

California District Gold



Golden State Gems September 2008

By the time you are reading this the Rally of Fame will be history. We hope that all of you who attended had a fabulous time and loads of fun! Thank you all for coming and sharing your weekend with us! Although it's a lot of work, the District has fun bring the rally to you. As with the Chapters, this is our only fund raiser as we don't receive any financial assistance from Region or National. The funds raised allow us to continue to bring you education classes throughout the year as well as to make visits to Chapters for those special events. It's always fun to look back at the places we've been for GWRRA in the year, lots of miles, loads of hugs and tons of fun! Even though the cost of gas has gone up and we never thought it would cost over \$20 to fill up the Wing, it's still affordable transportation and with the fun waiting when we get there, it's worth the long road hours.

With the conclusion of this years rally we want to take a minute to thank those who really went above and beyond to make the rally a success. Please read through this and then when you see these folks give them a hug and a thank you, they deserve it! I start with The DoubleTree Hotel and specifically Scott Holly. Scott has been fabulous to work with and always makes our events as stress-free as he can. Next is Joel and Marti Winkler, not only for training new instructors at the rally but for all they do for Medic First Aid. Their contributions are so appreciated! Then there is Ms. Bling, Elaine Archer, treasurer and processor of all the registration forms. Elaine worked very hard this year and made the registration, class, t-shirt and ticket process stress free for us and then found awesome trophies as well. You are greatly appreciated. Janice Allen worked hard to get the vendors at the rally. Along with Ken Freeland, Asst. District Director, they both procured pin strippers so that there was a variety and awesome opportunity for you to get that touch up or new murals. Thanks guys so much. My trusty assistants, Crystal Rush, Larry and Donna Pickens, Larry did an awesome job with publicity, and Ken Freeland seem to anticipate my thoughts and get it done before I ask. Thanks guys, I couldn't do it without you! With that, we are thrilled to welcome back Bill and Rene Johnson as Assistant District Directors. They have been missed and it's great to know that the District message will again ring out up north! Bob and Barb Dowdy worked our District store for us providing you with all those goodies and we thank them so much. Chris and Pam Ferris work all year on the membership roster to bring the best information to the chapters and their tireless work is appreciated. Ralph Richardson, Assistant District Educator is so fabulous with the skill games! We can always count on Ralph to put on a superior event and we thank him for his dedication to Rider Ed. John and Joan Garrett, District Educators are back in the saddle after a few health scares and John has worked so hard with his educators to give us the best rider ed record in Region F, congratulations! Hank and Cheryl Herrera, Assistant District Educators are new to the staff and they worked hard during the rally and Cheryl sang so beautifully. But they will really start to work after the rally to put on the GWRRA Rider Instructor course to teach students to be ARC instructors so they can conduct trainings in their area so you can keep your Masters up to date or achieve your Masters designation. Mike and Elma Maury, Assistant District Educators (they think they stepped down, we won't let them, but don't tell them ☺) did a great job teaching classes and helping to bring on new Rider Ed Seminar Instructors. Thanks guys so much! Mike and Ruth Burke, District Webmaster, had to keep up with me and then wait for me to get stuff to them so we could build a rally website. We'll do better next year and thanks for your work and patience. Then there is the Queen Mum Joyce Elmore and

Bodyguard Rick Elmore who did the posters for us as well as the slide shows that we enjoyed. Thanks for always being there. To those instructors who volunteered their time, thank you sooooo much, we couldn't do it without you.

JR and I, along with Bud and Mary Brinker, COY/IOY Coordinators and the entire District staff want to thank Pat and Ellen O'Donnell, District COY and Pat Lewis, District IOY for their representation this year of District and GW. You guys are awesome and we look forward to your ambassadorship in the coming year.

Before I end the rally stuff and thank you, I want to thank my husband JR for all his assistance. He has sacrificed some home-cooked meals, quality time with me and seen a lot of my back as I worked on the computer. He often came home to many "wives" here telling him what to do. Thanks Honey for putting up with all of us and supporting me, I love you!

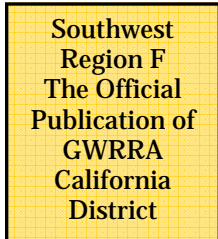
Speaking of travel, we are looking forward to the Froggie Jubilee the weekend of 9/20. We love heading up (although quickly) the wonderful California gold country to see our crazy friends at 2N and all the others who attend. I felt right at home last year with the "overalls" although mine are engineer overalls ☺ The end of the month we have 2 great events, one for the more northern chapters so they can come out and support 2A with their spaghetti cookout and beautiful ride to Nelson Meadows. It's loads of fun even if it's a bit cool. For those more southern chapters we can go to 1Z's Mystery Ride. We can only guess what those zebras are up to. Both are on Saturday 9/27so plan to come out and support one or the other as we need each others support each year with the chapter annual events to give each chapter some operating cash. Besides, the events always live up to our motto of "Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge".

As we close this month we want to wish everyone health and happiness. The rally reminded us how fragile life is with friends lost and those battling for their lives. Be good to yourselves and to others and don't forget to tell those you love that you love them and life is better with them in your life and with that, "it doesn't get any better than this"!

See you soon!



Anita and JR
California District Directors



Random Ramblings

John Maguire

The Garden Bell

Saturdays for Debi and I are often spent manning a booth at the local weekend swap meet. To supplement our retirement incomes we offer jewelry and other items for sale to the tourists and local residents. One of the recent additions to our stock are little silver "Motorcyclist's Guardian" bells. You probably know the story of the bells. A loved one is to give the bell to a motorcyclist to ward away "road gremlins" as they ride. The bell is to be attached to the bike at the lowest possible location. The tinkling of the bell is alleged to annoy the gremlins who live in the pavement and prevent them from dragging the motorcycle and rider down onto the roadway with the usual painful results.

From time to time customers ask me about the bells and those who don't ride usually just smile and walk away with a look of disbelief on their faces after I tell the story. That is, until last Saturday.

A middle-aged woman walked into the booth and began looking over our wares. She came upon the little collection of bells and while holding one, turned to me and asked “what’s a Guardian Bell?” After going through my explanation of the secret, magical powers of the bell, she initially commented that she doesn’t ride and started to put the one in her hand back down onto the table. Her face had the look of someone who enjoyed outdoor activities, deeply tanned and a bit weathered. Her arms were tattooed and gave the impression of someone hardened to the world and experienced in the hardships of an unprotected life.

Seeing a tiny spark in her eyes, I took a chance and said, “But I’ll bet you know someone special who does ride”. She turned toward me and a smile swept across her face. “Yes, yes I do...well, sort of”...her voice trailed off as she seemed to relish the memory my question ignited.

I was curious. Somehow I felt that I had touched something in this woman that had lain dormant but not altogether forgotten in this woman’s life. “Is he your brother or a relative?” I asked. “No, I really don’t know him at all” she replied as she picked the bell up again and held it in her hand. “He comes into my diner from time to time and he has the most beautiful bike, a Harley I think, it’s the complete package”. Her face now glowed with thoughts of a woman who was apparently quite taken by this Harley rider and his motorcycle.

“The complete package?” I asked as she stood lost in her thoughts for the moment. “Do you mean the motorcycle had a lot of accessories or what”? She turned to face me again and smiled even wider, “No, I mean HE and that bike are the “Complete Package”, but I just don’t know how to ask him his name or get to know him better”.

Now I was confused. This was no teenage girl who was lost in her first schoolgirl crush. This was a grown woman, who could be a grandmother, who was so taken by this “complete package” of a man that she couldn’t even find a way to make her next move to get to know him better.

For a moment I was stunned. I wanted to help this person who was so close to a special moment, to perhaps allowing someone new into her life and beginning an adventure together. What could I offer to help her say the words that would make her heart jump and bring that spark back to her eyes for someone special?

Then it came to me. I knew what I had to do. “Take the bell and give it to him the next time he comes into your place” as I closed her hand around the little silver bell. He’ll probably know what it means and if he doesn’t, well you tell him the story and if it’s meant to be, perhaps you’ll get to ride off into the sunset on the back of that pretty bike with the “complete package”.

She walked away with that little silver bell in its black velvet bag. She was smiling and it was easy to see that her thoughts were far away. Will she find love? I don’t know. Will she find happiness with the “complete package”? I don’t know that either. But she walked away happy in the thought that perhaps that little silver bell was the way for her to find her “complete package”.

Green Lights and Open Highways to everyone

jemaguire@wavecable.com



Lady Riders

by
Pat Bennett

It’s Hot Out There!!!

The weather is still hot and unpredictable, so be vigilant in your travel preparations. It may seem cooler to ride in short sleeves, literally and figuratively, but keeping your skin covered is actually cooler. Air flows over your clothing, creating a breeze that is usually cooler than the outside air, much like a fan in a hot

room. Clothing also helps us retain moisture in our skin, preventing dehydration, provided you are ingesting the proper fluids. Always carry extra bottles of water.

Don't forget to wear the correct eyewear. Wear sunglasses by day and clear lenses by night. There is nothing worse than getting something in your eye going 70 miles an hour on the freeway! Of course, there are those "diehards" who love their eyelashes fluttering in the breeze. You might want to be behind them when you travel.

Keep the rubber side down!

Pat



Editor's Comments by Crystal Rush

What a Rally

Well, we made it through another District Rally and it was a blast. Thank you to all those chapters that put on a skit reflecting their chosen movies. I had a lot of fun playing "Radar" from the 4077th and noticed many of you found your child self when getting into costume.

I hope those of you that attended enjoyed the venue, the training and the "games" we offered during the rally. If you have any comments or suggestions on something you would like to see added (or removed) from next years rally please drop me an e-mail with "rally" in the subject line. Send it to crystal@infinite-healing.net and I will make sure to pass the information along to Anita.

Riding season isn't over yet (How did we get to September?!) and I'm looking forward to a few more rides before we get to the end and to the holidays....did I say that out loud? So, for those of you that will be at 2N I will see you there.

Ride safe, be happy and take care of yourselves.

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!"***

September 2008

Sunday	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 CA2N Frog Hop
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 CA1Z 8 Ball Run
28 CA2A Poker Run	29	30				

October 2008

Sunday	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 CAC Harvest Run
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 CA1F Halloween Fun Run
26	27	28	29	30		