



November 2008

THE "PREZ SEZ"

WELCOME

Mike Prawicki, Lin Tomy, and WELCOME BACK Jenn Thomas.

There has been some great input thus far for where everyone in the Chapter would like to ride to next year. PLEASE feel free to send your ideas to me as the Officer Team will soon start figuring some of these locations out.

We will need Road Captains/Assistants and Tailgunners next year. If you are interested, please let me know as soon as possible. Again, just because you offer a suggestion, doesn't mean you need to lead the ride – we're just looking for YOUR ideas. See the back page of this Newsletter for the suggestions received so far.

I need a head count for the USS Hornet ride on November 15th. Please let me know ASAP if you are planning to go.

A **special thanks** to Dave McNamar who at the last minute put together a ride for those not attending Big Bike Weekend. By all reports, everyone had a blast – THANKS DAVE. For those who went with me to Big Bike Weekend, thank you as well. That weekend was probably one of the best, laid back, weekends I had had in a long time. It was fun not having an "agenda" to follow, and getting to spend some quality social time with our members. I definitely encourage everyone to consider that ride next year.

On November 8th, Larry and I will be participating in the Regional STAR Chapter Presidents meeting. If anyone has any input you would like us to bring up to our Regional Directors, or share with the other Chapters, please let me know by the 6th.

See you all on the road, be aware and be safe.

Victor "Lone Eagle" Tibbs, President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Check the website calendar for further information

- November 15th** USS Alameda [joint ride with Monterey Bay Chapter #161]
- November 22nd** Feed the Children [Hollister]
- December 6th** Chapter Christmas Party – Officer Elections – Holiday Raffle – 50/50, White Elephant Exchange
Fuddruckers, Concord 12 p.m.
- December 19-21** International Motorcycle Show
TBD Christmas Lights Ride [Dave McNamar, Ride Captain]

**** 2009 ****

- January 1st** Polar Bear Run with STAR Chapter #153
- January 10th** Chapter Meeting – Charter Signing - Sanctioned Short Ride to follow.
- January 17th** EZ Rider Bike Show [Sacramento]
- February 2nd** 2009 STAR DAYS Registration Begins
- February 14th** Chapter Sanctioned Ride
- March 14th** Chapter Sanctioned Ride
- March 22nd** Chapter Sanctioned Ride
- March 28-29** SW STAR-B-Q [Las Vegas, NV]
- April 18th-19th** Arlen Ness Bike Show [San Mateo]
- April 23rd-26th** Laughlin River Run
- May 1st** Ladies Ride to Work Day
- May 9th** CHAPTER SPRING FLING BBQ
- May 23rd** STAR KNIGHTS Ride
- June 6th-7th** HIGH SIERRA STAR-B-Q
- July 22nd-25th** STAR DAYS [Billings, Montana]
- August 15-16** NW STAR-B-Q, [Medford, Oregon]
- Sept 24th-27th** STREET VIBRATIONS

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.

BIG BIKE WEEKEND

Chapter Sanctioned Ride
October 10-12, 2008

For those of us who went, these are some of the comments about this event:

From Joe Smart: Overnighters are great because it allows for socializing and not just riding. This last weekend did just that. Watching the stunt riding and bike games was fun. The unexpected fun part was the Segway tour. Soooo... thats all I gotta say about that!

The Editor's Comments:

What I learned this weekend:

- (1) I can ride in 50 mph gusty winds after all;
- (2) I can put a 12-pack of Diet Coke in my left saddlebag and still have some room;
- (3) I paid a "occupancy tax", "tourism tax" and a "hotel assessment charge" on my room that I've never done before;
- (4) That I'm "tough" and "sexy". Or this is what I was told by the female who hit on me at the Twin River Casino Saturday night;
- (5) That I needed another layer in order to ride the Remembrance Ride that I wanted to participate in on Friday night;
- (6) That I need to add wire and duct tape to my tool bag for those parts that come loose out on a ride, like my shifter did Saturday morning to get me back into town;
- (7) When I grow up, I'm going to ride just like the police officer's drill team riders; and
- (8) I came to find out how much I really care about my STAR Chapter #186 "family".

From Ken Ayers: I had a great time in Redding. Always good to be with the group. I truly enjoy the company and such. The event was nice, enjoyed the many different things to do.. the OPD drill team was awesome... the police competition... the memorial ride... our Ride on Saturday to Mt Shasta with Jerry and Larry... hanging with everyone.. and the ride home!

Must admit I enjoyed it much more than Hollister!
Take care... and looking forward to our next ride!
Ken

And here is George DeBruin's RIDE REPORT:

DO YOU KNOW HOW GOOD WE HAVE IT?

This is not a rhetorical question; do you know how good we have it in being a member of Star 186?

I got a new appreciation for our chapter this last weekend when we went up to Redding to attend the Big Bike Weekend. This being my first rally, I had no real concept of what I could expect or how the weekend would go. I came open-minded and let the events unfold.

The first highlight occurred Friday evening. A memorial ride was organized with police escort – riding through Redding to Shasta Dam. Cruising uninterrupted through traffic lights and stop signs was a novel experience, and it was a beautiful evening. When we started it was light but as the hour-long ride progressed, night gradually fell while a near full moon illuminated the clear sky. Lone Eagle appropriately observed the symbolism in a memorial ride progressing from light to dark with a bright light shining overhead. The ride ended at the Win-River Casino where we had a sit-down dinner of prime rib. I believe many of us had not expected this fancy meal. Lots of laughter and fun ensued as we enjoyed the music and food. To top it off, we were each given a \$10 coupon to gamble. If our group was any indication, the casino lost money as Pauline, Ken, and Larry pocketed their profits.

So when do you get to ride with over 350 riders in a police-escorted ride, have dinner with friends, and come back to the room feeling you have had a wonderful day? Not often enough!

Saturday brought a whole new experience. The local Redding Chapter organized a ride through the hills to Mt. Shasta that I chose to join. They mentioned it would be chilly since we would be traveling up to 4,000 feet, and it was indeed cold--even with my lined jacket and pants. Though the landscape was beautiful, I quickly realized the need to focus solely on the road. This Chapter likes to ride fast, and fast they went. The start was a little rocky, because we lost several of the group due to lights, and since they have no radios, it took someone from the back to race to the front to advise them of the missing members.

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Once I got into the ride and focused on my technique, it was a great tour ending at the town of Mt. Shasta, which stands at the base of the majestic mountain. The lunch stop was interesting; it was announced all were free to purchase food at the place of their choosing, so the members went their separate ways for the hour. Don't get me wrong, this is a great bunch of people, and they welcomed me like I was a regular member – yet everything was *different* than with our Chapter.

This brings me back to the original question of how good we have it. Were I not a part of 186, I would not have attended this weekend gathering. But more importantly, it was in your company that I experienced these great times, good fun, and special events. The second ride really pointed out how well we travel together. Having radios is a necessity on chapter rides, and when it is not there, it feels weird and less secure, I always look forward to our lunches to catch up on or get to know others better. And finally, our adherence to the speed limit in Chapter rides is wise, because it ensures a good, safe trip for all, and that is key. So, with my limited experience in this Chapter, I would answer the question as “yes, we know this.” Nonetheless, it is good to be reminded once in a while just how good we have it as members of 186. Thanks for letting me be part if it.

Ride Safely,
George de Bruin

UP TO GRATON

Chapter Sanctioned Ride
Saturday, October 11th, 2008
By Bill Pettaccio

On Saturday, October 11, Dave (McNamar) and Cecil led a group of ten of us to a small town called Graton for a late breakfast.

It was a beautiful early fall morning when we met at the Shell Gas Station in Pleasant Hill. Dave, the Ride Captain had us on the road on time and to our destination in about an hour and a half. Dave led us over the Carquinez Bridge, thru Vallejo, on to highway 101, and took the Hwy 116 exit. It was not long once we passed through Sebastopol that we parked our bikes in Graton. I think it's fair to say that everyone really enjoyed our breakfast at

the Willow Wood Market (I know I really enjoyed mine). I don't know about the others in the group, but I will remember this ride for a long time mostly because of the loud siren we heard during our breakfast!



After breakfast, we made our way to River Road, over HWY 101 and stopped for gas in Calistoga. Dave had mentioned earlier in the day that our route this way would be iffy because of a recent fire in the Napa Valley. When we stopped for gas in Calistoga, we did see several fire trucks but NO smoke. With the fires out, we took to the road again and came back on Silverado Trail, a road that I don't ever get tired of riding on. We stopped in Cordelia, said our goodbyes and ended another safe and enjoyable ride with members of the 186th!

I tip my helmet to Dave and Cecil for putting together this ride on short notice while most of the Chapter Officers were up in Redding. As usual, I'm already looking forward to our next ride.

Comment from Michael Smith:

A beautiful day, a wonderful ride, good eats, what more could one want!

LOS CHOCOLATE Ride

Saturday, October 26, 2008
By Pauline Carlton

Three STAR Chapters with their own separate Road Captains and tailgunners each taking turns and all leading the same ride? Using this concept, yup, we made “history” today in that I don't believe

that this has ever been done within the STAR organization [or that I am aware of anyway].

Meeting up at the Shell gas station in Rio Vista, "Boots" Reeder, Vice-President of the Solano County STAR Chapter led the 24 bikes into Flagg City for a short gas stop, and then into Clements to visit the **CHOCOHOLICS DIVINE DESSERTS**.



Touring the chocolate factory itself was via overhead monitors, and the "how you make chocolate" story set out in photos, and typewritten notes pasted along the hallway walls. After an hour browsing around the different chocolate products including but not limited to body paint, and tour, it's time for lunch.

Chapter #186 now took the lead, taking us back into Lockeford for lunch at Elaine's Country Café. Lone Eagle having made advance reservations, they had ½ the restaurant reserved for us. Our Vice-President's reputation for finding us good eats remains untarnished folks. GOOD food, great company. The server was a darling girl and really brave to take us all on at one time. ☺

Lone Eagle has to have his "fix" at the Lockeford Sausage Factory just two doors down before we can leave the area though. The tiny shop is immediately filled with STAR vests and buying up some of the stock. Ah, but we're on somewhat of a timed schedule. Soon we're back on Hwy 88 heading back through Lodi, and then onto Hwy 99 where the #315 LOS Rep Ann Davis and nephew Josh are taking our photos from their car riding alongside of us. 11 short miles later, we're coming off the freeway and onto Twin Cities Road, and through the country side before coming onto the Delta Road.

Mother Nature always takes precedence on a ride, and when I saw that "comfort stop" signal, we're

pulling into the first parking lot that will accommodate the bikes to take care of business.

Steve/Chere, Ray/Nancy leave the group to head back home, and Lisa Huntley, President of the new Napa STAR Chapter says follow me to the Chevron gas station in Rio Vista where we fuel up, and then onto Hwy 12, where it's a wonderful, sunny, lazy, easy ride into the Jelly Belly Factory.

Darnnit! We're 15 minutes late for the last tour of the day, but being undaunted, several of us put on the paper Jelly Belly hats and catch up with the last group for the rest of tour.



5 bags of jelly flops for \$27 ... is that a good deal? ☺ I don't know, but those two Victory motorcycles, one on each side of the entrance, painted in various Jelly Belly themes are just beautiful to see.

Lisa and Ben say their good-byes, and #186 is back in the lead, taking the group over to Denny's in Cordelia using the back country roads. Denny's has the back room reserved for us; hot fudge/carmel/strawberry sundaes, a dish of fruit, chicken fingers, coffee, ice tea ... whatever you want. It's the end of a very special day.

Actually Boots and Lisa really hate leading group rides, but they did an awesome job of it today. Having them step up to the plate when I told them about this concept of mine and asked for their help just makes me feel ever so blessed and privileged to have them as friends.

Thank you guys. I very much appreciated it.



The 3 Road Captains [Lisa, Pauline, Boots]

Just wanted to say thanks again for the wonderful day. I had a great time. Also, thank you for the treat to end the day. I really appreciated it.



Jenn Thomas

Michael and I just want to say thanks, one more time for such a great ride and a great day. It was a wonderful idea to make it a joint ride with the other clubs. I hope you will be leading another event like it next year!

Samuel

P.S. Thanks, also, very much for the sundaes!

Well, girl, that was an awesome day. Almost to the person, everyone enjoyed the relaxed pace, time for socializing, etc. If I did hear a complaint, I think (1) person mentioned one too many rest stops [Note from the editor: it was probably that Mother Nature stop]. But, I truly enjoyed this day – you should be proud – you engineered another fabulous Chapter activity.

Victor Tibbs

President

Contra Costa STAR Chapter #186

Riding in the Sticks with 186

Hi Pauline,

Had a GREAT time yesterday. Thank you for putting that all together! Looking

forward to being a member soon. Looking forward to the ride on 11/15.

See you soon,

Lin

Hi Pauline,

That was a fun ride you put together.

Steve & Chere

Pauline, the LOS chocolate ride was WONDERFUL. Again, you put a lot of work into this avocational endeavor *for the rest of us*. Thank you. The ride was well organized, no body was unhappy (I didn't see any men that looked bored.). It was truly a Ladies' ride -- A casual pace, with sweet points of interest along the way, a cute luncheon spot where we all were treated nicely and genuinely with comfortable space to talk and get to connect with each other -- no heavy demands on our time to get going because of the mileage that lay ahead. It was delightful!

Thank you.

Grace

What a WONDERFUL day!!! Thanks to all who participated. We should do more "joint" rides, that was fun. I loved seeing my old (not literal) friends and meeting new ones. Special thanks from Chapter 315 to Lisa for the tip about Yamaha in Vacaville. Take care my friends,

Love Pam (aka Boots).

And here is a write-up from Ken Reeder, President of the Solano County STAR Chapter #315 about the ride today:

The dawn of October 26th, like any other Fall day in Northern California, broke to a crispness in the air that offered up a warmer day. Except this day there was an anticipation in air that was almost a tangible thing.

Today was the Annual Chocolate Run.

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It was early in the morning when kickstands went up and the oh so familiar roar of exhausts underscored that it was time to hit the road. From three directions, Napa, Fairfield, and Contra Costa, STAR Touring and Riding Chapter members rolled on out to the rendezvous point in Rio Vista.

Pam Reeder, Chapter 315, took the first leg lead, from Rio Vista through Lodi onward to Clements, leading 23 bikes and 30 people through more stop lights than countable without once having the group split by a red light. Hurray for Pam. Now, let's not forget about Ann Davis, still recovering from her bike accident, being the consummate tail gunner behind the tail gunner in her car – her nephew driving. Many many Kudos to Ann.

The "Devine Desserts" Gourmet Chocolates in Clements, CA was our first stop where everybody indulged in some form of chocolate. Their chocolates are just "Devine". Only one problem, not enough carry room on the bike; and gee, sorry Victor but they were out dog biscuits – here's hoping that man's best friend let you back into the house.

From "Devine Desserts" we adjourned to the "Country Cafe" in Lockeford for lunch. They knew we were coming and were prepared. A round of applause to the staff. While in Lockeford several members went to the "Lockeford Meat & Sausage Co" which has some of the best sausages in the area.

Pauline Carlton, Chapter 186, took the next leg from Lockeford back to Rio Vista via the Delta scenic route.

A stretch your legs break was taken at Isleton where Lisa Huntley, Chapter 445, took the lead getting the group from Isleton to Fairfield and the "Jelly Belly" factory where almost everyone took the factory tour and indulged in obtaining several bags of "Belly Flops" and other Jelly Belly goodies.

We ended our trip at Denny's for our usual end of ride Hot Fudge Sundaes. All in all, a great day to ride, good company, 183+ mile ride, and the first tri-chapter ride in our area.

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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 rider when you see someone out-n-about on a motorcycle. There are many different skill levels.
- **Look through the curves**
- Make sure everything (screws/nuts etc.) are tight on your bike (ask the Prez about almost losing that big trunk on his bike on our last ride LOL).
- Don't assume everyone in a car is a good driver.



News Release

Star Custom Accessories Introduces Star Custom Wheels

Cypress, California - Star Custom Accessories is pleased to announce the introduction of new Star Custom Wheels for all Roadliner, Stratoliner, Raider, Road Star and Road Star Silverado models. Star Custom Wheels employ a state-of-the-art engineering and manufacturing processes, crafted in the U.S.A. from 100% CNC-machined 6061 forged aluminum and feature five spokes of vintage styled elegance flowing smoothly into the contoured rim lip. The result is a graceful arc from spoke to tire. These Custom Wheels are available in either show-quality chrome or the edgy midnight style featuring black anodized and machined finish.

Matching pulleys are also available, machined from billet aluminum and hard anodized for a long lasting, durable finish. Both wheels and pulleys are engineered and tested to meet Star Motorcycle's high-quality standards and come completely assembled including valve stems, O/E bearings and seals.

Star Custom wheels are available now at all
Star Motorcycle Dealerships.

For a dealer near you, call 1-800-88-YAMAHA.



To view the full line-up of Star Custom Accessories visit
www.starmotorcycles.com/accessories



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 November BIRTHDAYS

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

4th – Warren

7th – Ken

28th – Ed

See the below listed 2009 Chapter Ride
Suggestions

-o0o-

OVERNIGHT TRIPS:

San Luis Obispo and up Pacific Coast Highway
Ft. Bragg to Leggett and back

Parkfield

Eastern Sierras

Mono Lake

Kings Canyon

Mendocino [via Highway 1]

Tahoe

Death Valley

Big Sur

Big Bike Weekend [Redding]

Labor Day weekend ride to Susanville/Yreka/Eureka
and back home

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DAY TRIPS:

Highway 49 Washington Hotel for lunch
Paradise Tour of San Francisco
Apple Hill [October] Delta
Geysers Circle Clear Lake
Kings Canyon J1 Highway
Cider Run [Healdsburg/Ukiah]
Wine Country Kings Canyon
Lakeport/Middletown/Calistoga
Smartsville/Timbuktoo
Hopland and #175 Bass Lake
3 Mtn Ride –Tam/Diablo/Hamilton
Hwy 4 to Alpine for lunch

DESTINATION RIDES:

Western Railway Museum [Hwy 12]
Bolt and Tool Museum [Oroville]
Air Shows [Salinas/Columbia/Reno]
Woodland [Ludy's BBQ/Reiffs Gas
Station/Heidrick Ag History Center]

OTHER RIDES OF INTEREST

[An Invitation from the President]
Venture Riders Meet-n-Eat [May 15th-17th, 2009]
Location TBD/Oakhurst/Visalia
Cody, Wyoming [September 14th-17th, 2009]

So, where do you want to go next year?????

Thank you in advance for your input.

Victor and the 2008 Chapter Officer Team



2009 REGIONAL/NATIONAL STAR EVENTS:

SW STAR-B-Q [Las Vegas, NV] March 25th-27th
HIGH SIERRA STAR-B-Q [June 6th and 7th]
STAR DAYS [Billings, Montana] July 21st-24th
NW STAR-B-Q [Medford, Or August 15th-16th]

One comment I found very interesting: More Practice Sessions to Improve Riding Skills. (President's note: This along with suggesting another class with the Sheriff's EWOK Program and other possibilities will be put onto the agenda for next year).