

California District Gold



Golden State Gems October 2009

We really did have an awesome District Rally! As we have looked back it was so great to see all the costumes, what a fun era for dress up, the fun with the games, the full bingo hall, classrooms overflowing with students and a spectacular closing banquet with very creative centerpieces depicting the Roaring 20's. We want to thank all of you who came to share the rally with us and we want to thank our incredible staff who all worked hard before, during and after to bring the fun to you.

So is it true and what does it mean? Yes, JR and I stepped up to the Region F Director position. Thanks to all of you for making California such a great District which resulted in our being asked to spread the fun and games that we have enjoyed over the past years with the rest of the region. What states are in the Southwest Region, California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Hawaii. So our trips will be longer as we get to ride the great territory of the southwest, but we will continue to travel our great state as well and we'll get to as many poker runs and bake sales that we can. We are excited to step into this position and we'll work hard making sure that the region "makes a difference one member at a time".

So instead of putting on a District Rally, we'll be putting on Region F's Rally, West Wing 2, The Winger Family Beach Party. We lucked out as the rally location was already chosen before we stepped up and how nice it will be for it to be in our home state! The rally will be at the Orange County Hilton/Costa Mesa, a fantastic hotel and we'll have an early bird start day on Thursday, with bingo, a movie and free pizza. Opening ceremonies will be Friday followed by a pool party, beach style with free ice cream. On Saturday we'll have a banquet dinner and entertainment and then conclude the event on Sunday with an afternoon awards ceremony and in the evening we'll have our closing ceremonies along with a professional comedy talent show, similar to the talent show last year at West Wing 1 and that will be accompanied by a \$2.00 In-and-Out burger, chips and drink. All throughout the weekend we'll have great seminars and loads of vendors. The planning is exciting and we look forward to welcoming you! Watch the Region F website for more details.

We will be attending the New Mexico District rally while many of you will be enjoying Camp Nelson and 2A's famous spaghetti! We'll come home for a couple days and then head up to CAC's Harvest Run and on the 10th of October we'll attend the V Run. We'll take a family break to celebrate Dad's birthday and then at the end of the month we'll have 1F's Halloween run on the 24th followed by 1Z's Naked run on the 25th, another back to back weekend so you can travel and stay the night and get 2 rallies for 1 weekend. Then over Halloween we'll be at Lake Havasu for the Arizona District Rally. So October will be a busy month which will also include San Diego's Ride for Kids.

As our tenure with the District is winding down, Bill and Rene Johnson, your District Directors as of January 1, 2010 are busy winding up for their tenure. Bill has asked the Chapter Directors to ask all of you how you would feel about having next year's District Rally in Mammoth? This should be as much fun as Tahoe with a more affordable price tag. The accommodations will be condo style but in a single resort unlike Tahoe. There are 1 bedroom units which will be about \$140/night including taxes; a 2 bedroom unit will be about \$118/bedroom/night and the few 3 bedroom units will go for about \$110/bedroom/night, on all prices the taxes are included. It may sound expensive but being it's condo style you'll be able to cook a meal to offset some of the cost. Let's face it a breakfast at a hotel will run you about \$10/person and if there are 2 of you that's \$20/day savings that effectively reduces the room rate. So please let your Chapter Director know how you feel so they can get back to Bill so he'll know how to plan for next year's rally. Bill and Rene and their new staff will bring new and exciting fun to our District and we're so pleased that they will be taking over the reins in January (just a thought, you might invest in a squirt gun for safety ☺)

So as we head into fall and the leaves start to turn and it will get darker earlier be extra careful out there. Whether traveling by bike, trike or car, the shadows will change and we need to be extra alert so we can stay safe. It's probably time to go out and attend your chapter's PLP and brush up on some skills. Don't forget also that our clothing needs are going to change as well. Find those heavier gloves, neck warmers and test out your electrics so you're ready for that brisk temperature that some of the women around you will completely enjoy ☺. So plan ahead now so that your fall riding will be as pleasurable as you can make it and we'll see you on the road. Be safe, be happy and keep smiling!



Anita and JR
California District Directors
Region F Directors

Southwest
Region F
The Official
Publication of
GWRRA
California
District



Random Ramblings John Maguire

Fear and Exhilaration

It seems to me that the main difference between "Fear" and "Exhilaration" is where your feet are at that moment. If your feet are firmly planted on terra firma and you've just experienced something wildly out of the ordinary, you may feel exhilarated. However, rocket down a twisty, winding road at an unnervingly high rate of speed and the brakes are defective or you're not the person controlling the vehicle and your feet are contacting the floorboards, and fear will be the overriding emotion running through your brain and the seat of your pants. Survive the experience and wind up standing next to the smoking hulk of what's left of your ride and exhilaration is once again your companion.

My earliest recollection of 'vehicular fear' was in my early teens. I had spent a summer working at the Crystal Lake Resort in the San Gabriel Mountains. I had been offered a ride home by one of the older boys who also worked at the resort. This guy owned a little white sports car with wire wheels and a cloth top. I hadn't started driving yet but I was very intent on watching and learning so I would be ready in a few years to take the wheel myself.

It didn't take long before I grew to regret ever accepting that ride. Apparently, my erstwhile chauffeur fancied himself to be quite the racecar driver and he was intent on setting some sort of speed record for driving down that narrow canyon road. He threw that little car into each curve with a determination I had

never experienced. The tires screamed in protest each time we went around a corner on the mountain road. In my mind's eye I could see those wire wheels coming apart and depositing my adolescent body at the bottom of some impossibly deep canyon. I wanted nothing to do with that ride but was too frightened to speak up and complain to the A.J. Foyt Jr piloting that missile. Eventually we made it to my home and as I stepped out of the mobile coffin I experienced total exhilaration and a rock solid determination to never ride with that fool again.

So, here I am, forty-five years later and I can count on one hand the times I have felt mortal fear while in or on a vehicle. I once flew to Palm Beach, Florida immediately behind a major hurricane. The plane pitched, rolled and jolted violently during the entire flight. The seat-pocket barf bag was my closest friend and my one fear was that my broken, twisted body would be found with the bag pressed firmly to my mouth. We made it ok but I came away with a lot of respect for Boeing aircraft and the men and women who pilot and maintain them.

The most fearful ride I have ever taken on a motorcycle was the one and only time I rode as a passenger on the back of my friend's Gold Wing. Believe me, I have a world of respect for all you who make that back seat your home on the road.

But none of these events can compare to the fear I felt earlier this week when I took a ride in a New York City taxicab. Debi and I spent the last two weeks in New England, visiting our daughter and exploring landmarks we have wanted to see for many years. We decided that evening that we wanted to experience a dinner at a really nice restaurant near Times Square and felt that driving there on our own might not be smart. So, we hailed a cab, told him where we wanted to go and climbed into what turned into the backseat of the 'Cab From Hell'.

Our ride was to be about thirty-five blocks. We were in no hurry and we were looking forward to seeing some of New York at night. Our driver, Abdullah, (or was it Beelzebub?), morphed into that guy who had driven that sports car so long ago.... only now, he had graduated to a car with a V8 engine! The speedometer registered over 65 mph as we slid from lane to lane, dodging cars, people and street signs. I looked over at Debi to find that she had her hands over her eyes and was mumbling something that sounded a lot like the Lord's Prayer. The engine was roaring like a caged beast. I yelled to the driver that there was no hurry to get to the restaurant. He shouted something back that I couldn't understand. I think I may have heard the words 'finish line' but I really can't be sure. I found myself frozen in fear as I watched streetlights, pedestrians, police cars and other cabs flash by the side window like some sort of possessed video game. Glancing to the front out the windshield I saw that people crossing the street in front of us were jumping out of the way of our out-of-control death-mobile. Red traffic signals didn't seem to matter much to Abdullah. Tapping the brake momentarily for effect, he would then jam the throttle to the floor and jet on through as though there was no signal at all. My entire life flashed before my eyes, including that ride down the canyon so many years ago. Debi and I were convinced that our lives would end there in deepest, darkest New York.

Careening around a corner we slid to a stop in front of our restaurant. I don't remember paying the cabbie. I'm sure I did though. The next thing I remember was the overwhelming sense of exhilaration at finally finding myself holding Debi's hand, standing on the curb and watching Abdullah and his death cab slip away into the neon-lit night.

Green Lights and Sane Cab Drivers for everyone.

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Lady Riders

by
Pat Bennett



It is a misconception that Lady Riders do not like long rides, with or without weather issues. Make no mistake; most of us are up to the task! Yes, we are the “fairer sex,” but we do have stamina.

Our Ladies’ ages range from the teens to the 80’s, with different distance comfort levels. Some are happy with just a meal ride and others think nothing of 400 plus miles a day, for several days. It’s all a matter of being able to “Ride Your Ride,” as it says in the Wing World Magazine.

Keep the shiny side up and the rubber side down!

Pat



Editor’s Comments

by
Crystal Richardson

It’s My Turn ☺

Now that certainly is a funny title isn’t it! The reason I decided to use it is because I have to tell you, I love the fact that I get to write the final article for the newsletter every month. It gives me the opportunity to reflect on everybody else’s articles and either add to them or just touch on another topic.

So for this month I’m going to do a little of both. Anita and JR, congratulations from the California District on your appointment to Region F Directors; I think Melissa made an excellent choice. Plus, now that JR is SERIOUSLY considering retiring you’ll have much more time to travel to all the different states. Of course, your little dog Denali may have a few issues with all this traveling ☺

John’s article brought on several memories from my childhood. I used to help break horses in my pre-teen and teen years. I can clearly remember the fear the first time a horse bucks and wondering if this was going to be the time they got me off their backs (literally). I can also remember the fear I experienced the first time we rode with a chapter from GWRRA (the OLD San Diego Chapter that folded). They didn’t care if you were new to riding and the twisties – they were out to have fun and go fast. I remember how exhilarated I was when we decided to separate from the group and ride our own ride.

Now to add a side note to Pat’s article. I had to smile when she wrote that some of us ladies think nothing of a 400+ mile day. Heck, most of the time when we are on “vacation” our days consist of 500 +/- days, sometimes several in a row. Granted, I know I ride quite a bit and actually have managed to do 800+ mile days but I can tell you – that is a VERY long day and I prefer to not do too more than one of those in any single trip.

Now for a little piece of my own reflection to add to this article. I can finally understand how serious diabetes is to the human body. Granted, in my profession I know what happens, but you never truly understand until you have experienced some of the symptoms. No, I have not been diagnosed as a Diabetic but I have recently developed some insulin control issues. When the sugar level drops to

dangerous levels it is almost impossible to concentrate, think straight or even see straight. When they go to the other extreme you get the shakes, sweats, headaches and a plethora of other symptoms that are difficult to explain. All I know is, for those of you who do suffer from diabetes, **KEEP FOOD IN YOUR BIKE!!!!** If you're feeling even a little off, **DON'T GET ON YOUR BIKE!!!** Just this week Ralph and I were heading to the drive-in movie night with Chapter F, I decided to ride back seat and was feeling fine when we left the house. Well, I had eaten something that my body wasn't processing correctly and by time we got to the meeting place I started feeling "yucky" as I put it. Now, keep in mind, the meeting place is only 5 minutes from our house. Within another 10 minutes I could barely keep my eyes open, my head was spinning and I was doing everything I could to just hold on to the bike. When we got back home my blood sugar had dropped to 40 and I now understand just how dangerous that is.

So to all of our friend that suffer from this terrible, debilitating disease....please pay close attention to the symptoms. We want you with us for many, many years to come and accidents from sugar issues can be avoided if you are aware of how your body reacts/feels when your sugar is off. Ok, I'm am now stepping off of my soap box ☺

Take care of yourselves and we'll See you on the road!

Crystal J. Richardson
CA Assistant District Director
Newsletter Editor
Leadership Training

*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!”***

October 2009

Sunday	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	Saturday
				1	2	3 CAC Harvest Run
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 CA1V Poker Run
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Ride 4 Kids San Diego	19	20	21	22	23	24 CA1F Halloween Fun Run
25 CA1Z Naked Run	26	27	28	29	30	31 Arizona District Rally Lake Havasu City, AZ

November 2009

Sunday	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	Saturday
1 Arizona District Rally Lake Havasu City, AZ	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 CA1-N Toys 4 Tots
22	23	24	25	26	27	28