



Red Rocks Report

GWRRRA Chapter CO-L

August 2018



*Friends for Fun,
Safety and
Knowledge*

*2013 International
Chapter of the
Year*

2018 Chapter Officers

Directors

Steve & Tami Bender

Assistant Director/Rider Ed

Chuck Bellmyer

Ride Coordinator

Becky Ackerman

Social & Membership

Enhancement Coordinator

Mike Ackerman

Treasurer/Motorist

Awareness Coordinator

Ralph K. Spencer III

2018 Chapter Staff

Newsletter - April Hansen

Photographer – Donald Redline

Webmaster - Stan Smetana

2018 Couple of the Year

Randall & Janet Drake



**Becky's Briefing
By Becky Ackerman,
Ride Coordinator**

Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument

On our last trip to New Mexico, this was one of the many sites we visited and thoroughly enjoyed. Located 44 miles north of Silver City at the end of NM 15, be sure to give yourself plenty of time to enjoy the route as it is winding and mountainous, perfect for motorcycles. Allow 1 ½ - 2 hours just to get there, then additional time to walk the trails and enjoy the scenery. We packed a picnic lunch since it's a long way from anywhere.



**August Meeting Refreshments
And Dinner Ride
By the Ackermans**

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How did these dwellings get here and who built them? Over 700 years ago, deep within the Gila Wilderness of New Mexico, a hunter and gatherer community built structures and dwellings within the natural caves of the Cliff Dweller Canyon. While many different groups inhabited this area over thousands of years, only one built within the canyon's natural caves. This group was part of the Mogollon Culture, a pre-contact American Indian group that combined traditional hunting and gathering with farming.



Established by presidential proclamation on November 16, 1907, Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument preserves the cliff dwellings, the TJ Ruin (a small pueblo inhabited from roughly A.D. 900 to A.D. 1150), and other significant archeological sites related to the Mimbres branch, a subculture of the larger Mogollon culture area.

These sites contribute to an ongoing discussion about who these people were, why they built the cliff dwellings, how they lived their lives on a daily basis, and ultimately, how they relate to the cultural heritage of American Indians today. This Monument is especially important as the only unit in the National Park System that contains Mogollan sites, which are

rapidly disappearing elsewhere in the Southwest.



People of the Mogollon Culture constructed and inhabited the cliff dwellings between the late 1270s and 1300. The Mogollons were hunters and gathers who also incorporated farming into their daily lives. Their farms were on the mesa tops and along banks of the West Fork of the Gila River. In the fertile soil of the Gila River valley where the growing season averages 140 days, the Mogollons raised squash, corn, and beans. To complete their diets, they hunted animals, possibly mule deer, elk, beaver, ducks, and turkeys, and collected berries and nuts from the surrounding forest. They also produced pottery congruent with the Tularosa phase (1100-1300) including brown bowls with black interiors and black-on-white vessels. Their clothing and sandals were of yucca cord, agave leaves, bark, and cotton.

Archeologists estimate that 40-60 Mogollons constructed the Gila Cliff Dwellings. They built their dwellings in five caves and each dwelling had approximately 40 rooms. Estimates are that no more than 10 to 15 families lived

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in the dwellings at a time and that multiple generations used them.



The Mogollon incorporated fallen rocks into the construction of some of the different rooms. They also used thin conglomerate slabs laid in large amounts of mortar to construct other walls. Today, more than 40 percent of the walls retain this original plaster. The dwellings contain habitation rooms, storage rooms, ceremonial rooms, and communal rooms. Prepared floors can be found throughout the dwellings, while some of the rooms' floors simply utilize the existing bedrock in the caves.



Visitors may experience the cliff dwellings and a piece of Mogollon culture by following the “Cliff Dwellings

Trail.” This trail leads to the dwellings, passing through some of the rooms. Ladders along the trail provide additional glimpses of the dwellings.



The trail is a one-mile loop that takes around one hour round trip. The short (1/4 mile) and handicapped accessible trail, “Trail to the Past,” leads to a small Mogollon alcove dwelling and a large pictograph panel. “Trail to the Past” is accessible from the Lower Scorpion Campground. Visitors can obtain information about these trails at the Monument’s visitor center. The visitor center displays Mogollon artifacts that were found throughout the cliff dwellings and the surrounding area and an exhibit on the Chiricahua Apache, who consider the wilderness to be their homeland. A 15-minute video illustrates what life may have been like for those who built the cliff dwellings.

If you ever find yourselves in the area, I would highly encourage you to plan to visit the cliff dwellings. It will be well worth the trip.



Mike's Musings

**By Mike Ackerman, Social & Membership
Enhancement Coordinator**

How to be PC

Well to be perfectly honest, in my humble opinion, of course without offending anyone who thinks differently from my point of view, but also by looking into this matter in a different perspective and without being condemning of one's views and by trying to make it objective, and by considering each and everyone's valid opinion, I honestly believe that I completely forgot what I was going to say.

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Ralph's Remarks
By Ralph K. Spencer III,
Treasurer/Motorist Awareness Coordinator

Pathetic Phone Facts, Not to be Confused with Fun Phone Facts.

As I was perusing my last several newsletter articles, I noticed quite a bit of emphasis on distracted driving, the perils of being an over-50 motorcycle rider, and how motorcycle fatalities have been on the upswing over the last several years.

I really was not trying to scare my readers. I was simply trying to convince them that motorcycling can be a treacherous hobby that requires riders and drivers alike to be aware of their surroundings, to be aware of the deterioration of both riding and driving skills that occur with age, and to focus on the obvious fact that motorcycle accidents and deaths are increasing at an alarming rate.

So what will I write about this month? I decided to take a break from the macabre and share some (but not all) pathetic phone facts that Cliff Simpson, Asst. Director, Motorist Awareness Program, found on the internet recently (see the June 2018 issue of *Wing World*, page 64). Whether he realized it or not, Cliff was telling us that humor is a necessary ingredient to daily living, especially for riders (and drivers) dealing with the invention of the

smart, cellular phone every time they take to the road.

I hope I get some laughs from the following “facts” accumulated by Cliff. I have replaced his parenthetical comments with my own in an attempt to assure that at least some of these facts are shared with others around the water cooler and wherever retired people hang out on any given day.

- 1) The average person checks a cell phone 110 times a day. (And I USED to think I was average. I now have proof that I am below average!)
- 2) 12% of adults use their phones in the shower. (I am guessing they use them to get to those hard to reach places!)
- 3) 40% check their cell phone in the toilet. (I just thought of a fantastic new Charmin commercial!)
- 4) 50% feel uneasy when they leave phones at home. (It's the same feeling you get when you arrive at work and realize you forgot to put on underwear!)
- 5) 77% of parents and teens argue about cell phone usage. (The pathetic fact is they do so via text messages!)

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- 6) 50% of teens admit they are addicted to their phones. (The good news is that there is little difference between “entry” phones and “hard” phones, to borrow some drug language!)
- 7) 26% of car crashes are caused by phone usage. (Finally, proof that not everything you read on the internet is true!)
- 8) 44% check-job related email while on vacation. (Hey, it sure beats walking through all those shops with your spouse!)
- 9) 75% of users admit to having texted while driving at least once. (The remaining 25% are lying!)
- 10) 56% of parents check their devices while driving. (It's called being a good role model for your children!)

**Until next time,
Share the Road - Safely!!!**



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Chapter Event Photos By Donald Redline, Photographer

July 9th Meeting

Time to say GOOD BYE to the Fishers and the Drakes.

They are ready to leave to go to Arkansas, so a group photo of Chapter members in attendance (some are on vacation) was taken before they go their separate way.



The meeting was short, but sweet. Ralph Spencer is taking over as Chapter Treasurer.

A really great time was held by all.

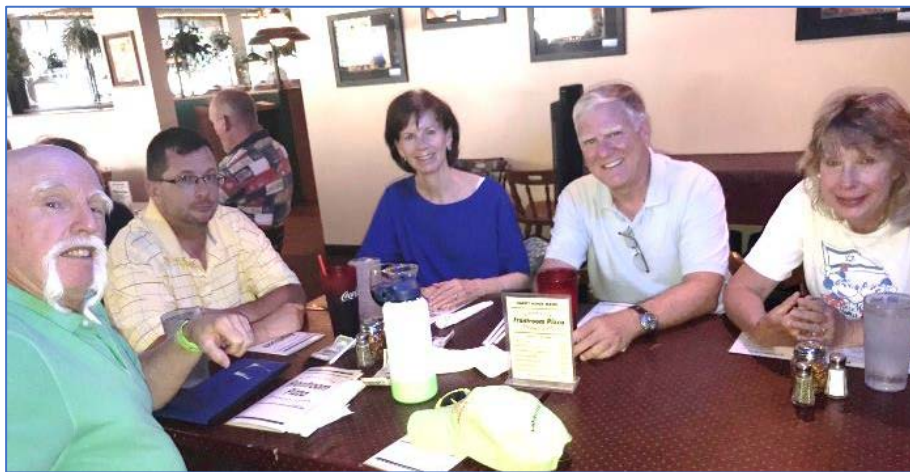


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July 17th Dinner Ride

What a great night for a PIZZA PARTY and GOING AWAY PARTY for the Drakes!

Thirteen of us met at a place called “Front Room Pizza.” I’ve never been there before; the pizza was AWESOME. Everyone loved what they had. Calzones was another FAV choice.



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2018 Mine Ride By Peter Keppler

The 2018 Mine Tour Ride was to the Black Thunder Coal Mine near Wright, Wyoming with an added trip to the Black Hills of South Dakota.

A group of seven riders (Chuck Bellmyer, Jim & Linda Hazlett, Gary & Sandy Wedge of CO-G, and April Hansen & me) left the Cracker Barrel at 120th and I-25 at 8:00 a.m. on June 7. (Roy & Mary Bastien of CO-G had to cancel at the last minute as Mary developed pneumonia the night before.) John & Barb Roman of Chapter B joined the group just north of town. We headed up I-25 to Cheyenne where we stopped for coffee and gas; then, on to Douglas, Wyoming for fuel and lunch. We arrived in Gillette at 3:00 p.m. and checked into our hotel. At dinner, we were joined by Larry & Connie

Wright, Directors of the GWRRA Chapter in Gillette.

Friday, June 8th, we all, including Larry and Connie, rode out to the Black Thunder Mine for the tour. We were met by two mine engineers and loaded into two vans. We were shown the various stages of the mining operation, from stripping of the overburden with large drag lines, blasting of the rock and coal, loading coal with shovels and front end loaders, to hauling in 300-ton trucks to the crushers where the coal goes by conveyors to the load-out silos and is loaded onto 150 car trains. The coal from Black Thunder goes to a number of power plants in 38 states. We also got to see areas that have been mined and reclaimed to grasslands.



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After the mine tour, we returned to Gillette for a late lunch. Some in our group went for homemade ice cream for dinner. We met later to discuss plans for the Saturday ride to the Black Hills area

and the chuck wagon dinner and show.

Saturday morning, we rode to Spearfish and south in Spearfish Canyon to Deadwood, SD where we had lunch. Unfortunately, Kevin Costner's restaurant where we had planned to have lunch was closed, so we ate in another restaurant with a western show. We then rode through Lead on to Hill City and checked into the Super 8.

Saturday evening, we went to the Circle B Chuck Wagon Dinner and Show just outside Hill City. After dinner, we were entertained by the family who owns the Circle B Ranch with western songs and great fiddle playing.

Sunday morning, we headed home on US-85 and I-25. We got back into Colorado traffic and hot weather Sunday afternoon. All agreed it was good trip, and we learned a lot about large scale coal mining in Wyoming and fun riding in the Black Hills area, before the big Sturgis rally.



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Wandering the West Coast - a 14-Day Journey (Part 2) by Andrew C. Smith

Our adventure took us for a total of 4178 miles over the 14-day trip. It was a blast!

As we said in the last issue, Fred Fisher (fearless leader) started our journey in Littleton and as many of our trips we made sure all our maintenance was in good shape. We packed (more than we needed), loaded the trailers, did one more walk around to make sure all the lights were working, had our Co-Riders mount up, set the CB on Channel 5 and we were off.

In last month's installment, we left you at "Fisher"-Man's Wharf. We did have an enjoyable time while we were there, and had a great meal at "Bubba Gump's". The food was good and the fellowship was great! Parking down at the piers is definitely not cheap, so if you go, be prepared for the bill (*i.e.* \$50 bucks later).



We were then off for a bit of a ride up the Pacific Coast Highway, and it was beautiful and a lot of fun to ride (depending on who you ask).



We were winding down our time in California, and the next morning we packed and headed to Klamath Falls, Oregon for a couple more days of adventure and a great visit to Crater Lake.



To say the least, this is one of those spots in the U.S., that if you ever have the chance to stop and see, it is one of the most amazing places in the country (and that says a lot). The temps were a little cool, but not too bad, and we had beautiful clear weather while we were there. There was just a bit of snow still trying to hide in some of the shadows, but the roads were clear and in good shape.

For those who have never been there, the crater is the result of a huge explosion which is

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believed to have blown off the top of a 12,000-foot mountain (Mount Mazama). It blew what is thought to be 12 cubic miles of rock and ash off the mountain, and covered the Pacific Northwest in an estimated two feet of ash. It is the deepest lake in the U.S. at 1,949 feet.



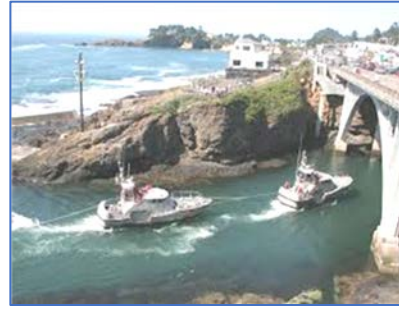
One suggestion is to get to the main lodge early; by the time we were about to leave, there was no parking left and the cars were circling to find a spot. (As usual, make sure you have your Access or Golden Parks Pass.)

With Crater Lake in our rearview mirrors, we were headed back to Klamath Falls for a quite evening and a huge dust/rain storm which left the bikes covered in a muddy goop in the morning. (It was bad enough we could not keep the fire in the gas grill from going out.)

“On the Road Again...” We had a short day’s ride to Depoe Bay, Oregon, right on the coast. Depoe



Bay is a neat little place that boasts the fact it is the world’s smallest harbor. One unusual trivia fact is that the fishing trip scenes from “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” was filmed there... for those who care. The harbor entrance is extremely small, and as a former sailor, I would not want to bring one of the U.S. Coast Guard vessels through this little entrance... (Go, Coasties!)



We were at this spot for three days, and wandered up and down the coast during our stay here. One excursion took us up to Tillamook and the former



Tillamook Naval Air Station (now, a museum). It was a beautiful ride there, and we got to see several interesting things. The air station was



active from 1942 to 1948, and was for coastal anti-submarine protection since they operated dirigible airships from the two huge hangars (only one remains due to a fire). These were constructed totally out of wood.



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These hangers were so big they could hold six airships, and Fred told us they even held a Hot Air Balloon Event **inside** the hanger once. There were several more modern aircraft on display there, depending on your definition of modern... (The Mini Guppy).



The area was also amazing for its wildlife and some beautiful scenery.



Even some local sunbathers...



some Peregrine Falcons and some Gray Whales...



We had a time we won't soon forget with some amazing Chapter "L" friends!



Signing off until the next great trip!



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Where is Chapter L Riding in 2018?

Jan. CO, WY, NE (The Ackermans opened the door.)

Feb. -----

Mar. KS/OK/TX/NM (Ackermans)

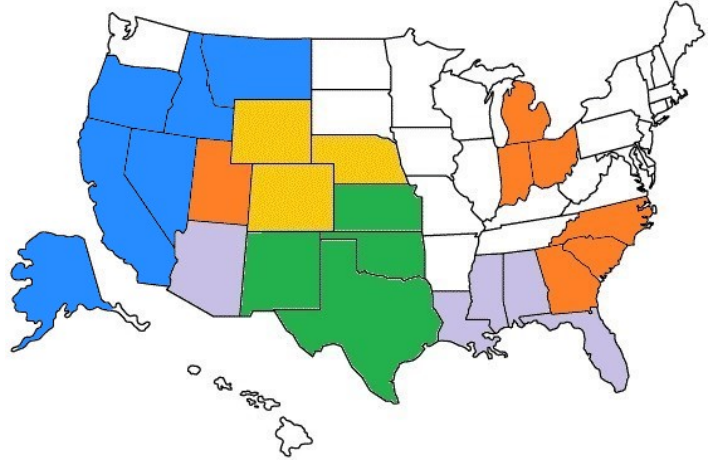
Apr. AZ/LA/MS/AL/FL (Ackermans)

May UT (Hoot in the Ute);
GA/SC/NC/IN/OH/ MI
(Ackermans)

June NV/CA/OR/ID (Fishers & Smiths); MT/AB/BC/YT/AK (Kepplers)

July -----

Aug. ??



August Events

Aug. 2: Chapter A Picnic

Aug. 5: Odd Sunday Ride, 9:00 a.m.

Aug. 6: Chapter L Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Clements Community Center. Lakewood

Aug. 11-12: Chapter L Ride hosted by Mike & Becky Ackerman

Aug 19: Odd Sunday Ride, 9:00 a.m.

Aug. 28 – Sept. 1: Wing Ding, Knoxville, TN

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Birthdays

19 – Sherry Smith
22 – Becky Ackerman

Anniversary

12 – Bob & Pat Blot

Colorado District Officers & Staff

Directors

Assistant Directors

Rider Education

Ride Coordinator

University Training

Membership Enhancement

Motorist Awareness

Treasurer

COY & IOY Coordinators

Webmasters

Newsletter Editor

Photographer

2017-2018 COY

2017-2018 IOY

Bryan & Emma Lape (CO-J)

Jim & Olga Wyman (CO-I)

Earl Edwards (CO-I)

Joyce & Rick Elmore (CO-G)

Inez Scholbrock (CO-G)

Paula Campbell (CO-B)

Peter Keppler (CO-L)

TBA

Andy & Sherry Smith (CO-L)

Jim & Janet Wohlford (CO-A)

April Hansen-Keppler (CO-L)

Donald Redline (CO-L)

Dave & Paula Campbell (CO-B)

Jacques Perron (CO-A)

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