

California District Gold



Golden State Gems June 2008

We hope that all Mother's had a great day and that all Dad's will enjoy their day coming up. Being a parent is such a special responsibility in life and sometimes we forget to tell our parents thanks for being there for us, thanks for all you do for us. JR and I are blessed to still have our folks, my Mom and Dad just got back from 2+ weeks in Italy and we love how they live life with enthusiasm, love, caring and generosity.

Chapter K did a great thank you to all the Mom's at their ride with a special gift for all the ladies. A thank you goes out to Nadine for putting those gifts together, what a nice thought. As planned, their ride through the Malibu hills was outstanding and if you didn't make it this year, you have to plan for this one next year as the setting is outstanding and the ride is challenging and beautiful and I hear that the Rock Store is going to play a more prominent role. This year JR and I did not make this ride as you'll understand soon.

Monty and Lucy Carpenter put on their Ride for Kids dinner, what a spread! Thanks for inviting all of us to attend and thanks to all who attended, we look forward to next year!

April and May have been interesting months for JR and me. I got very excited when I saw the piece on the Today Show that implantable contact lenses had finally made it to the USA. They have been in other countries for many years but not FDA approved here until a couple years ago. I am not a candidate for Lasik so I have been waiting for the lenses. I scheduled to have my eyes done and on April 9th my right eye got the implant. Implantable contact lenses are lenses inserted surgically into the eye over your natural lens, really cool! Everything was going perfectly and each day I was seeing a little bit better, although in 8 weeks we'll really know the results. A week later they did the left eye. Well, not all went according to plan. I had a pressure issue that they had to drain the next day, but we also noticed that my iris, the colored part of the eye, seemed to be stuck and wouldn't dilate or constrict. The Doctor was very attentive and researched what to do next and the outcome was we had to remove the lens and insert another type of lens on May 7th. The surgeries are usually 10 minutes or so; this one was an hour and 10 minutes. It was major trauma to my eye. This sounds silly, but it is amazing how you rely on your eyes. I couldn't read (that included email) and couldn't drive, it was quite a challenge. I am pleased to tell you that all is going very well now and my vision is getting better and better each day.

So it's time to be grateful for life and the adventures, family and friends that it brings. Life is such a fragile thing. We have members who are fighting health issues and we send them our prayers, well wishes and love for all the strength to get better soon. We also send love and support to Virginia Hauser. Bruce and Virginia are the District Directors for Utah and were involved in an accident on their Wing that took Bruce's life and Virginia is recovering with many broken bones. They are very special friends and Bruce will be deeply missed!

So cherish life and don't let it get away from you. We will be leaving on vacation on 5/31 with our friends, Rick and Joyce, and heading our Wings north. We will be gone 10 days and are including 2J's ride on 6/7 in our plans. We are excited about our trip and maybe we'll see you on the road.

Be safe, be happy, be good to yourself, take care of your health, and most of all cherish life, family and friends!



Anita and JR
California District Directors

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Random Ramblings John Maguire

Echos of Dad

It had suddenly become very uncomfortable sitting there in that grey government-issue chair in the office of the Department of Licensing. Sweat formed on my brow as I stared into the unblinking eye of the testing computer. How had I gotten myself into this situation and why was I having so much trouble with these questions? Sitting there trying to decide between A, B, C or "None of the above", my mind was racing and blank at the same time.

Shortly after moving to the Great Damp North I learned that driver's licensing and endorsement requirements for Washington differed from what I was accustomed to in California. In the Golden State a motorcycle endorsement is required for two-wheeled operation. A trike can be driven by anyone with a basic driver's license with no additional endorsement necessary.

Not so up here in the land of the wet, the green and the "raving environmentalist". Seems that not only does a trike rider need a motorcycle endorsement, but there's a separate testing procedure for trike and side-car riders. Mr. Olson, my friendly licensing examiner, had been happy to grant me a motorcycle endorsement based on my California license. But the trike endorsement was another matter altogether. For this I would have to submit to a written and driving test.

As the smiling Mr. Olson handed me a copy of the Washington Department of Licensing Side-car/Trike Operator Handbook I heard a small voice in the back of my mind. From many years before, I could hear my father telling me to pay attention and read that booklet front to back carefully before attempting the test. "Be Prepared", he would tell me reminding me of all those years I spent as a Boy Scout. Confident that my years of riding Ol' Blue would serve me well in my knowledge of how to ride and stay safe on less than four wheels, I dropped the booklet on my desk and thought nothing more of it. Four weeks later, and with the little missive of knowledge now buried deeply under a stack of junk mail and unpaid bills I decided to begin the testing procedure and get it over with.

Which brings me to where this story began, Mr. Olson had directed me to the computer terminal that was now mocking me silently. The first ten questions had been easy... "What is the best form of eye protection"...and "When should you wear bright colored clothing?"...yes, I felt very confident as I whizzed through those easy ones; then came the one about being "chased by a dog". Four answers were shown but nowhere did I see "Downshift, hit the gas and race him until he gives up". I took a guess andWell...one wrong answer isn't a problem I told myself, still confident I could beat this thing cold.

Unfortunately, at this point the die had been cast. As I plodded through the rest of the questions, they only seemed to get harder and the possible answers made even less sense to me. Could it be the computer

knew I hadn't read the darn booklet like Mr. Olson and my father had told me to do? Was I just stressing from the stress?

I failed that test...badly. Mr. Olson, his smile now mocking me as the computer had done for the past thirty minutes, politely told me that the key to passing the test was "reading the booklet". With my father's voice now joining the chorus of abuse, I left the Department of Licensing, dug the booklet out from under its stack and read it from front cover to back three times before retiring for bed that night. I passed the test the next day and now the only thing left is the one hundred mile drive to the driving test facility.

I think I'll do some practicing before I go.

Happy Father's Day Dad. You may be gone but you will live in my heart forever.

Green Lights and Open Highways

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Lady Riders

by
Pat Bennett

May sure brought some HOT WEATHER!! Were you prepared? Our chapter had a lunch ride May 17, the temperature was near 100 degrees. I wanted to make sure I was completely prepared for such temperatures so I wore a light-colored long sleeved shirt, pale blue jeans and a wet neck-scarf....and of course sipped water the whole time. The purpose for the light colors...they absorb less of the heat from the sun and helped keep me just a little cooler. Once we got to our destination I made sure I wore a cap to shade my head and face from the intense sunlight and just as important, I used 60+ sun block. Overkill you may say...not for me! I know I'm prone to sunstroke and my family is prone to skin cancer, so I try and anticipate my needs, and act on them.

I share this information with you because many of us forget how important it is to remain hydrated (drink lots of **WATER**), keep our skin covered so the moisture doesn't evaporate too quickly and when we're not on our bikes to keep our faces shaded from the harmful rays of the sun. If you just cannot drink water then may I suggest something that replaces electrolytes such as Gatorade since cola's are actually diuretics and will cause more dehydration.

Keep the rubber side down!

Pat

Editor's Comments

by
Crystal Rush

What Makes a Dad?



Who said that a child has to be yours in order for you do be the perfect dad? Whoever believes that philosophy is sadly mistaken. Many of you don't know but I grew up with a stepfather that wasn't really happy that I came along before he did so when I see families that are close, and they do things together, I don't mind mentioning that I am a little envious. Here is my "opinion" of what makes a real DAD, let's see if my belief system is in alignment with those that have a real dad.

A dad is somebody you can talk to, even about the tough subjects, and know that you won't be judged but supported in making the right decision. He's somebody that can be stern when necessary but can also be the one you run to when you need a hug. A dad can do anything, (or at least make you think he can) and when there is a task you need to accomplish he doesn't take over and do it for you but lends a helping hand and guidance on how to get the task done. A dad can say I love you and make everything else in your world ok.

Many of you may ask where I got the above idea of what a real dad is....I got it from my brother. He's never afraid to hug and kiss his sons in public and the boys (19, 18, 15) are not afraid to get that kind of attention from their dad. He is supportive and understanding but will also tell them when they're heading down the wrong path.

So, to all the men out there who have the privilege of raising a child....Happy Fathers Day!

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!**"*

June 2008

Sunday	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 CA2J Poker Run
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 CAID Poker Run	23	24	25	26	27	28 Horizons – Bakersfield
29 Horizons Bakersfield	30					

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		