



DECEMBER 2010

THE “DEPARTING” “PREZ SEZ”


Thank you

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

There are many aspects of a Chapter and its members. The major key component to any Chapter is the value of its members and what each member has – or can - contribute.

I will always cherish the many memories which were made, friendships established and all the smiles, ice cream cones and laughs that will last a lifetime.

It is hard to believe, three + years ago, this Chapter was possibly going to fold because no one at that time was interested in keeping it alive by stepping up to be President (and Vice-President). Dan Soraoka had just completed three (3) years as the President, was tired; he wasn't going to do it anymore. At that time, Dan not only was the President, but he put most of the rides together as well.

I had just moved to the Concord and was looking to join and ride with this Chapter. I had opportunities to ride with this Chapter in the past, and thought it was a great group. Dan mentioned if I wanted to ride with “this group”, would I consider being President? I never thought twice about that question, and have never looked back. Dan paired me up with some guy named Larry (LOL) whom I didn't know. In fact, after Dan did that, one of us called the other a week or so later and said

something like *oh, you're the guy, well, what do you want to do?* or something like that. I said, *“Heck, I don't know. I don't even know anyone in this Chapter, so I guess we'll start off by doing a Chapter ride somewhere”*.

We started off the 2008 year with a couple of hundred dollars in cash, a newly launched Chapter website in 2007 (I believe), about (7-12) members, and started riding. Until 2008, to the best of my recollection, our Chapter didn't hold monthly membership social / business meetings or even a location to have them, no formal officer / ride team meetings; instead they just spent some minutes on “business / Chapter” information prior to a ride. Then everyone would hop on their bikes and ride 400 – 500 miles for that day. I will also never forget some of those who were affiliated with this Chapter in 2007 saying to me, “you will never get more than a half dozen people on your rides, this group will never ride in proper formation, give hand signals, whatever”. But, we started to slowly make some changes at the suggestions of our members in 2008, and have been improving and learning ever since.

Moving forward, our Chapter has truly evolved. Today, including significant others, we boast a Chapter membership of approximately 60 members. Thanks to the hard work initially from our Ride Captains Perry Meyer, Joe Smart in 2008, to the development of our Ride Teams in 2009 / 2010, our Chapter has offered (in my opinion) some GREAT rides: short, long, additional Sunday Chapter Rides, weekend rides for our Chapter members (not counting various Regional Rallies), bumpy roads, curvy roads, etc. We have challenged our own personal riding skills and styles to be able to handle most situations we may find while out riding by ourselves. Some of us have challenged ourselves, because of our love for

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riding, to riding out of State with friends or to rallies, etc.

Thanks to Pauline, we started a Chapter newsletter – one that gets kudos from not only STAR Chapters throughout the United States, but from other riding Associations and magazines throughout the U.S.

Thanks to Sally during Dan's reign, then George and now Samuel for providing our Chapter a website that is very professional and informative, and one that also has reached and received National acclaim.

Thanks to Larry, Lin, Pauline and most everyone in this Chapter, for the consideration of others in our community, suggesting and putting on two great *Hog Roast BBQ benefits* for the Contra Costa / Solano County Food Bank in 2009 and 2010.

Special thanks go to Mr. Wiki, Larry, Dominic, and all the Chapter photographers these past years chronicling and sharing memories of a ride day or weekend for all to enjoy years from now.

A thank you also goes out to Dave Antonson and Contra Costa Powersports for attending our meetings on a regular basis, and being there for our members.

We expanded our "in house" educational area by offering riding safety courses in 2008 and 2009 with the Alameda County Sheriff's Department, as well as a CPR and First Aid class this year. I do feel like I let our membership down somewhat this year by not offering additional riding skills courses, but encourage everyone on their own to take a class, or maybe next year this can be considered.

Mostly, thanks to all of you who come out to our Chapter meetings, and ride with us when you can (or all the time) because your Ride Team constantly strives to offer safe trips, and everyone here I feel has embraced the concept of safe riding practices. I constantly receive compliments from guests, other STAR Chapter members, other association's riders, etc., on how well organized, and safe our Chapter rides are. I challenge all to keep that good work up.

Thank you all, during these past three years, for your suggestions, e-mails and phone calls. As a new leadership team will take over on January 1st, share your thoughts and ideas with them, and be

there for them. As your Chapter Officers, we can only suggest ideas for everyone to consider, but at the end of the day, we listen to and more importantly, we need your input, ideas and suggestions to make this fun.

Every one of you, our active Chapter members and your families, are more than good friends to myself and Barbara - you are family.

When I first started riding again in 2006 after being off a bike for many years, I didn't know anything about "riding groups", STAR, whatever. I stumbled upon Solano Chapter and Pauline in particular, and then the rides and miles started. I might think that 53,000 of my 65,000 miles on the bike since 2006 are with my extended STAR family. With a lot of support, coaching, and yes, even a couple of well deserved reprimands; I started to learn what it meant to ride a motorcycle safely and responsibly by myself and within a group dynamic. This "family" I belong to keeps changing and evolving, but our hearts all remain the same. STAR in general, but our Chapter membership specifically, is all about caring, loving people with the common goal of sharing the road, memories, food, ice cream and laughter with each other.

I have truly been honored to serve as your President these past three years. Thank you for your trust and confidence. I look forward to everyone supporting some fresh, new considerations, or ideas from our upcoming new Officer team.

Thank you all, as my riding buddies and friends, for some of my most cherished memories! I look forward to *Riding In The Sticks* and sharing times with all of you in 2011.



Happy Holidays,



Victor Tibbs



President, Chapter 186

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check the website calendar for further information

**** 2010 ****

December 11th, 2010
End of Year Holiday Party
Chapter Membership and Guests invited
- 6:00 - 8:30PM - Fuddruckers
- RSVP Requested
Election of 2011 Chapter Officers

**** 2011 ****

CHAPTER RIDE / EVENTS INFORMATION

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

January 8TH Chapter Ride
January 26th Chapter Meeting

AND THE MEMBERS SAID ...

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

Coast through the Wine Country Ride **November 13, 2010**

By Jeff Brackett

All week long, leading up to this ride, I had been watching the weather. All indications were it was going to be a beautiful Fall day. I had invited a couple of guest riders (Mitch, who I work with and Rod, my chiropractor) that I hope to recruit as full-time members and I wanted to entice them with a great ride. As I pulled into the Shell station in Pleasant Hill I realized we were not going to be disappointed.

At the pre-ride briefing, we were advised that Ken, our Road Captain and ride planner had a flat on a new tire he just had installed. He would not be joining us. There were around 20 riders that consisted of 5 guest riders. We split up into two groups with Rich leading group one with Michael Smith tailgunning, and Victor leading group two and

me tailgunning. Cecil was there on his Goldwing Trike and followed the entire group.

Just before we started out, we asked if everyone had Fastrak and amazingly everyone did, even all the guest riders. It was a smooth start over the Benicia Bridge. We crossed over to Hwy. 37 via Lake Herman Rd. and on into Marin County. We got off Hwy. 37 at the site where they held the Renaissance Fair for many years (Atherton I think) and started on the back roads towards the coast. The Fall colors were glorious. All the leaves are turning and it doesn't take much rain to bring the ground alive with a carpet of green. It doesn't hurt to have good dirt either, right Rich?

We made our way to Bodega Bay where we turned away from the coast on Coleman Valley Rd. and started up the coastal ridge to the east. It is a paved, somewhat bumpy, one-lane road and I realized I have been in this area countless times and didn't even know it existed. As we made our way to the top, I looked back over my shoulder and saw an extraordinary view of the Sonoma County coastline. It was truly spectacular.

We wound our way down the other side of the hills and came out in the little town of Occidental, our lunch stop for the day. We ate at a small diner that was very crowded and noisy. The food was good and we were all starving so it was worth it. After lunch in the parking lot, I chuckled when Rod said to me that told his wife he would be home around 3:00 pm. I looked at my watch and it was 1:30. I thought "Rookie", he just didn't even know. I told him, "You better call her. You won't be home until after dark." When I saw the quizzical look on his face I told him the Samoa Cookhouse story. He made the call.

We left Occidental on the Bohemian Highway, this time with Group two starting out first. So, did this make us Group One now? Or were we Group 2/1, or 1/2?

We made our way through Guerneville and over to a gas station near the Infineon Raceway (formerly Sears Point) where we took a group photo and called the official end of the ride. Some of us decided to continue on for our customary Ice Cream (Frozen Yogurt really) at Ian's off Hwy. 4 in Martinez. Our group dwindled in numbers as we

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made our way there as people dropped out to “head for the barn”.

Afterwards, I chuckled again as I was telling Marguerite about the ride at dinner. She always asks who went and when I said Cecil was there, she said, “Oh, he was there on his tricycle?” I had to explain the difference between a tricycle and a trike. Another Rookie ☺

Comments:

From Mitch: Had a great time and meal on the Saturday ride. Have many thousands of miles on the coast and yet your group still found roads I had not ridden. Thanks for the invite.

From Justin: The scenery was wonderful and the ride was truly the reason why I decided to purchase a motorcycle. The ride was everything that I could have imagined and then some. The guys in the Chapter were great as well and I felt welcomed to come along for the ride. Once again Thank You very much and I look forward to many more rides with the STAR Chapters in the future.



OTHER SAFETY INFORMATION

SOMETHING TO SHARE

MOTORCYCLE TOURING MATHEMATICS 101
(Or, The Numbers Behind a Legit "I Rode Mine")
Distance Riding with Bruce | November 2010
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Here are the four official checkpoints in the AMA-sanctioned and SCMA-sponsored USA FOUR CORNERS MOTORCYCLE TOUR (<http://usa4corners.org>) that's on my bucket list, along with the approximate distance from each checkpoint to Sturgis, South Dakota:

NW:	Blaine, Washington:	1,211 miles
NE:	Madawaska, Maine:	2,142 miles
SW:	San Ysidro, California:	1,380 miles
SE:	Key West, Florida:	2,352 miles

Based on these statistics, we can reasonably assert that no motorcyclist in the Lower 48 states should have to ride more than 2,400 miles to attend the annual Black Hills Motor Classic, and that for most of those riders the distance would be significantly less. If you were coming from Altoona PA, for example, you'd only need to ride about 1,500 miles to earn the right to have Main Street vendors Mary or Gloria sew an "I Rode Mine" patch on your riding vest at the next Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

And why do I mention Altoona? Because that's where a young rider we'll call Andy said he was from when he introduced himself to me while waiting to buy a beer at the Gold Pan Saloon in

KEEP THE SHINY SIDE UP!

Safety Tips/Tech Talk

This is your section to share “techie” stuff

Safety Tips:

Watch the lane next door to make its clear when changing lanes

Custer SD last August. Andy asked me where I was from, and I told him Miami (actually I'm from Texas and presently exiled in South Florida, but I kept it short). He immediately replied with "So, did you trailer your bike here, or have it shipped in?" My reaction gave him my answer, but I was civil enough to ask, "Didn't you ride here?" His reply was "Naw, I trailered mine. I didn't have time to ride."

That concluded my exchange with Andy, but what he said stuck with me... "I trailered mine. I didn't have time to ride." What the hell did that mean? I may never know exactly, but perhaps I can shed some light on the having "time to ride" part:

Unless your motorcycle is extremely slow and/or your tow vehicle is extremely fast, trailering your bike from A to B will not get you there any faster than riding it. And if you live anywhere in the Lower 48, have (at least) 2 grand to blow and 2 weeks of vacation time coming, a Sturgis Bikation might be well within your reach and could be a memorable experience: <http://ldrlongdistancerider.com/30>

Any proficient and healthy motorcyclist on a properly equipped and maintained motorcycle should be able to safely ride 600 miles a day. At that rate, Andy from Altoona would easily make South Dakota IH-90 Exit 32 in 3 days, as would even a Key Wester in 4. And assuming two weeks of vacation equals 16 calendar days, even if you take 5 days to ride there and 5 days to ride back--which for Andy from Altoona would require only 300 miles a day--you can still enjoy 4 days in the Black Hills and have 2 days left over to chillax after you return home.

So if you haven't done so before, think about keeping it real and actually RIDING your bike to Sturgis next year. That way when you get there, you won't be tempted to be *this* guy.

PRODUCT REVIEW

By Pauline Carlton: In October, I was forced to replace the cover for *Traveler*; the other one that cost me one whole dollar plus \$16 shipping from

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China finally gave it up. The bag that housed the cover had long since torn, and I used our "savior tape", you know, that grey "stuff" that we all rely on, to hold the bag somewhat together until it finally shredded beyond saving. I ordered a COVER MAXX from Cycle Gear, and thinking that because my Road Star saddlebags are bigger than the traditional 1100 saddlebags, I went with a touring bike choice, in XL. Bad decision. Wayyyyy too big. But, you know, at least it covered the bike, kept the spokes clean along with 2" around the wheels as well. ☺

I called Cycle Gear, and talked with Brian, ordering another one. *Oh, he says, you live in Vallejo. Would you like to pick it up instead and save yourself some money?* WHAT? Come to find out, the warehouse is in Benicia. You can call Cycle Gear, order (whatever), and then put it on a **WILL CALL** basis thereby saving yourself some shipping-n-handling charges. Pretty cool, huh?

No, I paid the shipping-n-handling because unfortunately, their hours are the same as mine at work: 8-5, M-F.

Just wanted to share this with y'all just in case you can make it over to their warehouse, and want to save some money.

RIDE SAFE.

TECH TALK

This is your section to share "tech" stuff

Check out this link for a video from RIDE LIKE A PRO showing how to pick up your motorcycle
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeLkrPkjimo>





OTHER 2011 EVENTS INFORMATION

January 1st **POLAR BEARrrrrrrrrr RIDE** with the Sacramento STAR Chapter (stay tuned for further details which will be sent out when available)

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.

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>

**HAPPY December
BIRTHDAY !!!**

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

16th – Bob Bridges
20th – Jenn Thomas
21st – George DeBruin
23rd - Sabrina Petaccio
24th – Yarumi Watanabe
30th - Tony Johnson



**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS
EVERYONE!**



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