



JULY 2008

THE “PREZ SEZ”

Greetings members!

At our Chapter meeting on June 26th, we discussed several topics. While most pertained to our upcoming rides, I was also looking for some feedback from those present on how this year was going for everyone so far. When asked “what have you enjoyed the most this year”, almost everyone overwhelmingly mentioned the rides we have put together so far, sharing times with friends from within our Chapter and friends from others, and again the rides. There was some constructive advice i.e. having our Chapter meetings more regularly (something I have considered), safety and “cool” places to eat while we are out on our rides. The final question was, “Are we having fun”, and that answer was unanimously **YES!** So, on behalf of the officer team, I would like to shout a huge **THANK YOU** – for everyone who has participated so far.

I had mentioned I ride with 4 – 5 different groups including STAR. I do, or can have fun with all of them, and “knock on rubber tires”, always find my way home. Sometimes, I may get nervous riding with a particular group, or “big” charity run as not everyone is as considerate as I think we are. Sometimes, I may just “grab” couple of people if they are available at the last minute, and go somewhere – maybe not. That is fun also.

But what I appreciate more than anything with our Chapter and friends is the people, and the “roads” our Ride Captain along with his assistants have put together. That, for me, makes a big difference when we can take our group, and know where we

are going – what we are doing. Safety is a huge topic/concern for me, and something that we as a Chapter is always learning and trying to perfect. I also enjoy knowing that on any particular weekend day, as a member of our (Inter)National Association, I, and any STAR member, can go ride with them. It might mean an early morning start, but some of the local Chapters within our own region put on some really great rides as well.

July promises to be really exciting for the Chapter. First, on July 12th, as we have traditionally done in the past, we will be joining several other Chapters and riding to Hollister – err – HolliSTAR for a fabulous BBQ and good times. My understanding is that those who wish to participate with Monterey Chapter’s BBQ, will have secured parking at the park, a chance to win some great prizes, and more importantly some great food. On Sunday, July 27th – Perry (and Joe) have put together a fabulous ride route over to Mt. Tam and surrounding areas. **Mark your calendars.**

Here is where I need your help. I sent out an e-mail regarding an upcoming ride I am thinking of putting together. The Medford, Oregon Chapter puts together their yearly ride around Crater Lake on July 19th. I was thinking of leaving Thursday (the 17th), spending the night somewhere, and riding into Medford on Friday, participating with the Medford Chapter on Saturday, hi-tailing it home on Sunday the 20th. **Any takers** – please let me know as soon as possible, and I’ll make it happen. Another weekend trip we (those present at our Chapter Meeting) decided to participate in is the Big Bike Weekend in Redding [Oct. 10 – 12]. I am working with their Chapter on putting this together as well.

Finally, **CONGRATULATIONS** to Dan for not only putting on a new Rodeo event which was very well received at our Regional HIGH SIERRA STAR-B-Q

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last month in Reno, but by taking first in his category in the Show-and-Shine. Have a great month – and see everyone “on the road”.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check the website calendar for further information

July 12th Holli-STAR Rally

July 27th Mt. Tam Ride

August 9th Competche [Ukiah]

August 24th Chapter Ride TBD

August 28th Chapter Meeting

September 13 Santa Cruz

September 14th RIP’s “BAD” RIDE

September 20th Merced STAR Chapter Poker Run

September 21st Chapter Ride TBD

October 11th Chapter Ride TBD

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.

COLUMBIA FLY-IN

Chapter Sanctioned Ride
Saturday, June 14th, 2008

By Ken Ayers

My day started in San Rafael when I left my house at 0600 hrs heading to Cordelia to meet my friend Mike at the local Starbucks prior to our ride to Discovery Bay to meet up with 186. Highway 37 was clear of traffic but engulfed in fog and damn cold! Should have put in that jacket liner I was considering. Broke through the fog as I

approached Vallejo and hit I 80 on into Cordelia. Gassed up and then headed for that hot coffee and meeting my riding buddy at Starbucks.

With our bellies warm with coffee, we decided to ride 12 out to 160 and then onto 4 to Discovery Bay. Perhaps not the most direct route but so much better than the freeways. Winds were heavy but we made it with time to spare. Topped off the tanks and headed to the Starbucks to meet up with everyone else.



Ah ...everyone’s drinking coffee at Starbucks while the motorcycles sit patiently waiting ...



I had a good time reconnecting with everyone and meeting new friends as well. After more coffee, and more gabbing, Lone Eagle briefed us on the day and Joe reviewed the route we were taking. All sounded well planned and interesting. Larry provided the safety briefing. Sixteen bikes and 18

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friends saddled up and off we headed east to our destination.

Into Stockton and then heading south on I-5 for a short stretch until we are able to get onto the country roads that we all enjoy so much better than the freeway. Several rest stops along the way, one to top off and the other to rest our butts and stretch made the ride that much more enjoyable. Arrived in Columbia and found parking at the airport.

The air show proved interesting. Many aircraft on display ranging from old bi-planes, world war II era planes such as the P-51s, and numerous experimental aircraft. The air show started slowly but was fun to watch. Those P-51s are not only noisy but fast!



Rides were available for a small fortune and no one from our group took advantage of them. After about an hour and half or so at the air show, we again saddled up and headed to Sonora for lunch before heading back towards our next destination.

Sonora was busy as usual but we found parking off the main street and gathered at the Miners Café for some good food and good conversations. We did miss Grace though as she sought out an air conditioned restaurant. We all figured she didn't want to hang around with us stinky men! After all, them leathers do get quite warm!

After filling our bellies, we regrouped and headed out. Ironstone winery was our first stop as we headed west. A great location to stretch, rehydrate while enjoying the museum and such. This is the most unbelievable forty some pound gold nugget on display. You could see Bob and Victor

scheming on how they were going to get this out of the vault and into their saddlebags!!



With all that scheming to no avail, we headed out to our bikes to the ride home only to discover that Joe's bike was having issues! The bike wouldn't start! Numerous of us back yard mechanics offered suggestions, and a call to HD for assistance did no good. It all came down to a blown fuse, once replaced we were good to go.

The ride home was warm but enjoyable. One more stop for rehydration and final stretch before the final push back to Discovery Bay. Said good bye to several friends as they peeled off heading home, all enjoying the cooling ride as we got closer to Discovery Bay. Several of us relaxed outside of Starbucks and then said good bye and headed home ourselves.

All in all a great ride and a fun day with friends. Thanks Joe for planning the ride and everyone else for the good conversations and good times had by all. Another fun day with Chapter 186!

[Note from the Editor: here is a link to Larry's Photo Shop showing the ride today]
<http://photoshow.comcast.net/watch/MF8eC4NU>

OLD TOWN SACRAMENTO

Chapter Sanctioned Ride

Sunday, June 22nd, 2008

5 Chapter members starting out, and picking up other riders from other Chapter's along the way, for a total of about 16 people on the ride today.

Other people's comments:

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Beautiful day, great company. always good to practice up on our u-turns :) Shari

I had a great time including the scenic detours - George de Bruin

Just wanted to say I had a great time - Warren

I had a wonderful ride this afternoon. - Dominic

Thanks - It was a nice ride & enjoyed Crawdad's & my daughter being able to have lunch with us.

Thanks again

AJ

BLESSING OF THE BIKES

Saturday, June 28, 2008

By Pauline Carlton

I love this ride. This is my 4th year, because it moves me in a spiritual way like no other ride that I've been on. You know, it's kinda like when you get those feelings sometimes riding on the tree covered roads where the sun is filtering through the tree tops, and you wouldn't want to be in any other place, at any other time, other than just being exactly where you are, and experiencing everything that you're feeling at that particular moment.

Breakfast is at 7:30 a.m. and I don't want to be late. I elected to go the route that I know [which adds some 20-25 miles]. Taking the Lone Tree Parkway turnoff, I'm more than grateful to see a STAR vest off to my left: thank goodness for Dominic because I had no idea where Sylvia's Country Kitchen was located even though I knew it was on Lone Tree [somewhere].

Lone Eagle, George, Jerry, Larry are already there. Dan and Perry come in a short time later [Perry is 2-up with Dan today]. Breakfast is another informative experience listening to the guys sharing that technical information that I forget about as soon as I fire up *Traveler*, put on my helmet and get ready to ride.

Having come over Hwy 12 and Hwy 160, I am VERY happy to learn that our ride today is going over Marsh Creek Road and Kirker Pass instead of the delta as in years past. [The wind blew me from side-to-side in my lane]. It's a short ride, only some

35 miles, but it takes the 30 or so of us about 2-1/2 hours stopping in Clayton for a 1/2 -hr break at Carl's Jr. and Starbucks before coming back to the Wesleyan Church, 2 rows of riders lining up one on each side of the two crosses which stand proudly on the grass. Pastor Brian and his helpers give us a brochure generated by the CMA [Christian Motorcycle Association], a little blue sticker which says I'M BLESSED IN '08, and a cross medallion hanging on a red, white-n-blue ribbon while waiting in line for our individual blessing.

A \$10 donation earlier before the ride gave you a BBQ lunch: hamburger, hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans, shredded cheese, platters of cookies, brownies, and chips. Lunch is followed by the raffle, some items being given back and auctioned off to the highest bidder. Where else could you get an \$80-\$90 oil change for only \$5.00? [Ask Larry Thompson about that one], or a \$10 hair-cut valued at \$30. Even better? What happens when a husband outbids his wife? A \$20 hair-cut donated to Pastor Brian. ☺

All raffle prizes [and there was bunch of them!] were all donated. All of the food also donated. All proceeds generated today benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, specifically research for Type-1 diabetes that seems to target children. Aaron is our poster-boy of the day [and last year too]. His Grandma gives us the history and low-down on what it means for a child to check himself 7+ times a day; the blood sugar levels, counting the carbohydrates of the food he/she eats. It's an enormous responsibility for a little boy who should be able to enjoy his childhood the way we did, ya know?

It's been a long week; I'm very tired, and I leave the group early to come home. I have things to do. Suiting up getting ready to leave, seeing everyone sitting underneath the tarp areas, Tim [Forrester] hyping the next raffle prizes, it's a warm feeling in my heart, and it wasn't caused by the sunshine.

PS: Out of the 30 or so bikes today, 10 of 'em came from our own Contra Costa County STAR Chapter, 12 people. What a great showing we had today.

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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 ride when you see someone out-n-about on a motorcycle. There are many different skill levels.



by Bob Bridges

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]

No birthdays listed this month

**As a reminder, come July 1st,
no more cell phones while
driving.**

And if you're interested, this is my take on the Training Class which some of us took on Saturday, May 31st.

Alameda County Sheriff's Office Regional Training Center

Civilian Motorcycle Rider
Training Program

Saturday, May 31st, 2008

By Pauline Carlton

The June edition of our newsletter, THE ROTATING WHEEL, started off with the President's Message of **CONCENTRATION, RIDE YOUR OWN RIDE, BE AWARE** among other things. He forgot to add "practice, practice, practice your motorcycle riding skills." But that's okay, the message he was delivering was / is different than mine here today.

There were 12 of us who signed up, and took the Civilian Motorcycle Rider Training Program offered by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. I don't think any of us [outside of Dan Soroaka] will ever look at motorcycle riding in quite the same way again. Or, at least, for me, I know I won't.

I've been riding for almost 6 years and am considered by many to be a "good rider". I can honestly say that my riding skill is much more accomplished these days than when I first started riding. Much of that skill comes from the many miles I've ridden. But like others, have grown complacent in developing bad habits, or continuing on with other riding techniques that maybe I should've conquered a while back and just never did. This class brought home some of these things to me yesterday. However, I don't think I'm the only rider out there guilty of these things. ☺

An hour of lecture by Raleigh Patterson going over what the "Basic" course via a Power Point presentation was going to cover today led me to wonder what exactly was I going to get for my \$150? We already know these things. The Intermediate and Advanced courses offered also

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included those things which we do on the road as a matter of course, its all "routine" to us. I, however, was in for a really big shock as to what that \$150 was going to cost me today.

Everyone can make a U turn right? Everyone can swerve to avoid an obstacle in the middle of the road, right? Everyone can handle an emergency braking situation, right? Uh ... maybe. Or maybe the question should be do you do these things in the best possible way? a la The "Basic Course".

Riding our bikes up the hill of the facility to where we're going to be doing our exercises, it's a very small little pathway that leads into a gravel and dirt parking area for our bikes; the cones have already been set up for the "U" turn exercises on the paved area. We're introduced to the workhorses of the day by Rich Cademartori: Kawasaki 1000's, and gives us information on how to properly sit on a motorcycle: wrists slightly bent so that when you need to grab the front brake, you just "roll" over to it, toe on the back brake with the rest of your foot sitting on the floorboard, eyes straight ahead.

The U turns are absolutely torture for me. This is a weak point of mine anyway although my percentage of making them out on the open road, I thought, had gotten much better. However, today, I can't do anything right. We learn about wheel placement, looking to the left until the turn is completed, while using the friction zone and throttle to get you around the corner smoothly.

From lane 1 to lane 3 at first, then it tightens from lane 1 to lane 2 next door. The guys are terrific, they're "getting it" and looking good. Jack Sage, one of the instructors is good about letting you know what you still need improvement with. I made it once without putting my feet down ☺

Mercifully, we're breaking for lunch, which is down the road at Armadillo Willy's BBQ. Yum, yum burgers [it's called *comfort food* for me at this point] with good company and conversation with Ken, Art, Dominic, Craig and Lone Eagle.

The hour quickly passes and we're back at the facility, parking the bikes, and jumping onto our Kawai's again. Rich leads the group down the little pathway, making a U turn at the bottom of the hill, bringing us back up, off to the right with another U turn in the middle of the road, and then back to the

exercise area, and the cones which I view as just another 3 hours of hell for me. I can't wait for 4 o'clock to get here. Another ½ hour of review in making the U turns into the #2 lane [me, I'm still on #3].

Thankfully, we have a new exercise: swerving in-n-out and through the cones which have been set up in a row. The purpose of the exercise is to "hinge". That means to keep the upper part of your body straight while swinging your bottom left or right depending on what's needed at the moment, and looking through to the end of the row of cones, without knocking over the cones.

My first pass through the cones, I thought I did pretty good. I made it; I didn't knock any of them down either. E-haw!!! On the second pass, okay, so that one cone jumped out there at me. The guys are all doing well; Dan of course is showing us the right way to do it. He's just awesome to watch and learn from. The third pass, everyone does better.

It's at this point that Rich takes us all on a little follow-the-leader going up one row of cones, making the U turn onto the next lane, going down that row, making the U turn into the next lane, and then reversing the direction. I'm already lost, struggling to keep up. I'm going left only to discover the riders are now riding toward me. Oh man, what do you do in a situation like this? Fall down, right?

They pick me and the bike off the ground, and we got a short 15-minute "recess". ☺ Sodas, listening to the Scottish Band rehearsing, it was nice.

Going back, it's time for the emergency braking: $1.5 \times \text{mph} = \text{the \# of feet you will travel before you hit something}$ [$1.5 \times 30 \text{ mph} = 45 \text{ feet}$] We're instructed that when we ride by this cone which is tipped over with the small end toward us, this is the start of the braking. The other cone ahead is where we should be winding up at. We all start out at 20 mph, then proceed up to 25, and finish with 30 mph before the emergency braking situation.

And that's the end of the "range" portion; back to the classroom for a review of the day. At 5:20 p.m. we left the facility with several of us riding together, while others went their own ways home.

The course itself was worth every penny I spent, and then some. Jack, Rich, and Raleigh have well

over 100 years of experience between the 3 of them, and it showed when they demonstrated how an exercise should be done [right]. They were professional in their presentation of information, suggestions for better improvement, patient with a sense of humor and camaraderie among them.

Yes, I fell down. Yes, I got my ego bruised [BIG TIME!!] but it showed me that I need to practice, practice, practice each-n-every time I can those things which I learned today. That was the theme of the entire course: they give you the information, and will show you how to do it [right] but it's up to you to practice those things until they become second nature ... and will make you a better rider.

Check out Dan's photo show of our day:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/usnvtrider/sets/72157605382010153/show/>

I also strongly encourage each-n-every Chapter member to take advantage of any course or class that you can take like we did today. You will walk away with more knowledge, more understanding of the motorcycle, its world and yours.

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