



ROLLING THUNDER

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JULY 2007

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President's Message

Stan Myers

JULY 2007

In This Issue

President's Message

From the Editor

Fifth Annual
Kotler Ranch Run

**MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL
APPLICATION**

2007 Ride Schedule

FYI

Extra Wind

SCHRA Ride Departure
Locations

Classifieds

Membership Updates

**Next Meeting
Thursday
July 12th
7:00 pm**

It is Monday, June 25, 2007 as I sit down to write, and those who went on our fifth annual Kotler Ranch Run are no doubt on their way home, safely I hope. I had to miss the ride this year, and all weekend I have been watching the news of the roaring fire centered about five miles southwest of Lake Tahoe. A number of the 165 homes already burned are located in the town of Meyer in California, which is on the route Gary Kottler has taken us in past years. Obviously that route was changed this year, if indeed they were able to enjoy a day of riding with no smoke hazard at all. Let's hope and pray that the fire is quickly brought under control before too much more of Mother Nature's work of art is destroyed.

A quick word about our June meeting: member Dave Malin, who recently returned from a tour of duty in Iraq, gave us a slide presentation and narrative on the work and working conditions his unit encountered. Dave is a Captain in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, and I can tell you that the June meeting was one of the most interesting I have ever attended. We let Dave know how much we enjoyed his presentation by our questions and our prolonged applause, but I will say it again: Thanks, Dave, from all of us!

By the time most of you read this the Fourth of July holiday is now behind us.

It is one of my two favorite holidays.

Clancy Strock, an octogenarian contributing editor for *Reminisce* magazine, has written in the June/July issue that five years before he was born his dad came home from World War I service in France. He was an Illinois farm boy when he left and a devoted patriot when he returned. He saw America through new eyes and realized how lucky we all are to live in our great country. I think that even today any of us who served overseas in any of the conflicts subsequent to WWI feel much the same way. I know I do.

But in thinking back to my "growing up" years I seem to remember a time when we made more of our country's birthday than we do today, and Strock said the same thing in his article. Almost everyone flew the flag at home. There were neighborhood parades some years and when the flag passed by everyone placed their hands over their hearts in a respectful salute. We had fireworks, though they were quite tame compared with today's varieties. We burned sparklers and "punk," ate hotdogs and hamburgers and in general carried on in an all day celebration.

All this may strike some as being too nostalgic, but what's wrong with showing that we love our country, that we respect our flag, that we are thankful for the privilege of living in the land of the free? Okay, 'nuff said.

From the Editor

Linda Marks

I took a nice little day ride a couple of weeks ago. Granted, most of us are hard pressed to find a day ride route that we've not previously done unless we incorporate some lesser desired roads like freeways and crowded stop 'n' go traffic light infested thoroughfares. However, a repeat route can still provide the occasional novelty here and there.

Sneaking out Crescenta Valley's back door via Mt. Gleason and over through Lower Big Tujunga Canyon, I headed east on Forest Highway past the cut-off for Upper Big Tujunga Canyon and around the bend toward Lancaster. Mt. Emma Road carried me due east paralleling Pearblossom Highway. My destination was Devil's Punchbowl. Even though I did not leave home until nearly noon, riding through the forest and high desert wearing my jacket was quite pleasant.

My route to Devil's Punchbowl was old hat, as was the destination itself. Nevertheless, an odd surprise awaited me. After checking out the great horned owls, I headed for one of the foot trails only to find, of all things, a dear little white llama. The animal was donned with halter and saddlebags, and led by a nice Jewish girl whose father is in law enforcement in Israel. Naturally, I had to ask her, "Why do you have a llama?" "He's my hiking buddy," she replied, and then added, "I love to hike and I just got tired of carrying things!"

Okay, logical answer, except it begs the next most logical question, "How did you get him here?" Smiling, and said, "he just jumps right into the back of my van and I take him everywhere." After a little hike I wandered back to my bike and witnessed the llama jumping right into the back of a late model minivan. Much like a gigantic silly puppy dog, the llama knew exactly what to do.

From Devil's Punchbowl my route took me further east through a very hilly and joshua tree studded high desert. Eventually I climbed into the mountains on Big Pines Road toward Wrightwood.

Some fifteen years ago I stumbled across a little

place on Big Pines Road that served up the iciest tall schooners of beer with a magnificent burger and perfectly brown crispy fries. About a dozen years later I dropped in on that place again, to my utter disappointment.

Deciding to check out the Mile High Cafe once again turned out to be very good idea. It is now owned by a Korean family who truly appreciate their surroundings in this idyllic forest. There are rustic fountains and koi ponds, and a sustainable garden provides produce for the Cafe's menu.

The fare offered is mostly oriental, and in a place this remote one might expect some creepy, greasy junk food. To the contrary! I ordered the shrimp, which they served butterflied in a crispy brown panko. The shrimps were large, succulent, and very fresh. On the side was a colorful salad containing oriental veggies and a variety of spring lettuce, all snapping with the vitality of being just picked. At cursory glance the menu appears to be somewhat on the pricey side, however the quality of food presented renders the prices completely fair and reasonable. You can expect that kind of old fashioned service where your glass of Coca-Cola is bottomless and the beverage so cold it has ice crystals forming on top. Although rice did not come with my shrimp, the young lady serving me offered a side dish of healthy whole grain black, brown or red rice at no charge. I had to politely decline her generous offer because the shrimp and salad completely sated me.

Back on the road again, I headed for the Angeles Crest Highway which would put me only about five miles from Wrightwood. My design was to take the Crest all the way back home; that dream was short lived when I learned the road is closed at the 8,000 foot summit. Backtracking is something I try to avoid at all cost, yet my only other choice was to slab it home on the 210, and that was out of the question. As it turned out, backtracking an original route can be almost like taking a new route because you always see things in the reverse direction that you missed during your initial flight.

Fifth Annual Kotler Ranch Run

Mike Levison

For our fifth annual Kotler Ranch Run, we made some slight changes this year. Departing on Saturday instead of Friday, we crossed the Sierras from west to east instead of shooting up SR395. Sonora Pass was the choice, after a beautiful ride up SR49 from Oakhurst. In anticipation of our forthcoming trip, CalTrans had kindly repaved and re-striped the entire highway. The scenery, vistas, road conditions and weather were perfect.

Our fortunate group consisted of James and Janet Parr, Jerry and Judy Bruce, Mike and Ruthann Levison, Nappy and Toni Napolitano, Bob Thompson, Richard Slobin and his neighbor Rick Ardi. How many others of you have gassed up and had ice cream in the beautiful mountain hamlet of Twain Harte?

Arriving at Topaz Lodge around 6 p.m., we were greeted with a parking lot filled with Harleys. Two clubs from northern California were also visiting the area. Foregoing our usual post-ride nap, we hooked up with Gary and Cathryn Kotler, who introduced us to the new Iron Horse Grill just up the road. A casual supper, pitchers of sangria and lots of conversation ended a great day.

The Kotlers' abundant hospitality included a continental breakfast the next morning. It was then off to ride over Monitor Pass, go through the town of Markleeville, and up to Tahoe. We rode through the town of Myers on SR89, just an hour or so ahead of the big fire originating there. Lunch was at a patio restaurant alongside the Truckee

River, where all the river-rafters terminated their rides. There were hundreds of them, providing us with some interesting new scenery to appreciate!

Until the smoke from the fire visible across the water hazed up the crystal clear sky, Lake Tahoe was still its amazing sapphire blue. Past the mansions of Incline Village we headed southward to Kingsbury Grade and the town of Gardnerville to gas up. An interesting side note; we all traveled 190 miles since our previous gas stop, and nobody even needed 4 gallons. Harleys like mountain roads and altitude, giving us all 50+ miles per gal.

Back at Topaz by 5 p.m., we had time to rest, shower, have a beer, *etc.*, and ride over to the Kotlers' Badly Bent Ranch by 7 p.m. Our annual dinner was sensational as usual; flank steak, capons, fresh white corn salad, grilled veggies, Cathryn's special garlic bread, and lemon strawberry shortcake for dessert. A full hosted bar was operational all night.

Monday morning we headed down SR395, stopping for an excellent country breakfast at the Meadow Cliff Lodge in Coleville. Then it was clear sailing all the way home. What a great weekend! Comments were made by many riders that they couldn't wait until next year! Happily I can report there were no mishaps, bike problems, arguments or any difficulties whatsoever! If your name is not listed above as a participant, you really missed out on a memorable experience. You'd better plan now for next June!



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HARLEY RIDERS ASSOCIATION

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP AND RELEASE

NEW: _____ RENEWAL: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Fax: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Month/Day of Birth: _____

INSURANCE INFORMATION

Driver License No.: _____ State: _____ M-1 Class: ___Y___N

Harley Model: _____ Year: _____ Insured: ___Y___N

Insurance Company: _____ Policy No.: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Relationship: _____

THIS IS A RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT - READ BEFORE SIGNING

I agree that the SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HARLEY RIDERS ASSOCIATION, INC. ("SCHRA"), an incorporated association, and its respective officers, directors, employees and agents (hereinafter, the "Released Parties") shall not be liable or responsible for injury to me (including paralysis or death) or damage to my property occurring during any SCHRA activities and resulting from acts or omissions occurring during the performance of the duties of the Released Parties, even where the damage or injury is caused by negligence (except willful neglect). I understand that all members and their guests participate voluntarily and at their own risk in all SCHRA activities and I assume all risks of injury and damage arising out of the conduct of such activities. I release and hold the Released Parties harmless from any injury or loss to my person or property which may result from my participation in chapter activities and event(s). I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS MEANS THAT I AGREE NOT TO TAKE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST (SUE) THE RELEASED PARTIES FOR ANY INJURY OR RESULTING DAMAGE TO MYSELF OR MY PROPERTY ARISING FROM, OR IN CONNECTION WITH, THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR SCHRA DUTIES IN SPONSORING, PLANNING OR CONDUCTING SAID EVENT(S).

If I have any doubts about my abilities, equipment, the conditions of the roads, or about having adequate insurance coverage to compensate me for any loss which may occur I agree to voluntarily withdraw from any ride before starting or to withdraw during the ride at such time any doubt occurs.

WAIVER OF RIGHTS UNDER STATE STATUTES

I further agree to waive all benefits flowing from any state statute which would negate or limit the scope of this Release and Indemnification Agreement including, but not limited to, Section 1542 of the California Civil Code which provides:

A general release does not extend to the claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his favor at the time of executing the release, which if known to him must have materially affected his settlement with the debtor.

I have read the General Rules and agree to abide by them as a member of this Association.

By signing this Release, I certify that I have read this Release and fully understand it and that I am not relying on any statements or representations made by the Released Parties.

Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

Amount Paid: _____ Date Pd: _____ Check No.: _____

For New Members Only:

Sponsored By: _____ Signature: _____
[printed name]

\$35/yr/person to 06/30/07 due by 07/31/06

SCHRA

P.O. Box 862

Van Nuys, CA 91408

2007 Ride Schedule

Overnighter to Gilroy and San Simeon	
Woodlake Bowl, 9a, Marvin F.	Sat Jul 14 - Mon Jul 16
SCHRA 15th Anniversary Party	
Mike and RuthAnn Levison's house	Sat Jul 21
Overnighter to Bryce and Zion	
t/b/a	Fri Sep 14 - Mon Sep 17
Overnighter to Yosemite	
t/b/a, Janet P.	Sat Sep 20 - Mon Sep 22
Stay Tuned	
for	
Upcoming Rides	

Extra Wind

Anyone looking for riding buddies or a group discount hotel rate on a planned ride *not* on SCHRA's 2007 Ride Schedule can network here by e-mailing the date and destination to editor@schra.org so other members can hook up with you. **These rides are not meant to compete with SCHRA rides** and, because these rides are **not** sanctioned SCHRA rides, there may **never** be a SCHRA Road Captain on any of them. However, if your calendar prevents you from attending all the SCHRA rides as scheduled, or you just need more wind in the face than the SCHRA 2007 Ride Schedule provides, then look here every month, and by all means feel free to submit whatever scheduled or "any time" itineraries your bike screams at you to take!

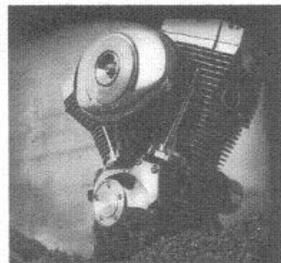
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Ensenada/San Felipe	*any time
earthgirl522@hotmail.com	Linda Marks
SanQuintín/Bahía de LosÁngeles/Mulegé	*any time
earthgirl522@hotmail.com	Linda Marks

* These rides may end up on the SCHRA 2007 Ride Schedule later in the year - then again, maybe not.

Jay Bennett

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION,

2007 Officers and Their E-mail Addresses

President	Stan Myers	Pres@schra.org
Vice-President	Mitch Pullman	VicePres@schra.org
Secretary	Marvin Feuerman	Secy@schra.org
Treasurer	Ron Lynn	Treas@schra.org
Officer at Large	Bob Thompson	OAL@schra.org
Sr. Road Captain	James Parr	SrRoad@schra.org
Activities Chairperson	Ken C, Natalie N	Activities@schra.org
Editor/Publisher	Linda Marks	Editor@schra.org
Webmaster	Melinda McCallion	Webmaster@schra.org
Historian	James Parr	Hist@schra.org
Road Captains:	Jerry Stern, Cindy Stern, James Parr, Janet Parr, Marvin Feuerman, Richard Slobin, Bob Thompson, Mitch Pullman, Jay Bennett, Mike Levison, Roger Belt	

SCHRA Ride Departure Locations:

Woodlake Bowl
23130 Ventura Blvd, Woodland Hills

Solley's
4578 Van Nuys Blvd, Sherman Oaks

Millie's
10318 Sepulveda Blvd, Mission Hills

Denny's Roxford
12861 Encinitas Ave, Sylmar

Denny's Sand Canyon
16401 Delone St, Santa Clarita

Classified

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 contact editor@schra.org
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Membership Updates

Please welcome new members:

Judith Bruce (res) (805) 581-5288
 618 Rustic Hills Road (cel) (818) 983-6722
 Simi Valley, CA 93065 jbruce@financialpointe.com

Jonathan Hoffman (res) (805) 581-5544
 2917 Corpus Christi Avenue (cel) (310) 780-5227
 Simi Valley, CA 93063 a415harleyguy@aol.com

Please note the following new e-mail address:

richard.slobin@bankcardusa.com
anitablackman10@aol.com
lennyw@udrecovery.com
lloydfarber@gmail.com

Please note the following new address/telephone:

no new address/telephone changes to report

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Be sure to contact editor@schra.org if any of your contact information changes.

Important Reminder:

**Hot summer?
You'll be way cool if you come to the July meeting!**

Next Meeting:

**7:00 pm - Thursday, July 12th, 2007
Four 'n' 20 Pies
5530 Van Nuys Blvd. Sherman Oaks**

**Be Sure To Visit Our Website At:
<http://www.schra.org>**

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Harley Riders Association
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