



**October 2008**

## THE "PREZ SEZ"

# WELCOME

To our newest Chapter members: **Mike and Shirley Karrer, Samuel ["Sam"] Israel and Michael Smith.**

As always, it is a pleasure to welcome new members into our Chapter. Membership, and new ideas, is the lifeblood of any organization such as ours. And talk about jumping right in – all four of our new members have already contributed to this newsletter, helped with maps and pictures. Thank you all for your assistance and contribution.

I had the opportunity to represent our Chapter on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> at the Merced Poker Run. I initially thought I would be "lonely" being the only one from our Chapter, but in typical STAR family fashion, as soon as I reached Merced Yamaha, the registration area, of the 80 or so people there, I knew the majority of them, and was soon joining in with some great riding, food and fun.

This is the one aspect that I always mention that no matter where we go whether for fun or assistance, one is always made to feel welcome and immediately part of a STAR family / Chapter. I encourage all of our members to consider visiting our sister Chapters either individually and/or with some of us as we **Share Times And Rides** with friends.

October is going to be a busy month – a lot going on "up North". Please check out our calendar; it is jam packed with fun activities to choose from.

**Two items on a different note:** This past month I sent out two advisories suggested by our National / Regional Directors regarding the vest issue. To quote Sam Laughlin, our Western Regional Director: "***None of this violence is directed at STAR Touring or our members. I might have been guilty of over reacting on the side of safety for our members. If that is true --- then so be it - guilty as charged - but at least you know the current situation***". It was my decision to share his information. This coming weekend is the BikeFest in Las Vegas and the following weekend is "Big Bike Weekend" in Redding. I know many of our Chapter members will be there. I just want to make sure everyone is paying attention to what is going on around them.

**Next** – everyone is doing a great job with hand/turn signals. I have noticed, however, sometimes, we don't look in a mirror and just move over. Watching from the back as I did on these last couple of rides, I noticed that the precision of our group looked very chaotic at times. Changing lanes safely and together, better as a group, is something I am going to ask us to diligently work on.

**And finally,** I am requesting everyone to try to be at our Chapter meeting this month. Along with several important topics to discuss, including those above, we will be holding nominations for next years President and Vice President. As our Chapter points out, this is supposed to happen in November, but (though I got my hand slapped for doing it this way this year), we will hold our nominations at our meeting in October. Larry and I have agreed to throw our hat into the ring again for next year (if someone nominates us LOL), but I would invite any who might be interested to consider this opportunity. As always, ride safe, ride within your ability, and see ya on the road.

**Victor "Lone Eagle" Tibbs,  
President**

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check the website calendar for further information

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October 4th	Holy Horsemen's Homeless Food Drive / Poker Run
October 4 <sup>th</sup>	Redding Chapter 302 Poker Run
October 4 <sup>th</sup>	Black Widow [Shriner's] Poker Run
October 10-12	<b>BIG BIKE WEEKEND – Redding, CA</b>
October 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Chapter Sanctioned Ride</b>
October 18 <sup>th</sup>	Feather River STAR Chapter Charter signing [Yuba City]
October 23rd	<b>Chapter Meeting – Officer Nominations</b>
October 25 <sup>th</sup>	Chico STAR Chapter's Charity Ride
October 26th	<b>Chocolate Ride</b>
November 8 <sup>th</sup>	President's Meeting
November 15 <sup>th</sup>	USS Alameda [joint ride with Monterey Bay Chapter #161]
November 22nd	<b>Feed the Children Food Drop</b>
December 6th	<b>Chapter Christmas Party – Officer Elections</b>
December 19-21	International Motorcycle Show
TBD	Christmas Lights Ride [Dave McNamar, Ride Captain]

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**Chapter Sanctioned events are set out in blue**  
**Chapter Meetings – red**  
**Chapter Supported Events - Black**

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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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### Chapter Sanctioned Ride – Pacific Grove Saturday September 13, 2008 *By Bob Bridges*

I was excited to go on this ride as I'd missed a few because of weddings and work. When I got to Pleasant Hill early, no one there. At first I thought I'd made a mistake but Sam and Mike, our new members to be, rode in right afterwards so I knew I was OK.

We topped off our bikes with gas and went in to Denney's to eat, and right after George showed up. As we were getting our food ordered Cecil wandered in and had his usual health hearty Coca Cola. Larry showed up in his civilian clothes; he was only seeing us off because he had family flying in and couldn't make the ride.

As we got closer to ride time more showed up outside and we ended up with 15 of us. It was nice to see Tony and his girl friend Larissa back with us

again [by the way we missed all of you that couldn't make it].

Victor gave his pre-ride talk and safety tips. Perry let us know where we were headed, and that he planned to make a bee line for the second lane from the left as we got on the freeway – boy! He sure did! We all caught up with one another, and had a nice freeway ride down to San Jose for our first break.

When we got there unfortunately the bathrooms were out of order. A few of us headed across the street to the other gas station, and as we did, we discovered a police action going on a block down the road with the road closed and yellow police tape. Just the usual Saturday morning excitement in San Jose I guess.

We finished up and headed south on 101 to Bailey Ave., onto Hwy 152 and up over Mt. Madonna stopping at the summit for the view and pictures before heading down into Watsonville. I'd never been on this road through the hills, and really enjoyed it.

At our next stop for gas another group of bikes showed up and while standing in the long line for the bathroom found out that they had ridden up from San Diego for a Veterans event in Monterey. They were a funny group of guys, and it was enjoyable talking to them. It's amazing how motorcycles can bring complete strangers together.

We were we off again on down the road to Pacific Grove for lunch at the Chowder House. We had the whole back room just for our group and enjoyed some good conversation and food. Isn't this what our rides are all about?

After eating Victor talked about upcoming events and then we voted in our new members: Mike, Sam and Mike. **WELCOME GUYS** its great having you as part of Chapter 186.

The group slowly wandered back to the parking lot where we had a little bit of a scare when Victor noticed Dominic's jacket and gloves were missing off his bike. We thought they'd been stolen. Luckily Dominic showed up and had them; we all let out a sigh of relief.

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Off we went on a back road tour through Monterey. I think Perry had planned to take us down along the coast for a bit of sightseeing, but some kind of event was going on and they had all the roads blocked off. Perry had to make an adjustment; we made it through until he picked the route back up. **Good Job Perry!** Finally we got back on Hwy 1 north where we still had blue skies and sunshine until we got to Santa Cruz where the high fog was. We rode up to Half Moon Bay and I think a few of the riders were feeling the cooler weather. We stopped for our last break and something warm to drink. By the way Mike I never did find out what the bags of clear fluid were hanging from the ceiling in the kitchen were about, so the mystery continues.

After our break the group split up and a number of members left ahead of the rest of us. We headed out over Hwy 92 West and as soon as we got over the hill, out came the sun and blue skies with the warmer temperatures, and as we got closer to home and members started peeling off and saying their good byes, I almost didn't want it to end even though I was tired from the long day and the 300 plus miles. I hated to leave the friends and the great time I always have with them. Well I guess I'll just have to wait until the next ride which I'm looking forward to.

Perry and Joe you did a **Great Job** on the ride route, and Perry you kept the best pace you've ever had. To bad Larry wasn't there to see it as he would've liked it and that's saying a lot! ☺

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### **Livermore VA Hospital Bike Run**

Sunday, September 21, 2008

*By Mike Karrer*

On Sunday morning my wife Shirley and I headed out to meet the group at Discovery Bay Starbucks at 10:30 am. I met some new people and Shirley got acquainted with everybody for the first time. This was my fourth ride, and Shirley's first ride with Chapter #186. After signing in, talking and having our coffee, we all headed out for Livermore for lunch, by way of Vasco Road. We ate lunch at Strizzis Restaurant, and the Hayward Chapter joined us there. Good food! Lunch was from 11:30-12:30 p.m. Dan and Charlotte joined Shirley and me at our table. Dan was trying to explain the difference between a riding club and a riding association, and how patches are earned by gangs like we heard about in the news lately [Note from the

*editor: Check out the STAR National's Cruiser Café Message Board and the History of the Three-Patch].* Bob and Debbie bought lunch for the entire group – **THANK YOU BOB and DEBBIE!**

After lunch we rode out to the Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital. Dan invited Shirley to ride with him on his Venture out to the Hospital. The Venture has a comfortable seat compared to my V-Start so Shirley wanted to try it out. At 1:30 p.m., we arrived at the Hospital. I asked Shirley how she liked the Venture; she said it was so nice. ☺ The VA Hospital in Livermore located in a country setting has deer and turkeys walking around the grounds. We parked our bikes in front of the Hospital. The vets came out and we talked with them and listened to their stories. Several of the members including Bob went inside to visit with those who could not come out to see the bikes. After our visit the vets thanked us for coming and asked us to come back again. We thanked them for their service to our country.

We started our ride back to Location # 1 and took Highway 84 west past Highway 680 towards Fremont. We then turned towards Castro Valley and stopped for a break once we got into Castro Valley. At this time, Shirley rode with Cecil on his Harley-Davidson to compare the ride to the Venture. The ride from Castro Valley through the back road of Orinda past San Pablo Reservoir was very nice. We finally reached our destination in Pleasant Hill. We all went inside Denny's for ice cream and talked about the day. **THANK YOU to MICHAEL and SAM** for treating us all to ice cream.

It was a great day, weather was great, and thanks to all who were involved in organizing the ride.

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### **Comments from the Ride Captain:**

I want to thank all of the members and guests that made it to visit the Vets and go on our ride. There sure seemed to be a lot of appreciation from the Vets that came out to see the bikes and chat it up. A number of them asked us to come back. The pastor even came out. I had a nice talk with him about the bikes and he also thanked all of you for doing this. I really enjoyed putting this together and am a little overwhelmed by the turnout with 20 bikes on display for the Vets to look at and talk about. Thanks also for the Hayward Chapter members for joining us. It was a very nice day and

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everyone got home safe. Pictures will be posted on the Web site as soon as we get the waivers done at the VA.

**Thanks,  
Bob and Deb**

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**Comments from Chapter Members:**

As they say... a picture is worth a thousand words... look at those smiles... and this was before we even had our ice cream! I am sure that I can speak for all... Thanks for a wonderful event... and lunch too!

Be safe,  
Michael



- **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 loosing that big trunk on his bike on our last ride LOL).



*By Bob Bridges*

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**KEEP THE SHINY SIDE UP!!**

**Safety Tips/Tech Talk**

This is your section to share "techie" stuff

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**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.

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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.



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and STAR Touring and Riding in a positive and professional manner.

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## OFFICER NOMINATION INFORMATION

**The President / Vice President shall be nominated and run as a team. Each term is for one year. Below is the information regarding these two positions.**

This year, our Regional Presidents Meeting is November 8. Those nominated, or interested in running for these positions would be encouraged to attend this Regional meeting. You can contact Victor for further information.

### **STAR TOURING AND RIDING ASSOCIATION**

#### **Chapter Officers: Definitions & Responsibilities. Officer Duties:**

**President:** The President is a National Officer of STAR Touring and Riding Association and will represent STAR Touring and Riding in a positive and professional manner. The President shall insure compliance of the STAR Charter and Chapter by-laws by all members and insure that all Chapter Officers are made aware of their respective responsibilities. Shall exercise general supervision over the members of the Chapter, the Chapter's Board of Trustees, and the affairs of the Chapter. Shall have the authority to make day-to-day decisions concerning the operations of the Chapter and must report those decisions to the membership. Shall maintain a positive working relationship with all supporting dealerships. Shall represent the Chapter in any involvements with other riding groups and organizations. **Shall be point of contact for all members in communicating with STAR International concerning Chapter issues, i.e., International Office and all National Officers.**

**Vice-President:** Shall stand in for and hold the responsibilities of the President in his/her absence. Shall work with all committee chairs to coordinate and inform board of committee progress. Shall work with the President, as directed, as a liaison with any supporting dealerships. Shall represent the Chapter

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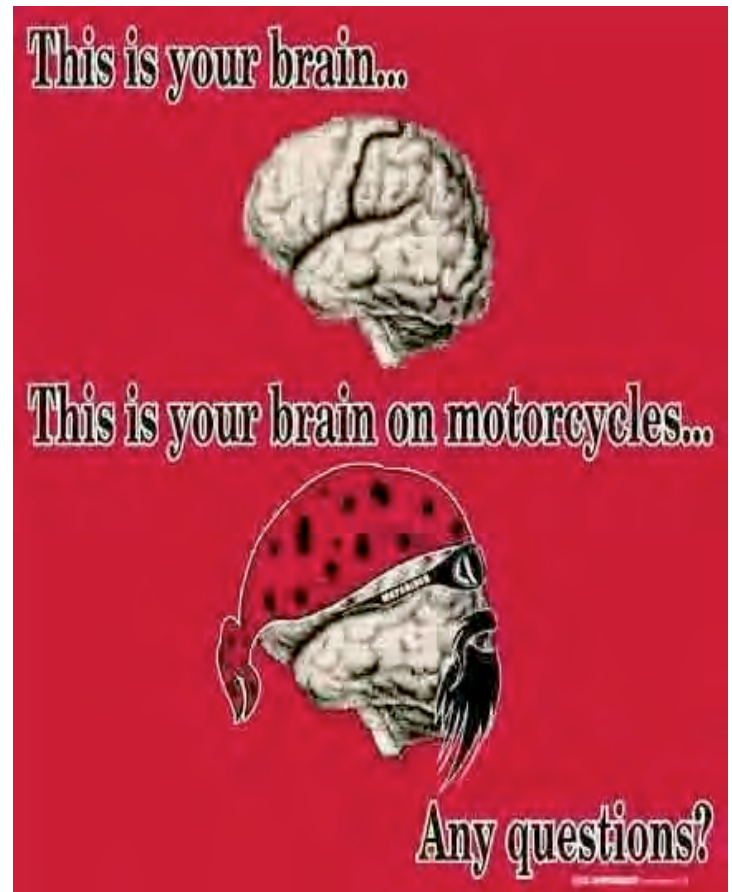
## **HAPPY October BIRTHDAYS**

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

9<sup>th</sup> – Grace  
9<sup>th</sup> – Richard [Wolf]  
10<sup>th</sup> – Shirley  
10<sup>th</sup> – Samuel  
13<sup>th</sup> – Dave  
23<sup>rd</sup> – Dale  
24<sup>th</sup> – Bill  
25<sup>th</sup> – Robert

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Something fun ☺



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