

CHAPTER 186 Contra Costa, CA

Star Touring & Riding Association

March

THE ROTATING WHEEL

2008

THE "PREZ SEZ"

WELCOME! I hope you enjoy our Chapter's first newsletter. This is for everyone – so please feel free to suggest articles, ride reports, fun tidbits, and technical information – whatever.

As you can see from our Calendar of Events, we have many great activities scheduled for this year – I look forward to seeing everyone "on the road" and having fun this year. Our motto for this year is *Sharing Times and Riding*.

Our Calendar is just a guideline. If anyone would like to suggest additional activities, different ride locations, please do not hesitate to contact me.

This year we are trying to coordinate some activities with our "sister" chapters – this is a great way to meet others within our International Association. ☺

It is Springtime – have you checked your bikes from the winter "time-off"? Have you checked or changed the oil and/or other fluids, greased up the spines, checked your cables, battery and tires? Now is a good time before getting on the road for all our events.

Until next month, enjoy and "let's go riding"!

Victor Lone Eagle Tibbs
President

REMEMBER: It's not the destination that counts. It is the journey and the people that you meet along the way that is important.
- Author Unknown --

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check the website calendar for further information

March 8 th March 22 nd	The Golden Ranch Run Merced Support our Vets Run
April 12 th April 19 th April 24 th April 26 th April 27 th	Lake-Cache Meet-n-Eat Open House – Lodi Meet and Greet Chapter Meeting Napa Chapter Charter Signing and ride Alice's Restaurant
May 3 rd May 4 th May 10 th	Road Captain Training Day and Ride Picnic with Chapter 153 - Jamestown Mt. Hamilton [joint ride with Hayward Fault #103]
May 18 th May 24 th May 24 – 26 May 31 st	Peruvian Paso Horses Star Knights Vet Memorial Ride Chapter Weekend Ride - Redding Chapter Safety Day
June 6 – 8 June 14 th : June 21 st June 22 nd	High Sierra BBQ – STAR Regional Event Air Show at Columbia State Park Modesto Chapter's Charity Poker Run Old River Road, Downtown Sacramento [joint ride with Hayward Fault #103]
June 26 th	Chapter Meeting
July 12 th July 20 th	Holli-STAR Rally Scandia Family Fun Center
August 9 th August 24 th August 28 th	Competche [Ukiah] Chapter Ride TBD Chapter Meeting
September 13 September 14 th September 21 st	Santa Cruz Non-Chapter Event – RIP's "BAD" RIDE Chapter Ride TBD
October 11 th October 23 rd October 26 th	Chapter Ride TBD Chapter Meeting – Officer Nominations Chocolate Ride [joint ride with 315]
November 15 th	USS Alameda [joint ride with Monterey Bay Chapter #161]
December 13 th	Chapter Christmas Party – Officer Elections

Riding in the Sticks with 186

www.star186.org

AND THE MEMBERS SAID ...

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

ANGEL'S CAMP Chapter Ride

January 11th, 2008

By George DeBruin

This ride was special to me since I was the Road Captain today. Being a Ride Captain is something I had not done before yet enjoyed tremendously. My ride started way before the meeting point of Discovery Bay, however, coming from SF. Victor had shown me several weeks before the March Creek road, and I took this over to Discovery Bay. It's glorious in the early morning.

After taking off from Discovery Bay after our pre-ride meeting and Larry's first safety-tip of the year [watch out for cars], we followed Hwy 4 into Angels Camp. I have driven this road for many years going to Bear Valley, but I found it was fun to ride it on my bike too, especially the twisty turny parts close to Angels Camp.

After a nice lunch at the Main Street Café [yummy food, and good service too].



we went on to Columbia Historic Village where I had been many times also, yet never on a second Saturday when they have all the activities going on like musicians, a horse drawn carriage and black smith. Of course, you have to visit all of the little shops along the main street, and, there's room for Larry's favorite: ice cream.



On the way back home, we stopped at Lockeford at the local meat and sausage place where we all got some great sausage – my family wished I had bought much more!

[Note from the Editor: This was the first Ride Captain experience for George. Rolling into Discovery Bay, he just thought he was along for the ride; however, when the scheduled Ride Captain called and had to bail, without hesitation George stepped up to the plate, and led the 8 bikes that day, doing a super job in keeping us all safely together]

SURF, and WILD FLOUR Chapter Ride

February 9th, 2008

By Pauline Carlton

I can't believe it; it's not raining. What a GREAT day for a ride, and I'm ready early in the morning to start my day. Rolling into Denny's at the Location #1 starting point, Larry is pulling in almost right behind me. Getting a table and starting to eat, the President joins us a short time later. Wearing my Secretary's hat, I'm passing around the Sign-In Sheets.

Going outside after breakfast, I am very delighted to see Paula, Dan, Bob and his wife, Debby, Warren and Rimma are already there. Charlotte is riding in, and those Harley boys, too: Cecil and Dave McNamar. Steve Lum is also there, and wants to share with me some photos which he took last month when we were in Angels Camp and Columbia. [AWESOME photos, Steve – thank you again]

Ride Captain Perry Meyers rolls in about 10 minutes to 10, jumps off the bike, and starts to give us the ride route information, and collects the tolls because we're going

Riding in the Sticks with 186

www.star186.org

over the San Rafael Bridge into Marin County where we will pick up George and his daughter, Danielle.

This is the first time I've been over the San Rafael Bridge. I thought it was wonderful. Going through the toll booth, those of us with Fast Track veered over to the left side of the road and waited while the others passed through, and then rejoined the rest of the group.

Riding through the countryside, after picking up George and Danielle, we're making a left on the outskirts of Petaluma, and bypassing the original rest stop at the Cheese Factory. Riding through Occidental, the weather is warming up. Some time later, hooking a "U" turn, it's time to shed some of these layers. A policeman rolls up letting us know that just around that other bend, gravel is on the road. Heeding the kind officer's advice and riding gingerly over this area, I noticed a sport biker trying to rescue his downed baby.

Riding into Dillon's Beach for lunch was a gorgeous sight: the waves, the beach, the wonderful riding weather and **LUNCH!!** Lone Eagle and George ride in moments later with Sam Laughlin and Steve Podesta, after retrieving them from the Cheese Factory.



Good food, lots of good company and motorcycle conversation, it's time to get back on the bikes, and start our way over to the Freestone Bakery. It's another loping nice ride through the country back roads before getting into Sebastopol. The bakery is utterly charming and smells heavenly. A bit pricy I thought, but OH MY GOD, oh! so! worth it. ☺ A passerby agrees to take our group photo [wasn't that nice??]



Stopping at the Starbucks in Petaluma at Lakeville Hwy, we say our goodbyes, with hugs, and a RIDE SAFE farewell.

OTHER COMMENTS FROM THE DILLON BEACH RIDE:

[Steve \(and Sam\)](#) - thank you for allowing us the pleasure of riding with you all.

[Warren](#): - Just wanted to say thanks again for a really great ride. We found we had some "fine tuning" to do with our gear (which is good) and we will be better prepared next time.

[Dan](#): I just couldn't pass it up. What an awesome day!

[George](#): After meeting up with the group in Novato we went the Marin Cheese factory to sample some of their soft cheeses. They had a great deals and the freshness could certainly be tasted. This was the reason that my daughter wanted to go – she loves cheese.

After riding through beautiful Marin hills and valleys with glorious weather we ended at Dillon Beach for lunch. The views and ocean sounds were a welcome sight. After hamburgers and sodas we left for Coleman Valley Road - an awesome hill crested road twisting through the landscape which ended by the Freestone Bakery.

This was a great ride with awesome weather and beautiful roads. Looking for many more.

Danielle thinks you are all very nice - thanks for making her feel welcome.



KEEP THE SHINY SIDE UP
Safety Tips/Tech Talk
 This is your section to share "tech" stuff

Larry's Safety Tips:

- Watch for cars
- Don't tailgate [cars or other motorcycles]

When is the last time anybody ever inspected their helmets? Many have had them for numerous years - the internal pads are worn out, how are the locking mechanisms on the flip ups working? etc. Has the helmet been dropped? With some mfg's, you can send that helmet back (you pay shipping) and they will inspect the unit for free and/or repair, and/or recommend the new one as the integrity of the old helmet has been degraded.

The thought behind that tidbit was; we all throw dollars in chrome/paint on the bike - but what about the stuff that will actually protect us? [By Victor Tibbs, President]

10 Ways to Save Your Ride

The following is a list of very good ideas you should remember every time you get on a motorcycle.

1. Lane Check

While riding it can be easy to become complacent. Besides just checking your mirrors, do a full head

turn, left and right, before changing lanes. **How many times have you checked your mirrors only to find someone in that blind spot once you started to switch lanes?**

2. Riding the Line

A fluid, efficient turn begins with taking the proper line. The proper line is the quickest, easiest and safest way to negotiate a turn. Approach turns wide, meaning you start a right turn from the left part of your lane, or a left turn from the right part. This gives you the best view of a blind turn and requires the least amount of braking and lean. Use your whole lane as needed, but be very sure to not cross the center line!

3. Braking

During a hard brake, momentum makes the bike want to continue forward. This puts weight on the fork and compresses it as the rear lightens and rises, making the rear brake easier to lock. That is why the front brake is designed to handle 75 to 80 percent of the braking load. Practice hard stops on a quiet but well maintained road using mostly your bike's front brakes. If you tend to lock the rear during hard brakes, try leaving the clutch lever out and the bike in gear when braking, and pull the clutch in just before coming to a complete stop.

4. Cornering

We love to ride our cruisers and dressers, but they come with a downside. Being low it is easy to drag the pegs, floorboard or pipes on the driving surface during a turn, and even lever the weight off the tires and cause a slide. A solution is to set up the suspension with the maximum amount of spring preload on your shock absorbers. Some riders even install longer shocks and fork springs.

5. Passengers

Two people on one bike make for potential problems. Avoid surprises by giving passengers some basic guidelines: 1) Do not mount or dismount the bike until instructed to do so; 2) Do not suddenly talk into my ear unless first squeezing my arm; 3) When approaching turns, stay neutral except to look over the driver's shoulder in the direction of the turn (right turn, right shoulder, etc).

6. Unstable Surfaces

Have you ever see riders navigating a gravel parking lot or rough terrain by dropping their feet and awkwardly walking their bikes? Ride with your feet up as your bike's low center of gravity and low torque pull you through. You may feel more comfortable executing a U-turn with your feet down, but once you have the bike

pointed in the right direction, get your feet up and look like you know what you are doing. A little practice helps a lot.

7. Obstacle Fixation

Have you ever rounded a corner, seen a pot hole or stone you could have easily avoided and run right over it? That is obstacle fixation. You tend to steer your bike where you look. Focus on a pot hole or stone, and that is where your tires will go. Try looking where you want to go versus at the obstacle. **Do not look at the pot hole, look at the path around the pot hole.**

8. Equipment

Equipment is worn by everyone exposed to potentially hazardous activities. Athletes wear shoulder pads and a helmet if they play football, construction workers wear hard hats and steel toed boots, and firemen wear helmets, breathing apparatus, and fire/water resistant gear...and nobody dares call these guys wimps! So what is stopping you? **We are firm believers in letting the individual decide, but things like boots, gloves, long pants and a protective jacket are pretty much the basics.** The helmet may be the most controversial, but it makes sense for many riders and may be required by [law](#).

9. Practice

Practice maneuvers in a quiet parking lot or the like. Practice hard braking from 30 miles an hour. Practice very tight turns with your feet up. Try pulling in the clutch and lock the rear wheel so you can see how you and your bike react. Run over a 2 x 4. There are many different road situations you can recreate in a parking lot. It is better to encounter areas you need to work on in a parking lot than a busy city street!

10. Drinking

WE DO NOT DRINK ON OUR RIDES !!! -- PERIOD !!

You know this already. It is not a good idea to drink and ride. (it's a **REALLY BAD** idea)

I hope you can use some or all of this to help keep us all more aware and safe on our rides.

Thanks,

Sam Laughlin

STAR Touring& Riding West Regional Director

And here's your thought for the day:



Cow philosophy