



February 2009

THE "PREZ SEZ"

WELCOME !!

MIKE PRAWICKI, our new Vet Rep
Dave and Pearl Nelson [new Chapter members]

What a January! Starting out with 9 brave Chapter members hooking up with the Sacramento Chapter for their Polar Bear Run on New Years Day. Our first Chapter Ride on January 11th for some great BBQ and Chapter meeting with (30) members, welcoming in our (2) newest members – Dave and Pearl, welcoming Mark who is interested in joining our Chapter (thanks Mark for making your first Chapter event our business and re-charter meeting).

I would also like to thank Dominic, Bob, Larry and Janet, President of the Sacramento Chapter, for heading down with me to pay our lasting respects to Lloyd Laird. We were among (46) STAR's who paid those final respects, and I know that Lloyd's family, and his Chapter, were truly honored by our attendance. Rest In Peace Lloyd.

February the fun starts. This, I feel, is going to be another exciting year. Your Ride Captains (Perry / Joe / Grace / Lin) are feverishly working on some great ideas for this year.

Weather permitting; we have two February rides scheduled: the 14th to Jamestown, and on the 22nd a nice Sunday lunch somewhere nearby (to be determined at this moment). Also, we will kick off our monthly meetings at Fuddruckers on the last Wednesday of the month. Please mark **February 25th** on your calendar. This is a chance to get

together with everyone, have a cheap dinner if you want, and find out what is new and upcoming within the Chapter. This month we will be bringing everyone up to date on our Chapter's first Kick Start the Summer Hog Roast on May 9th (find out where we will have it), pertinent information relating to our Chapter after the Officers Regional Meeting (held earlier in Feb.), STAR DAYS and other Regional Events, possibly some new LOS/Star Vet ideas, and what's coming up in March. Our meeting will start at 6:30 p.m.– over by 8:00 p.m.

A special benefit for Chapter members only: on Feb. 21st, Dan Soraoka will be holding our first "Lunch and Learn" an all day, non riding seminar at the Concord Police Station – entitled [Responsible Motorcycling](#). I will definitely need a head count for this, so please watch for the e-mail reminders and let me know if you can / cannot attend.

[see further information below in the body of the newsletter itself]

Finally, STAR DAYS is out "West" this year (approximately once every (3) years it happens) and registration starts on Feb. 2nd. On the 2nd, I am sure that the Event Schedule (as it is known) will be posted along with hotel/motel registration, etc. I will be putting together some ideas for that week, and if you are interested, or even thinking about attending this International Rally, please send me an e-mail because I am going to make a different distribution list for those members only. Currently, I am thinking of leaving on July 17th, returning on July 26th.

Thank you, everyone, for your trust and confidence in making this another exciting year.

Victor Tibbs
President
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check the website calendar for further information

**** 2009 ****

February 2nd 2009 STAR DAYS Registration Begins
February 8th SUMMIT Meeting
February 14th Freeze Your Honeybuns Chapter Ride
February 19th Chapter Officer's Meeting
February 21st Lunch-n-Learn Responsible Motorcycle Safety Class
February 22nd Chapter Ride
February 26th Chapter Meeting
March 14th Chapter Ride
March 19th Chapter Officer's Meeting
March 22nd Chapter Ride
March 26th Chapter Meeting
March 28-29 SW STAR-B-Q [Las Vegas, NV]
April 11th Chapter Ride
April 16th Chapter Officers Meeting
April 18th Alameda County Sheriff's EVOK Program
April 18th-19th Arlen Ness Bike Show [San Mateo]
April 23rd Chapter Meeting
April 23rd-26th Laughlin River Run
April 26th Chapter Ride
May 1st Ladies Ride to Work Day
May 9th GOIN' HOG WILD CHAPTER BBQ
May 21st Chapter Officer's Meeting
May 23rd STAR KNIGHTS Ride
May 24th Chapter Ride
May 28th Chapter Meeting
June 5th-7th HIGH SIERRA STAR-B-Q
June 13th Chapter Ride
June 18th Chapter Officer's Meeting
June 25th Chapter Meeting
June 28th Chapter Ride
July 11th Chapter Ride
July 16th Chapter Officer's Meeting
July 21st-24th STAR DAYS [Billings, Montana]
July 23rd Chapter Meeting
July 26th Chapter Ride
August 8th Chapter Ride
August 15-16 NW STAR-B-Q
August 20th Chapter Officer's Meeting
August 23rd Chapter Ride
August 27th Chapter Meeting
September 12th Chapter Ride
September 12th Cal-State Rendezvous
September 17th Chapter Officer's Meeting
September 24th Chapter Meeting
Sept 24th-27th STREET VIBRATIONS
September 27th Chapter Ride
October 10th Chapter Ride
October 10th BIG BIKE WEEKEND [Redding]
October 15th Chapter Officer's Meeting

October 22nd Chapter Meeting
October 25th Chapter Ride
November 12th Chapter Officer's Meeting
November 14th Chapter Ride
November 19th Chapter Meeting – Officer Nominations
December 12th Christmas Party

Chapter Official/Authorized 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.

2009 POLAR BEAR RUN

Thursday, January 1st, 2009

By Pauline Carlton

The Prez *said* this was going to be a good year for riding and today that statement started us out. We're going to be joining the Sacramento STAR Chapter's annual POLAR BEAR RUN. ☺ It's only 36 degrees when I left Vallejo this morning at 7:30 a.m., encountering fog for the first 20 miles with clear skies the last 70 miles into Newcastle.

Getting into Newcastle about 9:00 a.m. and pulling into the Flyer gas station to top off, I see Disney Mike from the Sacramento STAR Chapter is already there and waiting for company. A few minutes later, when I don't see him standing by his custom-painted Disney Machine, I head up the hill and park in the Denny's parking lot. When I walk inside, Disney Mike is calling my name, letting me know where our table is, and also letting me know that he has a dead battery.

The 9 brave Contra Costa County STAR Chapter #186 riders led by Lone Eagle and Barbara arrive about 9:30-ish with their teeth chattering, cold hands, red noses, and ordering anything that's **hot** to warm them up.

After breakfast, a group photo, the mandatory Ride Meeting, push-starting the Disney Machine to get it going and Ride Captain Sam Laughlin is leading the troops out of the parking and onto the freeway shortly after 11:00 a.m. About 10 minutes later, the sunshine is out and oh, man, does it feel good! Turning off at Dry Creek Road and onto Hwy 49 in Grass Valley, we're enjoying the scenery and the ride. After a right-hand turn on Brunswick Road, some of us stop for gas while the rest of the group pulls into the McDonald's parking lot. Much to our dismay, the Disney Machine has died again, Jim Long to the rescue using jumper cables and the car engine to charge up the battery: Mike says adios and leaves for home.

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Where's the snow? Uh, it's about another 20 miles or so. On our way up Hwy 49, there is snow alongside the road, some on the road, up on the banks, and at other points, well up into the pine trees on both sides of the road. Kids wave as we roll by. Several trucks and cars have pulled off on the opposite side of the road to let the kids [both big and small] play in the snow, and slide down the slopes. Sam has chosen the Vista Point as our stop. The view is incredible. Snowballs and stories are flying in every direction; Dan found out just how deep that snow really was when he went to take a step and sunk up to his thighs.

½ hour later, we're going back the same way we came, then over onto Hwy 174, and finally stopping in Colfax. Chapter #186 decides that because of the late breakfast, they're going to use the back roads to get back home while several other Sacramento STAR Chapter members leave and the left-over 8 of us eat a late lunch at TJ's Roadhouse. Good conversation always accompanies good food ☺ its now after 3:30 p.m., and time for me to get back home.

Leaving the sunshine, the last 100 miles home are foggy and getting colder. The highest temperature today inside the car said 56, but after 5 o'clock when I roll in, it's back to 36. Br-r-r-r!!

A big THANK YOU to Dan Soraoka for taking the group photo today, and the other camera memories shot by other Chapter members.

It's just been another awesome Polar Bear Run day, and a GREAT way to start out our riding season!

Check out these Photo Shows [thanks Larry and Dan!]

From Larry.

<http://photoshow.comcast.net/watch/PE5Vk6DD>

From Dan:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/usnvetrider/sets/72157612034030654/show/>

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FIRST CHAPTER RIDE OF 2009

Saturday, January 10th, 2009

By Jerry Ferrasci

The ride got off to a good start with a cool, sunny day. We left Pleasant Hill around ten in the morning with about twenty riders. Our destination was Calistoga.



We took Highway 680 to Highway 4 to the Cummings Skyway. We went over the hill and down into Crockett, over the Carquinez Bridge on Highway 80. We continued on Highway 80 to American Canyon Road where we picked up Highway 29 toward Napa. Then we took the Silverado Trail to Calistoga. This is always my favorite part of the ride. We stopped at Busters Barbeque for lunch.



I had a barbeque tri-tip sandwich which was wonderful. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food and the conversation.

After lunch most of the people rode home with a few extra twisty turns. I went back with Victor, Larry and Pauline. We took the shortest route so

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the meeting could be set up. The meeting included the reading and signing of the Charter for 2009.



Many members paid their dues. I want to thank Pauline for bringing water and cookies for everyone, it was very thoughtful. The meeting ended at 5:00 pm. It was a fun productive day and a good start for the New Year.

FARWELL STAR BROTHER Lloyd Laird

Saturday, June 17th, 2008
By Victor Tibbs

Santa Clara County STAR Chapter #209 member, Lloyd Laird, was hit by a car on Saturday, January 10th, 2009 while riding his motorcycle. He died a few days later.

Accepting an invitation from the Santa Clara County STAR Chapter #209 President and his family *"Lloyd is to be cremated (tomorrow – Friday) and there is a memorial for him on Saturday morning. Chapter 209 will be attending. If you would like, show up and support his family with us, you are more than welcome. We will be meeting at our usual location Starbuck at 8:30 and leave at 9:00 for the church. We will be wearing our vest in support."* Larry, I, Dominic, and Bob Bridges from our Chapter went to the funeral. Sonshine, President of the Sacramento STAR Chapter #153 met us in Pleasant Hill to accompanied us.

It meant a lot to his family, but also to our friends in Santa Clara County STAR Chapter to be there. In total, about 46 STAR's, with another 6–8 of his

Harley riding buddies filled about 1/3rd of the church with probably another 100 people from his church there as well.

I'm glad I went. It was a great sendoff.

May the following Biker Prayer stay with you throughout the year:

**Biker angel be my guide
As I climb upon my scoot to ride**

**Let your halo light the way
And keep me safe from harm today**

**Let your wings provide me wind and air
And send it coursing through my hair**

**Find me a peaceful sunny place
And let it shine upon my face**

**Keep the clouds and rain at bay
And keep me dry throughout the day**

**Watch over my brothers who ride with me
Keep them safe and close to thee**

**Keep my wheels upon the ground
So I'll return here safe and sound.**



OTHER SAFETY INFORMATION

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Welcome to our first **Lunch-n-Learn!** This session will be held in the Community Room at the Concord Police Station, on Saturday, February 21, 2009, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This class is called **Responsible Motorcycling** and will include both lecture and video, as well as "show and tell". Topics will include such things as ergonomics, maintenance, accidents, riding gear, solo and group riding, tips and techniques to practice, as well as long distance riding. This will be an interactive session, so please don't hesitate to ask questions.

The presentation will be made by Dan Soraoka. Dan has over 39 years and 250,000 miles of riding experience. Over the years, he has owned nine motorcycles of a wide variety. His mechanical experience includes being an aircraft mechanic in the U.S. Navy where he studied and repaired radial engines, as well as the pit crew for a friend who raced in the expert class of motocross. He has also earned two certificates from the Iron Butt Association for long distance riding.

This special session is brought to you as a benefit to Chapter 186 members. Therefore, we are limiting it to Chapter members only. Due to the size of the classroom, we can only accommodate 30 people. It will be on a first come, first served, basis. Your e-mail date and time will be used to determine attendance. If seats are available, prospective members are welcome to attend. As a bonus, lunch will be provided. The deadline for attendance requests is Monday, February 16, 2009. Hurry and e-mail your request for attendance to Victor Tibbs: victortibbs@comcast.net.



TECH TALK

This is your section to share "tech" stuff

See and be seen. Add a custom look to your bike with these cool mirrors.



"TEARDROP CURVED STEM RIGHT FITS ALL JAPANESE MOTORCYCLES. CATEGORY: MIRRORS. UNIVERSAL, Code: **AU91763** Price: **\$34.99**

To find them go to:

http://www.motoshop.net/mm5/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROD&Product_Code=AU91763&Store_Code=AIM&search=Road+Star+%2C+mIRRORS&offset=50&filter_cat=&PowerSearch_Begin_Only=&sort=&range_low=&range_high=





By Mike Prawicki



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>

HAPPY February BIRTHDAY !!!

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

6th – Ms. Pillowz
15th – Jerry Ferrasci

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