



# UNDER THE HELMET

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MOA CHARTER #321

## Upcoming Rides

•March 12 Carousel Ride to eastern plains in Burlington, Colorado. RVSP suggested to Michael Fox (303) 843-9828 or mike.fox@jeppesen.com

•March 4 & 26 are Casual Rides that meet at 900am at Sams#3 and depart 1000am for route to be determined by the group that meets.

•April 1-14, 2006-Puerto Vallarta via the Baja and ferry to Mazatlan. Contact Ed Padalinski for details and more information (303) 699-6282.

•April 23-Bishops Castle Ride Ride to southern Colorado near Pueblo. Breakfast at 800am at Sams#3 and departure at 900am. Route will be via US285 to Westcliffe, near Pueblo. Ride Captain Susan Andrews ptechnic@earthlink.net or (303) 680-9189

•May 25-30 Motofoto Safari Ride to southwestern Colorado and Utah. Contact Dave Fiack at (303) 805-1799 or programs@rmbrc.org for more information and motel overnight locations.

## INSURANCE NORTH/SOUTH BORDER BY RON DENSLOW-SENTRY INSURANCE

Our February monthly meeting hosted Ron Denslow from Sentry Insurance on a repeat visit from last year. This time, Ron discussed insurance requirements that are needed when we are traveling north and south of the US border. This was a very timely discussion as we have 2 club trips planned this summer one departing April 1st to Mexico and another departing July 13th for Canada.

When traveling to Mexico, no US insurance company will provide coverage. A separate policy must be purchased from an online agency such as Mexbound.com. You can purchase insurance at the border as well, but it is nice to have it hand when arriving at the border. They sell the insurance that we can buy in the US for travel into Mexico. There is no coverage by such an insurer for things as medical payments, motorcycles with sidecars, motorcycles towing trailers, and riders under 25 years of age. The coverage that is available is theft, liability, collision, legal, and travel. The travel coverage is provided by purchasing an additional policy for a few more dollars that is called a Mex Visit policy. This separate policy provides coverage for hotel, travel, and medical evacuation services.

The primary policy price depends largely on the value of the motorcycle and prices range from about \$125.00-\$400.00 for 2 weeks of coverage. The six month policy will be about double that and the annual policy a little more than the six month policy.

When traveling to Canada, most US insurers will provide automatic coverage. Canada does however, require higher coverage in the minimum amount of \$200,000 for bodily injury. It is advised to contact your insurance agency prior to going to Canada to get a new proof of insurance card with the higher limits of coverage to prove to Canadian authorities that you have the proper coverage. There is usually no charge, just a reissue of your insurance ID card.

Thank you Ron, for this timely discussion!

## From your President....

As I sit here on a below zero cold winter day in Colorado, I wish I lived where there was year round riding. But then again you have give up certain types of terrain and roads to ride all year round. The mountain roads and passes in Colorado are by far some the best in the country. I have been working on riding as many passes as I can as the Colorado Beemers Club has a special certification to ride at least 50 passes. I am about half of the way there and I hope to add a considerable amount more this year, maybe even hit that magic 50! Our club sets aside a monthly planned ride each month as well as the 2nd Saturday and 4th Sunday as casual rides. We hope that you can join us on these many planned rides. During that winter season, we have to try to sneak a ride in when we can, as we did a few weeks ago! It was nice to see several members just meet us at Sams#3 for breakfast, even if there schedules did not allow them to come along. It is not always about the particular ride, but the camaraderie and friends we make in our motorcycle world. We look forward to seeing you at our many events; meetings, board meetings, planned rides, casual rides, and dinner socials this year!

Ed Padalinski

president@rmbrc.org

(303) 699-6282

## COLORADO CITY MOTORCYCLE RALLY BY CHRIS SPANOS

So here I stand with my shorts on at 8.00 am in the middle of ten things to do and don't know which way to turn. I got a slight cold from Bridget last week, because she didn't want it any more, and it must be affecting my normal steel-trap mind. We were supposed to be on the road at 6.00 am to the "Super Pig Out" Rally in Colorado City just south of Pueblo. Our first time to this rally or party as the Pikes Peak BMW Club calls it.

Well, I finally got moving, finished packing the Bushtec trailer by just throwing it all in. One of the many advantages of a trailer! Hooking up the old '84 R100 steed, downing a couple of cups of coffee and off to pick up Bridget, my English riding companion. Much to her surprise, I was only 2 hours late. We tossed her 50 pounds into the trailer, (I told you a trailer is nice) and off we went to Rosie's Diner for a bite to eat. Now, at about 10.00am the trip was about to begin. Since it was late, we decided to zip down the old super slab, south on I-25. The weather is not too bad for August, a little overcast to keep it nice. It took about 2 1/2 hours to get to Colorado City.

Upon arriving in Colorado City and following the smell of a pig cooking on an outdoor fire, it was not too hard to find Greenhorn Meadows Park and Campground. In a few minutes we were signed in, stamped on the hand with a red pig and away we fly to set up camp. My first choice was back in the woods but when Bridget "suggested" we camp more in the meadow on the grass, not on dirt, in case of rain, my "steel-trap" brain immediately realized it was a good idea, so camp in the meadow it was. We set up our camp in a jiffy and with our Kermit chairs opened up under a tree it was so comfortable a nap seemed like the next best idea. Our camping neighbors returned on their bikes and we chatted to them for a while. He is the Vice-Mayor of Hayes, KS and he also has a tombstone business. The SUV license plate was 2MSTONE.

We decided we were hungry and set off in search of a bite to eat. We rode out to Rye but there wasn't much there. Riding back toward Colorado City we stopped at a small Deli for refreshment. We shared a sandwich and had a soda and then headed back to camp. We chatted with our neighbors again, I smoked a cigar and then it was time to go "pig-out". The meal was quite good but the beer was frothy so we had to drink iced tea. It was sad that I was not feeling as well as I would like. I guess it was the cold so I didn't get to B.S. and meet all the nice people or listen to the music. They had a live band with 3 guitars and a banjo. So off to bed early but not before we had sat outside the tent for a while, smoked another cigar, drank some brandy and enjoyed the evening.

Sunday started off with a hot shower in the park. We rode the bike over instead of taking the foot trail through the boonies. We broke camp and again we just tossed everything in the trailer except the tent. We left the tent to dry while we went to see what the Pikes Peak guys were serving for breakfast. They were putting on a nice pancake breakfast but I decided to wait and eat on the road since Bridget

does not care for pancakes. Back at the camp site, we threw the tent in the trailer and off we went in a flash of power and dust, west on Highway 165 we rode, past Rye and on to San Isabel. We passed San Isabel Lake just before we got to the town. It was very pretty and looks like good fishing, and guess what I forgot to pack! There were cabins to rent and a nice restaurant. Since we had skipped breakfast it looked like a nice place to eat. The food was good, prices to make a biker smile and excellent friendly service. It was one of the few places Bridget was happy with the tea. Her tea water has to be very hot and few places serve it correctly. After a pleasant meal of sausage, biscuits and gravy for me and a breakfast burrito for Bridget, we continued on 165 and kept an eye out for Bishops Castle that our camping neighbors had told us about. We saw the peak of the castle tower before getting to it. The only place to park is along side the road. Entrance is free, donations only, to go inside and look around. It's truly a marvel. About 160 feet tall, 3 stories, with a fire-belching dragon, spiral staircase and lead glass windows, and it's still not complete. Bridget has a little problem with heights, but true to her adventurous nature, we climbed around for a while and saw it all.

After we came down and as she was trying to take a picture of the humming birds at the feeders, a little boy of about 5 - 6 years old came up with a small animal and showed her his "rat". He wanted her to touch it but she said she would rather not. The boy said it was OK because it wouldn't look at her. So with great trepidation, she did pet his "rat".

We walked around to the other side of the castle. There was a man working up there on the unfinished tower. We couldn't see him but we could hear him moving stuff. He had a platform, which he winched up there with his truck and a rope around a tree. There were strange signs everywhere.

On the road again, we continued on to McKenzie Junction and highway 96, taking pictures of "dead" cows along the way. (This is a private joke of ours. Ask me about it sometime). At McKenzie Junction we turned left on highway 96 to Westcliffe - nice little town and the scenery along the road there was beautiful. We could not find the county road to Canyon City. We were looking for (CR255). I stopped in the middle of town and asked the local police officer for directions. After he had told us to go back to McKenzie Junction and continue in the opposite direction from the way we had come, I said, "Well, when all these cars have gone by will make a U-turn and go back". With a much more serious face than before, he pointed out that U-turns were illegal and told me to go down a few blocks to turn around. Sure enough, there were no U-turn signs everywhere. It was a nice trip back from Westcliffe to McKenzie through one of the most beautiful valleys Bridget and I have ever seen. If you are ever in that area, go see it; it is well worth the trip.

Back to McKenzie Junction and staying on highway 96, we

*(Continued on page 3)*

went to Wetmore. From Wetmore we tuned north on highway 67 to Florence. When we got down into the valley it was very hot. It felt like driving through an oven. We stopped at a town park in Florence for a water in/water out break!

We left Florence, still on highway 67. After we crossed highway 50, Bridget saw a weather-beaten sign that said 'High Risk Road'. "What does that mean, Chris?" she asked. My steel-trap mind knew the answer and I immediately said "Oh, that means a lot of side-road traffic. Don't worry about it you silly girl!" So off we fly. Of course, the road turns to dirt – enough to turn any real Harley rider around. Little did we know at this point what the 'Phantom Canyon Road' had in store for our 'enjoyment'.

It's about 35 miles from Florence to Victor over the Phantom Canyon Road. If you want to try it, give yourself two to three hours. It's a road with a view, but pretty rough. At first it was paved and then that became dirt. We went through a couple of tunnels that were blasted out of solid rock. One was so dark my lights would not illuminate the inside. Lucky for us, there were no deep holes or bears inside the tunnel! Most of the road went along a hog-back with constant ups and downs. In places, it was so high with sheer drop-offs that Bridget closed her eyes. She didn't know that I had my eyes closed too!! That may have frightened her even more! There were many places that were very narrow, barely wider than one lane. We crossed three or four bridges made out of wood planks. One looked quite old and ragged. What was surprising to me was the fact there were two restrooms along the road. We only met a few cars on the road and the majority of them were cautious and courteous. But, as always you will meet the village idiot. Well, we met two; one vehicle behind the other, on one of the very narrow parts of the road in a blind curve. Idiot number one came flying around the curve and if we had been in a car he would have hit us or ran off the cliff. Immediately behind him and before my heart could slide back down my throat, here comes idiot number two. He got a better aim at me and was moving faster, but thanks to my steel-trap brain (and a fear of dying) I moved over a ¼ inch and he missed us also.

Bridget: The further we went, the worse the road became. The scenery was beautiful but I was too nervous to enjoy it. It looked like it might rain any minute. That's all we would have needed on that road! It was definitely not fun when those two idiots came around the corner!

The road got better and soon we came to the town of Victor. Just to keep the excitement going, a car hill-climb had just finished, people and cars everywhere. We both really needed a brandy after Phantom Canyon Road but decided coffee would be the most intelligent drink for now. Of course it's Sunday and the only places open in the active mining town were the bars. In we go, pushing all the rough miners aside, up to the bar and ask the local bartender for two coffees. She gave us a toothy smile seeing us in our motorcycle leathers all covered with dust, replied: "You two must have just come over Phantom Canyon Road. We don't have any coffee, but I can make you some". It was even better coffee than Starbucks.

We left Victor and headed for Cripple Creek and, you guessed it, we couldn't get through town. There was a Harley Convention going on and I know none of those guys came into town the way we did! Cripple Creek roads look like San Francisco. Streets were up and down to the point I could not stop at some of the stop signs and keep the bike from rolling. After going around town we finally found highway 67 again by getting directions from a local police officer and headed for Divide and then on to Woodland Park. We decided we would like to stay off I-25 as much as possible so we went into Colorado Springs on highway 24, took I-25 to Co 83 and returned to Aurora through Franktown and Parker.

### Club Activities:

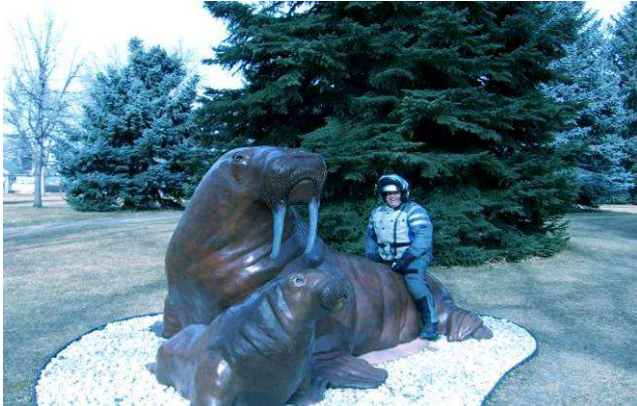
**All Monthly Meetings are held in one location at Windsor Gardens Restaurant 597 S Clinton St. Denver. The Meetings begin at 7pm and food is served from 5pm-630pm.**

- March Monthly Meeting is March 2 with a presentation by Dennis O'Neil who has traveled around the world in 2004.
- Quarterly Rides Committee Meeting is March 2 before the general month meeting at 600pm at Windsor Gardens
- March Social Dinner is on March 25th and location & time will be announced shortly
- Monthly Board Meeting March 30 at the Parker Library at Main St and Parker Rd at 700pm
- April Monthly Meeting is April 6 by Jim Key who recently returned from his 30 days south and 30 days north adventure into Central America. Jim will speak and show us his video from his Mexico Copper Canyon and Baja adventures

## 2006 RIDE BOOK

The 2006 Ride Book is complete and will be distributed to members only in good standing. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so as soon as possible so you can get your copy. If you would like it mailed, please contact Ed Padalinski (303) 699-6282 or [president@rmbrc.org](mailto:president@rmbrc.org)

PHOTOS FROM OUR MEMBERS:



Ed Padalinski found the real Red Walrus!



David Allen preparing his LT for Daytona, Mexico, & beyond!

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR FREE LISTING PLEASE CONTACT ED PADALINSKI (303) 699-6282 OR PRESIDENT@RMBRC.ORG

FOR SALE: 2001 BMW F650GSA, Mandarin Yellow, 18 K Miles, tools, owners manual. Well kept by pro rider. Great ladies machine. ADD-ONS: BMW car horn, power adapter, heated hand grips, C-Bailey 17-inch touring wind screen, buddy lights (front & rear), expandable hard bags, K&N reusable air filter (washable), rear luggage rack, battery tender connection and charger. NEW: battery, rear Metzler tire and tube, rear sprocket, 1000cc engine O-ring chain.

CONTACT: Susan Andrews (303) 680-9189.



FOR SALE: Garmin eTrex Vista GPS includes all documentation, preloaded Colorado maps, handlebar mount, cables for auto and PC. Also provide free training. \$150.00 .

CONTACT: Dave Fiack (303) 805-1799

WANTED TO PARTICIPATE:

Membership Chairperson-no experience required, contact and sign up new members, schedule recruiting events, maintain membership data base, track memberships, notify members of renewals, and issue new member packets.

Club Membership Information is available online at www.rmbrc.org or contact Ed Padalinski (303) 699-6282

- President: Ed Padalinski president@rmbrc.org
- Vice President: Dave Fiack vicepresident@rmbrc.org
- Secretary: Marlene Holmes secretary@rmbrc.org
- Treasurer: Bob Wright treasurer@rmbrc.org
- Board Member: Roy Blakney (303) 756-2547
- Board Member: Dan Kearney rides@rmbrc.org
- Board Member: Kip Rogers kip@gis.net
- Social: Sherri Wysong swysong@kbhome.com

## Under the Helmet

## MY FIRST OVERNIGHT TRIP BY MARLENE HOLMES

Being a rookie, a broad and an old broad at that, my first overnighter was a memorable one that took us to the Colorado BMW rally in Paonia July 2005.

What's his name pretty much led the way with my cousin from Germany up on his bike.

Our ride to Paonia we went via Independence Pass with a stop in Snowmass to visit our daughter and her family, and to watch a Polo match there. I was overwhelmed as much by



all the bikes in Paonia as the awesome sights along the way. Some pretty twisty curves as well....experience I really needed. The excitement was a bear that trotted in front of us across highway 92 between Paonia and Gunnison. The scenery continued to be breathtaking, and the weather as good as Colorado has to offer. But that all changed when we arrived in Canyon City in a thunderstorm with gusts the likes I had not experienced. I ended up stopping, which is unlike a me, I hate to give

up. The wind eventually settled down and we arrived safely at home. A good time was had by all! Total mileage: 722. Moral of the story: "Don't let age, bears, or high winds keep you from pursuing life's many adventures".

## FEBRUARY DINNER SOCIAL

We had great group of 11 club members for our event at Red & Jerry's Fun Center, including new members Mike and Donna. Lively conversation was had by all, even though no one decided to challenge each other on the video motorcycle races. They only had Harleys, so I guess it scared everyone away!



## STREET SURVIVAL

Want to stay alive on the road? Hey who doesn't?

Here are some practical tips reprinted from the AMA latest magazine:

- Every time you ride, give a motorcycle a quick visual inspection checking for loose parts, fluids, and tire pressures.
- From the moment you get on the road use your MSF method for scanning around you. Predict what will happen and decide how to avoid problems all the time
- Be aware of nailing the brakes, it isn't the only way to avoid a crash. Sometimes speed or speeding up can get you out of trouble easier
- Remember the most common motorcycle accident is car violating a motorcycle right of way. Ride like drivers do not see you.
- What's the best lane position for riding? You can get all kinds of answers, but you should be traffic positioning instead to create a 'bubble' of space around you.
- What to improve odds that other drivers will see you? Don't wear black. Bright colored clothing include reflective vests make you stand out.
- Be aware of seasonal hazards. In winter, ice, snow, salt, and sand can reduce your traction. In spring watch out for potholes, and in summer the highway crack sealer can be very slippery. In fall the wet leaves are among the slickest surfaces on earth.
- Be equally aware of hazards associated with different times of day. Early watch for dew & frost, during the day the sun glare, and at sunset wild animals.