



DAILY PLANET

Official Newsletter of

The San Francisco Northstars Motorcycle Club

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October / November 2008

UPCOMING RIDES/EVENTS:

- NOV 15/16 Prez Ride (Jim/Glen) – Dirt Day
103 at Nicasio Ranch
- NOV 19** **CLUB MEETING** – S.F. Brewing Co.
- DEC 14 Vice Prez Ride (Wendy) – Sonoma
County
- DEC 16** **CLUB MEETING** – S.F. Brewing Co.
(09' officer voting)

CLUB MEETING MINUTES:

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29TH, 2008

Meeting Opened: Members in attendance were Wendy, Jim, Laurel, Catfish, Glen, Earl, Gino, Diter. Gino missed half the meeting due to the World Series and his Phillies finally winning a series in ages. We had to repeat things several times for Gino's benefit. Earl handed out 2009 Valley Machine Shop calendars to all in attendance. Thanks, Earl! And Glen brought his own birthday cake that was a delicious mocha flavored treat. Thanks, Glen!

Old Business: Business cards were the chatter for old business. Allan had given Gino some cards so we do have some left. However, Catfish volunteered himself and Lisa to work on updating the graphics on the cards. One suggestion was a "get out of jail free" quote on the back of the cards.

New Business: Catfish finally had a taker for the \$125 seat certificate. Wendy will put it to good use on one of her bikes in the stable.

Dirt Day 103 looks like it is in flux a bit. Jim has bugged up his shoulder in a mountain bike mis-hap and will be off two wheels for several weeks. Glen is committed to the AMA races at Sears Point and will only make one day – not sure if it will be Saturday or Sunday. Catfish did volunteer as wheelie instructor though, so that has a few of us fired up. Stay tuned for more details from Jim/Glen.

*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*

Christopher Mills, apparently one of the original members of the Northstars, sent a nice letter and old photograph of some of the members to the Brewery. It was addressed to Pete Silva – historian. Catfish is taking care of that and has already scanned in the letter and photo for anyone to view.

Nominations for next year's officers eventually took place as Catfish explained the procedures and Gino tore himself away from the TV for a few moments. To make sure I was clear on this and didn't screw it up, the following excerpt is from the Northstars website on annual officer elections:

- The October & November club meetings are OPEN to Officer Nominations for the following year.
- Any active (current year's dues paid) Northstar may nominate any other active Northstar for any officer position.
- Nominations require a "second" to be recorded and both must occur during an official club meeting.
- The Nominee does not have to be present at the meeting to be nominated, but the Nominee must accept the nomination for their name to be placed on the official ballot.
- The Election Ballots are prepared & delivered with the December Newsletter.
- Completed Ballots are DUE at the December meeting and counted.
- Simple majority wins, coin toss in case of tie.
- The Annual Dinner in January is to thank & roast the previous officers, and install the new officers.

So far the following nominations were recorded with a "second." Nominations will be open for the November meeting also and voting will commence at the December 16th meeting.

President: Glen Coddington, Laurel Sutcliffe

Vice President: Wendy Epstein

Word Steward: Kari Svanstrom

Treasurer: Gino Fortunato

Ride Steward: Laurel Sutcliffe

Web Steward: Mike Chaplin

Dirt Steward:

Sergeant at Arms:

Upcoming Rides/Events: If anyone is interested, check out the AMA races at Sears Point the

15th/16th. Wendy had mentioned that they were supposed to be in Texas, but they couldn't get their stuff together and so the venue moved. It should be reasonably priced for entry tickets and Glen will be shooting pics there as well.

Glen mentioned the American Sport Bike Night on Monday, December 1st. It is in San Leandro and it is their 10th anniversary. It is Buell focused but many other types of bikes also.

Wendy reminded us of her annual custom bike show that is coming up on Saturday, December 6th. Check out the flyer on her website (<http://www.missionmotorcycles.com/>).

We've got the International Motorcycle show from December 19th – 21st. A crowd of us will definitely be gathering and going on Friday night, can't break with tradition. There is talk of a pre-ride around Alice's Restaurant area on Friday, so stay tuned on more details.

New Bikes: Jim is finally selling the KLR650 and has dibs on a new Kawasaki Versys from Wendy shop. Very cool! Not sure of the date of arrival, but I think it is soon.

Diter has a project bike – 99' 750 Monster with 90K miles on it. He got it for \$500 and is going to rebuild the engine. Good luck with that, Diter. He also has a few "K" bikes that need some love.

I've managed to thin the herd and sold the 04' Yamaha FZ6 and the 03' Suzuki DR-Z250. But the cash didn't hang around long as I found an 08' KTM 250XC-F-W that had my name on it. It has already been lowered and is ready for more Enduro's.

Rumor has it that Kari sold her KLR650 and is not replacing it, yet.

Ride Reports: The Yosemite ride and weekend brunch started out a bit shaky, but all ended on a good note. Jim broke down on the 580 freeway just before heading into Pleasanton. Something about loose manifold bolts and overheating. Yikes. He turned around and the rest of us soldiered on. Jim did however get the Ironman award for the weekend. He had gone back to Marin, dropped the KLR at the shop, hopped on the DR-Z400 SM and blazed a trail to the lodge. Arriving around 8:00 pm frozen solid to where we needed to help him with helmet strap and zippers (we won't expound on that

any further), but nothing a little tequila and a warm fireplace couldn't fix. The tent camping would have been much more enjoyable with a tent heater or Mother Nature taking pity on us. A nippy 33 degrees that evening did not qualify to make us happy campers. Dinner at the lodge on Saturday night with Catfish, Sherry, Ben, Kari, Jason, Sue, Glen, and myself was a splendid affair with tasty adult beverages and fabulous food, as always. The 36-degree ride down to the Ahwahnee on Sunday was chilling to say the least, but all worth the frostbite for their brunch. Earl arrived spot on time from Livermore that morning and joined us for the feast.

Glen ended up taking a side trip as he stayed an extra day. He went off over Tioga Pass to 395, but Sonora pass was closed. Somewhere along the way some bad luck struck the V-Strom. The bike was happily parked one minute and then the next it was on its side. Uh-oh. Not sure if it was wind or the kickstand or what, but the left side is dinged up. Hearing the tale of Glen trying to pick up the not so dainty V-Strom was an entertaining visual, but all ended ok with no one hurt.

Wendy had more dirt bike tales to share. Hmm, always seems like something unfortunate, albeit comical, blesses her group ride. Seems this time an ATV (not from their group) had gone off the trail at Stonyford and a "rescue mission" was in progress. Although the rescuee was ok (shaken but not stirred), one of the rescuers ended up with a broken wrist and Wendy got a flat tire in the process of trying to help. I think Gino said it best – no good deed goes unpunished. Later Nancy Garcia was

tooling along on the trail and was swept off her bike by a tree branch across the chest. Ouch. Sounded like something out of the Wizard of Oz. Fortunately no one was hurt badly.

Glen had a good time at the Laguna Seca races in September. It was well attended and he got to party with the Red Bull rookies, or something to that effect. Gino was still shouting over the game and my notes went a little fuzzy about then...or maybe it was the beer that made my notes fuzzy. Whatever.

I had an aborted Enduro event at Georgetown, the Crazy Miner Enduro. They called it a family (or youth) enduro and whoever designed the course to include the kids on this one should get a lashing. Georgetown is not for beginners and is mostly all singletrack trails. There was carnage everywhere and it was difficult to get by people on the trails. Lots of Dad's huffing and puffing and trying to get junior up and over and around big tree roots and rocks and hairpins and such. Good Lord. I got caught in several bottlenecks and one did me in when I fell trying to get around a gaggle and twisted my ankle. I ended up having to abort, but ankle is ok fortunately.