



ROLLING THUNDER

August 2012

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**Next Meeting
Four 'n Twenty Pies
August 9, 2012**

**Publishing Deadline for Sept.
RT is Aug. 30th, 6:00pm**



President's Message

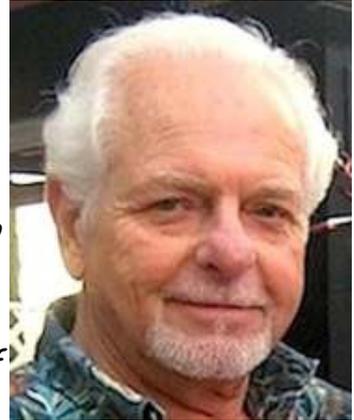
Mike Levison

President's Article

Listed on the internet as President of our association, I receive frequent announcements advertising upcoming motorcycle rides and events. Most are charity poker runs, local rides, rallies, car shows, and similar types of shindigs being held all over California. Occasionally I'll receive a notice from a friend or SCHRA member, which happened this time. Events that seem particularly unique, non-conflicting with our schedule and geographically convenient I'll announce to our membership. Such was the case with the first annual "Heroes Ride" on July 22nd. It was a fund raiser for the families of fallen law enforcement and military personnel. A pretty worthwhile and hard to beat cause for \$40 in my estimation. I informed our club by email and verbally at our July meeting, and decided to personally participate in this worthy event. It was all that I expected and more! We assembled in the parking lot of the Hollywood Bowl in perfect comfortable weather, starting at 8:00AM to register and receive the T-shirt, free snacks, etc. My guess is there were well over 200 bikes attending; 98% Harleys of course. It was an all-brand bikes invited affair, but you'd never know it to look at who showed up. It appears the owners of all the others just aren't very charitably inclined. There was the usual short opening ceremony, which included talks by Sheriff Lee Baca and Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. By 10AM we were entering the southbound traffic on Highland Ave, except there wasn't any traffic, as the LAPD Motor Officers had stopped it all. As our very long procession of bikes 2-abreast in the right lane headed to a right turn on Hollywood Blvd, I couldn't believe how many people were on the sidewalks that early on a Sunday morning. When we reached the Sunset Strip, waving back to all the spectators enroute,

Goodbye Old Friend

With a sad and very heavy heart we must advise our readers that one of our dear and much appreciated mutual friends, Marvin Feuerman, left our world early on Tuesday morning, July 31st. He finally succumbed after a courageous year long battle with Leukemia, while being treated at the City of Hope. The very existence of SCHRA today is due in great measure to Marvin. Many of you know the history and story of Van Nuys Harley-Davidson pulling the plug on their sponsorship of the HOG Chapter some 20 years ago. Most don't know the "rest of the story". We will remedy that now:



HOG member Marvin sent out a letter to the disbanded membership, calling a meeting of those that wished to continue the former established camaraderie and group riding. Twenty-three guys showed up, forming and naming SCHRA as we know it today. The Club grew to a high of 120 members, with one early ride to a winery attracting an unwieldy 54 bikes. He was an active participant and in large measure the spirit and conscience of our Club for over 20 years, enabling SCHRA to survive and thrive. He said his best SCHRA experience was the many years he served as a Road Captain. Our best experience was having him as a riding companion, friend and fellow member!

Marvin was born in Brooklyn on September 16, 1937, the son of a cabby and a bookkeeper. He sort of attended Manual Training HS to 1956, but living on the very edge of lawful society, he finished and graduated from Peekskill Military Academy. His graduation present from his parents... a one way ticket to California.

Thanks to good luck and salesmanship skill, he met and convinced Gloria to marry him in Fort Gordon, GA, on May 29, 1958. They have been loving partners now for 54 years, and Marv considered this his major life's accomplishment! Soon after marriage, he joined the Army Signal Corp, led to believe he would be sent to Paris where Gloria had family. Instead, in the fine tradition of the Army, he went to Korea!

Coming home in 1960, Marv and Glo opened a collection business, but sold it in 1973 to try living in Mexico City and Acapulco for a couple years. They eventually came back to California and opened the M. Leonard Collection Agency in Van Nuys, which is still in operation. Their home has been in Woodland Hills for many years. They have a son Steven and daughter Lisa and 3 grandkids.

Without question, Marvin Feuerman has been a primary portion of the heart of our association since it's inception!

Loved as he has been by us all, the void he leaves in the hearts of his many friends is beyond our ability to describe.

Go with God my friend, and may you rest in peace, knowing you'll not ever be forgotten.....



Funeral will be held at Mt. Sinai Cemetery in Simi Valley at 10:00 am this Thursday 8/2/11

Friends are invited to Daughter Lisa & Joe Gordon's home at 4125 Mira Monte Dr., Calabasas where tall tales about our trips and travels and assorted adventures with Marvin will be shared, exploited, and enhanced.

Marvin's life will be larger and more exciting than even he ever imagined!

Thanks for being such a fun loving and warm friend.

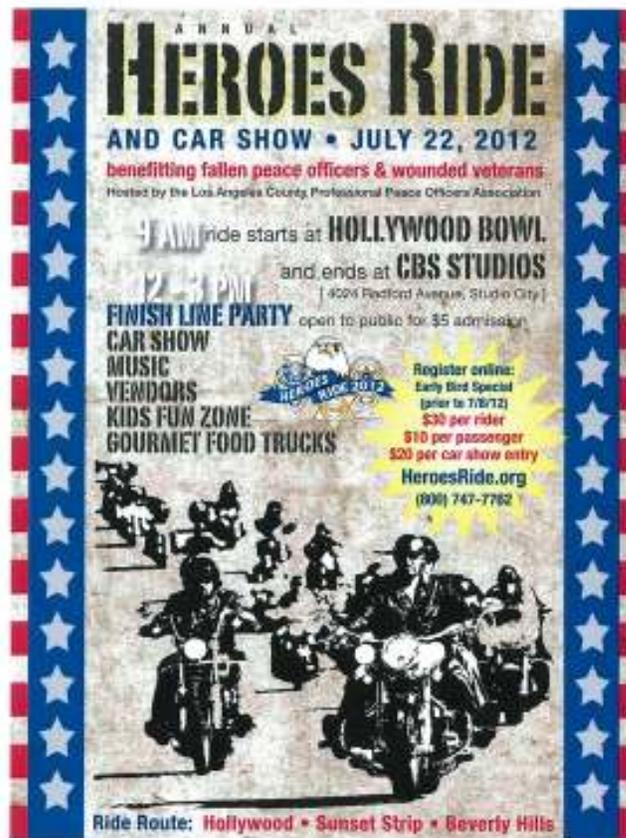


with our police escort giving us exclusive use of the road, our picture was taken by near a thousand phones and cameras. It must be 20+ years since the last time I cruised Sunset Blvd, and it has changed a whole lot. My favorite Scandia Restaurant and Schwab's Drugstore were no longer there among the many others that vanished, but the famous Whiskyagogo still was. Go figure! We rode Sunset to Beverly Dr in those famous hills, then down to Wilshire Blvd and over to the Veterans Hospital. These are no doubt the busiest streets in LA, and we did them all without stopping for one red light. It helps having your own police escort leapfrogging to halt cross traffic, waving you thru each intersection.

We went thru the hospital campus and crossed over to the cemetery, riding and parking on the small roads between the thousands of headstone markers of graves from fallen military of mostly WWII. Within the manicured grassy field there is a permanent stage for ceremonial occasions, with a podium for speakers. We were treated to a presentation of our flag by the U.S. Marine Color Guard, Drum

& Bugles, and a heartwarming talk by a Gold Star Wife. It was followed by the entrance and walk-by of a beautiful black rider-less horse. In it's entirety, to call this whole experience a solemn and memorable moment would be a considerable understatement.

We left the cemetery heading



north on Sepulveda, popping onto the 405-Fwy at Moraga. I won't soon forget the experience of having the entire 5 lanes of the San Diego freeway to myself. Sunday near noon-time and all the northbound traffic was halted to give our procession exclusive use of the entire freeway into the Valley,

and the transition to the Ventura Fwy eastbound to Laurel Canyon. I couldn't believe we also had the exclusive use of the 101-Fwy as well! Our procession was about a mile in length. Being in the last 20 bikes gave me a fabulous view of it all as we headed down the hill into the Valley. Unfortunately I didn't think to bring my camera, so we have no photos to display. The ride culminated at the CBS Studios (old Republic) in Studio City, where an assortment of food trucks and music and a small car show were presented. All in all, it was one of the best planned and most memorable of motorcycle events I've attended in the last 12 years, and therefore look forward to the repeat next year.

It would be less than honest of me not mention the only negative aspect of this event. I was disappointed and stunned and embarrassed to find that I was literally the only member of SCHRA to participate.

With a great deal of pride, I've always assumed we were a significant generous member of the local motorcycle community. Based on the way our club supports these charitable affairs, that is an erroneous assumption. Shame on us.....

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## Product Corner

Ron Lynn

### Michelin Touring Comander II: Tires

**W**e change the tires on our bikes more often than on our cars and we rely on them much more for safety. Breaking, cornering, rain and just the feedback feeling of the road are of major importance in choosing tires. Most of us defer to the original brand and model which came with the motorcycle, and rightfully so. The manufacturers normally design our bikes for use with a specific brand of tire usually because they have a financial arrangement with them. Harley uses the Dunlop brand and I am sure that they have provided most of you with generally good performance.



**Dunlop Elite-3**

However, as most products evolve they normally become better.

One of the issues I have always had was what I considered a short life for replacement factory motorcycle tires, especially when we predominately ride the freeways. It would seem we should be able to get more mileage out of our tires and not have to feel that wobbled feedback from the front tire for every cut in the road.

Michelin has recently come out with their new Commander II series tire which employs a new rubber compound with Kevlar to increase mileage and help improve the wet grip performance during rain riding. They claim that the new rigid, lighter, high-density carcass allows for better maneuverability and road feedback. The longer longitudinal grooves in the tread functions dissipate water more efficiently and improve the grip on wet roads. The square bead sidewall was intended to increase stability and make installation easier.

A few of our mechanic-type members have switched over to these tires for their Harleys and have experienced better handling and longer tire life. They are priced closely to the factory replacements and sometimes even a little less than the Dunlop's, so price is not a barrier. The only issue at this point would be if you are willing to try these tires the next time you replace your Dunlop's. Tough decision considering most of us are not mechanics and we usually stick with stock products. I for one am going to try these out the next time I change the tires. There are many very good reviews on this new tire which claims to double the life of the stock tires.



NOTE: I have witnessed a number of riders who let their treads drop dangerously low riding

on almost a slick tire, figuring they would save money by getting the most out of their tires. The cost of replacing your tires pale compared to the tread no longer being able to prevent slippage from road debris or dissipating water, which could just be water on a curve on a nice day. Is it really worth the cost of an accident or a personal injury?.

ADVICE: Replace those tires before you reach this questionable point; BEFORE you really need to!

Price: Motorcycle Superstore: JP Cycles: Revzilla: MC Tire: CT Tire

Front and Rear approximately \$140 each

I can't seem to find whitewalls in this tire yet.

*Remember. IF YOU SEE SOMETHING YOU LIKE, BUY IT*

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Editor's Note: there are two recommended ways to gauge tread depth and when to replace a tire.

1. Insert a penny into the tread with Lincoln's head toward the tire. If you can see all of the head, it's time to replace the tire.
2. Look for tread wear indicators on the tire. When they are even with the tread it's time to replace.



Meet Your Member

Sumbody

Sumbody's choice for the spotlight this month is a very serious and smart lady. She does differ from many of us in some important ways, which I shall now describe. While our motto is "Live to Ride - Ride to Eat", Janet Parr's is "Ride to Ride"! My lunches can often weigh more than she does! Well, nobody's perfect! She also holds a Bachelors Degree from Cal State Northridge in Management Information Systems, and a Masters Degree from Cal Lutheran in International Business. She has been one of our longest and most active female members piloting her own Harley. Joining just a couple of months after the club's formation in 1992, a month after her future husband James became a member, they have been part of the glue that has held SCHRA together ever since.

Janet was born on September 12th in Idaho Falls, Idaho, but grew up in Montana. She graduated high school there, and did Junior College back in Idaho. Her father was a sawmill worker while Mom was a homemaker. She has a brother 4 years older, living with his 3 kids in Utah. Her folks are now living in Yost, Utah. She came to California from Texas in 1983 with her first husband, but was soon divorced. While working in Century City for the insurance brokerage firm Johnson & Higgins, fate would have her meet young co-worker and motorcycle enthusiast James Parr. When learning of his ownership of a Harley-Davidson, she ignored her self-imposed restriction against dating fellow employees. A very serious relationship began, with her buying his Sportster when he moved up to a Softail Low-rider. They were soon sharing a garage



and home together, and have been riding together ever since. July 27th they celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary.

Janet rode her Deuce daily to work in Pasadena at Countrywide Mortgage until they were purchased by Bank of America. For 3 years she had been in the International Division, traveling to India almost monthly. When leaving home becoming more and more difficult each trip, she finally transferred to a domestic unit of operations. As most of SCHRA is aware, they built a large log dream house in



the Shaver Lake area outside of Fresno in the western Sierras. They were able to transfer their home office to Fresno and move up there permanently. They graciously have been sharing their beautiful home with our club annually, and manage to hook-up with several of our rides regularly. Their continued hospitality and involvement is greatly appreciated.

Janet and James share an additional passion, the love of Rottweiler's. Evidence of Janet's devotion is shown by her large tattoo

pictured in an accompanying photo. That was done in Germany on a motorcycle trip there many years ago. Sumbody can vouch for the fact these are serious bikers. Photos of their big bike trip to Alaska are in an album on the SCHRA website.

Janet fondly recalls her first SCHRA trip to Bryce-Zion as a favorite, and the ride over the Sierras on Hwy-4 Ebbets Pass is still the greatest. Yours truly is in full agreement on that!

For 20 years Janet and James have been much of the soul of our club. She has held numerous offices including Sr. Road Captain. We can only hope that future circumstances will permit her continued involvement and their participation in SCHRA activities. Her advice to the membership: To really enjoy this club, all you need do is show up! We love and need this woman!!





Coming Events
August & Sept. 2012
JB - Activities Chairperson

Mother Lode Redux was an outstanding success and the memories, photographic and otherwise, remain quite vivid. In just under 1000 miles we visited really old mining towns, refurbished old mining towns, and some towns which sawed lumber but never found gold. Read about it in this issue of Rolling Thunder.

As we go to press, our final July event will be a visit to what used to be our favorite 1950's pizza place, Barones Italian Restaurant. The location has changed but the rectangular-shaped pizzas remain the same and are incredibly good.

This year may now be 7/12ths over but we've got lots more activities coming in the months ahead. Be there or be square.

Friday, August 3 (3 nights) – Shaver Lake & Yosemite Too; Sternz & JB, 8:00 AM, Millies

Here's a new combo designed to delight everyone. First, Cindy and Jerry call us on our traditional 2-night stay at Shaver Lake, including a much-anticipated visit with James & Janet Parr. I understand there has been some BBQ gear added to the Parr's deck.

If you're not quite ready to return home on Sunday, join JB and others as we take the quick tour through Yosemite Park and then bed-down in charming Mariposa at the Best Western Yosemite Way Station. Oh, did I mention a fabulous dinner at Savouries Restaurant in the old town?

Most of us have already made our Shaver Lake reservations (either at Shaver Lake Village Hotel or the cheaper rooms at the Parr Chalet. Several have also signed-up for the extra night in Mariposa. There are still rooms available at 209.966.7545. No need to mention "Bruce" as all my rooms are already taken.

Thursday, August 9 – Club Meeting at the pie place; 6:30 dinner & 7:30 meeting

Just a reminder that doing that U-turn in front of the restaurant is now illegal and a sign is posted. Last month I observed several LAPD motorcyclists doing the outlawed turn, but what they hell, those are the perks.

Saturday, August 11 – Chinatown Dinner & Neon Cruise; JB, 4:00 PM, NoHo Subway

Reports about this excursion range from "very funny" to "hysterical" but you decide. We plan to assemble at street level outside the Red Line Subway Station at Lankershim and Chandler in North Hollywood. At 4:15 PM we escalate ourselves down to the ticket machines and then onto the next train to Union Station. Then a quick transfer to the Gold Line to Chinatown Station. There will be a short walk to the restaurant.

Dinner will be at 57-year-old Hop Louie Golden Pagoda (your expense) at 950 Mei Ling Way. We will have a private

room and they would like us to have no more than 4 checks for our group of 18 (sorry). Immediately after dinner we will board our double-decker bus for the 3-hour neon tour. Remember to bring a wrap or sweater as downtown does cool off after sundown.

The tour will take us through parts formerly unknown and the bus will drop us back at Union Station for our return trip to NoHo. (Please note that this event is now closed.)

Sunday, August 29 – Dinner Ride to Red's BBQ; Bob T., 5:00 PM, Woodlake Bowl

Not only is this the best BBQ restaurant in Simi Valley, but also the least expensive. (For those of you who remember, Reds at one time occupied the building where Brent's Deli is now located in Westlake Village). Join Bob and his best friends on the covered patio for some of the best chicken and ribs you "evrr et." Don't forget to order one of Red's famous "brownie ice cream goblets," enough to share with 3 or 4 people.

Saturday, August 25 – Summer Party at JB & Fifi; 7:00 PM, Simi Valley

Seems like this event got stuck on "let's go to the Bruce's" but whose complaining. Yes folks, off we go again to Simi Valley to tear up the backyard grass. Oh well. This year we are back to a fully catered event which our club is going to sponsor. We are going to go a bit eclectic with some great Middle East tastes with food provided by my new best Iranian friend Izzy of Atlas Restaurant in Simi Valley.

We'll provide directions just a few days before the party. Also, it isn't too soon to let JB or Fifi know if you're planning on attending; our food ordering requires it. Also, remember that this is an outdoor event so dress casually and have a sweater ready, just in case.

Thursday, September 13 – Club Meeting

Friday, September 21 (2 nights) – Sequoia Park; Jack L., 8:00 AM, Millies

Lots more on this trip in next month's Rolling Thunder. For now, however, Jack suggests that you dial-up the Comfort Inn & Suites in Three Rivers, CA and make your room reservation. My room cost \$233.18 for the two nights. Call at 559.561.9000.

Thursday, September 27 (4 nights) – Las Vegas Bike Fest; (info only)

This is not an official SCHRA event, but quite a few folks you know are going to be there. I got the information from Ron Lynn and you should too, if you'd like to attend. I understand that we're staying at a downtown hotel called Fitzgerald (AKA D-Las Vegas). Several rides planned plus all the hoopla of a "shit-kickin bike fest."

Sunday, September 30 – Dinner Ride to Adobe Cantina; Richard, 5:00 PM, Woodlake

This ride was scheduled prior to the time that folks started making plans to attend Las Vegas Bike Fest. Most will not return from LV until Monday, October 1, making it difficult, or damn near impossible to go to one of my favorite al-fresco dining spots. Just sit tight on this one and we'll discuss at the August meeting and possibly re-position on our ride calendar.

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## Picnic Ride

RC - Ron Lynn

### Picnic in Santa Clarita

**M**y original image of this event was to spend the day at a park just east of Bakersfield out in the middle of nowhere with numerous small ponds, trees and plenty of sprawling areas of grass. I had come across this park on a ride up to Mariposa last year and it really impressed me. However when the time came to act, we were experiencing temps of over 100 degrees. Now it appeared that this location might have bordered on survival.

I now had the problem of finding a suitable local park to provide SCHRA with a close, relaxed and shaded venue. Much to my surprise almost all of the parks which met these criteria require reservations and even charge fees for their covered areas. Time was getting very close, like a week away, and thanks to our Pres. Mike for locating a very obscure park, Begonias Lane Park, off the 14 FWY, in an isolated neighborhood of Santa Clarita near Acton. As a first-come-first-serve basis Mike raced to the park early Saturday morning and with his mildly-threatening presence secured three tables under a covered canopy against alien (non SCHRA) occupation.

The ride itself assembled at Millies for a leisure departure at 10:30 which was led by our relief Road Capitan Lou Piano. I was supposed to lead this ride, however due to taking my bike in for a 75k service on Wednesday and finding out there were many more problems than I anticipated, I was not able to get the bike back until much later on Saturday. For a detailed run-down on the very relaxing ride to the park, read Lou's article in this newsletter.

By the time Sandy and I arrived at the Park with all the food, drinks and games, the ride group was already there wondering

"Where's the FOOD? The various dips, 4ft of multiple type Italian sandwiches, potato salad, coleslaw, chips, drinks and various desserts very predictably kept the crowd occupied.

After the Feast I bellowed out over my mini loudspeaker, as if no one could hear me, "Let the Games Begin!" A new SCHRA war cry. Some of the group were already engaged in tossing a tennis ball back and forth using a "Velcro" mitt which makes catching much easier and is more fun than running after a missed ball.

I knew this group would be resistant to playing a lawn game at a park so I resorted to bribery by bringing along some prizes to entice them into the activity. What do you know, we had a great energized contest with most of the group participating in the great game of "Lawn Darts". The object being to hurl these large metal pointed darts up into the air and allow gravity to drive them into the lawn, preferably within the confines of a plastic circle some distance off. This is no game for sissies. In a few instances the contestants released the dart too early sending it straight up into the air causing everyone to run for cover under the canopy. What a sight witnessing these bikers running for cover.

Also fascinating was the different styles each exhibited in setting up their delivery of the darts and their various entertaining follow-throughs. The final play offs witnessed a heightened level of anticipation between the high scoring finalists: Judy Bruce and Dave Malin. If you had seen these two early in the competition you would have never figured their improvement by the finals. It was breathtaking and very close ending when Judy Bruce emerged the winner and recipient of the prize.

All in all it was a beautiful day for a picnic and the location was great. Again, a grateful thank you to Mike Levison and Lou Piano for their picking up the dropped ball at the last minute and helping to make another really fun SCHRA experience.

Get involved in the club activities and experience a much closer camaraderie with the many "unique" personalities of this amazing group.





## Picnic Ride - 2nd Opinion

Lou Piano - R/C

Oh, yeah. This was a great picnic! We met at 10:00 am (that's ante meridiem for you time freaks aka morning) and it was already starting to heat up. The sun was blazing on the blacktop parking lot and we were desperately cramming into the little bit of shade we could find.

A paltry few hard core souls showed up at the designated meeting place for the motorcycle ride to the picnic location. This included Mitch, Lloyd (I don't know what the second L is for?), Richard (this is the first time I've ever been on time) Slobin, Jack & Nanette, Jerry S., Randy, and Glen & Joanne. Finally the road captain for the ride, Mr. Ron Lynn, showed up with his wife, Sandra Lynn, in tow. This poor unwitting woman got hoodwinked into 'helping' with the picnic. Yeah, sure. All she had to do was get the plastic knives, forks, spoons, & napkins. Locate and purchase the cole slaw, potato salad, mustard & mayo, chips, cookies, drinks & ice. Oh, Ron did locate a cooler (which he had stowed away someplace in the dark confines of his garage) which he swears he uses on a regular basis (did you smell the inside of that thing?).

Anyway, the first thing he did when he showed up (finally) was to designate some poor unsuspecting sucker (me!) to be the **actual** road captain for the ride because he came up with some lame excuse about not having a bike because it was "in the shop". I mean, come on. How many times have you heard that one? Anyway, he volunteered me to lead the ride to some out-of-the-way park which was not picked by him but instead found & located by Mike (prez) who researched all of the pertinent info. Ron also forced the almighty club president to go to the designated park in the wee hours of the morning and at great personal risk, without weapons of any kind or assistant security personnel, commandeer a suitable spot in the shade with park benches for the rest of the group.

I led the biker portion of the group on a scenic ride past the Wildlife Way station and through the Angeles National Forest. My expert ride leading skills and convenient stop at a roadside parking area were the highlight of the whole event.

Anyway, when we finally arrived, poor Mike was sitting there all by himself without anyone to talk to. Ron & Sandy had not yet shown up yet, of course, with the food and drinks and treats. Mike, being the trooper he is, was cheerful and noticeably happy to finally see someone. It was a heartwarming site and we were all glad to be there to cheer him up.

A bunch of bikerless freeloaders showed up too. Yes, some members had actually driven their cars to the picnic venue. They were all wearing 'summer clothing' to help ward off the heat and I'm sure they all drove there with their air conditioners on high (hmmpppphhhh). You will want some names so that you can give them a sideways look the next time you bump into them. They include: Dave Malin, Jerry and Judy Bruce, Ron & Karen Sarian, Linda Rahm, RuthAnn Levison, Duane & Pauline Harte, and Joe & Caroline Gubbrud.

Ron and Sandy did finally show up with the food. It was about time! The 'on time group' was starving and on the verge of dehydration. Ron, once again, refused to do any of the work and insisted on having volunteers schlep all of the stuff from his car to the picnic area. And, yes, he did park as far away as he could without looking like a complete schmuck.

Oh! What a great choice of food! The cole slaw was bland, the potato salad was, well - you know! The sandwiches were made a week or two ago and they were mostly bread. In fact, mostly crust! It took like an hour to masticate the crust and make it partially digestible. The only good thing was the mayonnaise. The brownies were machine made and the chocolate cookies were melted because *no one* put them on ice. The cupcakes, lovingly and expertly made by Caroline, were covered with paper (by others) and all the frosting was scraped off! The only thing missing was a few friggin' ants!!!!

All in all - it was a great picnic - **Thanks Ron!**



## Gold Country JB

# U.S. GRANT SLEPT HERE..... AND WE DID TOO!

*Historic Murphys Hotel hosts SCHRA Riders and also past president. Grant's missing socks found under bed in room 308. Toilet still doesn't flush.*

**A**nd then there were 4. I'm composing this on the afternoon of Tuesday, July 24, the last day of the original five-day itinerary to the Gold Country, in and around Murphys, CA.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> day we had a total of 13 at dinner in a private dining room of the Murphys Hotel. By morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day we were a group of only 11 because Lou and Maryann had other plans. On the 4<sup>th</sup> morning we lost Dave Malin, Mitch Pullman and Jane, Lloyd and Judy Farber, and Randy and Linda Rahm who had work obligations and had to be home on Tuesday. The 4 finalists were Jack Launius, Dennis Levine and JB & Fifi, all of whom qualified for the free ice-cream treat on the last day.

Our adventure began with an almost-on-time departure at 7:40 AM on Friday, July 20. We headed north on I-5 and then continued on CA-99 to a rest stop in Bakersfield. From there we continued to Fresno continuing north on CA-41 to Bass Lake where we enjoyed lunch from the covered deck of Ducey's Hotel on the Lake.

After lunch we connected to CA-49 and headed north through Mariposa and then to a side trip to

the sleepy little town of Hornitos. Just ask any of the folks on the trip what a "hornito" is used for. This is also a town which still has the ruins of a Ghirardelli (chocolate) Store. Also, Hornitos was the hangout for the notorious robber and murderer, Joaquin Murrieta. When JM finally met-his-maker, they cut off his head and pickled it in a large glass jar which was taken throughout the area to prove to the locals that the bad guy was really dead. Yuk!

We then continued north through places like Coulterville, Chinese Camp, Jamestown (aka Hangtown), Sonora, and finally to Murphys; perhaps one of the most "Gucci" hamlets in the entire Mother Lode. Cute just doesn't describe this place, about 5-blocks long and loaded with great restaurants (including a fabulous bakery), boutiques, wineries and some very fortunate folks who get to live there. Dinner tonight was in the Murphys Hotel.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day (and every day thereafter) we departed at the crack of 10:00 AM, after having visited the bakery for coffees and cakes, or a standard menu in the hotel dining room. The itinerary for today, Saturday, July 21 was a short motorcycle drive south to the State Historic Park of Columbia. With a little imagination, you are back in the 1850's and 1860's as you walk the main street of this "refurbished" gold-country town with its Wells Fargo Office and bars offering cold home-made "Sasparilla" (it's really root-beer folks) for about \$1.50. Volunteers in "original dress" add to the reality.

After about an hour in Columbia we rode the 2-miles to downtown Sonora where we did a window-shopping tour and then a very nice lunch at the Diamondback Grill. To cap the day's events we rode 4-miles to Jamestown to visit the Harley-Davidson Store before it closed for the rest of the weekend and Monday. Dinner tonight was scheduled for a great little Murphys restaurant called Grounds. Tonight, however, the group divided itself into two; those who wanted to stay in town, and those who were able (at the last minute) to obtain tickets for an outdoor concert at a local winery. Both groups enjoyed their venues and everyone enjoyed their dinners.



On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day we departed at the usual 10:00 AM time, and after a short ride of only 2 miles we were at the famous Mercer Caverns for a tour. Only 214 steps down to the lowest level, and, oh yes, another 214 steps back up the narrow metal ladders. Outside the cavern the weather was somewhere near the 90's but inside the cave the temp was a constant 55-degrees.

Following the cavern tour we drove east to the 3000-foot elevation where we lunched at a nice local eatery called Simply Delicious...and it



was. After lunch we rode another few miles to the Calaveras Grove of Big Trees, where we spent the next couple of hours exploring a well-marked trail with lots of items of interest to examine, such as a stump 30-feet across, where dances were once held. Some enjoyed walking through the hollowed centers of big trees downed years ago. Dinner tonight was held at Angelo's Steakhouse Italiano, about a four block walk from our hotel. Che deliscioso!

On the 4<sup>th</sup> day we said our goodbyes to the group who departed on Monday, but not before a final visit to the bakery and some cappuccinos. The 4 who remained then departed by way of Murphys Grade Rd., for a slow ride through deserted Angels Camp and then south to Jamestown where we enjoyed a docent-led tour of Railway 1897. The highlight of this tour was a visit to one of the largest working "roundhouses" in the U.S. and an up-close examination of several steam



engines, some of which are still in use, and/or have been seen in countless movies throughout the years.

Following the tour we went into downtown Jamestown and after some shopping we enjoyed lunch in the charming dining room of the National Hotel. After lunch we rode south and west for a look-see of the restored covered bridge at Knights Ferry, spanning the Stanislaus River. Then we headed back toward Murphys by short-cutting around Tulloch Lake and the rebuilt city of Copperopolis (the old city is now under the waters of Tulloch Lake).

While in Copperopolis we went for a short visit to the local cemetery to visit gravestones dated from the Civil War. Then we were off to the local ice-cream shop where JB treated everyone to ice-cream (but only if they were good) which has recently become a tradition on JB's rides. From Copperopolis back to Murphys is only about 20 miles. Then the 4 of us dined al-fresco at the Murphys Grill, just a short jaunt from the hotel.

On our 5<sup>th</sup> (and last) day we rose early, had breakfast in the hotel, and then departed around 8:00 AM for the trek back south. Instead of heading west to CA-99, we resorted to numerous backroads which cut off many miles and which took us directly to the town of Merced. The weather, anticipated to be quite warm, was actually quite comfortable for most of our ride south.

This Mother Lode visit was everything I hoped it would be. The teamwork and camaraderie were evident and for me helped make this trip one of the easiest and most comfortable I have had the privilege to lead. The weather, for the most part, was quite comfortable but interspersed with some warm and humid periods.

One night we were treated to a brief period of rain and lightning, but I was too busy "sawing logs" to be aware. Some of the folks even suggested that we do a repeat of this trip next year, but visiting towns and sights further to the north. Well, uhh, I think I can do that.



## Dinner Ride - Barones R/C - Richard Slobin

### Surprise!

Ha, ha, ha! We were just kiddin' about Richard Slobin being the road captain. Oh, yeah, sure.....Lou does all the work, all the ride planning, leads the ride safely through the beautiful Santa Monica mountains quick enough to enjoy the motorcycling part of it and yet slow enough to enjoy the gorgeous scenery. He gets everyone to the designated restaurant on time too! And what does he get for it? Second billing. Slobin, I mean, Mr. Slobin makes 1 lousy call to the place and says "18' and that's it. And oh yeah, he got that number from me after I carefully checked everyone in at the meeting point, double checked my figures for accuracy, and finally reported to the NAMED road captain so he could make his crummy call. Oh! Did I mention that I was coerced into writing this article as a ghost writer so MR. SLOBIN could get even more credit!!! Okay, here goes.



I, Richard Slobin, road captain for the Barone's dinner ride am writing this report for inclusion in the August issue of Rolling Thunder. A wonderful publication sponsored by the Southern California Harley Riders Association, SCHRA. One of the members, who shall remain unnamed, is the editor. Anyway.

I wish to report to the membership that I very carefully and diligently researched for a fine restaurant that I felt was worthy of the fine class of motorcyclists who are members of this fine club. Accordingly, I chose Barone's due to its long standing in our community and excellent reputation for its wonderful food and outstanding service.

Also, I sweated bullets searching for an appropriate motorcycle meeting place and subsequent route to the restaurant that would insure a delightful ride. Of course, it was imperative that we show up at the restaurant at, or very close to, the promised time. I checked the route many times to make sure this would happen.

As if that wasn't enough work, I had to find a road captain to follow my exact route and time frame. This was another challenging task as the person had to be able to understand simple rules of the road and not vary from my very precise instructions. I did the best I could on that count and, surprisingly, the rc I picked didn't screw it up too badly. Fortunately for all concerned my near professional planning didn't allow even him to make any mistakes.

I wish to thank all the folks who enjoyed this fine event for all your great compliments which I gladly, and humbly, accept.

Signed: Richard (the great) Slobin

# SCHRA 2012 EVENT SCHEDULE

## AUGUST

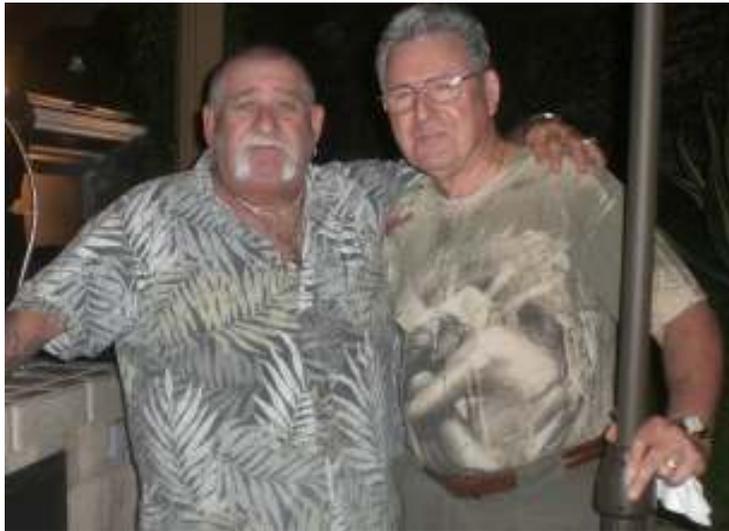
Friday, 3 thru Tuesday 7 - Shaver Lake & Yosemite (do one or both); TBD **Cancelled**

Thursday, 9 - Meeting

Saturday, 11 - Dinner in Chinatown & Neon Cruise; No RC - take car/subway - meet @ 4:00

Sunday, 19 - Dinner at Red's BBQ; Bob Thompson - Woodlake - 5:00 PM

Saturday 25 - Summer Party; JB, Judy. Bruce Residence - 7:00 PM



## SEPTEMBER

Thursday, 13 - Meeting

Friday, 21 thru Sunday 23 - Sequoia National Park; Jack Launius - Millie's - 8:00 AM

Thursday, 27 thru Sunday, 30 - (Info only - Las Vegas Bike Fest)

Sunday, 30 - Dinner at Adobe Cantina; Richard - Woodlake - 5:00 PM

## OCTOBER

Saturday, 5-7 - Carmel 2 Nighter; Sterns - Woodlake - 9:00 AM

Thursday, 11 - Meeting

Saturday, 13 -- Palm Springs American Heat; Jack Launius -- Millie's 9:00 AM

Sunday, 21 - Progressive Breakfast; Lou - TBD - 8:00 AM

## NOVEMBER



Thursday, 8 - Meeting

Sunday, 11 - Basque Lunch in Chino Rahm - TBA

Sunday, 25 - Lunch in Santa Paula; Richard - Woodlake - 9:30 AM

## DECEMBER

Saturday, 1 - Santa Ynez Vineyard House Lunch; Mitch - Woodlake - 9:00 AM

Saturday, 8 & Sunday, 9 - Riverside Mission Inn Holiday Lights; Sternz - Millie's - 10:00 AM

## Restaurant Guide

It has been suggested that it would be interesting to have a restaurant column in this "world famous publication". I agree. Considering as how our unpublished motto is "Live to ride, Ride to eat" we should probably publish suggestions about our favorite restaurants.

Accordingly, I would like to hear from the SCHRA minions the name and location of their favorite places to eat. Please include the name of the place, the type of food served, the exact (or as close as possible) address, and the price range of the food served. Additional comments are appreciated.

For example, I would rate the one we just ate as:

Barone's, on Oxnard st. just west of Woodman. Food was Italian. The menu was extensive and included varied pasta dishes, steak and some seafood. The prices were mid-range from \$9.99 to \$24.99. The service was very good. Parking was Valet only (\$3.50) unless you wanted to park on the street but street parking was very restricted.

Also, now that Barone's has taken over the Heidelberg we need to find a good German restaurant. Also, a good Greek restaurant would be a nice find. In fact, I think I have one in Malibu that we should try out soon. Summer is a great time to go to the beach for dinner.

Please let me know what you all think about this idea! Also, a name for this column would be great! If I pick your name you may win \$1,000,000.00

Thanks,

Lou



## There's nothing funny about this stuff!

A farmer stopped by the local mechanics shop to have his truck fixed.

They couldn't do it while he waited, so he said he didn't live far and would walk home. On the way home he stopped at the hardware store and bought a bucket and a gallon of paint. He then stopped by the feed store and picked up a couple of chickens and a goose. However, struggling outside the store he now had a problem - how to carry his entire purchases home. While he was scratching his head he was approached by a little old lady who told him she was lost. She asked 'Can you tell me how to get to 1603 Mockingbird Lane?' The farmer said, 'Well, as a matter of fact, my farm is very close to that house. I would walk you there but I can't carry this lot.' The old lady suggested, 'Why don't you put the can of paint in the bucket. Carry the bucket in one hand, put a chicken under each arm and carry the goose in the other hand?' 'Why thank you very much,' he said and proceeded to walk the old girl home. On the way he says 'Lets take my short cut and go down this alley. We'll be there in no time.' The little old lady looked over cautiously then said, 'I am a lonely widow without a husband to defend me ... 'How do I know that when we get in the alley you won't hold me up against the wall, pull up my skirt, and have your way with me?' The farmer said, 'Holy smokes lady! I'm carrying a bucket, a gallon of paint, two chickens and a goose. How in the hell could I possibly hold you up against the wall and do that?' The old lady replied, 'Set the goose down, cover him with the bucket, put the paint on top of the bucket, and I'll hold the chickens.'



Siamese twins walk into a bar in Montreal, Canada and park themselves on a bar stool. One of them says to the bartender, "Don't mind us; we're joined at the hip. I'm John, he's Jim. Two Molson Canadian draft beers, please." The bartender, feeling slightly awkward, tries

to make polite conversation while pouring the beers. "Been on holiday yet, lads?" "Off to England next month," says John. "We go to England every year, rent a car and drive for miles. Don't we, Jim?" Jim nods in agreement.

"Ah, England!" says the bartender. "Wonderful country... the history, the beer, the culture..." John says, "Nah, we don't like that British crap." "Hamburgers and Molson's beer, that's us, eh Jim? And we can't stand the English people - they're so arrogant and rude."

"So why keep going to England?" asks the bartender.

"It's the only chance Jim gets to drive."

I'm Asking a small favor...

I know you all will join me in this noble effort.....

There are only a few months until election day when the people will decide who will be the next President of the United States . The person elected will be the President of all Americans, not just the Democrats or the Republicans. It's time that we all need to come together, Democrats and Republicans alike, in a bi-partisan effort for America .

If you support Mitt Romney, please drive with your headlights ON during the day.

If you support Barack Obama, please drive with your headlights OFF





# SCHRA Boutique

Jack Lanus, VP

- Dark blue short sleeve t-shirts - S, L, XL
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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.

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 [VicePres@schra.org](mailto:VicePres@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



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|---------------------|----------------|----------------------|
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| Vice-President      | Jack Lanius    | VicePres@schra.org   |
| Secretary           | Sandy Lynn     | Secy@schra.org       |
| Treasurer           | Ron Lynn       | Treas@schra.org      |
| Officer-at-Large    | Randy Rahm     | OAL@schra.org        |
| Senior Road Captain | Richard Slobin | SrRoad@schra.org     |
| Editor              | Lou Piano      | Editor@schra.org     |
| Webmaster           | Mike Levison   | Webmaster@schra.org  |
| Historian           | Judy Bruce     | Hist@schra.org       |
| Activities Chair    | Jerry Bruce    | Activities@schra.org |

## SCHRA Road Captains

|                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Richard Slobin~RS<br/>Senior Road Captain</p> <p>Jerry Bruce~JB</p> <p>Joe Gubbrud~JG</p> <p>Jack Launius~JL</p> <p>Mike Levison~ML</p> <p>Ron Lynn~RL</p> | <p>Lou Piano~LP</p> <p>Mitch Pullman~MP</p> <p>Cindy Stern~CS</p> <p>Jerry Stern~JS</p> <p>Bob Thompson~BT</p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### SCHRA Departure Sites

### Extra Wind

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Woodlake Bowl<br/>23130 Ventura Blvd., Woodland Hills</p> <p>Solley's<br/>4578 Van Nuys Blvd., Sherman Oaks</p> <p>Millie's<br/>10318 Sepulveda Blvd., Mission Hills</p> <p>Denny's Sand Canyon<br/>15401 Delone St., Santa Clarita</p> | <p>All Harley Riders are invited to show up at Starbucks' parking lot on Ventura Blvd. &amp; Topanga Canyon Blvd. on Saturday @ 9:30am for an impromptu ride. Check the SCHRA calendar to be sure no club rides are scheduled.</p> <p>Actual departure time is sometime between 10:00am and 10:30am depending on 'Sample' time and how many hot women park close to us and go into Starbucks for their morning pick-me-up!</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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