

California District Gold



Golden State Gems October 2008

Wow, what a rally! You all came out and had fun, fun, fun! Thank you all so much for coming out and enjoying the rally. We believe that entirely too much fun was had with the talent show ☺ Although it was long, 15 chapters gave us skits that showed our talent and some that didn't, but everyone got up there and had a great time! 1Q did not disappoint with the fabulous costumes for the Wizard of Oz and 2Q has quite a singer in "lady Goldfinger"! There is no way to describe 1K's Rocky Horror..... The Grumpy Ol' Men were grumpy and the Bucket List was comical (even if it poked fun at JR and me) we thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Next year we just need more time to party!

It was brought to my attention that I can't just refer to Q...which one? With 2Q coming to the rally with the best attendance ever from their chapter and 1Q taking the most pre-registration, a great new challenge has appeared to identify the correct chapter. Who is your "sister" chapter? Have you been in touch, helped them prosper?

The table decorations were fantastic and all the vendor support was appreciated. Several vendors rose above and donated door prizes and grand prizes and we appreciate their generosity! You helped make this a fantastic rally!

We were heavy on Rider Education this rally and the classes were well attended. We have 4 new First Aid/CPR Instructors in the State. Joel and Marti Winkler, Medic First Aid Coordinators and trainers, gave their time to train, Larry Tegel, 1M; James Moynagh, 1S; Mike Burke, 2N and Don Settles, 1N and we congratulate and thank each of those new instructors for the time they have given and will give to GWRRA members with their trainings in the future!

I was able to teach the Seminar Instructor Course along with Mike and Elma Maury, Assistant District Educators, to "graduate" 12 new instructors to teach the Rider Education Courses, like Co-Rider; Group Riding, Road Captain and more. We are pleased to introduce to you the new instructors: Penny Sasakai-Benda, 1Y; Nick and Terri Riolo, 2N; Pat Lewis, 1R; Steve and Jacque Foster, 2Q; Rich and Carolyn Lipnick, 2N; Gerry Meskill, 1F and he went on to teach on Sunday to complete his requirements for instructor as did Jeff Taylor, 2K and Larry and C.J. Benoit, 1Z. You were a great class and are great instructors and we thank you for volunteering your passion and willingness to share your knowledge.

So again we thank all of you who attended and we hope that you had a great time and will be back next year and bring a friend! ☺ A special thank you to those instructors who took their time to teach the seminars at the rally, we couldn't do it without you! Thank you also to the chapter volunteers who ran the event your chapter volunteered to run, we appreciate your time and efforts!

I haven't forgotten about the District game. We have received all the score sheets and I will announce the winner in next month's article, so stay tuned! (I didn't forget Tim, really ☺)

With a couple of weeks of rest, we jumped on the bike and headed for Angels Camp and 2N's Froggy Hop. It was a great event and well attended. It was great to see Tony Phillips and to hear him talk about Carole. We wish you both well and wish Carole Godspeed.

So as our rally season starts to wind down we look forward to our last few events. Both 2A and 1Z have their event on the 27th; then CAC and their Harvest Run on 10/4 which we will miss this year to stay home and celebrate Dad's 86th birthday; then 1F's Halloween Fun Run, 9/25, and depending on our flight departure that day we will make a brief appearance or, as it stands right now, will be wishing you well from the airport on our way to a week in Kauai, Hawaii. But don't worry, we'll be haunting you ☺. Then we'll end our season with 1N's Toys for Tots on 11/22. Then we'll be kicking off our 2009 season with the Officer's Meeting in Bakersfield on 1/17 and 18, a new format with a 2 day meeting so we can share some new GWRRA information and plan an awesome 2009! We are getting date requests for 2009 already so get those requests in to me to reserve that special date.

Chapter Directors, don't forget to have your treasurer start getting those financials ready to get to me. Each year a chapter must complete a set of financial reports that outlines their income and expenses in detail for review by me, the Region Director and then National. This is a check and balance to make certain that chapter funds are properly used. We also review the inventory of a chapter to see what the chapter owns with value over \$100.00. We will need to have those financials as close to the end of the year as possible, but no later than the Officer's Meeting and yes I need copies of all 12 months bank statements. Be sure both the treasurer and Chapter Director sign before submission.

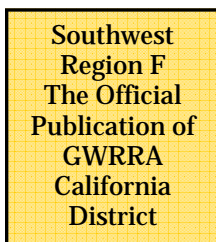
Then, before year end, be certain that you have sent me your \$50.00 annual charter fee. This fee covers insurance for the Officer's of a chapter when they function in their "official" capacity for GWRRA. It is an important benefit for each chapter provided by International and is an annual requirement. This must be sent no later than 11/25/2008.

Year end often brings changes to your chapter. This is normally when Officer changes take place and change can be challenging. Remember that we are all volunteers and your assistance is always appreciated! If you believe something isn't the way you think it ought to be, think it through and come up with a solution and then offer that idea to your Chapter Director for consideration. The presentation and thoroughness of your idea is appreciated even if it may not be implemented. It's your chapter, speak up. Also at year end comes a favorite time to us. This is when each chapter reflects upon its members and starts the nominating process for the 2009 Couple of the Year and Individual of the Year. The recipients of these positions are folks that stand out in your chapter, ones you can count on to always be there and lend a hand. A couple doesn't have to be married to be recognized. An individual can be married but their spouse is not an active member of the chapter. This seems to be a misunderstood "requirement" for the Individual of the Year and is also one of the reasons that this recognition does not happen any higher than at the District level. There is a nomination form that can be used from the Officer's website so your chapter members can express their opinions of the folks they believe should be recognized and then it's up to each chapter to process those nominations to determine the 2009 recipients. This is the only position in GWRRA that never receives a "former" rocker as once an Ambassador for GWRRA you are always an Ambassador. Think hard as you select these folks and nominate the most deserving and on the form you'll tell your chapter why you think they should be your chapter representatives. My 2009 goal is for every chapter to recognize a couple and individual. Let's make that happen.

So have a ghoulish Halloween, be safe, love one another and we'll see you soon....BOO!



Anita and JR
California District Directors





Random Ramblings

John Maguire

The Quest

We had been anticipating attending the California District Rally for months. Debi and I were anxious to see dear friends and family after almost a year away. Our moving to the Great Damp North certainly has its 'upside', but leaving friends and family behind was not one. We looked forward to a fantastic vacation and the opportunity to rekindle old friendships.

But, as often happens, life has a way of taking unexpected turns. Some months ago I had occasion to visit a somewhat famous sports bar/restaurant for lunch. I won't give the name of the chain but it's quite popular and is known primarily for its entertainment and chicken wings. As I ate my lunch that day I happened to mention to my waitress that I would be traveling up and down the west coast moving our household from Ontario to Port Angeles, Washington. Upon hearing this she excitedly told me of something that might be fun to do. It seems that the restaurant chain, to celebrate their twenty-fifth anniversary, was holding a special contest. The gist of the rules are that anyone who visits twenty-five different locations before December 25 would be entitled to a free VIP wing lunch and the chance to win a very large sum of money in a drawing.

Initially I thought that visiting 25 different restaurants in less than six months time seemed highly unlikely. I enjoy this place a lot but even I have my limits. I took the booklet more out of courtesy than any desire to hunt down and visit that many Hoot.....oops...wing joints.

I stashed the booklet in the bike and didn't give it any further thought until one evening when Debi and I were making a list of what we would be bringing to district rally. Debi mentioned that she would like to stop at the Portland location of this lunch spot and I agreed it might be fun. It then occurred to me that I had that little contest booklet. We looked at each other and it hit us...why not actually try to collect the twenty-five location stamps during our trip? Looking at the chains website we saw that the majority of locations on the west coast are on or very near the interstate. San Diego and Seattle had several, as did Sacramento and Los Angeles. Counting them up, we found that there are 28 locations in Washington, Oregon and California. Studying the maps we decided that it might just be possible to fill the booklet with stamps and actually complete the quest!

Driving towards Bakersfield and the rally we visited our first few locations. By the time we made our way to Sacramento, (three locations there) I didn't care if I ever saw another chicken wing or celery stick for the rest of my life! Even the scenery was beginning to seem repetitious, though never boring. Sitting in our fifth location we learned that "no purchase was necessary". My stomach sighed with relief. (Can a stomach sigh??) From then on, for the next week, we typed addresses into the GPS, ran into each location, asked for a stamp in the book, (often times sharing details of our quest) and hurrying back to the car to continue on to the next address on the list. One location, San Francisco, closed one minute before we arrived, (We had left from San Diego that morning collecting stamps along the way). Banging on the front door we pleaded loudly for them to open up and PLEASE stamp our book. After no small amount of pounding and begging, (witnessed by several Asian tourists with cameras clicking and at least one homeless guy), they opened the door long enough to stamp our books and relock the door.

By the time we got to number twenty my eyes were beginning to glaze over. Loud music, greasy fries and name tags with 'Bambi', "Amber" and "Jessica" on them filled my days. Nights brought a recurring dream of bright orange shorts, Cajon chicken wings and peroxide blonde waitresses with surgically enhanced smiles tormenting my sleep.

Somewhere in America there are people hoping to fill out their little contest booklet with stamps from twenty-five shorts...er...sports bars. Most of them will never reach that lofty goal. Few have the stamina, the drive or the gastrointestinal tract to do it. But I'm proud to say that right here in the Great

Damp North, there are two people who know what it takes to win. Who know the thrill of victory and the agony of the feet. Two people who will savor each and every free chicken wing at their upcoming VIP party. Yes fellow Goldwing riders, Debi and I did it. We actually stopped in twenty-five locations in less than two weeks and came away with a true sense of accomplishment more exciting than consuming an entire room full of greasy chicken wings and limp celery sticks! Yes, Now we know how Sir Edmond Hillary felt when he conquered Everest! Exhilarated!

Green Lights and Open Highways to everyone

jemaguire@wavecable.com



Lady Riders

by
Pat Bennett

District (state) Rally was a brand new experience for Art and myself. Since I drove the car with the CA1D centerpiece, Art and I enjoyed a 2-up ride around Lake Isbella. (When you see Diana, ask her how her ride was!) It was a beautiful trip, perfect weather.

When riding in a group, remember that the odd numbered bikes ride to the left, and the even numbered ones ride to the right, throughout the ride.

Remember, as we go into October, riding weather will be cooler, and can actually get cold in some areas. Be sure to carry a sweatshirt, heavier gloves, or warmer wrap in case the weather changes.

Keep the rubber side down!

Pat

Editor's Comments

by
Crystal Rush

Winding Down?



I look at the e-mails and newsletter articles and take note that we are now into October and the tail end of our riding season. That being said, it also means we are gearing up for the holiday season. Whenever I listen to others say we are winding down, I want to know how they manage to do that this time of year. It seems to me we are always geared up for something with this organization.

Even though all the planned rides are almost over for the season, now we begin planning for Thanksgiving with family (natural or extended), Holiday parties and New Years Eve celebrations. Then a few weeks after that comes the Staff meeting and in February we begin again with the Valentine Run. Soooooo, my point is when do we really wind down? If you figure that out please let me know so I can take advantage.

Now off of that tangent, following up a little on Pat's mention of the weather changing I do want to remind you that believe it or not the weather does change in California. I recently spent a weekend in Chicago and everybody I spoke to seems to be of the opinion that San Diego spends every single day of the year at 75 degrees with plenty of sunshine. I had to



correct a few of them and let them know that we can actually get over 100 and below 50...they didn't believe me ☺ Back on track, now that we are into October and quickly sliding into November keep in mind that the weather can and does change from our norm. There can be scattered showers; you can travel from 70 deg. to 50 deg. within less than an hour's time if you head into the hills. This is the time of year that I make sure I have rain gear, cool vest and Gerbings in my bike because I never know what I will encounter while on the road and I prefer being prepared. No, I do not have to haul a trailer to keep all this stuff with me but it does fill one saddle bag.

It has been a great year so far, Chapter F I look forward to the fun run and the costumes that may appear. Toys 4 Tots is always a great event, fill up your trailers with goodies for the kids and I'll see you soon.

Ride safe, appreciate your life 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!”***

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	31	

November 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	21	22 CA1N TOYS 4 TOTS
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					