



# ROLLING THUNDER

December 2017

VOLUME XXVI NUMBER 12

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**Next Meeting:**  
**December 16, 2017**  
**(yes, at the Holiday Party)**

**Publishing Deadline:**  
**For January RT**  
**December 27, 2017**



**President's Message**  
*Jerry Stern*

It's been my pleasure to serve SCHRA as president for 2017. 2018 is almost upon us, and one thing's for certain - "the times they are a'changing"

Ride safe and prosper

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**





## 2017 Activities: The Year at a Glance - JB

**W**ith only a single activity remaining on the calendar (Holiday Party) there's not much to talk about activity-wise; not at least until early 2018 when we once again put pen to paper with the hope that much of what we plan will attract renewed interest and enthusiasm.

Despite the somber opening paragraph, the year was successful in many respects. The rides taken and the social activities attended, were delightful and reasonably well attended. Truth be told, we had some damn good times in 2017 despite the lean numbers in our membership.

Glancing back just one more time (with apologies if my memory fails), here's a last glance at what we did during the previous eleven months.

As is nearly always the case, January did not offer up any club activities other than the ever-popular "Saturday rides." Too cold - too windy - too wet; just not a great month to get up when it is still dark outside, and then find that your Gerbing has developed a short circuit.

February produced the kickoff event with a super Super Bowl party which was very well attended. Also, this month was the visit to the fabulous Mullin Automotive Museum.

March produced a new overnight itinerary as many members attended the beautiful Blossom Trail event. The flowering trees were truly spectacular.

April was a bit of a letdown as the only ride event was cancelled.

Along came May and our annual combined SCHRA/RCHR folks travelled to Death Valley for an expanded four-day itinerary.

In June we enjoyed two fun events; a day-ride to Reyes Creek, and a nice visit to Cambria.

In July, the weather turned a bit toasty and whatever had been scheduled was ultimately cancelled or postponed.

August produced another annual favorite, the Summer Party; very well attended by both current and previous members.

The month of September had a scheduled visit to Bishop and its environs, but had to be pushed ahead for personal medical reasons. The ride was an outstanding success.

October and November both would eventually draw a blank, with whatever was earlier scheduled ending up on the cutting-room floor.

So finally, we come to December, still a few days off as this piece is being written. The Holiday Party is the only event which remains on the schedule and according to last count, some 20 people have sent their RSVP. If you haven't done so there is still time, but an RSVP is a requirement (no exceptions) so do what you gotta do.

At the November SCHRA meeting we had a somewhat expanded exchange of ideas regarding what happened right and what happened wrong during 2017. The consensus seemed to favor an activity schedule more in keeping with our reduced membership numbers, but still including several over-night activities of various length.

The "Saturday ride" continues to be a mainstay activity for those members (and non-members) who like a weekly ride and are willing to devote a half-day with like-minded lunch-hungry friends. We also discussed the potential for developing new membership from the ranks of those who do join us on Saturday. Other recruitment ideas are also being considered.

So, there you have it. 2017 is almost done so its time to say "ciao." 2018 is about to begin, to which we say "benvenuto." May we all continue to appreciate and participate in that which we have created for our own fun and satisfaction. What a proposition!



## Safety Article

Ron Lynn

### Lets Take A Motorcycle Improvement Test

Do you feel you are practicing safe motorcycle riding?  
 What have you done to maintain & improve these skills?  
 How would you rate yourself in this accomplishment?

These are great questions we should constantly be asking ourselves to promote good riding habits and keep ourselves relatively safer. I say safer since danger is inherent in motorcycling as in any sport and which we accept, or we would stop riding entirely (definition of sanity).

The New England Riders Group recently (2017) developed a survey on Facebook and posted by one of their members, Ed Conde. It attempts to get a sense of what the participants have done over the years to continue to improve their riding skills. It was designed to indicate how successful you are in gauging the level of a reasonable commitment you think you have attained towards being a better rider.

The following 12 skill enhancement activities are designed as a self assessment tool to determine to our commitment to becoming better riders and reducing risk. Respond **YES** or **NO** to each of these activities then tally up your score of YES answers to determine how effective you are in achieving these goals.

Give yourself 10 points for each YES answer. The maximum score is 120 points. A total of 90 points out of a possible 120 points is a 75% score which would indicate that you are committed to be a responsible & lower risk rider.

- \_\_\_1. Completed the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) basic rider course or equivalent.
- \_\_\_2. Completed an MSF experienced rider course or equivalent.
- \_\_\_3. Wear All The Gear All The Time (ATGATT). Score 5 points if you ride with Most Of The Gear All The Time (MOTGATT)

- \_\_\_4. Ride at least 5,000 miles per year. Score 5 points for 2,500 miles per year.
- \_\_\_5. Ride a mix of riding environments: Highway, Com-muter Traffic, Freeways, Back Roads, Unpaved Roads, Rain, Snow.
- \_\_\_6. Read at least two motorcycle skills books: Magazines do not count unless there are more than 15 safety articles read.
- \_\_\_7. Devote time for deliberate practice, ie; riding on a local parking lot: braking, low speed maneuvering, & swerving.
- \_\_\_8. Participated in an advanced skills course: Other than the experienced riders course. Cornering, Slow speed, Track Instruction, Police-Style precision, Dirt Training, etc.
- \_\_\_9. No Crashes in the last three years. Score 5 points if you have only experienced up to two close calls in the past three years.
- \_\_\_10. No moving violations within the past three years.
- \_\_\_11. Maintenance of your motorcycle: Regular inspection & routine maintenance by Self or an experienced mechanic.
- \_\_\_12. Have you declined to ride in questionable conditions: Rain, Snow, With a group riding over your ability or Riding on roads above your perceived ability.

Add up your score and don't worry if it is lower than expected, you can fix that by qualifying in the activity in the future. Most riders netted out in the lower-middle range. This is intended to indicate if you are committed to improving your riding skills.

Remember that having a high score does not guarantee that you are not going to have an accident. However, it may reduce surprises and reduce those "uh-oh" moments giving you greater control and confidence.

Ride safe and keep the rubber side down!

Adapted by Ron Lynn from an article by Eric Trow "What's Your Cred Score?" in the November, 2017 edition of Rider Magazine.

## 2016 - 17 Officers and Board Members

|                            |             |                 |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| President                  | Jerry Stern | Pres@schra.org  |
| Board Member               | Jerry Bruce | VP@schra.org    |
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| Editor                     | Lou Piano   | Edit@schra.org  |
| Webmaster                  | Ron Lynn    | Web@schra.org   |
| Social Activities Director | Jerry Bruce | Activ@schra.org |
|                            |             |                 |

| SCHRA Road Captains   |   | SCHRA Departure Sites  |
|---|---|--|
| Jerry Stern - JS<br>Lee Blackman ~ LB<br>Jerry Bruce ~ JB<br>Joe Gubbrud ~ JG | Ron Lynn - RL<br>Lou Piano ~ LP<br>Cindy Stern ~ CS | Starbucks<br>Ventura & Topanga Canyon<br><br>McDonald's<br>11015 Sepulveda Blvd., Mission Hills<br><br>Denny's Sand Canyon<br>15401 Delone St., Santa Clarita<br><br>McDonald's<br>Kanan Rd., NE corner behind Shell Station |

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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 |



|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| <u>Hats</u>        |              |
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