



Red Rocks Report

GWRRRA Chapter CO-L

January 2019



*Friends for Fun,
Safety and
Knowledge*

*2013 International
Chapter of the
Year*



Benders' Brief
Steve & Tami Bender, Directors

2019 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

2019 Chapter Staff

Newsletter - April Hansen

Photographer - Donald Redline

Ride Book - April Hansen

Webmaster - Stan Smetana

Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year!

As we start a new year and our last year as Chapter L Directors, I would like to thank everyone for making it very enjoyable. If you would like to become the new Chapter Director, please let us know. You have a lot of fun and get to meet a lot of nice people.

We had our ride book meeting in November and have planned a lot of good rides for 2019. Depending on the weather, we may ride New Year's Day, January 1st, but it looks like it might just be a lunch or movie day.

We will have our annual District Officers' Meeting on Saturday, January 26th, at the Ridge Recreation Center.

In August, there will be a Multi-State Rally in Ignacio, CO.

Steve and I had a great time going to San Antonio, TX in December. We did not take our motorcycles, but we did take our electric bikes and did a little riding.

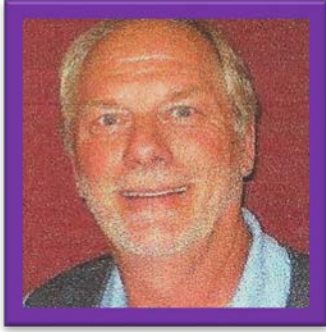
We had a wonderful Chapter Christmas dinner hosted by Mike and Becky Ackerman. They did a wonderful job as always. We even had a few surprises. We had fun with our gift exchange except Ralph Spencer has my blanket. Great food and great friends sure make for a great time.

We will be having our Chili Cook-off fundraiser on Saturday, October 12, at the Ken-Caryl Ranch House. It is going to be a very special event. More information to come. We will talk about it at our gathering and start to make plans.

I hope to see everyone Monday, January 7th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Aspen room of the Clements Community Center (our usual meeting place, but a different room).

**Happy
New Year!**

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Colorado's First International Dark Sky Community By Mike Ackerman, Social and Membership Enhancement Coordinator

Two Colorado Towns Come Together as Colorado's First International Dark Sky Community



Tucson, Ariz., and Westcliffe/Silver Cliff, Colo. (9 March 2015) The bordering towns of Westcliffe and Silver Cliff in southern Colorado have come together to protect a shared natural resource their dark night skies. In the first effort of its kind, the towns worked side by side to ensure preservation of dark nights for the benefit of future residents. As a result of their efforts, the towns have earned Colorado's first International Dark Sky Community designation from the International Dark-Sky Association.

"We're truly inspired by dedicated cooperation of Westcliffe and Silver Cliff to preserve their night skies, and hope it inspires similar successful collaborations," IDA Executive Director J. Scott Feierabend said.

Dark Mountain Valley Nights

With a population of less than 1,200 people Westcliffe and Silver Cliff are the

only incorporated settlements in the Wet Mountain Valley of southern central Colorado. The area was once a bustling population center. At the 1880 Census, Silver Cliff was the third most populous municipality in the state and was considered for the site of the Colorado capital before statehood in 1876. The towns' early prosperity was driven by commercial mining, but is now heavily dependent on agriculture and ranching.

In recent years, the dark night skies over the towns have come to be recognized by locals as a natural resource worth preserving. Situated between the Wet Mountain and Sangre de Cristo mountain ranges, the towns are protected from the most significant source of light pollution in the region coming from cities along the Interstate 25 to the east. The small population, largely rural setting, and limited outdoor lighting have kept the night skies over Westcliffe and Silver Cliff in relatively pristine condition. To keep it this way, each town council adopted a comprehensive outdoor lighting ordinance.

"Viewing this nightscape from a dark location like these Colorado towns is a magical experience of unparalleled beauty and awe that the founding pioneers of this area had as part of their lives," Larry Weber, mayor of Silver Cliff, explained. "It deserves protection so that far into the future, both residents and visitors can continue to enjoy it."

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Concerned Citizens Engage Community

In 1998, a group of citizens concerned about the protection of this resource formed Dark Skies of the Wet Mountain Valley, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. In the years since it was founded, Dark Skies has drawn attention to the threat of light pollution, offered solutions and engaged residents in protecting the area's night skies. The results equally benefit those who appreciate astronomy and those interested in promoting regional eco- and astro-tourism.

"I've seen the mindset of life-long locals come to the realization that the Valley's nightscape has real economic value and is worth preserving," Jim Bradburn, president of Dark Skies, said. "That businesses and individuals routinely contact us for guidance in dealing with their own lighting issues is most gratifying."

In partnership with the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation, Dark Skies has raised tens of thousands of dollars to support retrofitting or replacement of outdoor lighting in both towns. Their projects have improved lighting at a number of sites including public works facilities, school district buildings and the Custer County courthouse. These efforts have helped reduce light pollution and create public awareness.

To gain the cooperation of the towns' residents, Dark Skies organized a variety of community activities including star parties, public lectures and sponsoring a dark-skies-themed student art contest in local schools. The group realized that empowering property owners was key to ensuring compliance with the towns' lighting ordinances. In response, they produced a publication for builders and homeowners on selecting dark-sky-

friendly light fixtures. Keeping the public focused on outdoor lighting issues has helped establish dark skies as a community value.

Dr. Bob Stencil, coordinator of the Colorado chapter of IDA, applauds the towns' achievements and welcomes the Dark Sky Community designation. "It will reduce the impact of light pollution and I consider it as a transcendently valuable example to all communities in Colorado to follow this path of light pollution solutions," Stencil said.

"Here in the Wet Mountain Valley, fairly simple efforts have helped preserve one of Colorado's last rural ranching high-mountain communities," said Jim Little, publisher of the Wet Mountain Tribune. "A dark sky is an integral part of what 'true' Colorado really is."

About the IDA Dark Sky Places Program

IDA established the International Dark Sky Places conservation program in 2001 to recognize excellent stewardship of the night sky. Designations are based on stringent outdoor lighting standards and innovative community outreach. Since the program began, nine Communities, 20 Parks and 9 Reserves have received International Dark Sky designations.

About IDA

The International Dark Sky Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Tucson, Arizona, advocates for the protection of the nighttime environment and dark night skies by educating policymakers and the public about night sky conservation and promoting environmentally responsible outdoor lighting. More information about IDA and its mission may be found at dark-sky.org.

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Our Fourth Alaska Adventure – Summer 2018 (Part 2) By Peter Keppler

As noted in last month’s article (Part 1), Dawson Creek BC is the official start of the Alaska Highway.

A brief history: Construction officially started in March and ended in October 1942, with as many as 10,000 workers, mostly American troops, on the job up to 16 hours a day, seven days a week for eight months. The road was built as a military supply route to provide access and support to troops stationed in Alaska, including those in the Aleutian Islands, which the Japanese invaded in June 1942.

Initially, the road was rough and not good enough for any considerable movement of freight, and it was significantly improved over the next several years. The Alaska Highway was opened to public traffic in 1948 and has been constantly improved to where now it’s in good shape and paved all the way from Dawson Creek to Fairbanks. Note that work continues every summer, so major stretches of road construction are to be expected.

An essential tool for planning travel to and through western Canada and Alaska is “The Milepost” guide book. This 700+ page book, which is updated every year, contains detailed maps, mile-by-mile logs of all the highways to and in Alaska, camping information, emergency contacts, points of interest, etc. We have used it every time we travel to Alaska and found it invaluable for planning our trips, whether going by motorcycle, RV, or the Alaska Marine Highway System (the state ferry system, which we have never used).

From Dawson Creek, we drove north on BC-97 to Pink Mountain (named after the pink color of the mountain and its concentration of feldspar), where we stopped for lunch, and then continued on to Ft. Nelson, which is Mile 300 on the Alaska Highway, and camped at the Triple “G” RV Park. Most of this leg was in the rain, so no riding. On one of our previous trips, we rode from Ft. Nelson north to Ft. Laird in the Northwest Territories, so we could check that province off the bucket list.

Continuing northwest from Ft. Nelson, we stopped at Toad River Lodge (Mile 425) for lunch, along with a caravan of RVs and a number of bikers. The Lodge is famous for its over 11,000 hats stapled to the ceilings and walls; April bought a T-shirt. We then drove along the shore of Muncho Lake to our next stop, Watson Lake at Mile 612 on the Alaska Highway.

On this leg, we ran into a five-mile stretch of new chip seal, a favorite means of repaving in the north with lots of dust and flying gravel, so slow going, especially if you’re riding a bike.



Watson Lake is in the Yukon Territory and is known for its Sign Post Forest, which has

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signs from all over the world. We camped at the Baby Nugget Campground just west of town next to a couple from England traveling in a Mercedes All-Terrain Camper Van they had shipped over from Europe to travel all over North and South America, from Prudhoe Bay in the north to Terra Del Fuego in the south.

From Watson Lake, it's a 300-mile drive to Whitehorse on the Highway (YK-1), the capital of the Yukon Territory and a major stop for fuel, provisions, and some riding. The highlights of this stretch are seeing wildlife (black bears and buffalo grazing along the highway) and a 2,000-foot metal grated bridge at Teslin, which can be a real challenge on a bike when wet.



We camped at the Caribou RV Park, where we ran into the Kentucky couple we met in Whitecourt, BC. I got the bikes out of the trailer and we took a ride to Atlin, BC (an art colony) and Carcross, YK, where we had stopped on our first ride to Alaska in 2006.



Carcross, a native fishing village, has become commercialized and is now tourist stop at the end of the narrow

gauge railroad that comes out of Skagway. We would come back through Carcross on our return when going south to Skagway, AK.

After Whitehorse, we drove through Haines Junction to Kluane Lake National Park. The town of Destruction Bay (Mile 1080) on the shore of Kluane Lake was a work camp on the Highway and is named after a storm that destroyed most of the buildings in town.

There is always construction work on this stretch of highway due to mist off the Lake and frost heaves, although this year it was much improved from our previous trips. From Destruction Bay to Beaver Creek and the Canada-US border is 170 miles. No problems going through US customs. (Not like Peter had on our trip in 2006.)

Another 90 miles to Tok (Mile 1315), which also started as a work camp and the first town you come to in Alaska. We camped in the Tok RV Village, a nice campground with big treed sites, several cabins and a gift shop. First thing we did on arrival is head next door to Fast Eddy's Restaurant for dinner, a must stop for travelers on the Alaska Highway. You have to come back through Tok when leaving Alaska, so we stayed here again on our trip back home.

Next Part 3 – Fairbanks, Denali, Anchorage, Homer, and points between.

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Where is Chapter L Riding in 2019?

Jan. ???



Upcoming Events

- Jan. 6: Odd Sunday ride, 9:00 a.m.
- Jan. 7: Chapter L Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Aspen Room at Clements Community Center.
- Jan. 16: Chapter L Dinner Ride, 6:00 p.m.
- Jan. 19: District CPR/1st Aid, Colorado Springs Police Department, contact Earl Edwards.
- Jan. 20: Odd Sunday ride, 9:00 a.m.
- Jan. 26: District Officers' Meeting, 8:30 a.m., Ridge Recreation Center, 6613 South Ward Street, Littleton.** All GW members are welcome.
- Jan. 27: District CPR/1st Aid, Montrose Library, Montrose, contact Ace Peterson.

- Feb. 3: Odd Sunday ride, 9:00 a.m.
- Feb. 3: District CPR/1st Aid, Montrose Library, Montrose, contact Ace Peterson.
- Feb. 4: Chapter L Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Aspen Room at Clements Community Center
- Feb. 9: District University Training Seminars, Fay Myers Motorcycle Clubhouse, contact Earl Edwards.
- Feb. 10: Odd Sunday ride, 9:00 a.m.
- Feb. 10: District CPR/1st Aid, Montrose Library, Montrose, contact Ace Peterson.
- Feb. 20: Chapter L Dinner Ride, 6:00 p.m.

- Mar. 16: District CPR/1st Aid, Johnson's Corner, Johnstown, contact Earl Edwards.

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Birthdays

21 – Bob King

Anniversaries

16 – Ralph & Janet Spencer

Colorado District Officers & Staff

Officers

Directors

Rider Education

Motorist Awareness

University Training

Membership Enhancement

Treasurer

Joyce & Rick Elmore (CO-G)

Earl Edwards (CO-I)

Peter Keppler (CO-L)

Inez Scholbrock (CO-G)

Paula Campbell (CO-B)

April Hansen (CO-L)

Staff

COY & IOY Coordinators

MFA Coordinators

Webmasters

Newsletter Editor

Photographer

2018-2019 COY

Andy & Sherry Smith (CO-L)

Mike & Dorie Werner (CO-A)

Jim & Janet Wohlford (CO-A)

April Hansen (CO-L)

Donald Redline (CO-L)

John & Barb Romans (CO-B)

Colorado Chapter Directors

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Dave & Paula Campbell

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Chapter L – Lakewood

Tami & Steve Bender

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Chapter Q – Montrose

Bill & Nancy Pierce

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Wyoming B – Cheyenne

Larry & Barbara Kuzma

kuz001@aol.com



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 ****



GWRRA UNIVERSITY
Colorado District Training Event



When: **January 27th, 2019, 1pm-5pm**

Where: **Montrose Library**

320 South 2nd Street

Montrose, CO

Cost for CPR/ first aid is \$25.00 per person and is open to ALL GWRRA members.

THE FOLLOWING RIDER EDUCATION CLASS WILL BE PRESENTED:

1:00-5:00PM CPR/Medic First Aid space will be limited so contact Ace to reserve your spot.

CONTACT: Ace Peterson TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT AND/OR ASK QUESTIONS before January 25, 2019

Call: 970-570-5027 or Email: acenpenny@bresnan.net

❖BRING YOUR GWRRA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER WITH YOU TO THE EVENT-THANK YOU❖



GWRRA UNIVERSITY
Colorado District Training Event



When: February 3, 2019, 1pm-5pm

Where: Montrose Library

320 South 2nd Street

Montrose, CO

Cost for CPR/ first aid is \$25.00 per person and is open to ALL GWRRA members.

THE FOLLOWING RIDER EDUCATION CLASS WILL BE PRESENTED:

1:00-5:00PM CPR/Medic First Aid space will be limited so contact Ace to reserve your spot.

CONTACT: Ace Peterson TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT AND/OR ASK QUESTIONS before February 1st, 2019

Call: 970-570-5027 or Email: acenpenny@bresnan.net

❖BRING YOUR GWRRA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER WITH YOU TO THE EVENT-THANK YOU❖



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



GWRRA UNIVERSITY
Colorado District Training Event



When: February 10, 2019, 1pm-5pm

Where: Montrose Library

320 South 2nd Street

Montrose, CO

Cost for CPR/ first aid is \$25.00 per person and is open to ALL GWRRA members.

THE FOLLOWING RIDER EDUCATION CLASS WILL BE PRESENTED:

1:00-5:00PM CPR/Medic First Aid space will be limited so contact Ace to reserve your spot.

CONTACT: Ace Peterson TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT AND/OR ASK QUESTIONS before February 8th, 2019

Call: 970-570-5027 or Email: acenpenny@bresnan.net

❖BRING YOUR GWRRA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER WITH YOU TO THE EVENT-THANK YOU❖



**Colorado District
CPR/first aid**



When: March 16, 2019

10:00am-2:00pm We will begin shortly after our gathering is completed.

**Where: Johnson's Corner
2842 SE Frontage Road
Johnstown, CO**

Cost for CPR/ first aid is \$25.00 per person and is open to ALL GWRRA members.

10:00am-2:00pm CPR/First Aid space will be limited so contact Earl to reserve your spot.

Lunch will not be provided, but you may purchase lunch from Johnson's corner menu.

CONTACT: District Educator EARL EDWARDS TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE AND/OR ASK QUESTIONS:

edwards_1500@hotmail.com or 719-459-2426

❖BRING YOUR GWRRA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER WITH YOU TO THE EVENT-THANK YOU❖