

# ROLLING THUNDER

February 2014 WWW.SCHRA.ORG

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Next Meeting: February 13, 2014

Publishing Deadline for March Rolling Thunder is February 27th, 6:00pm



### **Comment & Opinion**

Editor: Lou Piano

The article below, in italics, is excerpted from Airtalk for February 12, 2013.

A recent study from the Office of Traffic Safety indicates that a mere 53% of Californians are aware the practice is legal. That means nearly half of the drivers on the road suspect lanesplitting to be unlawful, and some of these people even go out of their way to block the practice when they see it coming.

The ignorance is partly to blame on a lack of aggressively alerting the public, but also to the fact that no other state allows lane-splitting on its roads.

The new rules stress that motorcyclists can only split lanes as long as they don't exceed ten miles per hour faster than the cars they are driving between, and said cars must be going less than 30 miles per hour. Reaction by motorcyclists is mixed. Some are glad to finally have some restrictions in place, so that there are now stated parameters for being pulled over by law enforcement. But others worry that this may be the beginning of the end, and that a complete ban on lanesplitting is soon to come.

As motorcyclists we do occasionally split lanes when traffic is stopped or moving very slowly on the highway. We do this both to save time and also to keep our legs and our engines cool. It is a practical matter for us but we know that some drivers get pissed off at us. So it is imperative that we do not react to their lack of knowledge regarding this riding technique.

Have you had any memorable instances when you split lanes? If so, let me know so we can share.

How about riding in the HOV lane? Many cage drivers don't know that motorcycles are allowed in the 'carpool' lane even when not carrying a passenger. Why? Because we typically have very high mileage vehicles and automatically qualify to use this lane.

The new rules for lane splitting are guidelines which I have followed for years and recommend we all do the same as a maximum rule.

'Til next month

RT



# 1st Ride of 2014 Jack Launius - R/C

### First club ride of 2014, January 11.

### Farmers Market &

### **Peterson Museum**

he event was well attended by a cast of characters including: Terry Goldberg; Mitch Pullman and his bride Jane; Lou Pi-



ano; Glenn and Jo-Ann Jace; Bob Thompson; Lloyd and Judy Farber; Randy and Linda Rahm; JB and Judy Bruce; Jack and Nanette Launius.

While the less fortunate midwesterners are bundled up and huddled around a heat source to keep from freezing.



Those of us crazy enough to live in LA that put up with high taxes and crowded roads got what we are paying for today with mid 70 degree temps in the middle of January.

Today our club met at Solley's for the start of a fabulous day of adventure only a few miles away. We traveled by two wheel, three wheel and four wheel modes of transportation down the 101 to Laurel Canyon making a quick left on Hollywood Blvd. and then a quick right on Fairfax straight to the food.

After looking and smelling our way through the Farmers Market we each found something to satisfy our appetites and a few of us found a little something to satisfy our sweet tooth.

Our next stop was a long and treacherous .7 miles straight down the street



with a hard left into the parking garage of the Peterson Museum. Once inside we saw many unusual and one - of -a kind vehicles, electric, gas and steam driven with top speeds ranging from 15 to 250 mph. At the end of the tour we stopped by Johnny Rockets for a quick refreshment before heading back over the hill.

We hope to see even more SCHRA members attend our next group ride to Redondo Beach.

Until then.....





Product Corner
Ron Lynn

### REI Flex Lite Chair

My kingdom for a comfortable compact multi-use chair! Not much to ask for especially for a Kingdom. But, go try to find a small, light, <u>packable</u> and comfy chair for sitting in parks, picnics, watching sporting events and those special performances. Oh yes! And it must also be ideal for travel too!

file. When packed into the stuff sack it will easily fit into a saddlebag. I recently sat in one at a biker campground concert for almost three hours in relative comfort. You could easily pack them in your suitcase for airline travel.

Do yourself a favor and check out one of these chairs for yourself. You will not be disappointed! If you are then you are very hard to please.

<u>Available:</u> REI stores: Item: #829239 Available in: red, orange, green, blue and your basic bikerblack. \$70 plus freight or just stop by a REI store to save the freight.

I have at least 10 different types of camping/beach chairs at home ranging from folding Costco beach chairs, and lounging chairs, to the three point collapsible stools. I even have three different

types of collapsible three point stools; two with flip up backs yet. Hard to find these little devils!

I finally found ONE almost ideal chair at REI. The Flex Lite Chair! This universal type of seating consists of two separate pieces: (1) 4-aluminum-corded collapsible legs attached at the center. (2) A roll-up nylon mesh fabric which quickly slips over the four leg points. The chair sits low, but higher than the traditional beach chair; is very comfortable, sets up quickly and breaks down to a very small cylindrical shape which then fits into its own small stuff sack.

You really have to see and sit in this one to appreciate the comfort and its small packed pro-



Remember: IF YOU SEE SOMETHING YOU LIKE, BUY IT



Pre-Ride

I'm sitting here in front of my home computer thinking about the ride tomorrow. Yes, tomorrow. The road captains are always encouraged (your may read that as 'badgered') to write an article about the ride they led and give some details. This is a good way to let people who did not attend an event just what fun they missed.

But what about the planning required to make the ride successful? First off, where to go? Is it interesting to anyone beside you, the RC? How are you going to get there? Scenic route? Fast route? Have we been over this road or highway before? If it's a day ride where are we going to have lunch? How long will it take? What time will we be back home? How about gas stops? Comfort stops? Scenic stops? Reservations?

I suppose this pre-amble is a little self-serving because I haven't made any plans! Ooops, my secret is

out. Darn it! Well, I guess I'd better get the ride release ready and find my clipboard and a cheap pen - not that any in this club would pilfer it....

Then I'll have to check Google maps to figure out which way to go. Let's see, Sepulveda pass? Maybe. Or how about Hayvenhurst. Yeah, that's a good one. There may be one person on the ride who hasn't taken that route yet. And it will take us to Mulholland then down Sunset to Chataqua to PCH and we can go south to Lincoln and we might as well stop at Marina Harley for a quick comfort stop. We can do some quick shopping - after all I want to keep the ladies happy. Then we can jump on the freeway for the rest of the ride.

Hell, I haven't been to Ports "O Call for 25 years. I hope I can find the darn place. And the restaurant? Never heard of it, haven't been there, and I don't know anything about it. I guess I'll just keep my fingers crossed and hope it's not too big of a disaster. If it turns out really bad I'll

just finish this article with a glowing report of how everyone showed up on time and put in lots of pictures of everyone eating and getting on/off their bikes. Okay end of this half...more to come!

### **Post Ride**

Day of the ride is here and I'm heading out to the meeting place. Hope I get there before 9:48am, the assigned meeting time. Yup, not just on time but early. What's this? Four people beat

me here. Great! Hi Jack. Hi Randy & Linda. Hi Dennis Got a call from Richard and Ron & Karen Sarian. We'll be late so we'd like to meet you there. OK. Jerry Stern showed up and so did JB & JB.

Everyone on time. I got the road captain's meeting started at 10:02 and began the process to leave at 10:03 as promised (keep in mind we are talking SCHRA time!).

On the road and up Beverly Glen through the Santa Monica mountains and somehow ended up at Bartel's Harley Davidson for a quick comfort stop, quick shopping,

and picking up Richard. On to the freeway and Port's 'O Call. I am not going to discuss missing the turn-off at Harbor Blvd. so don't bother asking. We (me and JS) found Port's 'O Call and I led us straight to the restaurant.

Must have been my lucky day as the restaurant named "Ports O Call" turned out to be just fine. The staff was very accommodating, we sat outside with a nice view of the harbor and the food was good.

Time to depart and sure enough a raging controversy ensued about the best way to go home. So much for being in charge! One group took PCH home and another group took the freeway home. Another interesting lunch ride and at least something a little different.

Don't miss the next one. You can be assured of something interesting and different.

Lou





A War Story - Vietnam 3/20/69 By: Lou Piano, Cpl., USMC

It was a sunny mid-day in 'Nam. We were finally at our rear combat base for a few days of semi-rest and relaxation. We could write letters home and get some hot chow and real milk. Of course we knew only about half of the milk would make it to our outpost and not have turned to sour mash. Last night we even had a nice hot shower only about ½ mile up the dusty road to the combat shower facility powered by gas fired heaters on wheels. A makeshift plumbing array of water, heaters, and shower heads allowed us a quick 'Navy shower'. As the battalion commanders' radio operator and driver I had access to one of the few Jeeps on this forward outpost and could drive to the showers and take a couple of the guys with me. Wow! What a treat! Clean socks and fresh jungle fatigues made us feel like new people.

Suddenly we got a call from the command center. Grab your gear and stage at the LZ (landing zone). We were headed out for an

emergency rescue mission. A contingent of force *recon* Marines were under attack and desperately needed our help. We scrambled to the LZ and loaded aboard a squad of Marine CH-46 helicopters. 10 minutes later we approached the lower landing zone of a fire support base we had occupied a few months earlier. The helicopter door gunners cleared the lower landing zone and we landed quickly to allow the first cadre of Marines



to disembark and take up the task of holding the enemy at bay to allow more Marines to land. Well, disembark is a euphism. The bird hovered over the LZ and we literally jumped out of the back as the pilot hovered a few feet above the ground in order to effect a quick take-off. As the battalion commanders' radio operator (and driver and security person) I should have been the last person into a hot zone. Actually, the Lieutenant Colonel should have been the last person to land on that hill after it had been secured which means I would have landed with him! No sir, not this guy. We were on the first bird to land in that zone and we were going to start the assault up the hill to rescue his Marines.

We hit the dirt and found a small sand bump to hide behind and started to shoot up the hill in the direction of enemy fire. As the only Marine on land with a radio an F4 pilot contacted me and asked for directions. I was too low to see a Huey helicopter which had been shot down and was still on the upper LZ about 150 yards up the hill from where we were. I gave him some directions as to where the enemy fire was coming from

I drew a bead through the sights of my M-16

The sight is the sure he knew where the hell we were. It seemed that only 1 VNA regular was shooting at us from the hill above. We would shoot a few

rounds and duck down then he would shoot a few rounds and duck down. That went on 3 or 4 times before I realized that when he jumped up to shoot at us again he was going to be in exactly the same damn spot. So we shot a few rounds and my fellow Marines ducked down and I stayed in position and drew a bead through the sights of my M-16. Sure enough, he jumped up to fire at us and I quickly ended his career as an enemy soldier then I ducked down. The Captain next to me exclaimed "Great shot Piano". I'm not sure if he noticed that I had not only ducked down but I was now trying to clear the jam in my M-16! Damn, I won't ever forget to clean my rifle again.

We didn't hear any enemy fire for a few minutes so we began our assault up the hill. Somehow, I got separated from the main group, and the Colonel who I was supposed to be next to with my radio. I went up the hill on the right side and finally caught up with the battalion commander. There wasn't much for me to do as there wasn't any immediate need for radio communications. We were in the middle of a battle and the singular mission was to shoot enemy soldiers. We cornered another one in a bunker but couldn't kill him. We would shoot into the bunker and he

would jump out and shoot back at us. So we got ahold of a 106mm cannon, set it up about 25 yards from the bunker and loaded it with a beehive round. The next time he jumped up to shoot at us we unleashed the round and the bunker fell silent.

We moved up to the top of the hill carefully checking every bush, tree, and hole and sure enough we found another bunker partially concealed by the vagaries of the terrain. As we approached another enemy soldier came to the opening an fired off a few shots at us. We again ducked for cover behind a burm which was only a few feet from the opening. Apparently someone was left behind to provide cover for the fleeing forces or he was just unlucky.

The war dance began again. He would fire a few shots and we would fire back. Suddenly he jumped up and sprayed us with a full magazine of automatic fire. We fired about a hundred rounds into the opening. We waited. One of our infantrymen was ready. He jumped out of the hole again and one of our guys sprayed him with automatic gunfire. We watched it rip across his chest and knew he was a goner. We waited. More gunfire from the hole! What the hell? We were sure we had killed him. All of a sudden he jumped up and threw a chi-com (Chinese made hand grenade) at us. The Colonel, who was next to me during this encounter, jumped up out of his 'safe' position, grabbed the grenade and threw it back in to the bunker!!! Wow! What guts. What presence of mind. It exploded inside the hole. Silence. Another Marine snuck around to the back of the hole, grabbed a grenade, pulled the pin, jumped up on top of the bunker and threw the grenade into it.

More silence, and finally an infantry Marine approached the hole, peered inside. A couple more Marines joined him. They pulled out the enemy soldier. Then another. Then another. And finally a fourth enemy solider. Four of these guys were crammed inside a small bunker about the size of a small car.

We finished clearing the area we were going to occupy for the next few days or weeks and settled in for the night. We had the NVA on the run and figured we were relatively safe for the night.

After a quiet night we woke up to a bright

sunny morning and started to clean up the area and prepare to bring in a couple of batteries of howitzers to move forward with operations in the area. We had spent the evening on the lower LZ. The Sargent Major got a small group of Marines together and asked the Colonel if he could take me with them to secure an old communications bunker we had used on a previous occupation of this hill. He gave his okay and I grabbed my weapon and headed up the hill – again. This time it was pretty much of a cake walk because I knew the top of the hill was secured. Apparently the Sargent Major didn't know this or he would have gone up to look around by himself.

We reached the top of the hill and found the old bunker. "Don't go in there. Check for booby traps." The Sargent Major warned us. All of a sudden we heard the unmistakable sound of incoming mortars exploding. We jumped in the bunker. I mean, what the hell? We were already being shot at. No booby traps luckily, a few more mortars, then silence. We carefully climbed out of the bunker and listened and watched for more enemy activity. None. We walked back down the hill. My first instinct was to locate the Colonel because he probably needed me and my radio to make contact with our troops. Also, I might need to provide him with some security.

As we neared the spot we had left a few minutes earlier, which was the de facto command center, we saw a couple of bodies on the ground. I looked all over for the Colonel but couldn't find him. I took a closer look at one of the bodies on the ground and, sadly, I found the Colonel.

When a chopper had landed on the LZ to deliver supplies the enemy fired a couple of mortars to try to hit and ground the chopper. The

bird got out of the zone safely but the Colonel and a few others were hit and wounded or killed. I was not next to the Colonel because the Sargent Major had made a mistake. What a lucky bit of 'military intelligence' this was for me as I would probably have ended up lying next to him.

I have occasionally pondered over this incident and wondered if there was a greater reason for my life having been spared. Perhaps my progeny will discover the cure for cancer or become a world saving politician or a great philanthropist. Maybe it was just dumb luck. Guess I'll go for a nice motorcycle ride and think about it lat-

er. *Lou* 



## "Upcoming Events" February & March, 2014

We are slowly easing ourselves into what is otherwise a very ambitious activities calendar for 2014.

Already in the history book is our first ride of the year, ably led by Jack Launius and which included a casual lunch at historic Farmers Market (3<sup>rd</sup> & Fairfax) followed by a visit to the Petersen Automotive Museum just a few blocks away on Wilshire Blvd.

If you like what you saw at the Petersen, you'll love our next "automotive" themed event in May (check website calendar for the date) beginning with lunch at Dr. Hogley Wogley's Tyler Texas BBQ and then proceeding to the Nethercutt Museum in downtown Sylmar.

The final event in January was originally scheduled to take place on Saturday, January 25 with a ride to the Pier at Redondo Beach. I was told, but cannot confirm, that the esteemed RC for this event, Lou Piano, in our absence, has issued an executive order which has changed the venue to Ports of Call in San Pedro. He further proffered that we are to gather at 9:48 AM for a safety talk and then a 10:03 AM departure; picky-picky.

### FEBRUARY:

### <u>Sunday, Feb. 2 - Super Bowl Party @ Sternz: Food</u> <u>& Drink - 1:30; game - 3:00 PM</u>

This sports/social event is now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year and does appear to be a club keeper. SCHRA will provide the basics but any additional "Care" packages will be happily accepted. Please let Cindy or Jerry know if you plan to attend. Also, if you would like to bring something to be shared, let Sternz know what that something will be. No valet parking.

Thursday, Feb. 13 - Club Meeting: Food & Schmooze @ 6:30 PM; Meeting @ 7:30 PM Please do keep in mind that Thursday is always "corn-chowder" night; what better reason do you need to attend?

### <u>Saturday, Feb. 22 & Sun. 23 – Overnight (1) in</u> Santa Maria: JL, 9:30 am. Woodlake Bowl.

Here's a new itinerary which sounds fun; lunch at two of our favorite eateries plus an overnight at the historic Santa Maria Inn. We've not stayed at SMI before but it is recognized as one of the best places in the central coast area. Scheduled lunches are at Quackenbush in Los Alamos (also an art gallery) and Far Western (formerly of Guadeloupe) in Orcutt. For those interested, hang around Los Alamos a bit longer and visit the antiques barn.

### MARCH:

### <u>Sunday, Mar.2 - Olvera Street Lunch: JB, 10:30</u> AM, NoHo Redline Station

Join us for this annual trek to NoHo to ride the rails to downtown and a visit to the place where our city began. This year we'll return to El Paseo Inn at #11 Olvera St. As this event does not require a motorcycle, just drive yourself to North Hollywood and park free at the Redline Station. Be prepared to do battle at the ticket-dispensing machines.

# <u>Thursday, Mar. 13 - Club Meeting: Food & Schmooze @ 6:30 PM; Meeting @ 7:30 PM</u> My two favorites here are the Cobb Salad and the Hamburger Steak. Umm.

Friday, Mar. 14 to Mar. 16 - Overnighter (2) to Alpine & Borrego Springs: JB, 9:00 AM, Solley's. Here's another new itinerary including a drive over Ortega Hwy., lunch at Lookout Roadhouse, overnight in Alpine, a drive along CA-94 (border highway), lunch at Jacumba Hot Springs, Anza Borrego Park, overnight in Borrego Springs and a visit to Bombay Beach, Salton Sea. Two wheels, three wheels or four wheels all welcome. Rooms still available. See recent "Book-It-Now" sent to all members contains the details.

### Saturday, Mar. 29 & Sun. 30 - Overnight (1) in Ocean Beach: RR, 8:30 AM, Solley's

Also new to the 2014 Activities Calendar is this quickie-visit to OB (as the locals call it) where you will find some 47 eateries within a 3-block stretch. Our RC intends to take the fast-track to San Diego to allow for lunch at Hodad's and sightseeing in this little beach town. After that, a ride to Point Loma. After that, maybe coffee and a Danish??!! For more details see the "Book-It-Now" previously sent to all members.

# S.C.H.R.A.

# "Fueled by Freedom"



Motorcycle club Membership
For Fun Loving Harley Riders
Who Love to Ride All Year

# Live to Ride Ride to Live

You are encouraged to come to a meeting if you:

- Ride a Harley Davidson
- Are Friendly
- \* Like to eat
- Have a good (or twisted) sense of humor

- Day Rides
- Interesting Places
- Fun Places
- Regular Saturday rides open to all
- Dinner rides
- Overnighters
- Week Long Rides
- Holiday Parties
- Men & Women Riders
- New Members Welcome

Meetings are Held on the 2nd Thursday of each Month at 7:00 pm

Four 'N 20 Restaurant 5530 Van Nuys Blvd. Sherman Oaks, Ca. 91401



### **SCHRA Boutique**

Randy Rahm VP

The SCHRA members boutique is now open for online and telephone orders! The summer riding season is quickly upon us and you'll want to refresh your supply of miscellaneous SCHRA logo items. We have in stock a wide variety of shirts, patches, pins, hats, etc. Simply decide what you need and place your order via email at VP@schra.org. We'll either bring your order to the next meeting or arrange delivery in some other fashion.

### We have:

- Black short sleeve logo t-shirts in sizes S to 2XL
- Black long sleeve logo t-shirts S to 3XL
- White long sleeve logo t-shirts S, 2XL & 3XL

#### All Shirts are \$15.00

Last Update:	1/12/13
Black Short S	<u>leeve</u>
Small	3
Medium	3
Large	1
Ex. Large	5
2XL	2
3XL	0
Black Long Sl	<u>eeve</u>
Small	4
Medium	4
Large	1
Ex. Large	2
2XL	4
3XL	1

White Short S	<u>leeve</u>
Small	0
Medium	0
Large	2
Ex. Large	0
2XL	0
3XL	0

White Long Sle	eeve
Small	1
Medium	0
Large	0
Ex. Large	2
2XL	0
3XL	0

Dark Blue S	<u>hort Sleev</u>
Small	5
Medium	0
Large	0
Ex. Large	2
2XL	0
3XL	0





- Dark blue short sleeve t-shirts S, L, XL
- Baby blue short sleeve t-shirts XXL
- Most t-shirts have a pocket.

Also in stock are large and small club logo patches suitable for sewing on your jacket, vest, or shirt.

Club hats in black and orange with embroidered SCHRA patch.

Club logo pins with two-post mountings that can be easily switched among garments, hats, etc.

Also available at no charge are commemorative patches honoring members who have passed. Foss, Whitey, Julie. These patches are suitable for sewing on your jacket or vest or....? Miscellaneous items are in stock as well. Don't hesitate to inquire. When you call us (Jack, anyway) we haul ass! Operators are standing by.

Hats		
Black w/Logo	14	\$10.00
Orange w/Logo	4	\$10.00
Black w/SCHRA	7	\$10.00
Patches		
Extra Small Patch	9	\$ 7.00
Small Patch	46	\$ 7.00
Large Patch	0	\$25.00
Pins	95	\$5.00





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	Jerry	y Bruce ~ JB	Ron	Lynn ~ RL	Jerry Stern ∼ JS	
	Joe G	Subbrud ~ JG	Lou Pi	ano ~ LP~AL	Bob Thompson ~ BT	
	Jack	Launius ~ JL	Randy	/ Rahm ~ RR		
		SCHRA 2014 Events	s - Mar	ch	SCHRA Departure Sites	
Sun	2/2	Super Bowl Party	JS	Sternz House	Woodake Bowl 23130 Ventura Blvd., Woodland Hills	
Thur	2/13	Club Meeting	JL	Four 'n 20 Pies	Solley's 4578 Van Nuys Blvd., Sherman Oaks	
Sat	2/22 - 23	Overnighter to Santa Maria Inn & Jocko's & Quackenbush	LB or JB	9:30 am. Woodlake Bowl	Millie"s	
					10318 Sepulveda Blvd., Mission Hills	
					Denny's Sand Canyon 15401 Delone St., Santa Clarita	
		SCHRA 2014 Events	s - Marc	ch	Extra Wind	
Sun	3/2	Olvera St Lunch	JB	NoHo Redline 10:30	Saturday at Starbucks parking lot on the corner of Ventura & Topanga Canyon Blvds. Show up around 9:30 - we leave around 10:00 or so. All brands of motorcycles are invited. This is not a club sanctioned ride. (The Lawyers made me say that!)  Contact Editor at Edit@schra.org to place extra rides or events in this magnificent electronic publication Edited magnificently and flaawwleessslly by ME.	
Thur	2/13	Club Meeting	JL	Four 'n 20 Pies		
Fri - Sun	3/14-15	Alpine & Borreggo Springs	JB	9:00 am Solley's		
Sa-Su	3/29-30	Ocean Beach	RR	8:30 am Solley's		

### Classifieds

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Wiring for electric gloves in the sleeves. Excellent Condition: New Liner Costs: \$250

Liner Costs: \$250

Ron Lynn:

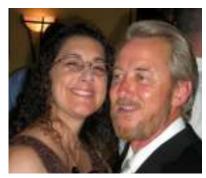
Purchase for \$50.

Tele: 818-772-7288

### **Ad Rates**

- To place an advertisement here, contact edit@schra.org
- Free for SCHRA members for personal items.
- Ads will automatically be removed unless renewed after 90 days

Full page \$15.00 per Quarter Quarter page, \$10.00 per Quarter Business Card \$25.00 per year Non-members add \$5.00 per item. All items must be MS Publisher compatible and ready to insert. Electronic submissions only. \$25.00/hr for any modifications.



Jack & Nanette Launius are offering \$50.00 off your initial pest control service and \$50.00 off any termite treatment to all our SCHRA friends and families.



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Visit us at <a href="https://www.borite.com">www.borite.com</a> for further information on pests and treatments.

We are proud to be members of .....













We have been fortunate this year to have received the Angie's List <u>SUPER SERVICE AWARD</u> and the Greenopia <u>DISTINGUISHED BUSINESS AWARD</u>. Recently, we were also accepted as members of the National QUALITY PRO & QUALITY PRO GREEN program through the National Pest Management Association. The standards of acceptance are business ethics, application techniques and chemical selection that far exceed most companies not in the program.