



OCTOBER 2011

THE "PREZ SEZ"

October? Already? Yep, and that means fall is here... my favorite time of the year. The weather gets mild with cooler temperatures and little wind. The fog on the coast stays away more making for great riding weather.

With the days getting shorter, mornings and evenings will be on the cool side while afternoon temperatures can get warm, it's important to remember to make sure you have appropriate riding gear for all temperatures. Even though we watch the weather report for the days we are planning on riding, the weather man has been known to be wrong. I know that's hard to believe, but it's true. That's why it's also important to keep your rain gear with you this time of year. They won't do you any good if they are sitting on the work bench in the garage. ☺

Be Safe.



Rich Flay
President,
Contra Costa STAR Chapter #186
www.star186.org
"Carpe Diem"

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check the website calendar for further information

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

AND THE MEMBERS SAID ...

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

COULTERVILLE / BEAR VALLEY CHAPTER RIDE

Saturday, September 10th, 2011

By Larry Thompson

Well this ride was a good ol' fashioned if you want to see scenery **LOOK QUICK** ride. We carved some corners for sure. ☺ (13 bikes – 15 people) ☺ With Jeff Brackett at the lead you can be assured of a well prepared and steady paced outing. Lots and lots of curvy roads. I really felt challenged at times, it was **FUN!**

Lunch in Turlock was a welcome retreat from the **HEAT** and the long time in the saddle. The cold glasses of ice water seemed to be the ticket!!! The food was good and nicely prepared. The produce seemed quite fresh. The breads looked to be fresh baked. I had a pulled pork sandwich with coleslaw on it. It was very tasty!

Butts on Bikes!!!! Next stop The Junction on Mines Rd. More curvy roads,



(I heard this was what the ride was really like ☺)

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then we are there. Hydrate, talk, smoke 'em if you got 'em.

YOU BIG BAD BIKERS WANT ICE CREAM????? Jeff yells! **YES** was the loud reply! Butts on Bikes!!!! Morrrre curvy roads!!! COLDSTONE!!!! Food of the Gods!!! With ice cream consumed goodbyes all around, the ride is official. From Livermore we head on our own directions.

It was a **GOOD** day!

FORT BRAGG 3-Day Chapter Ride September 16th – 18th, 2011

By Pauline Carlton

- I won't say that Rich put together an **awesome** ride all three days (because he did)
- I won't say that Rich was and is a **GREAT** Ride Captain (because he is)
- I won't say that both Michael Kuttner and Michael Smith are good tailgunners (because they're just that **terrific!**)
- I won't say that the weather was unbelievably super all three days (because it was)
- I won't say that we had 11 bikes and 15 people (because we did)

What I will say is that if you missed this event, you missed one of the greatest rides I've been on this year !! ☺

Oh, you wanted more specifics? Okay, here ya go then:

Friday starting out of Location #1, we were 15 minutes early coming into Denny's in Cordelia to pick up Art Pufford, Mitch/Teri, Ross/Carlise. Up over Wooden Valley, making that right on Hwy 121 when the road ends, and then making a left onto Hwy 128 at Moskowitz Corners with our first rest stop at Turtle Rock where some of us sampled Pete Leungs' world famous egg rolls. Back onto Hwy 128 and all the way to the Coast (through Cloverdale where we stopped for lunch at the Owl Café who makes a killer burger!! and it's starting to heat up a bit), a right onto Hwy 1 and into Fort

Bragg. After we register at the Super 8 motel who has been waiting for us, its dinner at the Cliff House that has a fantastic view



and we toast the newlyweds, Paul and Jan who got married September 3rd. ☺

Saturday morning, some had the Continental Breakfast while others of us had breakfast at Perko's Café next door before the pre-ride meeting, and the BOB call, making a left back onto Hwy 1, another left when it said Highway 20 (that way ←) ending up in Ukiah, a right onto Orr Springs Road (been there, done that, don't EVER wanna do the first 1/3rd or the first 1/2 of it again), which brought us back out to the coast where we have lunch in the little charming scenic town of Mendocino at the Bay View Café.



After lunch, **oh boy**, an hour of shopping (and ice cream for some of us).

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Saddling up, Rich takes us through the local headlands before we're back onto Hwy 1, and 7 miles later, we're back at the Super 8 where we all get together, and make dinner plans at the local Round Table Pizza parlor just ½ block away at 6:30 p.m. You'll have to talk to the troops to get the scoop on dinner. ☺

Sunday morning: Because of time constraints, Jeff/Marguerite and Michael Kuttner decide to go over Hwy 20, then Hwy 101 to get home early. The rest of us are on the road at 8:30 a.m., back along Hwy 1 and ride it all the way into Bodega Bay (with a short rest stop at the Manchester Park in Manchester) where we had lunch at the local deli where we find out that Jeff has (another) flat tire and is waiting for the tow truck. An hour later, we're back onto Hwy 1 and once in Petaluma, stop for our ice cream at the local Coldstone, where the ride officially ends and we all say our good-byes.

*Check out this collage that
Michael Smith
put together*



Fort Bragg
Collage.pdf

BIG BASIN RIDE CHAPTER RIDE

Sunday, September 25th, 2011
By Michael Kuttner

For starters, there is a lesson to be learned here for all Ride Captains. If you forget to ask someone to write the ride report on the day of the ride, you

can rest assured that you will undoubtedly be writing the ride report for your own ride. This is exactly the predicament I find myself in, so here goes. Of course since I am writing my own report, I can take the liberty of embellishing certain aspects of the ride and it will be up to the reader to determine which parts of the report are embellished and which are factual. Good luck with that.

We met at location #1 in Pleasant Hill for an 8:00 a.m. pre-ride briefing. It was an overcast day with rain in the forecast for the north by in the late afternoon. By 8:15 am, we had 10 bikes and went thru the ride briefing.

We started off on time and jumped on the freeway to Orinda. Once in Orinda, we headed for Moraga, and wove our way thru the Moraga hills on our way to Castro Valley. We did not encounter many bicycles on the first part of the ride thru the hills. I think the overcast weather and early start kept them tucked away in their beds on this particular morning.

Once in Castro Valley, we met up with our 11th bike (Dan and Christine Hughes) who had pre-arranged to meet us at a certain spot, and they just jumped in the back of the pack as we rode by.

After taking a series of nice winding roads filled with trees and nature's beauty, our first stop was a fanny and restroom break at our favorite parking lot in Sunol (at the train stop). Although I pre-rode this trip twice, on this day the parking lot was blocked off and there was a "no entry" sign. The parking lot was empty so we elected to make our quick stop and use the services. Apparently the lot was closed for an event later in the day.

After a 15 minute stop, we hopped back on our bikes and headed down Calaveras Road on our way to Milpitas. Calaveras is a great road with lots of twisties, and we encountered our share of bicycles and cars which weren't exactly staying on their respective side of the road either.

After making our way thru Calaveras Rd., we traveled down a major thoroughfare thru Milpitas and onto I-880. As much fun as freeway driving can be, we could not avoid talking the freeway on this stretch in order to get to our lunch spot in Santa Cruz which involved both I-880 and then onto Highway 17. One of our riders commented that the freeway portion of the ride was just a way

of us getting a temporary rest from the twisties, and that sounded like a good so we stuck to that story. ☺

Highway 17 is always an interesting ride and it did not let us down on this ride. From Sunday drivers going much too slowly to people in a huge rush to get to wherever they were going, we finally made it to Santa Cruz for lunch and only encountered a few rain drops on the way.

After an enjoyable meal, we mounted the bikes once again and by this time it was raining. It was not a heavy rain and I think most of us thought that it would not be long until it cleared or we rode our way out of it. A few people mentioned rain gear but most elected not to put it on.

After a few quick turns thru Santa Cruz, we headed out the city limits and were on our way to Big Basin State Park on a lazy, winding road thru heavily wooded terrain. The rain was not subsiding (although it was still kind of a light rain), and the roads were wet and slippery which made this road less enjoyable than it typically is. We took it easy all the way to Big Basin State Park because of the road conditions and the difficulty with visibility that accompanies wet weather. Upon arrival at Big Basin State Park, we made a quick 15 minute stop to stretch our legs and take a look at the beautiful trees. For those who have never been to Big Basin Park, I would definitely recommend a visit.

After the short stop in Big Basin, we mounted the iron horses once again for our next stop at Alice's in Woodside. This was not a very long stretch, but it was misty and foggy thru this leg of the ride. Several of us had a difficult time navigating thru the fog, but we all made it to Alice's safely.

After a break at Alice's, the group headed out towards Highway 92 together, where several of our Goldwing Riders jumped on I-280 to head to the North Bay and/or Solano County. The rest of us hard core ice cream eaters crossed the San Mateo Bridge, cut thru Hayward, and then took Crow Canyon to our ice cream stop in Alamo.

Overall, it was a great ride. I only wish it would not have been as wet and foggy as it was. As for the embellishment of this ride report, well that was just a ploy to get you to read it. Hope to see those who missed the ride on the next one. Ride safe!

P.S. – I'd like to thank and acknowledge George De Bruin for forwarding his ride map from last year and for coming up with this great ride.

THANKS GEORGE!

[First Polaris Made Indian Rolls Off the Line](#)

(Click on the link to see the article)



TIRE TRACKS

Tid Bits of Useless (?) Information

Written by "aka David"

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

BITE THE BULLET

The phrase we use to describe doing an unpleasant task against our will.

Well boys and girls, I don't mean to sound like a curmudgeon, but I **hate** Garage Sales. There, I've said it. Oh, they're fine enough to spend a lazy Saturday morning in hopes of finding the next showcase on the Antique Road Show, but having a Garage Sale is like a bad joke...there's nothing about it I like. I guess I could revel in the idea that I have been given the "opportunity" to make the lovely and talented Mrs. aka tickled **pink** by

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slaving for hours in the hot garage cleaning and sorting, and sorting and cleaning. Or, I guess I could be thrilled to no end that I have to get up at the b___ crack of dawn to artistically lay-out my wares on a borrowed folding table. (That went for \$6 by the way). But that's just not me. So what happened to send me over the edge?

Well, someone offered me an insulting price for my bra. Whoa, partner, it's **not** what you think! There are no frillies under this boy's STAR-vest. I'm talking about the vinyl cover that goes over the front of a power car. This little ditty prevents rocks and other road debris from leaping up and chipping the paint off the front of the vehicle. Anyway, I had an almost new bra for my 280ZX. I paid \$150 about three months before, but didn't like it. So up comes this guy. He offers me \$7.00 for it. I was shocked! I looked him square in the eye and told him I would rather put it in the trash than sell it to him for \$7.00!

And that's how the day went...\$3.00 for my bike, \$5.00 for my stereo, 75 cents for my mantle clock (good riddance on that one!). It's a good thing my Roadie was hidden safely away, I would have taken it to the street if someone offered me \$13.00 for it! ☺

It seemed like nothing went for a fair price. I had to bite the bullet on every sale. Hold up here! Where did this *bite the bullet* come from anyway?

This time, boys and girl, we take the way-back machine to the British Victorian Army as they made friends around the world at the point of a gun. When the Indian Mutiny was taking place, bullets came in two parts. The projectile was stored in the base of the bullet and held in place by either pig or cow fat. To use the bullets, one had to separate the two halves and fill the base with gun powder. This was done with the teeth and performed by low-ranking Hindu soldiers. Hindu soldiers believe the pig to be a holy animal. It is not to be disrespected or desecrated. However, in times of battle, they had to "bite the bullet" against their wishes.

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

P.S. The bubbles in Guinness beer sink to the bottom rather than rise to the top!

Safety Tips:

NEVER ASSUME RIDE YOUR OWN RIDE

MUST-KNOW SAFETY TIPS

By Ralph "Sonny" Barger

1. **Wear proper riding gear.** I value my freedom just as other people value theirs. So rather than tell you what to wear, I'll tell you what I do: I always wear a DOT-approved full-face helmet, a leather jacket, jeans or leather chaps, boots and gloves. You will never see me riding around in shorts and slip-flops, without a helmet, even if I'm just riding down to the corner and its 100 degrees out.
2. **Don't get complacent.** Research shows that the majority of motorcycle accidents take place within a few miles of home. Take every ride seriously, even if you're going only to the post office or the neighborhood supermarket.
3. **Always be aware of your surroundings.** When you ride a motorcycle, you must be conscious of everything around you – the other traffic, the brush alongside the road that may hide a suicidal deer or stray dog, the parked cars that may conceal a kid chasing a ball into the street. Be aware of where you are in your lane, and look for possible escape routes. If you see gravel or other debris on the roadway, slow down before you reach it; never brake on the debris.
4. **Don't tailgate.** Create as much safe space around you as you possibly can. The more space between you and the other vehicle, the more time you have to react should something bad happen.
5. **Don't lose focus when traffic stops moving.** Just because you've pulled up to a stop sign and stopped moving doesn't mean that you're out of danger. In fact, an all-too-common collision between car and motorcycle involves the motorcyclist being struck from behind

(click on the document below to see
the entire list of care package items)



BSM Holiday Care
Package Items.doc



**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](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 – Mitch Brewer
4th – Paul Berg
6th – Nancy Ferrasci
10th – Shirley Karrer
10th – Samuel Israel
13th – Dave McNamar
20th – Valorie Johnson
24th – Bill Petaccio
29th – Marguerite Brackett
29th – Dave Nelson

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**CHAPTER RIDE /
EVENTS INFORMATION**
Chapter Rides: 2nd Saturday / 4th Sunday
Chapter Meetings – red

November 12th Chapter Ride
November 16th Chapter Meeting

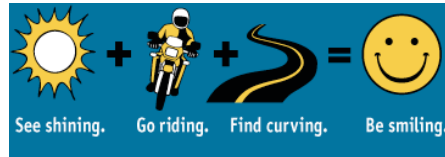
**December 10th Chapter
Christmas Party/ and
Election of 2012 Officers**

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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.

- 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

If you don't ride, then you don't know

But this video says it all:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4mU8ZqMZPU>

ENJOY 😊

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



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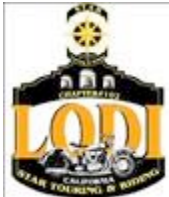
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