



ROLLING THUNDER

April 2017

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April 13, 2017**

**Publishing Deadline:
For May
April 29, 2017**



President's Message *Jerry Stern*

Greetings Fellow Members,

There are many things about our little organization that I find to be continually uplifting. One of those things was experienced by those of us who attended the Fresno Blossom Trail ride at the beginning of March. It was one of those occasions where everything just clicked - the weather, the camaraderie, the food, the hotel, and that the ride was easy, safe, and exceeded expectations. You'll read more about it in Cindy's article further on.

Our first Board meeting of 2017 was held prior to the start of our regular monthly meeting on March 9th. In particular we had some discussion about our diminishing membership roles and what could be done to improve the situation. All you have to do is look around and see that we have fewer riders than in previous years. Some good suggestions were brought forth, and now we have to begin to implement them. We need a new flyer designed that we can put into independent H-D shops. Can anyone suggest a good graphic artist that could fulfill that objective? Can anyone offer assistance and/or advice?

I don't mean to harp on negatives, of which there are thankfully very few. The most important element of our group is that we are all friends, beyond just being members with a common interest. I am not aware of anyone who does not get along with any other member. This is most unusual for any organization. We don't have any of the petty squabbles and resentments that are common in most clubs. We are very fortunate that we have this unique bond among those in our group. Even the Democrats and Republicans get along!

Thanks to all who came out for the March meeting. We had an exceptional turnout of nearly 80% of our membership in attendance, which is very encouraging. Let's keep it up! And remember, this is YOUR newsletter. If you have anything on your mind, or something that's newsworthy, or some cool pictures, we'll put 'em in.

Ride Safely,

Jerry Stern



Upcoming Events

JB - Socail Activities Chairperson

April, May, June & July, 2017

For starters let's talk a bit about rides which seldom get talked about; like the ones on Saturday. Just today (Saturday, March 26) three ride-starved souls who showed-up at Starbucks decided to toss "care to the wind" and head in a direction we usually avoid; into the city! Not Los Angeles City but Venice City. Yup, that's what we did; Lou, David and I headed over Old Topanga Canyon and then made a left turn onto PCH, instead of the usual right turn.

The weather was bright and brisk and our first view of the Pacific reminded us of how blue that water really is. 15 minutes later we were heading through the maze of narrow streets and lanes of Venice in search of elusive parking spaces. Believe it or not, we actually found room on one tightly-packed street for the two bikes and the trike. Wonder of wonders.

Following a brief stroll north on the Beach-Walk, we headed to the restaurant of choice, the Sidewalk Café. The food was good, the ambiance was typical beach city and happily most of the crazy people remained outside cavorting on the Beach-Walk.

Following lunch we continued our stroll but in the opposite direction. We then returned to our coveted parking spaces, mounted our metal steeds and made our way home by way of New Topanga Canyon, where the valley views and huge white thunderheads were astounding.

If the above has whetted your appetite somewhat, here are the rides which lie ahead for the next several months.

APRIL

Sunday 4/9 - Long Beach Aquarium: Dave Z., Starbucks, 9:00 AM

Join Dave and friends as he performs his first stint as a SCHRA RC. It has been some time since we've visited this venue and hear-tell the fish were getting lonely for us. Or not. Where will we dine? Only DZ knows the answer and he's not talking. Not yet.

Wednesday 4/26 thru Sunday 4/29 - Rally at Laughlin, NV

Still have not heard anything regarding this event or if anyone is planning on attending. If interested, contact Ron L directly for the "whys and wherefores."

MAY

Friday 5/19 thru Monday 5/22: Death Valley with RCHR: JB, Roxford McD, 8:30 AM

If you're not already registered for this event, just review the respective Event-Alert which contains all the details regarding where we're going, where we're staying, and what we're doing. At this time the SCHRA group is six participants and the RCHR group is also six participants.

Note that this itinerary has been expanded from two nights to three nights in order to provide more time to explore some fascinating places, and also to enjoy more leisure between bouts of sightseeing. More questions? See JB.

Sunday 5/28 - Lockwood Valley/Reyes Creek: Joe-Bob, Roxford McD, 9:00 AM

Perhaps one of the most astoundingly beautiful tours through our own local mountains, the drive to this remote watering-hole is as challenging as it is enjoyable. The food is good and the patrons only look ferocious. This is billed as a lunch-ride but the terrain might require some extra time. Joe is one of the few who actually knows how to find this place so don't be late to the meet-up.

JUNE

Friday 6/9 thru Sunday 6/11 - Cambria: Sternz.

As of press-time no decision has been made as to what the itinerary will actually be. Why you may ask? Because a very big bridge which we were intending to cross (on beautiful CA Highway 1) recently took some storm damage putting it out of commission for a year or more.

The ride could remain with Cambria as the centerpiece, or some alternative adjustments may be made. If you're interested, don't miss the April meeting because the subject is sure to be discussed.

Wednesday 6/21 thru Sunday 6/25 - Nevada:

JB, Roxford McD, 8:00 AM

Here's a little heads-up: This ride originally was to replace the Area-51 itinerary proposed for the 2016 ride calendar. Lack of interest (at that time) caused it to be put back on the shelf.

OK, fast forward. It's now 2017 and JB & Judy decided they were going to do the trip them-

selves....but anyone who was interested could tag along. Then, it was discovered that our northern buddies from RCHR had their own Nevada ride set for the same weekend. Opportunity knocks.

The result is a combination of the original Area-51 plan plus four Nevada State Parks (in the vicinity of Caliente), NV (2-nights); to which is now added another 2-nights at beautiful downtown Tonopah, NV for a visit and exploration of a former nearby mining site.

For details I call your attention to another recently released Event-Alert which explains all the important details. There are now six SCHRA members signed-up for this ride!

JULY

Sunday, 7/9 - A Day ride to Big Bear: Lou, McDonalds on Sepulveda Blvd. just north of the 118 freeway 8:30 am

More Editor's Notes:

Dave will be out of town on 4/9, therefore we will need a volunteer for the Long Beach Aquarium ride. Lou will be out of

town also. Any volunteers?

Note 3: Don't bother contacting Ron Lynn until after April 15th

Blossom Trail
Jerry & Cindy Stern





Accident Scene Management

Ron Lynn - Plagiarist

After years of visiting the Parrs, and riding and driving through the Fresno and adjacent agricultural areas, Jerry and I kept seeing these “Fresno Blossom Trail” signs. I could practically smell the fruit trees in bloom and dreamt about the puffy clouds of pink and white blooms on trees stretching as far as the eye could see. My imagination was ignited by the thought of



more of nature’s beauty, so we planned our first visit.

Rain and wind killed our first ever trip to

the Fresno Blossom Trail last year, and it looked like Mother Nature was about to play the same evil trick on us. This has been the mother of all winters, and the beginning of our travel week featured rain, cold and more rain. Curses, were we going to be foiled again? **NO!!!!** The week began to warm and by Friday the Sternz weather karma had officially kicked in. **YAY!!!** So we met Friday morning at 8:30, had a quick breakfast and were on our way.

Our plans were to bansai up the 5, have some lunch in Tulare and then spend the afternoon on the first half of the trail, culminating with a visit to Simonian Farms in Clovis and then to the hotel. The trees were very pretty, but the noteworthy part was Simonian Farms. (Google it up for a quick look see) It’s a paradise for people who love old tools, farm equipment and other types of collectible ephemera. One of the market rooms featured all manner of bicycles hanging from the ceiling. If you couldn’t find your childhood two-wheeler, you obviously didn’t have one! After perusing all the interesting old junk, we mounted back up and got ready for the next treat. We

checked into our hotel in Clovis, very satisfactorily found by JB for us, and then walked to a Japanese Teppan restaurant a couple blocks away which had been recommended by Janet Parr. They joined us for dinner, and everyone RAVED about our Benihana-style dinner experience, both for fun and quality. If you’re ever in Clovis go to the Japanese Steakhouse on Shaw.

Saturday morning dawned beautiful and warm so we ate, mounted up and proceeded to the second half of the trail. OK, honesty disclaimer: more trees, and we were beginning to wonder where was the “festival” in the **Blossom Trail Festival**. But we rode gamely on, taking in the beauty, stopping at a few extra-lovely spots. At one of them, which featured magnificent almond trees in billows of white blooms, there happened to be a farm of goats on the other side of the road. Now....maybe you don’t know that I really dig goats! I had dreams in the past of someday raising goats with my sis on our little “farm” in the desert and making some cool goat cheese. Never came to pass, but I still dig the little guys. After enjoying their antics, we continued on over toward Pine Flat Lake where we saw the river coming out of the dam with more power than I’ve seen in years. The fishermen were having trouble staying the course to catch any fish. After that we continued on to find food. Sidenote: before we left on this trip we already had cut it short one day because we knew Sunday featured more bad weather. So we were watching the time, and the old 1900’s Schoolhouse Restaurant where we would have liked, to eat had an interminable wait, so we continued on to the 99 Roadhouse, close by the freeway in Kingsburg. Very surprisingly satisfactory food for such an unassuming location, if you’re ever hungry by that offramp!

Three o’clock and we mounted up, with hopes of making it back to LA before dark. Almost made it...very close. But the ride home was easy, uneventful, and after a brief stop at Laval Road we made the traditional “final kiss-off” to our traveling companions Lou Piano, Dave Zummallen, and JB and Judy Bruce. A wonderful weekend, and I was tickled to have done the blossom trail with the company of such good friends.

2016 - 17 Officers and Board Members

President	Jerry Stern	Pres@schra.org
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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

SMALL

SS	White	0
	Blue	5
	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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