

2013 ICHO Annual General Meeting (AGM)



The Wilkinsons' - home base for the 2013 ICHO AGM



One of the advantages of living in the San Juan Mountains of Southern Colorado is the chance to show visitors the stunning beauty of the Rockies. As hosts of the AGM, my wife, Cheryl, and I were excited to be the guides for the ICHO members attending and hope their mountain experience was enjoyable.

Cheryl and her friends had every minute planned and treated our guests with gourmet meals. We hope an enjoyable time was had by all.

Dr. Mitch Wilkinson



From left to right—Jim and Joan Henning, Cheryl and Mitch Wilkinson, Donna Hedicke, Ellen Southwell, Bob Hedicke at the park in Silverton ready to dig into the miners luncheon Cheryl and her friends created.

Having never been and knowing so little that I did not even know what the “AGM” stood for this was an adventure all around.

While many who know me would dispute my saying I am shy, it is true. I worry about meeting new folks and being the newbie in a crowd so it was with some level of trepidation that I arrived at the Wilkinson’s after a seven hour trek just in time for dinner. Quickly Cheryl and Mitch put my unease to rest with introductions and delightful down home hospitality.

The Hedicke’s, Donna and Bob; the Hennings, Jim and Joan and Cheryl’s wonderful friends who helped her take her vision from concept to reality all treated me like one of the group — I think the whole curly-horse-lover bond came into play and I was soon relaxed and at ease.

All of this may seem superfluous but I wanted others who have never attended and who may be nervous

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about such a gathering to know that the group purports themselves in such a way as to embrace one and all as equals and compatriots. It was easy to have an opinion and all agreed to respectfully agree to disagree if that was the outcome.

My stay was for two short nights and one day but much was packed into that time. Cheryl embraced the "International" of the ICHO and had themed meals from various countries. I had dinner in France, breakfast in America, lunch in historic gold and silver boom country, dinner in Italy and breakfast in Austria. Stories of curly horse exploits, the groups history and its hopes for the future were laced throughout.

Discussion was had with Texas and Minnesota folks via conference call about the possibility of joining the ABC and the ICHO registries. One of the main arguments is that this would save folks money as they would only have to be a member of one registry not two. Further, the discussion wound around the fact that the ABC has opened their registry to Mustang Curlies—in a separate book. However, my understanding is that domestic Curlies of unknown parentage are still exempted from ABC while they are accepted in the ICHO.

The ICHO members agreed to take the information back to the Board for further discussion.

Unfortunately, I had to leave for a family obligation after the conference call so I missed out on the trek to Wolfcreek Pass, Treasure Falls and the hot springs. I must say that no cowboy I ever knew ate like the pictures show—candlelight, tablecloth and good stoneware.

To all who made my time so informative and fun—THANK YOU!

Ellen; Bit-O-Wy Curlies



It was a joy meeting with ICHO members and sharing ideas and thoughts in the relaxing, beautiful atmosphere of the San Juan mountains, CO. The gorgeous mountains were fully appreciated with a morning train ride along narrow precipices and mountain paths that provided the best views ever!

Quaint shopping at this high elevation makes a fella sleepy.

Mule packing demonstrations provided another avenue for mountain trail seekers. The professionalism by the mule packers and their intricate pannier packing, put a "hotel on hooves" for paths only accessible by horseback or foot. The mules were totally comfortable and knowledgeable with their duties, patiently allowing ties and knots to be practiced and cinched.

Joanie Henning, ICHO President

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Santa is coming!

Think about 2013 AGM Commemorative items for the Curly lovers in your family.

They are available at:

<http://www.cafepress.com/ichoagm>





Cheryl and Mitch opened not only their town but their home to us. It was determined that Cheryl missed her calling as a party planner. She planned not only meals designed to reflect international cuisine but also the ambiance to enhance the experience. If anyone walked away hungry, it was certainly not Cheryl's fault. Thursday night opened with French feasting.



For a few brave souls the day began well before sun-up with a travelers lunch in a hobo bag and a trip on the historic Silverton train.



red licorice for the prima cord. Hard rock candy for a sweet and beautiful scenery.

Miners took their lunches with them in pails, had tin cups to drink out of and often ate Pasties—usually meat and potatoes baked in a bread or pie crust folded in half to make them easy to eat without silverware. Our lunch was supplemented with a highly detailed Bundt cake where all the parts were edible except for the tin decorations. We had sticks of dynamite made out of cookies, sparklers and

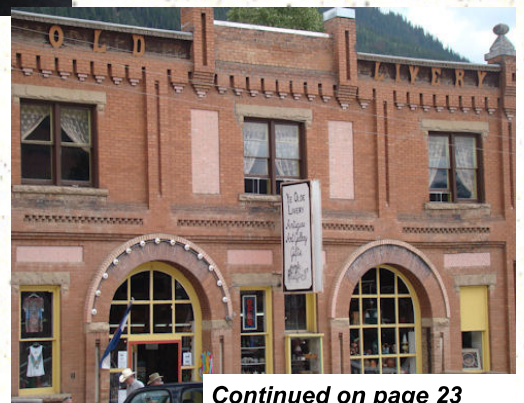


Table clothes for the wooden picnic tables and era specific miners lanterns added to atmosphere of our delicious picnic luncheon.

Many of the original buildings in Silverton still stand even



though they have been re-purposed. Not surprising there were many buildings noted as former stables but this building still proudly displayed the "Old Livery" designation in its brickwork.



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After visiting and lunching the ladies took advantage of the unique shops while the gents took advantage of the sun and a convenient bench.

For the "Hunts Woman" a treasure trove of fine Hunt hats were found and



after getting the Hubbies approval the very elegant black

hat went home to Minnesota.



An authentic Austrian breakfast of unique cheeses, pastries and fruits helped jump start the group for the conference call Saturday morning.



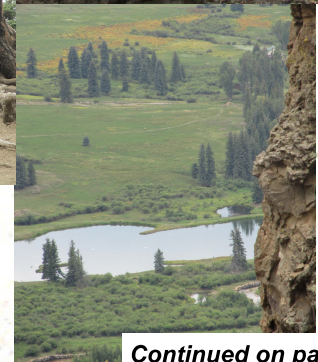
Let's go there!



YUP! There they are!



ular views and a challenging hike for the brave



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For the afternoon, a trip to East Fork Campground in the San Juan Mountains, Treasure Falls and WolfCreek Pass afforded spectac-





Mexico for lunch and great appetites in the outdoors.



Dinner Saturday evening was all about the American West and the history of the men and women who helped settle it.

Mitch cooked over an open fire serving up Steaks and baked potatoes and in general "traditional" all

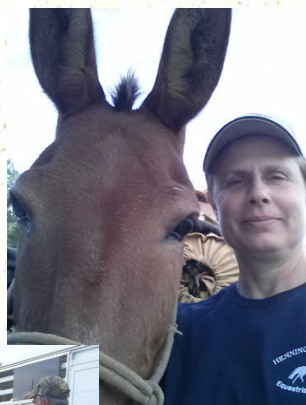


American fare. Cheryl again out did herself with the rubber ponies and beautiful tables.





The all important Pack saddle comes in several varieties. This outfitter opts to use a "sawbuck" saddle. This type of saddle is more limited in its use as it requires the use of a Pannier which Mitch and Jim are packing. A pannier can be either soft or hard and has loops which hook over the top "x's" on the sawbuck. This type of pack also requires the load to be well



balanced so as not to cause the load to tilt to one side or the other as the animal moves.



There are two categories of hitches. One category hangs the gear on the saddle, and includes the popular basket and barrel hitch. The other category wraps the entire load to the horse's body. These include the single diamond, one man diamond, double diamond, squaw hitch, ring hitch, and others.



The style demonstrated here is the Diamond hitch which wraps the load to the animals body.

Once loaded and hitched packed animals are tethered one to the other forming a pack string.

And it is off for adventures in country where no motorized vehicle dare tread.

