



SCMA NEWS

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*The Road Ahead
SCMA and its Affiliated Clubs offer a large array of
Riding Opportunities*

Upcoming Events: (See club websites for details)

- | | |
|---|--|
| March 2: SCMA Day Ride | March 16-17: Shamrock's St. Patrick's Day Weekend Ride |
| March 2: SCMA Banquet | March 16-17: BMWCOSEC San Diego Weekend |
| March 9: SCMA General Membership Meeting, 9AM | March 19: SCMA Board Meeting, 10AM |
| March 9: SCMA Three Flags Committee Meeting, 11AM | March 23-24: South Coasters Borrego Springs Campout |
| March 10: Pasadena MC Poker Run | April 5-7: South Coasters El Capitan Campout |

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We Want to Hear From You Contact Us At:

SCMA
PO Box 487
Norwalk, CA 90651
www.sc-ma.com

The Buck Stops Here:
714.801.3931
BlakePAnderson@gmail.com

Road Signs

Skip Waser Video

During the March 2 Awards and Appreciation Banquet we featured a special presentation and tribute to a Bay Area man named Skip Waser who had



Skip

passed away before fulfilling his life long dream of taking a long distance motorcycle trip around the Country.

His daughter, Brooke Hill, asked us to take a copy of his photo on one of our cross-country motorcycle trips. The short video that was part of the presentation can be found at <http://youtu.be/OhYPYUxxZ2A> Read the full story in the banquet article

Are You Interested in Attending a "55 Alive" Driving Class?

Our own Gaylord "Huey" Ward is a certified instructor for AARP's 55 Alive driver safety program. He has offered to conduct a class for SCMA. We would like to gauge interest in the idea. It is an 8-hour course.

Huey will tailor it for our special needs as motorcyclists. Our native abilities diminish as we age. Learn how to compensate for that unavoidable consequence of riding into old age. Many insurance companies offer a discount for completing this class.

Lane Splitting Under Fire

State Senator Jim Beall has withdrawn his bill that would have significantly restricted lane splitting in California. Lane splitting has been used effectively and safely here (and only here) for decades. Senator Beall says he will wait until the results of a UC Berkeley safety study are published.

We all know that lane splitting is welcomed by most California motorcyclists but is a pet peeve of many motorists. News articles about lane splitting inevitably generate reader comments that rail against "those crazy bikers". These views are deeply held but usually totally uninformed. This is very dangerous to our interests as motorcyclists.

SCMA and its members need to keep a close eye on this issue. If we are not diligent this important right that actually promotes our safety during stop-and-go freeway traffic may become a fond memory. Who wants that?

It's EASY to Subscribe to SCMA News

Want to subscribe? Know someone else that would like to receive it? Simply email the editor at BlakePAnderson@gmail.com and request it.

You will automatically receive the newsletter once per month plus any special announcements and fliers about upcoming SCMA events. Email Blake at BlakePAnderson@gmail.com if you are interested.



Los Angeles Area Toll Lanes

Here is a bit of good news. Thanks to a software update on its cameras, the toll ExpressLanes on the I-110 & I-10 freeways now recognize standard (non-vanity) motorcycle license plates, ensuring riders will not receive a notice and fine for not having a transponder. The recently opened I-10 lanes from Union Station to the 605 Freeway and the I-110 ExpressLanes from San Pedro to downtown LA will be accessible to motorcycles without having to carry a transponder. That should make rush hours easier and cheaper for our friends that regularly travel to LA.

February Membership Report

By Sally Bishop, Membership

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Renewing Members During February | 4 |
| New Members During February | 35 |
| Lapsed Members | 388 |
| Life Members | 91 |
| Sponsoring Corporate Members | 5 |
| Active Regular Members | 517 |
| Total Members on the Rolls | 907 |

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Blake Anderson
714.801.3931

BlakePAnderson@gmail.com

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949.769.1726

steven1050@aol.com

Correspondence-Membership Secretary

Sally Bishop
714.693.7801

SallyJBishop65@gmail.com

Treasurer

Dennis Even
661.298.0000

even4two@pacbell.net

Recording Secretary

Barbara Fox
805.659.1956

twofoxs@pacbell.net

Referee-Risk Manager-Insurance Coordinator

Joel Briggs
805.529.4245

jbriggs555@att.net

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A Cold, Sweetheart of a Ride

By Gonzo

This year's February 10th Sweetheart ride was chaired by Mitch Friedman who laid out an excellent ride balanced between speedy straight roads, rides through suburbs and small towns, over mountains, along twisty roads, near the coast and through farmland. A little bit of everything including a 35 degree 7AM start for most of us. The Sweetheart Ride is one of 13 qualifying Travelers Award rides for 2013.



Twenty-two riders participated and were rewarded with a "Sweetheart" ride pin and bar designating 2013. Our starting point was Roy's Cycle Shop in Old Newhall. Roy's is located on Main Street amongst the

local main street shops that give it an older time era look and feel that is used so much by Hollywood film crews. Inside, while Mitch collected the \$10 fee, Dannie and Barbara Fox and their daughter Desiree issued ride pins and recorded riders' names to help Mitch administer the start. Dennis Even, all-around good guy who lives locally was also there to help the team with the ride preparations.



Dannie, Desiree and Barb

The ride rolled out of Newhall and headed north and west toward CA-126. Well down the road, the route took us right onto Center Street to ride thru the small town of Piru. Riders passed San Salvador Mission conducting well-attended mass just before making a left onto Main returning them back to CA-126.

Heading west another fifteen miles on CA-126, Santa Paula's Main Street took riders through town. There were no obvious signs indicating CA-150 so some riders ended up riding to the other edge of town....oops. But a Garmin or asking for directions would have them (read that me) get headed north on 10th street towards Ojai. A block after turning onto 10th and just before the railroad

tracks, riders saw the metal sculptures of the two motorcycles and riders. This is the "Warning Sculpture" dedicated to the policemen that rode through the villages and farms of the Santa Clara River Valley warning of the approaching flood waters from the infamous Francisquito Dam collapse back in the 1920's that wiped out entire families.



CA-150 is a gentle climb up the mountain with nice curves until descending into a perched valley by way of a couple of fun twisties. On the way up the mountain, located just outside of Santa Paula, is Thomas Aquinas College--I never knew such a place existed. Upon entering Ojai I pulled off to the side and set the destination as Ventura into Garmin. A few miles later CA-33 showed up and a left turn directed me for the 12-mile jaunt to Ventura. This was a nice ride through mountains, breathing the fresh air and enjoying a sunny but cold California day.

In Ventura the ride down Main Street took us past the Buena Ventura Mission that is one of the stops for the California Missions Tour. I highly recommend the CMT and visiting the 21 Spanish missions between Sonoma and San Diego.

Out of Ventura and back on CA-126, the ride went east towards Santa Clarita. Twelve miles out of Ventura, Mitch designed the ride to head southeasterly into the hills. This is where we found the really nice twisties on Balcom Canyon Road and Grimes Road. It was a great way to get us closer to Newhall and end the ride. All in all it was a wonderful ride through a part of California I hadn't seen before. As a rider new to SCMA, I can tell you that the big advantage to being a member is getting introduced to roads like these. Thanks Mitch.



Mitch

SCMA's Annual Awards and Appreciation Banquet *By Gonzo and Blake Anderson*



It Starts with Relationships

What a night it was! Camaraderie, story telling, old lies, new lies, laughter, and taking time to acknowledge the significant riding achievements of our members and the generous contributions of our board members and committee volunteers. It was a night to remember.

We Had Ourselves a Banquet

This year's banquet was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Santa Ana. An excellent social hour at the no host bar and an hors d'oeuvre spread allowed attendees to congregate and renew their acquaintances before the banquet hour. Once inside the banquet hall, attendees were greeted by a display of the awards to be presented and a very attractive arrangement of tables, seating, display, banners, and an ongoing slide show. Our tradition is to conduct a casual banquet with no red carpet and no head table. Tuxes and suits were not required although there were two gentlemen in suits. Some of the women were very nicely dressed. For most attendees, their favorite jeans, casual slacks, collared shirts and a few sports jackets fit the bill just fine.

A Welcome, Thanks and Dinner

Kenn and Phyllis Hatke who made the banquet arrangements greeted the attendees and welcomed them. Our Chairman, Blake Anderson, introduced the board, followed by an invocation and remembrance of riders no longer with us led by Rev Giovanna Piazza. Dinner followed with three entree choices: Angus NY steak, chicken picatta or penne pasta. All three were excellently prepared and served with herbed mashed potatoes and steamed broccoli/squash, salad and pudding desert. The hotel did us well.

The 2012 Service Awards

Blake then took the podium and began the event with recognizing the officers and volunteers who tirelessly work to make our SCMA a successful and fun organization. Service awards were provided to

Carol Allen, Sally Bishop, Joel Briggs, Dennis Even, Barbara Fox, Dannie Fox, Les Gullery, Kenn Hatke, Phyllis Hatke, Greg Harris, Steve Howe, Greg Kirchner, Jim Partridge, Steve Shulman and Gaylord "Huey" Ward.

The SCMA Best 15 US Roads Challenge

Charlie Coyner, Chairman of the SCMA Best 15 USA Roads Challenge announced that four riders completed the challenge this year and presented certificates, pins, patches and engraved knives to Charles Lamb and Ronald "Gonzo" Gonzalez, the two finishers attending the banquet. Larry Lamarche and Kathy Lamarche have completed the Challenge both years it has been offered. They were not present. They will receive a different engraved keepsake for completing the Challenge twice.

The 37th Annual Three Flags Classic

Huey Ward briefly outlined the highlights of the 2012 Three Flags Classic, mentioning that we had 228 riders. It was an excellent route--designed by Dennis Even and Joel Briggs. The finish in Nelson was well received. There were no serious incidents on the ride.

USA Four Corners Tour

Vice Chair Steve Shulman highlighted the 2012 offering of the USA Four Corners Tour. 82 riders finished the tour. Participants came from all over the United States and five of the Canadian provinces. He displayed the newly designed rally towels and finisher presentation plaques that will be provided to USA Four Corners participants and finishers, respectively. In prior years finishers received a certificate, pin and patch as an award. Beginning in 2013 finishers will receive a pin and patch, certificated plaque and the white rally towel embroidered with the Four Corners logo and the finisher's rider number to photographically document their visits to all of the corners.

continued on the follow page...

The 2013 Banquet (continued from page 8)

Steve then presented Charles Lamb, who has already completed the tour twice THIS year--once in January and once in February--with rally towels 001 and 002 as well as the first two new finishers plaques.

Travelers Award for 2012 Riding Year

Dannie Fox presented special Travelers Award trophies to Blake Anderson, Nick Balogh, Jim Bullen, Dannie Fox and Steve Howe who rode 13 or more of the qualifying monthly rides.

The California Parks Adventure and California Mission Tour

Dennis Even and Les Gullery presented the 2012 California Parks Adventure and California Mission Tour finishers plaques.

In 2012 the California Parks Adventure was completed by 12 riders: Jim Bullen, Rodney Chew, James Fischer, Ronald "Gonzo" Gonzalez, Tine Matherly, Kent Shepley, Robert Stills, Mark Stockton, Bruce Wallace, Edward Westlund, Larry Wong and Otis Wong.

The California Mission Tour was completed by 13 riders: Timothy Barlow, Dan Burt, Rodney Chew, Ronald "Gonzo" Gonzalez, Daniel Graham, Dan Hilton, Gordon Jaap, Howard Lyon, Kathy Lamarche, Larry Lamarche, Mark Mayo, Reuel Olson and Eleanor Stevens.

The Triple Crown Award

The 2012 riding achievements were capped off with the presentation of the Triple Crown Award to 11 riders. This award represents an outstanding and rare accomplishment in one calendar year: The completion of the USA Four Corners Tour, the Three Flags Classic, and either the California Parks Adventure or the California Missions Tour. It is a very difficult thing to accomplish. Body, spirit, machine, financial resources and available time must all properly align to pull this off. This year's recipients were Timothy Barlow, Jim Bullen, Rodney Chew, Ronald "Gonzo" Gonzalez, James Fisher, Kathy Lamarche, Larry Lamarche, Eleanor Stevens, Bruce Wallace, Larry Wong and Otis Wong.

Brooke's Request

The most heartwarming presentation of the night took place when Steve Shulman told the story of Brooke Hill's request

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SCMA's Affiliated Clubs

Antelope Valley Riders
www.avts.av.org

BMW Club of Southern California
www.bmwcosc.com

BMW Club, South Coast Riders
www.scbmwrc.com

Motorcycle Touring Association
www.mtaca3.org

Pasadena Motorcycle Club
www.pasadenamc.com

Shamrock Road Riders
www.sc-ma.com/shamrock.htm

Victor McLaglen Motor Corps
www.thevmmc.com



*Let's Ride
s*

The 2013 Banquet (continued from page 8)

for assistance on behalf of her departed father Skip Waser. A motorcyclist friend of Brooke's had referred her to IBA who referred her to SCMA. Skip had passed away after retiring but prior to completing his life long dream: to motorcycle to the East Coast and around the Country. Pancreatic cancer cut that dream short. As Brooke explained it, the most fitting way she could honor her father and keep his memory alive was to ask a stranger to carry Skip's picture around the Country during a long distance motorcycle trip. She reached out to us and we said "yes!"

The Kindness of a Stranger

It turns out that Charles Lamb's February USA Four Corners Tour was ready made for the task. Coincidentally, Charles was heading west from Texas to California on his January USA Four Corners Tour when Brooke emailed us. SCMA reached out to him and he agreed to meet with us to pick up Skip's memorial rally towel and then with Brooke to pick up the photo of her dad.

Skip's Journey

Charles finished his January tour in Blaine, Washington, temporarily stored his bike, flew home to Virginia for business, flew back to Washington to retrieve his bike and begin his February USA Four Corners. From that point forward, Skip's journey began and Brooke's request was fulfilled when Charles rolled into Madawaska to finish his February tour. Charles took great pains to mark Skip's journey with photographs along the way.

The audience was treated to a short video of the trip. You can watch it at this link: <http://youtu.be/OhYPYUxxZ2A>

Presentation to Brooke and Thanks to Charles

Brooke was presented with Skip's memorial rally towel and a Finisher's Plaque. Brooke then presented Charles with the novel *Travels with Charlie* and a dinner gift card at a restaurant near his home. Hugs and tears all around.

But wait, there's more.

But before Charles could return to his table, Joe LaChance, President of Four Corners Park Association in Madawaska ME, took the podium and related to the audience how in 2012 he was telling Charles about his efforts to raise funds to acquire the property next to the park to accommodate an expansion. After learning this, Charles returned to Virginia and generously

continued on following page...

SCMA Rides, Events, Communications

SCMA's USA 4 Corners Tour

Bill Allen, Chair

949.374.1536

Bill@AllenDesigns.com

California Adventure Series

Greg Harris & Dennis Even

661.400.2401 & 661.210.8264

even4two@pacbell.net

2013 Three Flags Classic

Dennis Even, Chair

661.210.8264

even4two@pacbell.net

SCMA Best 15 US Road Challenge

Charlie Coyner, Chair

719.432.8856

charlie.coyner@gmail.com

Traveler's Award

Dannie Fox, Chair

805.889.5220

twofoxs@pacbell.net

2013 Awards & Appreciation Banquet

Kenn Hatke & Phyllis Hatke-Shaw,

Co-Chairs

951.677.3644

kenn2006@verizon.net

SCMA Newsletter

Blake Anderson, Editor

714.801.3931

BlakePAnderson@gmail.com

Publicity Chairman

Steve Howe, Chair

562.298.6236

steve_howe@sc-ma.com

Sunshine Report

Phyllis Hatke-Shaw, Sunshine Lady

951.677.3644

pshaw2003@verizon.net

The 2013 Banquet (continued from page 9)

donated \$35,000 to support Madawaska's efforts. Joe announced that the property has been purchased and expansion of the only park in the Country dedicated to long distance riding is underway.

The Legacy Award Was Presented to Eleanor Stevens

The last award of the evening was the Legacy Award. It was presented to Eleanor Stevens.

More than 30 years ago, Eleanor was a member of the British Columbia Road Riders. They worked in partnership with SCMA to present the Three Flags Classic in the early years. Eleanor was one of the early volunteers that greeted our arriving finishers and processed their finishing documents. She witnessed the delight and heard the stories of the early Three Flag Classic riders. Before long, she became a long distance rider herself and began to ride the Three Flags Classic. She has completed more than 30. She has also completed the USA

Four Corners Tour a number of times and received the Triple Crown Award at the banquet.

Eleanor continues to volunteer at the Three Flags Classic finishes, year after year.

She represents the longterm relationship Canadian riders have with SCMA that make us a truly international organization. Her helpful and friendly spirit are valued by all that know her and provide us all with one more reason we value the SCMA experience.

A Final Word on the Banquet

This was a wonderful evening filled with joy, remembrance, encouragement, kindness and commitment. It demonstrates that together, we can all achieve our riding goals for 2013.

We look forward to seeing you next year at the 2014 Banquet and achieving a riding award that mark our riders as unique. And, if you are up for it, we can always use your help in anything we do.



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A Sunny Day Ride in the Angeles Forest

By Gonzo

This year's March 2nd SCMA Awards Banquet day ride was chaired by Steve Howe who laid out an excellent ride for the 12 riders that rolled out to a beautiful and warm winter's day. This is #3 of the 13 Traveler's Award Rides that Danny Fox is chairing and coordinating.



Steve Howe

The check-in and start were in the lobby of the Santa Ana Embassy Suites Hotel. The early birds had arrived, registered and headed out before most of us showed up. Steve Shulman introduced Patrick, a new member from San Diego, to the rest of us and then the two of them mounted their Gold Wings and headed up the road. Two new members and first time SCMA riders and business partners, Mike and Pat, rode two-up on his Triumph. With sign-ups completed, individual riders hit the road as early as 7 and as late as 8:30. Steve Howe led a 4-bike group consisting of Mike and Pat, Blake Anderson, and me, Gonzo.

Riders headed north on freeways about 35 miles to Azusa Ave (CA-39) and then headed north into the San Gabriel Mountains. The climb was steady with easy curves giving riders vistas of the surrounding mountains. Our breakfast destination, Mount Baldy, could be seen in the east from practically every turn until we passed San Gabriel Reservoir where the route began a twisty climb around Rattlesnake Peak. This twisty climb had everyone's vigilant attention as many a tight turn or switchback included fallen rock and dirt in the road. Not a lot of rock and dirt, but enough to get my attention because I didn't want to drop Sophia, my Harley Road King, in the presence of these other experienced riders!

Near the top of the climb the route took us onto a county road (NF-309) to the Crystal Lake Café and rest area where we took a breather and enjoyed the mountain air. Although the temperature was in the high 50's, and there was plenty of snow in the shade, it really wasn't all that chilly.

Then we saddled up and headed back down San Gabriel Canyon Road to San Gabriel Reservoir and turned east onto East Fork Road for about 5 miles and then a hard right turn onto Glendora Mountain Road where the ride was at its best....consisting of a moderate grade climb with excellent twisties and switchbacks for another 5 miles. Then a left turn onto Glendora Ridge Road for 12

miles of unbelievably awesome twists and turns and climbs. Caution was required due to the narrow road, blind curves, fallen debris, and dozens of cyclists....some who insisted on riding 3 or more abreast, believing the road was their's alone. Finally, we were rewarded with our arrival in Mt. Baldy Village and the Buckhorn Lodge & Restaurant which is located right at the base of Mt. San Antonio (Mt. Baldy). It was here that our group of riders partook in the best breakfast ever had. Egg dishes were served with Texas Toast, garlic and herb flavored potatoes, and a choice of ham, bacon, sausage or boneless pork chops. I became the self-designated official taster and confirmed that each of the other rider's breakfast meat choice were absolutely the best he had ever tasted! We sat outside and enjoyed the beautiful mid-day mountain sun.

With full stomachs, we headed down Mt. Baldy Road into Claremont to ride west on I-10 and south on CA-57 into Diamond Bar. Exiting on Grand Avenue, we rode to Chino Hills Parkway and then onto Carbon Canyon Road for a gorgeous ride through the Chino Hills and then back to CA-57 for the last leg back to the Hotel.

All-in-all, this was a very successful ride. Which brings to mind a discussion held by a group of members as to what makes a successfully ride. Is it a large number of participants? Beautiful weather? Excellent roads? Challenging route? Gorgeous vistas? A great meal with a group of fellow riders? No mishaps? Smiling and excited riders? Great camaraderie?

Steve Howe's ride met all but one of these attributes and made this SCMA Awards Banquet Day Ride a GREAT SUCCESSFUL RIDE !!



Gonzo

Editor's Note: Ronald "Gonzo" Gonzalez is one of SCMA's most recent volunteers. You will see a lot of him in the future. He is a prolific writer and storyteller. He has joined a team of other volunteers that will take on publicity to improve public awareness of SCMA and our riding events. Say hi to Gonzo and his loyal riding companion Snoopy next time you see him on a ride.

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Introducing the 2013 USA Four Corners Tour & the USA Four Corners True X Tour

By Steve Shulman

The holidays have come and gone and we've turned the corner on winter. I'd like to spend a few minutes talking about some of the changes to this phenomenal Tour. As you may know, the USA Four Corners Tour requires riders to travel to the furthest Four Corners of the USA in 21 days or less. These points are San Ysidro, CA; Blaine, WA; Madawaska, ME; and Key West, FL. You don't need to finish where you started to complete the ride. The ride is about 7000 miles but that does not include getting to your first corner or getting home from your last corner.

Bill Allen is the USA Four Corners Chair. He took over in late 2012 and was quick to reduce a huge backlog that occurred during the year. Thanks to Bill, we plan on making the process easier for the rider in 2013.

One thing you may not know is in 2011 the SCMA adopted the USA Four Corners TRUE X Tour. This ride is slightly different than the standard USA Four Corners Tour. In order to complete this ride, you must visit a fifth destination, Lebanon, Kansas, three times. Lebanon, Kansas is considered the geographic center of the United States. To complete the ride you must travel to your first Corner, then travel to Lebanon; travel to your second Corner, then Lebanon; travel to your third corner, then Lebanon; and finally to your fourth corner. You must do it in 26 days or less, rather than the 21 days allotted in the standard USA Four Corners Tour. If you do the TRUE X in 21 days or less you will receive both pins and both hats. The TRUE X adds about 4000 miles more to the regular ride.

We think this ride adds a dimension to an already exciting ride. For those who have done the standard USA Four Corners Tour the True X changes the route by drawing you into the center of the Country on routes that can be spectacular--if you design it that way.

Besides designing a modified version of the USA Four Corners we have made a few other changes. Our new hats have embroidered logos. Every registrant receives a hat with the standard logo. But, if your documented materials indicate you did the TRUE X, we'll send you another hat with the TRUE X logo.

In the past we've sent Finishers a paper certificate honoring them for their accomplishment. This year they will receive a newly-designed certificate on a laminated plaque. We think this is a classy addition to the

materials you will receive. For the 2013 riding season the registration fee is the same as in 2012.

Starting this year, starting riders will receive a rally towel, embroidered with the USA Four Corners logo and a unique rider number. At each Corner (and 3 times in Lebanon, KS; if doing the TRUE X) riders will clip the towel on their bike or trike and photograph it at a landmark in the city. The towel will also serve as a token of the ride. We think this is a really cool way of memorializing the ride and adding value for your registration dollar.

There is another change in the process for 2013. In a rider's Starter's package there used to be four envelopes. Riders were required to fill out a proof of visit form and mail it with a dated receipt from each corner post office. While riders will be required to fill out the forms and provide receipts, all forms will be sent back to the SCMA office at the END of the ride when, you return home. Because this is a significant rule change, the new rules will be highlighted in the Starter's package to limit confusion.

Some folks have asked why we changed this rule. The simple answer is logistics. The SCMA used to handle no less than 6 incoming pieces of mail for each rider. Multiply that by about 100 riders per year and that makes 600 pieces of mail for the USA Four Corners Tour. Handling this much mail and certifying the ride is an immense task. Now that we will receive one envelope from riders with all the forms, gas receipts, and pictures, it will save our volunteers an incredible amount of time and we can devote our time to making further improvements. We acknowledge that mailing each corner envelope was fun and unique, but we must change things up a bit for the sake of our hard working volunteers. We welcome your input once you've received your pin, hat, certificate and towel. Let us know what you think of our recent efforts.

We hope you will consider either the USA Four Corners Tour or the USA Four Corners TRUE X Tour in 2013. If not this year, we hope you'll put it on your "bucket list." We exist for only one reason: to present rides that are fun and memorable. Both rides are a remarkable long distance achievement and we look forward to processing your Starter's package, and more importantly, your Finisher's package.

I plan on riding the TRUE X in mid-May 2013. If you pull into a gas station and see a guy with an SCMA sticker on the back, and planning his next stop, that may be me. Introduce yourself. I will buy the coffee.

Best 15 US Roads Challenge Update

By Charlie Coyner, Ride Chair

During the March 2 annual Awards and Appreciation Banquet we honored four riders for completing the 2012 Best 15 Challenge. Larry Lamarche, Kathy Lamarche, Ronald "Gonzo" Gonzalez and Charles Lamb received a certificate, pin, patch and a commemorative keepsake. 2012 was the second year we have offered the Best 15 Challenge. Larry and Kathy completed it in 2011.

This year we have dropped VT-100 and added New Hampshire's, "Kancamagus Highway" with a side trip up the Mt Washington Auto Road.

The other 14 roads remain unchanged for 2013. They include Beartooth Pass and Chief Joseph Highways; CA-1, Monterey to Morro Bay; Lolo Pass; Cherochala Skyway and Tail of the Dragon; Going to the Sun Road, MT; "Million Dollar Highway", CO; Blue Ridge Parkway; WA-20, Concrete to Omak; VA-16, "Back of the Dragon";

The Twisted Sisters, TX; US-16, Custer to Mt Rushmore; US-191, Springerville to Three Way, AZ; UT-12, Torrey to Bryce Canyon and; US-50, the Loneliest road in America, Ely to Carson City, NV. The 2013 collection provides you 15 of what we think are the Best Roads in the USA! Rode 'em before? Then ride 'em in the opposite direction!

If you plan to ride the 2013 Three Flags Classic or the USA Four Corners, think about combining them with the Best 15 Challenge.

We'd love to have you join us for the fun of it! We always welcome suggestions. Let us know your candidates for the 2014 collection! Check out the flyer on the following page.



 An advertisement for the Tourmaster Transition Series 3 Jacket. The background is a photograph of a paved road lined with bare trees under a blue sky. The jacket is shown in the foreground, featuring a blue and black color scheme with reflective silver stripes. The Tourmaster logo is in the top right corner.

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- Removable, CE-approved armor at shoulders and elbows
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- Internal media pocket and sleeve key pocket
- Dual-zippered fanny pack
- Adjustable waist belts
- Jacket/pant zipper attachment

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Join Us and Ride the



Southern California Motorcyclist Association's

Best 15 Roads in the USA



**Entry is \$60.00 and ride must be completed within the calendar year.
For Information and Rules Visit:
www.sc-ma.com and Register On-Line.**

For more Information,
Contact Charlie Coyner, SCMA Best 15 Chair at (719) 432-8856 or charlie.coyner@gmail.com

2013 Travelers Award Contest Rules

Dan Fox, Chairman

At the March 2 Banquet we honored five riders for completing a perfect riding record for 2012: Blake Anderson, Nick Balough, Jim Bullen, Dannie Fox, and Steve Howe.

This year we are charging \$20 to participate. For 2013 we will provide new awards and its easier than ever to count to 13. 7 rides for a pin, 10 rides for a plaque/trophy and 13 rides for a free 2014 awards banquet dinner (all prizes accumulating, of course).

13 Possible Qualifying Rides for 2013

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| SCMA Soup Run | January 20 |
| SCMA Sweetheart Run | February 10 |
| SCMA Banquet Day Ride | March 2 |
| PMC Poker Run | March 10 |
| Shamrocks St. Pats Run | March 16-17 (first day) |
| S. Coasters Hearst Castle | April 19-21 (first day) |
| PMC Greenhorn Run | May 18-19 (first day) |
| SCMA Blazing Saddles | May 25-26 (first day) |
| SCMA Dog Days of Summer | July 14 |
| South Coasters 7 Passes Tour | Aug 2-4 (second day) |

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| SCMA Grand Tour | October 12-13 (first day) |
| SCMA Cemetery Tour | October 27 |
| SCMA Turkey Run | November 17 |

Plus 2 Possible Make Up Day Rides

For those riders that miss a ride we are offering two make up rides that can be substituted for any qualifying ride

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| BMWCOSEC Park & Ride | September 28 |
| SCMA Winter Solstice Challenge | December 21 |

Plus a Make Up Premier Ride

We also will provide the ability to substitute one of SCMA's Premier Rides for a qualifying ride. .

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| SCMA Three Flags Classic | August 30-Sept. 3 |
| SCMA Four Corners Tour | 21 days in 2013 |
| SCMA Best 15 US Roads | Anytime during 2013 |
| SCMA California Mission Tour | Anytime during 2013 |
| SCMA California Parks Advent. | Anytime during 2013 |



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Riding The Best 15: Tail of the Dragon and Cherohala Parkway

By Gonzo Gonzales

My room in the Timberline Lodge, a Mom n' Pop located in Claypool Hill at the junction of US-460/19 was very, very noisy. And although it was actually above the highway it was only some 30 feet away from downshifting trucks. It was a "Sleepless In Seattle" night. Breakfast was at the Waffles and Eggs on the other side of US-460 where an excellent ham 'n eggs was served with fried jalapenos.

Outside the skies were seriously overcast but The Weather Channel app on my Droid didn't show any local thunderstorm activity. Knoxville and Maryville were getting pummeled but it seemed that by the time I reach Knoxville the thunderstorms would have already passed through. Buoyed by that optimism I mounted up and headed out onto the 19 towards Knoxville.

Out of Maryville on US 129 I made stop at The Dragon Inn at the junction of TN72 and US129. This was an opportunity to meet Dennis and see his hotel and BBQ business that he started last year. He and his wife are very courageous to embark on this adventure ! His place is all natural wood and gives a country feeling to the stay. His BBQ is open on all sides giving a nice feel to being in the woods and a full view to the road watching bikers going to and coming from the Dragon. If you are planning to ride the Dragon from Tallassee south to the Deals Gap you should plan to spend the night at The Dragon Inn or stop for refreshments. (865) 253-3566.

Next stop was at the Harley store to get some gas and prove I was here and to buy a 'Dragon' T Shirt ☺. While there Hanna took some photos for me and also joined me for a pic....every old man enjoys getting his photo taken with a young lady!



A mile or two into the ride I came out onto a viewing area and saw another biker and his gal sitting on the rock wall and enjoying the view. Mike and his sweetheart Bailey were kind enough to pose for some pics as well as take a few of me. Then it was time to go slay the Dragon!



Wow! What a thrilling ride...so many turns (318 in 11 miles), ascending and descending 180's, deep banked turns, tight turns, Little to no room for error. No chance to look for vistas as the focus is completely on the ride.couldn't see it anyhow as the road is in the middle of a thick forest. On a number of curves I could see deep scrapings probably made by scraping running boards and in some places it seemed as if a bad crash marked the spot.

And suddenly the NC state line showed up...Deals gap was there in front of me and the 11 miles of 318 curves was over. I was elated that I completed it without crashing....but saddened that it was done...I wanted to ride it again! It was just so much fun! But time was not on my side.

With photos taken in front of the "Dragon" and then the "Tree of Shame" it was back on the highway heading for Robbinsville and a motel room.

About 2 miles down the mountain I came upon the Cheoah Reservoir/Lake. The Dam here was made famous in Harrison Fords "Fugitive". This is where Harrison did a "PeterPan".



There aren't too many motels in Robbinsville, so I was very fortunate to land a room in the San-Ran Motel (828) 479-3256. Anne and her husband are the owners and they have a very nice, clean and comfortable place at a very reasonable price. It definitely was my good fortune to be sent to San-Ran ...highly recommend it as the place to stay if you stay in Robbinsville.



Oh, another interesting note. Turns out Robbinsville is in a dry county. I found that out from an 18 yr old employee of the food store. But with a grin he told me where I could find beer only 30 minutes away in the adjoining county (but I wasn't going to ride 30 minutes just for a beer). So I headed over to the gas station and bumped into 4 other bikers from Michigan-Steve, Rick, Gary and Tim have been on the road since Friday and were on their way to Deal's Gap Motel where they had reservations. We had a good chat swapping stories and I mentioned the

Riding Tail of the Dragon and Cherohala Parkway (continued)

sadness of a dry county at which point Steve dipped into a cooler strapped on the back of Harley and gave me a Coors!! Wow!! Made my evening.

Well, time to get to sleep. The Cherohalla awaits me tomorrow. Hope I don't twist and turn too much in my sleep tonight ☺

Next morning while loading Sophia new friends were made with the motel support staff and folks from MS. Last night I realized that I will have to return to Deal's Gap to acquire my 'Tail of the Dragon' T-Shirt and decals because the store was closed yesterday when I finished riding the "Tail". The ride went quickly, about 25-30 minutes, and while there I bumped into Doc, who I had met back at The Dragon Inn yesterday....here's a photo with him and his wife.

The person taking the pic was Scott whose son is in the Marine Corps so we chatted about that and the rack that was designed for Sophia.



Then it was off back towards Robbinsville and onto the Cherohala. Shortly after turning onto the 143 I came upon the Thunder Mountain General Store, cabins, and Gas station. I met Mark the owner, I got some gas for proof of visit then headed out on the Skyway

I wasn't sure what to expect on the Skyway but everyone told me it was totally different from the Dragon. And indeed it was. The road was similar to the BRP and well maintained. I don't think the altitude ever exceeded 3500 feet, but it often felt like I was up around 6000 or so. View from lookouts always presented mountain peaks just a ridge away whereas the BRP had huge valleys in many instances. The Cherohala runs all along the southern border of the Great Smokies. The clouds were very high today so there weren't too much 'smoking' but that was a good thing...cuz the views were gorgeous looking out on all the adjoining ridges completely covered with trees. The ride is very similar to the BRP in that the climbs were not excessively steep and the turns were fun in their



gentleness allowing riders to keep going at a good speed between 30-50 mph.

The weather was perfect until about halfway through the ride when rain clouds swept in bringing a lower temperature; so I put my wind breaking rain jacket on for added warmth. At some point the Garmin gave up and quit on me....I think it was at the TN/NC line where the NC143 changes to TN165. I had programmed the Garmin only for 143 so at this point it no longer showed me a highlighted route...but it did display the road continuing. I began 2nd guessing myself wondering if I had missed a turn or something so I stopped at a viewpoint and consulted the map. Nope, there was really no road to turn off onto...I was heading the right way, and to my estimation I had about another 10 miles to go. So, back on Sophia and off we went.



Took a photo at the Cherokee NF sign and then after finishing the "Skyway" came upon the Harley Store at Tellico.

After that it was a quick bite at the Hardee's place at the junction with TN68.

The next leg was the long run to Brentwood, just south of Nashville where my buddy Neal lives. The route I'd be taking is the US68 to I-75 to I-40 into Nashville. I got in at 8:06 and Neal greeted me with a "You're one hour early buddy!"



Somewhere along the ride I crossed a time zone. Cool.

Editors Note: Ronald "Gonzo" Gonzales was one of four finishers of the Best 15 US Roads Challenge during 2012

*SCMA's Premier Events**

USA Four Corners Tour

Imagine the adventure and satisfaction of visiting San Ysidro, CA; Blaine, WA; Madawaska, ME; and Key West, FL in 21 days or less. The USA Four Corners Tour is a self-guided tour visiting these four locations in any order you select and at any time of the year. Visit our website for complete information about this World Class event.

Three Flags Classic *(an AMA "Extreme Grand Tour")*

The 38th annual Three Flags Classic is set for a Deming, NM start on August 30, 2013 and a finish in Winnipeg, MB on September 2. There is a September 3 banquet. 250 riders will travel 2100 miles through the mountains and rolling hills of New Mexico, Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota and Manitoba. Watch the SCMA website and the TFC forum for unfolding information.

California Adventure Series

The California Adventure Series includes two different rides: The California Parks Adventure (CPA) and the California Mission Tour (CMT). Complete one toward qualifying for the Triple Crown award.

CPA During any single calendar year and in any order and at any pace, visit all of the 24 National Parks and Monuments in California. Join the fun by purchasing a full color, well-illustrated passport book from SCMA that lists all locations. Get a park stamp and a photo of yourself at each location. Return the completed passport to SCMA and get it back along with a pin and a plaque.

CMT During any single calendar year and in any order and at any pace, visit all of the 21 California Missions. It works just like the CPA listed above

SCMA Best 15 US Roads Challenge

During 2013, travel our annual list of Best 15 US Roads. Every mile from your home to the roads and back again must be traveled on a motorcycle, trike or sidecar. Rules, application and details can be found on our website.

Tie It All Together with the Triple Crown Award

Imagine completing the USA Four Corners Tour, the Three Flags Classic and one of the California Adventure tours in a single calendar year. It is a rare achievement--done by only 10-15 riders per year. SCMA honors this significant accomplishment with a limited-edition plaque that marks you as a very unique long-distance rider.

Annual Awards and Appreciation Banquet

Triple Crown Awards and others awards are presented at SCMA's Annual Awards and Appreciation Banquet that will be held in March in 2014. Watch for date, location and registration information starting in late 2013.

**For more information visit our website and and scroll down to find all of these premier events*

Help Wanted

SCMA needs a ride chair for the October 27 Cemetery Tour

SCMA needs a ride chair for the December 21 Winter Solstice SS1000 Mile Challenge

Are you interested? If you live within 200 miles of Santa Ana or are willing to ride to within 200 miles of Santa Ana, I will be willing to buy you lunch so that we can talk about getting involved in SCMA as a ride chair or some other volunteer position. SLO, Fresno, Needles, Calexico

Come on, pick up the phone right now or type up a quick email. Start something.

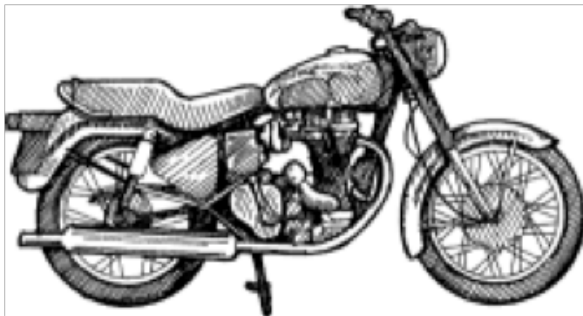
Blake Anderson (714) 801-3931
BlakePAnderson@gmail.com

Sell It Here...

Remember we accept free motorcycle-related ads from our members. Send your ad to the newsletter editor by the 25th of the month.

We Want Your Stories and Photos

Do you have a story that needs to be told? A ride you have taken? An interesting person you want to profile? Memories of your first motorcycle and what it meant to you? Maybe you have a good old days story about SCMA. If you have an idea, write it or tell it. We'll print it.



Everyone is Welcome at Our General Membership Meetings

We generally meet once per month on Saturdays beginning at 9 AM. We meet at:

Coco's Restaurant
 306 N Azusa Ave.
 (just south of San Bernardino Road)
 Covina, CA

Directions to Coco's:

From the I-210 Freeway, head south on Azusa Ave. 2.2 miles. Coco's is on your left.

Or...

From the I-10 Freeway, head north on Azusa Ave. 1.0 miles. Coco's is on your right.

Please join us any time. Hear first hand about what is planned for the upcoming rides offered by SCMA and its affiliated clubs. Get to know the people that put these amazing events together. Tell us what you think. And get a feel for what it would be like to join our efforts in providing the best that riding has to offer. No one is doing what SCMA is doing. No one.

Our 2013 General Membership Meetings are:

- March 9
- April 13
- May 4
- June 8
- July 13
- August 17
- September 21
- October 19
- November 16

Three-Month Running Calendar (with qualifying Travelers Award Events in Red)

March

- 1-3 *BMWCOOSC Colorado River Campout*
- 2 *SCMA Day Ride (Morning of Banquet)**
- 2 *SCMA Awards and Appreciation Banquet*
- 3 *South Coaster GMM and Day Ride*
- 9 *SCMA GMM, Coco's Covina, 9AM*
- 9 *Three Flags Committee, Coco's Covina, 11AM*
- 10 *PMC Poker Run**
- 16-17 *Shamrocks, St Patrick's Day Weekend Run**
- 19 *SCMA Board Meeting, Shaker Cafe, 10AM*
- 23-24 *South Coasters Borrego Springs*



April

- 5-7 *South Coasters El Capitan Ride*
- 13 *SCMA GMM & Calendaring Session, Coco's Covina, 9AM*
- 13 *Triple Crown Committee, Coco's Covina, 11AM*
- 16 *SCMA Board Meeting, Shaker Cafe, Glendale, 10AM*
- 19-21 *BMWCOOSC Benton Hot Springs*
- 19-21 *South Coasters Hearst Castle Ride**

May

- 4 *SCMA General Membership Meeting, Coco's Covina, 9AM*
- 10-12 *South Coasters Yosemite Ride*
- 11 *SCBMWRC Mother's Day Ride*
- 14 *SCMA Board Meeting, Shaker Cafe, Glendale, 10AM*
- 16-19 *PMC Greenhorn**
- 25-27 *Blazing Saddles**
- 25-27 *SCBMWRC Death Valley Ride*

Here's what's on the road ahead. For more information, check the SCMA website www.sc-ma.com and the websites of our affiliated clubs. Club websites (page 8) have more information. ALWAYS consult them before a ride for last-minute changes.

**Qualifying Travelers Award Event*

Some valuable fine print (really)

Articles and advertising must be received by the 25th of the month in order to appear in the next published issue of SCMA News. Send written correspondence to: Southern California Motorcycling Association, PO Box 487, Norwalk, CA 90651-0487

Email newsletter submittals to: BlakePAnderson@gmail.com

SCMA's website is always your best source for complete and current information on our rides and events. Our membership application is there too. Go to www.sc-ma.com for information, applications and other resources. Links to all of our affiliated clubs are there too.

The SCMA neither endorses nor sanctions any fund raising activities by its members or riders participating in its events for any purpose benefiting or on behalf of third party charities unless expressly stated otherwise. All such activities are outside of the control and view of SCMA and no support of any kind should be construed.

Any article, letter or material printed in this or any other SCMA publication is the opinion of the author or contributor and is not necessarily the policy or opinion of the SCMA Board of Directors unless expressly noted therein.

All material appearing herein can be used freely with the courtesy of attribution.

Advertising space is provided to our members only. Regular membership is \$25 for one year or \$45 for two years. Want ads are free for regular members. Sponsoring corporate membership is \$400 per year and includes a one-half page ad in the newsletter for 12 months and prominent mention at SCMA's March Awards and Appreciation Banquet and the September Three Flags Banquet.