

Daily Planet

February, 2004

Vol. 29, Number 2

Official Newsletter of the San Francisco Northstars Motorcycle Club

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

March 30 Meeting

MAR 7 Scoot and Shoot at
Lake Berryessa—*Craig*

MAR 20-23 Hans' Dirt Ride Weekend
dirt

April 27 Meeting

APR 2-3 Carnegie Hillclimb

APR 10-11 Annual Songdog Ride
—*Dave or Kari, Mike*

APR 24-25 Stonyford Dirt/Street Ride
dirt/street —*Dave, Dirt; Kari-Street*

APR 30-MAY 2 AMA Sear's Point

May 25 Meeting

MAY 1 Flat Track Nationals Cow Palace
(Indoor, AMA eve. event)—*Craig*

MAY 15 Dave's Dirt Day
dirt Hollister? Carnegie?

MAY 23 Awhanee Brunch—*Lisa*

June 29 Meeting

MAY 29- JUN 5 Craig's California Hot Springs Tour
3-day route available

JUN 19-20 Loyalton—*Pat L.*

July 27 Northstars Meeting

JULY 3-5/6 Lassen Park/Shasta Ride (Kari)

JULY 9-11 World Superbike at Laguna Seca

*Mark your calendars... Ride meeting
for 2nd half of 2004 coming in June*

MEETING MINUTES: TUESDAY 2.24

Present and accounted for at this meeting included: Madame President, Lisa B., Craig, Catfish, Kari, Allan, Wendy, Jim, Pat L., Guests included Glen and Wendy's friend, Charla. OLD BUSINESS: Alan Paul - The Discovery Channel will be visiting the pub on Friday March 5th around 4 to 6pm. Come on by to join the fun and possibly get your mug on TV! ☼ Yahoo Groups - Mike Chaplin discussed the options for return mail on the Yahoo Group for the Northstars. In general club feedback is to have the group setting for return to sender vice the entire group for email. A vote was taken and all were in favor of changing the setting to return to sender. Mike will make the change and inform the group. ☼ NEW BUSINESS: Gretchen: Carnegie was a blast! Lisa, Erik, Earl, Lonna and Steve joined her for fun in the dirt. It was crowded but the guys showed her the fun spots. While riding up a hill they had one particularly difficult transition over a small ridge. They made it but she ended up stopping, putting her foot down, found no ground and did the air walk until she landed on her side laughing. She said it was a particularly good Flying W. ☼ The Supercross was a success! Thanks to Lisa for getting the tickets and to everyone involved in putting together the tailgate party. Catfish said he stopped in at Paragon for dinner that night. Loved the spicy calamari and the prices were quite reasonable. ☼ Joe mentioned that he recently used his raffle prize from the dinner. He stopped in at Scuderia to cash in his coupons. Told them thanks for sponsoring the dinner and ended up buying oil, cleaner, ear plugs and filter oil. ☼ Charla Jean was in attendance as a visitor. She mentioned her recent 3-day ride with AYU down to Pismo Beach. In particular she enjoyed Santa Rosa Creek Road and how it reminded her of riding in the Alps. One question she had for folks was how do you deal with being blinded in the morning light when you transition from shade to sunshine. No one had a good answer. Most said to simply relax and maintain your speed and line down the road. FYI beware of the feral pigs down South of Big Sur! Warning signs have been

**SEE PAGE 2 OF THE NEWSLETTER FOR
ALL UPCOMING RIDE INFO**

*ride
details*

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CRAIG'S SCOOT AND SHOOT RIDE Sunday March 7

Where: Millie's Kitchen
1018 Oak Hill Rd # A, Lafayette, CA 94549
Phone: (925) 283-2397
7:30 breakfast; **8:35** clutches out

Details: The route will take us out Happy Valley Road to Bear Creek to Alhambra Valley.

From Martinez out 4 to 680 to Benicia. We'll peel off the highway at Lake Herman and do the frontage road to Rockville. From there we do Wooden Valley, 121, 128 and then catch Berryessa-Knoxville.

Note. Berryessa-Knoxville has 9 water crossings and can be rather dicy. If you are uncomfortable on snarly roads you may want to take the bypass to Middletown by going out Pope Valley/Lower Chiles to Butts Canyon.

We will be stopping at Knoxville OHV park for a stress relief break. I will have a 9mm and a .45 with a couple hundred rounds for each. Y'all are welcome to shoot my pistols or bring your own for more fun.

After the stress relief break we will continue up the road to Hwy 29. South on 29 to Middletown for lunch at the Brewery.

Now for the treat! For those who have business to attend to I leave it up to you to determine a return route. Most likely Butts Canyon to Pope Valley/Lower Chiles and then back out 128 and 121. For those who need a little more stress relief I will be heading over to Harbin Hot Springs to renew my membership and to spend the rest of the afternoon soaking in hot water. Anyone interested is welcome to join me. You can get in via my membership. For 6 hours (or is it 8) of time there it's something like \$20. Swimsuits not required but you should bring a towel. It's pretty laid back and hippy-like. There is one large "quiet" pool, a similar sized community pool, a small scorching hot pool, a cold plunge and a sauna.

I plan on spending at least 2-3 hours there. After that an easy ride down to Calistoga to restock on fluids and nourishment and then back home.

Hope you can make it! —Craig

Ride leaders, get me your info ASAP on your upcoming rides. Meeting places, times etc. I will update the website and add info to the newsletters as soon as I get your info.—Craig

Hans & Julio Mojave Bash

I just got a call from Hans & here is Mojave info for the newsletter:

The Hans & Julio Birthday Bash-o-rama!

March 19-23 (Friday-Tuesday) Site #3

(Washburn Blvd., Cal. City) on these maps

<http://www.micapeak.com/sfnorthstars/mojave.html>

Most folks are driving down Friday and are planning to ride Saturday thru Monday, and maybe Tuesday morning.

THE SPRING SONGDOG RANCH RIDE FOR NORTHSTARS & FRIENDS April 10-11

Where: Meet at Original Johnny's in Half Moon Bay
7:30 breakfast; **8:30** riders meeting

Details: Sat. BBQ, Sun. breakfast, and camping fee:

Dues-paying Northstars: \$35

Friends: \$40

RENTALS:

Sleeping bag = \$15 (w/sheets & pillow)

Sleeping pad = \$5

Tent (or sleep in lodge) = \$10

Checks due by Saturday, April 3 to:

Allan Paul

S. F. Brewing Company

155 Columbus Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94133

A firing range will be set up for those packing WMD!

Contact: catfish@endorphin-express.com if interested in spending 2 nights at SongDog.

**Dave might also be coming down on Sunday (and staying to Monday?) for an alternative 2-day option, but not sure.

meeting minutes continued...

erected (no joke!). ☆ Craig Hightower talked about his recent lunch ride to Salt Point lodge. For the most part it was a sloppy overcast day but the group of riders, Paula, Carolynn, Bruce, Matt and Pete were up to the task of riding snarly little backroads. We managed to make it through Marin and up the coast with nary a problem. No cops in site and lunch at Salt Point was good. On the way home we had a touch of traffic near Bodega but everywhere else was clear. By the time we pulled into the store on Lucas Valley we were down to Matt, Pete, Carolynn and Craig. Unfortunately we didn't realize Carolynn was missing until after we had been stopped for a few minutes and had purchased our sodas. Next thing you know we hear a siren and see a CHP heading the other way. We jumped on the bikes and rode back a couple of miles only to find Carolynn in a ditch. Later I found out that she had overcooked the corner, tried to stand the bike up on the brakes and got nailed by same when she entered a ditch on the side of the road. She ended up going for a helicopter ride that day and spent a week in the hospital with a broken pelvis, tailbone and shoulder. She's home now recuperating and is dying to get back on the bike. ☆ Mike talked about the Two-Mountain ride on Superbowl Sunday. Fourteen people showed up despite the ugly weather. One person (Joe) who's name I won't mention (Joe) wussed out because of a girl (Joe). There were no rangers on or near Diablo and the park used the honor system to collect revenue that day. Despite the fact that it was a Northstar ride (Cheap Bastards) a few folks stopped, put money in an envelope and slipped it into the slot at the entrance. Despite this good karma move Mike encountered a few problems with his Baja Designs kit wiring on the WR and had to take time out to fix the problem. BD now owes him big time for his contributions to their product! ☆ Mike also gave a synopsis of the last Mojave trip. They encountered rain every day and the temps were a bit on the cool side. Despite the hardships they managed to check out the El Paso

mountains and had a hell of a time climbing a loose shale rock hill. Mike had three attempts that left him just 30 feet from the top. Hans came down and helped him get it up so to speak. Hans also went to the bottom of the hill and with little difficulty transferred Steve Hursh's bike to the top. What a guy! ☆ Saturday saw perfect conditions in the desert. Not too wet with incredible traction. The gang managed to complete a 90-mile loop that day. It was so good that they had no good stories to share for the day. ☆ Sunday started out with yet more rain. Mike did a 40-mile stint out toward Edwards dodging the rain the entire way. A little hot chocolate in Randsburg helped ease the chill of the morning. In the afternoon they again dodged the rain for a sprint back to camp. ☆ Monday saw David bowing out due to a sore back. Rain was everywhere and folks decided to pack up and head home. All in all they saw three full days of dirty fun. —CH

A decision was made to see if Brian Halton would run an ad in City Bike in exchange for a courtesy membership to the club. Lisa and Gretchen are working on business cards for the club so we can pass them out to prospective members. Craig is working on the web site and hopes to promote links to other popular sites.

Following up from our last meeting:

Lisa and I will have the ad and biz cards done shortly.

Alan/Wendy/Craig, We'll send 'em

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (CONT.)

August 31 Northstars Meeting

**AUG 14-15 Old Highway 40 Motorcycle Days
(to be confirmed)**

**AUG 22 Northstars Picnic: location to be
determined—Gretchen**

**SEP ?? Six Pass Dardanelle's Ride
—Gretchen and Earl**

**To be scheduled: Blue Ribbon Coalition speaker
at a future Northstar meeting.—Lisa B.**

to you for nay final comments (nice to have an extra pair of eyes), then Lisa will provide you for posting all the places we discussed in the meeting. Alan, Is Brian ok trading membership for ad placement?

Lisa has also graciously offered to print biz cards at work—for only cost of paper—and provide to us at the next few meetings. These will say how to get info on the Club and where/when the meetings are. They would have been good to have yesterday to give people. Hope everyone will carry some.—Da Prezette

Songdog is coming fast! Scheduled for Easter weekend the ride will be \$40 per person with paid members getting a \$5 discount. We will meet on Saturday on the coast for breakfast. From there we ride south to the Ranch. Provided we have enough folks Jim will BBQ up some tri-tip and chicken for us and we will have full use of the lodge. Sunday morning will start with a good breakfast courtesy of Jim and staff and then we hit the road for home. Catfish may lead a Friday group down like he did last year. Craig may lead a detour over to San Luis Obispo for a night at Avila Hot Springs before returning home on Monday. Get the word out to your riding friends! We need roughly 30 people to make this happen. More details in this newsletter!

meeting minutes continued...

Gretchen is working on a picnic for this summer. Right now it's looking like August 21st. Joe offered up his bachelor pad in Auburn as a place to go. Other options were discussed. We will finalize plans soon. **UPDATE:** Lisa spoke with Brett and Barbara Morshead, who have agreed to host the event at their house in Santa Cruz. Since the picnic will be held on a Saturday, members now have the option to spend the night should they partake in too many libations that day. More details will come later.

Reminder! It's 2004 and time to pay your dues for the New Year!!!

NEW RIDES: Craig is leading the Scoot and Shoot Ride on Sunday March 7th. Meet at 7:30 for breakfast at Millies Kitchen in Lafayette. Rider's meeting at 8:30 and clutches out at 8:35. Bring along a firearm and ammo for a little fun up at Knoxville OHV Park. You may want to bring a target or two as well. (Maybe an old speeding ticket or ?)

Chris Bishop mentioned the upcoming dates for little bike racing at Prairie City. He has graciously offered up his bikes to anyone interested in taking a

stab at little bike riding on the track. March 20th the guys will be racing at Prairie City. April 17th as well. Come on down and support the racers and if interested try it out!

If you really get hooked contact Jim Cairnes. His buddy has a YSR50 for sale!

The latest issue of CityBike (March 2004, page 3) has a piece on the Janklow (SD) sentence for killing a biker. Think all of us should consider ways to get the word out—maybe a letter to Thunder Press? Posts to any organized group of bikers you have access to?

Cheers,

Doug
(still waiting for the snow to melt).

Douglas J. Hill
413-687-3409 (cell)
66 Berkshire Terrace
Amherst, MA 01002
413-549-8587

At the meeting last night, it was voted to change the SFNorthstars mailing list configuration as follows:

The "Reply to:" header in a list message has been changed from the list address <sfnorthstars@yahoogroups.com> to the sender's email address.

So, now when you reply to a list message from *most* email clients, this message will go to the sender/originator of the message & NOT to the mailing list.

If you wish to actually reply to the whole list, then you should copy/paste the list address <sfnorthstars@yahoogroups.com> into the "TO:" header of your reply.

This change is in effect as of NOW!
—Catfish

Thanks Mike!!! Everyone who wants should still feel free to communicate to all. The change was made because during the last two meetings, majority voted for it and felt that it would be easier for most and help to ensure when we need one person to get our message, they will~!

Gretchen-Da Prezette!

What is Ride to Work about? It's a way to promote motorcycles as everyday vehicles to the general public. It's a way to encourage weekend riders to make the transition to daily riders. In the United States there are over 9 million commuters on the road daily. There are 6 million registered motorcyclists in the US. There are only 130,000 motorcycle commuters daily. Why the disparity?

Charla shared her own experiences with commuting and felt that overall her own skill level has increased along

with her confidence and comfort. Commuting has become a more friendly experience rather than a stress filled endurance test. The annual Ride to Work Day is the 3rd Wednesday of July every year. Pass the word!

Craig spoke up and shared that Ride to Work is also about advocating the use of motorcycles both in commuting and daily use. The organization is about advocacy and pushing for equal or better treatment. Parking is one issue that the organization has been successful at promoting. Folks have been able to convince parking

garages to set aside special parking areas for motorcycles. Some people have been able to convince their employers to make room for motorcycles in their private parking lots. Other areas in contention are making parking places in the city where in most cases the DPT puts red zones. Make the city friendlier toward riders and people who visit both during the workday and at night.

For more info on Ride to Work check out the website at <http://www.ridetowork.org>

—Craig

Attention All Northstars!

On reading the Mojave blow out bash email just posted I think now is the time to give a Northstar quiz. The winner will receive a 2 night stay at an exclusive time share. To win you will have to figure out a GPS coordinate the old way... USE YOUR BRAIN by figuring out clues. The person to come closest to the answer wins! Ready, set, go.....

Clue #1 Located where the Northstars love to play with fire and eat monkey brains. Earl and Hans will know what this means!! Nothing like the smell of burnt trailer in the morning & sucking down those sweet bites of brains!! Yum..Yum...(-: ?

Clue #2 Where does a Chrysler, Cadillac & Lincoln run parallel?

Clue #3 Where does a Cadillac & Mercedes meet?

Clue #4 What runs between a Cadillac and Lincoln? Come on get the maps out! "GPS coordinates are for sissies."

Clue #5 Think numbers now!!! 185th? Does this mean anything to you????? Probably not unless you can read a map!!!!

Clue #6 Get on a Mercedes. Do the math and locate 185th This is smack in the middle of a Lincoln and Cadillac.

Clue #7 Find the Mercedes and Lincoln intersection. Face north at this intersection then turn directly west or left, then ride, walk or in Julio's case crawl if he's been into the Heredera. Hans you are in real trouble since no one will recognize you due to 2nd and 3rd degree burns. Someone monitor his matches.

Clue #8 Continue 1/4 mile west then stop and pace off an additional 330ft west!

STOP!!! Turn north again. You have now entered the sacred as yet to be christened virgin motorcycle resort of 2.5 acres of a Northstar member owned desert paradise which extends 165ft further! West!

Who can figure this out?? Let us know!! There may also be a buried treasure!! This is dependent on the # of Northstars participating!

The winner or in this case finder will have an all expense paid stay (no deposit required.) All other Northstar rules apply and we are not responsible for any winners, wimps, or whoosies. Sniveling is also out of the question.

Mercedes Blvd, California City, CA parcel #351-122-21

Please submit all answers to claim the nights stay by 3/12/04! as since the facilities are quit popular, but only if you can find them! Call: 831-458-1930 email: bretbarb@pacbell.net HANS CAN SMOKE SIGNAL!

There is also a contest for a name: Prairie Dog, Desert Dog, Pikie Place or Pikie Dog (Remember our toy box's name)!!!

Good hunting or map reading (-:

Bret & Barbara

TWO MOUNTAINS

SuperBowl-Sunday morning was cold & a bit rainy in places. However, when you're the 2-mtn. ride leader, breakfast is only 4.5 miles from home. As Hans was always quick to point out, "Its GOOD to be King!"

I arrived at the appointed time & there were already two tables of land sharks in the midst of a breakfast feeding frenzy! DAMN, these guys get here EARLY!

As I was trying to slip my slender self between Earl & Steve without getting an arm chewed off, I spotted Lisa & Joe lookin'-for-love-&-a-job Volpe coming up the sidewalk. The three of us started the third table.

We had a good-size crowd at the rider's meeting; Pete Silva & guest, Chris Bishop, Earl Minkler, Mark Boyd, Gary Thomas, Steve Hursh, Matt Brockway, Lisa Brazieal, Jim Cairnes, Pete Slote, Catfish, Allan Paul, & Steve Martinez behind the camera. See Steve's pictures at <<http://stinez.smugmug.com/gallery/64133>>. Mr. Volpe said he had a HOT rendezvous, instead of a COLD mountain in his future; well, after the little 200-mile breakfast ride from & back to Auburn.

The rest of us saddled up & headed towards the DEVIL mountain! No ranger was at the Northgate entrance & the sign said to pay the entrance fee at the next ranger station. The climb to the ranger station was moist & quick with NO traffic. Again we find NO rangers & a sign to pay your entrance fee with the little envelopes & the slot in the door. I did & was SHOCKED to see everyone else follow suit. DAMN, what a bunch of SHEEP!!! Baaaaaaah!

The final assault of the summit became colder with a heavy blowing mist over the top. NO rangers here either. There musta been some super-secret ranger meeting *somewhere*, or the ALIENS got 'em! Steve took more pictures of the group as we couldn't see SHIT in the dense fog & mist. Down the mountain we went. The pace picked up after visi-

bility returned & we left the park without a single ranger encounter!

Chris Bishop & Pete Silva peeled off, while the rest of us looked for our goat trail! Well, except Mr. Paul & Mr. Slote who tried to find the easy way to Livermore. Morgan Territory Road was its usual wet & muddy self, but with a new interesting twist; we had VERY SLIPPERY green algae in a couple of spots that REALLY got your attention! All got through without major mishap & we regrouped at Geno's in Livermore.

It was here that our intrepid leader discovered one of his sidestand bracket bolts was missing from the WR & started looking for a wrench to tighten the second bolt. Earl offered a replacement bolt at his house (only a couple of miles away). I believe Lisa & Allan left the ride here. As the others headed towards Mines Rd, Earl found a bolt and some loctite in his garage & had WR ready in a FLASH! Moral took a sudden turn for the BETTER!!!

Mines Rd. to the Junction was wet, but clean & FAST! The WR with 15-psi knobbies was SHOCKINGLY hooked up on the wet pavement! The water crossing were disappointingly shallow or non-existent! :-(The curves made up for it though & we arrived at the Junction with BIG SMILES!

Lunch & the fireplace were WARM! Many hunters were out of the hills for lunch too. Steve Hursh headed home via Patterson next. Pete Slote, with the beemer & FJR herd in tow, pulled out of the Junction before the ride LEADER was ready. DAMN, now I had these 600-lb porkers to slice through! Thankfully, they were only going 80-85 in the straights as I slowly picked 'em off. I watched Matt pull out to pass Pete as I pulled in behind Pete to take a tight right-hander. Pete noticed & waved me by before the next series of curves.

Matt was FLYING on the FJR down a wet San Antonio Valley Rd. & all I could do was follow. He continued at a very FAST pace until we reached the

misty fog & sand in the corners, half way up the mountain. He then slowed & waved me by. It got COLDER & WETTER as we approached the summit & the observatory.

At the top, we went inside to warm up & dry off. Jim & Steve M. took the 40-inch refractor telescope tour, while Matt, Pete, & others headed toward San Jose. Earl & I waited and the last of us rode through the fog & wet sand to get down the front of the mountain. After we dropped out of the fog, visibility improved and the pace quickened again. Very light traffic. Nice. :-)

At Alum Rock, everyone but Earl & I headed towards the freeway, while we rode over to Sierra & the last gas stop. Here Earl mentioned that my headlight was not always on. As we climbed back up Sierra Rd., I had my highbeam on so I could see the highbeam indicator pointed at me. Sure enough, it was intermittent. I started holding & moving the BajaDesigns wiring harness behind the headlight with my left hand, while riding, & noticed that I could make it stay on, mostly.

We abandoned the idea of Calaveras Rd. and headed towards the freeway & hopefully home before dark! I just BARELY made it & that STUPID football game was still on TV! Another great ride though!—Catfish

I'm doing a little update work to the website. I'm adding a page for the current list of club officers. I'd like to include a little bio for each of y'all. Please email me a short one or two line bio that I can include next to your name. Also, if you'd like me to include a link to you for email from that page let me know yea or nea and the address you prefer if yea. Thanks!

Your humble Web Slut,

Craig

Wendy Epstein

President of Vice, 2003 & 2004 SF Northstars

I started riding motorcycles (Yamaha JT1 60cc mini enduro) in 1970, in S.F.. My first job was in the Yamaha Cycle Pit motorcycle shop, in Daly City. In 1974 I ran my first race, in Pacifica, and won. I have raced pro road race, dirt track, MX, vintage, and sidecars. I am now a co-owner with Ned Hammell (M&H cycles of past) in the motorcycle dealership Mission Motorcycles, Top of the Hill in Daly City. www.missionmotorcycles.com

Craig Hightower

On February 25th, 1985 I walked into Richmond Honda and bought a year-old Kawasaki GPZ550. How I managed to wobble my way out of that dealership and back home to Pinole still amazes me. I did not have benefit of an MSF class or any other instruction other than a brief 15 minutes with a friend of my cousin's back when I was 15. Today I celebrate 19 years of riding. I've owned a couple dozen bikes. I've ridden more than double that amount thanks to my work with Independent Biker and Streetbike. I've ridden over 300,000 miles on two wheels. I've ridden in 3 or 4 different countries. I've ridden at speeds in excess of 160mph. I've scared myself silly at 15 mph. I've crashed at speeds in excess of 120mph. I've competed on the track, in the dirt and on the street and today I commute over 200 miles every week. I still love it! I can't imagine not being a "motorcyclist." Thanks to you my friends for joining me on this journey. Motorcycling has introduced me to a number of incredible people and has definitely enriched my social life. I hope that you all have just as much fun with it as I do! Here's to another 19 years of fun!!!!



***“Either give me the ticket
or give me the lecture...
I don't need both!”
—Rob Brown***

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