

We ended July with Brenda and I deciding to join Chapter H with a ride to Washington, KS and met them in Salina. I can't remember the number of bikes we had but there were ten or so and something like 20 people. The weather for the ride was almost perfect until we were leaving Washington for Abilene and it looked like we were going to get wet at any second. Some of us hurried into our rain gear and we set off south at a very brisk pace. We managed to outrun the storm somehow and for, I think the first time in my life I was glad to get caught by a flagger in a construction zone. Without the rain it was miserably hot in our rain gear so when we got stopped it was off the trike and out of the gear as fast as possible. The ride from there to Joe Snuffy's was relaxing and uneventful. While we were waiting for our food Dale T said something about somebody ordering onion rings and couldn't figure out why they called them rings because when you drop one it goes thud. His wife told us to ignore him just so he wouldn't get started. We had a very enjoyable meal and then the H folks headed south and Brenda and I headed east back to Manhattan. I want to thank Dale for sending the invitation as the ride was very good and the museum was excellent also. With the owner giving a lot of background about the building and dealership since it was the first Ford dealership in the county 100 years ago.

Our supper ride was on the 2nd. Gary and Susan Drake were supposed to lead us to Pueblo's in Osage City; however because of a family situation they were unable to do so. John Gull stepped up and led us there. We initially had 6 bikes and 12 people but Sandy had a bit of a problem with her lights on her trike so they ended up going home so they could get it fixed. The food was good and also the entertainment since we pretty much manage to entertain ourselves anyplace we end up. After a leisurely meal we headed back to Topeka and places beyond.

With nothing else planned for the month prior to the newsletter deadline I decided to ask those that have taken rides recently to write up a trip report and will enclose all that I receive just to make this newsletter a bit different.

Al & Sandy Davis provided the below information on their ride to the Side Car Rally in Colorado:

A trip to the United Sidecar Association's 2016 national rally with Al & Sandy

Thursday June 30, 2016.

We left home this morning to meet some friends and ride out to Hotchkiss, Colorado for the 2016 United Sidecar Association (USCA) rally. We had planned to ride the 2 lane roads to McCook, Nebraska where we would meet up with our friends Larry and Linda from Southwest Iowa. We were texting each other whenever we stopped for a break, fuel or ice cream to keep tracked of each other's progress. We were running ahead of them so we turned north and waited in Arapahoe, Nebraska for them to get there. We continued west into Colorado and stopped in Wray for fuel. A new friend (stranger) told us that it was raining pretty hard to the west and that it might be a good idea to stop for the night. So we did.

Friday July 1, 2016 We continued west on the backroads to almost Ft. Collins then we turned south toward Loveland.

We found a nice quaint local Ice cream parlor called Nana Bea's in Windsor Colorado for lunch. The handmade malts were to die for. You just don't see the shakes being made on the old style machines like they do here.



It got hot when we rode through Loveland but the heat soon went away as we headed into Estes Park and the Rocky Mountain National Park

where we rode through rain and fog. After sightseeing and shopping at the Trail Ridge Store and Café (11,796 Ft.) we headed west and north going through Steamboat Springs on our way to Craig for the night.

Saturday July 2, 2016

We turn south from Craig staying on the 2 lane roads until we had to hop on I-70 for a few miles at Rifle. We found a nice slow winding road through Horseshoe canyon (45 ½ road) that took us to highway 65. From there it was a short ride uphill to the Powderhorn resort about 45 miles from Grand Junction. We will be staying here for a week.

Sunday July 3, 2016

Today we took a nice ride to the Colorado Mountain National Park located just southwest of Grand Junction. This place has a beautiful rugged landscape with marvelous rock formations and massive steep walled canyons. We rode the 27 mile road through it stopping often to take in the grand sights. We even rode through a couple of tunnels. Sandy and I rode two up on her trike so she could get pictures from the back seat. There were so many great pictures that we ran out of battery just before we got to see, up close, a small family of Big Horn Sheep. I would recommend riding through here if you are ever in the neighborhood.



Monday July 4, 2016

Today we took a lovely 300 mile ride taking highway 141 to Naturita, 145 to Placerville, 62 to Ridgway, then north on 550 and 50, back up to Delta and to the condo. All along the ride we enjoyed the rugged mountains. It seem as if everywhere the rivers had cut massive cliffs from the earth leaving just enough room between them and the river to place a road. What a great day for a ride!

Tuesday July 5, 2016

Today we decided to kick back and check out some of the local attractions. We visited an Alpaca farm (or is it a ranch) and were provided with an excellent tour explaining everything you would ever know about raising them and processing their wool (Fiber). We also visited a local fruit stand and stopped at a winery. No tours were provided at these places. It was a nice relaxing day with many U-Turns involved.

Wednesday July 6, 2016

Today we rode up onto the huge beautiful Grand Mesa. Alpine lakes dotted the pine and aspen forests. It was a very nice and cool ride to Hotchkiss where the Sidecar Rally will be held. We checked out the county park and visited with some of the other early birds, relaxing and enjoying the day. We had to try out the local BBQ joint to confirm that the food was great and the homemade pies were excellent. There is only one paved road between where we are staying and the rally so that meant that we would get to ride up and over Grand Mesa numerous times. What a fantastic hour long treat this commute is!

Thursday July 7, 2016

Hanging out at the condo vegetating.

Friday July 8, 2016

Today was a great day to lazy around and enjoy being away for it all. So that's what we did.

Saturday July 9, 2016

We slept in today then we rode to over the Grand Mesa (again) to Hotchkiss for the sidecar rally. There were about 125 sidecars of all types and styles, and riders from all over the country. We visited with a great bunch of people and had many laughs while watching the sidecar games. There was a ton of information shared about different sidecars and riding them. These are great folks to be around. When the gathering wrapped up, we rode to a motel in Delta for the night.

Sunday July 10, 2016

Time to turn it towards home. Today we rode highway 92 down to Gunnison National Park. This was another scenic ride. All I can say is "Wow". We continued east on 50 to Gunnison where we had Larry's birthday lunch at the Ole' Miner Steakhouse. After we filled up on great food we weighed anchor and continued east passing through Monarch Pass and beyond. Our stop for the night was Pueblo and the swimming pool at our motel.



Monday July 11, 2016

We decided that to ride all the way home in one day in this heat would not be very safe. So we had a short day stopping in Hays. One sad note, I got passed by a Prius on the highway.... Not only once, but twice. Sad sad sad.

Tuesday July 12, 2016

An uneventful day riding through Kansas to home. Sometimes that is the best way to end a grand adventure. Quick, quiet and safe.

Randy and Denise Benteman also submitted a narrative of their trip to the Dakotas:

Denise and I took a trip to Lake Metigoshe in North Dakota the second week of August. We rode into Nebraska and spent our first night

camping at the Nebraska National Forest. The second night we spent with friends in Hermosa, South Dakota. We rode through Sturgis and on to Stanley, North Dakota where we camped another night. Then on to Lake Metigoshie where we camped for two days and attended Wardens on Wheels poker run to raise funds for the Game Wardens Museum at the International Peace Gardens. We then ride to De Smet, South Dakota where we camped for the night. The next day we made our way back to Topeka. Total miles traveled were 2467 on our Goldwing pulling a Kwik Kamp. We had good weather except for the first two days where the temperatures were in the high 90's.

Rick & Rita Thompson provided the following:

Rip-roaring and ready to go on Saturday, August 6th at 5am, Rita and I along with Rita's sister, Rhonda and her husband Sam Boling set out on what would be a 4100+ mile trip to Glacier National Park, Yellowstone National Park and other sites of interest. Saturday morning was an overcast day, which was great weather for a somewhat boring ride through Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota. Our first day would end in Murdo, South Dakota, which was slightly over 550 miles. We pulled our campers but planned to motel-it during the harder riding days getting to our destinations. You should know Sturgis-week started the same week we left home and there certainly were no shortage of Harleys on the road.

Our second day sent us straight through Sturgis, South Dakota on I-90 West. We can now say that we were in Sturgis for the 2016 Rally, even though we never stopped. Shortly after leaving Sturgis, the winds came up as we were arriving in Wyoming. And, the winds of Wyoming were brutal! Speed limit was 80 mph with a 30+ mph head wind. Long, tall hills made for a long day and extra gas stops. Gas mileage sucked! But, even on I-90, scenery was great. Our day ended in Livingston, Montana over 600+ miles. It was a good day, all did well, but we were done for the day. However, this day was not quite over yet. As we pulled up to our motel, there were some somewhat undesirable folks sitting around

the yard areaand all eyes were on the two trikes pulling in the motel driveway. These folks looked like they freelanced after dark and we had just brought in the motherlode. So, after scanning the internet, we located a motel in a much safer part of town where we stayed for the night.

Our third day was a 300-mile day. A beautiful ride to East Glacier in Glacier National Park. We camped in a KOA campground just outside of town for two nights.

The next morning we would ride Going ToThe Sun Road through Glacier National Park. Again, an overcast day but a great day for riding with highs in the 50's. So, we all donned our electric jackets, but Rita and Rhonda had theirs set on High and were warm as toast! The park was very busy but all of the road construction had been completed. We went from East to West. Had a roadside lunch on the West side of the park and returned back to camp again on Going To The Sun Road going West to East. Going to the Sun Road is about 50 miles across with some of the most beautiful scenery to be encountered. We suggest everyone add it to your To Do lists.

On the 11th, we broke camp and headed to West Yellowstone, Idaho, just on the west side of Yellowstone Park. That morning, we had very strong, cold winds and threatening rain to pack up in. We headed south with temperatures in the 50's and extremely strong side winds making for a rough morning. But, by 9am, the weather had changed; sun was shining, winds had calmed but Mother Nature had gotten our attention. We rode to West Yellowstone, Idaho which was 360 miles. We had reserved a KOA just outside of West Yellowstone. Set up camp and made ready for our next day in Yellowstone. We entered Yellowstone from the West entrance and right away we were stopped in a "critter roadblock". It seems a few elk had gotten near the road stopping traffic for 45 minutes. By the time we arrived, the elk were gone or had died of old age or something. Other than that first jam, we had no more traffic issues until the last day. We saw all the sights/tourist things in the park,

beautiful scenery. We visited Old Faithful, walked through the smudge pots, went through Artist Point where there were spectacular waterfalls. Our original plans had been to stay inside Yellowstone, but we later opted to stay in the KOA as the KOA's provide electricity and inside the park there is none and we needed the heaters. Our last day in the park we woke up to 32 degrees....heater good! The days were mostly in the upper 70's and low 80's with very low humidity...beautiful riding days.

We took a trip to Jackson Hole, rode down the Idaho side through beautiful rolling hills of potato and wheat fields. We rode up through the south end of the Tetons and into Jackson. Jackson's park is famous for the Antlered archway at each corner of the park which is a one block area. People everywhere, mostly of foreign descent. We hit the shops around the park to calm the girls. Then, we headed north through the south entrance back into Yellowstone on the east side of the Grand Tetons.

We left Yellowstone and headed to Cody, Wyoming through the east entrance down St Joseph's scenic highway. As we were leaving Yellowstone, we encountered a large herd of buffalo. Our plan was if we got too close to the buffalo we would turn around and wait for the huge beasts to move on or find a different route. Unfortunately, we hadn't planned on both lanes of a 2-lane road being blocked by other vehicles. We were trapped in line, behind a bus, only feet from some very large buffalo. While very tense moments, we made it through unscathed. We stayed at The Ponderosa Campground in Cody, which was a nice campground next to Dairy Queen. We camped next to approximately 15 Amish folks from Pennsylvania who were in a class B motorhome pulling an enclosed trailer containing tents and food for their entire crew. They had hired a driver for the motorhome as Amish do not drive and they were headed to California. Note to self....do not camp near Amish. Kinder and gentler people who get up at 4am and are anything but quiet. If the yelling back and forth was not enough at about 5am, they then all broke into song. Camped on the other side of us were a husband and wife with two sons from The Netherlands. They were

amazed at our Goldwing Trikes and campers, which they had never before seen. They said they had occasionally seen a Goldwing motorcycle but never a Trike. We let them sit on our Trikes to take pictures to take home.

Next day was spent in the Buffalo Bill Museum which any old west enthusiast would enjoy. The gun portion of the museum is unbeatable. If you are ever in Cody, Wyoming, you should definitely visit this museum.

We left Cody for another 400-mile day headed back to Rapid City and the Black Hills, which was to be our last leg of our trip. The weather was nice in the Black Hills. Some threatening rain but nothing ever developed. We discovered the week after Sturgis is the time to go to the Blackhills area. \$25 hats for \$10, t-shirts that were \$20-25 were now \$5. Of course, you look like a Harley rider but everyone likes a great buy. We did the usual Mount Rushmore, Custer State Park, needles Highway, iron mountain and the pigtail bridges. Again, beautiful scenery and perfect weather.

The second day in the Blackhills, we rode to Devils Tower, Wyoming, 110 miles from our camp site. Temperatures were in the low 60's. Devils Tower is a fascinating rock formation. We walked up to and photographed before returning to camp. Interesting fact, the Indians are known to sneak into the park at night and hang colored cloths called "prayer bundles". It is illegal to remove such prayer bundles. These cloths are physical symbolic representations of prayers. They are part of American Indian religious ceremonies.

We headed back to camp and only a few miles outside of the Devil's Tower area when Rhonda yelled over the radio "DEER!" I hit the brakes hard only to see two deer come into the roadway. I hit the brakes as hard as I have ever hit them!!! The Trike seemed to squirm a little bit and I felt that the brakes were nearly locked up. We missed those deer

by inches! Had Rhonda not warned us, we certainly would have hit both deer.

The next morning, we headed for home. We rode to Sioux City, South Dakota leaving a short ride for Saturday to make it home by noon. It was a great trip, beautiful, no mechanical problems, no trouble at all really - already planning our next trip.

The pics below are from the trip:



Speaks for its self



Devils Tower



Glacier KOA



Brenda and I also took a short trip to the east. I had made contact with two old army buddies around Christmas and since Brenda wanted to attend her mother's family reunion in West Virginia I figured what

better way than to take a ride on the trike and hit some of the states we haven't been in on 3 wheels while also stopping by and visiting with the army guys. Plans were made and arrival dates coordinated so nobody would be surprised, however the best laid plans are subject to change as one of my friends mother had a stroke a week before we were supposed to be at his house north of Nashville, but he had to get his mother settled into rehab in Memphis so scratch one visit and reschedule the second for a day earlier. With that not being a problem we headed out for Trion, GA on the 8th and got all the way to the Lawrence service area for breakfast and had to put on the rain gear. We had it on and off several times over the next week but never in rain bad enough to make riding difficult. We did get to visit with the other army buddy and had a great visit considering it was the first time we had seen each other in 35 years. We kept missing each other by circumstances beyond our control in little places like Alabama and Germany but that's army life for you.

After an overnight visit we head out toward Brenda's brother's home in West Virginia in the rain and were in and out of it all day long. The following day was a shock. No rain gear required. We stopped in Beckley, WV and toured an exhibition coal mine. My grandfather was a coal miner and my father strip mined coal, both working in the industry all their lives. I also strip mined coal for a short period of time around my army career so I have an interest in the industry. For those that don't understand mining or care to the tour wouldn't be worth it in my opinion as the coal seam is from 3 to 4 feet high so the city of Beckley had to take out about 4 feet of rock overhead in order to be able to conduct the tours. This really takes away from the harsh working conditions the miners faced back in the days the mine was working. I don't remember the date the mine closed but it was around 100 years ago I think. They didn't have any modern equipment nor the safety rules they have now days.

After the tour we headed to Salem, WV for a couple of days and then returned home via our favorite place to get a West Virginia hotdog. Hillbilly Hotdogs. You have to see the place to believe it. The tables are inside of two school buses parked side by side with every other seat

turned around in order to put a table between them. People are encouraged to write on the walls (sharpies are furnished). The outside looks like a junk yard to include a full size conversion van on a tree about 30 feet off the ground. The food is great and the business has been seen on the food network show “Diners Drive-ins & Dives”. After an early lunch we hit the road and stopped for the night in Darmstadt, IN and had supper at the Amish Buffet there. That is another place well worth stopping. It’s located at exit 25B on I-64.

When we left the next day it was cloudy but not raining so we just took off. We made it about 30 miles and decided to put on rain gear and it was a good decision. When we ran out that tank of gas we took off the gear and had a relaxing ride the rest of the way home without it getting too hot until after we were west of Kansas City. Our ride ended up being just over 2700 miles

We have no birthdays for September but Rod & Lara Williams anniversary is on the 5th of September and Rick & Rita Thompson’s the 26th.

Don & Brenda Williams CD/Newsletter editor