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WE'RE BACK!!!! THIS EDITION BEGINS THE NEW ERA OF CHAIN CHATTER, AVAILABLE IN (roughly) QUARTERLY FORMAT. LONGER, LEANER AND MEANER!

Membership Corner

by John Klever

I am writing this article as the Membership Director because of events that began to unfold a little over a year ago. Since that time we lost our membership database, our membership program, and the ability to order memberships online. As a board we looked at several options, none of them appealing.

In the meantime, I had wanted to reacquaint myself with Access, and the challenge of doing a real system seemed the perfect testing ground on which to improve my skills. I set a small pilot into motion and presented my proposal to the board in June. After considering my proposal, the board gave me the go-ahead, and I continued working to convert the data and write the programs.

So what has happened in June and the first part of July? Members after September 1, 2009 have received a membership card. Lapsed members from January 1, 2009 to July 31, 2009 have received an expiration notice. August notices will be out around July 15th. If you haven't been reached, you either are not a member or we have lost you. Let me know. I'll get you squared away. Contact me at rmccmembers@gmail.com, at 303.321.1265, or at 2279 Krameria, Denver, Colorado 80207.

So far I have been able to convert all memberships and many lapsed to the new programming environment. I now have a data entry program for new memberships, renewals, and data correction; a very flexible program for reporting current and lapsed members; a report program for deposits; and a newsletter address extract program. In the very near future, I will have restored the capability of ordering memberships by credit card. By July 15th, I hope to be able to send expiration notices by email to members whose memberships lapse during September. I will ask our sponsors to honor discounts only for those who can produce a current membership card. In my next article I will detail some other ideas that have been floating around in the ether. Contact me to get your two-cents worth in.

One of the peculiarities you may have noticed, particularly if you live in a Denver suburb, is that my program may have changed the city in which you live to another city that the United States Postal Service likes better. I am using the zip code approach to addresses to simplify and expedite entering them.

Now I have just a few words about being a member. After you attend three RMCC events, we expect you to become a member. We have expenses, which include our newsletter, mailings, insurance and fees, maps, seed money for new programs, and volunteer reimbursements. All of us members have a responsibility to each other to ensure that everyone who plays pays. So we must encourage our friends who have been delaying their renewals or new memberships to go ahead and send them in.

And finally, my promise to you is that I will write this column only when I have something to write. I will give you plenty of time to respond to your expiration notice so you can have a new membership card before your old one expires.

In the meantime, happy trails, and may the wind always be at your back.



The 2009 Joe Lookingbill Denver-Aspen Classic
by Charlie Henderson

The 2009 Joe Lookingbill Denver-Aspen Classic was staged on Saturday June 13 (186 miles and 13500 vert. Feet). Congratulations to overall and Men's 1st to finish Mark Lowe (11hr 56min) and women's 1st to finish and 6th overall Diane Benoit (12hr 40min). Also Congratulations to all 20 entrants (2nd largest since the public rides) who braved very challenging conditions to ride the longest running RMCC event.

<u>OVERALL</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SPEED</u>
1 Mark Lowe	11HR 56MIN	15.6
2 Dick Wiss	12HR 10MIN	15.3
3 Tim Feldman	12HR 15MIN	15.18
4 Ray Rupal	12HR 27MIN	14.93
5 Patrick Nourse	12HR 36MIN	14.76
6 Diane Benoit	12HR 40MIN	14.69
7 Dan Dwyer	14HR 30MIN	12.82
7 Ed Wolf	14HR 30MIN	12.82
9 Stephen Graham	15HR 25MIN	12.07
10 Eric Althen	15HR 45MIN	11.80
11 Stephen Whiteman	15HR 50MIN	11.74
11 Ed Dowski	15HR 50MIN	11.74
13 Rob Price	15HR 52MIN	11.72
14 Debra Banks	16HR 45MIN	11.10
14 Janet Taffet	16HR 45MIN	11.10

AGE GROUPS

Women Overall & 50-59

- 1 Diane Benoit
- 2 Debra Banks, Janet Taffet

Men 30-39

- 1 Mark Lowe
- 2 Stephen Whiteman
- 3 Rob Price

Men 40-49

- 1 Tim Feldman
- 2 Patrick Nourse
- 3 Stephen Graham

- 4 Eric Althen
- 5 Ed Dowski

Men 50-59

- 1 Ray Rupal
- 2 Dan Dwyer

Men 60-69

- Dick Wiss
- Ed Wolf

(continued on page 3)



The 2009 Joe Lookingbill Denver-Aspen Classic (continued from page 2)

This year's Aspen ride had some of the most challenging conditions in many years. From the start (Mineral and Santa Fe) to the top of Kenosha Pass winds were calm to light head winds with very damp conditions. Fog hung in the valleys and on the lower peaks. Temps were in the upper 40's and low 50's and in the 40's crossing Kenosha. This section is 58 miles and about 7000 Vert. Feet and always makes for a hard start to a long ride. The winds in South Park can make or break a rider on this ride. This year was a break year with the head winds increasing in strength as they rode across South Park and by the time they left Fairplay the head winds were severe. 37 miles of strong head winds to Buena Vista can make this a brutal ride.

The first six riders through Buena Vista picked up this wind as a strong tail wind to propel them up to Twin Lakes. But as many of us veterans say Crap happens off the back and the remaining riders got a severe cross wind instead. All riders got head winds up to twin lakes from hwy 24 and then up the lower part of the pass.

The worst was yet to come. Again the riders that cleared the top of Independence Pass by 3:00pm (temps were mild and very little wind with overcast skies) were in good shape but the rest would have hell to pay. The weather changed dramatically with rain and hail on the lower parts of the pass to a full on snow blizzard with severe winds on the upper parts of the pass. I want to give credit to three riders that used common sense to protect themselves Keith Pryor and John Hayden who got caught descending on the West side and abandoned in Aspen because of possible hypothermia and Kenneth McCollum at the top because he felt it unsafe to go on. The three of you did all the hard part of the ride (Good Job). Two others hid in a cave on the west side to escape the storms furry and then finished. The last two Debra Banks and Janet Taffet got hit 2 miles before the top and I'm going to quote Debra's note to me because this tell it all. "Charlie: Had an epic ride. Clawed up Indy pass in a downpour—it turned to snow 2 miles from top. Full on white-out, blizzard conditions wind gusts that stopped you in your tracks. Warmed up in the car on top. Put on ALL Clothes including a down jacket!! For the descent. Got to WC tavern w/10 minutes to spare! AWESOME!!! Congratulations again to all of you!!

RMCC CHALLENGE SERIES COLORADO TRIPLE CROWN COLORADO DEATH RIDE

by Charlie Henderson

The 2009 Colorado Death Ride was staged on Saturday July 4th (225 miles and 15500 vert. Feet, the toughest one day RMCC ride). Congratulations to overall and Men's 1st to finish Mark Lowe (13hr 55min) and Women's 1st to finish and 4th overall Andrea Koenig (15hr 32min). Also congratulations to all eight entrants who achieved the fastest overall group speed (14.62 mph) ever for this event.

<u>OVERALL</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SPEED</u>
1 Mark Lowe	13HR 55MIN	16.17
2 Dick Wiss	14HR 52MIN	15.13
3 Ray Rupel	15HR 08MIN	14.98
4 Andrea Koenig	15HR 32MIN	14.48
5 John Mangin	15HR 40MIN	14.36
6 Michael Henderson	15HR 56MIN	14.12
6 Patrick Nourse	15HR 56MIN	14.12
8 Greg Holland	16HR 30MIN	13.63

AGE GROUPS

Women Overall & 30-39

1 Andrea Koenig

Men 30-39

1 Mark Lowe

2 John Mangin

(continued on page 4)



(Colorado Death Ride continued from page 3)

Men 40-49

1 Michael Henderson

1 Patrick Nourse

3 Gary Holland

Men 50-59

1 Ray Rupel

Men 60-69

Dick Wiss

This year's Death Ride (aka San Juan Skyway) was the first RMCC produced in 10 years. The lapse was due to the extra long drive to Durango and the unsafe (for climbing) road from Placerville to the Telluride Jct. Now that the town of Ridgway has good services we changed the start point to Ridgway and reversed the course to clockwise. This made for a huge improvement and the ride was a resounding success. The Total Drive time is now cut by 3 hours and the dangerous climb is now a fast decent. The other advantage is that the prevailing winds are more favorable.

The ride started a 2:00 AM with clear skies and mild temps. As we crossed over Red Mountain Pass at 4:00 AM you could see the Milky Way. The riders crested Molas Pass at dawn (Between 5 and 5:30). This will be the first check point in the future. As they descended Coal Bank Pass a down slope tail wind picked them up all the way into Durango (second check point) and all riders were in by 7:30. At this point I began thinking we were going to have some great times. Doing this section (81 miles and about 7000 vert. Ft) in less than 6 hours is a good time and makes for a great start of this long ride if you can hold it. It started to heat up as they turned West to climb the Hesperus and more bumps to Dolores (127 miles third Check point) and 3000 more vert. ft. Most riders were into Dolores in just over 8 1/2 hours .I knew now we were going to have some great times. Just think they just did a 200K in 8.5 hours with 10000 vert. ft. (Stove Prairie has 6000) and were about to start the equivalent of an Elephant Rock century. We have some great riders in RMCC.!

As the riders leave Dolores the first unfavorable condition appears. NO TAILWIND going up the Dolores river valley. As the locals say this doesn't happen at this time of day!! Coming into the fourth check point at Rico all riders are at a low point. The gradual undulating climbing has gotten to them and they now face steeper climbs on the way to the fifth check point at the Telluride jct. From Dolores to Telluride they have done another 61 miles and 3500 vert. ft. Spirits seem to be up at this point because as the veterans say "you start smelling the BARN". 36 miles later and 2000 more feet riders arrive at the Ridgway finish with big tired smiles and say to me "boy that really is a tough and monster ride, the toughest I've ever done". I look up and say "That's why we call it THE DEATH RIDE"

CONGRATULATIONS to all of you again!
Charlie Henderson and Jim Kraychy(ride coordinators)

RMCC 2009 Spring Contrail Report

by Jim Kraychy

Every ride has a story. Here is one perspective on the Spring Contrail trip to Arizona this past April, with some pictures to help relate the tale.

Our early Saturday morning departure from Denver was during the tail end of the last spring blizzard in the Denver area. Tough driving conditions heading out of town, with slush and heavy, wet snow on the pavement until South of Colorado Springs, where the road was just wet. Then sunshine and clear driving South of Raton Pass. Even those who left Friday had to contend with tough winter road conditions. What a



start to the trip ! Quite a relief to finally arrive in Show Low, Arizona.



First day antics: Show Low to Alpine

Too much time cooped up in the vehicles on the trip down probably contributed to all the attacks, chases and sprints on the uphill rollers heading East from Show Low– not at all the best way to start a week long tour. It took a while, but everyone did finally settle down ! We had a great tailwind up the hill from Eagar, through Nutrioso and on into Alpine. A nice warm afternoon to sit out on the veranda at the Sportsman's

Lodge helped with recovery. Bonus mile award goes to Sargent who added on out and backs to Sunrise and Luna for a total of 120 miles.

Great to be able to ride in predictable weather with spectacular high desert scenery riding past the White Mountains. Not to be missed was dinner at the Bear Wallow Café (the only restaurant in town).



Second day classic: Alpine to Morenci.

Early risers were greeted by the sight of a small Elk herd crossing the pasture across the road from the motel. A short walk up the street brought us back to the Bear Wallow for breakfast – real food ! Bonus miles for a warm up by some of the riders were had by riding out and back to the NM border, then on with the main ride. For once it wasn't freezing cold for our start. Plenty of shade to be had riding through those long stretches of tall pine trees in the vicinity of Hannagan Meadow. Yes, it was already warm compared to Denver !

This is one day where you really get a glimpse of what tremendous variety there is to be found in Arizona. Utterly spectacular vegetation, and scenery almost beyond belief, as found at one of the rest stops at Blue Vista, where you can see Mount Graham to the Southeast, and past the Chiricahuas to the South, down into Mexico over about 150 miles away.

The (in)famous "arrow tree" on the descent from the Blue Vista overlook is very easy to miss riding in this direction. This has to be seen: a huge dead pine just off the road that has well over 200 arrows stuck in it from target practice over quite a few years.

Later on: Dam it ! - another bee or wasp sting, right above the knee. Riding off the venom seems to be the best way to deal with that. I swear you can feel that stuff progress through your system all the way through your heart and beyond. Hopefully bee venom isn't on the banned substance list as that makes about a dozen or more stings in the past 3 years for me (I have even been stung on my tongue before I could spit the bastard out !). Thankfully Kelly had an alcohol pad which really took the edge off it for me.

Closer to Morenci by the open pit copper mine, a few riders (who shall remain nameless) came up with a novel way to answer a nature call with no available facilities: "moon the pit".

Arriving in Morenci was a big shock as the Dairy Queen was closed and boarded up ! Thankfully a grocery store was nearby so we could start on recovery food and drink. Further mayhem occurred when Mark bought a large bag of M&M's and kindly shared with us. Very hard to keep all of them corralled when you are tired after a long ride and a little dehydrated. More than a few ended up skittering across the floor under the table and display racks. I can't say that we found and rounded up all the escapees.

Spectacular scenery from high alpine meadows, tall pines and cool temperatures, down to desert scrub and relatively hot temperatures over the course of 94 or so miles in one day with sunshine the whole way. Kudos to Diana and Sheridan for completing a great ride.



Third Day: Morenci to Safford (with the optional climb up Black Jack (a.k.a Jackass) Pass

Another one of those wide open climbs where you can see your progress up by looking back on the switchbacks. Nice shade up in the trees at the rest stop. More bonus miles for some by riding out to the New Mexico border and back through a beautiful and remote small canyon. Great descent back down from Black Jack, without the gusting winds of last year to slow things down on those sweeping corners. 107 degrees on the new pavement up the climb West up from the junction of US 191 and SR 78 according to a bike mounted thermometer. The riders who make a “game” of sprinting for city limit signs sure fooled themselves with a false sprint to the street sign at Barney Lane just before Safford – Kenny went, and I followed - all that strategizing and work in the heat for a few laughs ! Then Dairy Queen at last, for recovery food, and hanging out at the pool to cool off before dinner.

Fourth (“rest”) Day: Safford to Mt. Graham summit and return

Newly designated Challenge Series open road timed event. Nice ride as a group out to the staging area just past the prison. Quite a daunting view from the bottom looking up at the top. 2:05 to the end of pavement on Mt. Graham for the leaders (last year’s club record of 1:57 unbroken). Mark is a great motivator when you know he is behind you chasing ! Several riders spotted a second arrow tree (Southwest side of the mountain on the “flat” roller section near end of pavement). Tom and Sargent repeated the climb up from the rest stop at Arcadia. Back in town in time for lunch at the Mexican restaurant. The food was so good we went back again for dinner !





Fifth day: Safford to Globe.

Flat calm morning followed by some headwinds West of the half way point at Bylas. First Saguaro cacti came in sight shortly after. One flat tire to deal with on that busy highway. The group was buzzed on US 70 by an ambulance (of all things). Glad to make the turn North off the highway onto the San Carlos Reservation's quieter roads.

A road closure gave us very little traffic to deal with on the up and back to El Capitan Pass. Well worth the extra miles for the view back towards the East. Then a sustained 50 mph descent back towards Globe thanks to the tail wind. Dehydrated again; no Dairy Queen but the McDonalds next to our hotel filled in nicely. Hanging out at the hotel pool to cool off, followed by dinner at the steak house.

Sixth day: Globe to Show Low.

Wonderful cool morning for the climb up out of town thanks to some cloud cover. The descent into Salt River Canyon was a blast: 40+ mph, pushing the biggest gear powering around the sweeping corners towards the bottom.

Our last rest stop was on the Fort Apache reservation at the Chevron gas station. Small groups from the faster riders (aka. "the clown posse") started nonchalantly sidling out and heading up the road. "We're just going to ride easy the rest of the way in" was the mantra. Once out of sight, the shoe dropped: full on race to the finish. Big chase to bridge up (there is always more inside; you just have to find it). Nice tailwind for the last 20 miles or so of uphill rollers to Show Low.

8300 feet of climbing in 84 miles, with a few bonus miles around town made for a great ride to finish off the trip. More traditional Dairy Queen as an appetizer to the traditional final dinner.



General / overall:

Best weather overall I can remember, relatively benign winds, warmest evening and morning in Alpine. Three days from winter to mid summer temperatures ! Wonderful to be back in the desert to ride off the gloom of winter. Fantastic scenery – most of our Colorado climbs go up canyons where you can't see as much compared to these desert climbs – few trees to block the views make for very visible roadside geology. Hopefully the photos convey the tremendous variety in vegetation and terrain to be seen in Arizona.

Many thanks to all the riders, especially to Charlie for organizing the trip and Kelly for the great support.

I can't wait for next year !

Rocky Mountain Cycling Club
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