



ROLLING THUNDER

December 2014
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**Next Meeting:
December 13, 2014
Holiday Party & Meeting**

**Publishing Deadline for
January Rolling Thunder is
December 29, 6:00 pm.**



Front Page Comments

By Lou Piano, President Elect

December and all of the end of year activities are fast upon us. National holidays, both religious and secular and sometimes a mixture of both gives way to our holiday party. The SCHRA holiday party is a long tradition in our club. This is a time of year when we celebrate all the fun and riding pleasure we enjoyed together over the past year. A time of renewed excitement over the planning of trips both new and old for the upcoming year. Always on a search for a new trip with new adventures and some old friends and places we look forward to visiting over and over again.

Also the time of year when we 'formally' (is there really any formality to what we do!) induct the new officers and board members to serve for the new year and heap praise on the retiring officers and members for a job well done.

Thanksgiving is behind us and I hope y'll had a good time with friends and family. A recent news report said that the

average American gains 6 pounds over this holiday season. 6 Pounds!! Wow! What a problem to have!

Planning is well under way for our holiday party and I have already replied to the activities chairman with my contribution for the hors d'oeuvre extravaganza. I'm looking forward to contributing substantially to my 6 pound gain.

Another reminder to bring your ideas for a ride for 2015 to the party and discuss them with the Senior road captain and/or any road captain.

'Til next month, ride a lot and ride safe.

Ed

RT



Death Valley

Lou Piano - Commentary

A place that derived this deadly moniker from the extreme heat which did kill many adventurers who tried to cross this valley fooled by the optical illusion that made it look like an easy trek.

But, truth be told, there are many beautiful and wondrous sights to see. Cruising along a lonely 2 lane highway you can look out over the landscape and see nothing but scrub-brush or you can marvel at all the varieties of plants and trees. The Joshua trees alone are magnificent in the fact that no two are the same. As we rode along on the highway that was practically all ours we could see the mountain ranges on both sides in the distance and we would ride over one into another desert and more mountains.

After eating in Baker at the Greek place -

Gyros (yee-rohs) for everyone - almost, we headed for the Badwater Basin, the lowest place on the continental USA. After



a short stop we went for gas and headed to the loneliest casino in all of Nevada, the Longstreet Inn & Casino. The place has 2 bars, a café, and a high-end (but not too high) restaurant upstairs. Did I mention the ducks? Oh, good, 'cause I'm not going to! The rooms were clean and the food okay. Most of the staff had two or more jobs and were very nice and friendly.

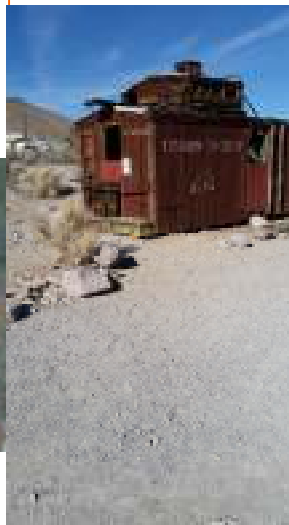
The next day, Saturday, we headed out for more sightseeing. We stopped at Dantes View, Zabriskie Point, Rhyolite - a ghost town, and Beatty where we ended the ride with ice cream and Subway before a short ride back to



the hotel.

The weather was near perfect for the entire ride and while there was a lot of freeway driving even that was pleasant. All the bikes ran well and there were no mishaps except for one small event when a bike was dropped. No damage to the people or the bike and only a very slight interruption in taking off to go home.

Thanks to the road captain, Jack, who did a great job planning all of the destinations, getting us there in good time, stopping for gas in a timely manner and making all the right comfort stops. This is one that must go back on the ride calendar. If not for next year certainly for the year after.





Upcoming Activities

JB - Activities Chairman

Upcoming Events: “December 2014”

It is almost time to say “that’s all she wrote” but we still do have one more month to go before we say farewell to 2014.

As I reviewed this past year’s activities calendar I was reminded of some of the great events we attended, as well as a few which we planned but never implemented.

Here’s a brief re-visit to some of the fun stuff we enjoyed during 2014.

January - The kick-off event of 2014 was a lunch ride to Farmer’s Market, followed by a visit to the Petersen Auto Museum.

February - Super-Bowl mania at Sternz plus lots to eat and drink. Also an overnight visit to the historic Santa Maria Inn.

March - Overnight in Alpine and Borrego Springs, plus a ride through forgotten towns along the Mexican Border. A fun ride and overnight in San Diego’s Ocean Beach.

April - The annual Progressive Breakfast. A ride to the high desert to not see any Poppies!

May - A ride to Solvang and lunch at River Grill. The annual meet-up with our friends from River City Harley Riders to Pismo Beach. Juicy ribs at Hogly-Wogly followed by a visit to the Nethercutt Museum.

June - Shaver Lake and our traditional visit with James & Janet Parr at the log mansion.

July - A Fourth of July weekend at Hollister and the revived Bike Rally. A visit to the Gene Autry Museum. Our annual club picnic (with pulled pork sandwiches).

August - The annual al-fresco Midsummer Party. Lunch at Pine Mountain Club.

September - Mt. Baldy and lunch at the Basque Restaurant.

October - Palm Springs American Heat Rally. A visit to Temecula’s Old Town.

November - Lunch at Cold Spring Tavern. A double overnighter to Death Valley and its environs. Double overnighter in Cambria plus a Highway-1 visit to Big Sur.

If you have read this far, it is time to tell you what is yet to come during the month of.....

December

Sunday, 12/7 - Lunch and fudge and shopping at Bass Pro Shop: RL, 9:30, Millies

Yes folks, we’re doing it again; our annual trek to the world’s largest sporting goods store and the famous Islamorada Seafood Restaurant. At this time of year there are lots of sale items so come have some alligator fillet, then shop ‘til you drop.

Saturday, 12/13 - Annual Holiday Hors D’Oeuvre Extravaganza: 7:00 PM, Sarian

For the second year in a row, we are most fortunate to be able to return to La Canada and the home of Ron & Karen Sarian for our member-made feast of hors d’oeuvres and desserts. Come hungry; leave stuffed! Also our farewell “thank-you” to our 2014 officers and a 2015 “welcome-back” to many of the same people. Oh well, it’s a tradition.

Saturday, 12/20 - Mission Inn Holiday Lights in Riverside: Sternz, 9:30 AM, Millies

If you are up for some great holiday cheer and nostalgia, then be sure to join Jerry and Cindy for a return visit to Old Town Riverside and the splendid Mission Inn. It’ll take your breath away. Oh yeah, we’re staying at Hyatt Place - Downtown; just a block away from the multitudes of gawkers, oohh-ers and ahh-ers!

Finally, stay close to your computers because information about our 2015 lineup of rides and activities is coming quite soon, I promise.....sort of.



Cambria - Southbound

Cindy Stern - R/C

BIG SUR - NORTHBOUND

Having enjoyed a beautiful ride up to Cambria on Saturday with Randy Rahm at the helm, I was a happy camper by bedtime at the San Simeon Pines. I was yet to be reminded, at that point, about the hardest beds on Moonstone Beach, but I digress. That would be a different review. We had a perfect weather day on Saturday, a sumptuous lunch in Pismo Beach, a dreamy final stretch up Highway 1 through Morro Bay and into Cambria, followed by a juicy BBQ dinner at the Main Street Grill in Cambria where we could watch the USC/UCLA football game.

Before turning in, our primary road captain, Randy, asked me if I would lead the ride to Big Sur on Sunday morning. I said "sure" why not, having ridden it many times I felt I was qualified to lead a good tour. Our first stop was at Raggedy Point, the customary first pit stop and short hike down the hill to look at the beautiful rugged coast. I was basking in the glow of my road-captaining when the truth hit me---this was about my having to write the report of the ride! Oh, the indignity! However, I was having too much fun at this point to get aggravated. We mounted up and continued on to a couple of the vista points. The weather on the Big Sur Highway is usually misty or overcast, if not downright foggy, but Sunday was an exceptionally clear day and we had the best views in many outings. Also, it was a very high tide day and the waves down below us produced multi-colored rainbows of mist at each break. It was breathtaking. But on we rode, and stopped at the Coast Gallery. Many of our folks had never stopped here before. It is the big brown rain-barrel looking structure on the right hand side, and sure enough the sign inside informed us that the gal-

lery was indeed constructed of redwood water barrels the diameter of the Sherman Tree which is a sequoia in one of the National Park Sequoia Groves. We wandered among the arts and crafts, all high end stuff, got ourselves all acculturated, and then departed to become bikers again. The final leg of my leadership was to the stop that most people look forward to: lunch....at the Riverview Inn in Big Sur.

So Jerry and I told the story of SCHRA legend in which fifteen or so years ago, we stayed at the Glen Oaks Motel and ate at the Riverview for dinner. The service that night was so bad and the wait time for our food so neverending, that several of our members refused to pay the mandatory 18% gratuity on the dinner check. We all paid for our food of course, and left tips of what we felt the dinner actually deserved. But the management was not happy about that, and they banned us FOR LIFE, from the Riverview. Obviously the pictures in their office or wherever banned people are displayed, must have been so unlike our present countenance that they actually invited us in and served us a most satisfactory and enjoyable meal, right alongside the Creek.

Lunch came to an end, and thus my part of this particular adventure. A new road captain was taking the helm for the southbound leg, so without further ado, I turn this travelogue over to him. Jerry....take it away !!





Cambria - Southbound

Jerry Stern - R/C

Last year (2013) the Club had a terrific ride to Capitola in November, and one of the best parts of the trip was on the return portion down the US1 between Big Sur and Cambria. This year's ride to Cambria also included a cruise up to Big Sur and back again to Cambria on Sunday. It was lucky that the Cambria Ride was planned as a Saturday Sunday Monday, because if it had been Friday - Sunday, we would have been unable to do Big Sur. It POURED buckets in Big Sur on Saturday - lucky for them, and us, as it was gorgeous, sunny, and clear on Sunday.

The six of us left the hotel after breakfast and headed north up Highway 1 with Cindy in the lead, stopping at Ragged Point and several roadside pull-outs for photo-ops. After a stop at the Coast Gallery we pulled into the River Inn for a scrumptious lunch. The plan then was for moi to be the leader for the return portion south. This is perhaps my favorite ride in the world. As many times as I may have done it in the past, this time it was like a brand-new experience on my new 2014 Ultra Limited, and the fun quotient was doubled. The weather remained crisp and sparkling clear. The ocean was a beautiful blue-green, and the breaking waves all wore halos of rainbow mist, some of which I was even able to capture on camera. Most remarkable was that we were virtually alone on the road, almost as if the road had been closed to everyone but us. No dawdlers or motorhomes to deal with anywhere. I was positively blown away, loving every second of it.

We got down to Elephant Seal Beach shortly after 4PM. During this season the seals are returning to the beach en masse in preparation for giving birth to pups in January/February. Since it was so late, the local docents were gone, but there was a pretty good crowd and the scene as always was spectacular.

From seal beach back to the hotel was a picture-perfect sunset just dipping below the western horizon, and in my humble opinion, capping off one of the best days of riding in memory.





SCHRA Boutique

Randy Rahm VP

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- Baby blue short sleeve t-shirts - XXL
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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 VP@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

All Shirts are \$15.00

Last Update: 1/12/13

Black Short Sleeve

Small	3
Medium	3
Large	1
Ex. Large	5
2XL	2
3XL	0

Black Long Sleeve

Small	4
Medium	4
Large	1
Ex. Large	2
2XL	4
3XL	1

White Short Sleeve

Small	0
Medium	0
Large	2
Ex. Large	0
2XL	0
3XL	0

White Long Sleeve

Small	1
Medium	0
Large	0
Ex. Large	2
2XL	0
3XL	0

Dark Blue Short Sleeve

Small	5
Medium	0
Large	0
Ex. Large	2
2XL	0
3XL	0



<u>Hats</u>		
Black w/Logo	14	\$10.00
Orange w/Logo	4	\$10.00
Black w/SCHRA	7	\$10.00
<u>Patches</u>		
Extra Small Patch	9	\$ 7.00
Small Patch	46	\$ 7.00
Large Patch	25	\$25.00
Pins	95	\$5.00



2014 Officers and Board Members

President	Jack Launius	Pres@schra.org
Vice-President	Randy Rahm	VP@schra.org
Secretary	Sandy Lynn	Sec@schra.org
Treasurer	Ron Lynn	Treas@schra.org
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Senior Road Captain	Jerry Stern	SrCpt@schra.org
Editor	Lou Piano	Edit@schra.org
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Historian	Judy Bruce	Hist@schra.org
Activities Chairman	Jerry Bruce	Activ@schra.org

SCHRA Road Captains

SCHRA Departure Sites

Jerry Stern ~ JS
Senior Road Captain

Lee Blackman ~ LB
Jerry Bruce ~ JB
Joe Gubbrud ~ JG
Ron Lynn ~ RL
Lou Piano ~ LP~AL

Randy Rahm ~ RR
Cindy Stern ~ CS
Jerry Stern ~ JS
Bob Thompson ~ BT

Starbucks
Ventura & Topanga Canyon

Solley's
4578 Van Nuys Blvd., Sherman Oaks

Millie's
10318 Sepulveda Blvd., Mission Hills

Denny's Sand Canyon
15401 Delone St., Santa Clarita

McDonald's
Kanan Rd., NE corner behind Shell Station

SCHRA 2014 Events - December

12/7	Sun	Lunch at Bass Pro Shop	RL	Millie's	9:00 am
12/13	Sat	Holiday Party at the Sarian's		Ron & Karen's	6:00 pm
12/20-12/21	Sat & Sun	Riverside Holiday Lights	JS & CS	Millie's	9:30 am

SCHRA 2015 Events -

Classifieds

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