



FEBRUARY 2011

THE "PREZ SEZ"

First things first:

CONGRATULATIONS to Victor Tibbs,
the new Mid-Cal STAR Director

WELCOME our newest Chapter members:
Mitch Brewer
Paul Berg
Jan Sanchez

We are so fortunate to live where we can ride all year round. With the exception of a couple of weeks at the first of the year, we've had nice riding weather. A word of caution, even though we haven't had any rain for a while we still need to be careful of the road conditions. The rains have caused potholes and cracks to form in the roads and there will most likely be loose gravel in those areas too. Speaking of loose gravel, if you're riding in the twisties, be particularly careful. The past rains have caused loose rocks and mud from the hills to slide down onto the side of the road. Cars, taking corners too tight have kicked that mud and gravel onto the road. So, **be careful out there.**

Just a reminder, our **Chapter meetings have moved to the third Wednesday of the month.** We will be meeting at DVC Round Table Pizza, 85 Chilpancingo Pkwy, Pleasant Hill. Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.

Be safe.
Rich Flay
President,
Contra Costa STAR Chapter #186

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check the website calendar for further information

February 12th Monterey Chapter Ride
February 16th Chapter Meeting

AND THE MEMBERS SAID ...

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

"Polar Bear Ride; sort of"

January 9, 2011 Ride

By Ken Ayers

STAR 186 does love to ride! With no ride planned for this particular day, but with the weather clearing (or so we thought) an unscheduled ride was quickly put together. With no time for a pre-ride, we stuck to fairly familiar roads.

I left my abode at 7 a.m. on a foggy and cold Sunday morning to meet up with the other brave souls in Discovery Bay. When I left home, my bike told me the temperature was 41 degrees, but I was toasty warm in my heated gear. My route to Discovery Bay took me through Franklin Canyon on Highway 4 where the temperature dropped to 37 degrees... but hey, I was on the bike heading to meet up with friends and the roads were dry!!

Upon arrival at Discovery Bay, I was greeted by a forlorn looking Warren, who informed me that he would not be making the ride due to a flat tire that he discovered that morning. This is the third flat suffered by a member (myself included) in the last several months. So check those tires frequently for air pressure and wear! Sometimes everything looks great and they are still FLAT!

Riding in the Sticks with #186

www.star186.org

Joining me on the ride were 9 other bikes and ten friends. Luckily most of us had some heated gear, which we would put to good use. After some warm coffee and friendly discussion, we had a short pre-ride safety briefing and reviewed the planned route.

We headed east on Highway 4 through Stockton and onto our first rest stop in Copperopolis. The town looked deserted, but the gas station and store were open. It was at this stop that Michael and Samuel presented all of us with 2011 Polar Bear ride hats. What a great surprise from these two friends!

Back on the bikes we headed towards Jamestown. Not needing a stop we by-passed Jamestown and rode North on 49; a great road with some mild twisties. San Andreas was our destination with gas for the bikes and food for our tummies! We gassed up first and then crossed the street to enjoy a warm lunch at the Country Cliffs. The place was warm, the food good, and the conversations fun and informing.

The radio chatter and talk during our stops off times related to the weather and as to whether we would ever see the sun as promised by those wise weather people! Let's just say that there was NO sun in the morning and 41 degrees was the high thus far!

Following lunch, we emerged back towards the bikes to find a mutiny of sorts on the rise! Five riders (four bikes) were talking of heading directly back to the bay area. There was talk of football games to watch, sausage to buy, but we all knew it was the weather that was driving this group of "wimps" to desert the remainder of the group. After calling them "wimps" as they headed out, they were appropriately renamed "Wieners" by one of their own (thanks Marguerite, lol).

As the "Wieners" headed home, the "Brave Ones" (named by this author) mounted their steeds and headed up Mountain Road for a wonderful ride on lots of twisties. On through West Point and onto lone where we stopped for gas before heading across the valley on Twin Cities Rd and back to the delta. At some point along this way, we finally got to see the sun for a short while!

We ended the ride at Rio Vista with most of the "Brave Ones" heading back on Highway 160

towards their homes, while I headed across Highway 12 to sunny Marin County and home.

All in all we had a fun day with good people and learned that we could deal with the low temperatures and still have a great time. No snow was found, but we really weren't looking for it. We just wanted to ride and share the day with good friends.

EASY RIDER BIKE SHOW

Saturday, January 15th, 2011

By Pauline Carlton

Riding with the Napa Chapter, Mike Prawicki joined us and making 6 people going up to the Sacramento Convention Center to the EASY RIDER BIKE SHOW. Dense, heavy fog made the ride pretty chilly, and with no heated gear, I was thankful when we rolled in.

Me and about 1,000 other people inside the building enjoyed the custom bikes, some that had been judged, while others were just on display. Lin and I checked out ALL of the vendors, some of them twice. ☺ The food line was WAY too long for me to do anymore standing, and opted to wait until I got home for something to eat.

My main reason for going through the freezing temperatures was Charlie Hannum aka "Jax" from the series **SONS OF ANARCHY** who was going to be signing autographs. 200 women standing in line, with an anticipated 2 hour wait? Naw ... I did get fairly close to see his body language while talking with some sweet young thing and all I kept thinking was (1) he looks like a really nice guy, and (2) I wouldn't want to be him.

2-1/2 hours later, we're leaving Sacramento and encountering the same riding conditions as we did before. ☹ It's a miserable trip, but yeah, I'm glad I went. I ran into friends that I hadn't seen in a while, was in good company, and the bike show is always entertaining.

Check out Mr. Wiki's Photo Show to see the bikes that you missed: <http://bit.ly/eRKd9U>

MISSOURI ... is the birthplace of
the ice cream cone. ☺

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TIRE TRACKS

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

MUMBO JUMBO

The expression we use to describe words that seem to have no discernable meaning.

One of the things about getting older is that there are more and more crazy things materializing before my eyes. I try to find the meaning in texting while driving, crazy drivers, people buying Harleys, and new names for local athletic venues. (Power Band Pavilion....really? Sounds like some unnatural reincarnation of the Grateful Dead!) Of particular interest are procedural manuals. I recently began work at a new job. They have procedure manuals that require procedure manuals just to get the info. I opened one of these masterpieces the other day and it was a full two hours before I regained consciousness. It was all Mumbo Jumbo to me! Hmmm...so where did Mumbo Jumbo come from exactly?

Well it seems we have to take the Way-Back Machine to the 18th Century (that's the 1700's) to figure this one out. It just so happens that a bloke named Francis Moore wrote a book about his travels to inner Africa. It was tough going in those days and he went although there were no Range Rovers in which to motorvate* around the bush. His book was called *Inland Parts Of Africa*, it was published in 1738. In one part of the book he recounts tales of a dreadful fear that African women had of Mumbo Jumbo. Mumbo Jumbo was a legendary spirit that frequented local villages. Women were scared to death of the ol' guy. It was actually a myth that male tribal members used to keep the females in line. (So where is ol' Mumbo Jumbo when you need him?) Anyway, males back then had several wives and when they took to fightin' and it got out of hand, the husband would dress up as Mumbo Jumbo and visit the main

trouble maker in the dead of night. He would scare the bejeebies out of her by screaming and yelling. Then he would take her to the nearest tree and give her the beating she richly deserved. The ol' Mumbo Jumbo was not someone to be messed with. The term traveled back to England and quickly caught on to mean words shouted that did not make sense. Now, we just look at procedural manuals and scream and yell...just like ol' Mumbo Jumbo.

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

Until next time ...

aka DAVID

*Compliments of Chuck Berry's, Maybelline circa, 1956

KEEP THE SHINY SIDE UP!

Safety Tips/Tech Talk

This is your section to share "techie" stuff

SAFETY TIPS:

HUGE California Traffic Ticket Fines

Effective 01/06/2011

Please be extremely careful in your driving, car registration & insurance matters, and be extra careful in your driving habits. The information below does not take into consideration any possible increase in one's personal vehicle insurance rates (for three years).

For example: Effective immediately, if you do not stop at the red light, be ready to pay \$436 in fines or if you pass a school bus with flashing red signals, you will be charged \$616. Be aware of radar guns, highway and traffic cameras installed everywhere and the tougher enforcement of parking rules.

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Park in the handicapped zone, even for a minute, even the unnecessary ridiculous ones, and risk almost \$ 1000 in parking tickets.

Traffic Ticket Fines

VC 12814.6 \$214 Failure to obey license provisions.

VC 14600(A) \$214 Failure to notify DMV of address change within 10 days
Note: The fine may be reduced with valid proof of correction.

VC 16028(A) \$796 Failure to provide evidence of financial responsibility (insurance) Note: This fine may be reduced with proof of insurance on or after the violation date.

VC 21453(A) \$436 Failure to stop at a red signal.

VC 22349 \$214 Unsafe speed, 1 to 15 miles over the limit.

VC 22350 \$328 Unsafe speed, 16 to 25 miles over the limit.

VC 22450 \$214 Failure to stop at a stop sign.

VC 22454(A) \$616 Passing a school bus with flashing red signals.

VC 23123(A) \$148 Driving while using a wireless phone not hands free, first offense .

VC 23123(B) \$256 Driving while using a wireless phone not hands free, each subsequent offense.

VC 23123.5 \$148 Driving while using a wireless device to send, read or write text.

VC 23124 \$148 Minor driving while using a wireless phone.

VC 22500 \$976 Parking in a bus loading area.

VC 22507(A) \$976 Violation of disabled parking provisions, first offense.

VC 22507(B) \$1876 Violation of disabled parking provisions, second offense.

VC 26708 \$178 Unlawful material on vehicle windows.

VC 27150 \$178 Adequate muffler required.

VC 27315 \$148 Mandatory use of seat belts.

VC 27360 \$436 Mandatory use of passenger child restraints. Note: This fine may be reduced by completing a court authorized child seat diversion program

VC 27400 \$178 Headsets or Earplugs covering both ears.

VC 27803 \$178 Violation of motorcycle safety helmet requirements.

VC 34506 \$616 Commercial Driver - Log book violation.

VC 4000 \$256 No evidence of current registration. Note: The fine may be reduced with valid proof of correction.

VC 4159 \$178 Notify DMV of change of address within 10 days. Note: The fine may be reduced with valid proof of correction.

VC 5200 \$178 Proper display of license plates. Note: The fine may be reduced with valid proof of correction.

**VC 9400 \$178 Commercial
weight fees due.**



OTHER SAFETY INFORMATION

Has it been a while since you took your driving test?

1. When you see this orange sign, what is it telling you?



- a. End of the construction zone
- b. Flagger ahead
- c. Pull over
- d. 15 yard penalty, repeat first down

The answer is B. There is a flagger ahead which will provide temporary instructions through a construction zone or work area. You should be prepared to slow down, or stop. When it is safe to resume the normal speed and traffic pattern, a sign such as "End Road Work" will be seen.

2. When following a large truck on a highway, you should:

- a. Go green! Cut down on wind resistance and draft behind it.
- b. Pretend you're racing in the Daytona 500 and draft behind it so you can both go faster.

- c. Pass immediately and give the driver the 'honk' sign.
- d. Maintain a safe distance behind the truck, or pass at a safe speed.

The answer is D. Remember that trucks also need to see you, so maintain a safe distance behind them so that you can see their mirrors. When safe, pass the truck on the left and only move back over when you can see its headlights in your rear view mirror.

3. Which of the following "animal crossing" signs exist in the U.S.?

- a. Panther Crossing
- b. Duck Crossing
- c. Deer Crossing
- d. All of the above



The answer is D. You've probably run into deer and duck warning/crossing signs before. But yes, "Panther Crossing" signs also exist in the Florida Everglades in an effort to protect the endangered mammals from vehicle collisions. It is estimated that less than 100 panthers remain in South Florida.

4. When you see this type of chevron signs, what should you do?



- a. Yield to oncoming traffic
- b. Merge into one lane
- c. Prepare for a sharp curve
- d. Exit immediately for fast food

The answer is C. Chevron signs warn of a sharp curve in the road. You should adopt a safe speed and take the curve in the direction they are pointing.

5. What does this sign indicate?



- a. Hospital
- b. Hotel
- c. Highway

d. Helicopter pad

The answer is A. Hopefully you aren't following this sign too often. This blue informational sign indicates a hospital ahead.

6. Which states have the highest posted speed limits?

- a. Nevada and Oklahoma
- b. Utah and Texas
- c. Montana and Nebraska
- d. What is this, the Autobahn?

The answer is B. On some specified segments of road, both Utah and Texas have posted speed limits of 80 miles per hour for passenger cars and light trucks. Texas and Montana are the only states that also have lower speed limits at night.

7. In which of the following places do cars drive on the left side of the road?

- a. Sweden
- b. Bermuda
- c. Switzerland
- d. Iceland

The answer is B. Bermuda is a British territory, and with that comes their traffic laws. Bermuda moves on the left side of the road, and roads are often quite narrow, so be extra careful if you're traveling on the island.

8. Stop signs with a white border around them are optional to stop at.

- a. True
- b. False

The answer is B. False! All stop signs are mandatory. Some older stop signs may not have the white border, but it still requires you to stop.

9. What kind of road is indicated by this type of sign?



- a. State route
- b. Turnpike
- c. Intrastate
- d. Interstate

The answer is D. The red, white and blue shield indicate the trademarked sign for the Interstate Highway System. Interstate business loops may also use a special version of the shield in green.

10. What does this sign found prior to an intersection mean?



- a. A picture can be taken of your license plate if you go through a red light, and you could receive a fine in the mail.
- b. The light has a sensor that will turn green only when it senses a car is waiting.
- c. The red light has a strobe light to alert you to stop.
- d. It is mandatory that you stop to take a picture of the red light.

The answer is A. When you see this sign, be warned that if you enter the intersection after the light has turned red, a camera will take a picture of your car and license plate in the intersection. You may receive these photos in the mail along with a fine and, in some states, points on your record.

TECH TALK

This is your section to share "tech" stuff

INTERCOM AIR NOISE

Our J&M microphone is one-sided. I found out by taking off the foam cover. We have a open faced helmet and I've noticed there is a lot of "air-noise" while talking to my co-rider or on the CB radio. But, when I put a finger over 1/2 of the microphone the "air-noise" stopped. I've found a company that makes a "**Windsock Wind Deflector**" It's a highly durable cover that is easily slipped over your microphone foam to deflect the wind away from your microphone intercom system. You can even tweak it some more by turning the cover so that the one sided microphone is being covered more by the cover. All I know is that it works. They have a website <http://www.windsockwinddeflector.com/> Check out Lisa & Tom's website. They have all the sizes and it's better than electrical tape!

1 1/8"
X
1 3/4"
Item #WD 30



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.letsaythanks.com/Home1024.html>

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Eagles UP is proud to announce their new partnership with the job search website JobsMyWay.com.

While the site is open to ALL, civilians included, Jobs My Way will be offering their premium job placement services to all transitioning military members, their spouses and support personnel free of charge. Clarification - the service is free to

Op Mom, Blue Star and Gold Star immediate families. This is a fantastic program - please take advantage of this free service. **The cost for other civilians is \$35.00 per month.**

Jobs My Way is not your typical website for job searches, it offers a full array of complimentary items that make your job search much more targeted and is focused on getting you the job that you truly desire and are qualified for. Take a few moments to view the video linked below and sign up for JobsMyWay now.

Please join us in welcoming Jobs My Way to the Eagles UP family!



We Salute all The Brave Men and Women of The Military... Thank you from JobsMyWay.com! Now Let Us Help You Get A Job...

Dear Military Veterans, Spouses and Support Personnel.

We have made a Commitment in Helping Each and Every One of You Brave Men and Women with The Tools You need to Transfer Your Military Skills into a Civilian Career.

Please Click on the "Video Link" Phrase Below that will take you to one of our Partner Sites and we have Posted a Video of Why You should use The FREE JobsMyWay.com Military Account to Help You Transition into The Civilian Sector.

**"VIDEO LINK"
(CLICK HERE)**

Please feel free to Contact Us at anytime and we will get Back to You Immediately

Live247@JobsMyWay.com
A 501(c)(3) Organization
(201) 803-1374

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www.star186.org

Elyse A.

Buongiorno

Eagles UP!
Executive Director
www.eaglesup.us
www.jobsmyway.com

MISSION STATEMENT

- * *To Serve, Support and Assist our active duty military personnel and their families,*
- * *To Serve, Support and Assist our wounded and fallen heroes and their families,*
- * *To Serve, Support and Assist our veterans of all wars and conflicts,*
- * *To actively engage the community with activities that foster better understanding of our active duty military, veterans and wounded and that honor the fallen*

Net Disability Exclusion per the Internal Revenue Code 1.122-1 (for Veterans)

Check it out at:

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!!

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

6th – Lin Tomy
9th – Cecil Adams
15th – Jerry Ferrasci

**CHAPTER RIDE /
EVENTS INFORMATION**

Chapter Rides: 2nd Saturday / 4th Sunday

Chapter Meetings – red

3/12/11 Stonyford / Buttes
3/27/11
4/9/11
4/24/11
5/14/11
5/22/11
6/3-5/11 HIGH SIERRA STAR-B-Q
6/11/11
6/26/11
7/9/11
7/24/11
8/13/11
8/28/11
9/10/11
9/25/11
10/8/11
10/23/11
11/12/11
12/10/11 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, March 13th, 2011 Daylight savings time begins

SOUTHWEST STAR-B-Q March 25-26, 2011
Deadline to pre-register is 2/28/2011.

<http://www.venturastartouring.com/starbq.html>
With this link, you can register online (for the event – you need to contact the hotel directly for the room). I just tried this – it is a little confusing on this site, but the good thing it is available for those who like “shopping” on line.

The attached form has the hotel info and event registration form. Note, for the hotel, the hotel website indicates that they charge \$10.00 per day for parking. This is their standard rate and it DOES NOT APPLY to attendees of this event. Parking for the STAR-B-Q is complimentary.

Sunday, November 6th, 2011 Daylight savings time ends

