



September 2011

THE "PREZ SEZ"

I want to thank the picnic committee (Pauline, Jan, Jerry, Robin and Chefs Paul & Larry) for the great job they did putting on this year's picnic. I hope everyone had as much fun as I did.

This weekend is the long Labor Day weekend. There will be a lots of celebrating so be on guard for drivers who have celebrated too much. ☺

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

**** 2011 ****

CHAPTER RIDE /

Chapter Rides: 2nd Saturday / 4th Sunday

Chapter Meetings – red

September 10 Chapter Ride

September 25 Chapter Ride

September 28 Chapter Meeting

AND THE MEMBERS SAID ...

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

Our 10th Birthday /Anniversary Celebration

As many of you know, for the past few years, Chapter #186 has hosted the HOG ROAST BBQ to generate money for our local charity. Earlier this year, however, in February, our Chapter members decided to host a picnic just for #186 members instead. And, that's what we did ☺ The Chapter Picnic committee, chaired by Pauline Carlton, included Paul Berg, Jan Sanchez, Jerry Ferrasci, Rich and Robin Flay.

The first order of business was to find a suitable location. Even though it's only mid-February, I felt that we needed to find something and secure the area fairly soon, because desirable spots are gone sooner than later. I went online and created a "picnic park" list which housed well over 500 different parks initially. Because of our geographic location, I decided to look at parks only within the CCC area. Did you know that Antioch alone has **99** parks? Do you know how long it takes to check out 99 parks? ☺ And there's **more** parks located in Concord, Pittsburg, Oakley as well as those other cities within the CCC boundaries. I even went out to Richmond one Saturday morning. I spent an enormous amount of hours researching various parks via the internet: thank goodness for photos to show what you don't want. I finally narrowed down the list to about 10 parks that I felt were "worthwhile". I went over to a friend's house, dragged him away from his computer, and we spent the next several hours checking out those places. At the end of the day, he and I both agreed that Buchanan Park in Pittsburg was exactly what we were looking for. Two days later,

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I received an e-mail from Rich and Robin saying that they, too, had been scouting out different parks. Out of everything that they had seen, they liked Buchanan Park in Pittsburg the best. ☺ So, Buchanan Park in Pittsburg it was.

What day is the picnic gonna be? We ride the 2nd Saturday of every month; other people had other commitments. This first Saturday in August is what worked best for most everyone.

The next order of business was to request and we received Chapter approval to spend the Chapter's money, and that's what we did. ☺ Our proposed date was open, the contract was signed, we paid the deposit and then took a 3-1/2 month break. Mid-June, the sign-up sheet circulated at the Chapter meeting. Mid-July, the sign-up sheet circulated not only at the Chapter meeting, but via e-mails as well. A committee meeting to finalize those last minute details on July 18th and we're good to go. Another e-mail asking for RSVPs: the members were quick to respond which was extremely helpful in putting together the shopping list. 4 committee members did the shopping on Friday; the picnic was the next day.

Chefs Paul and Larry



did an amazing job in cooking for everyone: cheeseburgers and hot dogs came off the grill and into buns; all of the fixin's nearby, and over there on those 2 6' tables, you'll find fruit, broccoli, pasta, potato, macaroni and green salads; chili beans, another pot full of Warren-n-Rimma's special beans. Deviled eggs, chips, dips, homemade salsa, guacamole, wraps, a veggie tray that housed everything you can imagine. Want A-1 sauce? We got it. You want BBQ sauce? We got it, and we got mustard, ketchup, mayo, relish, dill pickles, sweet pickle chips, too. Kettle, BBQ, Ruffles and 4 other kinds of potato chips. Rob-n-Sandy even brought their ice cream maker. In

addition to the birthday/anniversary sheet cake,



there's rhubarb pie, pound cake and cookies. If you went away hungry, I can't imagine why. We had absolutely everything there that makes a picnic a picnic, and then some. Jaime brought her Indian drum and flute; there's horseshoes, ladder ball, board games, croquet (Dan Hughes came from behind and waxed us all!) From 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., about 55 Chapter #186 members came together in a social and special way. While we talk at lunchtime out-n-about on a ride, many of us don't have time to "visit" or hang out with one another like we did.

We celebrated our 10th birthday/anniversary as a STAR Chapter today. Anton Rivera, the first Chapter President (on the right) was there, followed by his successor, Dan Soraoka, last year's President, Victor Tibbs, and our leader this year, Rich Flay, on the left.



What a unique and special day ☺

Submitted by,

Pauline Carlton
2011 Chapter Birthday/Anniversary Picnic
Chairperson



Coming into the park, off to the left, this is what you'll see



The croquet hopefuls



Eric and Dan trying to figure out which end to toss ... or ... uh ... how does this go?



Look at the size of that burger!

Hey Pauline

Thank you for putting together the chapter picnic. I'm sure it was a lot of work and wanted to let you know I think everyone there had a really good time!!
C Ya Soon

Christine and Dan Hughes



Jaime playing the flute while Christine and Charlise instruct the neighbor girls



Dan, Harley Boy, Mike (probably talking about motorcycles) or something else as riveting ☺



This is "team work" ☺



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Pigeon Point Lighthouse Ride

BY Jerry Ferrasci

On Saturday, August 13, 2011, we rode to the Pigeon Point Lighthouse which is south of Pescadero. There were 23 of us that gathered at Starbucks in Discovery Bay. The weather was perfect for a ride, and we had a good group of people to ride with.

We left at 9:00 am, rode over to Vasco road and on to Livermore where we caught I-580. We drove over the Dumbarton Bridge, then on to the 101 Freeway north. We turned on to Highway 92 west, toward Half Moon Bay. We stopped for lunch at Joe's Restaurant in Half Moon Bay. We all enjoyed their excellent food. We would certainly stop by this restaurant again. After lunch we continued on Highway 1 down the coast to Pigeon Point Lighthouse. We spent about an hour at the lighthouse exploring the area, including the overlooks where we could see seals bobbing in the surf below. We all really enjoyed seeing the lighthouse area. We have gone past it many times, but this was the first time we stopped. I was surprised to find out it was the tallest lighthouse on the west coast.

When we left the Lighthouse, we started our return by going to Pescadero Creek Road. This is one of my favorite roads, it is scenic, twisty, and has many elevation changes. We followed this road to La Honda, where we stopped at The Skywood Trading Post parking lot across from Alice's Restaurant. This is where Tony had his Harley

moment. His oil cooler line sprang a leak; our thanks to Lin who stayed behind to support and assist him. The bike was eventually towed to a Harley Shop.

We continued on to Highway 92, where we headed east over the San Mateo Bridge to Hayward and on to Castro Valley. We left Castro Valley via Crow Canyon Road, another twisty hill to climb. We ended the ride in San Ramon at the Cold Stone Creamery, where we indulged in a snack. I totally enjoyed this ride.

Thanks go out to Mike Smith and the ride team for planning this great ride.

CHAPTER #209 BBQ

Saturday, August 20th, 2011

By Lin Tomy

Saturday morning, meeting at Denny's, and the excitement is building because we don't really know who all is coming on this ride. Victor has been trying to get people to go for a week, but there was no telling who actually fell for his sales pitch! LOL Finally it's KSU and the players consist of Victor, Larry, Tony, Tony's friend Steve, Justin and me. Let's see, who has radios? I'm tail gunning since Victor and I are the only ones with radios.

Off we go to San Jose to meet up with Chapter 209. They have tempted us with the promise of a 90 mile scenic ride to get to Mt. Madonna where the BBQ will be held. As we pull into San Jose, Victor finds a gas station for us to top off at. We all pulled up to the pumps, and the next thing I know, I'm laying flat on the ground, looking at the sky. That'll teach me to double check when I think I put the kickstand down, won't it? ☺ Damage? My mirror was out of whack, but the guys fixed that! ☺ I brushed myself off, we got back on the bikes and off we went to meet Chapter 209. As we settled in to greeting and saying hi to old friends and new ones, I overhear Victor ratting me out to the 209 Prez about my little spill! (don't worry, he gets his later! tee hee)

So now, it's KSU in San Jose and we are off for our 90 mile scenic ride, and what a beautiful route it was: up Highway 17 to the Summit Road, and onto some beautiful back roads that I had never

seen before, and I used to live down in this area. **Awesome!** Unfortunately, Larry took a corner just a little too wide: ut-oh, Fall Down Larry. As we rode up the side of Mt. Madonna, the fog was getting thicker. The road was a smaller 1-½ lane ride like I really love to ride, but a little wet from the fog causing the trees to 'rain' on everything.

We arrived at the BBQ, again greeted by old friends and new. Everyone stood around on the asphalt because it was warmer. Soon the food was ready and we were all under the trees eating. Brrr, was it ever cold under the trees! The food was awesome, with plenty of it, but we couldn't wait to get back to the semi warmth of the asphalt.

All too soon it was time to head home. Larry decides to brave the cold and camp out with the 209 Chapter that evening while the rest of us decided to head home to catch some of the "Battle of the Bay" game. Off we went and as we neared the first four-way stop, Victor's GPS said "thisa way to Hwy 17". ½ hour later and keeping #186's U-turn reputation intact, we're back to the starting point. ☺

The rest of the ride home was pretty uneventful. We got back in time to watch the last half of that game and enjoy the company of friends at dinner. Even with the spill and side trip adventure, it was an awesome day!

I would like to thank you and the Chapter 186 members (Lin / potential new member Steve / Tony / Larry) for coming out and sharing a great time at our Chapters 7th Annual BBQ – and kudos to Larry for camping out with our Chapter Saturday night (amongst the fog and mist). Hope the pre-ride was fun and everyone enjoyed themselves, and congratulations to your members that won raffle prizes. I personally appreciate the support from 186.

Hope to be seeing everyone soon on a ride.

Tony Machado
President, Chapter #209
Santa Clara County



TIRE TRACKS

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

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

KANGRAAO COURT

The phrase we use to describe an irregular or illegal tribunal that is conducted with disregard for the legal process

And so, my friends, here I am again, in the ol' proverbial dog house. This time I really didn't do anything ... honest! ☺ But, alas, that's the problem - I was supposed to get the house clean for some out of town guests. And I did, sorta. I vacuumed, dusted, and did the dishes.

The problem was that I did not do it to the standards of the rich and famous, Mrs aka. You see, she is a cleaning dynamo. She can clean the house, do the dishes, make dinner AND do the laundry, all at the same time! How can this be you say? Well, I say too ... **it can't be done.** ☺

Anyway, back to the day in question: there I stood at attention, feather duster in my back pocket, apron straightened, vacuum hose in hand, watching her car pull into the driveway. I was proud of the job I had accomplished in the short time I had. She entered and without so much as a comment on the carefully placed dirt smudge on my forehead, she donned her white gloves and reading glasses ... reading glasses? (Really?) She quickly set about the house finding all the areas that somehow escaped my otherwise keen eye. Within a very short time, I was accused, tried, and convicted of failing to accomplish my mission. Hey! That wasn't fair ... where is the due process? This is America! I did not even get to present my case! So it is the ol' dog house for me. This is surely a Kangaroo Court if I've ever seen one.

But there are no kangaroos here. Why, we are not even in Australia. It seems this little gem comes from right here in the gold country of California. In America in the 1800's it was common for court procedures to kinda' miss a step or two in the bringing about of justice, primarily to get the verdict

they were after. This was known as *jumping through the procedure of justice*. This practice was first recorded in 1853 during the gold rush of 1849, which was joined by many Australian prospectors, and, during this time informal courts were set up to deal with so-called claim jumpers. Because many of these claim jumpers were Australian, it isn't difficult to see how the phrase passed over into wider use. It became wide spread in Britain when applied to dubious tribunals used by trade unions to deal with members who were regarded as strike breakers.

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

Safety Tips:

**NEVER ASSUME
RIDE YOUR OWN RIDE**

DUCT TAPE

Always have duct tape in your suitcase so you can utilize these handy travel hints:

1. A folded-over strip of duct tape hanging from wall to wall over your hotel/motel room bathtub makes a great temporary clothesline.
2. Fire in the hallway? Duct tape around the door to keep the smoke out of your room.
3. Duct tape over your window to prevent the flashing MOTEL sign from keeping you awake.
4. A strip of duct tape dangling from the bathroom faucet into the sink bowl prevents that sleep-disturbing dripping.
5. No refrigerator in your room? Duct tape your beverage container in front of the air conditioner.

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(courtesy of the JUMBO DUCT TAPE BOOK)
By Jim and Tim, the Duct Tape Guys
Workman Publishing, New York

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www.star186.org



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.letssaythanks.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/>

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]

- 1st – Barbara Mederios
- 7th – Julee Hamilton
- 11th – Debby Bridges
- 12th – Marisa Hummel
- 21st – Mike Prawicki
- 26th – Pearl Nelson

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CHAPTER RIDE / EVENTS INFORMATION

Chapter Rides: 2nd Saturday / 4th Sunday

Chapter Meetings – red

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

November 12th	Chapter Ride
November 16th	Chapter Meeting

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

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

But this video says it all:

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

ENJOY 😊

Different kind of trike, huh?



KEEP THE SHINY SIDE UP!





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.

- Sept. 3- South Stockton Chapter #192 - *Ride to be determined*
- Sept. 3 – 4 Monterey Chapter 161 – possible overnight ride and BBQ
- Sept. 10 – Contra Costa 186 - Ride – Coulterville / Bear Valley Ride
- Sept 10th – Monterey Chapter – *Ride to be determined*
- Sept. 16 – 18 Visalia Chapter #163 - Loop the Parks Ride
- Sept. 16 – 18 Hayward Chapter #103 – Lake Tahoe Weekend Ride
- Sept. 16 – 18 Contra Costa Chapter #186 – Ft. Bragg Weekend Ride
- Sept. 17th – Santa Clara Chapter #209 – Ride to Yosemite and Topaz Lake
- Sept. 17 – Modesto Chapter 294 - Ride – *TBD*
- Sept 17 / 18 Hayward Chapter 103 - Overnight Ride to Tahoe
- Sept. 17 – Redding Chapter # 302 – Annual Poker Run
- Sept. 25th Contra Costa Chapter #186 - Ride to Apple Hill

- Oct. 1 – South Stockton Chapter #192 – *Ride to be determined*
- Oct. 8 – Hayward Chapter #103 - Ride to Old Sacramento
- Oct. 8 – Contra Costa Chapter #186 – Ride to Nevada City
- Oct. 8th – Monterey Chapter #161 – 4 Bridges Ride
- Oct 9 – Modesto Chapter #294 - Ride – Jackson Rancheria for Breakfast
- Oct. 15 – Santa Clara Chapter #209 – Ride – Mt. Hamilton to Arlen Ness Museum in Dublin
- Oct. 16 – Lodi Chapter #102 - Membership BBQ
- Oct. 22 – 24 Contra Costa Chapter #186 – Pismo Beach Weekend Ride
- Oct. 23rd – Contra Costa Chapter #186 – Delta Loop – Ludy's in Woodland for lunch

- 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

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



Modesto, CA - Chapter 294

Barry Dias
209-505-1459

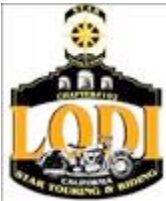
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