



# ROLLING THUNDER

October 2017

VOLUME XXVI NUMBER 10

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**Next Meeting:  
September 14, 2017**

**Publishing Deadline:  
For November RT  
October 29, 2017**



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

**C**indy and I have returned from our fantastic driving trip around the Pacific Northwest and lower Canada which was the reason we were unable to be at the September meeting.

By the way, big thanks to J.B. for chairing the meeting in our absence.

This was a trip that Cindy & I had talked about doing for several years and we just never seemed to get around to doing it. Something would always come up that would make the time unavailable. Then suddenly an opportunity came up from out of the blue.

Since it was all done on very short notice, as with any trip there were a few minor hiccups along the way (like giant smoky fires in the Cascade mountains blowing westerly), and we had to make some adjustments on the fly, but everything worked out just fine. I'll be happy to tell you some stories about our adventure, but I'll need more space than this column affords.

Ok; just a little overview; we were with an old college buddy and his wife who I know from Boston but who I've seen only a few times in the last 50 years. We did our excursion in a rented SUV which we picked up after flying into Portland, OR. As it turned out I did almost all of the driving which was just fine by me while Jack's wife Sara did the navigating from her iPhone Waze app. Based on the turn-in receipt from Alamo, we totaled 1706 miles! It sure didn't seem like it was that many miles and I really wasn't keeping track along the way. The conversation was always lively and fortunately we all got along great which certainly added to the enjoyment factor - kinda' like when we do our SCHRA Club trips. Everyone always seems to be congenial on our Club rides, and I can't ever remember a time when things have

gotten contentious or confrontational, which I think is somewhat uncommon among bikers. I could be wrong, but in any case I am most grateful for the camaraderie our Club members enjoy and how well everything has worked out.

During some of the quiet times on the trip I was giving some thought to Club matters and also realized that at the next meeting, on October 12th, we'll be taking nominations for next year's officers. Holy Moly, how fast it comes around! Serving as president during the year 2017 has been a great honor and privilege, however, I realize that the office of president requires more fresh ideas and energy than I've brought to the position, and therefore I won't be running for re-election next year. One thing that we really need, in my opinion, is to add to the membership through social media activity. Unless we broaden our membership ranks, they will inevitably continue to shrink, and that's not such a good thing going forward. Now, don't get me wrong; the group of friends and the camaraderie we share is hard to match, whether our group is larger or smaller, but our over-nighters, weekend rides and Club activities are drawing fewer participants, and I'm out of ideas on how to promote us. And more than that, even good promotional ideas need to be put into practice, and that takes energy, and I fear I don't have enough energy for the task.

So put your thinking caps on and let's try to come up with a plan. Just as an example, we had some discussion during our recent Eastern Sierras Ride about our mostly dysfunctional SCHRA website, so Jack Launius took on the task and resurrected the website through his own initiative knowledge and energy. Thank you, Jack; we are most grateful to you for tackling that.

We must keep moving forward, so onward and upward in '18, I say!

Jerry



## Upcoming Events

*JB - Activities Director*

# October, November, December

**I**t's darker in the morning and the sun sets sooner. Insidiously and inconspicuously the seasons change. Holidays and fun times lie ahead; but take heed, the year ain't over yet. There's still some activities on our current calendar which deserve your consideration and participation. See for yourself.

## **OCTOBER**

### **Sunday 10/15, - San Pedro & USS Iowa; Zummallen**

I'm still a little puzzled about this event. In the various versions of our Ride Schedule I show this as an active event which is still on the calendar; but on other versions it is missing. Can anybody confirm if this event is still a "go" or has it been set aside for another time?

## **NOVEMBER**

### **Friday 11/3 - Sunday 11/5 - Borrego Springs; Lynn**

As of press-time we still have no details regarding accommodations, departure place, or departure time. It has been a while since our last visit here, which boasts a wide variety of statuary in the surrounding fields and countryside. Stay tuned for an Event Alert providing the necessary details. As of our September club meeting (by show of hands) there were quite a few who said they would like to participate.

## **DECEMBER**

### **Saturday 12/16 - Celebration of Year-End Holidays; Piano**

Seems strange talking about our Holiday Party when we still have Halloween and Thanksgiving ahead of us, but the shorter days and cooler air are testimony to the fact that we are "there again." Look for an Event Alert to provide the necessary details about our annual "Hors d'Oeuvre Extravaganza."

## Trip to the Eastern Sierras w/SCHRA *Cindy Stern - Ass't RC -currently unemployed*



Trip To The Eastern Sierras with SCHRA  
9/22 - 9/24

By Cindy Stern



**S**o -- on the morning of September 22, with the distinct nip of fall in the air, our posse met up at Denny's at Sand Canyon for the start of three days exploring the Eastern Sierras. We had selected Bishop as our headquarters, because we always stay in Lone Pine, and wanted to see some new territory.

Our adventurous group consisting of the Sternz, Joe and Caroline Gubbrud, Lee and Anita Blackman, and Lou Piano and Jack Launius rode out, covered the usual ground and stopped in the usual places until we reached Lone Pine. There we had a delightful lunch at "The Grill", recommended by J.B. Our first stop after lunch was at the Manzanar National Historic Site. It was one of 10 camps across the country where more than 110,000 Japanese Americans and others of Japanese descent were involuntarily relocated from 1942 to 1945. Most of the camp is torn down now, but certain buildings are original, like the auditorium which now serves as the visitor center and you can see a very comprehensive picture of life in the camp and the people trying to make a community in this environment. They also recreated some of the family barracks, which were fascinating as a snapshot back in time. We've passed by for years, saying, someday we'll do this. And we're glad the day came on this trip. Everyone in the group agreed that this was a good stop. From Manzanar we went straight to Bishop. A cool down, then a pizza for dinner, with a plan for tomorrow's adventures laid out, we went to bed Happy Campers!

Saturday dawned beautiful so we chowed down breakfast and headed for our first attraction. The Laws Railroad Museum and Historic Site is well known for all kinds of old stuff from Early California, the train and all aspects of the town are featured. The big attraction this day was the re-introduction of "The Slim Princess" a recently restored narrow-gauge train that used to run up there. They were offering rides on the narrow gauge and it was a hoot to watch people wait to board this train that would run them down the middle of "town" for a several block length. Then they would put it in reverse and bring it right back to the start. Ride Over!!! We talked about it but agreed "not much competition for a motorcycle". Joe Bob served as our own private docent as we walked around all the ancient farm equipment, naming things and describing their purposes, and as we walked we realized we were collecting quite a few stragglers who wanted to learn about these things. We could really have spent the better part of the day, but our next adventure was calling so off we went.

After picking up a quick lunch at Schats bakery, we threw them in the bikes and headed for the Bristlecones. Remember my mentioning that there had been a sudden shift in the weather before we took off. The ranger at the Bristlecones said it had snowed the night before and the road had been closed. The temperature leav-

ing the valley floor was around 58 degrees, by the time we climbed the 17 or 18 miles up to the Bristlecones, the thermometer was reading high 30's. There are two places to visit: first is the Schulman Grove visitor center where they show a very interesting video about the Bristlecones and the scientific contributions made since we've been working it. Kind of all about aging of tree rings and being able to accurately carbon date. There is another place to visit the trees which is called the Patriarch Grove, but it has few services and it's located about a mile past Schulman, all traversed on dirt roads. That visit requires some additional planning. But what we did see was an extraordinary look into the planet's past, as told by these magnificent trees.

We came back down the hill to the Owens Valley and then took a scenic detour up to Lake Sabrina on Highway 168, which leaves the center of Bishop in westerly direction. We went in search of some fall colors and found them higher up toward the lakes. A most exceptional detour before we headed back down to town to make our dinner arrangements. A very nice local, walking distance, Chinese restaurant filled the bill quite well.

Leaving Sunday morning, our final sightseeing stop was at the Mount Whitney Hatchery, just west of 395 and two miles north of Independence. The building itself is beautiful and the exhibits are nicely done. The fish hatchery, built in 1917 out of local granite with walls 2 to 3 feet thick, produced millions of rainbow trout eggs annually before flooding in 2008 destroyed four buildings and the fish rearing ponds. A new hatchery has since been built to furnish trout for planting in the local streams and reservoirs. This beautiful hatchery still features exhibits on how the fish are raised, and gives a particularly beautiful demonstration of the California State Fish - the Mount Whitney Golden Trout. The Mount Whitney wilderness and its natural lakes are the only place where this fish can be caught. Ask me sometime about my spot packing trip in 1974, our objective being to catch the beautiful and elusive golden trout.

One final note, upon our arrival at home, the Sunday Times was waiting for us at the door. I love to start with the Travel Section. Lo and behold...the headline was "On The 395? STOP". It opens with the writer saying "We've all probably done it. We load up the car and head north for Mammoth Lakes as quickly as possible. I've finally learned that the 300-plus-miles drive, mostly on US Highway 395, can be as enjoyable, informative and enlightening as the time spent in that great mountain community. And this time of year, the turning of the foliage enhance the experience. Here's a look at 10 worthwhile side trips on that route through the high desert and Eastern Sierra. Except for Red Rock Canyon State Park, which has a daily use fee, there is no cost for any of these spots, though donations are accepted at those with visitor centers. The attractions featured are: Red Rock Canyon, Randsburg, Fossil Falls, Manzanar, Alabama Hills, Mt. Whitney Hatchery, Inyo County Courthouse, Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, Owens River Gorge and Convict Lake. Not all are motorcycle accessible. But after reading this piece in the Times, I was gloating even more at the wonderful trip that we all got to experience together, and we'll go back another time to see everything we missed, plus revisit some of the faves!

Thanks from Jerry and I for making our Road Captain jobs such a pleasure!



## JB's Excellent Chicago Adventure *Brothers Jerry, Howard, Stephen & Dean*

**M**any of you are already familiar with the fiasco surrounding the trip my brothers and I had intended to take this past April. It was supposed to be a voyage of "re-discovery or returning to our roots" as it were.

The first effort was terminated as one by one we each got sick with some unknown malady. This occurred in the Nebraska town of North Platte as we were completing our fourth day on what was supposed to be a 16-day car trip. By the end of the 7<sup>th</sup>-day we were back in Southern California; still queasy but pleased we got to see some spectacular terrain.

Our second 8-day attempt (The Sequel) was far more successful; this time using the services of American Airlines and Alamo Rent-A-Car. We left LA on September 16 and returned on September 23.

The first part of the trip (4-nights) was spent in Chicago and the second part (3-nights) was spent in Wisconsin where my daughter Jill and three of my grandchildren reside.

Our Chicago adventure began with a visit to all four of the residences where I lived from 1936 to 1946. Also participating in the trip was brother Howard (HB), brother Stephen (SB) and brother Dean (DB).

Just a few days prior to departure I was reaching for something on my bookshelf but instead accidentally retrieved my "baby book" which was hidden there in plain sight. While shuffling through the yellowing pages I came across a page in the back on which my mother had written the addresses of all of our Chicago residences. Thank you, Mom, great timing...but how did you know?

Fortunately, our Chicago hotel was in walking distance from two of our past residences and the other two we easily found by car. Even had time to visit storied Lincoln Park and the famous totem pole; a place where my family and I spent many happy hours. At one place, the current tenants saw us photographing and on learning who we were, invited us in for a look and a drink.

On the second day, we journeyed downtown (The

Loop) by way of the "L" (elevated train) and then went on a spectacular architectural tour on a boat on the Chicago River. Later we walked by many drawbridges and visited historic Union Station and took an elevator ride to the 103<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Willis Tower (at one time, the tallest building in the world).

On day three we ventured by bus along the lake-front to downtown again. This time we walked along spectacular Michigan Ave. (The Magnificent Mile) and then out to Navy Pier for a fantastic view of the skyline. Most of our meals during the trip were local to our hotel and usually just a short walk.

Monroe, WI is an easy 2-hour drive from Chicago and is the home of my daughter Jill (also JB) and my grand-daughters Bryce (BB), Brooke (BB), and Britt (BB). One day in Wisconsin was spent at The Dells (greatest number of waterparks of any place in the world) where we took a nostalgic boat ride on a lake which I first visited as a kid of 5 or 6.

Also we travelled through the college town of Madison where we mingled with hundreds of college kids who dominate most of the downtown area (where the WU Campus is located).

Our final day in WI was really spent in IL where we visited the historic town of Galena. The history here includes the likes of Grant, Lincoln, and Douglas...and many more. It is located in a picturesque valley about 3-miles from the Mississippi River and the Iowa state line.

So, there you have it. A trip which was successful in every way imaginable and especially the weather which cooperated with days mostly in the mid to high 80's. It rained only once for about 30 minutes but we were at breakfast. It lightnined like crazy one night in WI but it was the kind without thunder and the rain never materialized.

All was happiness and anticipation when we left, and all was happiness when we returned. We travelled well together and we all are quite gregarious when it comes to engaging in conversation with strangers we met. Now there are dozens of people whose lives we touched and to whom we told the story of who we were and the reason for our trip.

Oh yeah; almost forgot. We wore "Bruce Brothers shirts" which proved we really were who we said we were!



## Reno Street Vibrations

*Lou Piano - One of Many*

Wednesday, 8:00 am, Denny's at Roxford. Meet w/5 other surreptitious eager bikers. To wit: Dave Z, Bob D, Ira G, Sparky S. & Lee (apparently no last name?). Left promptly at 8:20 am!

On the road north to familiar places I had not seen since last week-end. Lunch at the now infamous Schatt's bakery. Lunch for me was a nice turkey leg w/mashed potatoes and vegetables a roll and pudding for dessert - \$10.00 buck with the senior discount.

Back on the bikes to Minden, about 5 miles or so before Carson City - the capital of Nevada, to our Holiday Inn Express. A nice big room with a sitting area and plenty of room for both me and Dave.

The evening started with a visit to the oldest town in Nevada - Genoa city established in 1851. We met at the oldest bar in Nevada which was established 2 years later. We met with friends of Sparky & Ira most of whom were in the Hamsters. Meet and greet and after a while we (me, Bob & Dave) left the bar and decided to get a quick light dinner at a fast food restaurant by the motel and turn in early for a busy next day.

We woke up early Thursday morning, ate breakfast at the motel and prepared to meet, again, at the Genoa bar at 9:30 for a day ride around Lake Tahoe. This was going to be led by a guy in the club by the exquisite name of 'Bob'. Off we went took off just after 10:00 am and immediately headed to higher ground passing through the town of Daggett and through many small quaint and colorful communities.

Lunch was pre-arranged for us at Sonney's Bar-B-Que restaurant which was owned by another

Hamster. We arrived late, around 3:00 pm, but had a nice lunch and chat anyway. Some of us left right after eating and took the quickest route



home which turned out to be a nice ride too.

Bob, Dave and me finished the day by taking a short, 5 or 6 mile, ride to Battle Born Harley Davidson in Carson City. They had several vendors set-up in the parking lot and a good size stage and seating area with a dance floor in the front of the stage. When we got there a single guy with a guitar was singing something that sounded a little like country western music. I'm sure he was good, unfortunately I don't have much of an ear for that type of thing. The dealership was open and we went in to check out the new bikes. There

was only 4 2018 models and none of us noted any big changes.

We headed back to the motel and decided to skip dinner because we had such a late lunch. Time to rest up for another ride and long day tomorrow. We still hadn't gone to down-

town Reno! The trip was called "Street Vibrations - Reno". Hopefully we could make it there after the ride.

Next Month:

Stay tuned for the next 2 days and the ride home.





Week-End at Monterey

Staff Writer - JB - SCHRA/RCHR

## JB & Judy Attend RCHR Weekend At Monterey & Pacific Grove

**F**rom the time we saw this event listed in the RCHR calendar, it was an easy decision to sign on. For us, however, the event required an extra day for travel to Monterey Bay so we left after noon on Thursday 9/28 and stayed an extra night so we could meet our fellow members for lunch at Fisherman's Wharf.

The trip was designed in a way that precluded the need for bikes because most places were an easy walk away. Also, we had the convenience of a 14-passenger van which was needed so we could access the famous 17 Mile Drive (no bikes allowed). That's why Judy and I chose to go to Monterey on four-wheels rather than three.

We met up with our friends at noon on Friday at The Big Fish Grill, located at the end of the Wharf. The ten of us were treated to clear views of the boats, birds and otters from our dining room table. The weather was in the low 70's and the sky was bright blue with wispy clouds here and there. Following lunch, we checked out some of the touristy stores located on this popular wharf and did a touch of people-watching.

After lunch it was time for the Sacramento group to check in at the Borg's Motel, located at Lovers Point right in the heart of Pacific Grove, overlooking the sand and sea. The next order of business was happy-hour and many varieties of drink and munchies suddenly appeared. (These guys know how to party). Dinner this evening was at the Beach House Restaurant, less than a two-minute walk from the motel.

Our primary activity on Saturday was the van-tour along the magnificent 17 Mile Drive, followed by a fine lunch at Pebble Beach, just across from the putting green at Del Monte Lodge. Rooms at the lodge run from \$800 to \$1200 per night, and that's after paying \$500 bucks to play a round of golf. Then it was time to return to the motel for a short rest before driving to Cannery Row for dinner at the boisterous Bubba Gump establishment.

The next morning by 8:00 AM the River City group was already headed back to Sacramento and Judy and I began our trek south. To add a little variety to the drive however, we took the long scenic route home by way of Carmel Valley Road, followed by our customary stop for lunch at Bell Street Farms in Los Alamos.

It was a very fun four-days for us and we continue to enjoy getting to know the great folks at RCHR. Please keep in mind that many RCHR activities are open to SCHRA members who would like to participate. When I see something which looks interesting on their ride schedule I'll provide the dates and details if anyone is interested.

## 2016 - 17 Officers and Board Members

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

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	Black	0
LS	White	0
	Blue	0
	Black	2

LARGE 0

cont)

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Blue	2
Black	5
<u>LS</u>	
White	0
Blue	0
Black	2
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