



# ROLLING THUNDER

VOLUME XVIII, NUMBER 2 FEBRUARY 2009

WWW.SCHRA.ORG

## President's Message

Mike Levison

Beach often has a cop with a decibel measuring device on the corner of PCH and Laguna Canyon Road issuing citations.

FEBRUARY 2009

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**Next Meeting**  
**Thursday**  
**February 12th**  
**7:00 pm**

While standing in the parking lot of Route 66 in Canyon Country on a recent "bike night," having a quiet conversation with a newly met fellow biker, I was reminded of the following scenario. Sitting by the pool on a warm summer day, trying to read the current *Hog Tales*, a loud and insistent voice was shouting: "Gramps, LOOK AT ME – LOOK AT ME!" Annoyed, I was forced



to look up to see my 8 year old grandson jump into the water for the 100th time. He craved being the center of attention, but being needy and 8 made it understandable yet still annoying.

Back in the parking lot, a thoughtless and inconsiderate "adult" starts up his Harley, revving his engine numerous times, effectively drowning out all other sounds within a hundred yards. He then roars out of the lot, thinking himself cool, maximizing the noise potential from his unmuffled straight pipes and alienating all regular folks nearby. For me, this was a demonstration of the dire need for attention by an immature obnoxious psychologically challenged individual! Not excusable if not an 8 year old!

Desired attention, respect and appreciation are better achieved by displaying a bright and shiny beautifully cared for machine. More and more there are articles appearing regarding this "noise pollution epidemic," the public's resentment of it, and attempts to control it by communities all over the world. The army of noise police is understandably growing. Laguna

We all enjoy the trademark mellow rumble of our Harleys, but some intelligent discretion should be utilized when modifying the exhaust. Putting out a ton of sound just doesn't seem to be as cool or important as it did when we were much younger, and does not really contribute to one's safety, not that we want to imitate a Honda. I prefer to ride without earplugs, which should be anyone's option, and find it uncomfortable to formation ride behind a couple of friends' bikes. Their loud sound is an irritating distraction when it continues for extended time without relief. There is an old American saying: Your freedom stops at the tip of my nose. Don't consider me an old curmudgeon, but I think we can add "ears" to that thought!

On our recent trip to Arizona on my new Ultra with stock mufflers, Ruthann and I became reacquainted with the many musical sounds of the environment. Upon returning home, I took my old Road King out to run some local errands. It was a surprise to find how loud my own Vance & Hines were and how the tranquility of the ride was spoiled. As soon as I got back home that day, I dug my original mufflers out of the garage and reinstalled them. The old bike immediately stopped the constant backfiring, lost no pep whatsoever while still sounding like a Harley, and made for a more relaxing enjoyable ride. And I am no longer concerned about being stopped by the noise police.

Maybe it's an age thing? One cannot stop aging, but immaturity can last a lifetime! Anyone need a pair of well-used Vance & Hines??



# From the Editor

Linda Marks

Anything even remotely related to bikes, biking and/or bikers is always welcomed by our reading audience, be it a joke, cartoon, safety article, travelogue, photograph or other depiction, or just a short blurb about a product you or a friend

tried and liked or disliked. Forward what you will to editor@schra.org so you can share with us.

# Senior Road Captain's Report

Jerry "JB" Bruce

February is here and also, thankfully, winter. All over my neighborhood fruit trees are flowering and the winter color in the flowerbeds is crisp from weeks of heat. Although the first part of the "cycling" year is normally a little light, it will be even more so now that we are forced into canceling rides because of inclement weather.

We began 2009 with two very successful events in January: a day ride to Santa Barbara, with lunch at Moby Dick's, led by Richard Slobin; and a dinner ride to Canyon Country and Casa Vieja Restaurant, led by Mike Levison. Both of these rides were very well attended and nobody left hungry.

Our February itinerary was to begin on February 8 with a day ride to the Huntington Library and Gardens. Unfortunately this event to be cancelled because of a prediction of wet/windy weather. As I write this piece, it is finally raining real rain and it looks as if the "guys' ride" on Saturday, February 7, will also be a wash-out. (A little heads-up regarding the Huntington Library: we have learned that this is no longer a "free" venue as in the past. The per person tab is now in the \$20 range on weekends, which may or may not disqualify it from further consideration. Please let Jerry Stern know your feelings about this.)

Next up in February is our Valentines Day lunch ride to Ventura and Café Fiore. Cindy Stern says we will depart from Woodlake Bowl at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 14. The timing is such that those who have plans later in the day or evening should have plenty of time to refresh.

Well, it looks like our oft-cancelled ride to the Palm Springs Air Museum on Saturday, February 28, is axed once again. Mike Levison has learned of a very special event taking place at the

Rose Bowl in Pasadena, and has opted to make a substitution. Be sure to attend the next SCHRA meeting on February 12 to find out the exciting details. And, by the way, it's a free event! We'll put Palm Springs back on the calendar for sometime later in the year.

Coming in March are another couple of day rides and our first "double overnighter." On Sunday, March 8, we celebrate the beginning of daylight savings time with a ride to Solvang, led by Mitch Pullman, and departing from Woodlake Bowl at 9:00 a.m. The following Sunday, March 15, Marv Feuerman will lead us to the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles. Departure point will be from Solly's, but Marv is still working out the departure time. This is billed as a dinner ride and, once those arrangements are made, he will post the details.

Our double-overnighter to Julian will be departing on Saturday, March 28, at 9:00 a.m. from Millies. Cindy Stern says this is billed as a San Diego Back Country / Anza Borrego combo. You'll be hearing from her shortly regarding the phone number to call to make your own personal accommodations reservations.

Well, that's all the immediate stuff to report as we look forward through February and March. There is one other adjustment to our calendar which you need to know about. According to Lou Piano, our July 11 - 13 ride to Hollister requires some surgery. Seems that the Hollister "Silly Fathers" can no longer afford to host this historical rally and so it is cancelled for 2009.

But don't despair. The ride goes on. Probably a single overnighter to Salinas with ocean views in one direction and mountain views in the other. Lou and I are still working on the details and we'll let you know what the revised itinerary will be. Ciao for now.

# Meet Your Member

Sumbudy

Sumbudy's choice for this month's introduction is indeed unique! A native Californian, born in L.A. at the old Queen of Angels Hospital just 50+ years ago, this member has served our club well and unselfishly since joining in '93. Not one to avoid work or responsibility, our gal-pal is a current active road captain, most recent senior road captain, and has previously served as treasurer, secretary, vice president and president of SCHRA. Sumbudy acknowledges our subject as a significant part of the lifeblood of our organization, always with a ready smile and a helpful hand, Ms. Cindy Stern.



Cindy ("Cinky Poo" as her sister calls her) grew up locally, attending Hollywood High School but graduating from North Hollywood High School in '70. Her dad was in sales and marketing; mom retired from the Veterans Administration as a head purchasing agent. They divorced when Cindy was 11. She has a sister named Collie (no cheap shots, please - I took them already). Her grandma was a chicken rancher, owning Yucca Forest Ranch in Phelan near Wrightwood. Cindy would spend weekends and summers there. Great-grandparents included an opera singer and a vaudeville act.

Through family contacts, post high school found Cindy in the office end of the automobile business. A couple years of that left her unfulfilled and desirous of an industry with more prestige. She then took classes in health care administration at UCLA, and spent 3 years doing that for a lock-up mental institution (a serious nuthouse). After that, the car business didn't look so bad, and "prestige" is quite a subjective evaluation anyway! Twenty years with Center BMW in Sherman Oaks found our "Harley Harlot" having worked her way through the ranks to controller of the firm. At present she is temporarily retired.

Ms. Stern claims she met Jerry at a poker party in '85, bought a house together with him in '88, and has been married now for 18 years. Sumbudy believes most of that. However, knowing Jerry like we all do, there appears a strong likelihood that he just might be collateral residue from her health-care experience!

The Sterns found their way to SCHRA via an accepted invitation from Sweet Marvin, a previous honoree of this feature column. And that was written before our knowledge of his involvement with the Sterns. At that time, Jerry was riding his '86 Sportster, sometimes with a passenger destined for larger cycle experiences. She learned to ride in '93 on that old Sporty, and rode it on many long distance trips.

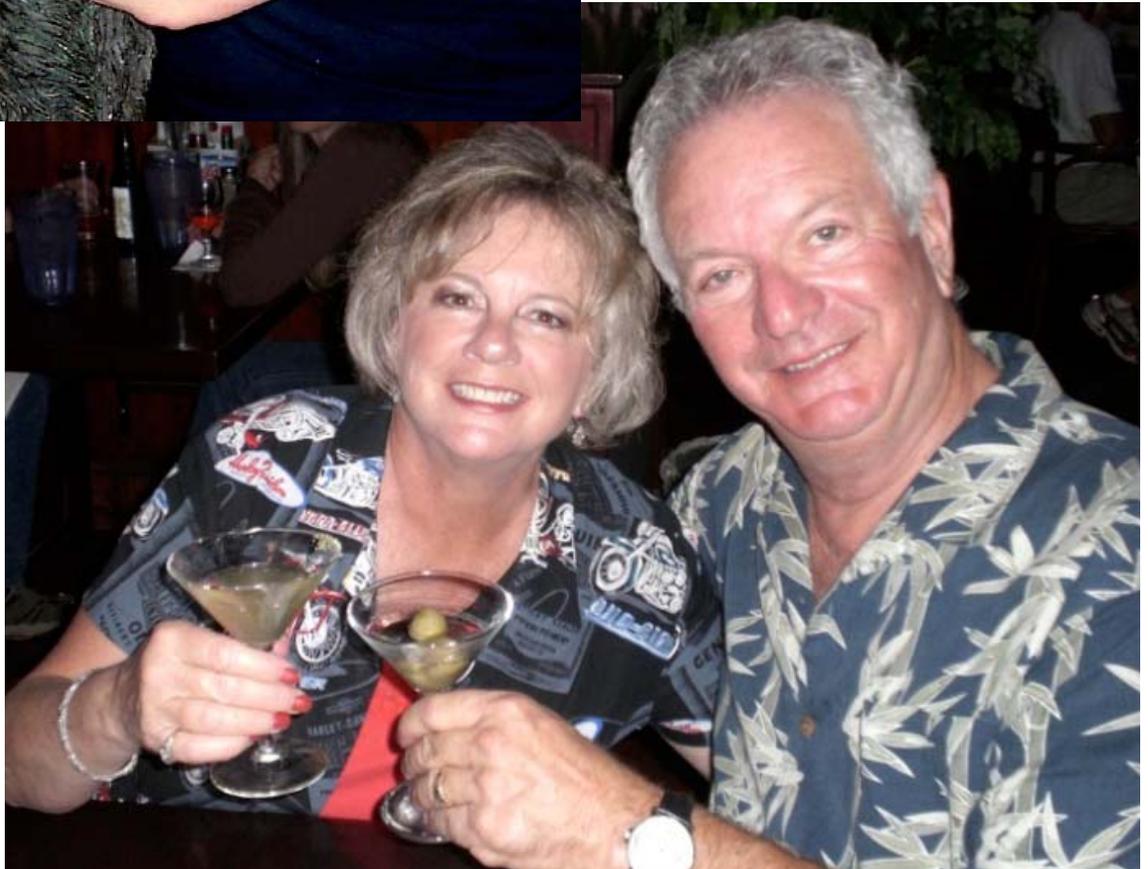
It didn't take her long to upgrade to a '95 ElectraGlide Standard and put on 70,000 miles. It was followed by her present bike, a blue '06 Road Glide. She used to average 10k+ miles a year when employed, which for someone with a job is pretty good. While Sumbudy was occasionally dropping a bike, our observation years ago highly impressed us by the ease with which Cinky Poo handled hers. Not claiming infallibility, she admitted to a couple of public drops! One had her landing in the pansy patch at Starbuck's on Topanga Canyon Road, and the second falling while turning left into a parking lot at Pt. Lobos with 15 witnesses on hand.

Cindy lists some of her favorite bike experiences (not including the above) as being a ride through Colorado in 2000, to Sturgis in '01 and the trip last October to Bisbee and Tombstone in Arizona. The worst or most frightening was being caught in a severe electrical storm near Mt. Rushmore, where the lightning bolts were striking the fields alongside the road they were riding, with no cover in sight.

If you'd like to entice this nice lady on a breakfast ride, suggest going to Crazy Otto's in Acton, a favorite of hers (mine also). For more serious ulterior motives, any good oceanfront restaurant with a dining balcony will do, and turn her to mush (that's hearsay - from her)!

Speaking for our club, Sumbudy says we are proud and delighted to have Cindy Stern an active fellow SCHRA member and riding companion! She is in large measure the glue that binds us together.





# Product Review Corner

*Ron Lynn*

Your regular columnist is knee deep in other people's tax returns.  
This trend may continue for a good many months.

If you saw something you liked and bought it,  
we would love to hear about it.

If you saw something you thought you'd like and bought it,  
much to your dismay,  
we are sitting up and paying attention.

Send your article to [editor@schra.org](mailto:editor@schra.org).  
Be sure to include at least one URL where people  
can read further on how the product is used  
and where it can be purchased.

# All Things Motorcycle

*John Napolitano*

I have a friend whose son, George, is a young man (24 years old) who had a bad accident in a fall and has been 80% disabled and confined to a wheelchair. He really gets great pleasure in reading about motorcycles - any kind of motorcycles. He loves magazines, posters, books, photographs, pins, hats and every other item you can think of that has to do with motorcycles, riding and bikers.

Any members who have items they think George might like can bring them to a club meeting or I can pick them up from you at home or at work. Give me a call at (818) 787-6784 to let me know.

Thank you.

# Santa Barbara Ride Report

Richard Slobin

On Saturday, January 17, at 9:30 a.m. (give or take 45 minutes), seventeen bikes and seven passengers - that's 24 total for those of you who are mathematically challenged - met at Woodlake Bowl for a fantastic day of riding. The pack of riders was held in tack by me in front, Jerry Stern in the middle and Mitch Pullman in the rear (I hear he likes it there). The ride started off going north on 101 toward Agoura Hills exiting Westlake Boulevard and meandering towards the 23 via many back roads (including ones stolen from Cindy and Silvie) learned by me through the years of riding with SCHRA.

The first stop was in Santa Paula where we stretched our legs and emptied our bladders. After about a 15 minute stop we went up the mountain through Ojai to Highway 150 and past Lake Casitas to the 101 North exiting at East Cabrillo Boulevard. Parking at the Santa Barbara Pier was an experience in itself when I told the valet to put the 17 bike somewhere safe. Jose, the manager of Moby Dick's restaurant, was more than cordial and had an entire room reserved just for us. Sitting at our

table, watching the pelicans fly by, to me was like being in Jurassic Park.

No one won the drawing for the free lunch this time but it was really great to see all of the new riders come out and enjoy a really wonderful and spectacular day.



# Casa Vieja Ride Report

Mike Levison

It turned out that Saturday night on January 31 was a surprise and more like a beautiful spring evening than one in the middle of winter. With early darkness a given, cold expected and rain always a possibility, it made this event an autos-OK dinner ride. A whole bunch of cars and 4 Harleys met at Millie's at the designated time of 5 p.m. The easy and plentiful conversation prior to departure and now a club tradition, we mounted up for the short ride to Canyon Country at 5:40 p.m. A few additional participants, for various reasons, opted to meet us all at the restaurant.

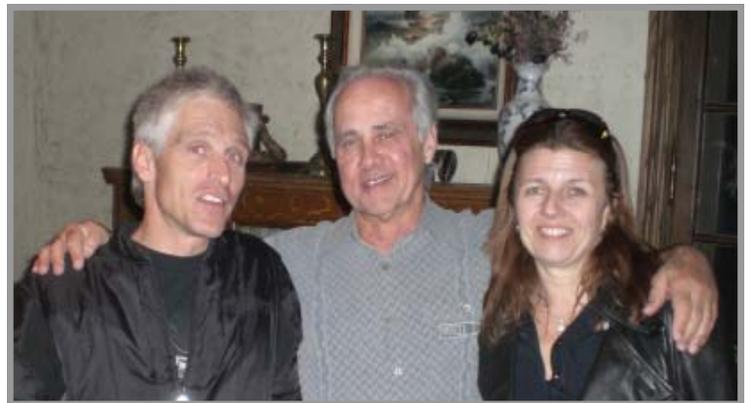
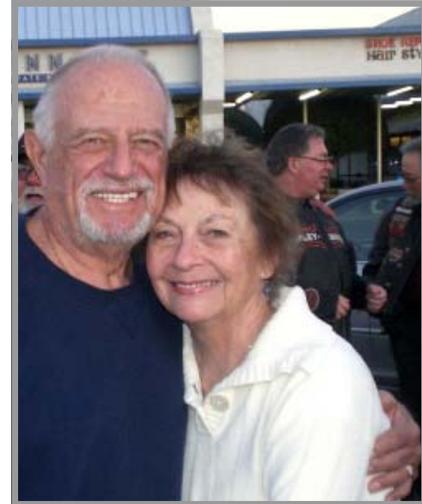
There were also the mysterious 10% no-shows that had RSVPd. It seems no matter how large or small or what type the event, in every social situation put on by anyone, there are always 10% that end up not attending. It is consistent but still always a mystery.

Anyway, in addition to the many other benefits of participating in club events like having a lot of fun, should the occasion ever arise where you are in need of a credible alibi your name will normally have appeared in SCHRA's *Rolling Thunder* report on the event. Those who can rest easy this time are Scott & Marianne Bradford, Steve & Sheila Cowan, Paul & Sylvie Wilmot, Ron & Sandy Lynn, Cindy & Jerry Stern, Judy & JB Bruce, Toni & Nappy Napolitano, Ruthann & Mike Levison, Natalie Neith, Ken Catbagan, Lou Piano, and guests Alan & Pam Ferdman and Carl Puckett.

Casa Vieja on Soledad Canyon Road is a fairly new Mexican restaurant, specializing in seafood. It is in a free-standing building, recently remodeled, with an adjoining parking lot. The menu is very unique and creative, showing photographs of many of the dishes. That makes the decision of what to order all the more difficult, as it all looks so good (and is)! Service was attentive and fast, prices moderate, separate checks not a problem, and literally everyone was delighted with the dishes they selected.

After dinner everyone was invited back to the Levisons' for coffee, drinks, and a large assortment of Mexican pastries. A continuation of the slide-show of SCHRA photos from 2001 to the present (shown during our recent holiday party) went on through the night. The most difficult part in planning this affair was selection of the pastries, never seen at Costco, which was a pleasant challenge. The final verdict was a successful mission accomplished.

It was 10:30 p.m. when the party finally broke up and folks went home, with full stomachs and more happy memories, courtesy of the friendly and entertaining members of SCHRA.



# 2009 Ride Schedule

# Extra Wind

<b>Ventura Day Ride</b>	
Woodlake Bowl, 9:30a, Cindy S	Feb 14, Sat
<b>Air Museum Palm Springs Day Ride</b>	
Solly's, 8:30a, Mike L.	Feb 28, Sat
<b>Solvang Day Ride</b>	
Woodlake Bowl, 9a, Mitch P	Mar 8, Sun
<b>Museum of Tolerance Day/Dinner Ride</b>	
Solly's, t/b/a, Marvin F	Mar 15, Sun
<b>Julian and Anza-Borrego Overnighter</b>	
Millie's, 9a, Cindy S	Mar 28 - 30, Sat - Mon
<b>Camarillo Dinner Ride</b>	
Woodlake Bowl, 4:30p, Richard S.	Apr 5, Sun
<b>Death Valley Overnighter</b>	
Millie's, 8:30a, Mitch P	Apr 25 - 27, Sat - Mon
<b>Tehachapi Day Ride</b>	
Millie's, 9:30a, Jerry S	May 9, Sat
<b>Guide Dogs of America Poker Run Day/Lunch Ride</b>	
Millie's, 9a, Ron L	May 17, Sun
<b>Noriega's Day Ride</b>	
Millie's, 9a, Mike L	May 24, Sun
<b>JB's Excellent Arizona Adventure Overnighter</b>	
Millie's, 8a, Jerry B	May 28 - Jun 1, Thu - Mon
<b>Big Bear Chopper Show Day Ride</b>	
Millie's, 8:30a, Jerry S	Jun 6, Sat
<b>Picnic Dinner Ride</b>	
Woodlake Bowl, 4p, Lou P	Jun 13, Sat
<b>Seventh Annual Kotler Ranch Run Overnighter</b>	
Denny's Sand Canyon, 8a, Mike L	Jun 25 - 28, Thu - Sun
<b>Kernville Day Ride</b>	
Millie's, 8a, Cindy S	Jul 19, Sun

Anyone looking for riding buddies or a group discount hotel rate on a planned ride *not* on SCHRA's 2009 Ride Schedule can network here by e-mailing the date and destination to editor@schra.org so other members can hook up with you. **These rides are not meant to compete with SCHRA rides** and, because these rides are **not** sanctioned SCHRA rides, there may **never** be a SCHRA Road Captain on any of them. However, if your calendar prevents you from attending all the SCHRA rides as scheduled, or you just need more wind in the face than the SCHRA 2009 Ride Schedule provides, then look here every month, and by all means feel free to submit whatever scheduled or "any time" itineraries your bike screams at you to take!

**Calico Ghost Town** \*any time  
earthgirl522@hotmail.com Linda Marks  
cabin stay, amenities, full moon guided ghost tours to the mines, best taken around Halloween, reserve early

**Ensenada/San Felipe** \*any time  
earthgirl522@hotmail.com Linda Marks  
hotel stays, 2 different coastlines w/alpine mountain surrounded pristine desert and lushly green agricultural areas in between, great eats (succulent tender prawns the size of small lobster taken from the sea veritably moments prior to your dining pleasure!)

**SanQuintín/Bahía de LosÁngeles/Mulegé**\*any time  
earthgirl522@hotmail.com Linda Marks  
flagship hotel stays on water's edge each night, outrageous scenery, super friendly people, far above and beyond typical *gringo estúpido* tourist experience

**Yuma/Tucson/Nogales** \*any time  
earthgirl522@hotmail.com Linda Marks  
hotel stays, Michelin-rated eats, 7 climate zones, a must see

**Foodie Runs** \*any time  
earthgirl522@hotmail.com Linda Marks  
hotel stays, custom-made for either experienced or learner foodies around the most exquisite culinary love in the kitchen, your riding style, places you want to see and days you have available to make the trip - doesn't have to be high budget, just high quality.

\*These rides may end up on the SCHRA 2009 Ride Schedule later in the year - then again, maybe not.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION, 2009 Officers and Board

President	Mike Levison	Pres@schra.org
Vice-President	Lee Blackman	VicePres@schra.org
Secretary	Dennis Levine	Secy@schra.org
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Officer at Large	Richard Slobin	OAL@schra.org
Sr. Road Captain	Jerry Bruce	SrRoad@schra.org
Activities Chairperson	Anita Blackman	Activities@schra.org

Editor/Publisher	Linda Marks	Editor@schra.org
Webmaster	Mike Levison	Webmaster@schra.org
Historian	Anita Blackman	Hist@schra.org

**Road Captains:** Jerry Stern, Cindy Stern, James Parr, Janet Parr, Marvin Feuerman, Richard Slobin, Ron Lynn, Mitch Pullman, Mike Levison, Lou Piano, Dave Malin, Jerry Bruce

### SCHRA Ride Departure Locations:

Woodlake Bowl  
23130 Ventura Blvd, Woodland Hills

Solley's  
4578 Van Nuys Blvd, Sherman Oaks

Millie's  
10318 Sepulveda Blvd, Mission Hills

Denny's Roxford  
12861 Encinitas Ave, Sylmar

Denny's Sand Canyon  
16401 Delone St, Santa Clarita

# Classified

To place an advertisement here,  
contact [editor@schra.org](mailto:editor@schra.org)  
To place an advertisement on our website,  
contact [webmaster@schra.org](mailto:webmaster@schra.org)

## Look Here First For the Best Bargains

**2002 Heritage Softail Classic.** Blue/silver, lowered, lots of goodies, fuel injection, 7900 miles. \$12,995. (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](mailto:webmaster@schra.org) for details and rates. All art must be camera ready.

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## Membership Updates

Please welcome new members:  
no new members 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](mailto: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](mailto:editor@schra.org) if any of your contact information changes.

## **Important Reminder:**

### **Feel the Love at the February Meeting**

#### ***Next Meeting:***

**7:00 pm - Thursday, February 12th, 2009**  
**Four 'n' 20 Pies**  
**5530 Van Nuys Blvd. Sherman Oaks**

Be Sure To Visit Our Website At:  
***<http://www.schra.org>***

***Rolling Thunder***  
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