

The Colorado Cushman Club put on a spring ride the last weekend of April. It was held in Goodland, Kansas. Wait a minute, Toto are we really in Kansas?

We were guests of Tom and Patti Purvis in Goodland. They put together a slate of rides and eating places in the area. Of course, we had to contend with the weather on Saturday but Friday was great.

The host motel was the Maverick Inn. Some stayed at the Holiday Inn Express.

Thursday evening some of us gathered at Mexico #3 Restaurant and Panaderia.

Fifteen of us gathered Friday for breakfast on Main Street at a restaurant called "On the Bricks". It got its name because Main Street is paved with bricks.



We visited Van Gogh's Big Easel project. It is an 80 foot high painting that is actually on an easel. More on it at their web site.

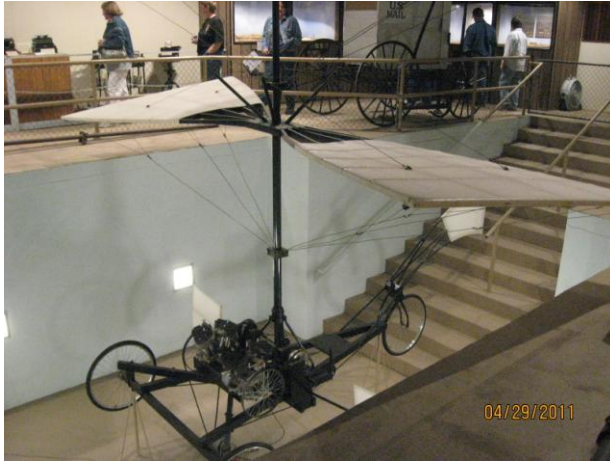


Tom Purvis wowed us with his restored 1947 Hudson Commander and garage full of vintage items. We had a tech session by working on Tom Redditt's clutch on his flathead scooter. It just took a few shims but finding just where to place them was where the learning lesson came in.



We rode on a short loop around the area's straight, flat highways. We passed a cattle feed lot named "T-Bone Feed Lot". I am not sure of what the cows think when they pull up in their big truck and see that sign.

We stopped by the High Plains Museum to see several exhibits of early Kansas life including the first patented helicopter. It was designed by Mr. Purvis and Mr. Wilson about 1909. It actually flew in 1910.



We previewed some of the games that will be played at the Kansas-sponsored CCOA national meet in Hutchinson in June. We are all looking forward to going back there for another national meet. The CCOA magazine should keep us all up to date.

Friday evening 32 of us gathered for a good dinner at Crazy's R's, a steak and hamburger place.

On Saturday morning I looked out my motel window and noticed a small bird walking around the grassy area. Of course, when I went out the front door, I found out why he was walking – it was much too windy to fly. But, 13 brave scooter riders headed south about 40 miles to the small town of Wallace where we visited the Fort Wallace museum.

Fort Wallace is one of the U.S. army forts that were built in the area during the 1800's. A local fellow closed the doors on his ice cream shop in the colder months and took his metal detector to the area and found thousands of small pieces of material left on the ground by the former fort inhabitants. Also, another local found bones of other residents – known as dinosaurs. They are on display for visitors to see.

There is also a display of the early days of railroading. A small depot was moved by the museum along with a Speeder – the small 4-wheel car that transported one or two workers.



There was also an old building with an interesting basement in which to hide from Indian attacks. There were tunnels to other buildings on the land to really confuse the attackers.

We had an unbelievable lunch with a 1950's theme restaurant at the Pond Creek Ranch. The waitresses even had on their Poodle Skirts, white socks and saddle shoes. It was in the back of their home and decorated with many items that we all remember from that era.



From there we rode to Sharon Springs to visit the Rhea Antique Pump Organ Museum. There was a whole houseful of 19th century organs from small to large. The owner gave us a guided tour and told us the story behind each one. More at their web site.



Then it was time for the much anticipated Hunny-Bunny Margaritas. There were no pictures to protect the innocent.

Dinner that evening was at Shiraz Restaurant. We had a room all to ourselves. A couple of our ladies showed up with authentic Kansas straw hats complete with sunflowers. They were quite a hit.



On Sunday morning, we gathered at the local airport north of town for our final breakfast at the Butterfly Restaurant. We were privileged with a visit from three Army Blackhawk helicopters. They came in for some gas and breakfast. They put on a good show.

