



**January 2009**

## THE "PREZ SEZ"



What an awesome – and joyful year – 2008 was. I would like to thank all of you for making the year a truly memorable experience. Also, thank you for entrusting myself and our officer team for another year.

2009 is promising to be another exciting RIDING year. Plans are in the works now with our Ride Captains to come up with some new, interesting routes. We have the STAR Regional/International Rallies, and maybe even an Iron Butt for those who wish to participate in that.

We will have two safety / informational motorcycle events: one provided by our own Dan Soraoka, and the other will be the Sheriff's EWOK riding training day which is still being set up. Also, don't forget our multi-chapter/riding groups **Spring Fling** in May.

Communication is the key to any successful organization. If any of you have ANY ideas, positive or where we could improve, please feel free to send any of your Chapter Officers an e-mail or give us a call.

In this issue, we have posted up what we believe to be a tentative schedule for the upcoming year because some like to pencil in dates on their calendar. More ideas and ride information will be coming. Also, note our Chapter Meeting nights, 6:30PM @ Fuddruckers.

Finally, I would like to thank our returning and new officers for this year who are taking their additional time to make sure we all have a great time.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the road, and at our January 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter Re-Charter Meeting at the Concord Police Station – 2:30 p.m.

*Victor Lone Eagle Tibbs*  
President, STAR Chapter 186

## OFFICER TEAM FOR 2009:

**President:** Victor Tibbs  
**Vice President:** Larry Thompson  
**Sgt-At-Arms:** Bob Bridges  
**Secretary / Editor:** Pauline Carlton  
**Treasurer:** Jerry Ferrasci  
**Senior Ride Captain:** Perry Meyer  
**Alternate Ride Captains / Trip Coordinators:**  
Grace Christiansen, Joe Smart  
**Assistant Ride Captain:** Lin Tomy  
**L O S Rep:** Jenn Thomas  
**Chapter Shepards:** Grace Christiansen,  
Dave Zachary  
**STAR Vet Rep:** To Be Determined  
**Webmaster:** George DeBruin

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## CHAPTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check the website calendar for further information

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January 1 <sup>st</sup>	Polar Bear Run with STAR Chapter #153
January 7 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Officer's Meeting
January 10 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Official Ride
January 10 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Meeting – Concord Police Station Meeting Room - IMPORTANT 2:30pm
January 17-18 <sup>th</sup>	EZ Rider Bike Show [Sacramento]
February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	2009 STAR DAYS Registration Begins
February 14 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Official Ride
February 18 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Officer's Meeting
February 21 <sup>st</sup>	Group Riding Safety Class – Seminar Presented by Dan Soraoka – Concord Police Station
February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Chapter Official Ride
February 25 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Meeting
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Official Ride
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Officer's Meeting
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Chapter Official Ride
March 25 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Meeting
March 28-29	SW STAR-B-Q [Las Vegas, NV]
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Official Ride
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Officers Meeting
April 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	Arlen Ness Bike Show [San Mateo]
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	EWOK M/C Training (tentative)
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 Official Ride
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Ladies Ride to Work Day
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	SPRING FLING BBQ
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Officer's Meeting
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	STAR KNIGHTS Ride
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Official Ride
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Meeting
June 5 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup>	HIGH SIERRA STAR-B-Q
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Official Ride
June 17 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Officer's Meeting
June 24 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Meeting
June 28 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Official Ride
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Official Ride
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Officer's Meeting
July 21 <sup>st</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup>	STAR DAYS [Billings, Montana]
July 26 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Official Ride
July 29 <sup>rd</sup>	Chapter Meeting
August 8 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Official Ride
August 15-16	NW STAR-B-Q, Medford, Or
August 19 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Officer's Meeting
August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Chapter Official Ride
August 26 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Meeting
September 12 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Official Ride
September 12 <sup>th</sup>	Cal-State Rendevouz
September 16 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Officer's Meeting
September 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Chapter Meeting
Sept 24 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup>	STREET VIBRATIONS
September 27 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Official Ride
October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Holy Horsemen Food Run

October 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter Official Ride  
October 14<sup>th</sup> Chapter Officer's Meeting  
October 21<sup>st</sup> Chapter Meeting  
October 25<sup>th</sup> Chapter Official Ride

November 11<sup>th</sup> Chapter Officer's Meeting  
November 14<sup>th</sup> Chapter Official Ride  
November 18<sup>th</sup> Chapter Meeting – Officer Nominations

December 5<sup>th</sup> Holy Horsemen DeLite Parade  
December 9<sup>th</sup> Chapter Officers Meeting  
December 12<sup>th</sup> Chapter Christmas Party – Officer Elections  
December 19<sup>th</sup> Christmas Night Lites Ride

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Chapter Official events are set out in blue

Chapter Meetings – red

Chapter Supported Events - Black

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### STAR DAYS 2009, Billings, Montana, July 21-24.

Come out for four days of family fun at STAR DAYS 2009. This year offers some great riding in the Montana and Wyoming area. The 11th annual STAR DAYS will be action packed with events, rides, seminars, vendors, bike show, food, camaraderie and entertainment for the entire family.

The **SWAMPAZZ** ride this year should be one of the best, over Bear Tooth pass. The altitude at the top is near 11,000 ft. You will want to bring a warm jacket, your camera, and maybe oxygen? The air is thin up there and the scenery is spectacular.

This will not be one to miss. Online registration begins February 2, 2009.

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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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### CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS NIGHT RIDE

Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008

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After pizza at Zachary's Pizza in San Ramon, the troops head out to see what Dave and Sheila McNamar had in store for them to see:

Lone Eagle said: It was **Awesome**. Went by Bob's World in Pleasanton, and Deacon Dave (home of 301,000 lights) in Livermore. Afterwards, Coldstone Ice Cream, at 40 degree weather. Can't beat it (or is it ... can't freeze it? LOL).

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

### **Larry's Safety Tips:**

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- **Object Fixation** – don't focus on the object – focus on where you want to go
- **Check your bike prior** to each time you ride – screws, nuts, tire pressure and wear spots, fluid levels, mirrors, etc.



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## **OTHER SAFETY INFORMATION**

### **Commuters on Two Wheels**

Do you know someone--with no prior riding experience--who recently bought a motorcycle or scooter so they can save fuel and money commuting to work? If so, then chances are that person could benefit from some safe riding advice from you. To that end, you may find helpful the following ten street survival strategies for motorcycle commuters:

1. **Avoid High Risk Roads:** Try to avoid routes to and from work with high risk factors, such as those with ongoing construction, numerous places for traffic ingress and egress, frequent animal presence, etc.
2. **Be Seen:** Wear bright colors and use auxiliary driving lights to increase your

visibility to other drivers and riders. Follow the left or driver's side tire track of cars in front so they will be able to see you from two of their rear view mirrors. Have reflectors on your bike and your riding gear for any night riding.

3. **Dress the Part:** Riders **always** should wear a full-face helmet, leather gloves, a riding jacket with armor and footwear that covers the ankles. Carry raingear and warm clothing for inclement weather.
4. **Identify Yourself:** Carry medical alert information that includes who to contact in the event of an accident, your name, blood type, drug allergies, etc.
5. **Continue Improving Your Safe Riding Skills:** Take as many riding classes as your time and budget allow. Also, gain experience by talking to and riding with more experienced riders and read some of the numerous books published about riding skills.
6. **Carry Emergency Items:** Tire repair kits, cell phones and first aid kits are good things to have on your commute.
7. **Ride Alert:** Never ride under the influence of alcohol or any other controlled substance or when you're significantly fatigued or emotionally distraught. Riders need their full concentration on their surroundings and shouldn't be listening to music through earplugs or engaging in any other potentially distracting activity.
8. **Anticipate:** Observe what is happening at least 8 seconds ahead of your current position to anticipate potential dangers. Watch for head movements of drivers at intersections or any other indication that they may not see you and are likely pull out in front of you. Allow at least three seconds of space between you and the car in front of you and never share a lane with another moving vehicle.
9. **Pack Securely:** Carry your briefcase and any other items in a courier bag, tail bag, saddle bag or otherwise firmly attached to the bike in a secure fashion.
10. **Inspect Your Bike before Riding It:** Check for proper tire pressure and remaining tire tread life, fluid levels, functioning lights and other critical bike functions before riding it.

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A more extensive article on motorcycle commuting can be found on our website (<http://www.roadrunner.travel/article-5937.php>).

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## Washing your Motorcycle

*(courtesy of Dan Soraoka)*

Even with regular maintenance and upkeep, our motorcycles tend to get used and subjected to different elements in the environment. You should take note how you do your washing. You might scratch parts of your motorcycle.

### **TOP RULE: AVOID SCRATCHES.**

Scratches are the biggest enemy of any bike's finish. The secret of keeping your used motorcycle parts as good as new is to avoid scratches. Dirt and grime when rubbed in while washing or drying, act as sandpaper and will definitely dull the brilliance of your bike's paint.

To avoid scratching your bike, you need to remember that anything that comes in contact with your motorcycle's finish should be made of soft material. Take care that no harsh or rough surfaces will be able to connect with any part of your motorcycle. Zippers are the worst offenders.

Use only clean, freshly washed cotton cloths or towels to dry your bike after washing. When you need to put on any application to make your bike shine, again use only clean cotton cloths and towels. Thoroughly rinse sponges or wash sponges, as well as the bucket, before and after washing your bike to remove any dirt or grime.

One of the best pieces of advice I got from a used motorcycle parts site was to separate my bike's areas into normal and rough areas when washing. I usually consider the painted surfaces as normal areas, while the tires, engine, and inner fenders are the rough areas. I use different wash mitts and sponges for each area to keep dirt and grime away from the sensitive areas. This way, scratching would be avoided.

Use a gentle stream of water when rinsing, rather than high water pressure that comes from the hose. The high pressure of water will cause dirt to grind further into the paint, causing scratches along with

other worse problems. And remember to use generous amounts of water when rinsing. Dirt that causes scratches will easily float away with enough water. Totally avoid using pressure washers. Instead let the water flow freely by detaching the nozzle from the hose.

Along with the generous amount of water, use detergents designed specifically for motorcycle washing. Ordinary detergent tends to remove the wax that we want to try to keep. Simply mix the detergent according to the directions and go for it. Just make sure you rinse each section soon after applying the detergent so that no soap film will develop. It is difficult to get rid of the soap film when it dries up.

After washing, rinse, rinse, and rinse some more. Rinse everywhere. Every nook and cranny should be rinsed of soap.

Lastly, wash your motorcycle without bright sunlight. Soap suds can easily dry from the heat. Ideal time of the day would be in the late afternoon or early morning when the sun is not so strong.

After rinsing use a lawn leaf blower to get water out of hard to reach places then wax with good quality carnauba wax.

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## Before Riding This Winter, Keep This In Mind ...

By Juan Hernandez of SRMT  
(Santa Rosa Motorcycle Training)

One of the greatest things to being a California rider is that we don't have to store our bikes for the winter. We have the luxury of pretty much riding year round. However, Northern California riders still need to be concerned about things like: fog, rain, black ice, and windy conditions. Unfortunately, many riders take to winter in the same vain as the warmer seasons. Most figure, if their bike was good during spring, it should be fine for the winter. Right?

### **Wrong!**

Now is the time to inspect your tire pressure, tire wear, and brake pads and replace or adjust them if

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necessary. During the course of the winter, you need to be monitoring each closely.

That's some commonsense stuff for your bike, but what about the rider?

This winter you will see riders wearing their entire wardrobe, and some hardly wearing anything at all. My recommendation falls somewhere in between. Over dressing can restrict the way you ride. Often times, riders overheat this way, and wind up peeling off their layers of clothing, just to become cold again. Other riders concern themselves with coordinating their clothes with their bike, instead of the weather. Maybe frozen motorcyclists are cool, but eventually, these riders will become so cold their motor skills will diminish making it very difficult to operate the bike properly.

To buy your winter riding gear at a Burlington Coat Factory or the like is not going to help you much. Yes they look great, but most are not made for your riding protection. The same is true with most department store bought gloves. Instead, check out your local motorcycle shop and see what specialized winter riding apparel they have to offer. The comfort and protection you will get from having the appropriate riding apparel is priceless.

Another tip for the winter, winter gloves with a built-in squee-gee on the thumb to keep your mirrors, and visor clear. This clever invention is wonderful to have when riding in wet conditions.

In addition, a modulating headlight is a great way to be more visible to others. Most modulators come either with a built in sensor that will modulate only under certain conditions, and others can be turned on manually by a built in switch. The only drawback to modulating lights are the dirty looks drivers might give you because they thought you were an approaching motorcycle officer.

This winter season please remember to gear up properly for the occasion. Also, make sure both you and your bike are up for the task of riding in unstable weather conditions. So what are you waiting for? Have fun this winter, but make sure to keep it with in your level of comfort.

**STAY VISIBLE.  
STAY AWARE.**

## STAY IN CONTROL.

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### TECH TALK

This is your section to share "tech" stuff

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#### L.E.D. Battery Gauge



Unfortunately, most riders find out that their charging system has failed when they end up broken down on the side of the road. A little advanced warning can keep you from being stranded in the middle of nowhere. Now you'll know at a glance whether or not your charging system is working properly.

Our L.E.D. Battery Gauge is an array of L.E.D.s indicating the operating voltage of the bikes electrical system. Green L.E.D.s represent the normal operating range of your charging system, 12.5v to 14.5v. Amber L.E.D.s warn the rider that the bike is not charging. If the reading drops below 10v or exceeds 15v, a flashing red L.E.D. will alert the rider of an impending stall or the possibility of damage to the battery and/or sensitive electronic components on the motorcycle

Simple two-wire connection and a compact size (about 2" x 3/4" x3/16") make installation a breeze. A daylight sensor automatically adjusts the brightness of the L.E.D.s. They are bright during the day for visibility and dim at night so as not to blind the rider. For more information contact: <http://www.kuryakyn.com/products.asp?bn=metric&ci=3866>



by Victor Tibbs



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.

**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 January BIRTHDAY !!!**

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

1<sup>st</sup> – Kathy Smart

**And the Chapter Survey said**

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**NOTE: THERE WERE 23 RESPONDANTS.**

**1. What is / was your reason for joining STAR Touring and Chapter 186?**

- Wanting a safe, group riding environment  
7 votes – 30.4%
- Make new friends  
8 votes – 34.8%
- Learn how to ride within a group  
0 votes
- Explore new places  
3 votes – 13.0%
- Other (please specify)  
5 votes - 21.7%

(all those comments said "all of the above").

**2. Do you like the two a month ride agenda currently in place?**

- Yes 19 votes – 86.4%
- No 0 votes
- I want more! 3 votes – 13.6%

**[Note: 1 person skipped this question.]**

**3. At the last Chapter meeting, it was voted on and decided we would have monthly membership meetings. When would you like to have those?**

- Mon/Tues. Eve - 6:45 - 8PM 1 vote ea. 4.3%
- Tuesday Evening - 6:45 - 8PM 1 vote – 4.3%
- Weds Evening - 6:45 - 8PM 10 VOTES 43.5%
- Thurs Evening - 6:45 - 8PM 4 votes – 17.4%
- Friday Evening - 6:45 - 8PM 0 votes
- 2nd Saturday Morning - prior to our chapter ride  
7 votes – 30.4%

**4. If you chose a weekday evening, where would you like to meet?**

- Fuddruckers, Concord  
18 VOTES – 95%
- Other Location/City (please specify)  
2 votes - 5% -  
(Spaghetti Factory-Toto Soto's Plaza).

**5. For 2009. STAR Touring will be promoting Regional Rallies and a National Rally. I am considering going to (check all that would apply):**

- Southwest STAR BQ - Las Vegas –  
March 27 / 28      **5 votes – 21.7%**
- High Sierra STAR BQ - Reno –  
June 5 - 6      **13 VOTES – 56.5%**
- STAR DAYS - Billings, MO –  
July 21 - 24      **11 votes – 57.8%**
- Northwest STAR BQ - Medford, OR –  
August 14 - 15      **7 votes - 30.4%**
- None of the above      **6 votes - 26.1%**

**6. I would like to see the Chapter organize 3 day Chapter membership weekend ride(s)?**

- One Trip      **8 votes – 36.4%**
  - Two Trips      **11 VOTES – 50.0%**
  - Three Trips      **2 votes - 9.1%**
  - None      **1 vote – .5%**
- 1 person skipped / did not answer this question.**

**7. I would be interested in participating in an Iron Butt - 1,000 miles in 24 hours or less - event during 2009.**

- Yes      **9 votes – 39.1%**
- No      **14 VOTES – 60.9%**

**8. Our Chapter has donated proceeds of an event, and/or food/toys to charities in the past. This coming year (2009), I would like our Chapter to consider: (check all that would apply)**

- Feed the Children - STAR Touring's National Charity      **8 votes – 34.8%**
- STAND Against Domestic Violence - local charity      **8 votes – 34.8%**
- Blue Star Moms - local charity      **3 votes – 13.0%**
- Contra Costa County Food Bank      **15 VOTES – 65.2%**
- Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa

- County      **13 votes – 56.5%**
- Other (Please Specify)      **2 votes – 8.7%**
- Alzheimer's Association– Homeless Shelter

**9. In 2009, I would consider participating in another Alameda County Sheriff's Regional Civilian Motorcycle Training Class.**

- Yes      **13 VOTES – 59.1%**
- No      **2 votes – 9.1%**
- Maybe      **7 votes – 31.8%**

**10. I am considering attending the following Motorcycle Rallies in 2009. Please check all that apply.**

- Laughlin River Run –  
April 22nd - 26th      **3 votes – 17.6%**
  - Hollister - July 10th - 12th  
[maybe]      **7 votes – 41.2%**
  - Street Vibrations - Reno –  
Sept. 23rd - 27<sup>th</sup> [maybe]      **9 votes – 52.9%**
  - Big Bike Weekend - Redding - probably 2nd weekend of Oct.      **10 votes – 58.8%**
  - Other (please specify)      **0 votes**
- [NOTE: 6 PEOPLE SKIPPED THIS QUESTION.]**

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