



# ROLLING THUNDER

VOLUME XVII, NUMBER 10 OCTOBER 2008

WWW.SCHRA.ORG

## President's Message

Mike Levison

Ruthann riding in her new comfortable seat behind me, and good friends Jerry and

### OCTOBER 2008

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**Next Meeting**  
**Thursday**  
**October 9th**  
**7:00 pm**

It's all about the journey and the destination; and it's all about the Harley; and it's all about the companions sharing the experience with you; and it's all about the roads and scenery; and it's all about the food, of course, along with the weather. There are so many elements involved in a typical motorcycle trip, be it a single day ride for lunch or an overnight adventure to a distant town or place. And when they are all combined without a mishap, if there is a better way to enjoy one's life and clear one's brain I have yet to discover it or hear about it.

With constant bombardment of stress and anxiety producing information we all receive daily via TV, radio, and the once objective neutral press regarding politics or the economy or local crime or gas and food prices, *etc.*, if your Harley is just sitting in the garage gathering dust and leaking oil you are really missing the boat. Get the magic machine out on the road for some necessary therapy and wind in your face enjoyment.

These thoughts began to percolate in my head this last weekend as I rode my new Ultra Classic home from a trip to Reno Street Vibrations over the beautiful Sonora Pass and down the incredible SR49 from Jamestown to Oakhurst. In perfect weather, with

Judy Bruce following on their bike, we were all experiencing special memorable moments that will last a lifetime. Counting my blessings with prayers of "thank you," and being the experienced old fart that I have become, I must say these spiritual moments take place more frequently now than ever before in my pre-Harley lifetime.

In July of 2000, I prepared for marital battle over getting a bike. Instead, I was greeted with, "Get a new one and a black one, and what took you so long?" That Road King now has over 125k miles but still performs well. Not wanting to face selling a bike with that many miles, I have been reluctant to buy a new machine, even with some long trips on the horizon. But then I was told by my everlovin' who asks, "You have to sell the old one?" and says, "Get whatever color you want!" Is she a keeper or what? And this is why we have logged over 50 years together.

Check out my new white ElectraGlide! I am really loving it, with the larger motor and gas tank, 6 speed transmission, increased storage space tour pack, and cruise control for freeway riding, *etc.* Ride safe, my friends, and ride often, and ride SR49 at your earliest opportunity for it is really something special in this guy's humble opinion!

**Incredible Story:**

**Man buys  
new Harley,  
instantly becomes  
taller and thinner.**



# From the Editor

Linda Marks

work if you regularly contribute, and for those of you who would like to contribute please remember that anything regarding motorcycles or biking is certainly of interest to us all.

Thanks to everyone who has been submitting articles for Rolling Thunder our membership is enjoying some interesting and worthy news. Please keep up the great

# Senior Road Captain's Report

Cindy Stern

## THE GIRLY-GIRL ADVANTAGE or PERCEPTION IS EVERYTHING

Okay, before anyone gets their boxers in a bunch or their panties in a peccadillo, this is not going to be some feminist rant. I'd like to tell you about an incident that happened to me on my way home from Reno.

We were westbound on the 118 at the brightest sun in your eyes time of evening. I was in the #3 lane, about to change into the exit lane for Topanga. I signaled, did a head check and started to change lanes. A man in a car sped up and very aggressively cut me off, not letting off his speed even as he passed me on the shoulder, which necessitated that I swerve back into the lane I had just left. I was PISSED! So I sped up, pulled alongside him and read him the riot act in Braille. (Disclaimer: this is not something that I recommend as the senior road caption of this club.) At some point, he realized I was a woman. I could see it in his face. His expression became sheepish. The thought bubble over his head said, "Oh no, that was a woman I cut off." He was getting off at Topanga as well, and at that point he hung way back to avoid me, allowing Jerry to get in his ten cents worth. The light turned green, and the incident ended.

I don't think about myself as a "woman" rider; I'm just a rider, enjoying the same things a man enjoys. My gender doesn't supply extra pleasures and it certainly doesn't confer any additional forgiveness on mental or operational mistakes. Regardless of what any P.C. statement says, riding is one of the very few truly level playing fields in the man/woman gender thing. But I do observe, on every ride, that others react differently when they figure out I'm a woman. Maybe it's the pink bandanna, or the deep-V tee shirts, or the bling on my jacket. Whatever. But it brings me to my point, which isn't just confined to riding.

You see someone doing something and you make a judgment about it. That in turn affects your reaction to

what they're doing. Example: a person starts heading quickly for that off-ramp that's very close.

They have their turn signal on but you think, "Oh no you don't, you jerk - just 'cause you're signaling, I'm not letting you in." So maybe they're from northern California and just don't know the area but you've decided they're being rude so you won't let them in. Your perception guided your response. (Or maybe you just let them in, in which case you're a really nice person.)

One reason that we develop smaller riding groups may be that we know the habits of a person but we also know what's going on with that person because of frequent contact. If I didn't know you, and I observed you on a ride going all over the lane, speeding up and slowing down, or being just generally spacey, I might conclude that you're not a very good rider and that I don't want to ride with you. But I might later find out that you've just been diagnosed with diabetes and that you're still working on regulating your after lunch blood sugar. Again, right observation - wrong conclusion.

The first time I dropped my '95 Standard, I was behind someone I'm pretty used to riding with on club rides. I knew the guy, a good rider, and the pack was making a left turn into Point Lobos State Park. I followed him into the turn because I "perceived" that he would continue in a straight line. He did not, and I braked hard in the turn and threw myself hard off my ride. He didn't do anything wrong, the error was in my head. I had concluded, based on my observation, what he was going to do and then relied on that conclusion for my action. This example is similar to the one above only in that one set of thoughts (incorrectly perceived) produced an action decision that could have had a more positive outcome.

As we ride, we are executing these types of decision-making processes almost non-stop. I believe that the pleasure and safety of my own ride is directly linked to the quality of my decisions and actions out there. So when you do your pre-flight, check your tires, your oil and your gas; but also check your thinker. A malfunction in that system could cause the worst outcome of all.

# Meet Your Member

*Sumbudy*

Early last spring, wanting to find some congenial folks for he and his wife to ride with, who would he consult with but his 15 year old daughter. It just so happened she was friends with a neighborhood girl whose father, Scott Bradford, belonged to a Harley club. It was suggested he visit the club's very impressive website to see what we were about and how motley we might look. Seeing many photos of an exceptionally fine and respectable looking group of people appearing to be having loads of fun, Paul and Sylvie Wilmot attended our monthly meeting and joined our happy group immediately.

Paul was riding a V-Rod at the time, but felt it wasn't quite appropriate for our activities and bought a very clean '05 Road King. He still has the V if anyone is interested. He and Sylvie joined our merry little group on the Hollister Rally ride last July, and had a terrific time on their first overnighter with SCHRA, as we equally enjoyed them. They have 2 daughters, 13 and 15, 2 dogs named Moon and Sun, and live in Northridge.

Paul was born in Worcester, Massachusetts on May 20, 1963. His Dad was a plumber and Mom a housewife. He grew up in New England and graduated from U of Mass, Amherst. If anyone believes current music doesn't affect our kids, Sumbudy says listen to this. As a young boy in a house with all older 3 brothers and 5 sisters, he was a fan of the Beach Boys. He purchased one of their hit albums, Endless Summer, for one cent through a record club and listened to it constantly. With his favorite song being California Girl forever etched in his brain, Paul took off for Westwood as soon as possible, which was 1985, seeking one of them. He had intended to do some post-graduate work at USC, but that never came to pass. He enjoyed his years of bachelorhood, working various jobs to support his lifestyle, which was what many of us had aspired to achieve and

didn't, but the irony of his story is the girl he landed was French and not a Californian.

Paul has a long history of motorcycling, getting his first bike, a Kawasaki 750, back in 1981, and puts on about 8k-10k miles a year. Having owned several machines in between, and fortunately never having been involved in an accident, he finds the Road King to be the favorite. General contracting is his profession, specializing in kitchen and bath remodeling, with the majority of his clients being from the movie and entertainment industry. Happily, they don't seem to be adversely affected by the housing and construction downturn. Sylvie is on her second bike already, and is quite an interesting and colorful personality. Sumbudy will get to her in the near future.

SCHRA is fortunate to have the Wilmots join our organization, and we wish them a warm welcome!



# Product Review Corner

Ron Lynn

Most of us ride in jeans, however if you have seen the results of someone hitting the pavement with ordinary jeans you know those jeans shred and rip almost immediately, leaving one's skin to scrub off the slide. This road rash can be very dangerous, resulting in serious infection not to mention the long healing required to mend this injury.

Enter Draggin Jeans! This is a slightly heavier jean fabric than Levis and has Kevlar sewn into the seat and the knee area. Kevlar is a manmade product and is 5 times stronger than steel. It is soft and pliable and is resistant to slashing. The jeans come in blue and black and in many sizes and styles; i.e., Classic or Relaxed, etc. Inside the jeans the Kevlar feels like terry cloth so when you sit on them they feel more like a soft pad between you and your saddle. I have found them to be very comfortable and because they are thicker than Levis most of the time I find I do not need to wear chaps for the extra warmth.

As most of you know I have experienced their protection first hand in a get-off at approximately 25 mph. The knee area, where most of my contact was made, shredded the jean material much like normal jeans. However this is where the destruction stopped as the Kevlar was not even scratched and the terry cloth thickness actually padded my fall.

They machine wash very easily and look like ordinary jeans. Most people don't even notice the stitching in the knees on my black jeans but on the blue pair it is more obvious. A small price to pay for this added protection! I find I don't even have to check which pants I am going to wear when riding. I have camped, hiked and shopped in these jeans and the only drawback I can think of would be in higher temperatures. They are warm when walking but not when riding. NOTE: You may

want to order the length 2" longer than your normal street jeans to allow for the bike.

We spend over \$20,000 for our bikes and more dollars again for our leather jackets, boots and multiple gloves and I am not even getting into the chrome. Then we put on thin non-reinforced jeans which literally have NO protection. Would you ride in shorts? Well ordinary jeans are not much different. Although these Draggin Jeans do not replace leather or armored riding gear, they do provide you with considerably more protection.

Sale price: Between \$100 and \$110

Contact: Fast Company at [dragginjeans.com](http://dragginjeans.com) or (800) 459-2239. They are in the US.

Remember:  
**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING YOU LIKE,  
BUY IT!**



# Big Sur

Ron Lynn

I called for everyone to assemble for departure at 8:00 a.m. and much to my surprise all 14 did. Mike &

Ruthann Levison; Marvin & Gloria Feuerman; Jerry & Judy Bruce; James & Janet Parr; Jerry & Cindy Stern; Ron & Sandy Lynn; Charlie King and Roy Glasner. We waited for Scott Bradford as he had decided to join us the last minute for camping. When we called him, we unfortunately discovered that his sister-in-law was on the Metro Link train in Chatsworth and was seriously hurt. So he was not able to make it.

Our first stop was at the Montecito Village Deli (or something like that), one of Richard Slobin's favorite stops. They have a variety of coffee, pastry and other gastronomical delights along with a great ambiance. There is even shopping upstairs.

After gassing up in Los Alamos, we took a detour at Los Osos Valley Road just before San Luis Obispo to avoid the crowded circle exit. From there we took Highway 1 to Morro Bay. This road meanders through small local agricultural farms, coastline, sand dunes and green marshes, all of which provided a relaxing and beautiful diversion.

A few weeks prior, I was in Cambria and had dinner with a group of 10 at Mustache Pete's, an eclectic Italian restaurant where every meal was excellent. They set us up on the second floor in a large window enclosed terrace. Sandy and Gloria met us in Cambria, but they were late due to a vital shopping stop along the way. We went a little overboard with the food in ordering side dishes, but again everyone seemed to enjoy the experience.

After a beautiful relatively uncrowded ride up Hwy 1 we arrived at Fernwood Resort where SCHRA has stayed in prior years. In spite of this we were still welcomed. Out of 7 committed campers only 3 (Ron, James & Janet) actually camped out next to a beautiful babbling stream in view of a picturesque wooden bridge. The family next to us actually set up their tent within 4 inches of the Parrs' and the guy snored. But the sound of the stream seemed to drown out all unwelcomed noise.

That Saturday evening we ate at Redwood Grill located at Fernwood. Nothing to write home about, however the ribs were not bad. We stayed to hear the entertainment at 9:00 which started at 9:30 with music not to our taste. So a group of us headed back down to the campsite for a fire, adult beverages and some stories.

I had set up Sunday as an open day with the possibility of taking the Point Sur Lighthouse tour. However when everyone found out it was a three hour tour, the group spooked and split up into the "Shoppers" and the "Riders." The 8 shoppers headed to Carmel while the 6

riders headed out for Alice's Restaurant on Skyline Blvd (Route 92) near Half Moon Bay. They returned 7 hours and over 225 miles later fulfilled by a magnificent and satisfying ride.

We were down at the campfire (to which James Parr had the foresight to bring wood from the new home they are building at Shaver Lake) eating munchies and drinking wine and beer when a thought came to me. Why drive over to a restaurant and kill two hours in a crowded place at \$30 per person when we could go to Fernwood Market and Redwood Grill and pick up a more elaborate selection of junk food and sit around the campfire to eat and be loud? Everyone told me that because I was Road Captain it was my decision. I had no idea anyone would actually listen to me. We had a great time telling jokes, visiting and enjoying the fire. Roy told one joke which took him 10 minutes to finish as he kept laughing at the anticipated punch line which caused us to laugh at him laughing. He had very good reason to laugh; it was hilarious.

Next morning we had breakfast at Ripplewood down the street, after which we headed north to Carmel Valley Road. But instead of continuing on this road we headed north on Laureles Grade (G-20), just past Carmel Valley, which joins Monterey-Salinas Highway (Route 68). We then turned south on River Road (G-17) which flows through a beautiful local farm community with great sweepers, and up-down dips which every so often required a right turn to avoid being pulled back onto Highway 101.

Soon we were back on the 101 at Soledad and were about 15 miles outside of Paso Robles, heading for our lunch stop at Senior Sancho's, when we lost Roy and Marvin. We pulled over at an off-ramp and while waiting for news exchanged our coastal leathers for warm inland gear. We had been on the road for 1.5 hours and Roy could not wait for the lunch stop and had to stop and irrigate the foliage. I almost stopped in King City but we were so close to the lunch stop.

This was my first major planned weekender event and, although I headed into it with much trepidation, I found that I had enjoyed the experience more than I ever thought I would. I strongly suggest that anyone who would like to lead a ride or a weekend event give it a try. Everyone came forward to help and made an effort to just go along with the creative experience. We have very special people in our club who will help you with any part of planning a ride. My special thanks to our Senior Road Captain, Cindy Stern, who really came to my aid not only in remembering the food (munchies) but also in convincing me that I had the freedom and authority to do what I wanted, yet with the assurance that I was not all alone in this endeavor. Thanks to everyone who joined us and had a great time!

# 2008 Ride Schedule

# Extra Wind

<b>Jocko's Pork Chop Express - Day Ride to Nipomo</b> Millie's, 9:30a, Jerry S.	Oct 12, Sun
<b>Pre Love Ride - Vendors and Exhibits</b> Millie's, 9:30a, Jerry S.	Oct 25, Sat
<b>Progressive Breakfast</b> Solley's, 8a, t/b/a	Nov 2, Sun
<b>Air Museum - Day Ride to Palm Springs</b> Solley's, 8:30a, Mike L.	Nov 16, Sun
<b>Wildlife Way Station Poker Ride</b> Levison residence, 9a, Mike L.	Nov 23, Sun
<b>SCHRA Holiday Party</b> t/b/a	Dec 13, Sat
<b>Stay Tuned</b>	
<b>for</b>	
<b>SCHRA's</b>	
<b>Exciting</b>	
<b>2009 Ride Schedule</b>	

Anyone looking for riding buddies or a group discount hotel rate on a planned ride *not* on SCHRA's 2008 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 2008 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!

**Calico Ghost Town** \*any time  
earthgirl522@hotmail.com Linda Marks  
cabin stay, amenities, full moon guided ghost tours to the mines, best taken around Halloween, reserve early

**Ensenada/San Felipe** \*any time  
earthgirl522@hotmail.com Linda Marks  
hotel stays, 2 different coastlines w/alpine mountain surrounded pristine desert and lushly green agricultural areas in between, great eats (succulent tender prawns the size of small lobster taken from the sea veritably moments prior to your dining pleasure!)

**SanQuintín/Bahía de LosÁngeles/Mulegé**\*any time  
earthgirl522@hotmail.com Linda Marks  
flagship hotel stays on water's edge each night, outrageous scenery, super friendly people, far above and beyond typical *gringo estúpido* tourist experience

**Yuma/Tucson/Nogales** \*any time  
earthgirl522@hotmail.com Linda Marks  
hotel stays, Michelin-rated eats, 7 climate zones, a must see

**Foodie Runs** \*any time  
earthgirl522@hotmail.com Linda Marks  
hotel stays, custom-made for either experienced or learner foodies around the most exquisite culinary love in the kitchen, your riding style, places you want to see and days you have available to make the trip - doesn't have to be high budget, just high quality.

\*These rides may end up on the SCHRA 2008 Ride Schedule later in the year - then again, maybe not.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION, 2008 Officers and Board

President	Mike Levison	Pres@schra.org
Vice-President	Lee Blackman	VicePres@schra.org
Secretary	Dennis Levine	Secy@schra.org
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Sr. Road Captain	Cindy Stern	SrRoad@schra.org
Activities Chairperson	Jerry Bruce	Activities@schra.org

Editor/Publisher	Linda Marks	Editor@schra.org
Webmaster	Mike Levison	Webmaster@schra.org
Historian	Anita Blackman	Hist@schra.org

**Road Captains:** Jerry Stern, Cindy Stern, James Parr, Janet Parr, Marvin Feuerman, Richard Slobin, Bob Thompson, Ron Lynn, Mitch Pullman, Mike Levison, Lou Piano, Dave Malin

### 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

To place an advertisement here,  
contact [editor@schra.org](mailto:editor@schra.org)  
To place an advertisement on our website,  
contact [webmaster@schra.org](mailto:webmaster@schra.org)

## Look Here First For the Best Bargains

**2002 Heritage Softail Classic.** Blue/silver, lowered, lots of goodies, fuel injection, 7900 miles. \$13,495. (res) (818) 887-4154, (cel) (818) 807-6109 – Charlie King

**2005 ElectraGlide Ultra Classic.** Black cherry, many extras, all the skull stuff! 26k miles. \$16,495. (res) (818) 887-4154, (cel) (818) 807-6109 – Charlie King

## Advertise Your Stuff in the Classifieds It's Free for SCHRA Members!

**Shifter Linkage Rod.** Part #33760-98A. MSRP \$163. Will sell for \$100. (818) 905-1858 days – Ron Lynn

**Starlite Motorcycle Cargo Trailer.** Very clean condition. Inside is lined with auto trunk liner, luggage rack on top, cooler rack on front of frame. \$550. (818) 905-1858 – Ron Lynn

**2002 V-Rod.** 17,600 miles. Leather side bags, windsheild, stereo, passenger backrest, nice chrome detail. \$9900 OBO. (818) 335-0227 – Paul

## DISPLAY AD RATE SCHEDULE COLOR ADS ARE NOW AVAILABLE! Exposure to High-End Clientele at Reasonable Prices Starts Here

Full page \$40/mo members	\$50/mo non-members
Half page, \$25/\$35	Quarter page, \$15/\$20
Eighth page, \$7.50/\$10	(business card is 1/8 page)

Prepay one year business card for discount to \$50/yr.; other prepaid discounts available as well. Substantial discounts for advertising both in Rolling Thunder and on the SCHRA website – contact [webmaster@schra.org](mailto:webmaster@schra.org) for details and rates. All art must be camera ready.

# Shindler & Lynn, CPAs

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# Membership Updates

**Please welcome new members:**  
none to report

## ATTENTION:

Member details (address/telephone info, e.g.) are not disclosed in *Rolling Thunder* because of its online availability to the world at large. Instead, update notices are designed simply to reflect the member's name and the category of updated info to be noted, followed by an instruction to contact SCHRA's roster-master ([treas@schra.org](mailto:treas@schra.org)) with any request for update details. **This service is available only to SCHRA members current on their dues *although* SCHRA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE THIS SERVICE AT WILL WITHOUT CAUSE.**

## IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Be sure to contact [editor@schra.org](mailto:editor@schra.org) if any of your contact information changes.

## **Important Reminder:**

**A Frightening Thought:  
Missing the October Meeting!**

### ***Next Meeting:***

**7:00 pm - Thursday, October 9th, 2008**

**Four 'n' 20 Pies**

**5530 Van Nuys Blvd. Sherman Oaks**

**Be Sure To Visit Our Website At:**

***<http://www.schra.org>***

***Rolling Thunder***  
**Southern California**  
**Harley Riders Association**  
**P.O. Box 662**  
**Van Nuys, CA 91408**



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