



AUGUST 2008

THE “PREZ SEZ”

WOW! What a month! Our scheduled rides of Hollister and Mt. Tam saw most of our Chapter members participate get out and ride!! Hollister was fabulous. I would like to thank Monterey Chapter for hosting such a great BBQ, providing a safe location to share friendship and parking for our bikes. Mt. Tam was glorious, with a challenging road to test our skills. Everyone passed! LOL and we had fun. I would like to thank those who come up with our rides every month. As one member stated to me, “I don’t know where you all come up with these ideas, but each ride is better than the last, and they are all great”.

August continues with our slogan of “Riding in the Sticks with 186”. On the 2nd, the Madera STAR Chapter is holding their first annual Get Together and charity event for the benefactor CASA, an organization that speaks for the best interests of over 300 of the approximately 3,000 abused and neglected children in foster care in Fresno and Madera counties. I will be leaving the Discovery Bay location at 8 a.m. to meet up with the South Stockton Chapter where we will all ride down together to this event. On August 9th, we have a day ride planned to the coast and back. Check the website for details. You will not want to miss that ride; it offers incredible roads and scenery. August 15th – 17th – we are invited to the Venture Riders West Coast Rally in Morro Bay. Let me know if you would like to attend. At the end of the month, we take a breather with some good fellowship – and eating – at our Chapter’s Summer BBQ. This event is open to current Chapter members and their families. Please let me know if you, and / or your

family, will be attending. Do not forget your swimsuit!

I also want to thank those Chapter members who took time from their daily hectic schedules to visit a fellow STAR member from Olympia, Washington who, unfortunately, wound up at John Muir Hospital because of a serious motorcycle accident on the way to Hollister. An impaired driver, in the middle of the afternoon, caused that accident. We can never be careful enough, concentrating and being aware of our surroundings will help save our lives. I have received a note that he and his brother expressing their thanks! I am happy to report he has just been transported back to his home in Olympia.

Summertime may be ending within a month or so. That doesn’t mean we will stop riding. Continue to watch our website and member notifications for interesting places to ride to and see. In July, we created a “last minute” ride list for use by all current Chapter members. Feel free to contact any of those members, get out and have a safe ride.

Finally, I would like to congratulate and welcome Dan Hughes and his wife, Christine, to our Chapter. Let us get out and have some safe fun this month. See you all on the road!!!!

**Victor “Lone Eagle” Tibbs,
President**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Check the website calendar for further information

- August 9th **Mystery Ride [Lone Eagle, Ride Captain]**
- August 24th **CHAPTER BBQ !!**
- August 28th **Chapter Meeting**

September 13 **Santa Cruz Chapter Ride**

September 14th RIP's "BAD" RIDE
 September 20th Merced STAR Chapter Poker Run
 September 21st Livermore VA Hospital Ride-In

October 4th Holy Horsemen's Homeless Food Drive / Poker Run
 October 10-12 BIG BIKE WEEKEND – Redding, CA
 October 23rd Chapter Meeting – Officer Nominations
 October 26th Chocolate Ride

November 8th Chapter Ride - TBD
 November 15th USS Alameda [joint ride with Monterey Bay Chapter #161]
 November 16th Chapter Ride - TBD

December 13th Chapter Christmas Party – Officer Elections

 Chapter Sanctioned events are set out in blue
 Chapter Meetings – red
 Chapter Supported Events - Black

AND THE MEMBERS SAID ...

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

BLESSING OF THE BIKES

Saturday, June 28, 2008

By Pauline Carlton

Even though last month's edition of the newsletter had the ride report, I wanted to share this information which Tim sent us: **Thank all the Star members for their support. We raised \$1,400 for JDF this year!!! Timothy R. Forrester** Larry sent these photos that I also wanted to share.



August 9th, 2008 CHAPTER SANCTIONED RIDE Pre-Ride July 6th, 2008

By Pauline Carlton

7 of us accompanied the Ride Captain for this upcoming 300+ mile Chapter ride. No, I'm not going to tell you about the ride. ☺ Instead, I **am** going to let you know though that this one is one that you really don't want to miss. So, mark your calendars. Bring \$\$\$ for lunch and the bridge unless you have Fast Trac. See you at Pleasant Hill for breakfast(?); leave time is at 8:00 a.m.

HOLLI-STAR RALLY

Saturday, July 12th, 2008

By Kim Garner/Paul Schwind

When I first heard about the Holli-Star rally to Hollister I was chomping at the bit to go. Kim agreed to go with me. I had not been to Hollister since the early days of #186 back in 2001. If I remember correctly Cecil was tail gunning the ride back then as well.

The long awaited day came and it started the way I think all rides should start...with a good hearty breakfast. Food has always been a motivator for me. I thought Kim and I would be the first to get to Denny's that morning at 7:15 am, but we found

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several others had gotten there before us. Breakfast was good. I treated myself to steak and eggs. Pauline was surprised by Dale's arrival (he wasn't originally going to join us) Other chapters began arriving as we ate our breakfast. There were some from Napa, Sacramento, and perhaps Solano county. Some of them had gotten up at 5:00 am and had already eaten. After breakfast we went out into the lot to mingle.

Victor gave his pre-ride safety speech prior to our 8:30 departure time for Hollister. We all fired up our bikes. I looked over at Victor who motioned me to shut my bike off. I asked him "what's up?" Victor said "we're early it's only 8:25. Maybe we should wait until 8:30 so we don't leave anyone behind" I chuckled to myself. It appeared that I was not the only one in a hurry to get started.



We waited 5 minutes and started again. We kept the chapters in their own groups with Contra Costa and Victor leading the way to our first stop, San Ramon.

We met up with the Hayward Chapter and Paula. After a short stop we were off again. All of the various chapters in one large caravan of motorcycles. What a site!

Our next stop was in Morgan Hill where we hooked up with the Monterey Chapter and our host. They now took the lead and we were off to Hollister. It was great looking back in the mirror and seeing the long line of bikes. I'm sure that it drew a lot of attention from passing motorists and pedestrians.

When we got to Hollister we were motioned off the main road and up a steep hill to the park and BBQ. We had our own VIP parking and were only a short

walk from the event. Once we parked my first order of business was, of course, to learn where the food was being served. I asked Cecil if he was going to eat but he wanted to head down to the event to get his grandson a ride pin. Someone pointed toward a building and the wonderful smell of BBQ. Kim and I checked it out and as luck would have it the food line had just opened up. We were third in line. Nice! The hamburgers, chili, and hotdogs were Mmmm, mighty good.



We decided to venture down the hill to the event. We saw Victor in the food line and he told us to meet back at the park around 3:30 for the ride home. We found a steep dirt trail that looked like a short cut and thought, what the heck. We ventured on. I must have been younger the last time I tried a hill that steep...Ha!

At the event I got myself a ride pin and Tshirt. It seemed like it got real hot after a while so we got a couple of slushy, sugary drinks and we tried to stay in the shade. I'm a Deputy Sheriff so I couldn't help but notice all of the Hell's Angels. They were gathered in groups and it looked and felt like something bad was going to happen. This put me on edge and watchful of my surrounding. I was not able to relax and enjoy myself so Kim and I went back up the hill and listened to the great live music and ate ice cream.

As 3:30 rolled around we all gathered. We were missing a few of our members but took off for the Corbin Manufacturing Co for a look around. Then, it was off for home...minus our original tail gunner. We made it back safe and sound and stopped off at Fuddrucker's in Concord for ice cream.

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One more thing....has anyone seen Cecil???

[*Note from the Editor*] As an aside, a hat was passed at the BBQ where approximately \$850.00 was generously given, including a special, very generous amount from one of the Contra Costa County STAR Chapter members for Jim Gibbins, a STAR rider coming down from the State of Washington headed for Hollister. He had hooked up with some other riders along the way, and in Fairfield was hit by a drunk driver. A rider from Alaska who was behind Jim, noticed a car coming onto the freeway in Fairfield at an incredible rate of speed. The Alaska guy tried to speed up so he wouldn't get hit, didn't have enough power in the bike, got nicked, hit Jim's trailer, and then bike's starting flying. Those of us who met up in Pleasant Hill all signed a HAPPY HEALING card which was delivered to Jim Sunday night by Dominic, one of the Contra Costa County STAR Chapter members who reported: "**Jim in the hospital has a good spirit when I visited him last night. He has his shoulder operation today** [Monday, July 14th]. **He said thank you to all because we care.**" That's the STAR way, isn't it??

OTHER PEOPLE'S COMMENTS:

"214 bikes, around 300 people. We raised \$3000 after expenses, please thank your chapter for me.

Thanks for attending
Robert G."

[Robert Gatto, President, Monterey STAR Chapter]

Our Medford Trip **August 17th through 20th, 2008** By Victor Tibbs

Two words can really describe this trip – **JUST AWESOME.** 4 adventuresome souls, myself, Jocko, Path Finder and Gunny left Pleasant Hill at 7:30 a.m. having decided to take up an invitation extended from the Redding and Medford, OR. STAR Chapters to see Crater Lake. I had never seen Crater Lake. This sounded like something I just didn't want to pass up.

After sending countless e-mails and phone calls back and forth we came up with our ride plan and route, *or did we?*. On Thursday, we went out Hwy 29/128 to Hwy 101, making our way up towards Avenue of the Giants. The Road Captain had a thing for wood carvings, needing to stop periodically at different stores along the way to

check out some of the artistry – gee, I never knew there were that many wood carvers in this state. This actually paid off – as at one stop, we had to flip a U-turn to go back and check out a Castle Carving, when low and behold we came across a herd of elk in the roadway!!! After winding our way through the Avenue of the Giants, we decided we better get some gas before our next adventure. Anyone been out to the Lost Coast?

Pashnit and other notable route reviews stress that this road is not really meant for cruisers such as the bikes we ride. Well, the road wasn't THAT bad – at least there was still pavement on it. After meandering through Honeydew, Petrolia (there is a market there right out of the movie *Deliverance*, and I don't recommend stopping there! heehee), and heading towards Ferndale, I was really wondering if we did make a wrong turn – there couldn't be a coast here.

After another 20 minutes, there it was, and what a sight! Too bad there wasn't a turn-out as the best views were on really steep hills with no turn outs; not a safe place to park the bikes. We did (almost literally) run into some cows and definitely came upon some serious fog, so bad one couldn't see past their handle bars. It's a good thing we all have good lighting on the back of our bikes Welllllll ... we all agreed that it wasn't *that* bad as other reviewers had mentioned [was it?] Spending the night in Eureka, we were up bright-n-early finishing up the last leg of our trip and into Medford, Oregon to meet up with the STARs there.

When we reached Jacksonville, to our surprise we met up with those from the Redding Chapter, who kindly showed us back to the hotel in Medford. It's a good thing they did, or we all may still be driving around up there. The next morning, we met our hosts from Medford Chapter, who were just incredible. Knowing that most of us had never been to Crater Lake before, we took our time for plenty of photo opportunities. Unfortunately, if it was not for so much smoke in the air, the scenery would have been even more spectacular than it was. Too bad Sunday came along; I was reminded that all good things must come to an end. Thanks to my fellow "Lost Riders", this was truly a special trip – one I will never forget.

Share in our road trip by viewing the links I've attached:

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<http://www.fotomat.com/home/LONE EAGLE/2J1Q4Q3Q8B8QJU.EZP> and

<http://www.fotomat.com/home/LONE EAGLE/2O1E4V3S8G9EHA.EZP>

There are 77 photos. **Yes, we're going back next year.**

MT. TAM RIDE
Chapter Sanctioned Ride
Sunday, July 27th, 2008
By Victor Tibbs

Thanks to Perry and Joe for coming up with this ride – what an fabulous day. Doing the pre-ride the day before, I had decided to add the Marin Headlands to the original route, plus a recommendation by Dan Soraoka to consider the China Camp loop at the end.

When we pre-rode the ride on Saturday, riding over the Headlands, you could see the Farralones. But alas, this was Sunday and I knew something was up when Cecil called me at 9 a.m. to say how much fog there was on the coast. But, 17 of us gathered, and headed out at 11 a.m. anyway. Getting over to and through the City was slightly “challenging”, and after an hour and a half on the road, we decided to stop at the Vista Point after the Golden Gate Bridge. We were met by the tourists, several from all over the world who came over to take our pictures, and one even got to sit on Perry’s bike. This also happened to couple of us on our Saturday pre-ride. I couldn’t help but think about what a great group we have: this goes a long way towards promoting good will between the motorcycle community and the general public.

Looking up at the fogged-in Headlands, and with several people growling they were hungry, we decided to head straight for lunch in Sausalito. After this short break, up Mt. Tam we rode. It was spectacular – to ride out of the fog and enjoy the incredible scenery. From golden fields, great views of the ocean, groves of trees so thick you thought it was almost night time, we all made it down Fairfax / Bolinas Road and into San Rafael.

A little top off of the tanks, and around the China Camp loop we rode again admiring the different

types of scenery and wetlands our Bay Area offers us. The Road Captain was reminded that when riding where nature may roam, **pay attention** - a deer ran out almost clipping the front of my bike, but fortunately, we both looked at each other, nodded, and he went on his way as did I. [whew!!]

Sunday rides are great for jumping around the Bay Area and this was another great ride. Thanks again to Perry and Joe for putting this together.



KEEP THE SHINY SIDE UP!!

Safety Tips/Tech Talk

This is your section to share “techie” stuff

Larry’s Safety Tips:

- Watch for cars
 - Don’t tailgate [cars or other motorcycles]
 - “Object Fixation” - don’t focus on the object – focus on where you want to go.
 - Did you check your tires before you rode?
 - Did you check your horn?
 - Drink water; stay hydrated.
 - **DON’T** grab the front brake when riding over gravel.
 - **Don’t** assume everyone is an experienced rider when you see someone out-n-about on a motorcycle. There are many different skill levels.
-

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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 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.

HAPPY HAPPY BIRTHDAY
!!!

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

3rd – Paul Schwind
4th – Rimma Darmstead
23rd Kim Garner
24th – Joe Smart
