

We started the month off with our annual planning meeting at the home of John & Teresa Gull with 12 people in attendance.

With Sandy Davis bringing the chili, Suzie Drake the cinnamon rolls and Ken Felch the cookies they got the important stuff taken care of leaving the easy stuff to the other members to bring, however the important dishes for the meeting kept up the tradition.

After being tossed out of the kitchen/dining room by the ladies (who claimed we were in the way!?) the men finally got ordered back so we could get our food or as I should say what was left of the food after it had been picked over by about half dozen women.

Upon finishing our lunch we got down to the secondary item for the get together and that was determining our schedule for the year. That wasn't quite as productive as normal partially because not all members could make it so we have a couple of dates for rides still open.

Hopefully that will be corrected when we get together this month. After completing the calendar for the year we killed a little time and then got out of John & Teresa's hair.

Fore what seems to be the norm for us this year had our supper ride on the 7th with Bill & Margaret Hanson "leading" us (with only one 180), in our cars to Guy & Mae's in Williamsburg for ribs. Upon arrival we linked up with Jamie & Gayle Conway who promptly informed us that the place was closed because Tuesday was Election Day so the place was closed because it also is a bar. Who would have thunked it but I guess things haven't changed. Anyway we decided that since Poncho's was only 10 miles away we would go there. Being the intelligent folks we are we decided calling first would be the prudent course of action.

Good thing because they were closed too. The backup to our backup was Green Acres in Vassar since it was more or less on the route home for 8 of us. After a successful phone call we headed back toward Topeka for what turned out to be a good HOT meal. The specials that night were the Mexican buffet and chicken dinner. Brenda was the only one that had to be different and have something off the menu. Jamie & Gayle had the buffet and the rest of us had the chicken. Everybody said the food was good and other than Jamie & Gayle's the food was hot. It seemed like everything must have come from the heat source to the table at high speed. Did I say it was HOT?

On the 11th, 9 of us met up at Dillion's in North Topeka and being led by Rick Thompson we headed toward Leavenworth to ride in their annual Veterans Day Parade. Neither the forecast or actual weather looked very favorable, however that didn't stop us. We all just plugged in our heated gear and took off. That is we took off after jumping Rick's trike.

NOTE: Gerbings pulls a lot of power when just sitting without the engine running. I'm not saying she ran the battery down because Rick said it is pretty old, but after sitting for about half an hour Rita was toasty warm and the bike wouldn't start. After getting Rick running it was very uneventful for the rest of the trip. As is typical for the parade in Leavenworth it started exactly on time and moved right along. There was a big crowd braving the cooler weather and to the relief of everybody riding we were ahead of the horses.

After the parade we rode to the Depot for lunch which ended up being different to say the least. Brenda was one of the last to walk in and the hostess asked if she was Brenda and if it was her birthday. She said yes to both and was told she was in for it. The first thing they did was bring in some apple spice cake that looked like donut holes with a candle in

one. The wait staff sang happy birthday to her then left. After that I think just about every employee stopped by and wished her a happy birthday. The last two showed up at the door and told Brenda that they had been **told** to come in and wish her a happy birthday. Everybody got a kick out of that one since the two girls didn't act like they thought much of wishing anyone, not giving them a tip, a happy anything.

After ordering and waiting for our food we started looking around since we were in the back room separated from the rest of the world (that happens to Chapter C more often than not. Not sure who has the message tattooed on their forehead. Anyway I digress. Somebody pointed out that according to the signs on the door we were either in the Office or Men's toilet or maybe it was all the same just not sure. The food arrived and nobody complained about the quality. Rita did put her foot down after our waiter patiently explained that she would like their brussel sprouts and she said that might be true but she still wanted the mac & cheese.

After finishing lunch we headed back toward home, of course it started to mist and continued all the way back to our destinations with Brenda and I having the farthest to ride. John & Teresa and Rick and Rita were kind enough to offer to let us dry-out and warm up at either of their homes and John also offered that we take their car home from Topeka, but we decided to ride back. The Goldwing came thru like a champ and we arrived in Manhattan with just some dampness on our legs which was great considering we didn't have any rain gear on.

The chapter had 6 people venture to the Prairie Nut Hut in Altoona on the 18th for the District "get together" for any better term for it. There were somewhere in the neighborhood of 40 people crammed into a space

that looks like it could comfortably hold ½ that, however judging from the noise and the food that was consumed it appears most if not everybody enjoyed themselves. Their “signature” menu item is Rocky Mountain oysters and from what I saw there were many consumed by several people. Brenda and I took a small order home with us and had them the next day. I had eaten them once before many years ago but forgot what they tasted like. They aren’t bad in my opinion, however not my favorite item to eat. Now the frog legs that I had while there rank right up near the top of my food list. The day was planned to make it a ride to Altoona, however when we got out of bed Saturday morning the wind was howling. I’m guessing the gusts were in the 30 MPH or higher range and the temperature around 40 degrees so not my idea of great weather to be riding in. It was decided the six of us would drive so being the thrifty folks that we are, we linked up with John & Teresa in Topeka then picked up Bill & Margaret in Beto Junction and it worked out well as the parking lot was almost completely full when we got there.

We held our final meeting for the year on the 21st with 15 people in attendance. Bill started things off by attempting to explain what his position is evolving to at the first of the year. It’s still a bit vague, but I guess National will figure it out eventually. From the perspective of the chapter Bill will continue as he is and we will roll with the flow since what we have in effect is working.

We finalized what is needed for the Christmas Party, however neglected to discuss the New Year’s Day ride to Red Robin. Since I messed that up I’ll put the word out again right here. We will meet at Red Robin in Topeka at noon on January 1st, 2018 riding if weather will permit and plan on having a noisy time with large servings. We normally end up

with around 20 people so I'm hoping for more this year because the more the merrier.

All the available information for all the different Chapter Christmas parties was discussed along with the Bockhaus Chili Feed in Newton. In addition I relayed that Ron & Marjie Crawford (former chapter directors) would like to hold a BBQ for the chapter sometime in the coming year. Ron has been advised to check the calendar after the first of the year and pick a non-conflicting date. More information will be provided when available.

Mid-winter was briefly discussed and then we held the 50/50 drawing with Bill & Margaret winning the larger one and Brenda and I finally winning, I think this was our first one this year or maybe even for 2 years. I think somebody has been hiding our tickets in the past since our number normally isn't within 1000 of the winning one and we never have that many people there.

With the 50/50 over we packed it up and headed home until next year.

Birthday 27th Rita Thompson

Anniversary 7th Ken & Arlene Felch

Don & Brenda Williams
CD/Newsletter Editors