



CHAPTER 186 Contra Costa, CA
Star Touring & Riding Association

THE ROTATING WHEEL

August 2011

THE "PREZ SEZ"

... on vacation ... see you at the picnic ☺

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check the website calendar for further information

**** 2011 ****

CHAPTER RIDE /

Chapter Rides: 2nd Saturday / 4th Sunday

Chapter Meetings – red

August 6 th	Chapter Picnic
August 13 th	Chapter Ride
August 24 th	Chapter Meeting
August 28 th	Chapter Ride

AND THE MEMBERS SAID ...

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

Holli-STAR RALLY

Saturday, July 2nd, 2011

Jamie's photo show says it all ☺

<http://s1015.photobucket.com/albums/af278/jaimenote/2011%20HolliSTAR/#!cpZZ1QQtpZ36>

NORTH COAST CHAPTER RIDE

Saturday, July 9th, 2011

By Sandy Luger

As Rob & I pulled up to the Shell Station in Pleasant Hill, I see standing behind Denny's a large group of people with a lineup of gleaming

motorcycles like faithful steeds waiting to be ridden. As we approach, several people turned & waved plus a few big hugs were received. It is so nice to feel so welcomed. ☺

Rich Flay started the pre-ride meeting, going over the detailed instructions about our trip, which I find the information we received very important. It really helps to know where to avoid delays & dangerous road conditions, so we can have a relaxing & enjoyable ride knowing our Road Captains are familiar with the route. He goes over hand signals and stressed on **STOPPING AT STOP SIGNS**. He stated that it's the rider's choice but I could tell he rather you did which I highly agree. Why chance faith - it could bring trouble to the group. He also introduced a couple of guests that may be looking into join our little group.

As we mount our faithful steeds & raise our kickstands, I looked out at the cloudy & foggy sky & wondered should I have put on my thermals. I pulled them out, but I thought this is July, what was I thinking, it'll burn off. **Boy was I wrong.**

Good thing I still had my heavy gloves & big strong man (Rob) to ride behind to keep me warm. It's really nice to be the passenger sometimes but I miss having my own bike. I really felt bad for Rob 'cause I left his heavy gloves out when I was rearranging the back storage compartment thinking he wasn't going to need these, wrong again. His hands were really cold by the time we reached the first stop. (Sorry babe won't do that again.) Thanks to Michael he had a spare that just fit Rob, a little tight but who's complaining.

Rich had split us in to two groups. Rob & I rode in the second group with Jeff as our Road Captain with Vic Tibbs as the tail gunner. We started out onto 680 in 5th position with Larry right behind us. Being a passenger sometimes has its benefits with

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having the freedom to look around without having the 1-2 second rule, seeing a lot of things that you all are unable to see if you're driving. I kept forgetting to pull out our camcorder or even the camera, I'm bad.

As we head down 680 & going over the Benicia Bridge, I look over to the right & saw the mothball fleet. These lonely floating water giants with several fishing boats around them are become fewer & fewer. I hope I'll be able to fish by them before they're all gone. I've heard that's the place to catch some large sturgeon & striped bass.

As we cruised down 680 to Herman Lake Road, a peaceful little road with golden rolling hills, deep green wine vineyards here and there. We past Herman Lake (where I never have been nor even knew it was there), a lone small fisherman in his boat was trying to get some action but I think the beautiful white crane bird with long slender neck was showing him up, as it stands at the water's edge, and spears a large fish with ease.

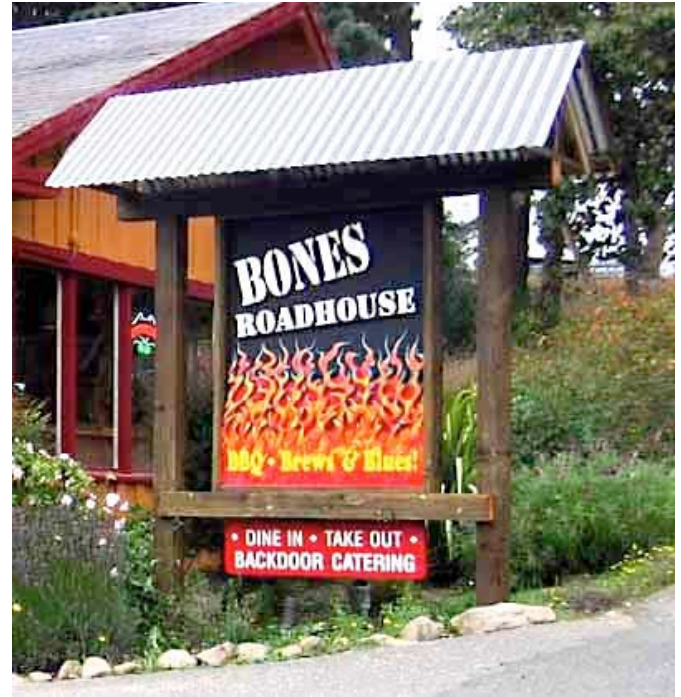
We continued. up to Hwy 37 toward Lakeville Hwy, and passed several different ranches, I saw several large groups of mini horses grazing in their pasture. They didn't even look up as our roaring group goes by; maybe they're use to the sound with speed race track (Sears Point) not far away.

By this time we're get a little glance of Mr. Sun who is still covered with foggy clouds but it quickly disappeared. As we go through Petaluma (you can pet a dog but you can't pet a lama - I know bad joke), we go on Lakeville Hwy thru some small towns & rolling valleys toward the coast. Now we're on Hwy 1 going toward our 1st gas & potty break, also a coffee break to warm up little. We go by a small harbor where I could see several sea otters playing & floating on their backs, probably cracking crabs on rocks that lay on their stomach. Boy, that's a lot of work, but it's worth it to them.

Well, we're on the road again going toward Bodega Bay, then onto Gualala and the Bones Roadhouse restaurant. The coastal road is a ride that you could never get tired of, with the crashing waves & salty air. There were several areas where I wish we could have stopped at but with our large group it's very hard to do so plus this was a

projected 10 hr. ride already. I know Rob & I will be doing this route again, maybe even bring some camping gear & crash on the beach, we have never done that before, Larry told us that he has done it several times.

There were areas in our windy route where it felt like we're in a thick wooded area, then around the bend you get a glance of the ocean with the fog rolling across the road. We finally get a break in the fog with the warm sun to greet us, as we pulled up to Gualala and the Bones Roadhouse for lunch.



Wow, the view was out of this world. The water was a teal blue with white sandy beach below us, you couldn't ask for a better place to have lunch.

It's always great to go to a place that is aware of us coming (thanks to our great people who setup these rides, you're doing a fantastic job). Everyone said that their lunch was very good, there was a wide selection from clam chowder, mac & cheese to pulled pork sandwiches & smoked ribs platters.

As we gather for a group picture with a beautiful blue sky & ocean in the background, some of us found out that we over tipped the waitress since the tip was already included on the bills 'cause of the big group. We figure she'll really remember us next time. 😊

We went back down Hwy 1 to a road that I didn't catch the name of toward Healdsburg, but I did notice that it was a main evacuation road from several signs I saw on the way up. It was a very windy 2 lane road that took you high into the very dark & thick woods. There were times it would look like we're riding thru the tops of these trees & as I looked down the sides of road, you couldn't even see where they started from.

As we took a quick stop to un-layer in dark cool shade, another passenger (Pearl) walked up, she looked a little concerned. I asked her what was up? she said that David was having a very hard time staying awake. So I gave her a 5 hr. energy drink to give to him & it really helped. We always carry those on our bike. You never know when you would need a little energy boost.

As we continued up our windy road, I glanced down a dirt road as we pass. There stands a large black tail deer with a very young fawn close by her side watching us pass by. It's great to be a passenger and be able to catch sites like that.

We started cresting the mountain when one of the guests had to pull over. The rest of us continued on to find a safe place to stop, unfortunately had to pull over mostly in the sun. As we gather in the only two shaded spots & waited to see what's up, some of us started to get over heated so I pulled out my very cold water pump mister & cooled several people off - it really helped a lot. Several carried water but a few didn't which we need to go over that again in our safety report.

We finally found out that our guest had a flat tire. Vic stayed with him until a tow truck arrived, which didn't get there for quite awhile. We were all wondering how Vic was going to get him home to Livermore; we're trying to picture Vic with this other big guy on his bike. Boy! THAT would be a sight!! ☺

As we continued down toward Healdsburg, Skaggs Spring Road took us through rich green & lush vineyards covering the hills & Sonoma valley with the Sonoma Dam in the background. As the group pulls into the last gas stop, Rich decided to call the ride there, because one-half of the gang still wanted to stop in Petaluma for ice cream, Lin could lead the remaining group back. As we sit at Cold Stone Creamery enjoying our nice cold

dessert, you could hear the stock car engines roaring in the distance.

What a way to end a great ride!

BAY AREA BACK ROADS CHAPTER RIDE

Sunday, July 24th, 2011

By Tony Johnson

This Bay Area Hills Ride today was truly a **SWEET** Ride. It left me saying was **AWESOME**.

Most of you know I am a transplant from Ft. Knox, Kentucky, new HD rider, and living in California is a dream come true, and now that I have ridden the Bay Area Hills, this just tops it off.

The Sunday Bay Area Hills Ride started out at Location #1, with Warren giving us our final warning of the awesome 4.5 twisty ride ahead.

The adventure began heading down 680 to Sunol, and Palomares, then we launched onto Redwood Rd out of Castro Valley, at that point all I could say was **weeeeeeeeee!!!!...LOL, this is fun**. We continued down, down, down, I felt that **weeeeeeee!!!!** come on again as we twist/turned into the winding roadways of Pinehurst and as we rolled into Canyon, what an awesome view that was. To only think the real fun was just about to begin though as we went up, up, up, turn, twist, a few **OMGs**, onto Skyline Blvd for some great views of the Bay. I was able to take some safe 2 second glances of the Bay as I was focusing on the up-n-coming maneuver my so called (**weee, OMG, crap!**) on the route...LOL

For sure, by now, I was well ready for lunch which was at [Fenton's Creamery](#). Their website does not do our experience any justice; portions were huge, to the point that self control had to be demonstrated, great choice.

The afternoon lead us back onto Skyline and then to Grizzly Peak Blvd (wow, wow, wow, views again) then down, down, some more **weeeeee!!!!** moments into the Valley. We went onto Hwy 24, back into the Valley and again back onto Hwy 24...LOLI (huh Cecil?) ending up in Walnut Creek. There we gassed up and gave Warren High Fives for an awesome ride.

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We had a guest on the ride - Steve a friend of Tony who had a blast. No matter what happened at the gas station Tony is still friends with Steve...(inside joke). This ride was full of twisty with some hard (1st gear) uphill, sharp turns to the left and right and a lot of **weeeeees**. All I can say, this was an **OMG!!!! ride**, way to go 186!! ☺



TIRE TRACKS

Tid Bits of Useless (?) Information
Written by "aka David"

Star Vet, Road Star Rider and all-around nice guy

DYED IN THE WOOL

The expression we use to describe someone who is set in their ways or not easily persuaded.

Last week I had food poisoning. I *know* this fun time was at the invitation of a past-its-time burger that somehow escaped the trash can of a local fast food eatery. And while I was the one who ate the burger, the responsibility for my bathroom extravaganza lies squarely on; you guessed it, the lovely and talented, Mrs. aka. Oh sure, I can hear the screams of those pundits who say this is not possible; but hear me out, and I am sure you will come to understand the workings of the "Doctrine of Responsibility".

It's really about trickle-down thinking actually - starting from the top of any situation and methodically peeling back the causes and effects of each action. For me, I got food poisoning because Mrs aka went to Chicago on vacation. Oh yes my friends, a simple vacation *can* have its unthought-of consequences, so be aware!

Here's how it worked. Mrs aka is not a fast food expert like me. She has the mistaken belief that food should be served on a plate and not a tray (Silly huh?). She does not savor the delicate flavors nor enjoy the finely tuned aromas associated with the state-of-the-art fast food available in our nation's fast food eateries. So whenever she is out of town, I go to town ☺. I hit all the local diners for a generous helping of whatever.

So, when she went to Chicago this time, I naturally began to assemble an itinerary to maximize the

away time so as to be able to hit all the usual places. I had timetables, maps and possible road construction detours all laid out to make the most out of her vacation to Chicago.

But, things don't always go as planned and that ol' bad burger found its way to my tray. By now, I'm sure you all agree that if it was not for the trip to Chicago, I would not have had food poisoning. Those who think otherwise must be dyed in the wool non-believers of the "Doctrine of Responsibility".

So where did dyed in the wool come from anyway? The best I can figure out is the phrase came into use around 1579 and is centered around the wool mills. Simply put, wool that was dyed before it was treated was more inclined to hold its color for a longer time than if it were dyed after weaving (known as "dyed in the piece"). Therefore "dyed in the wool" became a phrase applied to anything that wasn't easily altered by other processes, such as persuasion.

Anyway, that's my story and I'm sticking to it!!!

By the way, in 1938, 15 year-old William Tayton was the first person on television (as a test subject)

Safety Tips:

When is the last time anybody inspected their helmets?

[By Victor Tibbs]

Many have had them for numerous years - the internal pads are worn out, how are the locking mechanisms on the flip ups working? etc. Has the helmet been dropped? With some mfg's, you can send that helmet back (you pay shipping) and they will inspect the unit for free and/or repair, and/or recommend the new one as the integrity of the old helmet has be degraded.

The thought behind that tidbit was; we all throw dollars in chrome/paint on the bike - but what about the stuff that will actually protect us?



By Michael Kuttner



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.letssaythanks.com/Home1024.html>



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WELCOME to the VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER

(helpful links to services and organizations in support of veterans)

U.S. Department of Veterans

Affairs <http://www.va.gov>

State of California's Operation Welcome Home

<http://www.veterans.ca.gov>

California Department of Veterans

Affairs <http://www.cdva.ca.gov>

Contra Costa County Veterans Services

Office <http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/veterans/index.html>

The American Legion

<http://www.legion.org>

Wreaths Across America

<http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org>

CalVet Home Loan Center

<http://calvethomeloans.cdva.ca.gov/>

Helmets to Hardhats (job opportunities)

<http://helmetstohardhats.org/>

Hiring a Military Veteran

<http://recruitmilitary.com>

Vet Jobs

<http://vetjobs.com/>

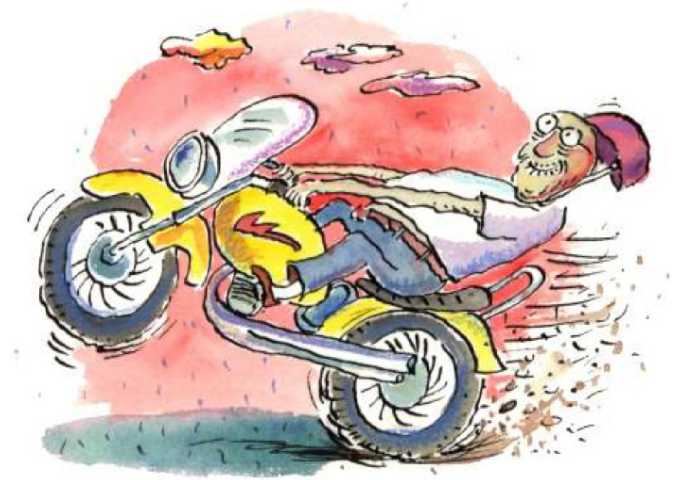
Vet Friends

<http://www.vetfriends.com/>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!!

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

3rd – Paul Schwind
4th – Rimma Darmstead
23rd – Kim Garner
24th – Joe Smart
29th – Justin Bell



CHAPTER RIDE /
EVENTS INFORMATION

Chapter Rides: 2nd Saturday / 4th Sunday

Chapter Meetings – red

September 10 Chapter Ride
September 25 Chapter Ride
September 28 Chapter Meeting

October 8th Chapter Ride
October 23rd Chapter Ride
Chapter 26th Chapter Meeting

November 12th Chapter Ride
November 16th Chapter Meeting



December 10th Chapter
Christmas Party/ and
Election of 2012 Officers

3-DAY CHAPTER RIDES:

September 16 - 18 Fort Bragg / Coast
October 22 - 24 Pismo Beach

Motorcycle Scene Management

This is taken from the Accident Scene Management Class Perry and Lone Eagle took last year. There is some good info here. A lot of it is common sense but worth reviewing.

<http://www.calsci.com/motorcycleinfo/Accidents.html>



HOP ON AND LET'S GO RIDING!!

Sharing Times And Roads



STAR Touring Mid Cal Region Chapters Ride Schedule
Projected Ride Information – Subject to Change – and / or Additions
Compiled By Victor Tibbs – Mid Cal State Ambassador
From information received to date

Please confirm information with individual Chapter's President and/or Chapter Website.

- August 6- South Stockton Chapter #192 - Mariposa for backpack ride (Gary)
- August 12 -13 Northwest BBQ – Kelso/Longview, WA – STAR TOURING REGIONAL EVENT**
Pre-Registration Deadline - [REDACTED]
- August 13 – Modesto Chapter #294 - Ride to Bass Lake
- August 13 – Contra Costa Chapter #186 - Ride to Big Basin
- August 13 – Hayward Chapter #103 - Membership BBQ
- August 13 – Monterey Chapter #161 – Big Sur / Fernwood Lunch
- August 20 – Santa Clara Chapter #209 - Annual BBQ, Mt Madonna – ALL CHAPTERS INVITED!**
- August 21- South Stockton Chapter #192 - Lake Alpine ?
- August 21 – Lodi Chapter #102 – Ride to Topaz Nevada Two Pass Ride
- August 28th – Contra Costa Chapter #186 - Ride South Sierra area

- Sept. 3- South Stockton Chapter #192 - *Ride to be determined*
- Sept. 3 – 4 – Monterey Chapter 161 – possible overnight ride and BBQ
- Sept. 10 – Contra Costa 186 - Ride – Warren's Ebbets Pass Ride
- Sept 10th – Monterey Chapter – *Ride to be determined*
- Sept. 16 – 18 Visalia Chapter #163 - Loop the Parks Ride
- Sept. 16 – 18 Hayward Chapter #103 – Lake Tahoe Weekend Ride
- Sept. 16 – 18 Contra Costa Chapter #186 – Ft. Bragg Weekend Ride
- Sept. 17th – Santa Clara Chapter #209 – Ride to Yosemite and Topaz Lake
- Sept. 17 – Modesto Chapter 294 - Ride – *TBD*
- Sept 17 / 18 – Hayward Chapter 103 - Overnight Ride to Tahoe
- Sept. 17 – Redding Chapter # 302 – Annual Poker Run
- Sept. 25th – Contra Costa Chapter #186 - Ride to Apple Hill

- Oct. 1 – South Stockton Chapter #192 – *Ride to be determined*
- Oct. 8 – Hayward Chapter #103 - Ride to Old Sacramento
- Oct. 8 – Contra Costa Chapter #186 – Ride to Nevada City
- Oct. 8th – Monterey Chapter #161 – 4 Bridges Ride
- Oct 9 – Modesto Chapter #294 - Ride – Jackson Rancheria for Breakfast
- Oct. 15 – Santa Clara Chapter #209 – Ride – Mt. Hamilton to Arlen Ness Museum in Dublin

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- Oct. 16 – Lodi Chapter #102 - Membership BBQ
- Oct. 22 – 24 Contra Costa Chapter #186 – Pismo Beach Weekend Ride
- Oct. 23rd – Contra Costa Chapter #186 – Delta Loop – Ludy's in Woodland for lunch

- Nov. 12 – Contra Costa #186 - Ride – Pony Tracks Tank / War Museum – Woodside, CA
- Nov. 12th – Monterey Chapter #161 – *Ride to be determined*
- Nov. 19th – Santa Clara Chapter #209 – Ride to Int'l Motorcycle Show
- Nov. 19th – Modesto Chapter #294 - Ride – participating and riding to Sacramento's Coats for Kids
- Nov. 20th – Lodi Chapter #102 – 50's Roadhouse Ride

2011 STAR Touring – Mid California Chapter Website and President Information:



Modesto, CA - Chapter 294

Barry Dias
209-505-1459

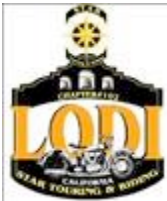
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