

## SUPPORT GROUPS

## Patient Drives 300 Miles Round Trip for Support Group Meetings

Patient Keith Lisonbee and his wife and caregiver Judy live in Green River, Wyo., and three times in 2009 the couple made the 300-mile, round-trip drive to Riverton, Wyo., to attend the meetings of their nearest support group.

According to support group leader Nancy Steams, "Their loyalty to the group humbles me and keeps me motivated." She and co-leader Cricket Mitchell work hard to make each meeting educational, informative and supportive, and the quality of the meetings motivates Keith to continue to make his 300-mile journey. "The speaker — or the individual giving the presentation — is giving me good insight in terms of how PH affects me or how it can possibly affect me," he says. Speakers for the group have included Dr. David Badesch from the University of Colorado Hospital and Dr. Kishore Yalamanchili from Amarillo, Texas.

Our goal at PHA is to ensure that no patient has to drive more than three hours to attend a support group meeting. For some parts of the country like



*Keith Lisonbee and his wife Judy*

Alaska, Wyoming and South Dakota, organizing patients is challenging. With no PH clinic and smaller, spread out populations in general, one support group typically serves patients sprinkled throughout a large area. In these situations, leaders do their best to bring great programming and speakers so that patients like Keith, who drive the distance, get the most out of their trip! \*