



August 2008

Springs Wings

Colorado Springs Chapter I



Harder's Happenings

Once again our chapter's annual picnic on Saturday, August 2 was a hit. We had over 70 people in attendance including members from Chapter A, Chapter E, & Chapter L. The venue was changed this year to Dirty Woman Creek Park in Monument and we received many compliments for the nice surroundings.

With summer in full swing, our members have had a few camping trips to take advantage of...the first being a week long stay in Gunnison the week following the 4th of July weekend. Many day trips were taken & we've heard that all who attended have a great time. Thanks to Doug & Marilyn Irish for organizing that trip. The second trip was to Steamboat Springs for a long weekend on the fourth weekend of July. Although there were some challenges to overcome in the beginning, the rest of the weekend was fun with many attending the Saturday night bbq & rodeo. Thank you Chris & Sandie Erskine for organizing this trip. The third camping event recently took place over a long weekend beginning Friday, August 8. Many of those campers have decided to extend that trip to Tuesday & then return. We haven't heard yet if there were any challenges on this trip but our members just seem to overcome the obstacles placed in front of them and have fun anyway. Again, thanks to Chris & Sandie Erskine for organizing this trip.

The Colorado District/Region F Rally begins this Thursday in Canon City and runs through Saturday. This year more vendors will be in attendance & there will also be many fun events for you to attend & participate in if so desired. If you are planning to attend, please make sure to support the Individual of the Year & Couple of the Year programs. There is also a Cookie Contest that everyone is welcome to enter. So bring your favorite batch of cookies & if you have any left by the time you get to the rally, please enter them in the contest. Another event that will leave you speechless is the Drill

Team exhibition. If you have never seen a Goldwing drill team, please make every effort to attend this exhibition. For more rally details & the schedule go to

www.coloradogwrra.com

There are more planned trips/rides coming up over the next couple of months. They include a Black Hills Ride organized by Rich & Donna Noah over Labor Day weekend. Also coming up are the Meeker Sheepdog Trials Ride the first weekend in September. This ride is being organized by Ron & Marsha Curry and is always amazing with dogs from all over the world participating in this competition. There is a Color Ride on the calendar for the last weekend in September. For many years, the chapter tries to take in all of the beauty of the aspen's colors by getting out in them. However, we do not have an organizer yet for this ride. If you would like to organize this weekend ride, please let us know.

The dinner rides have been a huge success with Dean & Joann Hauser planning July's ride through the Garden of the Gods and then on to Amanda's Fonda for good Mexican food. A big thanks to Dean and Joann. This month's dinner ride is to Merlino's Belvedere in Canon City. Thank you George, in advance, for planning this dinner ride. We have two more dinners rides on the calendar this year before the weather turns on us, so if you have any ideas please step forward. We always have such a good turnout for these rides because as you know we love to eat.

Hope to see everyone out participating in some if not all of these rides & events.

Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge,
Tom & Monica Harder
Chapter I Directors

Dates to Remember

Aug 29-Sept 1—Black Hills Ride with the Noahs & Childs'

Sept 6—Bring food to meeting for church food pantry

Sept 5-7—Meeker Sheep Dog Trials with the Currys

Sept 20-21—Chile & Frijoles Festival in Pueblo

Sept 27-28—Colorado Color Ride

October—Halloween Party, hosted by Ray & Nancy Daniels



Photos from Grand Lake trip
courtesy of Nancy Lockhart



Elk,
bunches
of them

Need Leathers ??

Jeannie shared a website she found that has quality leathers, yet inexpensive.

www.leathermotorcyclejacketandapparel.com

Meeker Sheep Dog Trials Trip



Sheep Dog Trials in Meeker, Colorado will be held September 3-7. We are planning to leave sometime Friday the 5th. We will travel to Rifle, check into the motel, have dinner, etc.

If you are interested in making this journey with us, the Buckskin Inn Motel will take your reservation. Call 970-625-1741, press 0 for the front desk. The area around Meeker is oil country so we would suggest you make your reservation soon (many rooms are permanent guests - workers).

More info to follow, or see us at the picnic in August. Website: www.meekersheepdog.com

Marsha & Ron

Meeker Sheep Dog Trial Highlights and Schedule

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday

Pancake breakfast at Trial Site, 7 a.m.

Bagpiper Hugh Thackaberry

Demonstrations in Vending Area

Spinning, weaving, saddlemaking

Stockdog handling demonstration, Noon

Saturday

Semi-final Round, 7 a.m., 30 dogs

War Dog Demonstration, Noon

Lion Club BBQ, Courthouse lawn

Rio Blanco Masons Car & Truck Show, Courthouse, Noon

Free outdoor concert, Jon Chandler & the Wichitones, Courthouse lawn

Jackpot Trial (speed trial) Rio Blanco County Fairgrounds

Sunday

Opening Ceremony, 8:15 a.m.

Final Round, 12 dogs

Rio Blanco Woolgrowers Lamb Barbeque

Scottish Country Dancers of Colorado, Noon

Award Ceremony after Final Run

FREE—Horse drawn shuttle & Meeker Shuttle Running all day Friday thru Sunday from downtown Meeker locations to/from the trial site.

2008 Region F & Colorado State Rally

2008 - Colorado District & Region F Rally will be held in Cañon City, CO. at the Abbey
When - August 14th, 15th & 16th, 2008
The Host Facility is The Abbey



Performing at this year's rally

Arizona Precision Motorcycle Drill Team

The Arizona Precision Motorcycle Drill Team was established in 1985 with the purpose of presenting to the public a positive image of motorcycling and motorcycle safety.

The Drill Team has been competing Nationally since 1986. They have won four National Titles and one International Championship.

Visit www.azdrillteam.org to find out more about this awesome group.

Tentative schedule for the drill team is Saturday, Aug. 16, 1:30 - 3:30.

Friday, Aug. 15

Co-Rider Seminar

1:00-3:00

Ice Cream Social

7:30-8:00

Light Show

8:00-9:30

Vendors and Swap
Meet open each
day at 8:00 am

Food for Thought

ARE WE SO CONVINCED THAT OUR GOLD WINGS REPRESENT THE STATE OF THE ART MOTORCYCLES THAT WE FAIL TO RECOGNIZE ADVANTAGES OF HIGHER TECHNOLOGIES?

By Dick Reisler



Have we become so prejudiced in our belief that the “Wing” represents the state of the art technologies that we have failed to recognize more advanced designs?

Take as an example the 2007 Viking Land Skooner pictured above. How many times have we, as wingers, had to buff out scratches in the surface paint of our bikes that were inflicted by our blue jeans simply rubbing against the paint?

I ask you, would that happen if our bikes were covered in Bison skin? No way! and think of the protection offered to our valued machines if they went down. Ever seen a Bison suffer from road rash? Of course not. They have a thick and strong hide that protects their vital parts.

The National Foundation for Motorcycle Safety recently published a study that revealed an average of 127 motorcycle accidents each year from loose handle bars. Yet, do our “Wings” have a redundant Elk horn steering system? - No they don’t!

The Viking Skooner does. Notice the second set of handle bars in the above photo. If the handle bars were to fall off, the driver has the option of grabbing onto the Elk horns and steering the bike safely to its destination. I am sure we are all aware of SHBLS (Sudden Handle Bar Loss Syndrome).

OK, now let’s talk about one of the most common causes of motorcycle injury, Deer. That’s right each year deer run out in the roadway and are struck by vehicles. No problem if you are driving a Peret-bilt 80,000 pound rig, but big problem if you are driving a 900 pound two wheeler.

So what’s our protection for this — Deer whistles. Not very effective are they.

By mounting the head of a bear, the natural predator of Deer, on a prominent point of this bike, the engineers at Viking Motorcycles have come up with a fool proof way to keep deer away as well as tailgaters.

Look closely at the right side saddle bag, notice an Alligator head.

The lock to secure your valuables is located inside the mouth. This system provides increased security. Any thief reaching to unlatch that lock and steal your valuables will get cut by the sharp teeth by the latch. Only the operator, wearing protective Bison skin gloves has access to the storage areas. How clever, and why didn’t Honda think of that!

Let’s not be so fast to think that our Wings represent the state of the art high tech.

Just food for thought.



Rider Education

Hello Chapter I, As the New Rider Educator, I would like to talk about the 4 Level that can be achieved and the purpose. The Rider Education Program is intended to make motorcycling safer by reducing injuries and fatalities and increasing motorcyclist skills and awareness. By participating in the Rider Education Program we can reduce the number of injuries and fatalities that may occur. Listed below are several benefits of a GWRRA Rider Education Program:

- Increased rider knowledge
- Increased rider safety skills
- Prevention of accidents
- Reduced injuries
- Reduced fatalities
- Improved general public image of motorcyclists
- Enhanced enjoyment of motorcycle riding



Level I: Safety by Commitment - *The first big step to success*

Level I of the Rider Education Program is also referred to as **Safe Miles**. It represents the commitment of the Rider and/or the Co-Rider to practice safe motorcycle operation whenever they operate their motorcycle.

Safety is a state of mind which can only be attained through total commitment. Every successful accomplishment begins with a commitment to reach the intended objective.

Though there is no mileage requirement to enter Level I, the commitment to safe riding is tracked by the number of accident free miles since joining GWRRA. Accident free miles are accumulated in 5,000 mile increments and may be updated at yearly intervals.

Level III: Safety by Preparedness



Level III of the REP is also referred to as **Certified Tour Rider/Co-Rider**. It represents the commitment of the Rider and/or Co-Rider to be prepared in the event of an accident to give aid and possibly save lives. This is done by being knowledgeable in First Aid or CPR and carrying a first aid kit on their motorcycle at all times.

It would be wonderful if we could achieve the coveted goal of zero accidents; however, we know realistically, accidents will happen. Because of this, it is important to be fully prepared to lend aid to unfortunate accident victims. It is important to always be prepared to save a life. Level III of the Rider Education Program was developed to deal with such circumstances by recognizing and encouraging proper First Aid or CPR training. CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation) has been used to save many lives. Being trained to render CPR or First Aid is a tremendous asset to those the REP participant will come in contact with daily.

Requirement: Current in Level II and have taken either First Aid or CPR training

No cost to sign up. Patches available at \$4.00 per participant

Receive: "Certified Tour Rider" or "Certified Co-Rider" patch



Rider Education (cont.)

Level II: Safety by Education



Level II of the REP is also referred to as **Tour Rider**. It represents the commitment of the Rider and/or Co-Rider to be safer motorcycle riders by taking approved motorcycle riding courses at regular intervals.

GWRRA has chosen several educational training programs for the Riders and Co-Riders such as the MSF (Motorcycle Safety Foundation) programs, the United Sidecar Association course, and the GWRRA's Advanced Riding courses.

Completing these courses provides the foundation and skills for your quest to be a safe motorcycle rider. All recognized programs are taught by qualified and Nationally certified instructors.

For the Co-Rider, we have provided an excellent seminar and "Two Up" programs to assist in their role in the safety aspect of motorcycle riding.

Motorcycle education goes "hand in hand" with commitment. The "on bike" education by MSF, USCA, and GWRRA for the Rider and Co-Rider and the "off bike" education designed specifically for the Co-Rider, provide a very effective approach to motorcycle safety. This is when a REP participant truly begins to understand what the Level I commitment means and sees the value in the program.

Requirement: Rider - a Certified Rider Course with 5,000 safe miles. Co-Rider - certified Co-rider Seminar or 2-up Rider Course.

No cost to sign up. Patches available at \$5.00 per participant

Receive: "Red Triangle" patch for either Rider or Co-rider signifying Level II participant.

Level IV: Safety By Enhanced Commitment and Preparedness



Level IV is the most prestigious of the REP levels and is referred to as **Master Tour Rider/Co-Rider**. It represents the highest commitment of the Rider and/or Co-Rider to safe riding and preparedness. This commitment is shown by a demonstrated history of safe miles and current certification in **both** First Aid **and** CPR. This Master Tour Riders/Co T Riders are the finest example to everyone of the highest commitment to safe motorcycle operation and preparedness.

Level IV of the REP, the Master Tour Rider, was designed for those special caring individuals who desire to "be all they can be" with regards to motorcycle safety. The requirements are more stringent than Level III and require a greater commitment. These individuals are caring, trained and prepared with the experience to back them up. It is realized Level IV is not for everyone, but for those who desire to be of greater service to their fellow man, it is the correct prescription.

Why desire to be a Level IV Master Tour Rider? It's a worthy goal. Being prepared to save a life is a high calling indeed! These individuals are shining examples to the rest of the GWRRA membership. Others aspire to practice the same commitment as displayed by those who have attained Level IV. For that reason, because these individuals are ambassadors to the members at all levels, GWRRA provides a special gathering to celebrate the Master Tour Rider commitment each year at the District Rally, Region D Rally and Wing Ding.

Requirement: Current in Level III for one year and have taken both First Aid and CPR training.

Have 25,000 Safe Miles and must be committed to riding with "Proper Riding Gear" at all times.

Cost: \$35.00 for each participant (Black and Gold patch is available for another \$8.00)

Receive: "Special Triangular" patch with dark blue border and your individual Master number embroidered on it.

And that's it folks, the more you know, the better it gets.

Chapter Ride Educator, Earl Edwards

Events



August 27—Bob Strath
Sept 2—Marilyn Irish
Sept 5—Tia Laudonio
Sept 6—Wolf Wendell
Sept 11—Kathy Wren
Sept 12—John Athman

August 12 Dinner
 Ride to
 Merlino's Belvedere,
 Canon City

Hosted by George Davis

Meet at the Black Bear Academy
 & Highway 115 at 5:45 PM
 Kick stands up at 6:00 PM
 Dinner at 7:30 PM
 With 30 or more people we can
 get a buffet, so will send out two
 menus.

Sept 17—Dinner Ride

**!!!! Need someone to plan and
 make arrangements !!!!**

ANNIVERSARIES



August 19—Bob & Sherry Strath
 Sept 1—Gene & Marina
 Krull
 Sept 3—Dave & Kathy
 Wren
 Sept 8—Neal & Barbara
 Bondurant
 Sept 15—Paul & Jeannie
 Bondurant



Colorado District & Region F Rally

August 14-16
 Canon City

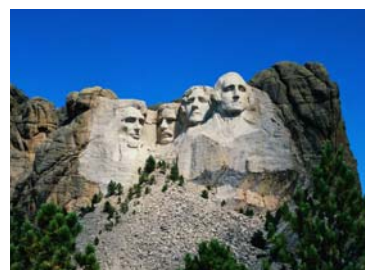


Sept. Goodies
 Dave and Kathy Wren
 Laurie Schlosser



Black Hills Trip August 29 - Sept 1

Call Rich Noah or Cliff Childs



Steamboat Springs Rodeo Weekend

This year we did it again . . . Steamboat Springs camping along with the Pro Rodeo. Six couples joined Chris and me up in Steamboat in July for a weekend of camping, riding and rodeoing (is there such a word??). A good time was had by all, but boy it certainly had its questionable moments!

Don Cruzan and Cathy Luce, Dean and Joann Hauser joined us on Friday morning for the ride up to Steamboat. We were an interesting group that day with Chris and me on two wheels, the Hausers on their three-wheels, and Don and Cathy in their 4-wheel conversion vehicle. That's right . . . a 4-wheel conversion!! We got a nice early start and planned to meet up with Cliff and Myra Childs in Silverthorne for lunch. Dave and Kathy Wren were leaving much earlier that morning and riding up with Bob and Darlene Nyquist. They'd be meeting us at the campground later that evening. The Reislers would also meet us at the campground in their RV. The best of plans, huh?

Well, coming over Hoosier Pass and into Breckenridge there was considerable shoulder work being done on the road so traffic was slow . . . very slow. Don called Cliff to let him know we'd be a tad late on meeting for lunch. After *finally* getting through Frisco and heading to Silverthorne, I had a mental image in my head of where the lunch meeting place was and told Chris to head north on Highway 9. The meeting place was actually south, into Dillon - so much for my reliable mental images! We got there an hour after our original meeting time - and boy oh boy, were we glad to see Cliff out along the highway waving his arms indicating where to stop. Lunch was really good that day and if you have a chance to visit the Dillon Dam Brewery, I think you'll enjoy it. Thank you Myra for suggesting it!

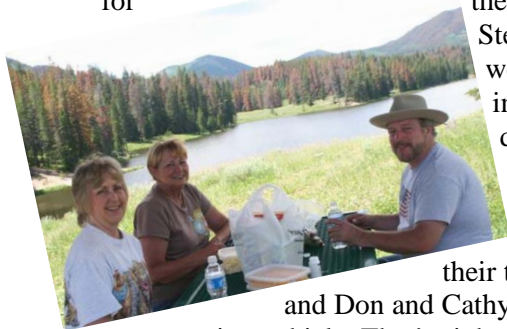
After lunch we headed up to Steamboat and the ride was without a hitch. Open roads, little traffic and beautiful scenery. Can't ask for much more than that! Little did I know what was yet to come.

When we arrived at the campground, I saw that the Wrens, Nyquists, and Reislers were already there so I went over to say hi and let Chris get us checked in for the weekend. My heart and stomach sank when I heard him call me over to the

office with a concerned look on his face. The two couples with cabin reservations *had no cabins!!* How could this be? And the campground was full. Even though I had called twice to confirm our reservations, they had no record of this. To make matters worse, the young girls behind the desk hadn't run into a situation like this before and were not able to deal with it well. Things got heated to say the least. What to do, what to do! We all backed off to cool down. Graciously, the Reisler's offered to share their RV with the Hausers since it is imperative that Joann have electricity nearby. That left us wondering what to do with the Childs'. It was a busy weekend in Steamboat and it would be chancy finding another hotel with vacancy. Later we learned that the owner of the campground had a pop-up trailer and would let the Hausers use that for the weekend. Cliff and Myra then went off to WalMart to purchase a tent and air mattresses to serve as "home" for the weekend. However,

while they were away, the campground staff offered a 9-man tent for them to use so a call was placed telling the Childs' not to purchase a tent, we had one. Oh, weren't we just so excited!! Turns out, the tent the staff offered didn't have all the parts and instead they only had a 5-man tent to lend us, but we felt that would be fine. Well it wasn't. The only 5-men that would ever fit in that tent, needed to be loompa-loompas. And with the super-high air mattresses the Childs had bought, there would be no room for much more than a box of Kleenex inside that tent. By this time, Myra was exhausted and so Cliff, Don, and Cathy headed back to Wal-Mart in the 4-wheel conversion vehicle to purchase a more appropriate tent, which they found and brought back to the campground. After closely reading the directions and matching the thousands of color-coordinated pieces together to construct their home, the Childs' settled in. We now had five residences on three sites, but it worked out. Time for dinner!

We had a very nice guest join us that evening. Cory, the Nyquist's grandson lives in Steamboat Springs with his girlfriend and their boisterous and lovable dog, Kona the boxer, and Cory and his dog joined us for the evening. It was great to



Steamboat (cont.)

have a younger person in the group and a finer, more gracious young man would be hard to find. We plied him with questions and enjoyed the slobbery affections his dog provided us – while we were making dinner. And dinner was good too – even for Didi who had chosen the mystery burger (if one can even call it a burger!) laden with unusual crunchy and questionable tidbits. I believe even Kona turned up her nose at it! Hmmm. After dinner, Cory and the Nyquists left us and headed to Cory's home. That left us with an evening to sit around the campfire – reminiscing and sharing stories. Occasionally, glancing over at Didi to make sure she was feeling alright after that "burger". The next morning Cathy, Kathy, Dave and Don were off for a day of 4-wheeling. Dick and Didi planned to stay at the campground, riding their bicycles and enjoying the pool. So we went with the Childs' and Hausers on some beautiful back roads, of which Steamboat has many. The day was nothing short of perfect and I thank Cliff for showing us the sights.

That evening, we shuttled into town for the rodeo and bar-b-que dinner. Once again, the speaker did an outstanding introduction and by the time we sang the National Anthem. It sounded just beautiful with the entire audience participating. After looking at some very heavy and threatening looking clouds, we were so fortunate to have a cool and dry evening.

Sunday morning we got up early for our planned early departure. Well, *most* of us followed this plan - the Wrens needed a little extra shut eye that morning but boy, can they ever close down their Bunkhouse in record time! We were all mighty impressed at how quickly they were packed and ready to go. I was equally impressed at how well the Childs' dismantled their gigantic tent and its thousands of pieces. Not to mention that they were able to fit the tent and giant mattresses into their trailer!

After a hearty and delicious breakfast at Winona's (the *best* breakfast place in town!!) we left the Reislers to enjoy another day in Steamboat and headed out of town. Our ride home was uneventful (I'm happy to say) and smooth riding all the way. And as much as I

enjoy taking these trips, it's always nice to pull into the driveway safe and sound. Thank you all who joined us for this weekend. Special thanks to the Childs' and Hausers who really had their plans changed, and handled it so very graciously.

Happy Trails,
Sandie



*Photos
courtesy
of
Dave Wren*

Tent Construction



Isn't it nice to have so many people willing to help you get a good night's sleep !?!?



Man, I got tired just watching them put this tent up in the photos.

Upcoming Rallies

Wyoming—August 14-16, Powell, WY

California—August 28 - 31, Bakersfield, CA

New Mexico - September 26 - 28, Farmington, NM

Kansas—September 26-28, Abilene KS Fairgrounds

Oklahoma—"Hallo Wing 2" Oct. 20-22, Muskogee Civic Center, Muskogee, OK

Monster Mash Bash Dance—Thursday, Oct. 9 at 7 pm

Arizona—October 24-26, London Bridge Resort, Lake Havasu, AZ

Scientific Study

The sky was dark and cloudy as we were leaving work the other day. We could see lightening and rain in the distance. Of course we were on the Wing (the best way to carpool to work). Then Butch had a question that sounded like something I would come up with – “Do you think they have ever done a study about whether helmets protect you from getting hit by lightening?”

My first response was, “I don’t want to be one of the test subjects!”

Fifty Dollar\$ is Fifty
Dollar\$



Chris and his wife Sandie went to the state fair every year, and every year Chris would say, “Sandie, I’d like to ride in that helicopter.”

Sandie always replied, “I know Chris, but that helicopter ride is fifty dollars, and fifty dollars is fifty dollars.”

One year Sandie and Chris went to the fair, and Chris said, “Sandie, I’m 60 years old. If I don’t ride that helicopter, I might never get another chance.” To this, Sandie replied, “Chris that helicopter ride is fifty dollars, and fifty dollars is fifty dollars.”

The pilot overheard the couple and said, “Folks I’ll make you a deal. I’ll take the both of you for a ride. If you can stay quiet for the entire ride and not say a word, I won’t charge you! But if you say one word, it’s fifty dollars.”

Chris and Sandie agreed and up they went. The pilot put the craft through all kinds of maneuvers, but not a word was heard. Up, down, back and forth, even sideways, he did his daredevil tricks over and over again, but still not a word.

When they landed, the pilot turned to Sandie and said, “By golly, I did everything I could to get you to yell out, but you didn’t. I’m impressed!” Sandie replied, “Well, to tell you the truth, I almost said something when Chris fell out, but you know, fifty dollars



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719-266-0258, childs3153@msn.com
Individual of the Year (IOY) - Earl Edwards
719-637-0908
earl.edwards.ctr@cheyennemountain.af.mil

For Sale



1989 with 47,000 miles. CB, Radio, Custom Seat, Gold Plating and maintenance records. Price is \$6,900 or best offer. Call 633-4338



"2005" Featherlite Enclosed (All Aluminum) Trailer

Empty Dry Weight—2100 lbs., GVWR—7000 lbs.

Inside Rectangular box measures – 16 feet long x 75-1/2" wide x 77" tall

V-Nose adds an additional 28 inches to centerline of trailer

Rear drop down door opening measures – 70-1/4" wide x 75-3/4" tall

1 ea. Roof vent

1 camper side entrance door with additional screen door

2—5/16 coupler

Dual 3500 lbs. axles, Electric Brakes, Interior light, Spare tire, Only towed 6000 miles

INCLUDES:

2 ea. Ratchet cargo bars

2 ea. Jack stands

Multi-position turn-buckle system on both sides of the floor – 16 feet long

8 ea. Quick snap turn-buckles

4 ea. Soft-tie straps

4 ea. 6 foot ratchet tie down straps

2 ea. Motorcycle wheel chock kits

Original price - \$8402.00

Selling price -- \$6000.00

If interested call 719-598-7621



For Sale

'93 GL1500 SE, original owners and as you can see nearly all items available from Kuryakn at the time is installed on the bike. There are lots of items not visible: Headlight modulator, 4X4 Firefly brake light modulator, Startron (isolates trailer wiring from Motorcycle) All reflectors on the trunk and saddlebags have been replaced with lights, Progressive fork springs, progressive magnumatic air shocks on the rear suspension, two sets of air horns, light bars on the trunk and saddlebags (running and brake lights) two sets of driving lights, 12 disk CD player (brand new), too many other items installed to list here. Wing has always been garaged and has never been down!! We are asking \$6,000 or best offer. Email us at rdnoah@pcisys.net or call at 719-633-0345.

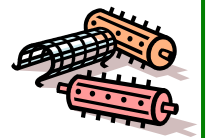


A Nun Story

While shopping in a food store, two nuns happened to pass by the beer. One asked the other if she would like a beer. The second nun answered that, indeed, it would be very nice to have one. But, she added that she would feel uncomfortable about purchasing it.

The first nun replied that she would handle that without a problem. She picked up a six-pack and took it to the cashier. The cashier had a surprised look, so the nun said, "This is for washing our hair."

Without blinking an eye, the cashier reached under the counter and put a package of pretzel sticks in the bag with the beer. "The curlers are on me."



A Little Rain Can't Drown a Chapter I Camping Trip

Here's a little prelude to the weekend in Grand Lake: Wednesday it rained off and on; Thursday it rained mostly all day and through the night; Friday we woke up to a *very* overcast morning and I'm thinking . . . "ICK". But much to my surprise our weekend turned out beautifully and although we did have some rain periodically, it certainly wasn't enough to dampen our spirits.

We had eight Chapter I couples on this weekend trip to the Winding River Resort: Dick and Didi, Ray and Nancy, Claude and Nancy, Kim and John, Bruce and Mel, Cindy and Mark, Cliff and Myra, and Chris and I - finer group of people I cannot imagine.

After getting the Athman's trailer light sorted, Chris and I along with the Atwells, Partners, Athmans, and Lockharts bid Colorado Springs goodbye and rode up through Deckers, Bergen Park, and into Evergreen. Or at least that was the plan. Chris's GPS was a bit twisted that day and wanted to take us to destinations unknown. Luckily Mark jumped into action and was able to get us back on track. Is there a road that he has not been on in Colorado?? Our ride was very nice but the trek by Mt. Evans was chock full of pot holes and it was a dodge-and-miss effort. Mark's CB wasn't working well, so Cindy navigated us through this rough patch without a hitch. We arrived in Idaho Springs just in time for lunch and a much needed bathroom break. We dined at the Two Brothers Deli there in town and it was excellent. A great place to check out if you've not been there before.

After lunch it was onward to Grand Lake. This time we were playing dodge-and-miss with the rain and for the most part, we were very successful. When we checked in, I have to admit I was a bit tense wondering if all the reservations were in place (after the Steamboat Springs fiasco!) and I'm happy to say, all was in order. The Athmans and Partners shared a room right over the main office. The Lockharts, Atwells, and we would be pitching our tents/bunkhouse nearby. Shortly after we arrived, in pulled the Reislars and the Daniels in their homes-on-wheels. All we needed were the Childs' who were getting a much later start from Denver and promised to join us after dinner.

About this time, the clouds started to get dark and foreboding and it was time to get dinner underway. We Goldwingers don't like to go too long without a meal plan! It was decided to make our dining room under the huge canopy of the Daniel's RV. Boy, was that a lifesaver! We were able to pull three picnic tables under there and dined happily on Nancy Lockhart's sloppy joes and the Part-

ner's hotdogs. Life is good!! Didi and the Nancys were busy in the kitchen making some fantastic peach daiquiris – well done, you three! Oh, and there was a very interesting bottle of wine circulating that was homemade (read: moonshine!) and unbelievably potent! And who should come tooteling down the road just as we were about to dig in? The Childs'! They made it up to the campground in excellent time. But I would have paid to have had a picture of their faces upon seeing the log cabin they'd reserved. The door was about 4-foot tall and only Didi was able to enter it without smacking her head on the frame. Luckily, it was just the door that was short as the interior of the Log Cabin was normal and the Childs' would be comfortable – or as comfortable as you can be on those bizarre things the campgrounds call mattresses. So anyway, we were all together now for dinner and we were dry! At least until the fire was started in the pit and then some drizzle set in, and then would go away for a bit. Sitting around a campfire you often learn new things about the people in your group and that night was no exception. Myra imitated their grandson's voice when calling out to Cliff as "Pappa Cliff, Pappa Cliff". Needless to say the name stuck like glue and from then on, poor Cliff became "Pappa Cliff". Then Didi was describing her niece's high-pitched voice when calling out for Didi and from then on, poor Didi was called out for with the same high squeals.

Saturday morning some of us took part in the chuckwagon breakfast and I have to say those flapjacks were huge! But, oh so tasty. And it was really a treat watching the young cowhands bringing the trail horses in from the pasture to the barn. Their dog, Nugget, was a great help with rounding up the ponies and his bark made it clear he enjoyed his work. Our day's departure was planned for 9:30 and Pappa Cliff would be leading us on a ride up and over Trail Ridge Road into Estes Park. Did I say 9:30??? Hmmm. Seems that Dick is still on retirement/vacation/over-sleeping time and we got off just a bit later than planned. But as Didi pointed out, it really was to our advantage because by the time we did leave, the clouds had lifted even more and the day looked promising. You know what? She was right!

What a beautiful ride that was that day. It's definitely a road I never get tired of taking. Almost right off the bat, we were able to see two huge bull elk with a massive set of antlers on them. What a sight! This was a new route for

A Little Rain Can't Drown a Chapter I Camping Trip



Claude and we all got a chuckle knowing his hesitancy with heights and what was in store for him. Needless to say, when we were above tree-line and the drop-offs were steep, Claude's eyes were focused forward – as much as we encouraged him, there was no looking down at the sights below. He wouldn't even consider the gondola ride in Estes Park. Go figure! After a couple of photo stops and a visit to the Visitor's Center, we made it into the extremely busy town of Estes Park. Parking was a nightmare. We found a great place to park, but learned it was for the post office and only for 30 minutes – and the town is quick to offer a ticket. So after much running around and Didi and Nancy Daniels providing on-street parking assistance, we finally found a place to park the bikes.

People wound up doing their own things there in town – some stayed for lunch, some took off to go shopping, and some stayed for a short time and then returned back to the campground. The trip back over Trail Ridge Road was fairly ugly at times with plenty of rain, cold temps, and some hail mixed in. Sure glad we got our group pictures taken on the way to Estes Park when there was sunshine! Back at the campground, it was hot showers for many of us before gathering back under the Daniels' canopy. That

evening, Nancy Daniels and Didi were on margarita duty and they did a splendid job!! Dinner was a whole new experience for me. We wrapped our meats and veggies in foil and cooked them right over the hot coals. Delicious! (and nothing to wash up either!). Once again, the rain teased us, but for the most part it was fairly dry and we were able to sit around the campfire and yak.

Sunday morning many of us had different plans for departure times and breakfast. The Partners and Athmans headed off together. The Lockharts would be joining the Reislars and Daniels' for breakfast there under the canopy. Mark and Cindy made a hearty breakfast before heading down to Thornton to check out a possible RV purchase. We joined the Childs' in Grand Lake at the Fat Cat Café for the amazing buffet. This is the same place many folks ate at when up in Grand Lake for the snowmobiling weekend. It was just as good this time!

After riding with the Childs as far as Idaho Springs, Chris and I headed south while they continued east. We made it almost all the way home without a drop of rain. Until we got to I-25 and the Briargate exit. Huge drops of rain pummeled us – for all of about 20 seconds – then it was clear again. Hooray!

We really enjoyed our stay at the Winding River Resort in such great company. Thanks to all who joined us with special thanks to the Partners for those delicious sweet treats (that girl can bake!!); to the Daniels for sharing their huge canopy with all of us and providing a great place to gather; to Pappa Cliff and Myra for leading us over Trail Ridge Road; to the Lockharts for the yummy sloppy joes and peach daiquiris; to the Athmans for the moonshine tasting experience; to Mark and Cindy for overriding Chris's spastic GPS and getting us where we needed to be; to Dick for his fascinating tales of days on the force and Didi for just being the wonderful person she is; and of course to my husband and friend Chris, who has to put up with me – now on a 24/7 basis! YIKES!

Happy trails, Sandie

*Photos courtesy of
Nancy Lockhart*





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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.

327 S. Weber
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

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