



**NOVEMBER 2009**

## **THE "PREZ SEZ"**

**WOW!** Fall is here – where did this year go? This past month, I was able to go on some rides and enjoy the beautiful colors this time of year affords us. The rain we received, many of the hills and valleys were turning green again. One main obstacle we noticed, however, was an excessive amount of trees leaves, and/or pine needles on the roads, so please be careful on “those back roads”.

Our last Chapter Saturday ride for this year is coming up on November 14<sup>th</sup>, nice and easy, with a buffet lunch at the Jackson Rancheria. Perry and Lin have chosen some nice back roads with a stop at Pardee Dam. I hope everyone can make this ride. We are also starting to plan our Christmas Lights Ride – stay tuned.

At our November 18<sup>th</sup> Chapter Membership meeting, nominations will take place for next year's President/Vice President. While Larry and I have agreed to run again, anyone is welcome to run as a team as well. With the holidays coming up, and our Christmas Party, the New Year will be here before we know it.

It is never too early to start thinking about activities for next year. I would like to ask everyone to start thinking about rides for next year. I'm planning on holding a ride planning session soon and all suggestions will be welcomed. Is there somewhere you always wanted to ride to? Do you have a favorite restaurant / picnic area you would like to ride to? Are there any over night rides you would like to consider? Would you like to plan/lead a ride – it is easier than you think – and there are plenty

of members to assist you with this. Please e-mail me any ideas you may have, ASAP.

Let's layer up – plug in the gear – and safely hit the road.

*Victor Tibbs*  
President  
Chapter 186.

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## **AND THE MEMBERS SAID ...**

This is your section to share with other Chapter members  
Ride Reports, etc.

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## **Christmas Party 2009**

**When:** December 12, 2009  
**Where:** Fuddrucker's Pleasant Hill  
**Time:** Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Please bring a Christmas gift if you would like to participate in the White Elephant Gift Exchange.

We will additionally be doing a 50/50 and raffle. If you have anything you would like to donate to the raffle, please either bring the items to the party or contact Lin Tomy for pick up/drop off arrangements.

Suggestions for raffle donations: bottle of wine, raffle prizes you have won in the past but will never use, motorcycle apparel, parts, or anything else you'd like to contribute. All proceeds from the Christmas party will go to our charity of choice, the Contra Costa / Solano County Food Bank.

**Looking forward to seeing you all there!**

Lin Tomy  
Christmas Party Co-Chairperson

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## STAR Chapter #186 "Gives Back"

A big THANK YOU to the Chapter 186 Riders for participating in the Horseplay Therapeutic Riding Program hosted by the Solano STAR Chapter [Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009], and the annual Antioch Homeless Families Food Drive hosted by the Antioch Wesleyan Church [October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009]. A total of \$900.00 at each event was raised to pass along to those charities.

*Update from the Editor:* A corporate sponsor was able to donate \$1100 along with the \$900 the poker run generated, thereby giving HORSEPLAY a total donation of \$2,000.

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## NAPA VALLEY RIDE

Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009

### Comments:

"Yesterday's ride was VERY nice with great people (per the norm), excellent roads, beautiful scenery, lunch at that awesome (and spicy) BBQ place in Calistoga, nice sunny and cool weather. Excellent job by Lin and Cecil as Road Captain and Tail Gunner. It was up there with one of my many favorite rides and get together.

Thanks to all involved with putting this ride together!  
Regards,  
Dan and Christine"

"Robin and I had a great ride yesterday.  
Thanks again.  
Rich"

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"Had a great time Saturday with Lin, Larry, Cecil and all the rest of the great folks that I met. It was a very nice day and a very nice ride. Looking forward to meeting you and more of the group as soon as we can and I hope to bring Carol along as well". Rick

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## BIG BIKE WEEKEND

October 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009

*Note from the editor:* Among the activities this year included Seattle Cossacks, poker run, dyno testing available, Segway demo rides, Remembrance Ride [police escorted], police motor competition, builder challenge, Northwest Goldwing

display, motorcycle classroom instruction, Show-n-Shine [Lisa Huntley took her class again this year as well as BEST OF SHOW], National Guard Patriot Bike on display, food and beverage vendors, plus a variety of other vendors]

Check out Bob Bridges' Ride Report:

[http://www.spotadventures.com/trip/view/?trip\\_id=179542](http://www.spotadventures.com/trip/view/?trip_id=179542) which includes some of Dominic's photos.

This is Mike Prawicki's photo show:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/prawicki/BigBikeWeekend101009?authkey=Gv1sRgCIqdgus07dnBuWE#>

### Comments:

"Michael and I just wanted to thank you for some great riding (during a wonderful Big Bike) weekend. Saturday's ride was one of the most enjoyable rides that we have been on. And today's ride, though long (*President's note:* 462 miles - heehee) was just as enjoyable. See you at next weeks ride.  
Sam & Michael"

"Thanks for a great Big Bike \_Riding\_ Weekend! It was 958 miles total for the weekend starting and ending from our house. I have two trip odometers on my bike and I use the first odometer for fill up to fill up and the second odometer for total miles. Yesterday's ride home was about 485 to 490 miles yesterday (*President's note:* Anderson/Arcata via Hwy 299, Hwy 101 home), that is about a half an Iron Butt Ride yesterday, so we'll call it the Brass Butt Ride - LOL!!! It was great sharing it with everyone!!  
Bob and Debbie Bridges"

It was a great day and ride and it appears we were lucky weather wise since they had heavy rain Monday morning in the Santa Rosa area. Great weekend overall.

George DeBruin

I also had a great time. However, I have two words after that ride. **Electric Clothing.** I'm going shopping.  
John Brackett

I also had a great time will all of you guys (and gals)  
Mike Prawicki

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One of the "special" things about this weekend: it was Sam's birthday.

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I just wanted to thank everyone for a great weekend and making this one of the best birthdays in a very long while. It was great spending time with you despite the public humiliation (or maybe because of it).

Samuel

Samuel, it was a great weekend and thanks for sharing your birthday with us all!!! Yesterday's ride was wonderful; glad we got lost at first and decided on the route we took!! 299 is worth another visit very soon!

Glad everyone made it home safely! Take care to all.  
Ken

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## **CHAPTER RIDE**

### **CALIFORNIA CAVERNS**

Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
By Joe Smart

### **Memoirs of a Day Ride**

Catchy title for this ride report, yes? But here is how it went through the eyes of a Road Captain.

The alarm goes off at 6:30 a.m., and the song playing is "Jump" not a bad wake up song, but hey wait! It's Sunday, why is the alarm going off? In the back of my mind a little whinny child like voice is saying "But mommy I don't WANNA go to school!!!" Oh yeah, it's a ride day. I am excited about it and the destination so time to get up.

When I arrive at the Starbucks in Discovery Bay, I see our glorious Road Captain, Lin, there smiling. I also see at least 10 bikes parked in the lot so it is clear a large group will gradually show up for this ride. Lin collected the monies for the Caverns tour in advance as we signed in for the ride. I never would have thought of that. The lady is organized. Our fearless leader Victor Tibbs showed up to see us off before he left to attend an Officers meeting. We did have a bit of a late start because we were waiting for what can only be described as the optimist of our group Tony "Tank Half Full" Johnson. He ran out of gas on the way to Disco Bay.

OK. We were told to mount up, thumb the starter buttons, put up the side stands and away we go. Riding from the back of the group this time I can see why Cecil likes to tail gun the rides. You get to see this fantastic line of bikes stretched out in front

of you. As we motor out Hwy 4, the group is very quickly giving the bike suspensions a workout by playing "dodge the pot hole". Nothing but the finest use of our Caltrans dollars at work here is very obvious.

Outside of Stockton we are on the freeway, then pulling off to take Hwy 26. This is a real nice piece of road for a Central Valley route. My helmets off to Lin for not only nailing down a good route to ride, but arranging just enough rain to already green up the fields and hills. And on top of that, great weather for the ride too. So now we can add "weather goddess" to her title as well as Road Captain.

In Valley Springs the group took a rest and re-hydrate break where Tony caught up with us. We all greeted him with a hearty hello and mild teasing for running out of gas.

Arriving at the Caverns, Lin led us to a very nicely shaded parking spot with picnic tables nearby. With lunch spread out on the tables, it gave me a chance to see whose house I want to be invited over to for dinner someday. Our tour guide introduces herself and immediately Mr. Wiki apologizes in advance for anything he might say during the tour. This is going to be fun. Tour over and I had fun seeing what can be hidden underground. By the way the conversations went, we all had a good time with this.

Leaving the caverns, Lin picked out a very nice bit of twisty road to follow and a very good trip home along Hwy 4. One more rest and re-hydrate stop in Farmington at a brand new Shell station. A brand new Shell station!!! I don't know who Lin talked to or who she knows at Shell Oil, but the lady is truly connected and organized to arrange a new fuel stop just for us. Great ride, good company, what more can anyone ask?

Let's do it again real soon,  
Joe Smart (member at large for the day)

Mr. Wiki's Photo Show [Photos of California Caverns](#)

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## **KEEP THE SHINY SIDE UP!**

**Safety Tips/Tech Talk**

This is your section to share "techie" stuff

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## Safety Tips:

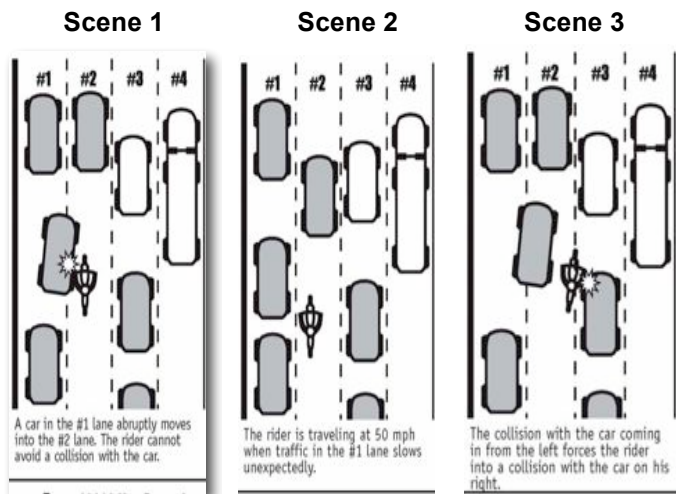
- Carry your cell phone on your person.
- Do not look away from the road for longer than one second. It's a good idea to practice "One Thousand One" and look back at the road. You can then look away again but only for one second. This is a good practice even in the car. It will keep you from being bored and your mind from wandering too long on anything else but the road.
- Don't **ASSUME** ... **ANYTHING** !
- LOOK before you change lanes.
- Safety starts at the driveway.
- On longer rides, did you do your stretches?
- Riding posture



On his morning commute, putting him on a heavily traveled freeway. Traffic at that time of the morning was moderate and the roadway was dry. He was riding his Harley-Davidson Sportster in the #2 lane at approximately 50 mph (Scene 1).

For unknown reasons, traffic in the #1 lane slowed. The driver of a vehicle traveling in the #1 lane abruptly decided to move into the lane to his right, directly into the rider's path of travel. The rider was unable to avoid a collision with the right side of the vehicle (Scene 2). He was pushed into the #3 lane where he collided with the left front of another vehicle which was traveling at approximately 45 mph (Scene 3). The rider was thrown from his motorcycle and struck by that vehicle.

Following the collision, both the rider and motorcycle came to rest in traffic lanes. Unfortunately, the rider succumbed to his injuries.



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### ON THE SCENE

#### *You Are Invisible to Other Motorists*

by Officer Vincente Ramirez, California Highway Patrol

Editor's note—Friction Zone draws no conclusions and assumes no liability for conclusions drawn by the reader. This report may be graphic in nature and may not be suitable for all readers.

Most riders who have several years of riding experience have developed a sixth sense that allows them to anticipate what other motorists are about to do ahead of them. This is due to the fact that experienced riders have been exposed to many different scenarios and have an idea of what the consequences can be if they do not take evasive action when they need to. But even the most experienced rider can encounter a situation which can have the worst case scenario

#### **Sequence**

On a clear, cool, winter morning, our rider got an early start

#### **Opinion**

This collision was caused by the driver of the vehicle that made the abrupt lane change from the #1 lane into the path of the rider. He was in violation of CVC Section 21658(a), which states, in part, that a *vehicle shall be driven as nearly as practical entirely within a single lane and shall not be moved from the lane until such movement can be made with reasonable safety*. From the positioning of the vehicle and the motorcycle prior to the crash, it appears that the rider was in the driver's blind spot. Most likely, the driver relied only on his mirrors before changing lanes and did not see the motorcycle. While this does not make the driver's actions excusable, it does provide some food for thought for riders. This crash illustrates the need for riders to stay focused and concentrate on their riding skills and abilities, and especially on their whereabouts in regard to other vehicles. There are no lanes exclusive to motorcycles; you have to navigate your way through traffic as safely as possible.

Unfortunately, riders must keep in mind that other motorists are often oblivious to changing traffic conditions. One rule of thumb is that if there is an empty spot in your lane, other drivers are going to want to occupy that spot. A good piece of advice is to

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ride as if you are 'invisible'. On a road with heavy traffic, it is almost impossible to stay out of other drivers' blind spots. In these situations, it is best to slow down and be hyper-aware because your lane seems to be going faster than the one that they are in. Under these conditions, you might want to try riding in the very center of your lane (as long as it is clean) to give yourself a little 'extra' room on either side and hopefully some time to respond appropriately should someone start to move into your lane. And although it can be difficult try to minimize the time you are riding in another driver's blind spot.

While experience can help riders avoid many different types of dangerous situations, there is also the need to expect the unexpected. Think out different scenarios and *always* plan an escape route should you find yourself in a tight situation. Above all, ride defensively. It could mean the difference between life and death.

If you want to learn more about motorcycle safety, you can attend a California Motorcyclist Safety Program

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## High-Tech Heated Riding Vests



Autumn and its cool-weather riding conditions are well



By Mike Prawicki

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For any current or new members that want to become a Star Vet, go to the National Web Site [www.startouring.org](http://www.startouring.org) to get the Star Vet Application (DD Form 214 required) as well as the form to get Star Vet Patches. I'll have a hard copy of the Star Vet Application and Patch Form on our rides.

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Star National's Star Vets Page for anyone wanting to look at it, get forms or patches.

<http://www.startouring.org/starvet.aspx>

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**Support our Veterans!** [www.bearhugaussoldier.com](http://www.bearhugaussoldier.com)

### **Let's Say Thanks :**

This site allows you to pick out a card, select a message or type one of your own, and is then printed out and sent to the military member. You only have to provide minimal info - your first name and city.

<http://www.letsaythanks.com/Home1024.html>

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## **FLAT MURRAY PROJECT**

If anyone has any photos of FLAT MURRAY, please send them to Larry at [lethompson1@yahoo.com](mailto:lethompson1@yahoo.com) by November 4<sup>th</sup> so that we can give the Chandler, AZ. STAR Chapter our

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contribution for their project. AND ... get the link on our website

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## HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY !!!

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[Editor's Note: From the responses that I received]

3<sup>rd</sup> – Teresa Barbetti  
4<sup>th</sup> – Warren Darmstead  
7<sup>th</sup> – Ken Ayers  
19<sup>th</sup> – Dominic Leung  
28<sup>th</sup> – Teresa Ferguson  
28<sup>th</sup> - Ed Carreno

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check the website calendar for further information

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**\*\* 2009 \*\***

## CHAPTER EVENTS

### Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>: CHAPTER RIDE:

Jackson Rancheria for lunch. [Perry Meyer, Ride Captain] Meet at the Chevron gas station in Oakley, Location #2, at 8:30 a.m. for the pre-ride meeting; KSU at 9:00 a.m. and we should be home around 4:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> – Chapter Meeting

Nomination of next year's officer team

December 2<sup>nd</sup>: Chapter Officer's Meeting

December 12<sup>th</sup> CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY  
(Election of 2010 Officers, some awesome prizes,  
great food – come on out)

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Chapter Rides: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday /  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday (April - October)  
Chapter Meetings – red

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## EVENTS NOTIFICATION

**Sunday, November 8:** Car Show for the Vets @  
Menlo Park VA. 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., 795 Willow  
Pass Road, Menlo Park, CA. The vets really

appreciate this event, especially those with special needs that don't get out very much.

**Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>: Sacramento STAR Chapter's 1<sup>st</sup> annual COATS FOR KIDS** for kids 3-15. 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. for the new and/or gently used coats / jackets to be donated at either PCP or Roseville Yamaha. No-host pizza party at Steve's Pizza Place, Hwy 50 & Truxel Road starts at 11:30 a.m. Cash donations are also welcomed. Benefits the children of MUSTARD SEED [a school for kids living on the streets with their families]. Contact: Janet "Sonshine" Sturkey at [blesseddaily@comcast.net](mailto:blesseddaily@comcast.net) or (916) 390-7244 for further information.

For those not attending the International Motorcycle Show, this would be a good opportunity to support our STAR Sister Chapter's first-annual event.

Leaving Location #1 at 8:00 a.m., Pauline will lead the ride up to Denny's in Cordelia to pick up other riders, have a quick bite to eat, and at or about 9:30 a.m. we will make our way up to Capitol Yamaha to drop off the coats. At or about 11:30 a.m., a Sacramento STAR Chapter #153 Ride Captain will lead us over to Steve's Pizza for the "no host" gathering with all of the other Chapters who are participating in the event.

### November 20-22 International Motorcycle Show

[if you ride your motorcycle over to the San Mateo Convention Center, parking will be free]



I'm A H B A H B A H  
BORN TO B A H WILD

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