

California District Gold



Golden State Gems July 2008

We had an awesome vacation! We are so blessed to live in a gorgeous state with great motorcycle roads! We left San Diego and headed for Lake Isabella through some desert twisties out of California City (didn't even know that they existed). The theme of the vacation was "no freeways" and we held to that theme. After a night in a vintage California motor inn, we were off to Mariposa/Yosemite by way of some beautiful back roads. We came upon a fantastic fruit stand on a corner and decided that was a great place for lunch, fresh fruit, cheese and crackers. It was quite fabulous. After settling in, we were up the next day to travel the twisty roads into Yosemite and Glacier Point. The waterfalls were beautifully swollen and flowing in all their grandeur. JR took amazing pictures! We also, holding true to spirit, took the Yosemite Sugar Pine Train, great experience. As we left, we headed up the 49 toward Lake Tahoe, which was to be our home away from home for 3 days. We road the roads around the lake, out to Auburn, walking the old town and shopping, of course ☺, and drenched ourselves in all the beauty. As we bid farewell to the lake, we headed toward Concord to attend 2J's poker run. Their ride was full of twisties and outstanding views of the San Francisco bay and the bridges. Barry Bullock created this fabulous ride and having read and given directions many times as a co-rider, these were the very best directions that I have ever had the pleasure to read! I loved the cardstock and the precise directions. As an out-of-towner I felt great that I was able to keep the group on course and arriving at the destination with NO u-turns (except the planned one). When we arrived at the end, Aylesa Bullock had cooked up an outstanding lunch of pork or chicken tacos and rice and beans and a fantastic, virgin strawberry margarita cake! Great appreciation for a job well done to CD Pat Riley and all of 2J.

We finished our vacation by heading to Monterey. That lead to a great dinner at Rappa's at the end of the pier and then some shopping. In the morning we took that breathtaking ride down the 1! The views never get old and the sites always bring pleasure! We stayed our last night in Solvang, walking the town when the shops were closed (that saved a bunch of money!). The next morning we took some back roads home until it was necessary to take those dreaded freeways to bring us home sweet home. To say our puppy was glad to see us would be an understatement! It was a fabulous trip but it's always great to get home. It was a great trip with great friends and fabulous experiences!

So now we turn our sites to the District Rally. Be sure you've made your reservations at the Doubletree, following the link from the website is the easiest so you get the room location that you want. Don't forget to bring your chapter banner, as they will let you hang them from the balconies. Then, send in your registration for the rally so we know that you are coming. We are planning many fun activities and the talent show should be a hoot this year with all the chapters acting out their movie! We have also added three classes to the agenda. We will be publishing the agenda by the time you are reading this. On Saturday we will have the Rider Ed Instructor Certification course so you can teach the 3 basic rider ed courses and have the participants get credit toward their levels. The other class that will be offered is the First Aid/CPR Certified Instructor course so you can teach First Aid/CPR classes. Our own fabulous Joel and Marti Winkler will be instructing this class. This class is limited in size so register early! Both of these are all day Saturday classes, the Rider Ed class has a \$20 deposit, returned at the end of class and the First Aid/CPR course has a \$40 enrollment fee. As a result of this course, we will be offering on

Sunday a full First Aid/CPR class and a re-certification class in the afternoon, cost for either class is \$20. There will be a separate registration form for these classes that will be posted on the website or available through your chapter.

Our vendors this year will mostly be indoors and those that must be outside will be under cover unless that is not possible due to what they do. We will be posting the vendors on our website with links to their sites where possible so you can plan your budget. We are working to make this a weather friendly event and the hotel is coming up with great offerings. The skills games will be outdoors but we'll have as much shade as possible for riders and spectators.

Our pool party will follow the talent show. At the conclusion of the talent show, each chapter will walk the red carpet after their performance to be announced into the party. We'll enjoy ice cream, great music to dance by or enjoy listening to, and great friends to pass the time with and did I mention...ICE CREAM!

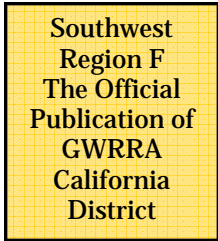
We are packing this rally with education, fun, vendors, games, rides, including the ride of 1000 turns, and an overall great experience. We know that you are spending your hard earned money to attend and we want you to get the most for your money. We will conclude with a star studded banquet and closing ceremony before we all head for home. So come and spend your Labor Day weekend with your friends and enjoy a great GWRRA California District event!

In closing, my eyes are getting better and we're so thankful. We are also thankful that your District Educator is feeling much better. John went in for some tests and ended up being taken into surgery for a quadruple bypass! He is feeling stronger and stronger each day and he tells us that Joan is taking great care of him. Through all of this they were blessed to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary surrounded by their children and grandchildren and their surprise guests, their maid of honor and best man. A great event and even better by John being well enough to attend! Our very best to John and Joan on their golden anniversary and we're so pleased that John is on the mend!

So to all of our GoldWing family, have a fantastic 4th of July. I know you have loads of red, white and blue to wear and display so do so proudly and give thanks to all who have given so much for our independence. God bless America, truly the land that we love. Be safe, ride often and we'll see you soon!



Anita and JR
California District Directors



Random Ramblings John Maguire

[Ol' Blue and the stopwatch toting, steely-eyed licensing guy](#)

We left the house that Saturday at 5:30 am. Ol' Blue purred contentedly as we rolled down the road in the morning mist, cruising through the forests of the Olympic Peninsula toward Seattle and our appointment with the Washington State Department of Licensing, (or the Washington version of the DMV if you wish). Up here in the Great Damp North being endorsed to ride a trike involves a written test, which we covered last month, and a separate driving skills test. There are only three locations in the entire state that perform trike and sidecar testing and the closest one to Port Angeles, where we live, is in Bellevue, almost one hundred miles east of our home.

At first I was a bit miffed at having to ride a hundred miles to take what to me was probably a silly, totally unnecessary driving test (over-confidence raises it's ugly head again!). But then I got to thinking..."What a great excuse to spend a day enjoying new scenery and having a great adventure!" The trip would take me through some

of the most beautifully forested scenery in all the northwest and Ol' Blue and I would get to ride on a ferry as well. One of the really super things about going places via ferry is that motorcycles, trikes and sidecars get preferential treatment and get to board first, ride up in the very front of the boat and are the first allowed to disembark upon reaching the destination.

Three and a half hours after leaving home, Blue and I arrived at the testing grounds. We were the last in a lineup of six bikes. We were the only trike. I watched intently as each rider and bike went through their paces. Most failed, but two passed and rode away happily. This was not looking good for the middle-aged guy on the teal colored trike for their first try at getting their endorsement. I made a silent vow to do whatever was necessary to pass this silly test.

The moment came when it was our turn to display our riding skills to the official. I listened intently to his instructions as to what the first skill test would be. This should be easy...the old "cone weave" and then around the left hand sweeping turn, staying between the lines, then the right hand turn and back to park the front tire in the little box. "Piece of Cake" I told myself as Ol' Blue and I smoothly wove around all the cones and then angled through the turns coming to rest easily in the final box and shutting off the engine. "Nicely done but you failed that section" the testing guy told me, smiling faintly as he seemed to enjoy this part of his Saturday routine. "FAILED?..."I was incredulous. "How in the world could I have failed that part of this stupid test?" I asked this sadistic excuse for a man. "Well", he said, "You were nine seconds over time on that one." "Nine seconds?" "I thought this was a skills test not a time trials." I was having trouble maintaining my cool. Oh well, bring on that darn stopwatch Bub.."I'm ready for you this time!" I mused as I positioned Ol' Blue for the next part of the skills test, the "sudden swerve" with a stop in that little box again. Mr "Drag Racing Christmas Tree guy" gave me the signal and it was "Katy Bar The Door" time at the OK Corral. Pine needles, gravel and decomposed tree bark flew off the rear tires as Ol' Blue leapt off the line and rocketed toward the swerve area. The swerve went perfectly and as we skidded sideways into the box, coming to rest perfectly positioned within the lines, I could see a smile flash across the tester's face. "Well, you certainly passed THAT test in plenty of time" he said as burned rubber smoke continued to waft off Blue's rear tires. "You're darn right Bucko" I mumbled to myself as I patted Blue on the flank to assure her I was pleased with her performance.

Now it was time for the infamous "Panic Stop Test", once again coming to a stop in the box that had become so familiar for Blue and I. As I rolled up to the start line it occurred to me that these Washington people seemed to enjoy events that involve speed. Convinced now that I was really at home in the Great Damp North, I kicked Blue in the ribs and once again she shot off the line like a scalded ape. I have no idea how fast I was going when I hit the brakes. I'm sure we were going fast enough to satisfy the state of Washington that I was comfortable at freeway speeds, especially within the confines of a small parking lot, lined with large trees and bushes in suburban Seattle. Squirrels and songbirds fled for their lives as we slid straight and true, wheels locked with all three tires crying for mercy, directly into the center of that box without breaking a sweat or killing the engine. A look of disbelief and shock painted the face of the tester-guy, standing there, clipboard in hand, as he looked into the eyes of one very happy and satisfied Honda Goldwing rider.

I got my trike endorsement that Saturday. Later, I rewarded myself with hot wings at the Seattle Hooters. On the way home, I filled Blue with a nice tasty tank of premium to let her know just how pleased I was with her as well.

Green Lights and Open Highways to everyone

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Lady Riders

by
Pat Bennett

No article this month

Editor's Comments

by
Crystal Rush

Vacations, Rallies - SAFETY



It's that time of year when everybody begins packing up their bikes/trikes and heading out for a respite from the thing we call life. I've been watching and listening to everybody tell me of their plans to go to certain destinations and sometimes wonder just how prepared they are for their journey.

By time you get this newsletter many of you will have already headed out for those vacations or are on your way to Wing Ding. If you have not, I would like to take just a moment of your time to remind you how important it is to be prepared for your trip. I'm not talking about taking enough clothing, or making sure you have enough money (although that is important), I'm talking about mentally, physically and mechanically. When was the last time you checked those tires, changed the oil, make sure all the lights were in sound working order, checked the battery, etc.? Ok, those are just some of the things you should check on your bike; now lets talk about you as the rider or co-rider.

How is your physical health? Are you a diabetic, if so are you carrying enough "snacks" along or do you have meal stops planned to maintain your sugar level? Before you take off in the mornings for your adventure make sure you EAT FIRST!!! Whether you're diabetic or not, make sure you are feeling 100% before you get on your bike, if you're not - delay your start until you are. I know many of us get on the road and feel we have to stick to our schedule – well we have heard way too many times this year that a fellow biker didn't make it home because of one thing or another and honestly I would be much happier if we didn't get any more of these e-mails this year.

The point I'm trying to get across, just in case you didn't catch it, is BE CAREFUL, and BE PREPARED. Spending an extra day someplace in this beautiful USA is a much better alternative to pressing on and taking chances with not only your life but that of your co-rider. I look forward to hearing about all the wonderful trips you've had the next time I see you.

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!**"*

July 2008

Sunday	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
				Wing Ding – Greenville, South Carolina		
6 Wing Ding Greenville, South Carolina	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2008

Sunday	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 CA2K Supersoaking
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
				Region F Rally Cannon City, CO		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 CA District Rally Bakersfield						CA District Rally Bakersfield