



GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS, REGION F, COLORADO DISTRICT, CHAPTER L

June 2014

RED ROCKS WINGS
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO

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2013 International Chapter of the Year

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Greetings from Your Directors

by *Fred and Linda Fisher*
Senior Chapter Directors

I am writing this from my hotel room in St. George Utah. I'm doing so because my newsletter editor asked me for my articles early last week and I completely forgot. Really no excuse, just forgot.

Our trip here was rather uneventful, but nice. Linda had never been through the National Parks of Utah, so we took a long day and visited Capital Reef, Bryce Canyon, and Zion National Parks. We have already spent some time visiting with friends this morning and are getting ready to head over to the Dixie Center for the Region F Convention later today. We have a couple of things on our convention agenda, but hope to have a little more for me to enjoy some "convention time" instead of work time. Linda and I will be showing off our new **International Chapter of the Year** shirts that arrived right before we left home. Very cool looking shirts.



It has been nice to be able to get out and ride a bit lately. It seemed every weekend I had off work, we had bad weather. Every weekend I worked, it was nice weather. Seemed I couldn't get the two things together. On May 17th, we enjoyed a nice dinner ride hosted by Andy and Sherry Smith up to Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que. Good food and great company for sure. Again, the RED chip was not pulled from the bag, so at the June dinner ride, you will have a 50/50 chance to win as we have one red and one white chip in the bag. Good odds, so you might want to be at the ride hosted by **Ralph and Janet Spencer** on the special date of June 22nd.

The day before this dinner ride is the Chapter Fundraiser on June 21st. **Bob King** has ridden the GPS route for the day and it looks like a nice route that gets up in the mountains. We will be asking Chapter L members to provide help for this event. Please give some of you time to help out.

Linda will be at the June 2nd gathering, but I will be unable to attend. Your Assistant Director, Bob King, will be in charge.

We have several events coming up including Wing Ding, the Chapter J Hummer of a Summer on July 26th, and in the distance, don't forget we have a ride scheduled for October 3-5 to the **Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta**. I will be sending out an email reminder of the Fiesta ride soon to get a room count. If we are not using some of the rooms, I need to release them. If you want to go and have not reserved a room, let me know and I will get the information to you.

Well, the boss is telling me it's time to head to the convention center. With that, I'll close for this month. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the June 2nd gathering, if not before.

Until Then, Ride Safe..... Always

Upcoming Events

- June 2 — Ch L Gathering
- June 7—1/2 Day Ride
- June 14—Pikes Peak Ride
- June 21—Ch L Fundraiser
- June 22— Ch Dinner Ride

RED ROCKS WINGS

2013 International Chapter of the Year

Gift of Freedom

by **Bob King**

Assistant Chapter Director



Take a moment and give thanks our men and women in uniform; past, and present. They have given us this gift of Freedom.



Time is going by so fast that we are already starting the sixth month of the year. The good part is there are motorcycles everywhere. I see lots of riders with big smiles on their faces enjoying the freedom of the two wheeled horse. I know that I have been putting on the miles and have enjoyed every one of them, what a privilege to ride in Colorado.

With that being said, remember that you are not the only vehicle on the road. Everybody is in a hurry and they are not looking for you, in fact you are invisible. Remember not to lose focus and ride defensive.

See you all at the next Gathering with smiles on your face.

Colorado Motorcycle Statistics

by **Sherry D. Smith**

Motorist Awareness Coordinator, CO-L



For this month, I decided to look at some Colorado web sites to see who else is concern about motorist awareness. What I found was interesting. At the site, *Governors Highway Safety Association* (www.ghsa.org), I found these statistics about Colorado.

- Colorado is one of the 16 states that mandates rider education for riders under a certain age (18).
- Colorado has a motorcycle safety plan and motorcycle safety is included in the state's strategic safety plan.
- The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is the lead agency for motorcycle safety.
- Colorado has a training capacity problem - the average wait time is two weeks.
- Colorado motorcycle fatalities represented 12% of all motor vehicle fatalities with only 1% of the registered vehicles.
- In 2009, GHSA joined a coalition of safety and transportation groups in writing letters to key members of the U.S. House and Senate advocating a broad approach to distracted driving and supporting a strong federal role.



Do you want to read more? Go check out the site.

Till next month: Ride Aware!

What Did You Expect? Plan Ahead!

by **Andrew Smith**
Chapter Educator, CO-L



When we ride we are constantly confronted with situations that usually turn out to be of no consequence. After a while, having seen it before and never having been negatively impacted, we tend to believe that we can handle just about anything and that *THIS* situation is just like all those that preceded it - just another 'no big deal'.

Then we die.

I do not mean to be so fatalistic with this post as to discourage riding altogether. Rather, I intend to restore those earlier caution/warning/danger signals back to reality for you.

My advice: Always assume the worst will happen and plan accordingly. So what if you turn out to be wrong? You lived another day and aside from burdening yourself with some defensive efforts that ultimately proved to be unnecessary, the ride was enjoyable.

Let me provide an example:

Here we see that while you are traveling on the 'main drag' (essentially a highway city street) at 45 MPH, in the distance there is a minor intersection with a car approaching that intersection at a slow rate of speed. With virtual certainty that car driver is approaching a stop sign. You assess that there is no 'real' threat at this time.

The car can stop, or not. But in any event, you have lots of time and distance available to you for use in either stopping or slowing to avoid that car.

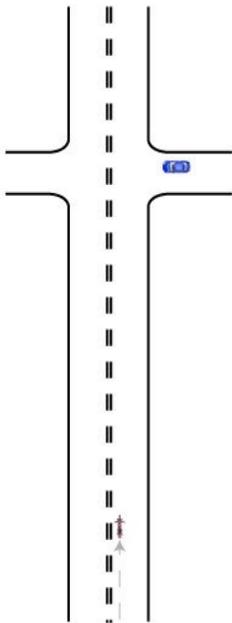
What do you do?

- Stop
- Slow down
- Nothing, but continue to watch the car
- Cover your brake lever and keep watching the car

I believe that almost everyone who is a regular reader here would choose the last option, as would I.

There is no threat to have to deal with immediately, but as a defensive driver, you assume the worst, that the car may not stop and so you cover your brake lever to be able to react as quickly as possible, **'just in case'**.

Approach

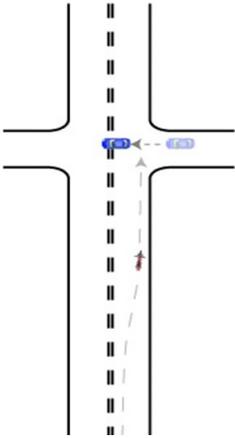


Motorcyclists moving at 45 MPH sees car approaching highway at slow rate of speed, not stopping

Continued on page 4

What Did you Expect? Plan Ahead, *continued from page 3*

Expectation



Expectation is that car will continue across highway, so motor-

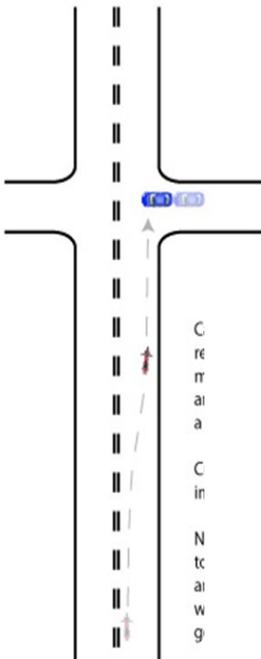
A few moments later you observe that the car is not stopping. It continues at a slow speed and enters the intersection. At this time you assess the situation as a possible threat - though of relatively low odds. Even if the car continues to cross the intersection at a slow rate of speed, it is not going to become a collision event. You have lots of time and distance to react in such a way as to avoid a collision.

What do you do?

- Stop
- Slow down
- Nothing, but continue to watch the car expecting that the car will cross the intersection
- Increase speed in order to try to pass in front of the slow moving car
- Give yourself more time and distance by gently swerving to the right in order to pass behind the car

But your expectations failed to consider the worst possible outcome - that the driver of that car might actually stop in the intersection when he suddenly wakes up to the fact that your motorcycle exists and is heading straight for him!

Reality



Car driver suddenly realizes that there is a motorcycle to his left and lurches his car to a complete stop.

Crash becomes inevitable.

Not enough room/time to swerve in front of the car and no reasonable rider would think that was a good choice anyway.

That non-threatening situation has just become life or death.

Why? Because you didn't expect the worst and plan accordingly.

Do so and you continue your ride without incident other than a brief expenditure of evasive effort along the way.

Expect the worst, and plan accordingly!

If you bet (have expectations) on something other than the worst, you can lose. But if you bet on the worst, and plan accordingly, if those expectations are met, OR NOT, you win!

Article by James R. Davis - Copyright © 1992 - 2014 by The Master Strategy Group, all rights reserved. www.msgroup.org

Greetings

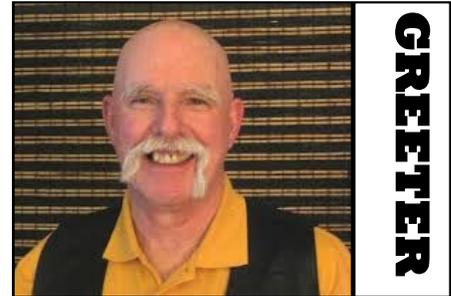
by *Ralph Spencer*

Chapter L Greeter

Greeter: *One who greets with some form of salutation or welcome; one who meets or receives.*

Incredible Chapter L

Hey, it's my article and I can say what I want to. No, I'm not plagiarizing Lesley Gore and her 1962 hit song, *It's My Party*. I just can't help being prouder of my Chapter L than a female schnauzer with 12 new pups!!! International Chapter of the Year has a great ring to it! What a great photo shoot we had on Sunday, May 18!!! Congrats to Fred and Linda for pulling it off and to everyone who showed up by the "rock." Was I the only one there who did not realize that the red rock we stood in front of for the photographs was the same rock used in our Red Rocks Wings logo of perhaps 30 years ago? As Fred said, we are one big family – now, that rocks!!!



Words to Live By

I recently found myself in a setting where an incredible group of high school seniors were celebrating their impending graduation. One of the student speakers recited the words of a poem entitled *Don't Quit*. I don't recall ever hearing this poem, but I was very impressed with the words and thought I would repeat them here, not so much for our individual Chapter L members, but more so for their children and grandchildren. Please read it carefully, enjoy the rhyme, and share it with a young person who may need a pick-me-up or simply some 'words to live by'.

Don't Quit

*When things go wrong, as they sometimes will
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh
When care is pressing you down a bit -
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.*

*Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a fellow turns about
When he might have won had he stuck it out.
Don't give up though the pace seems slow -
You may succeed with another blow.*

*Often the goal is nearer than
It seems to a faint and faltering man;
Often the struggler has given up
When he might have captured the victor's cup;
And he learned too late when the night came down,
How close he was to the golden crown.*

*Success is failure turned inside out -
The silver tint in the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are,
It might be near when it seems afar;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit —
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit!*

Author Unknown

Continued on page 6

Greetings! *Continued from page 6*

Groaner Corner

Retirement: When you get two 6-month vacations every year, back to back.

Knock knock.

Who's there?

Owls.

Owls who?

That's right, they do!



Truisms

My apologies to SGM King, who posted a similar mantra on Face Book recently, but not exactly the same:

- *Guns remind me of parachutes – if you need one, and you don't have one, you will never need one again!*
- *The best teachers are those who show you where to look, but don't tell you what to see.*
- *Knowledge is having the right answer. Intelligence is asking the right question.*

Now that's what I'm talkin' about!!!

Is Your Life in Order?

By **Becky Ackerman**
Rider Coordinator

As most of you know by now, in April Mike had an accident in Texas and totaled his bike. He was extremely fortunate in that he was not seriously injured...but he could have been. In fact, he could have died. As difficult as it was being the one to try to hold everything together, I can't even fathom what it would have been like for me then. It was hard enough to try to think straight. This could happen to any of us just driving to work. It doesn't have to be a motorcycle accident or an accident at all. We could have a heart attack and it's all over.

So, were we prepared? Do I know everything I need to know to pick the pieces up and carry on? Do I know where all the important papers are, insurance policies, and people to contact? Mike works remotely so it isn't like I can go to his work and tell them. I think his manager is in Minneapolis, but I'm not sure. I wouldn't know how to contact him. Do they have an 800 number to call?

So my answer is no. And I would be willing to bet 90% or more of you reading this article are in the same boat. Don't wait until you HAVE to take over. Don't wait until you are too stressed out to even think straight or know which way to turn. You can bet we'll be making a list that either one of us can go to when the times comes. I hope you'll do the same.



RED ROCKS WINGS

2013 International Chapter of the Year

Ft Robinson Nebraska

Chapter L Ride August 30 — September 1, 2014

Day 1 of the Ride

by *Mike Ackerman*



Now that you have refreshed yourself with a cool glass of root beer, apple cider or sarsaparilla, it's time to complete our journey to Fort Robison.

The remainder of the day will be an enjoyable ride over the prairie grasslands, past the Soldier Creek Wilderness area and through the edge of the Nebraska State Forest. And you thought Nebraska was boring!

Once we arrive at Fort Robinson there will be a plethora of things to see and do. Many of the original buildings at Fort Robinson have been restored and are open for viewing. One you should be sure not to miss is the veterinary building where they have an operating table for horse! Now that is something to see.

There is also the black smith shop and harness shop. Don't want to take the walking tour, how about a dip in the indoor swimming pool, or perhaps a hike into the hills surrounding Fort Robinson.

Saturday might want to sign up for the chuck wagon dinner. This has always been a fun event that includes a wagon ride around Fort Robinson, a good dinner of beef stew and an awesome sign along around the roaring bonfire.



For sure this should be a great weekend and wonderful way to end the summer time riding season.

RED ROCKS WINGS

2013 International Chapter of the Year

Nobody was “Railroaded” Today

by *Mike Hottinger*

Assistant Membership Enhancement



May 4th found us waking up to a partly cloudy day to start our anniversary ride. What is this anniversary ride being talked about you might wonder? Well one year ago today Chapter L put on a wedding that **Rhonda** and I were guests of honor at and it seems only right that we have a ride to celebrate this occasion one year later. If you know us you know the details of our GWRRA life, but I will summarize for the people who may not know. August of 2012 we participated on a Chapter L ride over Trailridge Road that **Kenny** led. We stopped for lunch in Grand Lake and then looked at some Corvette's at the car show there. Rhonda was smiling, I was happy and on the stroll back to our bike I “asked” her to marry me, well maybe not asked, but rather said I think we should get married. At the gift shop on top of Trailridge I bought a little ring for Rhonda to commemorate the occasion. You know we kept it a secret at the time and then when it was finally discovered in January 2013 that we were getting married, the Chapter L wheels stated turning, you know there was a point for that. They planned a wedding, Kenny got ordained and then here we are 1 year later celebrating it.



To get back to the ride, Rhonda and I got our gear on and mounted the Goldwing to head into meet our friends at the Conoco just off C470 at Morrison Road. We rolled in at 7:30 to find **Bob and Christine** there with **Greg and Pam Green**. Everybody had their bikes topped off and at 7:45 am we were all there. We had 6 bikes, **Dan and Vicki**, **Kenny and Lis**, **Fred and Linda**, **Greg and Pam**, **Bob and Christine** and Rhonda and myself. I guess I have missed something, we also had a quadracycle with **Randall and Janet** in it. Janet has been under the weather a little and it was excusable this time because they still made it and besides, the trunk was a nice quick way to take gear off and secure it without leaving anything hanging on the bike.

There I go again, off on a tangent, but back to the story. We were all there early so we had a riders meeting and rolled out at 7:50 am, riding through Morrison then heading over to 285. It was 59 degrees as we hit the road, but that was going to change as elevation rose. It would change more than any of us expected, as I saw 42 degrees on the bike and remembered I had grip heaters only after my fingers were going numb. We chose Fairplay as a place to top off tanks for those that wanted to and to stretch legs for 15 to 20 minutes. There were two very unique things for this day. First, with 6 bikes on the ride we did not have a duplication of color. We had pearl white, silver, yellow, blue, red and gray. The second unique thing is that every bike was ridden by a husband/wife combination. Yes, that is right, no single riders on this ride today. So back on the bikes we headed south on Route 9 with our ever present wind that came along for the ride too. There were few cars on the road and it was warming up nicely so we really started enjoying the ride. We had some 4 legged wildlife that is always nice to see, when they are not right next to the road. Arriving into Canon City, we made a quick stop at Wendy's for something to eat before boarding the train and I think we found one of the slowest fast food restaurants in the state, but the food was fresh.



Continued on page 9

RED ROCKS WINGS

2013 International Chapter of the Year

Nobody was “Railroaded” Today, *continued from page 8*



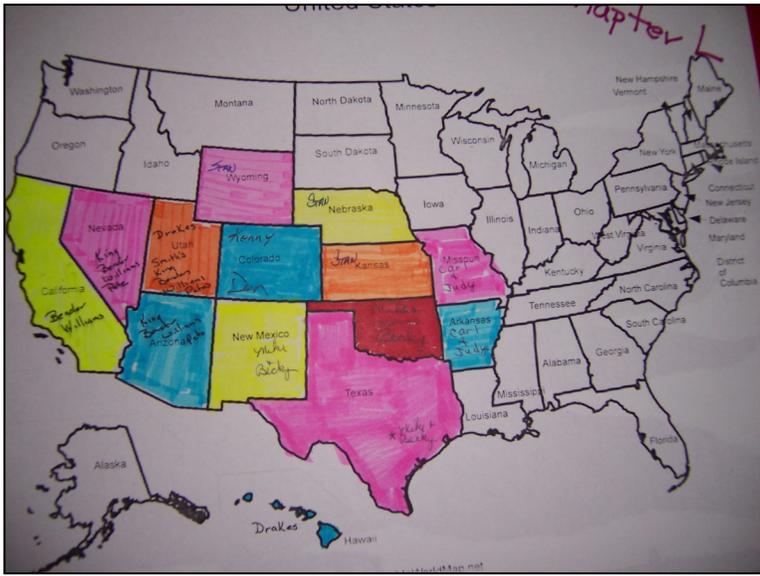
Here we are at the train depot for the Royal Gorge Train and it is an outstanding day, could not have much better weather. Everyone checked into the depot and picked up the tickets and then headed out to board the train. We were not all seated together, but we were in groups and who is going to sit inside long when there are open air cars to enjoy the scenery. As the train pulls out we all mosey out to the open air cars to enjoy the ride through the gorge. There were a few comments about the exclusive gated community we were riding past and that maybe there was opportunities to relocate there. The Arkansas River was flowing nicely and we were hoping the opportunity to see some rafters would be there and we were not disappointed in that. The employees on the train were great and answered all our questions and more. We learned history of the area and all sort of updates on the fire that ripped through their last year. The park above us lost 48 of the 52 structures and the bridge is open but you ride a charter bus across as nobody is allowed to walk across the bridge at this time. We did not see much for wildlife, but that did



not hurt the fun time we had. The train made it back to the depot and we all discussed the route back home.

Bob and Christine and Greg and Pam decided they were going to take the direct route home and the rest of us were stopping for pizza at Fargo's Pizza in Colorado Springs. We said our goodbyes to them as we came into town and proceed to find some pizza. We enjoyed pizza and salads at Fargo's and then chose to take highway 83 north towards Denver to stay off I-25, except the quadracycle which headed directly to I-25 for the direct route home. As the 4 bikes continued north on 83, we broke apart at Franktown, Fred and Linda going left to head home, Rhonda and I the right to head home and Dan and Vicky and Kenny and Lis continued north to go home. All said and done we traveled 350 miles with 14 friends and enjoyed something new. We appreciate sharing this day with our friends. Now, only need to decide what we can plan next year to top this one.





“BEEN THERE FIRST IN 2014”

13 Down, 37 to Go

Stan Smetana — (3) WY, NE, KS

Kenny Simons — (1) CO

Dan Kirk — (1) CO

Randall & Janet Drake — (2) HI, UT

Mike & Becky Ackerman — (3) TX, OK, NM

Carl & Judy Williams — (6) MO, AR, CA, NV, UT, AZ

Steve & Tami Bender — (4) UT, NV, CA, AZ

Bob King — (3) NV, UT, AZ

Vernon & Deborah Pate — (3) NV, UT, AZ

Andy & Sherry Smith — (1) UT

Pikes Peak Highway Ride — June 14

Hosted by *Carl and Judy Williams*

The Pikes Peak promo reads, “Welcome to Pikes Peak — America’s Mountain!” The 39 mile round trip, all-paved highway takes about 2 hours to cover depending on the highway traffic. The posted speed limit is 25 mph, but typically, you will be going slower. The starting gate is located at 7,400 ft elevation and the summit is at 14, 115 ft..

“Along the way, you will discover the North Slope Recreation area, Crystal Reservoir Gift Shop, Historic Glen Cove Inn and the Summit House.”

The Entrance fee is \$12/person, however we have \$2.00 discount coupon for every one and we are working on a “Large Group” rate of \$8/person.

We will have more details of the ride at the June Gathering where you will be able to sign up for this ride.



The Highway path bottom to top



Typical roadway surface which is paved the entire way

2013 International Chapter of the Year Chapter L Members Having Fun

June Birthdays

Mike Ackerman 23
Vicky Kirk 23

June Anniversaries

Carl & Judy Williams 6
Dan & Vicky Kirk 19
Fred & Linda Fisher 22

Who is this Chapter L Member? (Standing On the Right)



50/50 Drawing



May Winners

1st — Becky Ackerman
2nd — Doug Kile
3rd — Dorie Werner

The Chip Bag

May
1 in 3 odds



Judy Williams

Although Judy had the “winning” ticket, she Did NOT find the RED Chip for the THIRD month in a row!

Larry’s on the Move Again

by *Linda Fisher*
Senior Chapter Director

Here we are in beautiful St. George, Utah. Home of the Region “F” funvention. Larry is visiting with some of his old friends and rivals. They all seem to be in awe of the new shirt that has Larry and his



Larry T. Lion



steamroller climbing our way to Madison.

Prices are a lot lower than first quoted. Small thru x-large are \$15.00 and 2 xl+ are \$18.00. The shirts can be ordered locally so contact Linda if interested.

Larry will be off to Wind Ding next month. Can't wait for all the fun there.

RED ROCKS WINGS

2013 International Chapter of the Year

Awards & Recognition

By **Judy Williams**

Awards & Recognition

Region F Convention was the site of many awards and recognition for Chapter L and our other Chapter friends.

From Chapter J, the 2014 - 2015
Region F Individual of the Year

Brain Lape



From Chapter E, the 2014 - 2015
Region F Couple of the Year

Bob and Jan Wills



Region F 2014 - 2015 Chapter of the Year Award, **Chapter L**
2014-2015 International Chapter of the Year Recognition



Region F Leadership Award
Bob King



Region F Member Appreciation
Award
Andy and Sherry Smith



National Merit Award Recognition
Fred and Linda Fisher

RED ROCKS WINGS

2013 International Chapter of the Year

Up Coming Chapter L Events for June

Monday 2th — Chapter Gathering
 Refreshment by **Bob & Christine King**

Saturday 7th — Half-Day Ride
 Hosted by **Andy & Sherry Smith**

Saturday 14th — Pikes Peak Ride
 Hosted by **Carl & Judy Williams**

Saturday 21st — **Chapter L** GPS Fund Raiser

Sunday 22th — Chapter Dinner Ride to White Fence Farm
 Hosted by **Ralph & Janet Spencer**

Other Events in Colorado for June

Sunday 8th — Ride for Kids
 Sunday 15th—Chapter G Luau

Colorado Chapter Gatherings Dates, Times and Locations

All of this information can be found on the District web site at <http://www.coloradogwrra.com/Chapter/ChapterMeetings.htm>.

Schedule of Nearby District, Region and National Conventions

June 26 — 28, 2014
 Wyoming District Convention
 Cheyenne, WY

July 2 – 5, 2014
 Wing Ding
 Madison, WI

July 25 — 26, 2014
 Utah District Convention
 Logan, UT

August 21 - 23, 2014
 Colorado District Convention
 Breckenridge, CO

Sept 12 – 14, 2014
 Kansas District Convention
 Abilene, KS

Sept 25 – 27, 2014
 New Mexico District Convention
 Carlsbad, NM

Sept 25 – 27, 2014
 Oklahoma District Convention
 Shawnee, OK

Chapter L Members at Play



Dan & Vicky Kirk

Fred & Linda Fisher with
 Alan & Debbie Gustafson



Steve & Tami Bender
 Having Fun



Sherry Smith



Steve & Tami Bender
 At Eisenhower Tunnel
 Having No Fun-

RED ROCKS WINGS

2013 International Chapter of the Year

Chapter L Officers and Staff

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[Chapter L Web Site](#)



[Colorado District Staff](#)



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Editor's Note

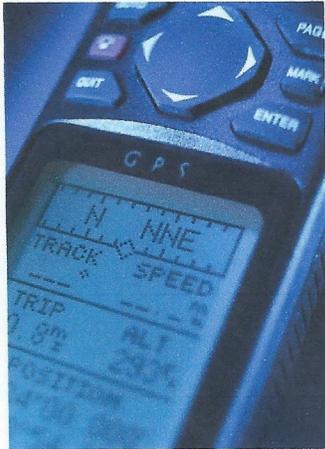
*by Carl Williams
Newsletter Editor*

Fred & Linda Fisher
Bob King *Sherry Smith* *Andy Smith* *Mike Hottinger*
Becky Ackerman *Ralph Spencer*
Judy Williams
Mike Ackerman

I want to thank all the contributing writers who helped publish this Chapter L June 2014 Newsletter!

Thank You All

2013 INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER OF THE YEAR



Wildlife, Frozen in Time

Join us on June 21, 2014 for Chapter L's

GPS FUN raiser.

**Starting at 9am from Green Mountain
Plaza Shopping Center.**

**12354 West Alameda Parkway, Lakewood
or: 39.70387, -105.138208**

\$10 per person includes lunch.
(if you can find us)

