



# ROLLING THUNDER

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WWW.SCHRA.ORG

## President's Message

Mike Levison

**JANUARY 2009**

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**Next Meeting**  
**Thursday**  
**January 8th**  
**7:00 pm**

Everyone in SCHRA is or should be pretty familiar with my tire blowout experience while on our trip to Arizona in October. It was featured, with much dialogue and photos, in the November issue of *Rolling Thunder*. I think you might find the next chapter of the melodrama interesting, or at least satisfying. Being quite disappointed and surprised with the negative response from H-D customer service, I transmitted the following letter via snail mail to the CEO of Harley, with a copy to the appropriate VP.

Within 2 weeks I received a phone call from Mr. Dwyer, Customer Service VP. He was very congenial, and said they had my tire there in Milwaukee for their engineers to examine, that they were going to send it on to Dunlop for appraisal, and he'd get back to me. I replied that H-D and Dunlop could save themselves a lot of money by just sending me a damned check for the \$263!

Mr. James L. Ziemer, President  
Harley Davidson Motor Co  
3700 W Juneau Ave  
Milwaukee, WI 53208

Dear Mr Ziemer,

As the retired president of a medium sized manufacturing business, I would occasionally learn of decisions being made by well intentioned employees that were contrary to the best interest

of my company as I viewed it. Over a small monetary issue, not seeing the full scope of the relationship with our customers and our market image, they could do considerable damage to what we were spending significant advertising money and effort trying to establish and maintain. I always appreciated learning of these situations, not attempting to micro-manage but to be certain our best foot was always forward. I assume you and your senior executives are of a like mind and are concerned with what is happening "in the trenches".

Enclosed with this letter are photos and a copy of email correspondence with the service manager of Ventura H-D, the place I purchased my 2008 Ultra Classic on Sept 21st. They were sympathetic, cooperative and surprised that your customer service department didn't wish to come to our aid. As a Harley enthusiast for many years, my 2001 Road King has turned 125,000 miles.

My fellow riders in the Southern California Harley Riders Association of which I am president, with my wife agreeing, felt I was deserving and overdue for a new touring bike. A 5 day trip to Arizona was on the agenda, providing additional motivation.

(cont'd. on p. 6)

# From the Editor

Linda Marks

As you may be aware, *Rolling Thunder* is published to SCHRA's website each month. If during 2008 you missed the opportunity to peruse each issue, you can always catch up on your reading now by going to [www.schra.org](http://www.schra.org). We are a fortunate club in having so many members who submit interesting articles and outstanding photographs. 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](mailto:editor@schra.org) so you can share with us. While publication deadline is slated as the last Thursday of each month, I usually allow a little wiggle room if you're pressed for time and e-mail me with a heads up that you will be making a late submission. In fact, when it comes to wiggle room, your editor is by far the most exploitive and abusive vis-à-vis publication deadlines. My goal for 2009 is to be a good role model by meeting my own publication deadlines; hopefully my efforts (or lack thereof, as the case may be) with this January issue will not be repeated!

# Senior Road Captain's Report

Jerry "JB" Bruce

## 2009 RIDE SCHEDULE OFFERS NEW ITINERARIES

It took a tray of Costco turkey rolls and lots of cookies, but when the three-hour-plus meeting ended last December 29, your road captains had produced a line-up of rides for 2009 which offers something for everyone.

One of the goals for 2009 was to provide more itineraries which could be accomplished in one day, or one overnight, or two overnights. SCHRA functions primarily to provide a wide range of motorcycle rides for its diverse membership, many of whom are available only on a weekend or after work on weekdays. For this reason the 2009 calendar provides lots of opportunities for both employed members as well as retired members. You will find many more day rides and dinner rides as part of an effort to draw more members to more events.

In addition to the shorter/weekend rides, there is still plenty of adventure available in our venue of one-, two- and three-night itineraries (and even a four-nighter). A five-day four-night private trip (taken last year by four SCHRA couples) will now be available to our membership at large. Dubbed *JB's Excellent Adventure*, the ride appears on the calendar for May 28 through June 1, and includes spectacular destinations in Arizona, Utah and Nevada.

Other trips on the 2009 calendar include some old standbys, but with a new twist as, for example, a visit to Death Valley which includes a night at the opera in Amargosa and also a tour and luncheon at a Nevada brothel.

This year's traditional Kotler Ranch run will feature four crossings of the High Sierras and end with a visit to Old Town Sacramento. The Paso Robles ride will find new digs in Cayucos; and Sequoia/Kings Canyon are also included in the schedule. We'll stay a few nights in the apple pie capitol of San Diego County (Julian) while we also explore parts of Anza-Borrego Park which SCHRA has not visited in several years.

We'll also be visiting places like Kernville, Palm Springs, San Luis Obispo, Tehachapi, Jalama Beach and Hollister, and enjoy meals at Noriega's, Jocko's and Papadakis just to name a few.

Be sure to attend our first club meeting on Thursday, January 8, as printed copies of the 2009 ride schedule will be distributed. You can also find this information in the calendar section on the SCHRA website, as well as printed listings in *Rolling Thunder*. We're trying to make it real easy for everyone to access ride information and, hopefully, fill your own calendar with those rides which are of interest.

# Meet Your Member

Sumbudy

The very existence of SCHRA today is due in great measure to our member selected for this month's feature article by Sumbudy. Most of you know the history and story of Van Nuys Harley-Davidson pulling the plug on its sponsorship of the HOG chapter some 16 years ago due to moronic, illegal and deadly behavior by the then president. Many don't know the "rest of the story." Sumbudy is going to rectify that now!

Our guy sent out a letter to the disbanded membership, calling a meeting of those who wished to continue the established camaraderie and riding together. 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 ride to a winery attracting an unwieldy 54 bikes.

Sumbudy appreciates and recognizes our significant member, "Sweet Marvin" Feuerman (he incorrectly mispronounces his name *Furman*). He also doesn't know about his new handle "Sweet" until he reads this when it's published! You're never too old to acquire an appropriate nickname, says this biographer!

Sweet Marvin was born in Brooklyn on September 16, 1937, the son of a cabby and a bookkeeper. He sort of attended Manual Training H.S. there to '56, 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. Apparently, Sweet Marvin wasn't all that sweet as a teenager!

To his great luck and salesmanship, and her boundless faith and love, he convinced Gloria to marry him, which she did in Fort Gordon, GA, on May 29, 1958. They have been loving partners now for 50 years, and Sweet considers this his major life's accomplishment! Soon after, he joined the Army Signal Corp, expecting and 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!

With his Brooklyn streets background, it didn't take long for our hero to discover the pressing need for some black market enterprise, and he proceeded to establish just that. Coming home in '60, Sweet and Glo opened a collection business, but sold it in '73 to try living in Mexico City and Acapulco for a couple years.

They were in the high end leather fashion business with several stores, and had an experience with Barbra Streisand that showed she was a jerk even way back then. Coming into their store, she insisted they close so she could shop unmolested. After spending a couple hours, she settled on 1 bikini for \$23, and then requested a celebrity discount! To his credit, Sweet Marvin (I'll bet it was Gloria) refused!

They came back to California and opened the M. Leonard Collection Agency in Van Nuys, which they still operate. They have son Steven (47) and daughter Lisa (43) and 3 grandkids. There was also a pet named Lousy Lucy, but Sumbudy was afraid to inquire about that!

*(cont'd. on p. 6)*



# Product Review Corner

Ron Lynn

As we get older our middle aged bones want more comfort! Keeping warm on a motorcycle involves two basic concepts: blocking the wind and retaining as much body heat as possible. The standby method of layers (tee shirt, heavy shirt, leather vest and heavy leather jacket) is bulky but does the job up to a point. When the temperature drops to below 55 degrees you can feel the cold even with all the bulk.

Enter the new efficient electric clothing complete with paralleled wired heating elements so if one fails the other will continue heating. Have you ever worn one of those thin double lined nylon jackets which are very light, warm and wind resistant for their weight? This soft nylon shell is wind-resistant and insulated with Thinsulate while heating is provided to the chest, back, collar (high, covering the neck) and sleeves. The smooth finish of the nylon keeps the jacket from riding up under your outer jacket unlike fleece. Most of the time I wear the Gerbing's under my light flow-through armored jacket or often by itself while camping - a practical test of its warmth maintaining efficiency. If you are even thinking of buying the heated vest, I would strongly recommend that you stay with the versatile sleeved jacket as was advised to me many years ago by one of the Gerbing's owners (she was right).

The new models have wire panels on the inside of the jacket in the form of a power distribution unit to avoid wires dangling (older models) from the jacket when not connected. The glove wiring is secured inside zippered pockets on the sleeve when not in use and the sleeves and bottom of the jacket are hemmed with knitted stretch material to keep the wind out. I normally ride with just a long sleeved breathable poly tee shirt under the electric jacket and my outer jacket. I use the dual controlled thermostat to regulate the temperature for the changing temperatures we encounter during a ride. The gloves require more draw than the jacket. No need to stop during the ride just to take off layers and you can still ride in temperatures up to 80 degrees and not feel uncomfortable.

I would suggest that you look into getting the electric glove liners as opposed to their heavy model gloves as we very rarely need these in southern California. That way you can still use your regular cold weather gloves under most conditions and add the liners when the temperature really drops. Gerbing's has just come out with a new electric outer glove called the Hybrid which is pricy. It has its own battery power and controller but can still be connected to your 12v bike system. If you use gloves for non-motorcycling activities this may be the way to go. They also have electric socks and pants

but most of us would probably not need this level of protection.

There are other electric jackets on the market similar to Gerbing's such as Firstger, Kanetsu, Tourmaster and Warm Gear. However, Gerbing's has been around for many years and makes a very high quality product. They are attempting to develop carbon fiber heating elements which are even lighter and more efficient than wiring, but are having trouble with the electrical draw. They are hoping to come out with this in late 2009. Other companies have tried this and are experiencing problems.

Alternative: One of our Saturday riders found a product which is just a length of wire that you sew into any jacket. Attach a heat-troller and you have a version of an electric jacket. The best part is that it only costs \$45 for the wire alone. My experience has been to get the best product for the longest and safest usage.

Sale Prices:

Heated Jacket: \$189  
Heated Glove Liners: \$47  
Heated Hybrid Gloves: \$279  
Dual Heat-Troller: \$99

Contact: Gerbing.com

Remember: IF YOU SEE SOMETHING YOU LIKE BUY IT!



# SCHRA Holiday Party

Mike Levison

On Saturday, December 13th, about 40 finely attired SCHRA members gathered at the Levison home for the annual combination monthly meeting and holiday party. It was decided this year to do it as an hors d'oeuvre party rather than sit-down dinner, which worked out beautifully. It was pot luck as has been the tradition, with a terrific variety of food items and desserts to enjoy having been brought by the members, but mostly all finger food. This style of party enabled all guests to mingle and visit with everyone rather than being planted at a table for a sit-down meal and conversing only with those adjacent to them.

The hosted open bar, with beer contributed by Charlie & Helen King, didn't stifle the socialization any either. And the beautiful holiday decorations provided and installed by Danise Gonzales made the house all the more festive, warm and attractive. The job of coordinating all the invitations, food and necessary preparations was efficiently handled by JB & Judy Bruce, which we confidently knew we could expect. For the benefit of any members considering volunteering their homes for

future events, we can happily report not one drink was spilled nor one iota of damage done.

The short meeting held was to announce the new slate of officers for the coming year 2009. The only changes made were the moves of Jerry Bruce to Senior Road Captain, and Anita Blackman to add Activities Chair to her Historian responsibilities. Thanks to Jim Sample reminding me (as I had been sipping vodka on



the rocks all evening, adding to my frequent senior moments), we profusely thanked and expressed appreciation to Cindy Stern for her super competent year as Senior Road Captain. She and husband Jerry have a long history of always being there when the club has needed them, for which we are very grateful.

On behalf of the new board, we wish you all a safe, healthy and happy New Year, with lots of riding and participation in SCHRA activities.

# President's Message *(cont'd. from p. 1)*

Mike Levison

a  
solution

Unfortunately, as the email copy will describe in detail, I spent a major portion of our trip in the cab of a Road America flatbed tow truck. Necessary by a high speed sidewall blowout of the new rear tire (1858 miles) with no tread or road hazard damage evident or having taken place. I contacted Dunlop's customer service as well when getting back home, speaking with an agent named Al.

He was quite surly, barely courteous, and said if I didn't have the tire he wouldn't do a thing. I last saw the blown tire at Chandler H-D where it was replaced. Obviously, I'd never have considered taking custody of it had it been suggested to carry it home. Dunlop/Goodyear are now on my do not buy list!

I would appreciate your staff reviewing this situation and the photo evidence, and offering

that would be satisfactory to a longtime and loyal good customer and goodwill ambassador. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Yours truly,

Mike Levison  
HOG # US1503452

cc: Bob Dwyer

Apparently real letters do work sometimes. I received another friendly call last week. It seems they had my letter and blown tire in the very office of Mr. Ziemer for re-evaluation. Not having conclusive but suspected evidence of road hazard causation, they had decided to start the New Year cleanly by sending me a check for the replacement tire. Well??! Often it pays to go to the very top!

# Meet Your Member *(cont'd. from p. 3)*

Sumbudy

Sweet's earliest encounter with motorcycles was on his friend's '49 suicide shift panhead, which he borrowed and crashed. A couple of BSAs followed, with the first Harley being an '89 Softail. The current bike is a 2000 Road Glide, now 90K old, but his favorite was an '89 Springer which he sold (and now wants back).

His most memorable MC experience was his trip up the Alcan Highway to Alaska in 2002, with members James, Janet, Roy and Fred. He has done lots of cross-country riding, including Sturgis, *etc.*, and averages about 15k per year. He says his best SCHRA experience has been the 16 years serving as a road captain. The worst was witnessing new member Dumb Fuck Watermelon Head Norman crash on the freeway on his first club ride!

Sweet Marvioso was the victim of an inattentive young driver, being hit broadside in an intersection. He ended up pinned by his crushed ankle to the bent bike, requiring the Fire Dept to use the jaws of life to extricate him. His recollection of this event indicated considerable discomfort. The lesson being try not to bend your bike around your own foot!

And to avoid considerable embarrassment when dismounting your bike in the midst of Vagos and

Mongols, remember to put down the kickstand (it's a chronic and contagious problem of major proportions)! Sumbudy suggests to

the membership and readers of this article to join us on our great rides and enjoy the friendship and camaraderie of this fun and delightful member first hand!





# Motorcycle Wisdom

*Anonymous (courtesy of Gary Kotler)*

Four wheels move the body. Two wheels move the soul.

Life may begin at 30, but it doesn't get real interesting until about 70 mph.

You start the game of life with a full pot of luck and an empty pot of experience. The object is to fill the pot of experience before you empty the pot of luck.

If you wait, all that happens is that you get older.

Saddlebags can never hold everything you want, but they CAN hold everything you need.

The only good view of a thunderstorm is the one in your rear view mirror.

Don't ride so late into the night that you sleep through the sunrise.

Sometimes it takes a whole tank of fuel before you can think straight.

Never hesitate to ride past the last street light at the edge of town.

Never do less than forty miles before breakfast.

One bike on the road is worth two in the garage.

Young riders pick a destination and go. Old riders pick a direction and go.

Whatever it is, it's better to do it in the wind.

Two-lane blacktop isn't a highway, it's an attitude.

People are like motorcycles: each is customized a bit differently.

The best alarm clock is sunshine on chrome.

A friend is someone who'll get out of bed at 2 a.m. to drive his pickup to the middle of nowhere to get you when you've broken down.

Catching a yellow jacket in your shirt at 70 mph can double your vocabulary.

If you want to get somewhere before sundown, you can't stop at every tavern.

There's something ugly about a NEW bike on a trailer.

A long ride can clear your mind, restore your faith, and use up a lot of fuel.

If you can't get it going with bungee cords, wire and electrical tape, it's serious.

Never try to race an old geezer; he may have one more gear than you.

Bikes parked out front mean good chicken-fried steak inside.

You can forget what you do for a living when your knees are in the breeze.

Only a biker knows why a dog sticks his head out the car window.

There are two types of people in this world: people who ride motorcycles and people who wish they could!

# 2009 Ride Schedule

# Extra Wind

<b>Santa Barbara Day Ride</b>		
Woodlake Bowl, 9:30a, Richard S.		Jan 17, Sat
<b>Canyon Country Dinner Ride</b>		
Millie's, 5p, Mike L.		Jan 31, Sat
<b>Huntington Library Day Ride</b>		
Millie's, 10a, Jerry S.		Feb 8, Sun
<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>Noriega's Day Ride</b>		
Millie's, 9a, Mike L.		May 24, Sun
<b>JB's Excellent Arizona Adventure</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

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 2008 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
Treasurer	Ron Lynn	Treas@schra.org
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, Bob Thompson, Ron Lynn, Mitch Pullman, Mike Levison, Lou Piano, Dave Malin

### 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.

## Shindler & Lynn, CPAs

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## Membership Updates

Please welcome new members:

Keith Hudson and his fiancé Gayle Prousalis

### 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:**

### **Check Out Our 2009 Ride Calendar**

#### ***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**



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