

California District Gold



Golden State Gems April 2008

There are new adventures in the Alkire household this month. We have had great events this month so far that have taken us to 2 amazing bake sales (1A and 1M) and then to beautiful Ventura for 1S's Leprechaun Ride. We went to the last one in the car since we were staying over and visiting 1V before going home. Good thing as it not only rained on the way to Victorville but it snowed. Just ask JR why they paint the tops of the telephone poles white, he'll tell you a funny story ☺!

It is so fabulous to visit with all of our friends in GWRRA. We had just seen Larry and Elyse Lovejoy from 1Y and on Tuesday received the very sad news that Larry had been hit on his Wing and was killed. Our hearts and prayers go out to Elyse and her children in their time of loss. Know that your GWRRA family is surrounding you in love and support.

Then within an hour of that call I received an email from Tim McShane, CD of 1D and then follow ups from Charlie Sento, 1Q and Ray and Nancy Martin, 1R about Dr. David Jackson, "Doc" who had missed a truck but hit the trailer the truck was pulling. We are thrilled at this writing to tell you that Doc has still a long recovery ahead of him, but there has been progress with his brain stem injury and there is great optimism! Please send your love, good thoughts and prayers to Doc and his wife Gayle and their family for his speedy recovery.

These 2 incidents really demonstrate how precious life is and that we should live it to the fullest each and every day. So that brings us to the newest adventure at our home. I have wanted a dog for several years. I have adopted the Elmore's 2 Goldens (course they still live with Rick and Joyce) and felt like they are kind of mine, but I decided it was time for a dog. Well, not exactly ☺ On Good Friday I played hooky with the family and we went to the mall. Bobbie wanted to show me a Snickerdoodle dog in the pet store. We walked in and there were 2 beautiful Siberian Huskys in the case. I told them that I really wanted one of them but we didn't have the yard to accommodate them but that I had set my sites on an American Eskimo, a dog that looks like a miniature Samoyed. So we go back to see the Snickerdoodle and what is right above it, 2 beautiful American Eskimo's. Well of course I had to see one. He will be a great motorcycle dog ☺ Oh we need both, 1 for us and 1 for the kids.....sure! We have 2 cute, adorable Eskie puppies, Denali, our puppy and Kodiak, the kids' puppy which they will take after their condo closes escrow. I realized that I have never had a puppy before, I adopted dogs...oh my goodness! So we'll see if Denali makes a good motorcycle dog and then you'll see him as well. (JR is this an acceptable reason to buy the puppy?)

So new adventures for us to add to our GWRRA adventures. We have been working on the District rally and are getting excited about the fun we will have. We will also be doing a Horizon's class on June 27-29th in Bakersfield and we are working on an Education weekend where we will teach the instructors course, seminar instructor course and First Aid/CPR instructors course. Look for flyers to come out on the last 2 events and the District Rally flyer is already on our website so you can go ahead and register early, I have already received 8 registrations, thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

April here we come, Rally in the Valley, Rendezvous with Q, Ahoy Matties with 1L and flowers and fun with the Ducks of 1Y. We end the month with a special Ride for Kids dinner at Lucy and Monty Carpenters home. So come out and have some fun with your GW family!

Be safe, love each other and we'll see you soon!



Anita and JR
California District Directors

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California
District



Random Ramblings John Maguire

FUN

I had seen him many times since I moved here. Chestnut colored and elegant with a long, black mane and tail, 'Brody' the horse always presented a magnificent vision standing in his pasture. But on this occasion, as I rode by, he wasn't where he usually stands; peacefully relaxing by the fence watching the cars and munching on the new spring grasses. No, on this occasion he was racing at full speed around his acre-deep enclosure. Leaning deeply into the corners without slowing, he would occasionally leap high into the air shaking his head and swishing his tail from side to side wildly. It appeared to me that Brody was truly enjoying the fresh, clean spring breeze and the opportunity to stretch his muscles and race with the wind. It was obvious to me that Brody was having fun.

Seeking out and enjoying a fun time is the privilege of all higher animals. Horses, dolphins, dogs, cats, humans and most other mammals all possess a tiny particle in their DNA that enables them to feel and seek out joy and happiness. You can see it in tiny human babies only a few weeks old, who will giggle and laugh when you tickle their feet or make a funny face at them. Dolphins leap high into the air, turning summersaults and twisting rapidly in mid-air. Puppies chase their tails and wrestle with their litter-mates. Some might argue that these are learning experiences, but it seems to me that they are actually having a good time.

So it is with us 'mature' human beings. My father once told me that if I found a way to make a living doing something that I really enjoyed, I would never 'work a day of my life.' Thinking back on the various jobs I've had, I know that he was right. Those times when I truly enjoyed my work, I never watched the clock praying for quitting time. I never dreaded Mondays and my life was good overall.

The same is true with riding motorcycles and being a part of a chapter. Some might say that they ride a bike for the economy or efficiency of using a smaller vehicle to get around. It's my opinion that we ride because it's just plain fun. Heck, the very first tenet listed in the Goldwing Road Rider Association motto is "Friends for fun..."

Which brings me to our chapter lives. I have attended quite a few chapter meetings. By my count I have visited at least twenty individual chapters, attended well over one hundred chapter meetings and participated in at least two to three times that many outings and rides. And after all that, the ones I remember best are the ones where I laughed the hardest and had the most fun. If fun and laughter hadn't been a big part of GW gatherings I wouldn't have stayed active for as long as I have. Frankly, I can have a great time all by myself aboard Ol' Blue cruising the countryside without GWRRA being involved at all and I believe that's true for most other members as well. So why would anyone want to join your chapter unless they are going to have memorable, fun times with friends?

I have heard it said that the real fun in GWRRA is riding and that chapter meetings are for the business of GW and the dissemination of information. On this I would disagree. You see, for some in our organization, the chapter meetings are the only opportunity they have to meet with and share their lives with other chapter members. For many, the monthly chapter meeting is something that they look forward to with excitement and enjoy more than any other part of what we do here.

For me, the funny little jokes, the retelling of adventures, the ride planning and conversations together with other members is a major part of what I came to GWRRA for. I believe the very foundation that we build our chapters on and the one and only thing that brings new members to GWRRA is and always will be sharing laughter, friendship and good times together. Keep in mind that there can never be too much laughter and love in our lives. Laughter is healing. Laughter is refreshing. Laughter is important. Without it GWRRA and each of our chapters will, most certainly, suffer.

With that, let's take a lesson from Brody, the horse...Keep your face in the wind, run as fast as you can and remember to lean into the corners. Now let's all go out and laugh and enjoy life and our motorcycles together. We will all be the better for it.

Green Lights and Open Highways

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Lady Riders

**by
Pat Bennett**

Lady Riders

No new news this month.

Editor's Comments

by
Crystal Rush

There's Always Tomorrow



This month's articles seem to have taken a turn toward animals...sorry I won't be continuing that trend. I do have a cat that I love very much and enjoy having him sit on my lap when I'm home in the evenings but this month I want to address life.

As it is highly obvious, today is the 12th of April and I am just now sitting down to my computer to put together this newsletter. (Anita, am I fired? 😊😞😊) The heading pretty much sums it up....there's always tomorrow! It seems I've been going through the past month or so telling myself there's always tomorrow yet how many times have you heard tomorrow never gets here? So many times I opt to go on that ride, or schedule another appointment because I can always get whatever done tomorrow. Since you've already read Anita's article then it makes you realize there may not be tomorrow. So I've decided to stop putting off stuff until tomorrow, I will just slow down a bit and learn to say no to some things, so the things I need to get done today actually get done.

What I'm really trying to say is there will be times when I don't show up to an event but it doesn't mean I don't want to be there, it just means that I couldn't put off something else...until tomorrow.

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!**"*



April 2008

Sunday	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Rendezvous With Chapter Q 13	14	15	16	17	18	CAIL Ahoy Maties 19
CAIY Tax Ride 20	21	22	23	24	25	CAII Ride for Kids Dinner Fund Raiser 26
27	28	29	30			

May 2008

Sunday	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	Saturday
				1	2	3 CAI V Peggy Sue's Diner
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 CAI 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