



CHAPTER 186 Contra Costa, CA
Star Touring & Riding Association

THE ROTATING WHEEL



MAY 2011

THE “PREZ SEZ”

This month's –The Prez Sez –is a little different than in the past. May 12, 2011 marks the ten year anniversary of Chapter 186. Because I didn't know (as I suspect some of you don't either) how our Chapter got started, I asked Anton Rivera, the first President of Chapter 186 to write an article for The Rotating Wheel about our Chapter's beginning

Thank you Anton for taking the time to share your memories with us.

My memories on the birth and life of 186

By Anton Rivera

Saturday May 12th 2001, is when we had our Chapter's Charter meeting in San Ramon, CA. at the Community Center. We just had enough signatures to start up our Chapter, and those faithful ended up being the core of what was to become 4 years of touring the back roads of northern California.

Chapter 186 was formed out of necessity because myself and about 5 others were getting tired of commuting all the way out to Alameda twice a month just to start a ride! Alan Cease was on my tail about getting our own Chapter started. I had been Vice-President of the Alameda Chapter when it began in 2000; it was a natural progression to be the President of Chapter 186.

When we first started, there was about 5 of us that put on many hats to keep the Chapter on the road. Cecil Adams lead and tail gunned, along with Jim Alan and Kevin Cowgill, with my wife Denise being the token Lady Of the Star. At some point, Ada and Dan Ritter and Kim Alan joined in with the Chapter duties. Then of course Dan Saraoka came along after a few years and took over as President when I stepped down

Some highlights that I remember were pre-riding with the other officers because I really formed some great friendships and great riding buddies! It seemed like right away that our Chapter got the nickname –Star Touring and Eating” because each ride was basically planned around where the next meal was. Many a great Christmas party over the years we had also. I formed a friendship with the owner of the Concord Yamaha dealership; he became a star dealer. They supported us in whatever I could come up with, and that was the key to our success.

Once a year I and a few members would trek to The Laughlin River run to hear Alan Cease give an emotional tear filled –state of the union” talk. After one year of fun riding in the Chapter, I was caught off guard by being awarded the –Order of the Star” in front of my peers.

Chapter 186 was founded on riding and friendships and as long as that prevails, I believe the Chapter will continue to thrive.

Thanks for listening to my rant and keep on riding with 186 in the sticks.

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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

May 14 th	Marysville Veterans Museum
May 18th	Chapter Meeting
May 22 nd	Mt. Hamilton Chapter Ride
May 28 th	STAR KNIGHTS Ride

AND THE MEMBERS SAID ...

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

Cobb Mountain Ride

April 9, 2011

By Rich Flay

It was cold but clear when I pulled into the parking lot behind the Denny's in Pleasant Hill to meet the rest of the Chapter for what I knew was going to be a great ride. One that promised to have lots of twisties. All together we had twenty one bikes and three passengers. What a great turn out!

After the pre-ride meeting we divided into two groups and departed on time. We headed down Hwy 680 over the Benicia Bridge towards Cordelia where we exited the freeway and made our way up Suisun Valley Rd. Suisun Valley Rd turns into Wooden Valley Rd and weaves it's way through vineyards to Hwy 121. The grape vines are looking very bare this time of year with only small green shoot growing from them. The stretch of road between Wooden Valley Rd and Hwy 128 has some real nice twisties that slice through hills full of oak trees and this time of year tall green grass. I love that road. Turning on Hwy 128 it was only about ten minutes to our first stop at Turtle Rock. This is a quirky little restaurant that has dollar bills tacked all over the ceiling. They also make great egg rolls.

After a short stop at Turtle Rock, Hwy 128 took us to Lake Hennessy where we turned on to Chili

Valley/Pope Valley Rd. This road meanders through the hills along several streams and creeks that were flowing like little rivers. At some point Pope Valley Rd turns into Butts Canyon Rd that took us into Middletown where we gassed up and took a short break. Leaving Middletown on Hwy 175 we traveled through tall pines a Douglas fir trees passing through the small town of Cobb headed for our lunch stop in Kelseyville.

When we arrived at the Live Oak Café in Kelseyville the first group had already arrived and must be inside eating already (I figured our group was about a half hour behind them). When we met them inside they told us that they had just ordered. Inquiring as to why, they told us that as they pulled into the parking lot of the Café a CHP car pulled in right behind them followed by four more. Apparently a CHP airplane **ALLEGEDLY** saw some of group one not come to a complete stop at the intersection of Hwy 175 and Hwy 29. After checking everyone's IDs the group was given a stern warning but no citations were issued.

After a great lunch and some good natured fun giving group one a hard time about being pulled over by five cops we continued on Hwy 175/29. Turning at the split of Hwy 175 and Hwy 29 we started over the mountain on Hwy 175. This road is very twisty and slow going but has some great views of the valleys on both sides of the mountain (if you dare to look).

Coming down from the mountain we entered the town of Hopland where we turned south on Hwy 101 until we exited onto Dutcher Creek Rd that turns into Dry Creek Rd. Dry Creek Rd is a nice lazy road on the edge of the Alexander Valley that eventually brought us into Healdsburg for our last gas stop.

We found our way to Alexander Valley Rd that took us to Hwy 128 south through many old growth vineyards to Calistoga. There we turned onto Petrified Forest Rd that lead us to Hwy 12 south then on to Warm Springs Rd. Continuing south through Glen Ellen on Arnold Dr and then south on Hwy 116 for a few miles where we arrived at our last stop, a gas station at the intersection of Hwy 116 and Hwy 121 (Big Bend). Where by the way, when I was in the restroom, I was volunteered to do this ride report.

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After a good break and some reminiscing about the days ride, we headed back toward Contra Costa County. As we got closer to home, riders one by one left the group to head their separate ways.

With the hills and mountains green, the streams and creeks full and the vineyards showing signs of life, Ken couldn't have picked a better time of the year to do this ride.

Thanks Ken, great job!!

CA Auto Museum, Sacramento Ride

Sunday, April 17th, 2011

By Michael Kuttner

It was an early start for a Sunday morning ride briefing at 8:00 am in Discovery Bay. I couldn't help but notice what a beautiful day it was going to be as I made my way to Discovery Bay that morning. The sky had patchy clouds, and one of them was partially covering the top of Mt. Diablo which reminded me of the fact that I left my camera at home.

Upon arrival in Discovery Bay, a few bikes were already there. After a few minutes Road Captain Bob Bridges (Captain Bob as I referred to him throughout the day) began the pre-ride meeting. We were hoping to get at least 10 people in order to get the group discount at the museum visit later in the day, and fortunately a few additional folks showed up at the last minute and we had 10 bikes (and 12 people).

Captain Bob gave a quick pre-ride meeting, and we saddled up for an on-time departure. I was asked to tailgun on this ride which was my first time. We headed out of Discovery Bay along Highway 4 to Stockton. The sun was bright and we found the typical pot holes on some stretches of the road between Disco Bay and Stockton. Seems that Caltrans has done some work on this road but it still appears to be a work in progress.

Once in Stockton, we took Highway 99 to the continuation of Highway 4 heading towards Angels Camp. Driving through Farmington, it seemed to be a quiet and leisurely day on Highway 4 and there weren't a lot of cars behind us who were in a hurry to pass. We encountered a few slower

vehicles and trucks pulling boats which typically pulled over and let our group pass. It just seemed to be the kind of day where people were not in a rush, yet they were being considerate of others and letting faster traffic pass. Driving thru Copperopolis, several folks commented on the radio that this was a beautiful time to ride in this area given all of the green, plush hillsides. It was a very picturesque ride as we made our way to Angels Camp. The cows and other farm animals along the way appeared to also be enjoying their Sunday and the good eating that green pastures at this time of year tend to provide them.

As we arrived in Angels Camp, we took Highway 49 towards San Andreas. In San Andreas we made our gas stop at the Shell Station where we have stopped several times before on other rides. It was beginning to get warm and many people took off some of their heavier gear as we got ready for the next leg of the ride.

After about a 30 minute stop, we resumed the ride by taking Highway 49 thru Jackson and onto Rancho Murrieta on our way into Sacramento. This portion of the ride offered us some great scenery through the hills and country sides, and also provided some minor twisties which seemed to be enjoyed by all.

As we made our way into Sacramento, the lunch stop was in Rancho Cordova at Stonebrooks Restaurant. All enjoyed the good company and conversation, and we were off once again for a short ride on Highway 50 to the California Auto Museum in Old Sacramento.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the California Auto Museum. I did not count them, but there must have been at least 100+ cars on display from different periods of time. The museum staff made several tour guides available to us, and some of us went around in groups with the tour guides, while others strolled thru the museum at their own pace. I think every one of us saw several cars that reminded us of our first cars. The staff at the museum was very knowledgeable and helpful and we had an enjoyable visit.

Back on our bikes onto Interstate 5 to the Freeport exit in Sacramento, where we caught the River Road on our way into Rio Vista. It became very windy on the River Road and the gusty winds were

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knocking us around a little. Upon arrival in Rio Vista, we made our way to the ice cream shop, and the ride was called as everyone was finishing up their ice cream.

Thanks for a great ride, Captain Bob!



TIRE TRACKS

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

BEING ON CLOUD NINE

This expression is used to describe a feeling of extreme happiness or bliss.

Well, my friends, here we are again, about to embark on another season of riding, eating, laughing and did I mention riding? The weather has finally cleared and it's back in the saddle again. But this year will be different for me. I have taken a new job that requires that I work weekends...what a drag! I have already missed a coupla' great rides and I am going through a kinda' withdrawal. When I see any more than two or three bikes going down the highway together, my knees get shaky, I get the urge to point out road hazards to other drivers and my left foot toes go up and down in some weird pseudo-shifter dance. Believe me, you don't want to be there to see this. Anyway, one of the numerous benefits of being a Star Chapter member is that there are others that may have a schedule that would allow rides other than weekends. Such was the case several weeks ago. I put out an SOS at a Chapter meeting. As it turned out, the next Monday was a Holiday and the weather had cleared so some of us made plans to do a Monday ride. We decided to take off for the snow; mainly because the Polar Bear ride for January first was nixed due to rain and we want to ride. Monday came and I was so excited about going on a ride with my friends that I was an hour and fifteen minutes early for the meet. I didn't care because soon it was KSU and the four of us were roaring down the highway, freezing our tailpipes off and having a ball, we were all on cloud nine as we headed for the mountains and the snow. But we were not really on any cloud at all, we were on Highway 49. So where did the phrase *being on cloud nine* come from anyway?

It seems this little ditty comes from our friends at the American Weather Bureau and the entertainment industry. Ah, the government; the institution that makes sense of the world. It seems that back in the 30's and 50's the Bureau divided the clouds into classes which numbered one through nine. The highest clouds being at the level nine altitude, were the cumulonimbus, which could reach as high as 40,000 feet.

Now, during the 1950s there was a popular US radio show called *Johnny Dollar*. (I'm sure most of you remember this well!) .In several of the episodes, ol' Johnny was knocked unconscious and transported to...you guessed it, Cloud Nine. Here, he was revived (which elated him greatly) and lived again to be a hero in other episodes. It was through this association that the popular phrase passed into the English

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

Did you know that the average coat hangar is 44 inches when fully stretched?

Until next time...
aka David

PRODUCT REVIEW

I recently purchased a sheepskin seat cover from www.alaskaleather.com They shipped the same day I ordered and the product seems to be excellent quality.

(Jeff Brackett)

Bike Abuse



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KEEP THE SHINY SIDE UP!

Safety Tips/Tech Talk

This is your section to share "techie" stuff

Safety Tips:



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>



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/>

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Hiring a Military Veteran

<http://recruitmilitary.com>

Vet Jobs

<http://vetjobs.com/>

Vet Friends

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

Post Deployment Health Issues

www.pdhealth.mil

Hero Care

www.herocare.org

Department of Defense

www.defense.gov

Military News

www.military.com

www.stripes.com

Veteran Support Center

www.veteranssupportcenter.org

Transitioning from Military to Civilian Life

www.myvetwork.com

Vietnam Veterans Home Page

www.vietvet.org

CALIFORNIA FREEDOM RIDE

May 21, 2011

**A NATION THAT RIDES
TOGETHER STANDS TOGETHER**



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Thousands gather across the Nation to Honor & Salute Our Armed Forces on this given day. A day all Stand To Honor, and Show their Support along with Remembrance, Celebrations, Parades, Gatherings, Dedications, Ceremonials, Visitations to Veterans Memorials, Veterans Hospitals along with raising needed Funds for our Veterans and Troops, Donations of Phone Cards, Care Package's, and much more. Many State Coordinators chose a Non-profit Charity of their choice, and these Funds help supply various Veterans Groups, and needed products to our Troops.

Click on the following link for details/further information:

<http://www.nafr.webs.com/>

BLUE STAR MOMS

The Blue Star Moms is a non-partisan, non-political non-sectarian, non-discriminatory and non-profit organization. The military represents all aspects of America, as does the Blue Star Moms group. Their mission is to support through service.

- Members and their sons and daughters who serve or have served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States of America.
- United States military personnel who serve or have served honorably and their families
- Veterans' organizations
- Causes that will benefit military personnel.
- Gold Star Families

At our Chapter #186 meeting on 4/20/11, it was decided to redirect our current canned food drive from collecting canned foods for donation to a soup kitchen to collecting items for donation to the Blue Star Moms care package program.

The Blue Star Moms will be assembling their care packages on **June 18th** so they will need our donations by that time. A listing of items needed for donation can be found below. You can bring your donated goods to the next chapter meeting (in

May) or by contacting me directly if you are unable to make the next meeting.

Below is a link to the Blue Star Moms website which contains some general information on the Blue Star Moms organization. They are a dedicated group who provide invaluable support to our troops.

<http://www.bluestarmoms.org/index.php?page=about>

Star-Spangled Thank You 2011 Donations List

Just Add Water - Individual Serving Sizes

Hot drinks - hot chocolate, spiced cider, tea bags, coffee
Powdered drink mixes- i.e. Propel, Crystal Light
Hot cereals - oatmeal, Cream of Wheat
Instant soup mixes

Proteins - Individual Serving Sizes

Tuna or chicken - foil pouches
Beef jerky or Slim Jims
Nuts - all kinds
Protein bars, Power Bars
Peanut butter - Jiff to go

Clothing

White COTTON athletic socks
Dark colored knit hats,
White COTTON crew neck T-shirts (M or L)

Snacks - Individually Wrapped Packages

Crackers, mints, gum, trail mix, Corn Nuts
Sunflower seeds, microwave popcorn,
Granola bars (no nutri-grain), Fruit snacks,
Fruit rollups, dried fruit (no chips)

Personal Items - Travel Size

Powder - Gold Bond, foot and baby powder
Baby wipes, Waterless hand sanitizer
Lip balm with SPF, toothbrushes,
toothpaste, shower gel, suntan lotion
Disposable razors, hand and foot warmers
Batteries (preferably AA)

Stocking Stuffers and Entertainment

Silly putty, Nerf or tennis balls, yo-yos,
Crossword puzzles, word search and Sudoku
Paperback books, CD's, DVD's,

Specialty Items

Ground coffee (Peets and Starbucks are popular)
Local Grocery Store Gift Cards

Drop Zones

(for info only – please bring your donated goods to the next Chapter meeting)

Saturday, April 30th at Lucky's Downtown Danville (10-3)

Saturday, May 7th at Pleasanton Wal-Mart (10-3)

Saturday, May 21st at Alamo Safeway (10-3)

Saturday, June 4th at Pleasanton Wal-Mart (10-3)

All donations are greatly appreciated! Our Troops thank you! This is our small way to thank them!

Blue Star Moms -P.O. Box 2537 -San Ramon, California 94583 carepackages@bluestarmoms.org

STAR KNIGHTS - MAY 28, 2011

As a reminder, the registration form for the upcoming Star Knights Ride and Event on May 28th is available on line through the Chapter's website. **Please note that early registration ends on May 1st.**

Our chapter will be participating in this event. We are currently planning on beginning our ride sometime mid afternoon, riding to the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon to pay our respects to our fallen heroes, and then stop for dinner on our way to Sacramento to meet up with the other Star chapters at the Vietnam Memorial in downtown Sacramento for the event. More details on our ride as we get closer.

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If you are planning on participating, please be sure to register for the event by completing the registration form that was forwarded via email previously. This is a charity event and the proceeds will help support veterans at the State Veteran's Home in Yountville.

The 2011 Veterans' Health and Resource Fair on 5/17/11 in Fremont, CA

will link Veterans and their families to resources and services offered by the Veteran's Affairs Office, government and nonprofit agencies with the goal of enhancing their lives. Let me know if you need additional details.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!!

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

1st – Mike Karrer
6th – John Brackett
6th – Chris Rannals

CHAPTER RIDE /
EVENTS INFORMATION
Chapter Rides: 2nd Saturday / 4th Sunday

Sunday, November 6th, 2011 Daylight savings time ends

June 11th Warren's Annual Ride
June 26th River Rock Casino

July 9th North Coast
July 24th Oakland Hills

August 13th Big Basin
August 28th Southern Sierra

September 10th Coulterville/Bear Valley
September 25th Apple Hill

October 8th (T B D)
October 23rd Delta Loop

November 12th Pony Tracts Ranch

12/10/11 CHRISTMAS PARTY

3-DAY CHAPTER RIDES:

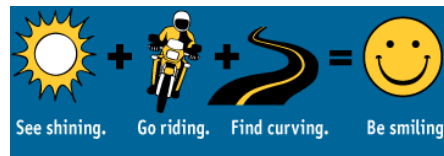
September 16-18 Fort Bragg/Coast
October 22-24th Pismo Beach



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 Ambassador

From information received to date

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

- May 7th – South Stockton 192 - Klamath Falls, OR long ride KSU 6AM – Denny's **I5 and 12 at 6:00am**
- May 7 – Hayward Chapter 103 - Ride to Cannery Row in Monterey
- May 14 – Contra Costa Chapter #186 ride – Marysville Veterans Museum
- May 14 – Monterey Chapter 161 – Mariposa Excursion Ride
- May 14 – Lodi Chapter 102 and South Stockton 192 – **LOS Ride** – Mother's Day Ride
Going to "Bummerville" by West Point and have lunch at the "Cozy Cafe" Bummerville is no longer a city, only a street sign but we are still going ... KSU at 9:30 am sharp at Rocky's in Lodi.
- May 15 – Lodi Chapter 102 - 4.May 15, 2011— Cathy's Valley -
- May 21 – Santa Clara #209 – Ride to Bodega Bay via Lucas Valley Road
- May 22nd – Contra Costa Chapter 186 – Mt. Hamilton
- May 26th - Feed the Children Trucks – Stockton, CA. Contact Steve Podesta for info.
- May 28th – Modesto Chapter 294 - Ride to Yosemite
- May 28th – **STAR Knights Ride – STAR Touring Regional Remembrance Ride – pre-registration deadline – postmarked by May 1, 2011.**
- June 3 – 4 – High Sierra BBQ, Sparks, NV. – STAR TOURING REGIONAL EVENT – pre-registration deadline – May 7, 2011**
- June 11 – Contra Costa Chapter #186 Ride – Warren's Ebbets Pass Ride
- June 18th – Hayward Chapter #103 - Ride to Bodega Bay
- June 18th – Monterey Chapter #161 – Los Gatos / Santa Cruz Mountains
- June 18th – Santa Clara #209 – Ride to San Francisco
- June 19th – Lodi Chapter #102 - Ride to Plymouth for Breakfast – Father's Day Ride
- June 25th – Modesto Chapter #294 - Ride to Alice's Restaurant
- June 26th – Contra Costa Chapter #186 – River Rock Casino

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- July 2nd – **Monterey Chapter #161 – HolliSTAR – ALL CHAPTERS WELCOME!!!
PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE - MUST BE POSTMARKED
By Monday June 13th, 2011**
- July 9th – Contra Costa Chapter #186 - Ride to North Coast
July 9th – Monterey Chapter #161 – possible overnighter to Solvang
July 16th – Modesto Chapter #294 - Ride to Ebbetts Pass
July 16th – Santa Clara Chapter #209 – Ride to Healdsburg with lunch at Johnny's Garlic
July 17th – Lodi Chapter #102 - Ride to Marysville
- July 19 -22 **STAR DAYS – STAR TOURING INTERNATIONAL RALLY –
Middleton, Wisconsin**
- July 24th – Contra Costa Chapter #186 - Ride to / through the Oakland Hills
-

This guy enjoys everything on two wheels ☺



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



Modesto, CA - Chapter 294

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209-505-1459
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Contra Costa Cnty, CA - Chapter 186

Rich Flay
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Lodi, CA - Chapter 102

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South Stockton, CA - Chapter 192

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Hayward Fault, CA - Chapter 103

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