

Jeff Neer



When you visit Canyon Bikes in the historic Hotel Colorado, you'll notice plastic rubber ducks displayed around the store. Ohio natives Jeff and Vicki Neer adopted the mascots because they consider themselves "lucky ducks" for deciding to give up 20-year careers to move to the Roaring Fork Valley and run a bike shop.

Buckeye background:

Jeff hails from Sidney, Ohio and came to Colorado when he was assigned to Lowery Air Force base in the 70s. Vicki grew up on the west side of Cleveland, and they met in Denver.

Why a bike shop?

A fellow camper on a trip mentioned that her Dad had a bike shop for sale in Glenwood Springs. Three months later they were the proud owners of a Glenwood business.

Favorite bike ride of all time:

Riding the Glenwood Canyon Trail when the river is in high water – Jeff says the sound is awesome.

Best view in the valley:

From the upper deck of I-70, just east of the Hanging Lake Tunnels, where the canyon walls are reflected in the Colorado River – Vicki claims it never ceases to amaze her.

Favorite spots to stop for a picnic:

Hanging Lake or Grizzly Creek.

Unique thing about the business:

Shuttles take folks with bikes, kids and skates in tow from the shop to the Dotsero Trailhead, where it is an easy downhill 16-mile bike ride back through the spectacular canyon. Not only does the shuttle audio tour feature characters from the Old West, but the bikes are named for historic figures. This year the Neers are adding Rio Grande Trail shuttles to El Jebel.

Most satisfying thing about the career move:

special customers who come back year after year and ask to ride "Geronimo," "Billy the Kid" or "Wyatt Earp." "In this business we love how customers become our friends."

For more bike rental listings, see page 30.

- Wear a bike helmet.

- Carry a water bottle.

- Ride single file on the right side of the trail.

- Ride right of the centerline especially through tunnels.

- Do not ride too close to the retaining wall.

- Walk your bikes, and watch for pedestrian traffic in the rest areas.

- Walk your bike around maintenance equipment on the trail.

- Watch your bike down the ramp after crossing the interstate. It may be gravelly.

- When riding in No Name, ride on the right side of the street, and watch for vehicles.

- To request trailside assistance use pay phones in rest areas 6.5.3.2.

- No cell phones, please. Call 1-800-439-3043.

JEFF NEER'S CYCLING TIPS FOR THE CANYON