



**CHAPTER 186 Contra Costa, CA**  
Star Touring & Riding Association

THE ROTATING WHEEL

**MARCH 2011**

**THE "PREZ SEZ"**

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our newest  
United States Citizens  
Dave and Juliee

After coming down from Canada 10 years ago, these original charter members were sworn in on Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. ☺

So you want to ride every weekend but our Chapter doesn't offer a ride every weekend. You like the way our Chapter rides and would like to ride with others that have similar a riding style but don't know where to find them.

The answer to this dilemma can now be found here in the Rotating Wheel, courtesy of Victor Tibbs, our Mid Cal State Regional Director. He has put together a list of all the rides for each Chapter in the Mid Cal Region. This information can be found in a new section called, **HOP ON AND LET'S GO RIDING!!** (*It's at the very back of the newsletter for easier access to find it.*)

So when you're looking for someone to ride with when our Chapter doesn't have a ride, or you'd just like to make some new friends, check out our sister Chapters.

Be Safe.

RICH FLAY  
President

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Check the website calendar for further information

**\*\* 2011 \*\***

**CHAPTER RIDE /  
EVENTS INFORMATION**

Chapter Rides: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday / 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

**Chapter Meetings – red**

**March 12<sup>th</sup>** Chapter Ride (Stonyford/Buttes)  
**March 16<sup>th</sup>** **CHAPTER MEETING**  
**March 27<sup>th</sup>** Chapter Ride (Filoli Gardens)

**AND THE MEMBERS SAID ...**

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

**January 22<sup>nd</sup> Chapter Ride**

*By Ed Carreno*

It is very chilly (37°!) this early (7:30am!, that's early for me as I am up until at least 1 am if not 2am or 3am more often) as I ride out to the early (8:30 am in Jan?) ride start (Oakley) for the first ride of the calendar year.

I have trouble starting the bike, it is so cold, but with my trusty battery charger, it's enough to get it going so I'm not too late. Oh but wait, my son Alejandro (3-1/2) woke up as he undoubtedly "felt" me going somewhere. He is sick and so I gave him some medicine and laid him in my bed next to mommy, who is sleeping right through his talking (you know, a toddler, the one with two volumes as most toddlers, loud and "shh, that's too loud") **WITHOUT** Judy waking up or becoming disturbed. So now I'm actually late, but thanks to light traffic

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

and an accelerated rate (no, I won't call it speeding), I made it by 8:00am.

I'm fueled up and parked like a good Chapter member. I say hello to a few others as I head straight to Michael to make sure I don't forget to pay our dues for the year. No sooner than the hello is out of the mouth that Michael is quick to remind me, "You owe your dues!". Yes Michael, that's why I came to find you. He reminds me that he can take cash, check or card. I have cash I say but shared with him that I actually ordered the same credit card system he had for my business and was eager to see how it worked out. At the same time Robin collects my signature for sign-in and verifies my Fastrack usage ability. After a few more hellos, I was off to get breakfast!

I order a simple breakfast sandwich and a coffee because it's cold! On my way out I notice the troops are already having the ride meeting. I check the time and it is only 8:25am but nevertheless they're talking so I head over to listen, maybe it's just some announcements.

Turns out it's the ride meeting so I pay attention and eat my breakfast quickly. Unfortunately by the time I get to the coffee, the meeting is over and at 8:40am, Ken announces "Saddle Up!". I asked if we were leaving already? He says "no not yet, go ahead". I take a few more sips of the coffee I was looking forward to and throw the rest out as I go inside to use the restroom. When I come out I find almost everyone lined up and ready to go. Oh no, I hurry up and get going, but I haven't plugged in my radio which is in my trunk and turned out to not be working once I tried it, let alone bundled up. Nevertheless I'm ready by 8:55am, in line and we ride off for our 9:00am start?

We had several bikes, 20 something I think, so we broke into two groups. I was in the back group led by Rich and Tail Gunned by Victor, in front of Cecil of course. We rode over the Antioch Bridge and out through the Delta, to West Sacramento and our first rest stop - a short break for restrooms, coffee and to thaw my fingers. It did warm up actually a little so it wasn't so bad.

Soon we were off again headed north to Knights Landing for lunch at a Mexican restaurant called Las Maracas. We filled up the place with our group. A couple folding tables had been placed in the center of the restaurant. Still we needed to use

some tables and even the counter. That's where I ended up sitting with Sam and Michael. Last to sit down actually and last to order, but somehow the first to get food somehow. We were last to get chips and salsa though, strange huh? A strange thing though, I think I ate my receipt because after turning around to speak to those sitting at the table (this is where BTW Pauline says to me, "so I think you can do the write up" "ahhhh ok?" I said) and then turning back, it was missing. Since I was not required to pay the bill, I can only assume that no receipt, no bill, no pay. Thanks secret Mexican fairy.

Since we were all finishing our food at different times, after all a mom and daughter can only cook 100 items just so quickly, a few riders decided to ride down the road to the gas stop, Chevron. It was theoretically only a couple miles from what I remember someone saying, so I thought I'd go too. About 5 miles down the road and past a highway interchange that made me nervous as to whether I chose the correct direction or not, I found that on this long, straight road for which I could see for miles that I had no view of this Chevron. I decided I should turn back immediately as it was probably the other way and hopefully I could get back before everyone else left. You see everyone was getting ready to go when I left. I might be headed home all by myself now.

Well it turns out that they were all still there, not quite ready yet and the Chevron was not a couple miles away, it was 12 to 14 miles away.

We headed out. I did pick the right way by the way. We rode west across the Valley Flatlands thru Winters and out to the South end of Lake Berryessa. The next rest stop was at a convenience store / restaurant / bar that I have stopped many times on rides to Berryessa with 186 and "my" Chapter over the years.

Then it was off to Cordelia, via Wooden Valley Rd to our ride's end, at a Starbucks of course. Thank goodness, because yes, it was still cold, although I have to say, I never did buy a coffee. Turns out I was torn between leaving right away and staying for coffee. I wanted to sit, relax, talk and warm up but I also knew I needed to get home to Judy and Alejo. It was getting late and that means I need to be home for dinner, probably cook it so I didn't really have much time. I ended up just staying to talk a little before I headed home.

A good day, a fun ride a great group of people and everyone stayed safe. What more could you ask for?

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## **February 12<sup>th</sup> Chapter Ride**

*By Mitch Brewer*

Today's adventure presented by Victor Tibbs, past President of Star 186 and current Mid Cal Director, starts at 8:00 a.m., Location #1. The day's itinerary is laid out by Victor who breaks the 22 bikes into two groups. Group one is lead by Victor with Jeff as tail gunner. Group Two is lead by Rich with Bob as tail gunner.

We traveled down 680 to Crow Canyon Road, nice country winding two-lane road. We follow Crow Canyon to the San Mateo Bridge, then Highway 92 to Half Moon Bay. Stopping for fuel at a Chevron station, everyone gets first indication that we have arrived at the Pacific Ocean. Regrouped and traveled down Hwy 1 about 30 miles to a rest stop that has beautiful vistas of ocean and beach. We continued down the Coast Highway, possibly the most entertaining road in American to Santa Cruz, then inland to Watsonville and ending at Monterey for lunch.

Lunch is at the London Bridge Pub, excellent food, overwhelmed staff with a bus load (us) all at once causing some delay in being served. Paid parking at the wharf had the park ranger salivating in hopes of issuing some parking tickets. Lucky for all of us that Mike had a roll of quarters (I've gone to Reno with less); no tickets were issued.

After lunch everyone walked on the peer, enjoyed the amazing sand beach and perfect weather. Ideal motorcycle weather had most of us ridding ourselves of the winter riding gear.

Traveling across town to our fuel stop before heading home gave us our first casualty of the day. Somehow, we lost contact with Larry and were unable to reconnect before heading out of town (now I know the value of CB radio communication). Road along Highway 68 and some country roads I had never been on, over to Hwy 101. Followed 101 to King City for final fuel stop at which point Victor called the ride. Victor heard from Larry, everything was okay, and on the Coast Highway.

Special thanks to Victor, Jeff, Rich and Bob for making it a most enjoyable, safe day on the bikes.

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

Check out Dominic's Photo Show at <http://cid-21513777ee514589.photos.live.com/play.aspx/2-12-2011>  
*Ride?Bsrc=EMSHOO&Bpub=SN.Notifications:*

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## **SMARTPHONES**

(submitted by Lone Eagle)

*This link may still work for this article. Many folks in the Chapter have smart phones – and at least for me, I found this article very interesting. Thought I might share – if the link is still active.*

[http://money.cnn.com/2011/01/11/pf/smartphone\\_dangers/](http://money.cnn.com/2011/01/11/pf/smartphone_dangers/)

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## **The Must Have Affordable Motorcycle Gadget for Everyone**

(submitted by Lone Eagle)

I actually saw one of these, and low and behold, in the latest issue of Motorcycle Consumer News – this gadget is the Innovation of the Month. Introducing the Moto-Hanger.

Small enough to be carried in a pants pocket, strong enough to hold something up to 15 lbs, this little gadget solves the question: where am I going to stash my purse / helmet / tank bag, whatever while I am eating at the restaurant, stopped for the night at the motel, whatever / whenever?

The most logical answer – at your table, on the shelf above the coat rack, etc. At \$12.95, you can't go wrong with one of these, get one, you just might get hooked – LOL! For more information, go to [www.motorcycle-gadgets.com](http://www.motorcycle-gadgets.com)



## **TIRE TRACKS**

Tid Bits of Useless (?) Information

*Written by "aka David"*

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## **DEAD RINGER**

The expression we use to describe someone who looks just like someone else.

So here I am, in the doghouse.... again. I'm sure this has happened to everyone more than once. Here's my story. I was at the mall (which in itself was quite a feat), minding my own business. Well not just mine, but my wife Deborah's too. We were shopping for, of all things, those little felt pads that go under furniture so you don't scratch the floor. Deborah likes to put them under everything so she can move the furniture around to try and trick me into thinking I've come home after a ride to the wrong house. But I'm too smart for her tricks! Anyway, so I'm drifting around the shop when I found this nifty little item, I was trying to figure out exactly what it was, and caught Deborah out of the corner of my eye. I put my arm around her and said, "Don't you just love this"? Well, to my horror she screamed, "Not really"! Well, apparently,... and here is the funny part, the lady in my embrace was not Deborah at all. Now you can imagine how funny Deborah thought that was when she came around the corner and found me with my arm around...Madame X. My plea that my new friend was a dead ringer for Deborah fell on deaf ears. But dead ringer, where did that come from? As the hours turned into days in Fido's abode, I had plenty of time to think on it.

Well it seems that in the olden days medicine was not as accurate as today. The notion of someone in a coma was unheard of. Upon exhuming coffins, folks back then would find the inhabitant would have worn their fingers to the bone, scratching at the lids to escape. As you can imagine, this horrified people. So in response, prior to burial, the presumed dead were outfitted with a string around their wrist that was attached to a bell. If the "dead" were to awake, they only had to move their hand, sounding the bell, and thus be rescued. There were in fact many cases where this actually did happen and people were un-buried, and they went on to lead normal lives. Later, while on the street when shocked people would see someone who looked just like "John Doe", they would cry out, "Hey I thought John Doe was dead." To which they would receive the reply, "Yes, he must be a dead ringer."

Anyway, that's my story and I'm sticking to it!!!  
Until next time...  
aka David



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## **OTHER SAFETY INFORMATION**

### **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>

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## **TECH TALK**

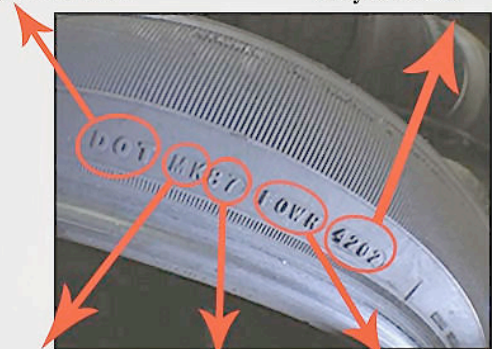
This is your section to share "tech" stuff

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### ***NEW TIRES... CHECK THE DATES***

DOT: Tire meets DOT safety standards.

4202: Week & year tire was made -- 42nd week of the year 2002



MK: DOT's tire plant code

87: Tire size code

FOWR: Manufacturer symbol identifying tire brand



Michael Kuttner, Vet Rep



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.

### 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>

## **GOT AN OLD CELL PHONE LYING AROUND THE HOUSE?**

Cell Phones for Soldiers hopes to turn old cell phones into more than 12 million minutes of prepaid calling cards for U.S. troops stationed overseas in 2008. To do so, Cell Phones for Soldiers expects to collect 50,000 cell phones each month through a network of more than 3,000 collection sites across the country.

Cell phones can be mailed in or dropped off at one of over 50 collection sites in our local

area. If you have an old cell phone that you would like to donate, please click on the below link to learn more about this program which supports our troops.

<http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com/about.html>

## **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/>

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# HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!!

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

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9<sup>th</sup> – Gene Watanabe  
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 9 <sup>th</sup>	Cobb Mountain
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	CA Auto Museum (Sacramento)
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Marysville Veterans Museum
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mt. Hamilton
May 28 <sup>th</sup>	STAR KNIGHTS Ride
June 11 <sup>th</sup>	Warren's Annual Ride
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	River Rock Casino
July 9 <sup>th</sup>	North Coast
July 24 <sup>th</sup>	Oakland Hills
August 13 <sup>th</sup>	Big Basin
August 28 <sup>th</sup>	Southern Sierra
September 10 <sup>th</sup>	Coulterville/Bear Valley
September 25 <sup>th</sup>	Apple Hill
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Nevada City
October 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Delta Loop
November 12 <sup>th</sup>	Pony Tracts Ranch

**12/10/11 CHRISTMAS PARTY**

## Biker Ingenuity ??



-o0o-

**Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011**      Daylight savings  
time begins  
**Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011**      Daylight savings  
time ends

### TENTATIVE 3-DAY CHAPTER RIDE:

September 16-18      Fort Bragg/Coast

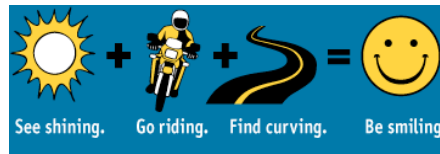
### OTHER EVENT INFORMATION:

**March 19<sup>th</sup>**      Merced STAR Chapter Veterans  
Ride  
**March 25-26**      SW STAR-B-Q (Ventura, CA)  
**May 28<sup>th</sup>**      STAR KNIGHTS Ride  
**June 3-4**      HIGH SIERRA STAR-B-Q (Reno)  
**August 12-13**      NW STAR-B-Q  
(Kelso/Longview, WA)



## 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

UPDATED: February 15, 2011

Compiled By Victor Tibbs – Mid Cal State Director  
From information received to date

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

March 5 – Hayward Chapter 103 – Pacifica – Gorilla's BBQ Ride  
March 6 – South Stockton 192– **Bowling for Kids Event, Livermore – Nor Cal Region Event**  
March 12 – Monterey Chapter 161 – Mission Ride exploring local missions  
March 19 – Modesto Chapter #294 – Ride with Merced Chapter - **Support the Troops Ride**  
March 19 – Santa Clara #209 – Ride - Cambria / Paso Robles / Elephant Seals  
March 20 – Lodi Chapter 102 - Sonora / Columbia Ride

April 2nd – South Stockton Chapter 192 - Jamestown to Columbia ride KSU SHY 9 am  
April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Hayward Chapter 294 – Daffodil Hill's Ride  
April 9<sup>th</sup> – Monterey Chapter 294 – back roads to Priest Valley for lunch  
April 16 – Santa Clara #209 – Ride to Sutter Creek  
April 17<sup>th</sup> - South Stockton 192 - Del Puerto Canyon KSU Denny's 9am come early for breakfast  
April 17<sup>th</sup> – Lodi Chapter #102 – ride to San Juan Bautista  
April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Modesto Chapter #294 – *ride to be determined*

May 7<sup>th</sup> – South Stockton 192 - Klamath Falls, OR long ride KSU determined at April meeting  
May 7 – Hayward Chapter 103 - Ride to Cannery Row in Monterey  
May 14 – Monterey Chapter 161 – Mariposa Excursion Ride  
May 15 – Lodi Chapter 102 - Ride to Mariposa  
May 21 – Santa Clara #209 – Ride to Bodega Bay via Lucas Valley Road  
May 28<sup>th</sup> – Modesto Chapter 294 - Ride to Yosemite  
May 28<sup>th</sup> – **STAR Knights Ride – STAR Touring Regional Remembrance Ride – details TBD**

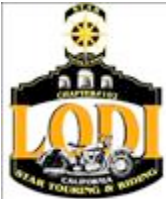
## 2011 STAR Touring – Mid California Chapter Website and President Information:



### Modesto, CA - Chapter 294

Barry Dias  
209-505-1459

<http://www.startouringchapter294.com/>  
[bmdias64@yahoo.com](mailto:bmdias64@yahoo.com)



### Lodi, CA - Chapter 102

Don Nordstrom  
209-327-3298

<http://www.star102.org/>  
[don.nordstrom@gmail.com](mailto:don.nordstrom@gmail.com)



### Hayward Fault, CA - Chapter 103

Ed Carreno  
925-519-4796

<http://www.star103.org/>  
[prez@star103.org](mailto:prez@star103.org)



### Monterey Bay, CA - Chapter 161

Kelly Riggs  
408-512-3030

<http://www.montereystar.com/>  
[kelly@painteffects.biz](mailto:kelly@painteffects.biz)



### Contra Costa Cnty, CA - Chapter 186

Rich Flay  
925-354-1412

<http://www.star186.org/>  
[pres.star186@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pres.star186@sbcglobal.net)



### South Stockton, CA - Chapter 192

Gary Shirey III  
209-513-3944

<http://www.startouring192.org/>  
[garychilla@comcast.net](mailto:garychilla@comcast.net)



### Santa Clara County, CA - Chapter 209

Tony Machado  
408-591-5473

<http://www.sccstarchapter209.org/>  
[scc209pres@aol.com](mailto:scc209pres@aol.com)

### Mid CA State Directors



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