



JUNE 2010

THE "PREZ SEZ"

WELCOME

JAIME R GENE W

CHAPTER 186'S NEWEST MEMBERS

I would like to welcome and thank Jaime and Gene for considering and participating with our Chapter these past couple of months. They were voted in by the membership on our last ride. At our next events, introduce yourselves and welcome them into the 186 family.



TO EVERYONE THAT MADE OUR CHAPTER'S "**GOIN HOG WILD HOG ROAST**" SUCH A HUGE SUCCESS. To the initial committee, those who volunteered and attended the day of the event, and especially to those of you who donated all the additional items (drinks / plates / items for games, miscellaneous sundries etc.), this event would not have been possible without everyone's contribution. I would also like to thank those members (and President's who assisted in spreading the word) from other Chapters, as well as our guests from outside of the STAR

family. Through everyone's efforts, this year's donation to the Contra Costa Food Bank will be \$1,900.00!!!!

UPCOMING RIDES: Having participated with our Ride Captains on their pre-rides for the next few rides, I can assure everyone that these are going to be great routes, and a lot of fun. You are not going to want to miss them. Please check the calendar here in our newsletter, and our website for the latest information.

WATCH YOUR MIRRORS: Spring / summer is in the air and some of the "cagers" are (from personal experience) aiming for us. I have witnessed folks distracted by having the "time of their life" talking with everyone in the car, then drifting into our lane and never knowing it, the usual talking / texting on the phone and almost hitting us, to some "drivers" passing us at 60+ MPH in the emergency shoulder lane to cut off some of our riders. **Never assume.** We need to stay alert and focused while riding.

UPCOMING "STAY-CA-TION" WITH 186.

If you haven't had a chance to consider our Mammoth Lake / Trinity Weekend rides, please check the website, or contact Jeff / Ken or myself and get those reservations in. These are going to be a lot of fun with some great ride routes. Both Jeff and Ken have put a TREMENDOUS effort into each of these trips.

ENJOY – HAVE FUN – BE SAFE.

Victor Tibbs
President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check the website calendar for further information

**** 2010 ****

CHAPTER RIDE / EVENTS INFORMATION

Chapter Rides: 2nd Saturday / 4th Sunday

Chapter Meetings – red

June 4 – 5 – High Sierra STAR-B-Q

June 12th – Fricot Road Chapter Ride

June 23rd - Chapter Meeting

(NEW LOCATION Bull Dog BBQ- Martinez)

June 27th – Sunday Chapter Ride (Daffodil Hill)

AND THE MEMBERS SAID ...

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

CHAPTER #186 HOG ROAST BBQ

Saturday, May 8th, 2010

*By Pauline Carlton, President
Napa STAR Chapter #445*

I have been promoting this event to the Napa STAR Chapter members since jump, forwarding every e-mail to all of them when Lone Eagle sent them out (all 99 of them), delighted when I heard that so-n-so had sent in their pre-registration forms. I even fudged a little bit when sending out reminder Chapter e-mails including a picture of the ride pin (if you pre-registered) with the caveat: s-h-h-h-h. ☺

Meeting at the STARBUCKS in Napa, Sacramento Chapter members ride in, Grumpa Les from the Breakfast Riders is also there. Oh God, 30+ people I have to lead today (and we all know how much I love doing that ☺) My knees are knocking, my hands are shaking as I give out copies of the ride route that Lin put together, and that we've pre-ridden. I go through all of the ride rules, hand signals in addition to turn signals. It's time to ride.

I've memorized this ride route. I've gone over it 100 times. I'm paranoid we'll get lost, because if we do, I have absolutely **NO IDEA** where I am and how to get "there" from wherever we're at. But, I got us there, no one got lost, everyone enjoyed the

ride ☺ Rolling up into Rankin Park, I see a friendly smiling face directing us toward the right to park.

After parking and starting to peel off layers, my brother, Paul, is walking toward me. Off we go to find the registration table which has been moved from the location it was last year. Signing in, it's time to eat, and man, oh man; this food is down home **DELICIOUS!!!** Paul and I are visiting with other people that I have just met when Lone Eagle tells me to stay put. ?? Oooooo kkkkaaayyy He starts his announcements, and then presents the Napa Chapter the GROUP PARTICIPATION Award that Michael and Samuel made for this occasion. I am stunned, shocked and taken totally by surprise. A group photo is taken for the Napa Chapter's website, and all too soon, it's time to leave.

What an outstanding day. The weather couldn't have been better. The food was **AWESOME** and I got a "free pass" this year as a worker bee. Thank you Lin for putting together the ride route: I and everyone else loved it. It's extremely rare when I can step back and just enjoy an event. And, I sure did that today!! **GREAT JOB #186!!**

BLESSING OF THE BIKES

Saturday, May 15th, 2010

*By Pauline Carlton, President
Napa STAR Chapter #445*

It's an early morning wake-up call to be at the Black Bear Diner in Suisun by 7:30 a.m. to have breakfast. We're leaving as soon as we have our monthly Chapter meeting, which was pretty cool this month: everyone is sitting in the back room, it's casual, and we get all of our business done quickly (yeah, but you should've seen the e-mail that went out that night!! ☺)

Gary Miles is the Ride Captain today, and does a good job with the pre-ride meeting, and leading us over Hwy 12, onto Hwy 160, up-n-over the Antioch Bridge, and then into the Wesleyan Church about 9:15 a.m. My brother Paul and Jan (his partner) roll in right after we parked the bikes.

About 9:45 a.m., Tim Forrester herds us out onto the lawn for a group photo or two, and then hands his microphone over to Michael Harmon (Napa STAR Chapter #445 member). His partner, Suzi, is standing next to him, and Michael announces that while inside the church just a few minutes ago, he

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asked Suzi to marry him (he got down on his knees, had the ring to slip on her finger, while he was asking her to marry him (aaawwww)). ☺

The microphone is taken over by a female who has 7 children, 5 of which are afflicted with the brittle bone disease, the charity that is being sponsored today (the initials are **O I**; I can't pronounce the medical name for it). Her little 7 year-old daughter is handed the microphone, and she starts to sing our National Anthem. By the 2nd note, my jaw dropped. She was **AMAZING**.

Saddling up, we take our customary two-hour ride through the back countryside of Contra Costa County, sharing the road with a bajillon bicyclists and one snake trying his very best to wiggle away and out of the way from all of these 60+ bikes rolling along.

Coming back to the Wesleyan Church, we and our bikes are blessed, and after the bikes are parked, then head for the chow line. Robin Flay made THE BEST spaghetti I have had in a very long time. ☺ Salad, French bread, fruit salad, cookies, brownies, sodas, water. Don't forget your 50/50 and raffle tickets too.

Almost \$2,000 was raised today. I wish it could've been more, but every penny helps towards this debilitating disease, doesn't it?

**MODESTO / MERCED Combined
STAR CHAPTER Poker Run
Saturday, May 22nd, 2010**

By Lin Tomy

The alarm went off at the usual 5 am and in my sleepiness my brain said "Wait, it's Saturday. I don't have to be up this early." But somewhere in my befuddled state, something said, no, silly you have to be in Pleasant Hill for KSU at 7:30. So I jumped out of bed to make it to Pleasant Hill in time for a little breakfast and to roll out at 7:30.

With Victor in the lead and Jeff Tail Gunning (Marguerite behind him), Pauline, Mr. Wiki, Larry, Ken, and I headed toward Livermore where we picked up members from Chapters 209 and 103, and Rich.

Battling the wind, we rolled down to Modesto Yamaha to see a packed parking lot. Registering, chit chatting, taking pictures of all of the bikes,

meeting up with old friends and getting to know new ones. All worth getting up at 5 a.m. on a Saturday! LOL

About 10 we lined up to head out on a guided Poker run led by Ernie from the Modesto Chapter. We wove our way through the back hills to the east of Modesto. Where did we go? I have no clue. It wasn't my day to know, but what a beautiful ride! Although the wind was a factor all day, it didn't dampen our day of enjoying the beautiful scenery.

Ending up in Merced at the Castle Air Force Airplane Museum at about 1:45, we dined on BBQ'd hamburgers, hot dogs, homemade salads, strawberries, homemade cookies, chili, and chips. There was a band playing and a couple of vendors on hand. Jeff bought a snow cone of huge proportions that I have never seen before! Along about 3:30 we headed for home, tired but content from a great day of riding with friends.

Comments:

I want to thank all the chapters that came out to support our Poker Run last Saturday. It was a good turn out and show of Family of Star members in these hard times. Santa Clara took home awards for Largest and Furthest, but it was nice to see and talk to members from all over. We raised a little over \$3,000.00 to give to Sierra Vista, Way to go STAR Family! Look forward to seeing you all at Star BBQ, until then ride safe.

Ben Edmondson, Pres. Chapter 294 Modesto

**SACRAMENTO ... THE LONG WAY
Sunday, May 23rd, 2010**

By Gene Watanabe

(Note from the Editor: One of the benefits (?) of being voted in on a Chapter Ride is that you then get to write up the Ride Report for that ride. This, then, is Gene's "story") ☺

Woke up at 5:30 am to find a great clear morning. Today is the Sacramento-The Long Way ride, and I couldn't sleep because of the excitement of going on this ride. I putt around a bit before getting ready to meet at location #1. Put on my long sleeve shirt, sweatshirt, jacket, and riding boots. Met the 186 members, and Jaime and I got voted in as members to a great organization-Star Chapter 186 Contra Costa. Had the pre-ride meeting and off we

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went on 680 heading towards Yountville Vintage 1870 for a 20 minute restroom break and where they have shops, shops, and shops. It's time to remove the sweatshirt and winter gauntlet gloves and put on my summer gloves. Perfect riding weather.

The Silverado Trail is a great relaxing ride through the many, many vineyards and wineries. No tasting on this trip. After the break in Yountville, we headed towards Lake Hennessey which is a county regional park where you can boat, fish for trout, bass and catfish, sail and kayak, but you cannot get into the water because it is a drinking source for the county residents. Traveling on Sage Canyon Road, Hwy 128 is a great ride with gentle curves and lots of country side. At Moskowitz Corners, we turn left towards Winters. Another great ride but have to watch out for rubble on the road due to rock slides, nasty stuff. Gas Stop in Winters where they have the great restaurant, Buckhorn Steak and Roadhouse. On through Davis, short freeway ride to lunch at Crawdads River Cantina. I had the Pastrami served with seasoned waffle fries, it was great. Although lunch took 2-1/2 hours, our wait person, Stella, was great even though she had to complain to the cooks a couple of times to speed things up. How long does it take to cook a hamburger? We eventually had the two late lunches taken off the tab by the manager.

Now we are on a short freeway ride to 160 and a bunch of little towns ending up for ice cream at Walnut Grove. We stopped at Mel's Mocha & Ice Cream. You've got to try the Mocha Almond Fudge on a sugar cone! **Just great.** The ride was called there since members were going off in different directions soon to get back home. I was supposed to go as far as Rio Vista on 12 and go home to Berryessa from there. But after the ice cream, a gremlin saw my bike and did what gremlins do, it wouldn't start. Great Star members as they are came to my rescue and poked around enough to find my problem. It STARTED! I saw a sign to Rio Vista, probably the long way, and decided to take it instead. Unfortunately, that was the only sign and I got lost. Still a great ride. Finally found my way to I-5, went back towards Sacramento, to 80 and back home. By this time I had to put my sweatshirt back on as well as the gauntlet gloves. Finally make it back home at 7:52. Still wasn't done. I had to drive back to Alameda.

Respectfully submitted,
Inthemiddle Ofnowhere
aka-Gene

A biker is riding a new motorcycle on the highway. While passing a car, he knocks on the window. The driver of the car opens the window, "Yes?"

"Ever driven a Honda motorcycle?"

"No I haven't"

The biker drives on, until he sees the next car. While passing it, he knocks on the window. The driver of the car opens the window: "Yes?"

"Ever driven a Honda motorcycle?"

"No I haven't"

Then suddenly there is a curve, the biker sees it too late. He crashes off the road into a ditch. A car stops and a man runs to the unlucky biker. The biker, while in severe pain, asks, "Ever driven a Honda motorcycle?"

"Yes I have. I had a Honda for 20 years."

The biker says, "Tell me, where's the damn brakes?"

The Legend of the Bell

By Mike Prawicki

(Continues ...)

Many years ago, on a cold December night, an old greybeard biker was returning from a trip to Mexico with his saddlebags filled with toys and other assorted trinkets for the kids at a group home near where he worked.

As he rode along that night, he thought about how lucky he had been in life, having a loving riding partner that understood his need to roam the highways and about his trusty old bike that hadn't let him down once in the many years they had shared the road together.

About 50 miles north of the border, in the high desert, lurked a small group of notorious little critters known as Road Gremlins. You know, the

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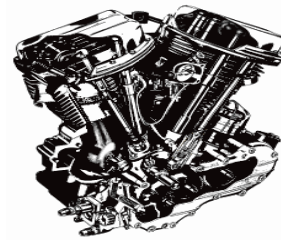
ones who always leave little obstacles like one shoe, boards and pieces of old tires on the road and also dig those dreaded potholes for bikers to run over and crash, thus giving the Road Gremlins a chance to rejoice over their acts of evil.

As the old greybeard rounded a curve that moonlit night, the gremlins ambushed him, causing him to crash to the asphalt and skid before coming to a stop next to one of his saddlebags that had broken free. As he lay there, unable to move, the Road Gremlins made their way towards him. The greybeard, not being one to give up, started throwing things at the gremlins as they approached him. Finally, with nothing else to throw but a bell, he started ringing it in the hopes of scaring off the dirty little gremlins.

About a half mile away, camped in the desert, were two bikers sitting around the campfire talking about their day's ride and the freedom of the wind blowing in their faces as they rode across this vast country. In the stillness of the night air, they heard what sounded to them like church bells ringing and upon investigating, found the old biker lying along the roadside with the gremlins about to get him. Needless to say, being a part of the biker Brotherhood, they proceeded to ward off the gremlins until the last of them ran off into the night.

Being grateful to the two bikers, the old greybeard offered to pay them for their help, but as all true bikers do, they refused to accept any type of payment from him. Not being one to let a good deed go unnoticed, the greybeard cut two pieces of leather from his saddlebag tassels and tied a bell to each one. He then placed them on each of the bikers' motorcycles, as near to the ground as possible. The tired, old road warrior then told the two travelers that with those bells placed on their bikes, they would be protected from the Road Gremlins and that if ever in trouble, just ring the bell and a fellow biker will come to their aid.

So, whenever you see a biker with a bell, you know that he has been blessed with the most important thing in life...friendship from a fellow biker.



PRODUCT REVIEW(S)

"SAVE YOUR HIDE"

How many of you subscribe to the principle of ATGATT (**All The Gear All The Time**)? How many of us just want to "cool" while riding the bike, versus considering protecting ourselves from weather elements, or a fall? How many of us consider riding sleeveless during the hot weather (this is a faster route to dehydration and sun stroke, not to mention sun damage to your skin which you may have to deal with later in life at the skin cancer center). How many of us throw on multiple layers of clothes to stay warm on colder days?

I have been looking for a pair of "over pants" for some time now, as I have really grown tired of wearing chaps. I believe that chaps offer no protection should one find them self off the bike suddenly or un-expectedly, and often chaps are heavy, hot and "clumsy". I knew that tear and abrasion strength were two telling signs of a garments virtue, but recently found that there was much more to learn.

In the latest issue of Motorcycle Consumer News (June 2010), the product report discussed a mesh riding suit from a manufacturer I had never heard of. After reading the positive, glowing article, I decided to check that company's website. Clicking on the various products, I found their pricing to be in line with many of the "known" manufacturers found everywhere, but they also offer an article which I found fascinating.

I am as guilty as anyone – I might rather "put some chrome on the bike" versus considering "saving my hide". At the end of the day, a bike can be replaced; healing our "hide" costs more, impacts many more lives, and should be considered as the first choice we make when riding a motorcycle. I am not endorsing this specific manufacturer, but I invite everyone to check out this article – and learn

a little more on clothing options.
<http://www.motoport.com/save-your-hide>

The Prez

KEEP THE SHINY SIDE UP!

Safety Tips/Tech Talk

This is your section to share "techie" stuff

SAFETY TIPS



OTHER SAFETY INFORMATION

Summer Riding Gear

(Cruiser Customizing)

Check out this link from Cruiser Customizing for all of the latest in summer riding gear: what it is, how it works ☺

http://community.cruisercustomizing.com/TOTW-Warm-Weather-Motorcycle-Riding-Gear/video/1008084/22960.html?utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ESS-CC-TW69&utm_content=&mc=ESS-CC-TW69&utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=&utm_content=



For any current or new members that want to become a Star Vet, go to the National Web Site 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.

STAR KNIGHTS RIDE

Saturday, May 29th, 2010

By Pauline Carlton

"SOLIDER"

I was that which others did not want to be.
I went where others feared to go, and did what others failed to do.
I asked nothing from those who gave nothing and reluctantly accepted the thought of eternal loneliness ... should I fail.
I have seen the face of terror, felt the stinging cold of fear, and enjoyed the sweet taste of a moment's love.

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I have cried, pained and hoped ... but most of all, I have lived times others would say were best forgotten.

At least someday I will be able to say that I was proud of what I was ...

A Solider

(Author: George L. Skypeck)

This is the link which will tell you all about the hero that wrote this poem. When Julie Hayes from the Sacramento STAR Chapter read it tonight, I don't think there was a dry eye from anyone who was there: <http://iwvpa.net/skypeckgl/index.php>

Having lunch with the veterans in their mess hall at the Veterans Home in Yountville was an experience I won't likely forget for quite some time. The Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon started out two or three years ago as just a field has transformed into a unique and special memorial. What mars its beauty are all of the white headstones.

If you haven't been to see the USS Utah Memorial at 70 Utah Avenue, Woodland, CA., or heard the story behind this memorial, you've missed out on a truly remarkable dedication of one man.

It wasn't totally about the ride routes used today, although they were awesome and necessary to get us from point (a) to point (b), it's the thought behind the ride: to honor those individuals some of whom have gone before us, many of which are still serving our country to allow us to do what we love: ride our motorcycles, live our life in freedom.

A solider is also:

- (1) One engaged in military service
- (2) An enlisted man or woman
- (3) A skilled warrior

If you would like to let our military service personnel know how valuable they really are

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.letsaysaythanks.com/Home1024.html>

HAPPY June BIRTHDAY !!!

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

5th – Judy Carreno
11th – David Zachry
21st – Robin Flay
25th – Michael Smith

CHAPTER RIDE / EVENTS INFORMATION

Chapter Rides: 2nd Saturday / 4th Sunday
Chapter Meetings – red

July 10th – Chapter Ride – Coastal Ridge Area
July 16 – 18 Mono Lake Chapter Weekend Ride
July 25th - Sunday Chapter Ride
July 28th - Chapter Meeting

August 14th – TBD
**August 20th – 22nd – Chapter Weekend Trip
(Trinity Chapter Ride)**
August 25th Chapter Meeting
August 29th - Sunday Chapter Ride

September 11th – Tahoe Chapter Ride
September 15th - Chapter Officer's Meeting
September 22nd - Chapter Meeting
September 26th – Chapter Ride - TBD

October 9th - Chapter Ride
October 20th - Chapter Officer's Meeting
October 24th - Sunday Chapter Ride
October 27th - Chapter Meeting

November 7th – Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 13th - Chapter Ride
November 17th - Chapter Meeting **Nomination of
2011 Officers**

December 11th - **Christmas Party** Election of
2011 Officers

OTHER EVENTS Notification

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July 3rd - Holli-STAR Rally

July 20-23rd – **STAR DAYS** (Chattanooga, TN)

August 14th - (The date TBD Santa Clara County STAR Chapter #209's BBQ Camp-Out)

August 20th-21st – **NW STAR-B-Q** (Prosser, WA)

August 28th: HORSEPLAY Poker Run

September 22-26th **STREET VIBRATIONS**, Reno

Saturday, October 2nd: - **HOLY HORSEMEN'S**
Feed the Children Food Drive

Sunday, October 3rd: Northern California Ride
for Kids.

October 8th-9th **BIG BIKE WEEKEND** -

Saturday, October 30th: **RIDE OF THE**
HEADLESS HORSEMAN – Chico STAR Chapter

Saturday, November 20th: **Sacramento STAR**
Chapter's 2nd annual COATS FOR KIDS

November 19th – 21st - (Date to be verified)
International Motorcycle Show

<http://www.motorcycleshows.com/5daystoSave>

HOW TO FAIL A TEST With dignity ☺

