed to account for visual obstructions" in as many as a third of the accident. A parked [truck](#), roadside bushes, or glare can hide something, and motorcyclists need to allow for the

possibility that it might be there. Riders need to realize that even a small object can block a driver's view of them and adjust their lane position to be seen or accommodate the possibility that the driver might pull in front of them.

**Fewer Drinkers, But They Crash More.** Only 5 percent of the crashers had been drinking. However, drinkers were still determined to crash 2.7 times more frequently than sober types. Crashing motorcyclists were also more likely to have been drinking than the drivers they collided with.

**Get a License.** Getting the proper license to ride what you're astride means that you are less likely to crash. Riders with no licenses or improper licenses crashed more frequently than riders who were properly licensed for what they were riding.

**Training, Experience and Familiarity Work for You.** Riders who took some sort of rider training were more likely to try some sort of avoidance maneuver, such as braking or swerving. Untrained riders were more likely to sit there and crash without doing anything to prevent it. Riding experience—both total and on the bike being ridden—worked in the rider's favor, in terms of fewer crashes. A quarter (24.2%) of the accidents studied involved riders with less than six months experience. Inexperienced riders were also more likely to do something that caused the accident.

**Skills Aren't Always Enough.** The study concludes that "73.1% of all PTW riders attempted some form of collision avoidance immediately prior to impact. Of these, 32% experienced some type of loss of control during the maneuver." It also noted that the accident scenarios often presented situations that, once encountered, were beyond the avoidance skills of the vast majority of street riders.

**Dress for the Crash.** The MAIDS researchers found that helmets do a good job of protecting users, providing they fit and are fastened properly. Since this was Europe, 90 percent of the crashers were wearing helmets, and they did a good job—when they stayed on. However, 9 percent of the helmeted riders lost their helmets during the crash; either because they didn't fit properly, weren't fastened properly, or were damaged during the crash. Other protective gear also did a good job of attenuating the most common injuries—to arms and legs—though such gear didn't prevent all injuries.

**How Hard Do You Hit?** The authors note that the typical accident speed was modest. In 70 percent of the crashes, the rider hit the car or other object at under 30 mph. The severity of injuries went up



with crash speed. The report says: "There were relatively few cases in which excess speed related to accident causation," but speed differential—going either faster or slower than nearby traffic—was a contributing factor in 18 percent of the crashes.

**Danger Zones.** The study found that 90 percent of all threats were in front of the riders who crashed as a result of them. This correlates with other studies. Over half the accidents happened in intersections. 72% of the accidents took place in urban areas, and a motorcycle was more likely to collide with a passenger car in an urban area (64% of crashes) than in a rural area, where crashes with cars were 47% of the crashes. Weather was deemed to be a factor in 7.5% of the accidents. "Roadway design defects" caused or contributed to the crashes 3% of the time.

**What Kind of Bikes Crash Most?** The only type of bike that was over-represented in the MAIDS data was "modified conventional street motorcycles." Engine size also didn't show up as a risk factor, which checks with other studies that have used exposure data. There were not enough bikes equipped with anti-lock brakes to draw any conclusion about their effectiveness. Cruisers and choppers are less common in Europe than in America.

**Old Guys?** Good news for typical cruiser riders:

Riders aged 41 to 55 crashed less frequently than the exposure data said they should, but as with previous studies youth and enthusiasm were dangerous. Riders between 18 and 25 years of age crashed more than their fair share. In America, riders over 40 have been showing up as a larger percentage of the crash victims, and since there is no exposure data, there has been concern that they are over-represented. The MAIDS study suggests that issue is not their age, though there may be cultural or other differences that make the situation different. At least age by itself doesn't make you unsafe.

**Passengers?** In 9 percent of the accidents where a passenger was being carried, the passenger shifted his or her weight and thereby contributed to the accident.

**Check Your Tires and Brakes.** Tire failure was the only technical failure that made a real blip in the MAIDS data, at 3.6%. Brake problems were cited in 1.2% of the accidents.

The complete MAIDS report can be downloaded as a PDF file from the site of the ACEM, (Association des Constructeurs Europeens de Motocycles, the European motorcycle industry organization).



## More Wing Ding Trip Pictures



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- There are two sides to every divorce: Yours and Shithead's.
- The closest I ever got to a 4.0 in college was my blood alcohol content.
- I live in my own little world but it's OK, everyone knows me here.
- I saw a rather large woman wearing a sweatshirt with 'Guess' on it. I said, "Thyroid problem?"
- I don't do drugs 'cause I find I get the same effect just by standing up really fast.
- A sign In a Chinese Pet Store: "Buy one dog, get one flea."
- Money can't buy happiness but it sure makes misery easier to live with.
- I got a sweater for Christmas. I really wanted a screamer or a moaner.
- If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the "terminal"?
- I don't approve of political jokes. I've seen too many of them get elected.
- The most precious thing we have is life, yet it has absolutely no trade-in value.
- If life deals you lemons, make lemonade; if it deals you tomatoes, make Bloody Marys.
- I love being married. It's so great to find that one special person you want to annoy for the rest of your life.
- Shopping tip: You can get shoes for a buck at bowling alleys.
- I am a nobody, nobody is perfect, and therefore I am perfect.
- Everyday I beat my own previous record for number of consecutive days I've stayed alive.
- That Claudia Schiffer must be a genius because I told a friend my plan to attain world peace, and he told me I have "Schiffer Brains".
- No one ever says "It's only a game!" when their team is winning.
- Ever notice that people who spend money on beer, cigarettes and lottery tickets, are always complaining about being broke and not feeling well?
- How long a minute is, depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.
- Isn't having a smoking section in a restaurant like having a peeing section in a swimming pool?
- Marriage changes passion...suddenly you're in bed with a relative.
- Why is it that most nudists are people you don't want to see naked?
- Snowmen fall from Heaven unassembled.
- Every time I walk into a singles bar I can hear Mom's wise words:  
"Don't pick that up, you don't know where it's been!"





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#### Chapter I meeting information:

##### WHEN

First Saturday of the month, 8:30  
coffee, 9:00 meeting

##### WHERE

Holy Cross-Lutheran Church  
4125 Constitution Ave.



Linda & Butch Shelley  
15605 Archer Terrace  
Elbert, CO 80106

Mailing Label Goes Here