

Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge

Red Rocks Report GWRRA Chapter CO-L December 2018



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 Mike & Becky Ackerman

Treasurer/Motorist Awareness Coordinator Ralph K. Spencer III

2018 Chapter Staff

Newsletter - April Hansen Photographer – Donald Redline Ride Book – April Hansen Webmaster - Stan Smetana





Benders' Brief By Steve & Tami Bender, Directors

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving; I know we did. It's always nice to be with family and good food. Now we are on to Christmas and colder weather.

We had our ride book meeting-dinner ride on Saturday, November 17, with pizza and good friends and we have some great rides in the making.

Chuck will be running the Chapter meeting this Monday, December 3, as Steve and I will be out of town enjoying San Antonio. Our next meeting will be January 7, 2019, in the Aspen room at the Clement Center.

Chapter I will be having a meeting this Saturday, December 1, which will be the last meeting for the Directors Steve and Jacque Callicott.

Chapter A will not have a meeting in December.

Saturday, December 15th, we will have a Chapter Christmas party hosted by the Ackerman's. Please bring a gift valued up to \$15.00 for the gift exchange and a side dish. As always expect to have a good time at the Ackerman's home.

We will see ya then, if not have a Very Merry Christmas!!!





Fun on the Road By Becky Ackerman, Ride Coordinator

One of the things we enjoy most traveling across the country are the surprises. You don't always know what you might find at the end of the day, like a campground that had two donkeys that brayed occasionally inside a fence. We found them in Terre Haute, IN. But that campground turned out to be one of the best for seeing the surrounding area.

When we checked in, we learned we were within 10 miles of the annual Cory Apple Festival. So, Saturday morning, we hopped on the bikes and headed in that direction. Imagine our surprise to find Highway 46 lined with garage sales! I mean every single house had one. And the cars were on the shoulder, or not, both sides of the road for miles. It wasn't the safest situation as people were walking across the highway, not paying attention to traffic. But, eventually, we made it to Cory.



The festival was in full gear when we arrived. Lots of craft booths (which I love), food tents, rides for the kids, antiques, apples, pumpkins, and more. We made a beeline to the kiddie tractor pull, which was a hoot. They had a real pulling sled mounted to a pedal tractor, but the older kids' legs were so long they could hardly get purchase on the pedals. The younger ones definitely had the advantage. Later we met the

4-year-old girl who won the event and her trophy was bigger than she was!

After a little lunch, we made our way to the car show and thoroughly enjoyed seeing the oldies but goodies, all polished and ready to show.



After 6,677 steps I was more than ready to ride, and we did, seeing more of the countryside before heading back to camp.

On Sunday, we studied the map and decided to ride-two up on my trike, so I could navigate.



We needed to ride gravel roads to find some covered bridges that are part of the annual Parke County Covered Bridge Festival. We were so grateful we were ahead of the festival because the narrow country roads we traveled would be impossible with 1.2 m people driving on them too.

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We were told traffic would back up for 20 miles and the local police would close certain highways down to one direction in the morning and the opposite in the afternoon. Every little town had tents set up and huge fields roped off for parking to take advantage of all the money coming in for those 10 days.

By the end of the day, we found Crooks Bridge built in 1856, McAllister Bridge built in 1914, Neet Bridge built in 1904, Bridgeton rebuilt in 2006 after it burned down, Conley's Ford Bridge built in 1906, Mansfield Bridge built in 1867,



and the Rocky Ford Bridge built in 1900. And this was a small portion of all the covered bridges in Parke County! Some we could actually drive on and some were off to the side of the road and roped off for foot traffic only. We had so much fun seeing how these bridges were built and all the hard work that went into them.



On Monday, we were back on the bikes and headed to Brown County State Park, one of our favorite places to visit when we lived in Indiana. We hadn't been there in over 30 years, so we were very excited to see it again.

Our route took us right through Bloomington, IN, home to Indiana University. In fact, we rode right past the main entrance to the college! On down the road, we eventually came to the park. Never having ridden bikes there, we discovered how hilly and twisty the roads were. It was heavily forested, but the undergrowth was minimal, so you could see through the trees and it was very pretty. However, it wasn't anything like we remembered. We were so much younger then and we've seen a lot of country since then so we were very disappointed. We even walked



up a fire tower for the view only to find the trees were taller than it was! Bummer!



The fun part was yet to come. When we left the park, we found an awesome route that took us on highways that probably only the locals drive. Talk about hilly and curvy! 90-degree curves, in and out of trees, slow going for sure but fantastic riding. This made up for the disappointing park. Took us two hours to ride 63 miles so that should tell you something.

By the time we returned to camp, it was time to load up the bikes as we were headed out the next morning to yet another surprise at the end of the day. We sure like surprises...as long as they are good ones.



Elsie Eiler of Monowi, Nebraska By Mike Ackerman, Social and Membership Enhancement Coordinator

While traveling around this wonderful country of ours, we are always looking for those different and unique places. While we have not actually been in Monowi, I certainly do see a road trip in the future. I hope you enjoy this story about Elsie Eiler and Monowi, Nebraska.

This 84-year-old Mayor, Bartender, and Librarian is her town's only resident. She's taken the meaning of "wearing many hats" to a whole new level. By Karen I Chen, March 5, 2018

As the one and only resident of Monowi, Nebraska, Elsie Eiler is the town's mayor, treasurer, clerk, secretary, tavern owner, librarian, and default mediator if any disagreements arise at the bar.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census. Monowi is the only incorporated town, village, or city in America with a population of one. And as its sole resident. Eiler's life is unique to say the least. The 84-year-old opens Monowi Tavern at 9 a.m. six days a week (after a battle with colon cancer in 2011. she's decided to grant herself Mondays off). She serves burgers (\$3.50), hot dogs (\$1.25), and beers (the "coldest beer in town." claims the sign posted on the wall) to tourists curious about her one-person town. Thus far, she's welcomed

visitors from 47 states and 41 countries and counting. But mostly she spends her time with regulars who come from nearby towns to use the tavern as a sort of community meeting place where they play card games, show off baby photos, and talk about their families.

Eiler jokes that being the only resident of a town does have its perks. For one, she doesn't have any competition when she runs for mayor each year, winning by a landslide every time. As she told Reuters, "I'm the whole thing. There's no need for any elections because I'd be the only one to vote."

Apart from operating the tavern, which she and her late husband, Rudy Eiler, bought in 1971, she also runs the town library, a 320-square-foot shed that houses some 5,000 books that once made up Rudy's private collection. Now, anyone who wants to browse the shelves and borrow books or magazines is welcome to on the honor system.

While many of the smallest communities in the U.S. have shrunken until they've dissolved, Eiler is determined

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to keep Monowi incorporated, dutifully completing all of the paperwork to do so. As the only taxpayer in town. Eiler collects \$500 from herself to keep the town's three lampposts lit with electricity and the water flowing. She's also required to create a municipal road plan every year to secure funding from the state of Nebraska. And. when she applies to the state for her *liquor and tobacco licenses* each year, she signs them herself as the town secretary, and gives them to herself as the bar owner.

Of course, it wasn't always this way. In the 1930s Monowi was a relatively bustling railroad town of 150 with several businesses including grocery stores, restaurants, and even a prison. But gradually, as farming conditions worsened and jobs were lost to automation, people started moving away in search of greater opportunity and those who stayed eventually passed away. When Eiler's husband Rudy died in 2004, she became the last remaining resident — but she hasn't dreamed of moving.

"I really don't have any desire to live anywhere else. I'm perfectly happy right where I'm at now," she told the BBC. "I know I could always move closer to my children or stay with them whenever I want, but then I'd have to make all new friends again."

"Hopefully I will be able to stay here. It's where I want to be," she said.

So don't feel too bad for Eiler, as she stays in Monowi by choice. In fact, we could learn a thing or two from her about living happily in the moment. As she told Country Living, "I get asked, what happens when you're gone? That's not my worry. I believe in living each day and not worrying about down the road. I'm going to enjoy it while I am alive."





Law Tigers, America's Motorcycle Lawyers (cont.) By Ralph K. Spencer III, Treasurer/Motorist Awareness Coordinator

Just a reminder from last month - and the month before that: This article is NOT a paid (or unpaid) announcement for the infamous Law Tigers, whose advertisements seem to be prevalent during many NFL televised games. I decided to give these folks top billing for the last two months, and this month, since they took the time to contribute three pages worth of interesting motorcycle safety tips and tidbits in a recent issue of Wing World (August 2018, pages 28-30). As promised in last month's article, I would like to highlight the remainder of the 16 motorcycle safety tips included by the Tigers in their August 2018 article.

9. Avoid consuming alcohol and using drugs when riding. A no-brainer, you say? What about the beer (or two) you had with your burger before heading back home from Apex Sports in Colorado Springs? Or the four 200 mg pain pills you took for your aching knee, back, neck, or whatever? Please recall that ANYTHING that interferes with your motor skills and reaction time, such as the aforementioned alcohol or medications (or something worse!) makes it harder to ride safely.

10. Practice riding somewhere quiet. This tip is particularly relevant if you have not ridden in a while - can you say March or April in Colorful (but cold) Colorado? The point of this tip is that anyone can benefit from refreshing his/her riding skills after being off the bike for several months. Practice accelerating, braking, and going around corners and curves. The driving range facility at the southeast parcel of 6th and Kipling is the perfect place for such "solitary" practice. Hey, you're not as young as you used to be - put your vanity aside and practice before hitting the freeway for the first time in months. Your body will appreciate getting up to speed on its muscle memory!

11. Do a pre-ride inspection. Come on, who does this? Not me, except for checking my tire pressure after a week or so off the bike. However, I am going to try to remember this well known mantra, as I hope you do after reading this article. Ready for it? Here we go: Inspect your motorcycle before every ride as if your life depends on it because it just might!

12. Wear plenty of personal protection gear. Brightly colored gear and reflective materials may not be your "thing" but perhaps you can make up for this tip by wearing heavy gloves that cover your wrists, pants with body armor panels built in or leather chaps that fit over your jeans, and, oh yes, sturdy boots with skid resistant soles. Remember, "protect that which you

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think you might need" on each and every ride!!!

13. Avoid speeding. I know, such a tip is extremely easy to say and very difficult to put into action. After all, it is so, so, so, easy to end up going 45 in a 30. How about this shell shocker: The National Safety Council says that speed is a factor in 30 percent of all motorcycle crashes. Save yourself some serious coin and protect yourself and your passenger by maintaining a safe and legal speed at all time, PLEASE!

14. Maintain a safe distance. Don't be fooled by the mindset that anyone you see can also see you. This way of thinking is simply not true, especially in this day and age of mobile phones, music, make-up, meals, and many other distractions that don't start with m! A much safer mindset is that motorists and other bikers on the road do not see you. Always leave extra space on all sides when riding and pay particular attention any time you approach an intersection. Remember, the one with the most lug nuts wins.

15. Add extra wheels. I know, it will be a cold day in you know where before you add "training wheels" to your beautiful Gold Wing. I can't say that I blame you. The point is that such accessories are designed to bear the weight of your bike when slowing down/stopping so your hips, as old as the rest of you, don't have to! Perhaps a more acceptable alternative is to seriously consider trading your two-wheeler for a trike, regardless of whether the two wheels are in the front or the back. Hey, this option sure beats trading your helmet in for a set of golf clubs!!!

16. Mount a camera. Video footage, whether taken from your bike or your helmet, ensures a record of exactly what happened in case you are in an accident. This physical evidence sure beats a situation where there are no witnesses and it gets down to your word against the other driver's word. A word to the wise: Check your state laws to make sure that a camera mounted on your helmet is lawful.

Enjoy the remaining few 60-degree days Colorado has to offer in 2018, whether on the bike or off. Please try to review the safety tips and tidbits compiled by the Tigers at least once during a riding season, preferably at the beginning of said season!

And finally, continue to...

Share the Road - Safely!!!









November 5 Meeting Photos By Donald Redline, District Photographer



Tami and Steve (our leaders)



Andy, Mike, Dorie, April, and Peter



Ralph, Jim and Linda



Mike, Becky and Chuck



Goodie Table



Our Fourth Alaska Adventure – Summer 2018 (Part 1) By Peter Keppler

On our previous three trips to Alaska, April and I have ridden our Wings all the way and used a motorcycle pop-up camper trailer.



This time, we traveled in an RV taking our motorcycles in a trailer for use at various locations where we could ride and spend time exploring local points of interest. Our cat, Ramses, was diabetic and needed an insulin shot twice a day, so we took him with us. (Unfortunately, Ramses passed away this last Friday, November 23.)

We left home on Sunday, June 17, and got back on Tuesday, September 11, nearly three months and a little over 8,600 miles. All three of us made the trip in good shape, in spite of a couple of mishaps, poor internet service in many locations, a few mechanical problems, and several days of nasty weather. Overall, it was an enjoyable and rewarding trip. We started out in cool, cloudy weather traveling north on I-25 to Casper, where we visited with April's nephew and wife who live in the Ft. Casper Campground. From there, we continued north on I-25 to I-90 and on to Livingston, MT in cloudy, rainy weather spending the night in Osen's RV Park. This is a campground where we stayed on our first ride to Alaska in 2006, where my son, Greg, who rode with us lost his prized boomerang in the trees near our camp (no sign of the boomerang).



From Livingston, we headed north to Great Falls on US-89 in heavy rain all day. The campground where we stayed is on the Missouri River, which was nearing flood stage due to the rains in the area. Flooding was bad enough that when we left Great Falls, we were diverted around one of the local roads that was under water. We continued north on US-89, passing Glacier National Park on the east

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and into Alberta, where we camped at a nice RV park in McGrath, just south of Lethbridge, which is the first big city you come to in Canada north of Montana. We finally had some nice weather when we got into Canada, and we were looking forward to riding in the Banff/Lake Louise area.

After driving around the west side of Lethbridge, we connected to AL-22 and traveled north on the east side of the Rocky Mountains to Cochrane, just west of Calgary, and stayed in real nice RV park, Bow Rivers Edge Campground. We planned to stay for a couple of days and ride to Banff but could only stay one night as the campground was fully booked for the weekend. We moved to a campground on the north side of Cochrane and expected to ride to Banff from there. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate, and we spent two days in the RV watching the rain.

From Cochrane, we drove north through Alberta farm country, around the west side of Edmonton to Whitecourt, and checked into Lions Campground, an RV park run by the local Lions Club. We met a couple from Kentucky traveling by camper trailer to Fairbanks on the Alaska Highway; we would meet them again at other campgrounds three more times.

Our next destination was Dawson Creek, British Columbia, the official start of the Alaska Highway where we camped at the Northern Lights RV Park. Again, it was raining when we arrived, and we left the bikes in the trailer. Dawson Creek has seen a lot of development since our first trip to Alaska in 2006, including a new Walmart. Of course, all the RVers and bikers have to get a photo at the Mile 0 Marker before heading north to Alaska.



A side note – gas is more expensive as you go north (averaging about \$1.50/liter or \$5/gallon last summer), and groceries, especially fresh fruits and vegetables, can cost double what we pay at home. In Alaska, the price of gas averaged about a \$1 less per gallon, between \$3.25 and \$4.

From Dawson Creek to Fairbanks, AK is 1,460 miles. Once on the Alaska Highway, you notice the road has improved a lot over the last 10 years. The highway is paved all the way, but there is always construction on major sections of the highway during the summer months.

We did see a lot of motorhomes and camper trailers on the highway, but not as many motorcycles as on our previous trips. Especially if you are traveling by motorcycle, you have to carefully plan your gas stops. We found a couple of stations closed this year where we had stopped for gas on our previous trips, and it would have been a problem if we had been traveling on our bikes to make it to the next gas stop.

Next month – Part 2 The Alaska Highway and beyond.



To Wave, or Not?

By Fred Rau, Motorcycle Consumer News, November 2018

This is a rehash, but the subject came up again recently and it's fun to revisit my little treatise on the conundrum of when to wave a passing rider.

Most riders understand and appreciate that while attending large rallies, the wave must be left at home. That is, unless you want to tape your left arm to a two-by-four propped permanently away from your body. I would estimate bikes at rallies are passing by at the rate of about 50 per minute. Attempting to wave at all of them would be a futile exercise.

I have never seen or heard of any rules applied to waving, though I have heard a lot of opinions from many different riders. Evidently, we each have our own unwritten guidelines when it comes to physically acknowledging other riders. I don't suppose anyone would finance a study on waving, but there are some questions I want answered:

Wave first to wait until the oncoming rider has lifted his hand? I am usually not the wave instigator, though I almost always respond in kind.

Wave only to riders of similar bikes? It's difficult to verify, but I suspect there is some truth to it.

Hand raised full-palm, or inverted-V two-finger salute? The "V" appears preferred among Harley-Davidson riders, perhaps denoting engine brotherhood.,

Wave at someone driving a truck hauling a bike? He probably is a motorcyclist, but let's be brutally honest, none of us is going to acknowledge someone trailering, are we?

Wave in the dark? Don't be stupid.

Waving on the open highway versus on crowded city streets? We may have to chalk up any discrepancies to the distractions involved in urban riding.



Waving on a divided highway separated by a wide median? I have about a 50-foot buffer zone, after which I tend to not notice other riders.

Waving to multiple riders in a group? If the leader waves to me, I wave back, but after the third rider, they're on their own.

If the group leader waves, does it cover the whole group? I believe the group leader accepts responsibility for all in his charge, releasing any liability to wave, but I'm often the only one who feels this way, as all of the others in our group usually wave.

Can a passenger handle waving duty? Perhaps other riders will take this as a slight, but I would secretly like to delegate waving protocol entirely to my wife.

Wave with your right hand? Though I haven't seen it, a grizzled old rider once told me it is an insult, though I wouldn't know why, and he didn't seem too know either.

Waving in the rain? I could argue that it is a safety concern – wanting to keep both hands firmly on the grips – but generally when I'm riding in the rain, I don't feel like making friendly gestures to anyone. Screw it.

Do you feel guilty when a rider waves, but it is too late for you to react in kind? I do. The other guy may think I'm stuck-up, because I feel that way about them when I don't get a response. Maybe it's why I seldom wave first, for fear of having my feelings hurt.

Waving to another rider while passing in the same direction? This one befuddles me, as it is impossible to tell if he sees your wave or knows that you saw his. The awkward wave behind your back looks lame and leaves both riders feeling strangely unfulfilled.

It's about time I publish my next book, on the etiquette of motorcycle waving. Someone really needs to create official rules, and it should probably be me.



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); SD & MT/AB/BC/ YT/AK (Kepplers)
- July -----
- Aug. WA, ID (Kepplers); MO/KY/TN (Smiths)
- Sept. AR (Smiths)
- Oct. -----
- Nov. -----
- Dec. ???





December Events

- Dec. 2: Odd Sunday Ride, 9:00 a.m.
- Dec. 3: Chapter L Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 15: Chapter Christmas Party, 3:00 p.m., at Mike & Becky Ackerman's home
- Dec. 16: Odd Sunday Ride, 9:00 a.m.
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve
- Dec. 25: Christmas Day
- Dec. 30: Odd Sunday Ride, 9:00 a.m.
- Dec. 31: New Year's Eve
- Jan. 1: Chapter L First Ride of 2019



Colorado District Officers & Staff

Directors Assistant Directors Rider Education Ride Coordinator Motorist Awareness University Training Membership Enhancement Treasurer Joyce & Rick Elmore (CO-G) TBA Earl Edwards (CO-I) TBA Peter Keppler (CO-L) Inez Scholbrock (CO-G) Paula Campbell (CO-B) April Hansen (CO-L)

COY & IOY Coordinators Webmasters Newsletter Editor Photographer Andy & Sherry Smith (CO-L) Jim & Janet Wohlford (CO-A) April Hansen (CO-L) Donald Redline (CO-L)

2018-2019 Couple of the Year: John & Barb Romans (CO-B)

Colorado Chapter Directors

Chapter A – Littleton]
Chapter B – Grand Junction	
Chapter G – Fort Collins	
Chapter I – Colorado Springs	
Chapter J – Aurora	
Chapter L – Lakewood	1
Chapter Q – Montrose	

Wyoming B – Cheyenne

Ron & Deann Fagler Dave & Paula Campbell Steve & Inez Scholbrock Steve & Jacque Callicott Chris Toomer Tami & Steve Bender Bill & Nancy Pierce

Steve & Amy Hodges

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wydistrictdirectors@gmail.com

Goldwing Road Riders Association Colorado Directors – Joyce & Rick Elmore Joyce Elmore jelmore16@gmail.com http://coloradogwrra.com/



Welcome to the T.E.A.M. Announcement!

District Directors, Joyce & Rick Elmore, enthusiastically congratulate John and Barb Romans as our new Colorado District Couple of the Year. If you are able to make it over to the Western Slope, you will find them actively supporting Chapter "B" and the District Team. Please congratulate them as they take on their newest role as the *Colorado District Couple of the Year*. Below is a short Biography for John & Barb:



John Romans first attended a Chapter B gathering by himself a few years ago, `just to check it out'. He must've liked something he saw, because he came back another month and brought Barb! Our understanding is that Barb was reluctant to come with him, stating that they weren't going to get involved in one of `those' groups, and the rest is history.

Not only did they get involved, they jumped in with both feet. Both John and Barb have the ability to see something that needs to be done, and set about to do it. (They are the foster parents of `B-Bear' and `Honey-B', the chapter mascots. On group rides you'll see one or both of the mascots riding on the back of the Romans' Gold Wing, and frequently, like children, they'll be allowed to attend ice cream forays, if they've been good.) They are an invaluable asset as Chapter Assistant Directors.

This couple brings a skill set to the Chapter that infuses it with life. Barb makes everyone instantly at ease, and no one has had quarter from her fun-natured teasing. 'Stranger' isn't a word in her vocabulary. Her camera

is her constant companion, and we've all been targets of her affection with it! John is a source of much knowledge, be it ride routes or mechanical questions. He is a skilled rider and Ride Leader. Anyone who has ever ridden behind the Romans has come to the conclusion that Barb is double jointed at the waist! Like an owl, she can turn 180 degrees to aim her camera directly at the bikes behind them. She wasn't pleased to be told during their two-up ARC course that she had to put the camera away. John & Barb have been GWRRA members since September of 2015.

We feel honored to call these two friends, and know that they will represent the Colorado District well.

We look forward to serving our GWRRA members, friends and family as the Colorado District Couple of the Year!

Congratulations! John & Barb

Joyce & Rick Elmore

Colorado District Directors





COLORADO DISTRICT

CPR/FIRST-AID CLASS

When: Saturday, January 19, 2019 Time: 8am – 12pm Cost: \$25.00/person

Where: Colorado Springs Police Station 7850 Goddard St. Colorado Springs, CO. 80918

Lunch will not be provided. Questions: Contact Earl Edwards edwards_1500@hotmail.com 719-459-2426 ** Note the date change **



COLORADO DISTRICT

RIDER EDUCATION SEMINAR DAY

When: Saturday February 9, 2019 Time: CPR/First Aid 8:30-12:30 PM Cost: \$25.00/person

LUNCH

Co-Rider Seminar 1-2:30 PM Riding Mountains Hills/Curves 2:30-4 PM

Where: Fay Myers Motorcycle Clubhouse 9700 E. Arapahoe Rd. Greenwood Village, CO. 80112

Lunch will not be provided. Questions: Contact Earl Edwards @ 719-459-2426

