



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

**THE ROTATING WHEEL**

**THE “PREZ SEZ”**

What a huge turnout we had this past month for both of our rides. I would like to thank all of you who participated. Stay tuned, as we are just starting to “get things rolling” with many great rides scheduled for the next few months.

Couple of thoughts I would like to share with everyone.

1. **Before each ride – either with the Chapter or by yourself – are you physically and mentally prepared?** For instance, perhaps you are exhausted, recovering from the flu, or have just taken some strong medication, give your body sufficient time to recover. If you have just experienced an emotional upheaval, arguments with coworkers, or even family members, take a time-out before cruising. When motorcycling, we need to make quick decisions and have cat-like reflexes.
2. T-CLOCK. Is your bike ready?

**T** – Tires and Wheels –

have you checked and inspected your tires?

**C** – Controls –

how are your levers, hoses, cables, etc

**L** – Lights – are they all working properly?

**O** – Oil –

check the levels for your oil and all fluids

**C** – Chassis, Frame and Suspension –

are all the nuts and bolts tight?

**K** – Kickstand

(and center stand if applicable).

If you get a chance, pick up the April issue of *Friction Zone* which is usually found at a dealership, or places such as California Sport Touring, Cycle Gear, etc. I found several interesting articles that can relate to our experiences on our bikes: i.e **Where Riders Look, Riding in Gusty Crosswinds, What Happens When A Bike is Rear-Ended?**

There is a lot happening within the next 2 – 3 months. **Have you sent in your pre-registration yet for our Chapter’s Hog Roast in May?** If not, please try and get that to us by April 17<sup>th</sup> (Lin leaves for vacation on the 18<sup>th</sup> and this will really help us in terms of buying enough food).

Interested in attending our two Regional Rallies? Please see the pre-registration deadlines towards the end of this newsletter. They are a lot of fun, with some great rides, bike games, and a chance to meet many riders from all around our region.

And for those interested, our Chapter shirts/sweatshirts/caps and mugs have arrived! I will be bringing the samples on our rides and to the Chapter Meeting – if you would like to check them out and order.

Our best wishes, love, thoughts and prayers are with Chapter member Pearl Nelson as she recovers from her surgery

I look forward to seeing everyone on our April Rides. Be **SAFE**, have **FUN**.

**LET’S RIDE!**

Victor Tibbs  
President, Chapter #186

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check the website calendar for further information

**\*\* 2009 \*\***

April 4<sup>th</sup> BLESSING OF THE BIKES  
April 11<sup>th</sup> Chapter Ride [Hopland/Hwy 175]  
April 15<sup>th</sup> Chapter Officers Meeting  
April 18<sup>th</sup> Napa STAR Chapter's OPEN HOUSE  
April 18<sup>th</sup> EWOK M/C Training  
April 22<sup>nd</sup> Chapter Meeting  
April 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> Laughlin River Run  
April 26<sup>th</sup> Chapter Ride [Jamestown]

May 1<sup>st</sup> Ladies Ride to Work Day  
May 9<sup>th</sup> KICK-START SUMMER BBQ  
May 20<sup>th</sup> Chapter Officer's Meeting  
May 23<sup>rd</sup> STAR KNIGHTS Ride  
May 24<sup>th</sup> Chapter Ride [Colfax]  
May 27<sup>th</sup> Chapter Meeting

June 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> HIGH SIERRA STAR-B-Q  
June 13<sup>th</sup> Chapter Ride over Hwy 9  
June 17<sup>th</sup> Chapter Officer's Meeting  
June 20<sup>th</sup> Modesto STAR Chapter Poker Run  
June 20<sup>th</sup> Chapter IRON BUTT Ride  
June 24<sup>th</sup> Chapter Meeting  
June 28<sup>th</sup> LOS Chapter Ride  
[Old Town Sacramento]

July 11<sup>th</sup> CHAPTER RIDE [Pt. Arena and  
coming back Hwy 101]  
July 15<sup>th</sup> Chapter Officer's Meeting  
July 21<sup>st</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> STAR DAYS [Billings, MT]  
July 22<sup>nd</sup> Chapter Meeting  
July 26<sup>th</sup> CHAPTER RIDE [Santa Cruz]

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Chapter Rides: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday / 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
Chapter Sponsored Events are set out in blue  
Chapter Meetings - red  
Chapter Supported Events - Black

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## AND THE MEMBERS SAID ...

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

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### CHAPTER RIDE Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 By David Nelson

I was asked by Pauline to share my thoughts of the 186 Chapter's first official ride for 2009. To start out, just a minor disclaimer: for interests sake I've peppered a few of my

favorite motorcycle quotes throughout (as I'm not smart enough to pen my own!). Thanks to their original authors whoever and wherever they are.

*"Four wheels move the body. Two wheels move the soul<sub>quote</sub>."*

OK so I was wrong! Dangling your right leg of your motorcycle isn't some new form of "motorobics" designed to show pedal cyclists that bikers can keep fit too! In fact it is one of many useful signals adopted by motorcycle groups to communicate intent (in this case drawing attention to a hazard on the right-hand side).

Many of these signals were demonstrated and adopted during the ride. This was my first ride with the group, and I was both impressed and encouraged by the organizers and the member's commitment to a safety-first philosophy.

A number of riders were new to the group, some to motorcycling per se, others (such as me) to participation in group rides. This was not a fact lost on the Officers, Road Captains and Tailgunners that orchestrated a wonderful first outing.

Out of interest, group signaling was a relatively new concept to me (and so I am guessing) to some of the other newer members of the Chapter.

The only other group ride I have ever undertaken was in 2008 when I participated in an off-track "race event" (aka "group ride") with members of Bay Area Riders Forum (BARF). The contrast was stark. The Star 186 initial meeting was well detailed and riders were properly instructed with respect to the ride details and personal and group safety. Safety at all times

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was in fact the credo of the group, and the ride was conducted at a sedentary and (for some maybe too slow pace). But as the President "Lone Eagle" rightly pointed out this was the group's first ride of the year, and given that riders new to motorcycling and/or group riding were participating an overriding factor was ensuring that everyone got to the end of the ride in one-piece and relatively unstressed.

**"If you want to complain about the pace being set by the road captain, you better be prepared to lead the group yourself"** quote .

I am sure as the year's rides unfold, the group's synergy will be honed and rides will adopt a touch more exciting pace (that fits with the law and with capabilities of the group) - a pace that still respects the confidence and skill of its less experienced riders and maintains an atmosphere that all can continue to enjoy. Contrast this with my first group ride with the other group; I think the average speed exceeded one hundred miles an hour for a large portion of the journey. As I strove to keep pace with sports bikes (I was one of only two cruisers on this journey) through serious mountain twisties, the sparks flew from my foot-pedals as they met the asphalt. I ended the day wishing for my next ride to be somewhat more relaxed (and that I had a change of underwear).

**"Respect the person who has seen the dark side of motorcycling and lived"** quote .

Although I think on the whole the other motorcycle group attempted to be a responsible organization, it was evident that my first Star186 ride was much more focused on ensuring the needs of all riders and personnel safety were paramount.



It seemed from the outset of the ride that 'alternative' forms of vehicular transport were determined to drown out the safety message. However our resolute Road Captains retained their cool and related their important messages above the din of circling airplanes and ear piercing exclamations of encroaching buses backing into the stall at the Chevron gas station next to Denny's, our starting location.

It was great to see so many faces enjoying the day and the camaraderie of friends with a common interest for the freedom of the open road and a motorcycle between their legs. A special welcome also to "Woody" our visiting Star Rider from Arizona. (Pauline, I loved the gladiatorial look! A part in "300" wouldn't have gone amiss!)

**"People are like Motorcycles: each is customized a bit differently."** quote

29 motorcycles, briefed and ready to ride, the Road Captains Joe and Perry give the signal to head out. The ride headed out on I-680 and over the Benicia Bridge. Those in the "technically savvy" group headed unheeded through the Fastrak, and waited for the rest of us more primitive "cash payers" on Lake Herman Road. From there, the ride headed into Cordelia, out onto Hwy 80 and carried on into Jamieson

Canyon and over Hwy 121 which turned into Adobe Road and Frates Road.

After a brief gas break in Petaluma, the ride continued with a rather slow exit through congested streets resulting in "Lone Eagle" suggesting we forgo the planned Cheese Factory stop in order to keep on schedule for lunch in Point Reyes (a curious ramshackle little place).

The wait for food proved to be well worth it, with scrumptious and varied offerings at the Stanton House Café! (including barbecued oysters for Cecil, Paul, and Larry! Yummy) Birthday celebrations for some members were provided by our ever thoughtful President "Lone Eagle".



The ride ended at Point Richmond where coffee at Starbucks concluded a great first ride. From there the riders headed out for home.

All in all a satisfying day and first ride. Roll on the next time. (Hope I can get in a few before I have to go under the knife again ☺)

Here's looking forward to the next time!

**"The best alarm clock is sunshine on chrome.**  
quote"

Dave (newby) Nelson

Some comments from the riders:

**From Woody:**

Victor please forward to the group:

Just wanted to thank everybody for sharing your ride with me. That was the first time I've been in wine country. I'm going to have to take Susan (wife) when she comes out.

First time riding with a group that used C.B's for communication. It will be my recommendation when I go back to Chicago for the summer I'm heading home (Massachusetts) for a couple of days.

Daniel (WOODY)

**From Jeff B:**

I wanted to say that I had a great time today and I thank you for letting me tag along. I was impressed by the organization and camaraderie of the group. It seems like a great bunch of people and I look forward to riding with you again and eventually becoming a member of the club.

**From Ken:**

Thanks for pulling it all together.. was nice to see everyone and meet the new folks. I look forward to riding more often in the coming months, especially now that I am retired.. yahoo!!!!

**From Dan H:**

Great (first ride) of the season, relatively short, well controlled especially with the number of bikes and various riders and great lunch.

**From Tony/Larisa:**

I thoroughly enjoyed myself today!!! I wasn't ready for the ride to be over!! I want to thank everyone for being so supportive of my first group ride! I'm really looking forward to the next destination & more importantly, the next good place to eat!! :-)

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## **Merced STAR Chapter's** **SUPPORT YOUR VET RUN**

**Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009**

**By Mike Prawicki, VET Rep**



At 7:00 this morning Victor, Cecil Bob and Myself met up at the Discovery Bay Starbucks only to find out it was closed, we settled for McDonald's coffee. After sipping some joe and criticizing two members that were in a truck (don't worry Victor & Cecil, I won't mention names) we headed out Highway 4 to Highway 99 and onto Merced Power Sports.

We got to Merced to find 145 motorcycles (should have been 147) all lined up and everyone gathered in the parking lot and milling around the store. Merced Powersports had a very nice inventory for those of you looking.

After a bit, it was announced that the Merced Police Department was in place and we should head out. It was a wonderful site to see so many motorcycles donning American Flags and heading down the road to the San Joaquin National Cemetery.

We all arrived at the cemetery, had a group photo or two taken. The Chaplain said a prayer honoring those men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and those who are now serving our great country. A young man blew Taps and afterwards you could really sense that it meant many things to many people. After drying my eyes (yes, I was crying) a gentleman whose eyes were also a bit wet, hugged me and said, "No matter how many times I hear that, I always cry." I'll leave it at that.

After paying our respects, the four of us headed up Hwy 5 and stopped for lunch at Denny's where we chatted for a while and headed home.

I would like to thank the Merced Chapter for putting on this event, as well as the folks at Merced Power Sports, The Merced Police Department for blocking the streets and last but not least the Men and Women who have or are serving in the US Armed Forces, Bless You All.

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## **CHAPTER [Make-Up] Ride**

**Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

*By Pauline Carlton*

The next time Lin asks me to do a pre-ride with her and the two dogs on a rainy Sunday using the GPS, instead of using the day to "visit" and kick back, **I'm taking notes!** 'cuz when 20 riders and 23 people show up for a Chapter ride, Lone Eagle looks at me and says, "Since you know where we're going today, why don't you ride in the middle of the group. In case we get separated at the signal lights, you can take care of the 2<sup>nd</sup> group." but ... but ... but ... too late, the Boss has spoken.

What an amazing sight out in the Denny's parking lot, the bikes just kept rolling in. Lin is going to be our Ride Captain today, her first time out. She's shaking in her engineer boots, whispering in my ear how nervous she is about today. *Don't worry, you're going to do fine!*

And GREAT she did ... starting with the pre-ride meeting going over the ride route in detail after Lone Eagle started out with the reminder to use both hand signals as well as turn signals today. Lin told us where she was going single file over what different parts of the ride; Mike wondered what the staggered sign looked like? [thanks for the help Michael]

Out on Hwy 680, we're rolling down the freeway changing lanes [back to front] when Cecil and Bob block the lanes, turning off toward Saratoga an hour later and into Los Gatos for our gas stop, and lunch. With the downtown area bustling with activity from shoppers at the Farmers Market, and other tourists in this charming setting, it was your choice on where to eat.

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For the majority of us, a local hamburger joint [and Cecil's favorite Grilled Cheese Sandwich] is always a winner. Sitting outside, enjoying the sunshine, sharing stories and one another, that hour sure went by fast. Giving Lone Eagle his birthday card that everyone had signed over the past two rides [finally!] was pretty cool too.

Coming out of town, we kept pretty well together; however, with part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half getting stopped at the last signal light, it was a while before we could navigate through the two or three off-ramps to catch up with the main group. [Hwy what? North? Or South? Man, I gotta take notes next time!!]

Regrouping and going over Hwy 92, turning off at the last rest stop area, we're taken up to a vista point which has a spectacular view. Group photo time!



All too soon, we're putting our helmets back on and getting ready to ride. I overheard a remark that they didn't get enough time to visit everyone, but Lin's on a mission. ☺

Back out onto Hwy 92 and while heading toward the San Mateo Bridge, there are now two separate groups of us with several cars in between. Holy smoke, was it windy coming over that bridge!!

Winding our way through Hayward, we connected back up when the first group pulled

over to wait for us. Crow Canyon is next, a right onto Bollinger Canyon Road which was very pretty, right off Hwy 580 onto Vasco Road and our last gas stop at the Chevron gas station, we're all back together again. Well, kinda / sorta. Several people are saying good-bye because they're going to be peeling off during the next leg of the ride. Dale is also going home.

Coming out of the gas station and onto Vasco Road, it was windy, windy, windy, left onto Camino Diablo which merges into the newly paved Marsh Creek Road, Clayton Road and wound up at the yum! yum! yogurt shop (Yogurt Shack) downtown Concord.

Coming home from the yogurt shop, I mentally gave Dale a bajillion blessings for getting me FASTRAK: the cash lines were several miles long and no one was moving fast.

The weather couldn't have been any better today [ok, I lied, except for the wind]. A good ride ... well thought out, well executed.

**GREAT JOB Lin!!!**

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## **STAR TRAVELER'S HELP LIST**

As we approach riding weather again, here is a very useful tool available to everyone.

**If you look at the top of the Forums page on the STAR NATIONAL's website, you will see "Members Information". That is where the Star Traveler's Help List is now located. You will need to be a member in good standing to obtain this list.**

This is made up of STAR members who have volunteered to help anyone who may have a problem passing through their area. They will also be happy to give you any information on their areas for vacation planning. I'm sure some members who have utilized this list in the past will be able to let you all know how valuable it really is.

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You can print a copy to carry with you on your planned trips. You never know what can happen and it's comforting to know your STAR Family is always available to help.

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## **KEEP THE SHINY SIDE UP!**

### **Safety Tips/Tech Talk**

This is your section to share "techie" stuff

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### **Bob's Safety Tips:**

- Carry your cell phone on your person.
- Do not look away from the road for longer the one second. It's a good idea to practice "One Thousand One" and look back at the road. You can then look away again but only for one second. This is a good practice even in the car. It will keeps you from being bored and your mind from wandering too long on anything else but the road.



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## **OTHER SAFETY INFORMATION**

### **Motorcycle Scene Management**

As the riding season starts to kick into high gear, I thought I would share this website – and it's information with everyone. This is taken from the Accident Scene Management Class Perry and myself took last year. There is some good info here. A lot of it is common sense but worth reviewing.

<http://www.calsci.com/motorcycleinfo/Accidents.html>

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## **TECH TALK**

This is your section to share "tech" stuff

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Flats Happen! Most vehicles run on tubeless tires these days. Regardless of thickness or pre sealant additives they're all vulnerable to being punctured. Now you can experience the skill of a professional's hand and the thrill of saving time and money. Your tires can now be easily plugged on or off the wheel with this new shop style tool called the TIRE PLUGGER. The Gun is a spring loaded device that 'drives' the plug into the hole. The shaft of the plug expands under pressure to fill the puncture. The mushroom head of the plug seats on the inner wall allowing no air to escape. This insures maximum reliability from its' revolutionary design. And it's easily stored - so you're always prepared.

Code 2913

\$38.38 each

[http://www.casporttouring.com/store/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROD&Store\\_Code=CST&Product\\_Code=2913&Category\\_Code=](http://www.casporttouring.com/store/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROD&Store_Code=CST&Product_Code=2913&Category_Code=)

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By Mike Prawicki

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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.

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### **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>

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**HAPPY April BIRTHDAY !!!**

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

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12<sup>th</sup> – Dan Hughes

For those Chapter members who still need to register, or are thinking about attending these events, just click on the links below:

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### **HIGH SIERRA STAR BQ 2009**

June 5-6, 2009

**PRE-REGISTRATION NEEDS TO BE RECEIVED by 05/05/09**

John Ascuaga's Nugget – Courtyard Hotel in Sparks, Nevada  
Main address: 1100 Nugget Ave. Sparks, NV 89432

Web: [High Sierra STAR BQ](#)

The 7th Annual High Sierra Star-B-Q is the one you've been waiting for! Fun & games for all ages. Our schedule includes a Poker Run, Show & Shine, Bike Games & Rodeo, Scenic Rides around the beautiful Lake Tahoe area. Topped off with both live & silent auctions and a banquet to knock your socks off!

[STARBQReno 2009 Registration A.pdf](#)

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### **Northwest STAR BQ 2009**

August 14-15, 2009

**PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE – 07/15/09**

**Medford, Oregon**

The Annual Crater Lake Run will be part of the NW Star BQ, with a ride to Crater Lake National Park, lunch at the lodge, a tour around the lake rim, and a return ride with the traditional stop at Phil's Frosty in Shady Cove, Oregon for ice cream.

Along with these feature events will be Vendors, a Show and Shine, Poker Run, Bike Games, and fun for STAR families and STAR kids.

The host hotel is the Medford **RAMADA INN**, They have rooms blocked for us at \$54 to \$63 plus tax. This facility is newly remodeled, has an exclusive bike only parking lot reserved for us, and will be hosting the Banquet. You can contact them at **541-779-3141** or **1-800-779-7829** for reservations.

Be sure and mention "STAR Touring" to get the block rate. Registration info for the event will be available in February, and posted here.

Yamaha/Star Motorcycles will be at this event with the Demo truck, free Star Motorcycle test rides during this event!

[ScheduleNWSTAR BQ.pdf](#)   [Event RegistrationNWStarBQ09.pdf](#)   [Room ReservationsNW.09.pdf](#)

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