

Brief History of HRRVC Chapter 81

The original chapter 81 apparently was organized sometime in the late 1960's or early 1970's. Nothing could be gleaned locally (from the New Mexico records on hand) about the initial organization of the chapter.

On the first of December 1974, Mike Paige was appointed as the New Mexico State Manager. At that time there was only one chapter of the Club in the state. He sent a hand written brochure to the members of "Albuquerque's Holiday Rambler Travel Trailer Club." In it he is quoted, "Come join 'THE FRIENDLY TRAVELERS' and find out how much fun trailering can really be! But we warn you...we really are friendly and once you come it can become a habit."

There were several items of correspondence that suggested the chapter had some difficulty maintaining during the early years. Those difficulties included the fact that "all records of the Chapter disappeared, along with what ever funds were left in the treasury." (letter by M.C. Paige. Dec 30, 1977).

On April 24, 1979, another group gathered to organize the New Mexico Roadrunners under the Chapter 81 charter. Later, however, the records indicate that this group of 13 couples was issued a charter and became Chapter 357.

In a letter to Robert Brunk, National Director, dated October 11, 1985, Glen Krauth requested that Chapter 81 be reorganized, citing that the chapter apparently had not been officially terminated. As of 9 January, 1986, ten couples were listed as members of this newly reconstituted chapter.

It was during this period of time that an official chapter 81 name was accepted. In a report contained in Volume 1, No. 1, of THE CACTUS PATCH DISPATCH, it was noted: "The decision to name the club CACTUS PATCH was unanimous, so that prickly situation was disposed of rapidly."

It seems that chapters 81 and 357 co-existed and perhaps even co-mingled for several years. Then, in early 1995, state manager Jim Steward, reconstituted both chapters with chapter 81 being retained as a "camping chapter" while chapter 357 became a "travel/tour chapter".

Chapter 81 grew and was very active under the leadership of Wally and Leslie Jones during the 1990's. The chapter remained active and participated in many chapter camp outs over the years. The chapter added an annual Christmas dinner/party and later, about 2004, began meeting for breakfast at local restaurants.

Chapter 81 remains a viable Holiday Rambler organization but is facing some serious challenges due to the changes in the economy, the bankruptcy of the Holiday Rambler Corporation in 2009, and a decrease in membership.