



ROLLING THUNDER

2018

VOLUME XXVII NUMBER 1

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**Next Meeting:
January 11, 2018**

**Publishing Deadline:
For February RT
January 30, 2017**



President's Message *Jack Lanius*

Nanette and I are grateful for all the friends we have made since joining SCHRA in 2009. I can't imagine what our life would have been like had I not ran into Johnny at the old Van Nuys Harley dealership on the day I was picking up my bike. It took one meeting to make up my mind this is for us, and as they say, the rest is history.

As for the second time around as president, I hope we will see all of you at the

meetings, events and, of course, the rides.

I will appreciate any suggestions you bring to the January meeting for this years' rides. I personally would like to do more Sunday day rides and some Saturday & Sunday rides.

So please, if there is any place you haven't been to but would like to see or somewhere you would like to see again, bring your suggestion (s) to the meeting or e-mail me.

Respectfully,
Jack

Last Year's Rides & Events:

- 2/5 - Super Bowl Party
- 2/11 - Mullin Automotive Museum
- 3/3-5 - Fresno Blossom Trail
- 5/19 - 22 - Death Valley w/RCHR
- 5/28 - Lockwood Valley & Reyes Creek
- 6/9 - 11 - Cambria
- 8/19 - Midsummer Party
- 9/8-10 - Eastern Sierra's & Lone Pine
- 8/8-12 - RCHR Northern Extravaganza
- 12/16 - Holiday Party Extraordinaire

2017 Rides not taken:

- 3/19 - San Pedro & USS Iowa
- 4/9 - Long Beach Aquarium
- 6/21-25 - Nevada State Parks
- 7/9 - Big Bear
- 8/6 - Solvang
- 11/2 - 5 - Borrego Springs

Some rides were cancelled due to weather and others just re-scheduled. All-in-all, if you add in the Saturday rides it was a good year of riding. Let's try it again. Several are even worth repeating.

Lou



Today I Took A Wonderful Motorcycle Ride

By JB

Today I took a wonderful motorcycle ride; a Saturday Ride.

You're probably wondering where I went and what made it so wonderful. Truth be told, *it was only a Saturday ride*, Saturday, December 23 to be exact. Yes, we do sometimes think in terms of "*only a Saturday*" and this was demonstrated by the fact that only three people turned out. Actually, this was an OK turnout as we three represented 13-percent of current SCHRA membership.

Sometimes more people show up; usually 5 or 6 and occasionally even more than that. But this day was exceptionally light for cause; one of which is that Christmas was only two days away and some people have family and holiday stuff on their calendars. Another was the perceived cold weather forecast.

At least one person didn't make the ride because of a minor injury to his eye (hope all is going well, Jack) and a few others didn't because of the weather forecast. I know it was cold earlier in the morning but by 10:00 AM (departure time) Woodland hills was already experiencing temps in the low to mid 60's. By the time we arrived at Ojai for lunch it was a comfortable 74 degrees and we could hardly wait to shed our extra layers.

I usually try to attend all Saturday rides, and being a Southern Californian I am used to early morning low temps during the winter months. That's why I wear my jacket (or

Gerbing) and maybe even other layers, because I don't like the cold either, but I am especially unwilling to forego what could be a wonderful ride.

The ride today was excellent, despite the recent wildfires which had forced us away from the northern hills and valleys for the past couple of weeks. Today the goal was essentially a desire to check out the damage and make our own assessments of how bad it really was.

The first part of this ride was on the 101 Freeway and then north on the 23. We made our usual crossing of the hills at Balcom Canyon. All was clear as far as we could tell, although there was at least one plume of smoke, miles off to the north, which was still visible as we descended to Highway 126.

In Santa Paula we got our first close-up look at some of the damage. Where we saw fresh burn, it looked nasty, but there was far more that didn't burn. I'm always in wonderment when I visit a large burn site and see structures and trees and shrubs which the fire did not touch. Based on the news reports I was expecting worse. Yes, there were a few structures which were destroyed but most of the orchards and other crops were remarkably unscathed. This was the case as we continued northward on Highway 150 toward Ojai.

According to news reports the Thomas Aquinas College located in the canyon on highway 150 was surrounded by flames. That may well be, but on this day, just a week later the steeple and rooftops looked lovely and pristine in the morning sun. No damage in sight.

Further on towards Ojai we did see some areas of burn including charred hillsides and blackened trees. In one or two spots there was still actually some small residual hot-spots continuing to emit small puffs of smoke. Toward the top of the canyon most of the area looked to have been skipped-over by the flames. No fire equipment of any kind was seen and only a few telephone lines repairman were working alongside the highway.

Traffic was light.

Then, just before the steep grade down into Ojai could we see that a large portion of the hills were scorched, almost devoid of trees or plant life. Strange how the fire hits one spot but not another. Some trees burn, and some don't. Most of the houses we saw were still standing, but a few sites we passed appeared to have been totally destroyed.

As said earlier, Ojai was enjoying a typical winter day with bright sun and temps of 74 degrees. At the base of the canyon our favorite eatery, Boccali's, was closed; another unfortunate sign of how natural disasters affect some lives but not others. We went instead to Ojai Café and enjoyed a great lunch.

But we were not fully convinced that we had seen the heart of the fire-monster so after lunch, instead of returning directly home we continued our trek. We drove north and west

around Ojai, Lake Casitas (water still only at about 15 - 20 percent of capacity) passing highway 192, where earlier reports indicated a bad hot-spot. Here, we did see more devastation, but again, it was only in certain spots.

Finally, we made it to Carpinteria and the 101 Freeway. We then headed south. Here we were witness to the same phenomenon; some areas mostly scorched and others virtually untouched. Amazingly the fire appears to have burned both sides of US 101 but on this day all appeared normal except for the smell of the burnt grass and palm trees.

Thus, ended what turned out to be one of the best and most interesting Saturday rides of the year. The weather was near-perfect, the terrain, though familiar, appeared different because of the damage. The meal at Ojai Café was excellent and the camaraderie of the small group was, as always, excellent.

A young woman brought her fiancé home to meet her parents.

After dinner, her mother told her father to find out about the young man.

The father invited the fiancé to his study for a talk.

"So, what are your plans?" the father asked the young man.

"I am a biblical scholar," he replied.

"A biblical scholar, hmmm?" the father said. "Admirable, but what will you do to provide a nice house for my daughter to live in?"

"I will study," the young man replied, "and God will provide for us."

"And how will you buy her a beautiful engagement ring, as she deserves?" asked the father.

"I will concentrate on my studies," the young man replied, "God will provide for us."

"And children?" asked the father. "How will you support children?"

"Don't worry, sir, God will provide," replied the fiancé.

The conversation proceeded like this, and each time the father questioned,

the young idealist insisted that God would provide.

Later, the mother asked, "How did it go, honey?"

The father answered, "He has no job and no plans, and he thinks I'm God."

News From The North (RCHR)

By JB

Holiday time is here and so are the parties.

Judy and I thought we'd check out the party plans being made by our brethren to the north, so on Saturday, December 9 we went by car to Sacramento to see for ourselves why they always seem so happy.

Actually we made it to Sacto in record time using I-5 mainly and then a few country roads as we neared the city. Left Simi at 6:30 AM and were enjoying lunch just outside Stockton at noon.

Asked a local for a restaurant recommendation and ended up miles out in the country at a little BBQ joint called Waterloo. Located in the middle of nowhere but the locals knew about it and the place was jumping. Lucky to get a table at noon. Instead of the traditional fries or potato salad or coleslaw, they serve most of their meals and sandwiches with a side of "pesto pasta." Fabulous.

Made the short drive to Sacramento and found our guest accommodations at Greg and Sue Lindfeldt's Rancho Cordova home to be better than imagined and the price was right. Had a short time to relax and then the four of us drove about 20 minutes to the party which was held at a local Mexican Restaurant in a comfortably large banquet room, totally separate from the main restaurant and with separate facilities.

Cocktail hour ensued on a pay-as-you-go basis, and some chips were provided on each table as a little appetizer. The actual dinner was served buffet style but our plates were actually dished-out by waitresses. The meal was very traditional and very tasty and very filling.

Following dinner a fun gift-exchange was held where a raffle was held so you could pick a gift by number. Problem was that once you had your gift, somebody else could take it away from you, making it necessary to nab somebody else's gift. What fun.

Then came the dancing. Two DJ's were on duty and soon everyone was out on the dance floor. These people ride well but dance even better. Just about everyone was on their feet out on the large dance floor.

Throughout the evening a large TV screen presented lots of great photos from previous events. SCHRA members were very much in evidence during the slide show because of all the joint events we have held with RCHR over the past years.

Then it was back to the Lindfeldt residence and our very comfy bedroom suite. Next morning the coffee, juice, fruit and home-made scones were waiting on the breakfast table.

Leaving Sacramento we made our way to the SF Bay area where we met our grandson for lunch in Emeryville. From there it was over the Richmond Bridge for an overnight visit with relatives in Larkspur (Marin County).

Headed home the following AM and stopped for more BBQ at Paso Robles. All-in-all, a very nice sojourn with our friends from the north who wished you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Upcoming Activities – 2018; What Lies Ahead?

By JB

Gentlemen & Ladies of SCHRA:

By the time you read this article, 2018 will be a reality. What will you do and where will you go during the new year? Read on, as some good things lie ahead.

My intention, in this column is to give a bit of a preview as to what we are thinking and how it will affect our new 2018 Ride Calendar. Some things will remain the same but expect some interesting changes.

The first step in our process of planning the calendar year will be a meeting of Road Captains at a time and place to be announced shortly. Here are a few of the traditional events which will be included:

Super Bowl Party
Summer Party
Holiday Party
Picnic (sure, why not?)
Annual joint ride with RCHR (Mammoth Lakes here we come).

To this list will be added numerous other events, including some of the 2017 events which were cancelled or postponed but still worthy of being on the new calendar.

At a recent-past club meeting a discussion was held regarding future events which would be of interest. The new BOD is most interested in creating events and activities which will engender maximum participation. We're a small group, so we must meet the expectations of

everyone if we are going to be successful.

To meet this challenge there will likely be fewer events, but hopefully something for everyone. That means we need to know what that "something" is, which means feedback. Let us know your thoughts and opinions. Help us in putting together a plan we can all love and support. So, if you have an idea for a ride or event, give us a broad-brush idea and we'll work on it with you.

We will be cognizant of the fact that we are now a group of mostly "mature" individuals and we do enjoy our creature comforts. We will seriously take weather matters into account, and avoid dates (holidays) which are more appropriate to be spent with our families.

Even though there may be fewer SCHRA events than in previous years, keep in mind that with our relationship with RCHR we now have access to many of their rides and vice-versa. These are fun people to ride with!

There's yet another event which deserves some mention and that is the Saturday Ride. Based on the numbers alone, this is perhaps the most important event we do. Think about it, 52 times a year and without RSVP you can spend four or five hours with friends who love to ride, eat, and schmooze. And you still have half the day left for other stuff.

So, there you have it. Some things different; some things the same. We asked for your opinion and you gave it. Now we plan to deliver in 2018. It'll be a year with many choices plus an opportunity to get to better know our Sacramento friends. I'm excited and hope you are too.

2016 - 17 Officers and Board Members

President	Jack Lanius	Pres@schra.org
Board Member	Jerry Bruce	VP@schra.org
Secretary	Cindy Stern	Sec@schra.org
Treasurer	Ron Lynn	Treas@schra.org
Senior Road Captain	Jerry Bruce	SrCpt@schra.org
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Webmaster	Jack Lanius	Web@schra.org
Social Activities Director	Jerry Bruce	Activ@schra.org

SCHRA Road Captains		SCHRA Departure Sites
Jerry Stern - JS Lee Blackman ~ LB Jerry Bruce ~ JB Joe Gubbrud ~ JG	Ron Lynn - RL Lou Piano ~ LP Cindy Stern ~ CS	Starbucks Ventura & Topanga Canyon McDonald's 11015 Sepulveda Blvd., Mission Hills Denny's Sand Canyon 15401 Delone St., Santa Clarita McDonald's Kanan Rd., NE corner behind Shell Station

SCHRA Boutique

Ask a board member for more info, prices or to purchase Some of this highly gifted stuff.

All Shirts are \$15.00

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	Black	3
LS	White	1
	Blue	0
	Black	5

MEDIUM

SS	White	0
	Blue	0
	Black	0
LS	White	0
	Blue	0
	Black	2

LARGE 0

cont)

<u>X-LARGE</u>	
White	0
Blue	2
Black	5
<u>LS</u>	
White	0
Blue	0
Black	2
<u>XX-LARGE</u>	
SS	0
White	0
Blue	1
Black	0
<u>3XL</u>	
LS	0
White	3



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