



## **Harder's Happenings**

March's chapter meeting had a large showing of Goldwings. It was so impressive to see them all lined up in front of Town Hall with snow still in the flowerbed and street behind them. There were many new attendees and some returning after a long hiatus from the chapter. Even with the meeting room filled to capacity there was something missing. Rocky (our chapter mascot) had been bird napped by Chapter L (Lakewood) in February. We asked at the meeting for volunteers to form a hostage negotiating team to go with us Monday evening to retrieve Rocky.

Our team consisted of Bruce & Mel Partner (Asst. Chapter Directors), Cliff & Myra Childs (2008 Couple of the Year & Membership Coordinators), and John & Kim Athman (new members from Maryland). We all piled into one vehicle with Cliff as our trusty driver. The drive to Lakewood gave us ample time to plan our attack.

Once at the meeting we were surprised to see that Rocky had been kept company by several other chapters' mascots. At least he was in good company and definitely not lonely. Our chapter was introduced along with another chapter who had come to retrieve their beloved mascot.

They have guest speakers at many of their meetings and Monday night's speaker was a hospice doctor who is also one of their new members. When he was done with the presentation we all had

to regroup our thoughts back to something of a lighter nature.

While there, we each were given their 2008 Ride Guide. We learned something very interesting... ALL of their Dinner Rides are MYSTERY RIDES! Each month in the calendar there is a dinner ride listed along with the hosts names. These names are printed in the calendar for the entire year and rotate throughout their chapter members. Only the hosts for that month know where they are going for dinner. At the chapter meeting prior to the dinner ride there is a signup sheet. From this signup sheet, the host knows how many people to plan on attending and can make the arrangements.

Steve & Teresa Randolph, our District Directors, were in attendance and Steve gave us some new information regarding the CO District-Region F Rally coming up in August. There are still rooms available at the host hotel, Quality Inn as well as the Abbey. They are working on having ERC and other classes available on Thursday and Friday. The Arizona Drill Team has requested to perform at 2:00 on Saturday and the rally organizers have also invited the California Drill Team from San Diego to attend. As the rally draws closer we will get more detailed information. We also heard that some members from our sister chapter in California are planning on coming to



the rally to meet us. Many of us will be riding back and forth for the events so please plan on attending even if it's only for a day or two. In Chapter L's calendar, they have a ride planned to Albuquerque for the international balloon fiesta October 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. This was one of the events brought up at our

## Harder's Happenings cont.

calendar planning meeting, but we didn't have any info at that time. Since it doesn't conflict with any event/ride on our calendar except for the monthly chapter meeting, we did sign up to receive their updates and information for this ride. As soon as we get info we will send it out to all so that we can get a group together and make this ride with Chapter L. Just a reminder, when we forward this info to you it is imperative that you act quickly as this event is attended by millions of people from all over the world.

We had a fun evening enjoying another chapter's meeting and each other's company. Many of us were laughing so hard that tears were seen flowing from our eyes. Visiting other chapters is a great opportunity to share information and knowledge with others who have the same interest in motorcycles, safety, fun and fellowship.

The Mascot Game was created to get chapters to interact with each other. (cont. on page 2) It takes 3 members or associates to capture any mascot. But it takes 4 members or associates to retrieve your mascot. You cannot capture a mascot from the chapter that has your mascot while picking up your mascot. Before returning home, the capturing chapter adds their chapter bar to the mascot. Many mascots have a very long chain of chapter bars from being continually captured. We would like to get our chapter's bar on as many mascots in the state as possible this year. Therefore, we will be planning to attend other chapter's meetings to capture their mascots and add to this fun chapter tradition.

We look forward to many new and fun rides this year and with your help we can accomplish many of these goals.

> Tom & Monica Harder Chapter I Directors



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# March Events



2—Mark Atwell 6—Earl Edwards 7—Terry Hillman DeeDee McCormack 8—John Ebersohl 13—Sandie Erskine 15—Mike Wyman 18—Gene Krull 28—Wilma Brown 30—Dick Reisler 31—Linda Shelley





Volunteers needed to organize date night



# March 19

Dinner Ride

Indigo Joe's Sports Pub 6120 Barnes Rd

www.indigojoes.com

From Powers Blvd. turn East onto Barnes

- turn North onto Tutt
- turn East onto Comstock and into parking lot

## Motorcycle Safety -Crash Avoidance By: Jerry Palladino (Motorman)

I read somewhere recently that 99% of the crashes most riders get involved in are avoidable. While that may seem a little hard to believe, it just may be true.

Let's look at the most common motorcycle crash which of course, occurs when another vehicle violates your right of way. This usually happens as you approach an intersection and a vehicle turns left in front of you. It also occurs when a vehicle pulls out from a side road into your path, but let's look at the left turning vehicle first and how to avoid the crash since your actions should be pretty much the same for both scenarios.

Here are the best ways to avoid a crash in these situations. First, look at least 12 seconds ahead of your motorcycle. Your eyes should be scanning from left to right and up and down. The sooner you see the potential hazard, the more time you'll have to react. Second, since most crashes happen in an intersection, slow down when approaching one. Cover both your front and rear brakes as you get closer to the intersection. Position your bike to the left side of your lane. If you're going to have to swerve around the left turning vehicle, your swerve will usually be to the left around the back of the vehicle and then quickly back to the right. However, most of the time in that situation, your only course of action will be to stop quickly using both your front and rear brakes. That's why it is so important to practice emergency braking using both brakes. The average rider never does practice braking, consequently, in that situation, the average rider slams on the rear brake. locks the tire and skids right into the vehicle. Even if he misses the vehicle, he still slides onto the ground. Either way, he crashes for no reason.

By looking way ahead of your motorcycle, you'll be able to anticipate the actions of that vehicle and be able to apply your brakes long before it becomes an emergency. If you spend just a few minutes a week practicing emergency braking, you will lessen the chances of locking the rear wheel dramatically.

The second most common motorcycle crash involves only the motorcycle and its called failure to negotiate a turn. What usually happens is the rider gets into a turn and suddenly believes he's going too fast to make it around the curve. Maybe the rider hears the pegs start to scrape. Since he's not familiar with that sound, he panics, straightens up the bike, then looks at the yellow line in the road, the guard rail, or even the oncoming vehicle and a crash occurs. In over 600 cases of failure to negotiate a curve studied, in every case the bike was capable of making the turn at the speed the rider was going, the rider was not.

So, how do you avoid this crash? It's simple. Learn to use head and eyes properly. When rounding a curve to the left, position your bike to the right side of the lane and focus on the end of the turn and no where else. Never, never, look at the yellow line, the guard rail, or the oncoming car. If the road curves to the right, position your bike to the left side of the lane as you enter the curve.

In addition, find your bikes' limits in a parking lot at 5mph where the worst that could happen is a simple tip-over. The bottom line, practice makes perfect. Learn to use your head and eyes properly. It is the key to safe riding. Learn to use both your front and rear brakes and keep them from locking so you very well may be able to avoid 99% of the crashes you're likely to be involved in. At the very least, you will minimize injuries to yourself and damage to your bike. Don't be an average rider who depends on dumb luck. Instead, practice and Ride Like a PRO.



2005 Keystone Raptor Toy hauler travel trailer Sleeps 8-10, holds 3 large ATV's or 2 motorcycles, 3 queen beds, 100 gallon fresh, 50 gallon black and 50 gallon gray tanks. 25 gallon fueling station. 8500 dry weight. Weight distribution hitch included.

Warranty until 2012. \$33500 must clear note.

Will also sell 2005 GMC Clubcab Duramax (heavily customized - show truck) with the trailer for \$75k (for both). Total value for both is \$120k.

Contact: JohnP.Csencsits@hp.com

> WFH = 719-886-4765 Home 719-282-7848

#### **Recipe of the Month**

These were a favorite of all at the Snowmobiling Trip in January.

#### Pretzel Dots



**Miniature pretzels Unwrapped Hershey Kisses** M & M's

Spray pizza pan with PAM. Spread pretzels out on pan. Put one kiss on each pretzel. Bake 3 minutes at 275 degrees. Remove from oven. Press **1 M&M** in the center of each kiss (make sure you put the 'm' side down and press so the kiss goes down over the pretzel. Cool and enjoy.

### Group Stem Buy

I'm looking to buy metal valve stems in "bulk" to get a nice price on them. These don't flex, so they don't fail from centrifugal force like the OEM valve stems, and they stay put when you're trying to check air pressure.

They will fit through the original valve stem "holders" if you want to leave them on. If I measured right, they're about 77 degrees of bend. They fit both 1800's and 1500's. I've



heard they won't work on the 1200's because of clearance with the brake rotors.

In addition to Goldwings, they should work on trailers, or whatever you have that uses a standard 1/2 inch valve stem and tubeless tires.

I'm expecting to order enough to get the price below \$3.00 each. Let me know how many you want via email at *mmanthei@juno.com* by March 13. Spring is almost here and it's time to get the bikes ready.

# **Chapter I Staff**



Asst. Director **Historian** Membership Coordinator **Newsletter Editor Phone Tree Coordinator Rider Education** Store Sunshine Committee 50/50 Treasurer **Webmaster** Couple of the Year (COY) Individual of the Year (IOY) **Chapter Director** 



Tom & Monica Harder—719-481-9044 tmharder@comcast.net





Bruce & Mel Partner—719-262-0452 Dave & Kathy Wren—719-591-2739 Cliff & Myra Childs-719-266-0258 Linda Shelley-719-495-5741 Lauri Schlosser-719-227-9560 Butch Shelley-719-495-5741 Jeannie Bondurant—719-599-8495 Nancy Powell-719-471-8570 Cliff & Myra Childs—719-266-0258 Paul & Jeannie Bondurant—719-599-8495 wings83@worldnet.att.net Lewis & Carol Farmer—719-481-4235 springwingsweb@yahoo.com Cliff & Myra Childs—719-266-0258 Earl Edwards—719-637-0908

icepuffin1@yahoo.com dewglwren@comcast.net childs3153@msn.com Ishelley@animail.net darcruzan@aol.com butchshelley157@msn.com

n.l.powell@att.net childs3153@msn.com childs3153@msn.com

## **Ride for Kids**

Ride for Kids is a motorcycle ride sponsored by Honda to help raise money for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation (PBTF).

Childhood brain tumors are a very devastating disease (number one cause of death by cancer for children and adolescents in the US). This disease impacts the entire family—financially and emotionally.

Until the late 1980s very little research was being done, but the PBTF is changing the picture. Leukemia used to be the number one killer among children, but now it has a survival rate in excess of 80%. The difference is research. Research is very expensive!

Based on a three year average, the 2006 external audit shows that 86.6% of the funds raised for PBTF were spent on the foundation's research and family support program.



You can help support the Ride for Kids stars (children and adolescents who have survived a brain tumor or are going through treatment) by participating in the Colorado Ride for Kids. Between now and the ride (June 8, Sunday) talk to friends, family, co-workers, etc. and collect funds to take with you to ride.

The ride will begin at Heritage Square in Golden. Registration opens at 8:00 am and closes at 9:45 am (donuts, coffee, water, and juice will be provided). The 90-minute escorted

ride will begin at 10:00am sharp. After the ride, there will be a Celebration of Life where PBTF representatives, Stars, and family members present insight into the foundation and the benefits it provides.

I have posters and ride kits for anyone needed extra to pass out to co-workers.

Ideas to help raise money for the kids:

- ▶ If you know anyone who rides, mention the ride to them and give them a ride kit.
- ► Skip that cup of coffee, soft drink, or beer once a day (between now and June 8) and put it in a jar, then turn that money in at registration.
- ► Take the money you would spend eating one meal out each week (between now and June 8) and save it up for the Stars.

to ride for the

Stars

- Recycle your aluminum cans and donate that money to the kids.
- ► Go to www.firstgiving.com and set up your own fund raising page. It's quick and easy. Check out my page at http://www.firstgving.com/lindashelley

For additional or more detailed information, please call me at 495-5741 or email Lshelley@animail.net.





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Chapter I meeting information:

WHEN First Saturday of the month, 8:30 coffee, 9:00 meeting

WHERE Holy Cross-Lutheran Church 4125 Constitution Ave.

327 S. Weber Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Phone (719)475-2437 Toll Free (800)748-1799 Fax (179)475-0543

Email: comments@apexsportsinc.com



April Goodies Chris & Casey Ward Laurie Schlosser



Linda & Butch Shelley 15605 Archer Terrace Elbert, CO 80106

Mailing Label Goes Here