

California District Gold



Golden State Gems May 2008

We've had a fabulous last 30+ days riding our Wing around our beautiful state and seeing many of you. When last we met, we were getting ready for a trip with Chapter I, an over-nighter that would take us to Anza Borrego desert and much more. Dan Morgan had planned this ride and although I must admit going into the ride I wasn't certain of this "tactics" I was up for a new adventure. I know that other chapters have done mystery rides with great success and this started that way. At the meeting Dan gave out incredibly detailed maps, brochures and a schedule (I use that term loosely!). He had told the groups through email to plan the groups they wanted to ride with before arriving at the riders meeting and he had given out all the names of attendees (except ours as we were a surprise to the chapter when we arrived at their riders meeting and that was fun). Then the groups were on their own to follow the route in their own time. There were many stops available with much to see, but the time you stayed in that location was up to your group. Well, I wasn't sure about this, but this ride taught this ol' DD a new trick! The sites were incredible, places I had not explored in such detail, the wildflowers were blooming and the history of our own "backyard" was revealed. We all met for a wonderful dinner where stories were shared and then many partied until the wee hours of the AM. It was a leisurely morning by most and then off we went to see more sites and then head for home. It was a great event and we are so happy that we were asked to ride along!

The ride definitely gave me a new look at doing a ride. We sometimes do things the same way because it's comfortable, and...it's the way we've always done it ☺ I will challenge the chapters to take a look at your ride calendars and see what you can do to spice them up. The ride we took was close geographically but we traveled many miles and learned stuff about our own "backyard" that we didn't know. It was the adventure, friendship and the ride that made this fun. It wasn't a real expensive weekend but it was something different and I believe worth looking into for the chapters to encourage more folks to come out and ride.

So we came home, repacked our bags and headed the next weekend for Rally in the Valley. Chapter R did an awesome job again on their event. The riding that can be done from Mesquite is incredible and for me it was really cool to realize that it was my picture on the back of their shirts (they thought JR took it because he photo-shopped his helmet out of the picture). Thanks for another great event.

Chapter Q did not disappoint with their ride the following weekend. We had our grandson with us so we were in the car but the park is fabulous and the food, the food, the food...way too much and incredibly tasty!!!!

Then we were off to the L/Y weekend. The pirates met in Arroyo Grande and you could take a ride or walking tour of the area. This is always a beautiful ride and what a great time of year to be there instead of October! Then after another great dinner at the Hitchin' Post in Casmelia (a tradition that started 10 years ago with Jimmy Zabler and we gladly continue with each year), we joined the mighty ducks of Y for a beautiful ride (yes we got lost) through their countryside. It was a great idea to put these events back to back as it gave many of us time to really visit. It was a great turnout of support, but what I don't

understand is this. Southern California, 2J and 2W were there in support of this event. We were mid way up the state, so I ask...Northern California, where were you? You missed a great event and we missed seeing you again. Just a challenge to support each other and come out and have fun!

The calendar is still full of fun events for May and we'll see you there. There is also an event coming in June, the 27th, 28th, 29th, the Horizon's Program will be held in Bakersfield again at the Doubletree Hotel. Look for the flyers to be out soon and plan to be there. If you want to hear about Horizon's from a student, go to Chapter R's website and go back about 2 months of newsletters and read the article by ACD's Rick and CJ Kagamaster, it really tells you about the program from the student's view point. I can tell you how fantastic it is and that you shouldn't miss it, but hear it from a student. This program is not only for future leaders in GWRRA but any volunteer leader anywhere. The definition of leadership is anyone who takes the lead for any type of event or organization. It is an awesome program that is loads of fun and we want to see you there. Flyers should be out by the time you read this.

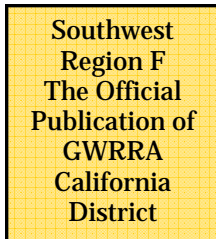
The last thing is that I will be working with Mike Burke, the District Webmaster, to build a District Rally webpage. The registration form is already out and we have even received some back, THANK YOU!! We will be displaying the T-shirt for the rally on the site, as well as talking about the vendors who will be attending, classes that will be held and the fun events that are scheduled. We should have that up by the end of May and we'd love your feedback when it's up and running. It will be a part of the District website so no new address is required, on www.gwrri-ca.org.

So Happy Mother's Day and we'll see you at the upcoming events!

Ride safe, spread happiness and be good to each other!



Anita and JR
California District Directors



Random Ramblings John Maguire

MOM

It was 1963 and my best friend and partner in crime, Roger Clarke, and I had grown weary of pedaling our bicycles around town. We wanted to expand our horizons by getting our hands on some cheap, gas powered transportation. Our families didn't have much money and whatever we ended up with had to be inexpensive and easy to work on.

Being young, restless and fearless, the two of us decided that motorcycles would fill the bill nicely until we could get our hands on enough money for a car. Crashing, injuries and possible death never entered our youthful minds. This was not the case with our mothers. Moms have a tendency for being able to foresee the future and also are usually predisposed to protecting those of us who appear to lack the ability to do so for ourselves.

My mom was not having any part of our plan for gaining greater freedom. Just as she had when she cast the deciding vote against my getting a b-b gun, she also openly voiced her decision that there would be no motorcycle in my life either. Based on this and taking into account our fearlessness and lack of regard for personal safety, Roger and I ded the only thing we could do...we sneaked out and rented two motorcycles from a small shop a couple miles from our homes.

That day will live in my memory forever. Roger and I rode those Yamaha Twin-jet 100's all day and learned firsthand how wonderful even smog can taste when you are truly free to experience the wind in your face for the first time. We rode all day and reveled in how easy it was to go where we wanted and see so much new scenery. The day went smoothly...there were no accidents and though I don't think my mother ever learned of our "most excellent day off", I was bitten hard by the motorcycle bug.

Shortly after that, and for no apparent reason, mom told me that I had her permission to buy a small motorcycle. I don't know if she ever found out about our previous adventure but I think that she knew that she couldn't protect me forever and it just might be a good thing to have someone in the family who could run errands easily and quickly. With that, it wasn't long before I had my little black C110 Super Cub.

Girls loved our bikes, their moms (and dads) usually didn't. We loved our bikes, but they weren't allowed into drive-in movies. Eventually, girls and drive-ins just seemed to go together and it wasn't long before we moved on to four wheels and fogged up windows. Roger and I lost track of each other many years ago, but even after so much else in my life has changed, I still love my bike. And after all is said and done I suppose that leaves me with... "Thanks for everything Mom." And HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Green Lights and Open Highways

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Lady Riders

by
Pat Bennett

Howdy! The weather is beginning to warm up and the skies are getting clearer. Time to do maintenance, such as check tires, oil and loose screws on our machines! Also be sure to pack a couple bottles of water, so you don't get dehydrated.

Keep the Rubber Side Down
Pat

Editor's Comments

by
Crystal Rush

Thanks Mom



Since Mother's Day is celebrated this month I am dedicating my article to all moms, mine passed away 10 years ago this year. I think my daughter put it most eloquently when she presented me with a framed photo of herself and the following inscription when I was in the hospital on my birthday...

"Throughout the years you have been there thru my pains and sorrows, my greatest joys and most exciting moments, my times of inspiration and growth, and my every day journey through life. You have watched me grow into the young woman I am and have guided me in my path. Thank you for all the love you have shown me and thank you for always having an open heart. I'm so grateful to God for giving me you as my mother and you're someone I will never be able to replace. I love you more than words can ever express. Thank you for being one of my closest friends and loving me unconditionally. I love you."

There were many years I spent angry at my mom but in the end I loved her and ten years later I still miss

her...she would have celebrated her 70th birthday this year. If your mom is still on this earth take time to give her a hug and thank her, we may not always have the mom we want but our moms chose to bring us into this world, gave us their hearts and loved us no matter what.

See you on the road!

Crystal J. Rush
Assistant District Director
Newsletter Editor



*Remember: Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, coffee in the other, totally worn out and screaming “**WOO HOO WHAT A RIDE!**”*

Horizon's is coming up then end of June at the Doubletree in Bakersfield. Those of you that have never attended I would encourage you as Anita did in her article to go to Chapter R's website and read Rick & CJ's article in their newsletter. We learn so much more than how to be a leader...we learn how to have fun and have a whole lot of fun in the process. Come join us and learn how to have a ride from the Midwest to the West Coast in a day or how to put on an interplanetary fun run ☺

You'll also learn a little something about your personality profile that just maybe you didn't already know or possibly your significant other didn't know. Or maybe you'll pick up a little insight on how to defuse an explosive situation. If nothing else, we will have a lot of fun on the journey through Horizons!

May 2008

Sunday	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	Saturday
				1	2	3 CA1 V Peggy Sue's Diner
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 CA1 K Mother's Day Poker Run
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2008

Sunday	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 CA2J Poker Run
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
CA1D Poker Run	23	24	25	26	27	28
						Horizons - Bakersfield
Horizons Bakersfield	30					