

# Daily Planet

May 2003

Vol. 28 Number 5

Official Newsletter of the San Francisco Northstars Motorcycle Club

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MAY 9-11 STREET	Lost Coast Luau w/ Village Idiots (Roozbeh)
MAY 17-18 STREET	Scoot and Splash (Kari) 510.847.2942
MAY 24-26 DIRT	Clear Creek (Earl)
JUNE 1 STREET	Ahwanee Brunch (Lisa)
JUNE 8 STREET	Mt. Hamilton and Kart Racing (Craig)
JUNE 13-15 STREET	King's Canyon (Gretchen)
JUNE 28-29 DIRT	Elkin Flat (Earl)
JULY 11-13 STREET	World Superbike at Laguna Seca

## MEETING MINUTES Apr. 30 -----

Members **Catfish, Lisa, Wendy, Bob, Ken, Earl, Pete Silva., Allen, Gretchen, Craig, Gary, and Kari** were all present, as were guests **Doug Dano, Chris Bishop, Brad Lackey, Tom Hung, Sarah Burke, Eric with a K, and Joanne Ferreira.**

**RIDE REPORTS:** **Catfish** reported on an amazing 2- or 3-day Songdog ride... "for those who showed up"... seems a bit of "weather" kept some folks in the 2-day group from turning out, or at least making it further than breakfast. For those who did, including guests **Chris B. and Sarah B.**, a great ride was had: for the three-dayers it was all sunshine (well, not all, but they did have nicer weather...). After lunch at the deli that no longer serves sandwiches (can you still call yourself a deli??), the crew did lucky highway number 58 and on to more food. For those leaving Saturday, 15-16 folks showed up for breakfast, 11 guests and 5 members—10 bailed! For those who went on the ride, there was "weather" til Salinas and then the backroads were all clear. That didn't stop a guest from crashing hard enough to go to the hospital. **Ken** was acceptably abashed that one of the guests not only went on the ride, crashed, went to the hospital and **STILL** made it to Songdog...! Then on to Songdog for, of course, more food, the BBQ was once again stellar, with LOTS of extras given the number of people accounted for and the number of people Jim was expecting. After dinner (and some before-dinner) entertainment was provided by **Gretchen**...since she isn't at the meeting, we can only presume she is still recovering. The Hair of the Dog return route included Taft and 58 that had everyone thinking of bailing...only 3 riders, **Catfish, Craig, and Earl**, did the

slated Indian Valley-Peach Tree route, with everyone else opting for, well, the lessor roads. As riders split for home, **Earl** admitted he just couldn't get enough, going home via Altamont and Patterson passes, past Carnegie and home! Guest **Erik** road the Carnegie Hill climb competition and amazed the group with his description of Harrison Hill, a straight up ride with a sharp right turn at the top to another climb up, all of which was a nice hole after riders had ridden the course a few times. **Craig** described his day-ride up to Harbin Hot Springs to a very envious crowd. **Earl** described the Clear Creek ride which, even after all of the Asbestos controversy on the list-serve, had a great turnout, with **Catfish** and son **Chris, Erik and Lisa, Joanne, Mark W., Patty** and more... **Catfish** showed of his map of the 250 miles of trail with topos of the roads, jeep trails, ATV's, single track, and red "open area" free for all areas = 50,000 acres! As much riding at the crew did, looks like we'll need to head back at some point and try to explore some more of those areas. **Erik** noted that "**Chris** is a bad-ass"...not only is **Catfish** raising a genius boy, but a serious dirt rider as well.

**OLD BUSINESS:** T-shirt orders were finalized, and the Club will be purchasing extras of the M, L, XL's for future sales.

Minutes continued on p. 4

# OFFICIAL 2003 RIDE CALENDAR

## may <sup>28 Northstar Meeting</sup>

- 3-4 AMA Superbike Races in Sonoma
- 9-11 Lost Coast Luau w/Village Idiots (Roozbeh)  
3-Day Street Ride
- 17-18 Clear Creek  
2-Day Dirt Ride (Earl)
- 17 SheetIron 300 Dual Sport Ride
- 17-18 Scoot and Splash  
2-Day Street Ride to Avila Hot Springs and Morro Bay (Kari)

## june <sup>25 Northstar Meeting</sup>

- 1 Lisa's Ahwanee Brunch Ride (Yosemite)  
1-Day Street Ride (Lisa)
- 13-15 King's Canyon (**FATHERS DAY IS 6/15**)  
3-Day Street Ride (Gretchen)
- 28-29 Elkin's Flat or Georgetown  
2-Day Dirt Ride (Earl)

## july <sup>30 Northstar Meeting</sup>

- 11-13 World Superbike at Laguna Seca
- 20 Around the Bay in a Day  
1-Day Street Ride (Craig on his Birthday)
- 27 Mendicino Madness  
1-Day Street Ride (Jim)

## august <sup>27 Northstar Meeting</sup>

- 9-10 International Trials Competition  
10 Ride up to Donner/Trials  
1-Day Street Ride (Wendy)
- 16-17 Old Highway 40 Motorcycle Days  
1-2 Day Street Ride
- 24 Scoot and Shoot  
1-Day Street Ride and Shooting (Craig)

## september <sup>24 Northstar Meeting</sup>

- 6-8 Hot Spring's Ride  
2-3 Day Street Ride (Craig)  
options for both 2 or 3 days
- 19-22? Late Sept./Early Oct:  
Mike's Rogue River  
3-4-5 Day Street Ride (Mike)

## october <sup>29 Northstar Meeting</sup>

- 4-5 Fall Songdog Rally  
2-Day Street Ride
- 4-12/13 Songdog and then on to Baja  
Street Ride (Craig)
- 26 Vice Ride Misery (or Mystery)  
1-Day street ride by the Vice Prez (Wendy)

## november <sup>26 Northstar Meeting</sup>

- 2 Prez Ride  
1-day street ride (Lisa)
- 16 10th Annual Steve Mitoma Memorial Ride  
1-Day Street Ride (Craig)
- 21-23 California City  
3-Day Dirt Ride (Earl)

## december <sup>30 Northstars Meeting</sup>

to be scheduled/rescheduled:

# UPCOMING RIDE DETAILS...

## June 1 Awhanee Brunch Ride

Meet at the Vasco Road Shell station in Livermore at 7:30.

As was the tradition last year, breakfast bagels will be served for all who need some fuel before the ride.

Time: Ride leaves Livermore at 8:00 (bikes & bellies fueled, ready to ride).

Brunch: We have a 12:00 reservation at the Awhanee.

Cost: The buffet will cost \$32 plus an 18% gratuity, plus California sales tax for a total of about \$41 each.

Tips: Leave home with a full tank of gas. The first gas stop is 135 miles from S.F. The second gas stop is at 115 miles from the first. From that gas stop back to SF is 160 miles. Ride the appropriate hardware with the appropriate range.

IMPORTANT: There is a \$10 entrance fee into Yosemite for motorcycles! It is FREE if you have a National Parks pass (\$50 a year), which includes spouse. The Ntl. Parks Pass admits the pass signee and any accompanying passengers in a private vehicle if a park has a per vehicle entrance fee. Where a per person entrance fee is charged, the National Parks Pass admits the pass signee, spouse, children and parents. Borrow a pass if you can.

Please let Lisa know by Wednesday, May 28 if you will be attending this ride. E-mail [lisa@peachpit.com](mailto:lisa@peachpit.com) or call (415.377.0134).

Lisa will post the route on the list. See you all there! There's always a great turnout for this one.

Oh, we'll ride rain or shine. Need I even say that?

## May 23-26: Memorial Day Dirt Riding

Our esteemed Dirt Steward/ Trailor Liason is at it again! Earl will be leading a three-four day dirt ride over the Memorial Day holiday or another exciting California location.

For details on this ride, please contact Julio "Hot Stuff" Sanchez if interested. call Earl at 925-443-4004

"Clear creek is going to be too dusty to ride so that is canceled. This 90 deg. weather has dried up most of the regular places. Maybe a day ride at elevation is in order?  
Earl

## 3-day June 13-15 King's Canyon Ride

A beautiful ride down, then a gorgeous ride through the Canyon Saturday and another incredible route home Sunday. Think twisties, no cars, sunshine, but not too hot. You will love the route! Stay tuned...

But book your hotel rooms now at The Buckeye Tree Lodge in 3 Rivers about a

1/2 mile from the park entrance. The rooms are about \$90/night for two people (so about \$45 each per night). Plus you can add a 10% AAA discount if you are a member. For more info, check out their website at: <http://www.buckeyetree.com>. The hotel # is 559 561-5900.

There is a cancellation policy (website says 7 days, but ask when you call) so book now before rooms fill up and you can cancel later if you decide not to go.

If you want to camp, see Kari, she will make campground reservations in the Park once she has a good count (510-847-2942).

Contact Gretchen @ 415 587 2335 if you have questions as she is leading this ride.

## June 8: Mt. Hamilton ride/Kart Racing

I will be leading a day ride to Mt. Hamilton on Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> of June. This ride will start at the Oakland Grill and will hit Redwood Road, Palomares, Niles, 84 to Livermore, Mines Road to the top of the mountain and back down into San Jose.

Now for a little twist!

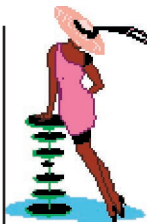
We will take a couple of little backroads up through the hills and back down into Milpitas and Fremont where we will stop at: <http://www.lemanskarting.com/> For a little gokarting fun!

I checked this place out yesterday at lunch and had a blast. 200cc karts (sorry, non-shifter versions), tight indoor course, just about anything goes (they will pull you off the track for overly aggressive behavior), and all laps are timed to show you how good you aren't!

Remember, some of the best Formula 1 drivers in the world got their start in karts! Please RSVP if you plan on making it. I will make arrangements at the facility for our group to have the track to ourselves for the races. Also let me know what you want to pay. Do we want 2 sessions? 4? I presume we want the sprint racing options which runs about \$40 per session. See the website for details.

Thanks!  
Craig (Crash) Hightower,  
Your humble Ride Steward





Vice

## Column

When is it appropriate to not wave at a fellow motorcyclist?

Do I wave on a country road or during the commute? Leaned over in a corner, signaling with my boot? On the side of the road, do I give a toot? Should I wave, just to be cute? When I don't wave should I feel guilt, or just not give a hoot? Does it matter what sport the other riders' suit? When a wave is not returned, am I insulted by the brute? How far will this go, this exchange of root? Sometimes I feel that the wave is out of hand. Oh, I've said enough I'll just remain mute.

*Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.*



## Offroad Policies for ForestHill and...

“First, thank you all for being concerned and wanting to do your part to keep Foresthill open.

As for Foresthill trails, they are under no threat of closure. The Forest Service has no plans to close anything at this time. What is threatened is OHV grant funding to pay for the operation and maintenance of the area.

The meeting on May 15 is to get public support for their OHV grant. It is helpful to write a letter of support for their grant, but it will not make much difference. You need to focus your efforts on the OHV Commissioners, and the folks who appoint them.

For the last 2 years, the California OHV Commission has been under the control of an anti-OHV majority. There are 7 OHV Commissioners. 3 are appointed by the Governor, and all of his appointees are good people. 2 are appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, and 2 are appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate, and they have given us anti-OHV extremists. John Burton of San Francisco is where you need to focus your letters, as he appointed the worst 2 of the bunch,

Paul Spitler, former Executive Director of the California Wilderness Coalition, and now OHV Commission Chairman, and Harold Thomas, an attorney for the California District Attorney's Association who prosecutes environmental crimes. Recently, the OHV Commission cut off entirely the Stanislaus National Forest and the Eldorado National Forest. They eliminated all Operations and Maintenance money for the Glamis (Imperial) San Dunes, so that there is no OHV money for restrooms or garbage or visitor services at an area that gets over 130,000 visitors on ONE holiday weekend. And they have severely cut O&M money for almost all riding areas.

You can write Burton at: John Burton, Speaker Pro Tem, California State Senate, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. The Sacramento office number is 916-445-1412, or his SF office is 415-557-1300. Tell him that you a rider from his district, and you want to see him replace these appointments with reasonable people, not anti-OHV extremists. Spitler's term expires next January, and we need to get him replaced.

Thanks again for doing your part.”

Bill Dart, Public Lands Director  
Blue Ribbon Coalition  
208-237-1008, ex 102  
Fax 208-237-9424

### Minutes continued...

**NEW BUSINESS:** **Pat M.** was “awarded” the Fuck-up Jersey for the incident, and hospital visit, his guest encountered on the Songdog ride. **Craig** brought up the possibility of a ride to Mt. Hamilton and a bit of post-ride Kart Racing in Fremont. He passed around the brochures, as well as his timecard from his testing of the facility (for the good of the Club, right?), and the response was very positive. A date of June 7 was set for this, see inside for details. **Sarah B.** noted some information on Foresthill closures (not happening) and threats to funding of OHRV areas...more info inside. **Allen** made a motion to draft a letter to Bill Dart on the Blue Ribbon Committee, **Ken** seconded. **Lisa** will put this into motion. **Earl** passed around pictures as a preview of the Sat. May 3 dedication of the new seating section at Sear's Point/Infineon as the **Rod Brown Terrace**. Pictures inside. **Lisa** noted that **Kelly, Pat Lydon's** wife, is very ill, your thoughts and calls would be appreciated. New members **Joanne Ferreira** and **Brad Lackey** were voted in at the meeting.

**NEW BIKES, NEW BABES:** **David R.** got a brand new '03 KTM 250. **Craig** showed off his “revived” SV 650...it is “Smokin’...and guest **Sarah B.** raved about her new DRZ 250.”

# Rob Brown Terrace

photos by Earl Minkler

Earl, Erik and I stood beneath it for quite a while, admiring the beautiful piece of artwork and taking in the scenery from the Rob Brown terrace. Erik spoke highly of your talent. I know you'd be working on it for the past eleven days straight; it's amazing! Congratulations, Earl.

To me, it compliments the Rob Brown Terrace perfectly, and gives the space an overall sense of foundation and community. It also gave me some closure about Rob, whose spirit didn't seem grounded since his death, for some reason. This tribute did that for me...

Ran into Matt Brockway; he and I both agreed that Mark and Rob's spirits were EVERYWHERE on Sunday.

Rob and Mark have to be beaming with that memorial standing tall at Sears Point.

Thanks, Earl.

-LB



Rene,

Pat:

Glad to see you are alive and well. I'm sitting here in Castle Rock, Colorado watching the rain come down. The first the locals have seen in months. 2 1/2 weeks ago we had a blizzard that dropped four feet on the outside deck which hung around for two weeks. After the blizzard all we saw was beautiful blue sky. Gorgeous!. I couldn't get anybody who wanted to treat me for my cancer in the Bay Area. The University of Colorado has a big cancer center and they will stand on their heads to help you if you have a chance. I'm on chemo therapy now and although I'm tired from it, all is going well for a 75 year old ex-motorcyclist. When I looked at who you sent your note to I saw Craig Piro. Today's Northstars probably never heard from him except Pete Silva. I've always liked you, Rene, I hope you are happy and doing well.

Always a Northstar,  
Pat Munroe

It was great to hear from you, although not-so-great to learn you are sick. I know that NO cancer is a good one, but I sincerely hope yours is treatable/beatable. Anyone who can beat a 12-year machinists strike can beat anything!

You wouldn't recognize the Northstars today, there's only three or four of us oldies left. When I was President, I unilaterally opened membership up to women, and now all the office holders are ladies, damn fine members too. The only odd thing is now we donate for baby showers and stuff, but worthwhile to enjoy their comradeship... some pretty fair riders too! Im going to retire after 35 years with the PD on August 15<sup>th</sup>. I plan to jump on one of my eleven bikes and see this great country. If you're feeling up to it, I'd like to see what Castle Rock, Colorado has to offer. I've cc'ed our correspondence to the Northstars, as I know everyone will like to hear from you, as well as get your web address.

In the meantime, I pray for your recovery and wish you all the best.

Your friend & Northstar-for-life  
Rene



# The Mohave...



# and Songdog 2003...





**“Chris [Chaplin] is a bad-ass”**

**-Erik S. at Clear Creek**

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