

California District Gold



Golden State Gems August 2009

Let's see, talk about Wing Ding or District Rally? In know that you really want to hear about both so here you go.

The Roaring 20's District Rally is growing and shaping up really well. We have beautiful trophies for the events and we have posted to the website the categories for the trophies for skills games and bike show. Ralph Richardson had us include a new category for skills games, so check it out. If you have a bike that is not covered by the trophies, let us know and we can include your category.

We have an awesome T-shirt design again for this year; check it out on the District website. The t-shirts will only be available by preorder so order yours now!

We have also posted to the website the tentative schedule for the rally. We are putting a call out to all the seminar presenters to attend a class just for you on Saturday to expand and update your training. Please plan on being there. Treasurers will have a forum with our District Treasurer with the new categories for expenses and the requirements to send in those annual financials. On Sunday morning we'll be having the CD/ACD forum and the CE/ACE forum with the District representatives. It's your time to ask questions of us and for us to update you on new news.

This year we are also offering the ARC and TRC classes. There is a separate registration form for those classes as well as the First Aid/CPR classes. That form is located on the District website. We will also be offering Rider Education seminars and Leadership Training seminars. Look at the website for descriptions for the classes. Following the skills games on Sunday will be the bike games. The bike games are done 1 up and 2 up and with a trailer. They are fun skill games and are open to all to participate.

We are hoping that many of you will show up in costume. The Roarin' 20's was a fun time for clothes! We really want to see you properly dressed at the Speakeasy on Saturday night. Don't forget about the chapter films about the Roaring 20's they are due to us by August 20th, 2009. So get those creative juices going and let's have as much fun with this as we had last year with the talent show. We will be showing the films at the Speakeasy on Saturday night for all to see. Don't forget those table decorations. There is no requirement this year except that they should follow the Roarin' 20's theme. There will be judging so have fun!

The vendors are excited about coming back and we will get the links to their websites up so you can view their products and plan your budgets. As last year, we'll have all the vendors inside with a couple of exceptions. WingStuff will be our major vendor and we appreciate their support.

Prizes will be the door prizes and then vendor sponsored prizes including a set of tires from JBJ and then you can purchase tickets for the \$1000.00 cash grand prize.

Don't forget to get your room reservations made at the Double Tree and remember for each room night you book, you'll get a bonus of \$10 of daily 50/25/25 tickets; just our way of saying thank you for staying at the host hotel. Hopefully you all have heard that we negotiated the rate down to \$87/night to make it more affordable. So, we'll see you soon and we can't wait, the rally will be one of a kind!

Our trip to Wing Ding started, no surprise here, with a hot first day. California can't travel east without a hot day through the desert and ours was 109! JR and I, Ralph and Crystal melted into Prescott for the night and did have a great dinner at the Firehouse Restaurant! Next day, we took in the Grand Canyon and it was probably the clearest we have ever seen. We stayed so long we missed 4 Corners as we made our way to Cortez, CO. We took the next day to see Mesa Verde National Park and it was incredible as usual. Our National Parks never get old! We split ways as we left Cortez, we went to Garden City, KS and Ralph and Crystal went to Sterling, OK. Even though we were on different paths we still go thru with the same storm. The wind was blowing so hard that as JR went to put his FrogTogg jacket on it caught in the antenna and ripped in half. So as we got pelted with rain blowing from all directions, sometimes so hard JR couldn't see through the windshield, we carefully made our way through and arrived very wet and tired at the hotel. Our next day took us through Dodge City, KS and down to Tulsa, OK arriving just in time to grab our packets and head out to the opening night party.

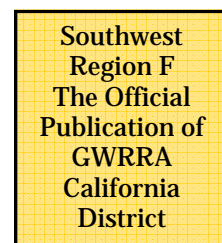
We lucked out at Wing Ding as Larry and Donna Pickens flew in and rented an Explorer, large enough for all of us and we sooo appreciated that! The opening night party included seeing the play "Oklahoma", a Rogers and Hammerstein musical. I had done this musical when I was a junior in High School but we didn't have real horses or have real horses drawing that "surrey with the fringe on top" (I was in the orchestra pit). It's a great play but a very long first act! Wing Ding's attendance was a little over 9000 and there was a good variety of vendors. The venue was great as everything was right there. The entertainment was great and California's own Lou Caspary from CA1F did a great job at the talent show. On a cool personal note, I was awarded with my Masters Instructors patch from Leadership Training.

We left Tulsa with Nick Hoppner's group from Colorado heading for Dodge City. What an interesting place. We had a great dinner at Central Station (we highly recommend this restaurant, they even came and picked us up and took us back to the hotel!) with great new and old friends. We stayed the next day in Dodge to see the sights and then it was time to get out of Dodge! Our route home took us to 4 Corners, Waputki National Monument, a gorgeous ride through Oak Creek Canyon into Sedona and then a very hot day to arrive home. Our puppy Denali was very happy to see us but I could tell he had a great time with his puppy sitter and we are blessed to have him to watch Denali! As usual JR planned a great route for us and we had a fantastic trip. We are so blessed to live in this country and ride such unbelievable motorcycles that have opened our lives up to so many fantastic friends!

So that's it for now.....well almost. We have a new addition to the Alkire family and we are both so excited. Now don't let JR kid you, it does not belong to him, IT'S MY TRIKE!!! Yes, we are the proud owners of a new 2001 Illusion Red California SideCar Trike, thank you JBJ! JR has been giving me refresher training and I will be taking my TRC class with Hank Herrera very soon. So I'm not out terrorizing the roads yet, but just you wait, I'll be riding to see you soon. So be good, be safe and we'll see you soon!



Anita and JR
California District Directors





Random Ramblings John Maguire

We've been robbed !

It's true. Yes, you and I have been robbed over the years as motorcycle riders. We've been robbed of a significant part of what makes riding so much fun.

There we sit, rolling down the highway at 60, 70, dare I say 80 miles an hour, (you don't really drive THAT fast do you?), enjoying the tunes in our helmets and the contented hum of the engine as the scenery rockets by.

Unfortunately, at those speeds you don't really get to see much. Ranch fence posts look more like picket fences when you're racking up 70,000 inches per minute on your machine. At highway speeds the bike driver is way too focused on avoiding wayward mobile and stationary hazards. Dogs, cats, road-gophers, lizards, bunnies, snakes, truck tires, bicyclists, ladders, pallets and senior citizens roll by so fast that it's impossible to fully enjoy the overwhelming beauty of the rocks, trees and rivers we all went out to look at in the first place.

Slowing down helps a bit but probably not when traversing the interstate highway system. Believe me, there are those that subscribe to that thought but this is not the place to hound our, shall we say, more age-advanced drivers.

And it's sometimes fun to make our way across this country on the smaller, less traveled roads. But that certainly doesn't help much in the overall scenery appreciation activities we all crave if we're the ones responsible for keeping our motorcycles "shiny-side" up.

It seems to me that in all the years and miles that I've traveled on a motorcycle, most of the actual scenery-enjoying has involved looking for and going to the restroom or checking into motels.

I don't really feel I've missed all that much in quality scenery. It's just a bit different than what most non-riders would assume we get to see. After riding motorcycles for over 40 years and having visited a great many restrooms and cheap motels I have many fine memories to enjoy for the rest of my life.

So I guess the moral of this story is: Slow down, stop often and don't forget to wash your hands after enjoying the "scenery."

Green Lights, Open Highways and Happy New Year to everyone.

jemaguire@wavecable.com



Lady Riders

by
Pat Bennett

Whew!! Summer is certainly here, isn't it? Our season began with mild weather, but after July 4th, the heat began to crank up.

Art left July 13 for his Retirement Ride. Ken Carlson and I escorted him as far as Borrego Springs, where it was tipping 100. After lunch and a fill up, we parted ways, with hugs all around. Then Art began his journey. As he progressed the temps got up to 111, in Yuma AZ, his first night stop.

This trip, we loaded our coolers with water and Gatorade. Now, I'm prone to heat stroke, and I am positive that Gatorade kept me up and running. Ken bought some on the way back and was amazed at how good he felt after drinking some. Lesson learned!

Keep the Shiny side up!

Pat



Editor's Comments **Crystal Richardson**

Life is a Whirlwind!

One minute you think you know where your life is heading the next minute you're taking the ride of your life. In the last six weeks I've gotten married – thank you for all the congratulations and well wishes; gone to Wing Ding (4,200 miles on the bikes), and am now in the final phases of helping plan our District Rally and in the middle of all that, all three of my children moved.

John said it right when he stated we've been robbed. After traveling 4200 miles for Wing Ding I read John's article and was trying to remember some of the scenery. I do remember quite a bit of flat land, you know there really isn't a lot of that in California. I also remember the wind and rain that just about pushed me off the road, don't miss that. I think my favorite scenery was going through the mountains of Colorado. I think when we finally get to stop working that will be a consideration for retirement. Yes, I know it snows there but I did grow up in Illinois....lots of snow.

Is it just me, or is life speeding up every single day? Anita and I have been working diligently getting the schedule for the rally in place, planning the fun events, but especially looking forward to receiving DVD's from all the chapters with their Roarin' 20's movies. With all the talent we have in California this should be a blast! I'm also looking forward to seeing a LOT of people in costume. How much fun would that be to take the Double Tree in Bakersfield back in time 90 years! Tommy guns, zuit suits, flappers, the only thing we have to find are the classic cars! Anybody have an inside lead on that. Hey what about some of the old mobsters, Bonnie & Clyde, Pretty Boy Floyd, Scarface and Al Capone. Come on guys – let's see some of you out there.

That's it for me now if I'm going to get this newsletter out on time. I have 30 minutes to get this to you before August 1st so for now:

Ride safe, appreciate your life and take care of yourselves.

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!”***

August 2009

Sunday	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	Saturday
						1 Synchronized Soaking CA 2K
2	3	4	5	6	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					

September 2009

Sunday	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
					California District Rally Bakersfield, CA	
6 California District Rally Bakersfield, CA	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Nevada	19 Jackass Run
						CA2N Party at the Barn
20 NV Jackass Run	21	22	23	24	25	26 CA2A Poker Run
27	28	29	30			