



ROLLING THUNDER

VOLUME XVII, NUMBER 12 DECEMBER 2008

WWW.SCHRA.ORG

President's Message

Mike Levison

DECEMBER 2008

In This Issue

President's Message

From the Editor

Senior Road
Captain's Report

Meet Your
Member

Product Review Corner

Arizona Road Trip

A Bucket List Vacation

Tow Truck Chronicles

2008 Ride Schedule

FYI

Extra Wind

SCHRA Ride Departure
Locations

Classifieds

Membership Updates

Next Meeting
Thursday
January 8th
7:00 pm

Not too many years ago when I awoke at 3:00 a.m., there was convenient physical activity to enjoy with my usually compliant and beautiful mate without leaving the warm comfort of our bed. However, as one ages there are significant changes that do take place if you care to be real honest about it. Now I find this middle of the night situation to be the perfect opportunity to visit my usually compliant and beautiful IMac to write an article for *Rolling Thunder*. Had to get up to pee anyway!

I wish to thank our merry band of SCHRA members for re-electing me president last meeting; providing a continuing monthly homework assignment that fills in my spare time. Even though running unopposed, it was almost a unanimous vote (thanks, Lou). This last year went by so fast and we had such fun, practically the whole board agreed to come along as well. These are really good folks by the way, and the club is indeed fortunate to have them! And a warm welcome to new members Keith Hudson and Gayle Prousalis.

The other side of the coin, and the cause for my inability to sleep, is with all that is taking place around us worldwide, it is not easy to maintain a positive attitude. As one who can always find a silver (no pun intended) lining, that has become quite difficult if not impossible. The conversation during the long presidential campaign was often about redistribution

of wealth. They hadn't even finished counting the votes when mine was redistributed! To whom it went or how it got

there I have no clue, but damned near 50% of my total assets have literally evaporated. The people having nothing, living on welfare and broke are those that have benefited. They are in exactly the same position they have been in right along, losing nothing. Everyone else has truly been hammered and through no fault of their own. Unrecognized or hidden incompetence, greed and corruption in the government and in big business from the very top on down, has left many millions of us and our descendents a mess of biblical proportions.

Our once proud and invincible America is in deep trouble wherever you look. We can only hope the pendulum will continue to swing both ways, and some real smart folks will come along to right our ship. It seems a forgone conclusion our children and grandchildren will not know the same country we enjoyed while growing up, and that is heartbreaking to this guy. They say a rising tide will lift all boats. It also means a falling tide will sink or ground them.

The only options I see are to have faith, try to keep an optimistic attitude, ride your Harley and participate in SCHRA activities as much as possible. It's pretty difficult to feel depressed when cruising with your friends on our beautiful roads to exciting destinations with wind in your face.

From the Editor

Linda Marks

My warmest wishes for a happy, healthy and safe holiday season go out to all members and their loved ones.

Senior Road Captain's Report

Cindy Stern

California at its best, with pot growers hanging out at the Honeydew General

A year passes more quickly these days. Everything happens in micro-time. Except time on a motorcycle. Time spent on my bike is the only investment that still absolutely gives me a positive return. Ninety minutes worth of pleasure for every sixty minutes spent. Sure can't say that about my investment portfolio this year!

My year as senior road captain is coming to an end, so I'll indulge in a little rear-view mirror gazing. The first, and most important, item is a huge THANK YOU to all the road captains who planned and executed this year's rides: Jerry Stern, James Parr, Janet Parr, Marvin Feuerman, Richard Slobin, Bob Thompson, Ron Lynn, Mitch Pullman, Mike Levison, Lou Piano and Dave Malin. It's because of the continuing dedication and involvement of this team that we have a calendar of interesting day rides, dinner rides and weekenders from which to choose.

The pleasure of membership in this club is built on the memories of time spent together with my club buddies. For me, it's all about the rides. So here are a few of my favorite ride memories of 2008. The first overnighter of the year to Temecula via Borrego Springs. It was Mitch's first overnighter and he pulled it off without a glitch. Unless you consider the absence of wildflowers in Borrego (totally out of his control) a glitch, but the fun-o-meter registered high on the scale nonetheless. Jerry Stern and Lloyd Farber elevated *McGyverism* to a new level, using a roadside boulder as a field-expedient floor jack upon which to balance Janet's bike while they executed a repair on the belt sprockets. True roadside artistry!

The first ever four-nighter, led by James Parr, to the Redwoods and the Lost Coast. Vintage

Store. James has been our foremost leader on the long distance and out-of-state rides and has set a very high standard for scenic exploration, one that will be hard to follow in coming years. The Randsberg Day Ride in March led by Bob Thompson. I just love those cheap, juicy tri-tip sandwiches in the general store with the 100-year-old soda fountain. The whole town is populated by latter day prospectors and ex-hippies. Very retro. Our June picnic ride was a hit, with over 20 people attending. Lou Piano arranged for Italian deli food to be presented on a bluff full of picnic tables overlooking the Pacific Ocean in Malibu. Picture semi-senior Gidgets and Moondoggies in leather. Yeah, baby.

And although there are many more, I'll finish with the Big Sur trip of September. Ron Lynn planned and executed interesting routes and stops even when there were more cooks in the soup than Hell's Kitchen. There's magic in sitting around a campfire for two nights, having drinks and telling stories and jokes. Roy had us laughing so hard before he ever got to the punch line because he couldn't stop laughing himself. It was a "you had to be there" moment, but that's the point. If you weren't there you won't know why "yeah, and he shit in my pants too" was sooo hysterical.

So change is good. Next year's senior road captain will start the year with lots of enthusiasm and good ideas, just like I did and every other SRC before me. Get behind him, and support him and the road captains by voting with your presence. You'll have fun at the same time and make some memories of your own. I've enjoyed the opportunity to serve the members of SCHRA as senior road captain, and thank you all for a great year. Whatever you do, and wherever your Harley takes you, be safe out there.

Meet Your Member

Sumbudy

The member chosen by Sumbudy for this month's spotlight in *Rolling Thunder* is an integral part of every monthly meeting and has been such for a number of years. Responsible for our primary fund raising, *i.e.*, selling raffle tickets for cash to each willing member prior to every meeting, as well as distributing the highly prized tickets for participating in the previous month's activities, she is one of SCHRA's most unique and delightful personalities. Couldn't be anyone other than the wife of our esteemed treasurer, known to us all as the lovable Sandy Lynn, joke teller extraordinaire!

Born Sandra Kaplow in Philadelphia on October 5, 1943, she was the first child of immigrant parents from Lithuania. Her father came over at age 16 and spent his working life as a shoemaker for a shoe manufacturer. In Europe he had attended schools with the intention of becoming a rabbi, but that never materialized. The family did keep a traditional kosher home, though they weren't overly religious. Sandy and her 3 years younger brother Jeffrey, now a retired travel agent, found their 'old world' upbringing quite suffocating.

Our gal attended Northeast High School of Philly, and played the flute in both the orchestra and the marching band, achieving All City band honors. That was done without ever owning her own instrument. She also admits being instructed not to attempt both playing and marching at the same time, for obvious reasons! As a high school student, she was somewhat socially challenged, evidenced by the fact her phone number did not decorate any campus walls. Sumbudy says it was common knowledge that for fun and a good time, do not call Sandy Kaplow.

Inexplicably, she was made a social director of the local Jewish Community Center, and at 17 she finally had a boyfriend. After high school she attended Temple University for a year (at the same time as Bill Cosby), and then went to University of PA, majoring in dental hygiene. A career in dental office management has lasted 44 years and is still going strong. Her bubbly personality as we know it evolved quickly upon leaving the close confines of her parents' home and was nurtured in California.

In December 1966, at age 23, Sandy decided to find her missing childhood. She moved to Los Angeles with an old girlfriend to start life anew and make up for what were in her mind those lost years. She was now socially active, and was even introduced to the pleasure of motorcycling in the late sixties by a dentist friend. She loved it then and she loves it now! Ron came into her life in 1990, the result of a meddling and well intentioned

mutual friend fixing them up. In an attempt to scare her off, he invited her to go riding on his Honda Gold Wing. Cruising up PCH, she leaned forward and asked him to go faster. At

that point Ron realized he had found the right girl, and 10 months later they were married, on December 22, 1990.

On a vacation trip to Hawaii, Ron rented a Harley and was smitten. Upon returning home he ordered his first one, but had to wait 9 months for delivery. The threesome were a match made in heaven! Sandy did have a serious motorcycle mishap however. Getting off their bike at the Love Ride in the parking lot in Castaic, Sandy caught her foot on the sissy bar. She fell backwards, landed on her shoulder and broke her left arm. As soon as it healed though, she was back on the H-D!

Sandy really enjoys SCHRA as it exists today, appreciating the unusual congeniality of the group. The overnight trips are the best she feels and has done most of them. Her quote: "You get to spend time with and really know and bond with the other riders." The progressive breakfast is always a favorite event as well. Sumbudy can safely speak for the entire membership, stating that any event where Sandy Lynn is present is made all the more colorful, enjoyable and fun by her very presence. She is our own very special blond!



Product Review Corner

Ron Lynn

FROG TOGGS - Road Toad Reflective Rain Suit

Afraid to ride in the rain because you get cold and wet? We take this risk when we embark on any trip, whether running into drizzle, a cloud burst or a gully washer of a storm. You have two choices once you are out: wait the rain out somewhere dry, or RIDE! If you chose RIDE then you better seriously consider putting rain gear over your normal riding clothes to stay warm and dry. The option of riding in wet clothes, tired and cold, threaten your health and accident managing skills.

When considering rain gear for riding you really want to narrow your choice down to motorcycle friendly protection. Don't even think of one of those thin plastic rain suits which normally shreds in about one hour. When looking for rain gear you want to make sure the pant legs have zippers or Velcro openings at the bottom so you do not have to take off your boots in the middle of a downpour to get the pants on. They should also have arm and leg fasteners in the jacket and pants to prevent rain from entering the openings. One common problem with non-motorcycle rain pants is the natural proclivity of water to build up in your crotch and then seep through into your clothing; quality motorcycle pants are designed to prevent this from occurring. Anyone who has ridden in the rain has experienced this phenomenon.

There are great products available from a variety of sources, however I have noticed that most of these garments are heavy, take up a lot of room in the saddlebags, and usually sell for \$125 and up. Frogg Toggs has been around for many years and is known to be 100% waterproof and windproof, breathable, ultra-light weight (24 oz), and highly compressible into their 5"x10" sack. You could even use the jacket as a windbreaker when the temperature drops, or as a pillow for camping or for that afternoon nap. They come in a variety of colors that tend to be a bit funky looking, almost like fatigues that unevenly faded in the wash. The latest model, Road Toad Action Suit, has been designed to conform more to motorcycling than prior models. They integrated the tuck-away hood into the collar of the jacket so you can wear it under your helmet,

eliminating that irritating rain trickling down your neck. They changed the cotton draw cord to an elastic one (check before ordering to insure you are buying the latest model) with a cord lock, added heavier zippers and snaps, and increased the size of the elastic bands at the ankles and waist of the pants. There are also pass-through pockets to get into your jeans pockets. Order your normal size as the gear is cut to fit over your clothing. See their sizing chart. If you are close to a dividing line order the next size up. The jacket and pants come in a set.

The drawback is they will melt if they come in contact with your exhaust pipe. But, so would most inexpensive suits also. Frogg Toggs offers a heat resistant patch kit to apply to the area you think is most likely to come into contact with the exhaust pipe.

Sale price: \$50-\$70 for both jacket and pants depending on where you buy them. Some offer free shipping.

Heat Resistant Patch Kit: \$6

Contact: Frogftoggs.com

Alternates: thegearlessmachine.com; Basspro.com

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



Safety Reminders for Autumn Riding

Jerry Stern

The calendar just keeps rolling on like the wheels on our Harleys, and with the advent of autumn comes the necessity to make some adjustments in our riding. Since the daylight hours are reduced, take the extra few seconds to make certain all your lights are operating properly, especially your tail light, directional lights and brake light.

Needless to say, the more you can maximize your visibility to four-wheeled traffic the better your chances of being seen. Ride with your high beam on during daytime, except when riding in a pack, to minimize your invisibility, and *always* when lane-splitting, as it is more likely to catch the attention of a driver you're coming up on. Don't assume that people see you. Establish eye contact with intersecting traffic, or watch for the rotating motion of a front wheel beginning as the earliest indication of a car starting to move, as in a left turn situation. Stay alert for inattentive jerks. Be aware of what's going on around you and

avoid tight situations. Allow yourself the cushion of extra room in front of you and alongside you. Look further ahead than just the car in front of you. Often the car that slams on his brakes unexpectedly has done so because the car in front of him did it first and has caught him unaware. Don't you get caught unaware.

Be extra cautious on all curves and corners. Treat them as though there may be moisture lurking unseen. Dampness coupled with the oily residue that's settled on surfaces all summer create slippery conditions. Avoid fallen leaves when making corners because they are slippery. Slow down and allow extra stopping distance. Be certain to check your tire pressure and condition. Make sure your bike is mechanically sound. Caution, patience and awareness can help greatly to avoid aggravation and soreness.

Ride safe(ly).

General Motorcycle Safety Tips

Ron Lynn

1. Accept that you do not know it all.
2. Focus on the ride.
3. Ride your own ride.
4. Maintain and improve skills with practice and classes.
5. Know your machine's limitations.
6. Know your limitations.
7. Recognize the effects of age.
8. Don't drink and drive.
9. Don't skimp on riding gear.
10. Maintain your motorcycle.
11. Visually check motorcycle before each ride.
12. Increase awareness when riding an unfamiliar machine.

Ride Safe and keep the rubber side down!

Classified

To place an advertisement here,
contact editor@schra.org
To place an advertisement on our website,
contact 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. \$15,495. (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 for details and rates. All art must be camera ready.

Shindler & Lynn, CPAs

AN ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

Ronald H. Lynn, C.P.A.

16055 VENTURA BLVD., SUITE 924
ENCINO CA 91436
ron@shindlerlynncpa.com

(818) 905-1858
(818) 380-0230
FAX (818) 905-1995

Your **FULL COLOR** business card

can be here

at a very reasonable price!

MARVIN L. FEUERMAN
PRESIDENT

m. leonard & associates
commercial collections

14520 ERWIN STREET • VAN NUYS, (LOS ANGELES), CA 91411
(818) 908-8500 • FAX (818) 785-2384

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) 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 if any of your contact information changes.

Important Reminder:

Happy Harley Days

Next Meeting:

7:00 pm - Thursday, January 8th, 2009

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



First Class Mail

TO: Somebody
1234 Any Street
Somewhere, Someplace 98765