



JANUARY 2011

THE "PREZ SEZ"

It's January already and this is my first "PREZ SEZ". ☺ Before I do anything else, I want to thank Victor for serving as our President for the past three years. **THANK YOU** for your insight, inspiration, creativity, and most of all, your leadership. I would also like to thank Larry for coming on board as Vice President, and Jerry for helping as the Treasurer. Thank you both for those three years of service.

Your new officer team will consist of, myself as President and Ken Ayers as Vice President, Jeff Bracket (Sergeant At Arms), Michael Smith (Treasurer), Robin Flay (Secretary) and Sam Israel (Webmaster). I thank you for volunteering, and I look forward to working with you this coming year. Ken will also be over seeing the ride team next year.

If anyone has ideas for rides and / or other activities, please let us know. We are always open to any and all suggestions.

Starting this month the Rotating Wheel will have a new column call "Tire Tracks". Written by "aka Dave", (David Adkins) from the Sacramento Chapter, he'll be sharing "Tid Bits of Useless (?) Information". This is going to be a fun addition to our news letter. **Thanks Dave.**

We are having the Charter reading and signing on January 8th at 12:00 P.M. We will be meeting at **DVC Round Table Pizza**, 85 Chilpancingo Pkwy Pleasant Hill, California Phone: (925) 798-3355. It's next to the Kmart right by start location #1. If you are going to eat, please get there early to order your food.

There will be a schedule change for January.

- **January 8th** is the **Charter signing** and monthly **Chapter meeting**.
- **January 22nd** will be the Chapter ride.
- Starting in February the monthly members Chapter meeting will be held on the **3rd Wednesday** of the month (not the 4th), and we will resume our normal ride schedule.

I'm excited about 2011 and looking forward to see everyone on January 8th.

Be Safe,

Rich Flay
President,
Contra Costa STAR Chapter #186
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check the website calendar for further information

**** 2011 ****

CHAPTER RIDE / EVENTS INFORMATION

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

January 8th Charter Signing/Chapter Meeting
January 22nd Chapter Ride

AND THE MEMBERS SAID ...

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

CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY Saturday, December 11th, 2010

Check out Dominic's Photo Show:
<http://picasaweb.google.com/118213681509982593469>

Victor's Last Ride **Sunday, December 12th, 2010** *By Dave McNamar*

At the Christmas party Saturday evening, Victor announced he was putting together an unofficial ride for our group and everyone was invited. He said to be at the meeting location #1 at 10:00.

Upon my arrival at the Shell station, I was surprised at how many people showed up. It looked like 15 bikes and one passenger. Victor did a brief pre-ride meeting, appointed Bob Bridges as tail gunner, and Cecil as the broom wagon. Kick stands were up by 10:30.

We began by going north 680 and before we got to the toll bridge, someone asked on the radio, does everybody have fast track? We assumed so and flew on through. We went on up through Vallejo, went through town, and caught 37 west. We followed that up to Sears Point. We turned off on 121 and headed on up towards Sonoma, stopping for an unplanned gas stop at which no one got gas, but other facilities were helpful.

We then loaded up and Victor fired up his GPS and we were off roaming through town doing elongated u turns at which many commented how nice this town is and how it might be a nice place to live. We then headed north onto highway 12 up to Calistoga Road and took a right onto Petrified Forest Road and wound our way down to Calistoga.

We had a great lunch at Buster's BBQ. As we were getting close, we must have been hungry as everyone's comments on the radio had something to do with food.

After a great lunch and some good conversation we headed south on the Silverado Trail down to Napa. For me, that was one of the most enjoyable parts of the ride. The sun was breaking through the clouds off to the west and you could see the sun rays coming through. The weather was great and it was an awesome time to be riding.

With Victor at lead, no ride would be complete without stopping for ice cream. I thought everyone was joking when they talked about organic ice cream, but it was real. This ice cream shop in Napa

at the Oxbow Market was a great place to stop. They also had a coffee shop and some places to sit around and visit. I personally, enjoyed listening to Bob Bridges stories about some of his adventures riding motorcycles and snow mobiles with his Dad when we were all a bit younger. We then took photos and everyone said goodbyes, loaded up and headed for home going south down to 12 to Cordelia, then south on 680 and home we went.

I think this ride was a good example of what Victor has done for the past three years. He has put together a group of people and a team that has provided enjoyable and safe rides for everyone to enjoy. He has also provided an environment where friendships and relationships can begin and grow. And let us not forget he has given us all a better appreciation of the word, "ice cream".

Dominic said: *Riding is the time machine that can turn back the time and keep you young.* ☺

New DMV laws for 2011

(Contributed by Lone Eagle)

SACRAMENTO, CA - Drivers under 21 who want a permit for a motorcycle will need to complete a safety course under a new law announced by the Department of Motor Vehicles Wednesday.

This new law means that anyone, younger than 21, will have to complete a motorcycle safety course before they can get a permit to practice driving a motorcycle. They'll need to have the permit for six months before they'll be issued a class M motorcycle driver license.

Other laws that take effect January 2 and announced by the DMV include:

- **Traffic Violator School Program**: Drivers with traffic violations will be able to take court-approved courses online and at home in addition to going to traditional classrooms. This law will take three years to implement.

- **High-Occupancy Vehicle Lanes**: Instead of expiring on January 1, 2011, the "sunset" date for hybrid vehicles with yellow stickers will expire on July 1, 2011. Those with white stickers (on electric and compressed natural gas vehicles) will expire on January 1, 2015. A third sticker will be created for

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plug-in hybrids. It will be valid from January 1, 2012 until January 1, 2015.

Laws that take effect July 1 or later include:

- **Organ donation:** The application for a driver's license will include a "no" option when asking whether an applicant wants to register as a possible organ donor, and applicants will have to answer with either a yes or a no in the organ donation registration field.

- **Local traffic ordinances:** Local authorities will not be able to enact or enforce a local ordinance on a matter covered by the California Vehicle Code. The new law is an effort to ensure that traffic convictions are properly recorded by the DMV.

- **Driving Under the Influence:** Starting January 1, 2012, drivers convicted of a third or subsequent DUI violation could lose their licenses for 10 years. Reinstatement will be possible after five years if specific conditions are met.



TIRE TRACKS

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

Sacramento STAR Chapter #153 Member

Blackmail

The term is used to describe a situation in which someone demands money or services by threatening to expose secrets.

Okay, kill me now, 'cause I know I've lived too long. So put your boots on your highway bars, steady on the throttle and ease back as you hear this load of rocks. I thought I was gonna make it through the Holiday season without getting my chaps chaffed. Well, wrong again!

It was a day or two before Christmas and I was cruising; I had my shopping done, the house was clean and I was sitting in my favorite chair enjoying my morning coffee and reading the paper. YIKES! There it was, an article so bizarre I knew that I surely must have out-lived my ability to cope. It seems that some Psychologist has published a scholarly work saying that children are now

suffering psychological damage by being told that Santa Claus "sees you when you're sleeping, and he knows when you're awake." It seems the issue is that the little darlins' are having *privacy* issues! They feel as though they have no private time because they are being spied upon by that 'ol rogue himself, St Nick. Our replacement generation is feeling extorted to behave by misguided parents so we must stop this form of psychological blackmail to get the buggers to behave. Now, I don't know about you, but blackmail is an essential part of my arsenal and you can pry it from my cold dead fingers!

But to the real issue...where did the term "blackmail" come from?

It seems that this one comes from the Highlands of Scotland sometime in the 1600's. The old Scottish word for rent is "mail".(This is the *mail* part of blackmail) It is written that tenants paid their rent then in silver coins known as *white money*. But also in this time, the Highland clan chiefs began a protection racket. They would demand money from farmers and travelers for protection against other clans. This additional rent or mail, soon began to be called Black rent or Blackmail.(Get it?...black is the opposite of white). In the 1900s, the practice of demanding money not to divulge somebody's secret was established and the term 'blackmail' was extended to describe this. Say it ain't so, Santa!

Anyway, that's my story and I'm stickin' to it.

KEEP THE SHINY SIDE UP!

SAFETY TIPS



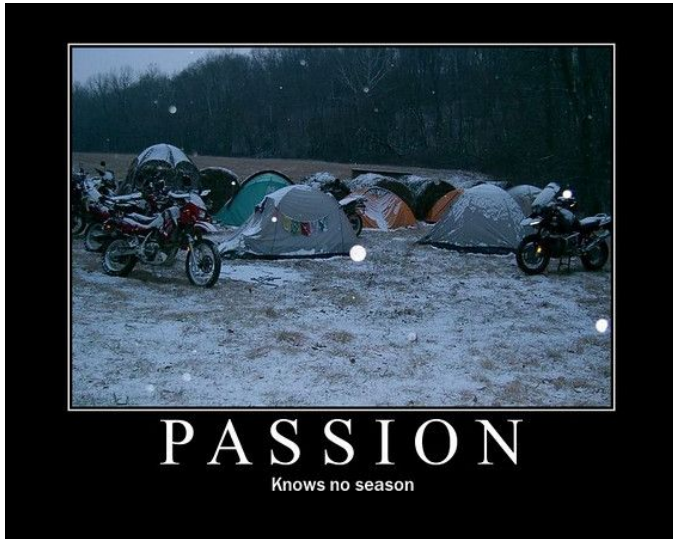
Motorcycle Security

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Submitted by Mike Prawiki

<http://prawicki.com/wordpress/3043>



TECH TALK

This is your section to share "tech" stuff

Lone Eagle found this on WebBike World – very interesting concept and article.

<http://www.webbikeworld.com/r3/motorcycle-battery-charger/solar-battery-charger/pulsetech-solar-battery-charger.htm>

BATTERY MAINTENANCE

With the cold weather here most of us won't be riding as much. The cold can have an adverse affect on your battery. Even a good battery if left uncharged in the cold for a couple of weeks can lose enough power to make difficult to start your bike. There's nothing worse than to get all geared up and ready to go and your bike won't start because of a low battery. A battery maintainer will keep your motorcycle battery charged and ready to go. They're not very expensive, and they're easy to install. Well worth the money.

It's also a good opportunity to do maintenance on your bike. Changing the oil and filter, changing the final drive oil, examine the drive belt and check the tension. Check the air filter and clean/ replace if necessary and check/change the coolant.

Be sure to check your tire wear. If your tire tread is getting thin (less than 2/32) replace them.

Run your hand along the tire, if you feel cupping or see any unusual wear you should have a mechanic or tire specialist take a look to find the problem. And always maintain proper air pressure (as stated by the manufacturer on the side of the tire). I run 34-36 psi in my tires.

This is also a good time to check as many nuts, bolts and screws as you can get to. They seem to have a way of coming loose on the own so I grab a Phillips head screw driver, Allen wrenches and socket set and check to make sure everything is tight.

If you don't do your own maintenance, this is a good time of year to take your bike to the dealer. It's their slow time of year so they will most likely be able to get you in and out quickly. Some shops even run specials this time of year. Be Safe,

Rich Flay



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:

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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>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!!

1st – Kathy Smart
22nd – Mark Ferguson
26th – Michael Kuttner

OTHER EVENT(S) INFORMATION

Sunday, March 13th, 2011 **Daylight savings
time begins**

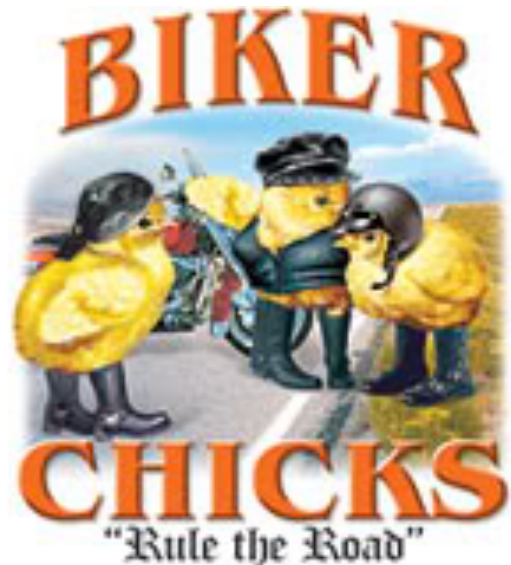
SOUTHWEST STAR-B-Q March 25-26, 2011
Deadline to pre-register is 2/28/2011.

<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**



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