



CHAPTER 186 Contra Costa, CA  
Star Touring & Riding Association

THE ROTATING WHEEL

**MARCH 2010**

## **THE “PREZ SEZ”**

### **“OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSIDERATION”**

These are words you often hear me say, or read in my e-mails when announcing upcoming rides, other Chapter rides and/or events.

This year, your Chapter’s activities team (Lin, George, Bob, Perry, Jeff, Michael, Ken, Warren and Perry) have come up with many creative rides, event destinations and weekend trips. **Thank you, team.** ☺

Jeff has finalized his July weekend ride to the Mammoth Lakes / Mono Lake area. Please check the website and/or contact him ASAP as those rooms should fill up fast. Ken should have his Trinity trip in August finalized in the next couple of weeks, and that info will be posted as well.

As fast as information is received from the Activities Team as to where the ride destinations are, or costs involved with the over night events, we are posting them on our website calendar. Please continue to check the site often as it is (currently) being updated almost on a weekly basis, if not more. We are trying to get the information out as fast as possible to give all of our members a better idea of potential costs associated with that ride / event so you then can “consider that opportunity”. While I know everyone cannot make every ride / trip / event, our goal is to bring everyone an opportunity for something fun and different this year.

I would like to thank everyone who replies to my request(s) for a RSVP. We are trying this format

this year to better assist your Ride Captains before the day of the ride. This also helps us give a restaurant (or other) an idea on how many to expect, and, in the case of the Filoli Garden ride, possibly a discount for admission to the mansion/gardens.

Thank you to the following: everyone who attended our last Chapter meeting. What a great turn out. Jeff and Michael for assuming the Shepherds roles – they already have (3) new people who have heard about us, and may be interested. This is an important role within our Chapter. I know friends who may consider our Chapter much like Allstate: “being in good hands”. And I would like to thank David Antonson, Contra Costa PowerSports, for assisting our Chapter members and participating at our meetings.

As spring is near, I ask everyone to spend some time, and if you haven’t already, T-CLOCK your bike. We are starting to go on some beautiful long runs, over some nice country (i.e. bumpy) back roads, so checking your bike is crucial. Don’t want anything falling off, or blowing a tire, etc. If you haven’t ridden for a while, you may want to also consider spending some time brushing up on your skills, because some of these rides might include switchbacks (uphill and/or downhill), making abrupt turns from an uphill stop sign, etc.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the road ... and our next Chapter meeting.

Victor Tibbs (*Lone Eagle*)  
President

*Riding in the Sticks with #186*

[www.star186.org](http://www.star186.org)

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check the website calendar for further information

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### CHAPTER RIDE / EVENT INFORMATION

Chapter Rides: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday / 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
**Chapter Meetings – red**

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March 13<sup>th</sup> - Clearlake/Capay Valley Chapter Ride  
**March 14<sup>th</sup> – Daylight Savings Time Begins**  
March 17<sup>th</sup> - Chapter Officer's Meeting  
March 20<sup>th</sup>: Merced Chapter's VET Support Ride  
**March 24<sup>th</sup> - Chapter Meeting**  
March 28<sup>th</sup> – Filoli Gardens, Woodside Chapter Ride

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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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### **Colts v. Saints SUPER BOWL SUNDAY**

Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
*By Pauline Carlton*

What started out last year as the "Birthday Ride" for Cecil and Lin, instead evolved this year to having the SUPER BOWL party at Lone Eagle's house, hosted by Lin, Lone Eagle and Barbara.

If you thought that the Chapter BBQ at Lone Eagle's house last year brought in some good food for us to all to share, you should've seen the spread for the SUPER BOWL. Appetizers, soups, caramel popcorn, casseroles, two birthday cakes honoring Lin and Cecil (each one had their own), plus other desserts. Sodas, Hansens drinks, bottled water ... anything you wanted, you could find on either the counter or one of the three tables loaded down with good food. ☺

- It wasn't just the food that made this day so special.
  - It wasn't just the birthday's being celebrated that made this day so special.
  - It wasn't just the birthday cards or birthday presents that made this day so special.
  - It wasn't that the fact that the Saints pulled it out of the bag in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, winning the SUPER BOWL that made this day so special.
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It was the reunion of friends (Jim and Kim Allen, Kerry and Denise), coming together with the current crew and sharing the love for their own that made this day so special for me.

You talk about "family". You talk about the STAR "family". It was all that and much more today for the 24 people who made this day so special.

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Larry's photo show of the day:

<http://www.photoshow.com/watch/Vi9FG5mp>

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### **SANTA NELLA FOR SOUP**

Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*By Mark Ferguson*

The ride route our awesome President lead us on that day was truly cool. We are blessed to be able to ride in California with all its roads and sites to follow. However, I am going to focus on our group as a whole.

The way we started the day with our usual meet and greet at location #1, was the beginning of a great day together. This is a time to talk and share the past week and then have a much needed pre-ride meeting. All of this I have come to embrace.

The meeting up with the Santa Clara guys was a first for me. It was cool how we all fit right in and made our way towards Santa Nella. The flow of our Chapter rides is something I have come to really appreciate and probably take for granted.

I felt that our hand signals were right on, but I was impressed with our lane changes mostly. Even with the Santa Clara guys, our group was very smooth and patient dealing with the traffic and cut in cars. These are all things that I hope are never over looked and under valued by this Chapter, but with our leadership, I sure it will never happen. I must add that the split pea soup was as good as I hoped.

In closing, this report may seem short and not very descriptive, but my thoughts after our rides always reflect back to our group's ability to travel any where. This is something I am thankful for.

Have a blessed day !

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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:**

Always check the lane before moving over. Just because the Tail Gunner gives the all clear, and folks start moving over, does not mean that someone "may not have cut in". Be careful.



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#### **TECH TALK**

This is your section to share "tech" stuff

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### **Bad Brakes at 60MPH.**

*(Prez note: reprinted from an e-mail I received from Motorcycle Riders Club)*

Grabbing a handful of brakes at 60 mph, I nearly rear-ended the bike in front of me. Poor reflexes? Could be, but the biggest factor I later discovered was old brake fluid.

Preparing for the road trip, I replaced worn brake pads and made the mistake of forgetting what applies the pressure to make them work. Brake fluid collects moisture through condensation, heats up and wears out in slow, small changes so you don't realize it's spent until you need to hit the brakes hard. This hair-raising road test brought it to mind when seeing other riders in our group stopped as I was still moving forward.

Fresh fluid in the lines not only decreased my stopping distance, it gave me back incremental pressure applied slowly instead of an all-or-nothing

feeling at the lever.

Bleeding your brake lines is an easy operation with the right tools, but high stakes in execution — in stopping safely *and* preserving your paint job. A brake bleeding kit is invaluable and can accommodate small to large budgets so have a look.

Whether it's flushed by a professional or by you, don't make the mistake I did. Keep your brake fluid effective.

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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.

Merced Chapter 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Ride for Support. March 20<sup>th</sup> (Contact the President for further details, and start time for this ride). No cost, only a donation request – can be various items – toiletries (wet wipes, toothpaste bug spray etc), personal care items (sun block/boot liners,etc), Fun Stuff (deck of cards, hacky-sack etc). All packages gathered will be sent to our troops still overseas. Let us show our support to those that serve us.

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***Riding in the Sticks with #186***

[www.star186.org](http://www.star186.org)

## 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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## **HAPPY March BIRTHDAY !!!**

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

14<sup>th</sup> – Larry Thompson  
16<sup>th</sup> – Pauline Carlton  
19<sup>th</sup> – Christine Hughes  
22<sup>nd</sup> – Victor [Lone Eagle] Tibbs  
27<sup>th</sup> – Dave Hamilton  
31<sup>st</sup> – Jeff Brackett

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## **CHAPTER RIDE / EVENTS INFORMATION**

Chapter Rides: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday / 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
**Chapter Meetings – red**

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April 10<sup>th</sup> – Chapter Ride – Santa Cruz  
April 21<sup>st</sup> - Chapter Officer's Meeting  
April 25<sup>th</sup> - Livermore/Diablo Foothills Chapter Ride  
**April 28<sup>th</sup> - Chapter Meeting**

### **May 8<sup>th</sup> - CHAPTER BBQ**

**May 15<sup>th</sup> – Blessing of the Bikes**  
May 19<sup>th</sup> - Chapter Officer's Meeting  
May 23<sup>rd</sup> - Sunday Chapter Ride  
**May 26<sup>th</sup> - Chapter Meeting**

June 4 – 5 – High Sierra BBQ  
June 12<sup>th</sup> – Kings Canyon / Sequoia Parks Loops  
Chapter Ride (TBD) – or local ride  
June 16<sup>th</sup> - Chapter Officer's Meeting  
**June 23<sup>rd</sup> - Chapter Meeting**  
June 27<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Chapter Ride

July 10<sup>th</sup> – Chapter Ride – Coastal Ridge Area  
**July 16 – 18 Mono Lake Chapter Weekend Ride**  
July 21<sup>st</sup> - Chapter Officer's Meeting  
July 25<sup>th</sup> - Sunday Chapter Ride  
**July 28<sup>th</sup> - Chapter Meeting**

August 14<sup>th</sup> – TBD  
August 18<sup>th</sup> - Chapter Officer's Meeting  
**August 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> – Chapter Weekend Trip  
(Trinity Chapter Ride)**  
**August 25<sup>th</sup> Chapter Meeting**  
August 29<sup>th</sup> - Sunday Chapter Ride

September 11<sup>th</sup> – Tahoe Chapter Ride  
September 15<sup>th</sup> - Chapter Officer's Meeting  
**September 22<sup>nd</sup> - Chapter Meeting**  
September 26<sup>th</sup> – Marina Dune Chapter Ride

October 9<sup>th</sup> - Chapter Ride  
October 20<sup>th</sup> - Chapter Officer's Meeting  
October 24<sup>th</sup> - Sunday Chapter Ride  
**October 27<sup>th</sup> - Chapter Meeting**

**November 7th – Daylight Savings Time Ends**  
November 13<sup>th</sup> - Chapter Ride  
**November 17<sup>th</sup> - Chapter Meeting**  
Nomination of Officers

December 11<sup>th</sup> - **Christmas Party**  
Election of Officers

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## **OTHER EVENTS Notification**

**March 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> SW STAR-B-Q** [Phoenix, AZ]

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> LAUGHLIN RIVER RUN**  
<http://www.laughlinriverrun.com/>

**May 15<sup>th</sup> – Holy Horsemen's BLESSING OF THE BIKES** (Wesleyan Church, Antioch)  
**May 22<sup>nd</sup> – Modesto STAR Chapter's Poker Run** supporting their charity Sierra Vista Children's Services  
**May 22<sup>nd</sup> – Underground Gardens Ride with Santa Clara Chapter #209**

**June 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> HIGH SIERRA STAR-B-Q**  
**June 19<sup>th</sup> – Ride to River Rock with Santa Clara**  
**June 21<sup>st</sup> - National Ride to Work Day**  
**July 3<sup>rd</sup> - Holli-STAR Rally (?)**

**July 20-23<sup>rd</sup> – STAR DAYS** (Chattanooga, TN)

*Riding in the Sticks with #186*

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**LET'S SUPPORT VENDORS WHO  
HAVE BEEN SUPPORTING OUR  
CHAPTER:**

**Patty van Horn:** 925-763-2717  
Leather Alterations / Sewing Patches on etc.

**Bulldog BBQ & Catering**  
601 Main St. Martinez 925-335-9915

**Contra Costa Powersports** – Dave Antonson  
1651 Concord Ave. Concord – 925-687-7742

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**CHAPTER 186 STORE FOR SHIRTS,  
HATS AND STUFF.**

This year, your officer team decided to make it easier for anyone, at anytime, from the comfort of your home, to be able to purchase a Chapter item. Please visit our Chapter website for a quick link to Café Press where a small proceed from each sale comes back to our chapter's bank account.



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**MOTORCYCLE QUIZ:**

How much do you know about motorcycles? Well, here is your chance. If these links don't work, cut and paste into your browser and test your knowledge!!

<http://msf-usa.org/CourseReview/Questionframe.htm>

<http://machinemuseum.net/KMain/motorcycle/MotoQuiz.html>



**MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2010 – MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

Make your plans now to join us for our Second Annual Hog Roast BBQ at Rankin Park in Martinez. Catering this year will be provided by BULLDOG's in Martinez. Their food is **awesome**. ☺

This is our Chapters' main fundraiser for the year, benefitting those in need with the Contra Costa Food Bank.

The committee this year (Larry, Lin and Robin) are working extremely hard to make this an even bigger and better event from last year, but they will need assistance from all of us. Sign up sheets for volunteers, and / or items needed will be available at our upcoming rides and meetings.

Please help us make this a successful event!

- **FREE RIDE PIN TO THE 1<sup>ST</sup> (100) PEOPLE WHO PRE-REGISTER.**
- \$5.00 LESS THIS YEAR.
- HORSESHOES, A FUN AFTERNOON FOR ALL.
- INVITE YOUR CO-WORKERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS FOR A FUN FILLED AFTERNOON!!!!
- CHECK OUT WEBSITE FOR PRE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION.