



# DAILY PLANET

Official Newsletter of

## The San Francisco Northstars Motorcycle Club

Volume \_\_, Issue 2

February / March 2007

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- MAR 16 – **BAJA** Dirt Safari – Patrick Lydon  
APR 1 & Craig Hightower
- MAR 28** **CLUB MEETING** – S.F. Brewing Co.
- APR 14-15 **SONGDOG** Reunion Ride – Meet  
7:30AM @ Duarte's Tavern at 202  
Stage Road in Pescadero
- APR 25** **CLUB MEETING** – S.F. Brewing Co.
- APR 29 **STONYFORD** Dirt Ride
- MAY 5-6 The **EUREKA!** Ride
- MAY 18-20 AMA Superbikes at Sears Point
- MAY 20 **NORTH-BAY** Day Ride ???
- MAY 25-28 **LOON LAKE Dual-Sport**  
Camping Ride
- MAY 30** **CLUB MEETING** – S.F. Brewing Co.
- JUN 1-3 **LOST COAST LUAU** – The  
Village Idiots Motorcycle Club
- JUN 10 **EAST BAY** Day Ride – Kari
- JUN 24 **Dirt or Dual-Sport** Day Ride
- JUN 27** **CLUB MEETING** – S.F. Brewing Co.
- JULY 20-22 MotoGP at Laguna Seca!
- JULY 25** **CLUB MEETING** – S.F. Brewing Co.
- JULY 28 **Full Moon over Mt. Hamilton**  
**Night Ride!** – Dinner and Sunset at  
the Observatory!

*Club Meetings are held the last Wednesday of  
the month at 7:30 PM @ the San Francisco  
Brewing Company – 155 Columbus Avenue  
San Francisco California*

### CLUB MEETING MINUTES:

#### WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup> 2007

**The Lively Meeting Opened** with nine members (paid your dues yet Allan?) and no guests. In attendance were our prez Craig, vice and treasurer Allan, word steward Josh, Kari, Glen, Gino, Matt, Pete and Patrick. Treasurer's report indicated \$1152 in da bank.

**Old Business** continued the discussion reducing the 3 rides and 3 meetings eligibility requirement for new members. At the heart of the argument is a desire to build membership. Narrative between Craig and Catfish was emailed prior to the meeting, tho not many joined the conversation with thoughts via email. Conversation at the meeting followed and the *NEW* requirement was voted in. From that point forward, the membership requirement is to attend five events including a minimum of 2 rides and 1 meeting to be eligible for the membership vote. –A vote was approved to donate \$50 to Mica Peak for hosting our website. – We're looking for volunteers to host the next *SIGNATURE* ride. Craig has volunteered for a ride later in the year. – Dues are due!! We have 13 dues paid members to date.

**New Business** kicked off with the controversy of voting in an absentee member. With a vote of seven to one (opposition on account of voting in an un-present potential member), Laurel Sutcliffe was voted into the club. Let it be known she qualified for the vote under the past rule of 3 rides and 3 meetings. – Upcoming rides include(d): the Delta Ride [see ride report enclosed] – The upcoming **SONGDOG REUNION RIDE** in April (do your taxes early), Glen is planning to extend the ride by one day with a Sunday overnight in Pismo (let him know if you're interested). Send your \$30 entrance donation to Mike or pay \$32 via Paypal, either way it's a *hell-of-a-deal!* Meet 7:30am at Duarte's Tavern in Pescadero for breakfast or 8:30am for the ride meeting

continued on next page...

– Craig’s North Bay ride will be our next “signature” ride on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May (signature rides are advertised rides open to the public to expand interest in the club) – The Loon Lake Dual Sport camping ride May 25 to 28 will be Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon and will include street riding on Saturday. Campground is expected to be close to the lake.

**New Bikes** reports were Matt’s WR450F (no plate) and Laurel’s DRZ250. Word has it she scoots around pretty darn well on it. A shop named Joe Racer in San Jose

will “customize” your dirt ride for plates (oh, and \$1,500 green-backs).

**Ride Reports:** Recap/reminiscing of the Two Mountain Ride (no cops, no tickets, one un-happy Magna and rider, Catfish’s sideways action playing in the sand, large mix of bikes). Glen, Craig and Laurel attended an Open House or Oakland Suzuki at 66<sup>th</sup> and San Leandro, apparently there were great raffle prizes.

And finally, a thank you to Allan and Matt for the beer I drank.

- Josh

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### The Delta Dual-Sport Ride (that’s Dikes AND Ferries!) March 4, 2007

Sunday morning was clear & cool, with a mid-day forecast of 70 degrees. Craig, Laurel, Doug, Gino, & guest Greg Leopold met for breakfast at the Country Waffles in Clayton. I had Sherry’s great pancakes at home, and joined the others for the riders meeting. Told the story of pre-riding this route on Friday;



*"Smelled gasoline every time I slowed down. Fuel gauge dropping much faster than usual. Found gas dripping down the right side of the engine the third time I looked on Grand Island. FREAKED-OUT visualizing the Iron-Butt Caponord that burned to the ground in the Bristlecone Pines, and Colin Edwards baling off the blazing-fireball Aprilia Cube in Germany! AAACK!!! Motorcycling is not supposed to be THIS exciting! Considered my options many times..."*

*I very anxiously rode it straight home (50+ more miles), mentally READY to bale at the first signs of excessive heat or FLAMES! Spent Saturday replacing all the plastic oem fuel fittings (again) & high-pressure fuel-injection hoses. Used the good metal fittings I had bought for the NEXT service."*

Back to our ride... Handed out the [route map](#) (magenta route to lunch, orange route afterwards) & reminded everyone that the levee roads on the islands can be *dangerously* rough and there will be gravel sections. Pick your lines carefully & stand on the pegs when appropriate. Even Gino, with the '86 BMW K75 with the <clue sinister soundtrack> old BMW saddlebags, said OK with a smile. Also explained the CLOSED ROAD gate we were going to "not notice" on Empire Mine Road. Greg said, "The ride leader gets the ticket, right?" I whispered, "sure." ;-)

Rode out Marsh Creek Road (my old twisty commute route) at a nice pace. Turned left on Deer Creek Road and ran its curves over the ridges to Empire Mine Rd. Darted between the bicycle-access posts & waved at the bike riders watching us INVADE their new, special, private domain! (Note: Antioch incorporated the area after the last of the farmers left recently and CLOSED the road to all motorized vehicles to keep the local teenagers with cars out. Once the kids found the abandoned area, it became party central. Now its a "bike & hiking trail".) It has sweet, tight little curves that they'll have to pry out of my death throttle hand...



Popped in to Antioch *near* the new bike trail with a BIG smiles on our faces! Innocently rode through town just like the law-abiding citizens our momma's wished we were. On to Hwy-4, the Antioch Bridge, and the Delta!

Sherman Island Road was one of the roughest paved roads in California, twenty-five years ago. There has been NO road maintenance. There are semi-paved whoops on this levee road. A couple of sections with curves weren't as bad. We all survived the first island & stopped at the day-use park on Hwy-160 for a potty break.

Next was Rio Vista & Hwy-84 to the south Ryer Island Ferry. The north end of Ryer Island is good pavement, curves, & more delta scenery. Then we took the other Ryer Island Ferry over to Grand Island.

Circled the lower end of Grand Island, crossed over to Andrus Island & circled it, almost twice. WOW, we're making good time and a little a head of schedule. We rode up to the little Main Street of Locke and took a break. Walked by the interesting little shops. Stopped in at "Al the Wops" for a beverage & some socializin'. No one appeared interested in lunch; a steak sandwich with peanut butter & marmalade on the side. Forgot to pull the camera out.



Race Track Road is THAT-A-WAY!!!

Next we headed towards Tyler Island and everyone's favorite road sign;

The Tyler Island levee, where still paved, is in pretty bad condition. The long gravel section was amazingly smooth. As we crossed the last rough paved section to get to the Tyler Island bridge, Geno reached back to check the lid on the left saddlebag. It sometimes opens. It wasn't there. He looked and the whole bag wasn't there either. He slowed & checked the right saddlebag. OOPS!!! It was gone too! As we disappeared towards the bridge, Geno turned around & started back looking for the escaped saddlebags.

We waited at the bridge for a couple of minutes & Craig offered to ride back & check on Geno. After several more minutes, I asked the rest of them to please wait at the bridge for someone to return, and I started back around the island too. Got half way around the dirt section & no Geno, but met Craig coming back. We stop & talk. No signs of Geno. Hmm... Craig continues back to the bridge to see if Geno circled around the island clockwise, while I continued searching counter-clockwise.

Just as I get back to the rough pavement before the gravel, I see Geno coming towards me slowly. We stop & he tells me about escaped saddlebags. He had just found the right bag, as it had tumbled down the "island" side of the levee. He was now slowly going along the "waterway" side for the escaped left-side bag. We both were hoping it floats.

Craig came around one last time & I sent him to collect the others & take 'em to the lunch spot in Isleton, about 6 miles away. Geno & I finished the slow pass looking for a floater. It didn't. I'm afraid Dave Jones has a new addition to his collection.

Lunch was at the River's Edge Cafe, 7 Main St, Isleton. Clay, a friend of Craig & Greg had opened this little place with his wife a couple of years ago. Clay has his old restored Ural Sidehack sitting in the middle of the dining area. COOL!!! Lunch was outstanding. Geno & I shared a piece of key-lime pie. Excellent! This is definitely the best non-seafood place in Isleton.

Greg, Craig, & Laurel headed towards other late-afternoon commitments, while Doug, Geno, & I continued the ride. Out to Brannon Island, we rode by Moore's Riverboat Restaurant and continued on to Twitchell Island. Crossed Hwy-12 next, rode past Foster's Big Horn in Rio Vista, and then out Montezuma Hills Road. :-) Saved the best for last. What a great little curvy road over these beautiful green hills.

Finished up the ride with a beverage at the old infamous Thompson's Corner Bar in Cordelia. Still has a large collection of bras pinned to the ceiling & the decoupage Playboy centerfolds on the walls. I was a bit amazed it wasn't filled with bikers.

Another great ride. Need to remember to get the camera out more often.

Catfish...

**[I was] "one of the great presidents of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century"**  
- Pete Slote

Send all editorial comments, classifieds, ride/race reports, etc. to: Josh Roper: [moto@roperhome.net](mailto:moto@roperhome.net)

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## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual SongDog Reunion Ride April 14-15, 2007

Exerts from Catfish – Article at [www.micapeak.com/sfnorthstars/](http://www.micapeak.com/sfnorthstars/)

The **Songdog Ranch** has been one of our favorite ride destinations for more than 20 years. Old friends, good food, tequila, stories by the camp fire, and the best backroads in central California! Doesn't get any better than that!

They were forced to \*officially\* shutdown their campground operations by the county in 2004. I have arranged for some whim & fancy to strike on April 14-15. This is a Songdog Ranch BENEFIT event. For a minimum DONATION of \$30 per person, you can join us for camping on the mesa, a tri-tip dinner Saturday night, and breakfast Sunday morning. Jenny hopes to get Jim up to the ranch for the reunion also!

As with our \*private\* Songdog events in the past, we will setup a shooting area behind the lodge. Bring your GUNS for a little target practice before dinner.

**The Northstars Ride!** Folks are welcome to get to Songdog by any means available & should arrive by 6:00PM Saturday. If you want to ride with the S.F.Northstars as my guests.

Breakfast at 7:30AM, Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. Ride leaves at 8:30AM

Duartes Tavern -- 202 Stage Rd. -- Pescadero, CA -- 650-879-0464

*Camping Information: Some of the 4" thick sleeping pads & sleeping bags(w clean sheets & pillow) they used to rent are still available. If you want to RESERVE any of these for this trip, then call Jenny or Steve at 1-800-766-2461. Their \*previous\* rental rates are shown at; <<http://songdog.com/campgrounds/>>.*

*The lodge is still there for those who wish to be "indoors" on the mesa. It does have running COLD water & a wood stove, but no showers. The new outhouse is just around the corner. An ice chest with beer & soda will be available with a donation jar on top, but most of OUR songdoggies bring their favorite libations with them.*

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Send a check (\$30/person), made out to "Mike Chaplin" to;

Mike Chaplin -- 3235 San Gabriel Dr. -- Concord, CA 94518

OR, you can send \$32/person to <[catfish@endorphin-express.com](mailto:catfish@endorphin-express.com)> via PayPal

**Advanced Registration CLOSSES at 6:00PM - Monday, April 9th**, to get an accurate head count to Jenny to buy food & supplies. LATE Registration will be accepted at \$50/person.

***This is a rain, shine, or whatever event. All donations will go to the Songdog Ranch and are not refundable!***

## 2007 NORTHSTARS DUES \$30 PAYABLE NOW

Benefits of Membership:

- Be a Northstar!!
- Active Ride Calendar
- Monthly Meetings
- Receive the Newsletters

This may be your last newsletter!! Have you paid your 2007 dues?? All dues-paid (*current*) members will continue to receive newsletters; please support the club and pay your dues now if you have not already done so.

### MEMBER INFORMATION:

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### MAIL YOUR CHECK TO:

Allan Paul  
c/o S.F. Brewing Company  
155 Columbus Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94133