



CHAPTER H
VOLUME 17, ISSUE 3

"H"appenings



Happy Thanksgiving!

NOVEMBER 19, 2009

CHAPTER "H" ONCHOS

ALASKA TRIP 2009

By Larry Greco

May 17, 2009 was the 40th wedding anniversary for Larry and Nancy Greco. To celebrate we took a vacation to California, Canada, The Canadian Yukon and Alaska. Our trip started by leaving Midway airport early in the morning of August 18 flying into Oakland, California. Here, we would visit my sister in Alamo and brother in Napa Valley.

While in California we visited the Blackhawk

Automobile Museum (www.blackhawkmuseum.org) where there was an assume display of exotic, muscle, old and new automobiles. There were two autos that I really enjoyed. One was a 1936 Cadillac that was used by a playboy from New York. It was a very long convertible, red and chrome with a V16 engine. The second was a 1926 Daimler, found in Africa and brought out in a sling carried by 4 elephants. It was also a convertible, silver metal on the sides and

gold on he top. It had servant chairs located on the running boards. On the front fenders were mounted snakes with their mouths open ready to strike, I think that this was the engine's exhaust. NOTE: If driving in California, be careful of the PHOTO RED LIGHTS ENFORCEMENT. The sign above reads that violations would be fined \$331.00.

August 21st we depart San Francisco and fly into Vancouver, British

Continued on page 2

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Special "H"appenings

Happy Birthday!!

Rita Miller 12/01

Fritz Goins 12/14



Happy Anniversary!!

Russ and Carol Pritchard

12/28



WING NOTES FROM YOUR CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE

By Les Chapman

Happy Thanksgiving to all Chapter H members and their families.

Bev and I are looking forward to being with our kids and a big fat turkey on the table. I was gone the first part of the month for my best friends funeral down in Kentucky. Johnny and I grew up together before I went into the service and I will really miss him. I am tired of losing people that I love and care for, but that is part of life.

Thanks to Jim and Lewis for leading the rides during the early part of November and for being my Sunday

morning warriors. Jim had a ride to Fox Lake for breakfast and then they rode to Wisconsin. Lewis took the group to McHenry for breakfast and then they did the Fall Color Run that he wrote, but did not get to use earlier.

Because our chapter meeting is so early and Thanksgiving is on the last Thursday of the month, I am not able to talk about our dinner run to the Old Bridge Restaurant for turkey dinner. I guess you will have to wait for December's newsletter. I have been trying to get a commitment out of the Nest Café for our Christmas Party on the 13th

of December, but as of now, I do not have a set date. Dawn has received letters from 3 children that we will sponsor through Clause & Effect and will give us the details during our meeting. Carol Goins also asked to help with the kids for Christmas.

I would like to thank Nancy for chairing our Christmas party with Dawn as her assistant. I would like to thank Larry for his article on his anniversary to Alaska with his bride Nancy.

Please remember the Toys for Tots parade in McHenry on Sunday, November 22nd and the Toys for Tots ride in Chicago is on



Les Chapman
Chapter-H
Representative

Sunday, December 6th. The December meeting will be short and sweet during our Christmas party. Hope I didn't miss anything, till next time drive safe and wear a smile.
Les



Continued from page 1 Columbia after a stop in Portland. Part of our cruise package gave us an additional night in the upscale Fairmont Hotel. Next day also included a 3.5 hour bus tour of Vancouver. Learning the history of Vancouver as we traveled the bus driver tells us the average house sells for \$1,000,000. The tour took us to Queens Park. Here were fantastic displays of flower gardens; several weddings were taking place, Tai Chi classes and many other activities. Located in Queens Park there are at least one of every species of tree that grows in British Columbia. One tree that I was intrigued with was a Araucaria Araucana, nicknamed - Monkey Puzzle tree. The branches looked like a curled up monkeys tail and was gooey and prickly. It was so named since the monkeys could not figure how to climb on it. Next visit is to Stanley Park (Lord Stanley donated the cup to The National Hockey League), locate next to the inlet bay to Vancouver. There were several colorful Story Poles (Totem Poles). One of the Story Poles was brand new and was scheduled to be unveiled the next day. The sculptor was a First Nation (Indian) and had carved it in dedication to his mother who was the last person with a residence in the park. When the bus tour ends at the hotel we gather our luggage and leave outside our room for transportation to our Holland America ship 'Zuiderdam'. A short walk from the hotel to the ship and we are ready to sail after the mandatory life boat drill. Here we will be pampered for the next three and one half days. While on the *See Alaska: page 4*

MEETING STARTS AT 7:00 PM

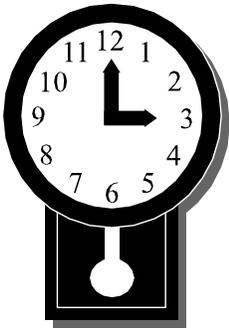
THE NEST CAFÉ, BARTLETT, IL.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2009



Meeting Agenda

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. Reading of the Minutes from the 10/29/2009 Meeting
3. Introduction of guests & new members:
4. Birthdays and Anniversaries
5. National Business:
 - Make plans for your 2010 AGWA XXVII Gold Classic in Michigan! See AGWA.com or your WOTR for details on these and other events.
6. State Business:
 - State Director status unknown-Reps. Plan to meet in December
7. Old Chapter Business:
 - Treasury Report
 - Breakfast Rides-Dinner Run review.
8. New Chapter Business:
 - 11/22 Breakfast Ride/McHenry TFT Kick-off collection and parade. Leaving McDonad's @ 9am
 - 11/22 Chapter H Dinner Ride meeting at the Old Bridge Restaurant in Hoffman Estates 6pm
- 11/29 Breakfast Ride
- 12/06 Breakfast Ride
- 12/06 Chicagoland Toys for Tots Parade. Chapter H leaves McDonalds at 6:15am for the Dan Ryan Woods. (83rd St & Western Ave.-Chicago)
- 12/13 Chapter H General Meeting of the Membership and annual Chapter Christmas Party.
- 12/19 Chapter H Dinner Run TBA
9. Break-50/50 Sales-Who knows a good joke?
10. SPEAK UP! Open Discussion.
11. Discussion: Claus and Effect-this year's recipients.
12. 50/50 Drawing
12. Meeting Adjourned...



*SIGN UP 7 NEW MEMBERS IN A YEAR AND RECEIVE A **FREE** 1-YEAR MEMBERSHIP!!*

Minutes of the 10-29-09 Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:06pm.

September minutes read and approved.

National business: Les again discussed that he would like a group to attend the Gold Classic as it will be local for us in 2010.

State business: No new business.

Treasurer report: Amount of the account given at the meeting. No expenses going out as of meeting date. Les did mention that he and Nancy Greco have not been reimbursed for the chili cook off. Dollar amounts to be forthcoming.

Chapter business: Ice cream and soup runs were suspended for the winter. Motion was voted on and passed.

Sponsoring children through Clause and Effect: We discussed that we would like to still sponsor someone from the organization in Aurora.

We were given some options and have chosen the new low-income day care center in Schaumburg, Children are 6 weeks old through 5 years old. If we were the *only* "Santa's" for that facility, we would like to get something for every child in the room. We were told it could be up to 25 children. Fritz Goins made a motion that we give \$300.00 to this Clause & Effect even though we did not fund raise for this event in 2009. Motion was passed.

Christmas Party- To be held on December 13th -9:00am at the Nest Café.

**The Next Meeting of the Membership will be 9am, Sunday
December 13th, 2009 @ The Nest Café 800 N. Route 59, Bartlett**

Minutes of the 10-29-09 Meeting:continued

Event chaired by Nancy with help from Dawn and Annalee

Nancy Greco wants to do a food drive for the local food pantry during the Christmas party.

New Years Day, looking to do a breakfast gathering for about 30 people. Feelers are out for a location to hold this breakfast event that would have a private room. Les would like to have the breakfast at a location that will be big enough to accommodate all of the Northern Illinois Chapters. He would like to start the New Year off with camaraderie within the state.

Les is looking to find a catchy "unofficial" name for our club. Some quick suggestions: Silver Wings, Wing Nuts, Rustic Road Riders, etc. Come to the meeting with your ideas, who knows, it could be the one adopted.

Dates for November:

1st: Breakfast ride

11th: Applebee's- Vets get a free meal

19th: Next club meeting: one week early due to holiday

21st: Dinner run to Old Bridge Restaurant at Walnut & Golf Rd. 6pm

22nd: McHenry Harley-Davidson Toys for Tots Parade

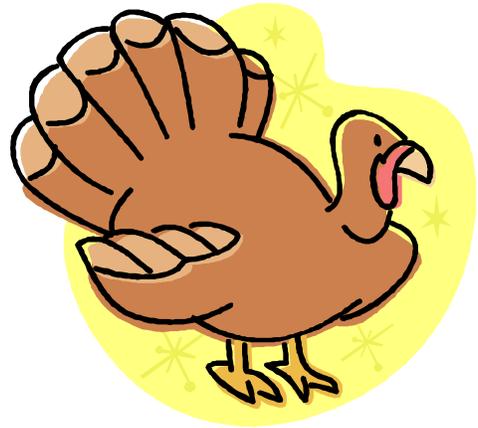
26th: Joliet: Lincoln Cemetery 8:00am Vets

26th: Museum of Science & Industry 9:00am "Rally at the Rock"
commemorating the 1st auto race.

50/50 won by Carol Goins of \$28.00

Meeting adjourned at 8:19pm.

Minutes taken by Leona Tatman



Alaska: from page 2 ship, we see whales (or at least the water spout), spectacular scenery and icebergs. We now meet our tour director Michelle who will escort us for the land portion. We are lucky to have her; she is very energetic and has traveled to many countries in the world. Her home state is Washington.

We disembark the ship in Skagway, AK and wait in the train station to board a narrow gauge old style train that travels along the Chilkoot Pass Trail to the town of Fraiser in the Yukon. While waiting in Skagway we walk over to a creek and observe salmon swimming upstream, spawning and dying off. Once on the train Michelle passes a bag with name tags and everyone pulls one out. Then you try to find the person whose name tag you pulled. I thought, what a great way to meet the people that you will be spending the next 7 days with. On the train a tour guide explains the history of the Chilkoot Pass Trail. Gold prospectors during the early 1900's were required to have 1000 pounds of supplies before they were let into the Yukon Territory to search for gold. The prospectors would take 30 to 40 trips up and back to get their 1000 pounds of supplies to the top of the pass. This is called the death trail as many horses, and men lost their lives in temperatures reaching -50 degrees and hurricane force winds in the winter. There was only two passes, both very dangerous, into the Yukon that the prospectors could take and what ever one they chose they said that they should have taken the other.

In Fraser we check in through customs and board a deluxe motor coach. Here we

Continued next page

meet our Motor Coach driver for the next two days Trent, who resides in Skagway. Trent is an excellent entertainer and driver, he and Michelle make the trip very enjoyable. So far the only wildlife that we observed is a porcupine that crossed the road in front of the bus. Tonight we stay in Whitehorse, this city is the capital of The Yukon. At the Whitehorse Westmark Hotel we are entertained by a vaudeville show that in my opinion was better than entertainment that we went to on the Zuiderdam. Michell hands out room keys and gives us instruction, luggage out at 6:00am and board the bus at 8:00am sharp. This will be the routine for the entire trip, very defined, just like when I was in the Army. Leaving Whitehorse we head to Dawson City in the Yukon. Stopping for lunch at a road house, Trent and Michelle and the road house staff serve us lunch buffet style. After lunch and on the way to Dawson City, Trent tell us of a tradition at the Sourdough Saloon located in the Downtown Hotel. It is called The Sourtoe Cocktail. The Sourtoe Cocktail Club first kicked off in 1973. A group of friends was debating how could one become an honorary sourdough (the name given by the early gold miners to those who survived the Canadian sub-arctic from the freezing of the Yukon River in September to its break-up in May) without having to endure the bitter months of winter. One of them, Dick Stevenson had bought a cabin just outside Dawson. The previous occupants had been brothers who'd hauled bootleg booze over the border into Alaska during the years of prohibition. They'd travelled by dogsled and on one journey one of them had frozen his big toe. Before gangrene started, the brothers lacking faith in doctors, and having no intentions of traveling 60 miles to Dawson and would not pay anyone to do what they could just as easily do on their own.. The first step in the amputation was anaesthesia. Consuming large amounts of their 180% proof of rum, they soon felt that they were sufficiently drunk to continue with the amputation. Louie stuck out his frozen toe and Otto lifted the woodcutting axe. With one swing the toe was removed. As a reminder of the incident the brothers kept the toe, pickled in a jar of alcohol. Now Dick and his friends decided on the rules of the Sourtoe Cocktail. The rules: one shot of Jack Daniels, pickled toe put into the glass with Jack. Drink the shot and have the toe touch your lips. There are 40 people in our tour group and only two had the courage to do the Sourtoe Cocktail. By the way my Sourtoe Cocktail membership number is 34,340. Of course Nancy thinks I am crazy.

History of the toe: #1 in 1980 a miner trying for the Sourtoe record on his thirteenth glass of the cocktail had his chair tip over backwards and he swallowed the toe and it was never recovered. #2 was donated by a woman from Alberta whose toe was amputated due to an inoperable corn. This toe was lost during renovation of the bar. #3 was donated by a trapper who had his big toe amputated due to frostbite. This toe was stolen by a soldier but returned when his commander found out. This toe was then swallowed by a baseball player from Inuvik, Northwest Territories. #4 was sent to the bar anonymously, and then stolen by a big game hunter from Texas. He refused to return the toe until the Watson Lake Police threatened him with charges. Now several toes are in supply as many people are leaving them to the bar in their wills. If you need more information go to www.sourdoughcocktail.com or google 'Sourtoe Cocktail' and see a video of it. While in Dawson City, we take a side trip North on the Dempster Highway to Tombstone Park. The scenery is beyond words that I could use to describe as the colors are changing. Only wildlife today is a Moose wading in a pond eating the vegetation. The Dempster Highway is the road taken in the first series of the television show "The Ice Road Truckers".

Our next adventure takes us 125 miles North on the Yukon River. A Hugh catamaran boat takes us to the remote town of Eagle. Here the town's young residents inform us of the history of Eagle. The adults are set up to sell souvenirs in a tented area. I think the town's main income is from selling *Continued next page*

ALASKA: *CONCLUSION*

souvenirs to the tourist off the cruise ships. Here we meet our next bus driver, Belinda. She is not as friendly as Trent but very competent as she drives the hugh motor coach through the mountains on the one lane gravel Taylor Highway. We make a stop in Chicken, Alaska. The town consists of three buildings, a restaurant, saloon, and gift shop. The road is desolate and for our next potty stop in the middle of nowhere we pull off the road. Belinda tells the women to use the washroom in the back of the motor coach and the guys use the bushes on the left. Our destination tonight is Tok, AK. It is 131 miles South on the Taylor Highway. Michelle starts a pool on who guessed how many cars will pass us in the opposite direction. The winning number was 35. No wildlife spotted on this road but we passed several automated sleuths trying to extract gold from the streams.

After a night in Tok we head for Fairbanks. Before arriving, our bus stops at The Discovery Gold Mine. Here we have a miner's stew lunch, view the artifacts from the mining days and then pan for gold. I did not find very much gold, Nancy a bit more. Combined worth about \$19.00, that Nancy had a charm made on a necklace. Once in Fairbanks we are free to do as we like. We chose a tour of the Museum at the University of Alaska. Here were many artifacts from the Indians who were the first inhabitants and from what people who arrived brought with them. Well worth the visit.

Now we board a luxury railroad car owned by Holland America, and pulled by The McKinley Express train and travel to Denali National Park. Arriving in Denali Park it is raining as we board a National Park Service bus for a 8 hour tour. Our driver is an lady who has a doctoral degree and is working in the park driving for the summer. When the season in over in two weeks she will head to the South Pole to do research. While in the park we see Grizzly Bears, Moose, Sheep, Caribou, Bald and Golden Eagles, and Ptmarmigan, which is the Alaska State bird.

Next day we depart by train to Anchorage, Alaska. This is our final destination with the tour group and includes a night at the Anchorage Westmark Hotel. In the morning we say good bye to those on in the tour that are catching planes home. We go to Avis, rent a car and head to the Clarion Hotel that I have booked for the next two nights. In the morning we head to Seward for a cruise tour of Prince William Sound. This morning it is raining as we head South, the road is deserted as the tourist season is coming to an end. As we enter our ship for the cruise, Captain Mike introduces himself. Mike explains that it is very rough in the Sound today and we will do the route backwards to make is a little smoother. The crew goes around and asks who need a barf bag. Mike who must have has an accident since he does not have any arms, just metal prosthesis, comes back on the intercom and tells everyone to be careful today and not to fall overboard since it would not be pretty for him to pull you out of the water with his hooks. Well the ride sure was rough, windy and cold. We did get to see Humpback and Orcia Whales, Sea Lions, Puffins, Seals, Dolphins, Sea Otters and see the Glacier calving. On the drive back to Anchorage, Nancy spots something crossing the road in front of us. Is that a dog, NO its a Grizzly bear as I have to slow the car down not wanting to get to close to it. Back at the hotel we pack our bags, leave a wake up call for 5:00am for our flight to O'Hare airport at 8:30am. Six and one half hours later we land and our trip is completed. ☺

RIDE SUGGESTIONS FOR 2010

Breakfast Ride Suggestion:

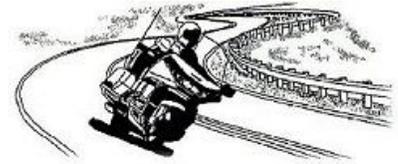
Breakfast Ride Destination:

Dinner Ride Suggestions:

Overnighter Suggestions:

YOUR OPINION
AND
SUGGESTIONS
MATTER!
HELP US PLAN
FOR A FUN-
FILLED 2010!

Remember that the American Gold Wing Association is a membership driven organization. We need your input to keep our rides and adventures new and exciting. Without your input, you can expect the same old thing. Please help us keep our chapter fresh! No two Sundays should ever be the same...



CHICAGOLAND TOYS FOR TOTS PARADE PLANS

On Sunday December 6th, the 32nd annual Chicagoland Toys for Tots Motorcycle Parade will begin at the Dan Ryan Woods at 83rd and Western in Chicago. Chapter H members (2 or 4 wheels) will be LEAVING McDonald's at County Farm and Army Trail Rds. at 6:30am. From there, additional riders will be picked up at the south bound side of the Hinsdale Oasis at 7:00am. From there they will arrive at the Dan Ryan Woods for the 7:30 line-up. Remember you can

always find fellow AGWA members on CB channel 4. You must bring at least one new, unwrapped toy for a boy or girl. Our usual 9am breakfast ride is scheduled for those not

in the Chicagoland Toys for Tots Parade. Visit www.chicagolandtft.org for additional parade infor-



WE NEED YOUR PHOTOS!
PLEASE E-MAIL SOME OLD CHAPTER PHOTOS TO ME WITH A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE RIDE OR EVENT.

participating in the parade! Good luck and enjoy the

AGWA Chapter H
Annual December Meeting and Christmas Celebration
Sunday, December 13th, 2009

9:00am at the



800 N. Route 59, Bartlett (*our usual meeting location*)

Non-perishable food items and household paper products
will be collected for the Schaumburg Food Pantry.
(this is not mandatory)

The Holiday Season is now upon us. Don't forget to take
time to spend a small part of it with your friends from
AGWA Chapter-H! On Sunday morning December 13th,
we will be hosting our annual Christmas Breakfast! Plan to
come out and spread the cheer among your fellow chapter
friends! Happy Holidays and we hope you join us!

(Members and guests will be paying for their own meals)





Season's Greetings



DECEMBER 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1  Rita Miller	2 	3	4	5
6	7 Remember December 7th, 1941	8	9	10	11	12  Chanukah
13  Christmas Breakfast	14  Fritz Goins	15	16	17	18	19  Dinner Run
20	21 Winter Begins	22	23	24	25  Christmas	26
27	28  Russ & Carol Prichard	29	30	31 		

LET'S RIDE AGAIN IN 2010!



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
AMERICAN GOLD WING ASSOCIATION,
ILLINOIS CHAPTER-H

“H”appenings

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VISIT US ON THE WEB
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We Thank This Month's
Contributors:

Les Chapman
Larry Greco

Since 1983, the American Gold Wing Association has shared the common desire of fun, fellowship, and safety. AGWA is a family orientated, family membership social organization of Gold Wing owners and other brands of touring motorcycles who share the love for the open road and participating in exciting activities, recreation and educational programs, events, and fellowship. AGWA is an AMA chartered organization. All Directors and Officers are volunteers serving without financial compensation. All positions are obtained through a completely democratic process.



**The Next Meeting of the Membership will be
9am, Sunday **December 13th, 2009** at
The Nest Café 800 N. Route 59, Bartlett**



CHAPTER-H

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