

Issue 9
Volume 2

September 2010

The Official Newsletter of Steel Horses Cruising Motorcycles Social Club Inc

The Steel Horse

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GM's September Report

I have been a lot of really good rides with the Club lately and it is a pleasure to see so many of my Club mates turning out each and every weekend for the rides. We have had a number of guests on every ride and this just shows that we are on the right track and starting to attract lots of interest from social riders.

It is amazing just how fast a year goes and to realise that we have been around as an organization for almost 12 months. Seems to be only yesterday when we first sat down to discuss setting up our Club.

BC is doing a great job in creating a permanent video record of our adventures and rides and whenever I am feeling beaten down by this tough old world I simply log on to U-Tube and watch the latest video and feel better almost immediately. It's not as good as actually riding but it'll do as a substitute for me when I can't get out on the Bike.

I was asked recently what the GM does and having a think about my answer is simple, "As little as POSSIBLE" because when I am not doing anything in the GM role that means that the Club is operating as it should and there are minimal issues happening and the members are enjoying themselves. GM is a role that does not need to be seen or heard unless a decision cannot be achieved from the discussions and processes that are built into our Club.

It seems that members are starting to understand the process needed to change rules and By-Laws and this is a good thing and very necessary as we continue to grow and prosper.

I can only encourage healthy conversations regarding potential changes and simplification of the current rules. Just a word of caution – just because you think it needs to be changed does not mean that it will be unless the majority agree that it needs to be – so don't be disappointed if something does not always get the outcome that you think it should but please trust the process.

See ya on the next one

Sarge

Deadline
2nd Tuesday of every
month

Who's who

Management Committee

GM—Sarge

Phone: 07 3272 5981
Mobile: 0417 636 425
Email: sarge44@bigpond.net.au

President—Ynot

Phone: 07 3395 0747
Mobile: 0417 758 792
Email: tw.lowe@bigpond.com

Treasurer—Drastic

Phone: 07 3297 6884
Mobile: 0438 785 662
Email: david.hall@rentco.com.au

Secretary—Debbil

Phone: 07 3343 3283
Mobile: 0417 747 168
Email: ijandja@bigpond.com

Coordinator—Sugar

Phone: 07 3272 5981
Mobile: 0417 636 158
Email: sarge44@bigpond.net.au

Riders' Delegate—Rowdy

Phone: 07 3372 2409
Mobile: 0423 196 380
Email: alecgriggs@bigpond.com

Postal address

The Secretary
PO Box 319
Mt Gravatt Plaza, Qld, 4122

Other roles

Merchandiser—Loges

Phone: 07 3849 7210
Mobile: 0434 405 385
Email:
inhousedesignsolutions@gmail.com

Editor—Debbil

Phone: 07 3343 3283
Mobile: 0417 747 168
Email: ijandja@bigpond.com

Proof Reader—Jenny

Phone: 07 3343 3283

Ride Captain (South) - Yogi

See Event Calendar for details

Ride Captain (Central) - Sarge

See Event Calendar for details

Ride Captain (West) -

Sam / Cosmo

See Event Calendar for details

Webmaster—Debbil

Phone: 07 3343 3283
Mobile: 0417 747 168
Email: ijandja@bigpond.com

Club objectives

The objects of the club are to encourage members to regularly meet, ride, and join together for social enjoyment

Membership

Membership is open to Riders and Pillions of Cruiser and Tourer motorcycles, as well as Social Members.

Currently, the annual membership subscription is \$36 for Riders, \$24 for Pillions, and \$12 for Social Members. This is applied monthly pro-rata for new members.

For new members there is also a once only joining fee on top of the annual membership fee. This covers the cost of Patch, Insignia, and other Club costs.

Currently, the joining fee is \$30 for Riders and Pillions, and either \$20 or \$30 for Social Members depending on whether they elect to wear a Badge or a Vest.

Members can purchase a booklet of the Rules and By-laws at cost. Contact the Secretary to do so.

Monthly Meetings

Steel Horses Cruising Motorcycles Social Club Inc meets every 3rd Tuesday at Lord Stanley Hotel, East Brisbane, Brisbane at 7.30 pm. Lord Stanley Hotel is at the intersection of Didsbury St, and Stanley St East, East Brisbane.

Club Merchandise

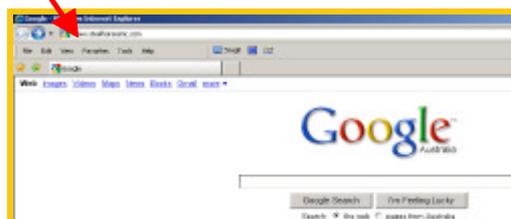
Please contact the **Merchandiser** (see **Other Roles** to the left) if you are interested in **Steel Horses Cruising Motorcycles Social Club Inc.** merchandise. See the last page for NEW merchandise.

Internet presence

THE CLUB WEBSITE IS:

steelhorsesinc.com

(steel horses inc dot com)



Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are personal opinions and are not necessarily those held by SHCMSC Inc.

Ynot's Blurb—September 2010

Hi all,

Now that the weather is starting to warm up a bit, there is no excuse to sleep in on ride days, so I hope to see more of you venturing out to take advantage of the good weather we have been experiencing recently. Rides are still well attended, with a variety on offer, and we are consistently attracting visitors who are eager to see how we operate.

The commitment of our members was demonstrated on a recent south ride when the regular Ride Captain, Yogi, couldn't take the ride because his wonderful Triumph spaceship was in pieces. Yogi arranged for Steiny to lead the ride, but unfortunately Steiny was, at the last minute, required to work. The ever-reliable Sarge stepped into the breach and led a very enjoyable ride that was not exactly as per the ride calendar, but close to it. Who the hell knows where Montecollum, The Channon, Blue Knob, and Kunghur are any way? I'm sure Yogi will enrich us all with a visit to these places on one of his future rides. Thanks for stepping up again Sarge.

I would like to remind members that a special resolution to change the rules for new members will be put to the meeting on 21/09/10 and voted on. To change the rules requires a 75% majority of all financial members present at a monthly meeting. If you cannot make it to the meeting you may cast your vote via post. If by post it must be received by the secretary prior to the commencement of the meeting. Voting by proxy, email or fax is not permitted. The Special Resolution was circulated to all members after the July meeting. Please carefully consider the consequences of making these changes prior to casting your vote. If the Special Resolution is passed at the meeting, it must be ratified by the Executive Officer of the Office of Fair Trading before being implemented.

Sugar is busily compiling another selection of social events to include on your calendar. She will announce details of these events as they materialise. If you have any suggestions for social events, please contact Sugar.

I'd like to thank Lace for deputising as Secretary for our August meeting, regardless of the fact that the episode resulted in my temporary loss of every file from my hard drive and USB. I don't know what program Lace uses, but when she forwarded the minutes for formatting and editing, my computer had trouble dealing with it and decided that it was all too much, and all the files on my hard drive and USB disappeared. I did what all techno-savvy people would do and turned off my computer, and then turned it back on again. Eventually after trying a few manoeuvres, the files returned and my heart returned to normality. I still don't know what happened, but at my stage in life, I can do without that type of surprise happening again. So, beware of attachments from Lace. Thanks again Lace your efforts will never be forgotten.

Safe Riding,

Ynot

Member's Birthdays

Happy birthday to all members who celebrate their birthday this month. Members include BC, Ginger, and Lace.

VIP dates

- ◆ **27-29/9/2010**—Mild Hogs Ride
- ◆ **4/12/2010**— X'mas Party
- ◆ **5/10/??** — Debbil's Birthday
- ◆ **25/12/2010**—Xmas Day

Treasurer's Report

As at 31st August 2010

Balance CBA 31 st . July 2010			\$1,737.94
Income Meeting 16 August 2010			
Raffle		\$65.00	
Memberships			
SMILEY Joining Fee		\$30.00	
SMILEY PILLION membership		\$24.00	
GEM membership fee renewal		\$36.00	
BAZ membership fee renewal		\$36.00	
Sub total		\$191.00	
Merchandise			
Shirt		\$35.00	
1 xCap		\$17.00	
1 x Sunglasses		\$15.00	
Donation		\$5.00	
Sub total		\$72.00	
Less expenditure			
Patches	\$15.95		
Refund	\$12.00		
Sub total	\$27.95		
End of month Balance			\$235.05
Less cheque not banked (BAZ)		\$36.00	
Balance at Bank 31st August 2010			\$1,936.99
Merchandise on hand			
Caps	11		
Sunglasses	8		
Calendars	2		
Steel Horse Patches	3		
Year Patches	1		
Name Patch (COBB)	1		

Minutes of meeting—16 August 2010 @ Lord Stanley Hotel

- Meeting Opened:** 7.40 pm by Ynot. Ynot gave a special welcome to the stand-in Secretary Lace, and to the new Treasurer, Drastic.
- Attendance:** 19 members attended. They were: Apples, BC, Boots, Cosmo, Drastic, Gem, Lace, Loges, Mozzi, Pedro, Princess, Rowdy, Sarge, Shadow, Steiny, Sugar, TT, Ynot, and Yogi.
- Visitors:** Hooch.
- Apologies:** 6 members sent apologies. They were: Barney, Debbil, Ginger, Jenny, Sam, and Sparrow.
- Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Sarge proposed that two changes be made to the previous minutes, under the heading of the GM's Report,
 1. First dot point, delete, "despite Steel Horses not requesting this".
 2. Second dot point, delete "that individuals within Steel Horses would need to be members of UMC (\$50)", and insert, "could choose to be members of UMC". Sarge then proposed that the minutes including these changes are a true and accurate record. Princess seconded the motion. 18 were in favour; 0 were against; 1 abstained. Motion was carried.
- Business arising from minutes:** Ynot advised that as 28 days had not lapsed since the motion to change the rules concerning new member requirements was submitted to the Secretary, it could not be voted on at this meeting. The motion will be put to the September meeting. The issue concerning the need for individual insurance which was discussed at the last meeting was considered by the Management Committee on 10th August 2010, and the following motion was passed: "The responsibility for insurance of an individual club member's motor cycle remains with that individual and is not the responsibility of Steel Horses Cruising Motorcycles Social Club Inc." As a consequence of this resolution, the word "insurance" will be removed from the Application form.
ACTION: Secretary to remove "insurance" from application form.
- Correspondence in:** Nil
- Correspondence:** Nil
- Business arising:** Nil
- 1. GM's report:** Sarge thanked the Committee members for all their hard work. There was discussion regarding the event calendar. The committee had decided to reduce the event calendar from 12 months to four months. Each month the previous month's events will be discarded and a new month added, so that we have a minimum of 3 months and a maximum of 4 months of events. New rides and events will be decided at the monthly meetings. The pillions' and riders' choices will be replaced with a "Flexible Ride" designation. This will consist of "Unless somebody suggests something else, or want to lead the ride, this is what will happen" To promote the rides, the coordinator will email members before each ride to remind them what it will be. The Ride captains will promote their rides at the monthly meetings. Ride duration and distance will be included in the promotion. BC expressed concern that only one person had control over the Web Page. Ynot said he would discuss this with Debbil when he returned from holiday.
ACTION: Ynot to discuss with Debbil
- 2. Ride reports:** Sarge reported on his breakfast ride that went through Kilcoy. Cosmo reported on his brief ride with Rowdy to Rocklea. Yogi reported on his South Ride that Debbil led. Boots thanked Sarge and Sugar for providing the breakfast on the breakfast ride. He will be leading the next West ride on 22 August 2010. Ynot thanked Boots for volunteering to take this ride. Cosmo mentioned that the next West Pillion's choice could be a trip to the Motorcycle Museum at Hageslea.

- 3. Treasurer's report** Drastic presented the Treasurer's report. Princess moved that it be accepted. Mozzi seconded the motion. 18 were in favour; 0 against; 1 abstained: motion was carried.
- 4. Coordinator's Report:** Sugar reported on the successful social event at the Calamvale Tavern (30 members and 2 visitors).
 Mozzi asked for a repeat of this event in the near future.
 Sugar asked for suggestions for future events
 The Christmas party has been booked for 4th December at the Carina leagues club.
 The ride to Desert Inc will not proceed. 2 were in favour; 6 against; 7 abstained.
 Drastic offered to do a special raffle for Christmas.
- 5. Merchandiser's Report:** Loges identified the products available for sale and asked for expressions of interest so that orders can be placed. A minimum quantity of 10 shirts is required before an order can be placed. Yogi asked if he could buy a club shirt with a collar. Loges advised that it would be possible if Yogi provided the shirt.
 BC enquired about the possibility of keeping stock. Ynot advised that we can not keep more than \$200.00 of stock. As soon as Loges receives requests for the minimum quantity of shirts they must be paid for in advance, then an order will be placed.
 Loges advised that a minimum order of 50 bandanas was required. An alternative is for a volunteer to acquire the fabric and stitch it themselves, then get them screen printed.
- 6. Raffle Sales:** Raffle Sales were carried out during the break.
- 7. Welcome to new members:** Smiley was welcomed to the club. As she was unable to attend the meeting, BC took her patches.
- 8. Succession planning:** Ynot reminded the meeting that if any member was interested in finding out about the Management Committee's roles they should approach any member of the Committee. The GM's Role will be explained in the September meeting.
- 9. The Delegate's Role:** Rowdy explained the role of the Delegate and emphasised that all issues could be discussed with him in strictest confidence. He also reminded members that each role is explained in the By-Laws.
 Hooch asked, "What if there is a problem with the Delegate?" Rowdy then briefly explained the complaints process.
- 10. Changes to Event Calendar:** There was discussion regarding the event calendar. The committee had decided to reduce the event calendar from 12 months to four months. Each month the previous month's events will be discarded and a new month added, so that we have a minimum of 3 months and a maximum of 4 months of events. New rides and events will be decided at the monthly meetings.
 The pillars' and riders' choices will be replaced with a "Flexible Ride" designation. This will consist of "Unless somebody suggests something else, or want to lead the ride, this is what will happen"
 To promote the rides, the Coordinator will email members before each ride to remind them what it will be.
 The Ride captains will promote their rides at the monthly meetings. Ride duration and distance will be included in the promotion.
- 11. Inclusion of sensitive information on website:** BC expressed concern that only one person had control over the Web Page. Ynot said he would discuss this with Debbil when he returned from holiday.
 ACTION: Ynot to discuss with Debbil
- Other Business (without notice):** Inclusion of Sensitive information on the Website.
 Ynot opened the discussion about what information should be provided for public access. Members who contributed to the discussion were, Princess, Sugar, Loges, Sarge, BC, and Drastic.
 BC moved that the newsletter be taken off the website and only be emailed to members. Princess seconded the motion. 15 were in favour; 0 were against; 4 abstained. Motion was carried.
 ACTION: Secretary to remove the newsletter from the website.
 Discussion continued about what should replace the newsletter on the website.
 Ynot suggested that considering the late hour, the content to replace the newsletter on the website be discussed at the September meeting.
 ACTION: Ynot to include this issue on the agenda for the September meeting.
- Raffle:** Cosmo won the raffle donated by Shadow and TT.
- Next meeting date:** TUESDAY 21 September 2010 - AGM
- Meeting closed at:** 9.40 pm

Event Calendar

Where it says "**Rider's Choice**" or "**Pillion's Choice**" or "**Member's Choice**"

We would like you to volunteer to lead a ride along your favourite roads.

If you want to take a Riders Choice, email the relevant Ride Captain at least two weeks before to let him/her know the meeting point (you decide), the route, the distance, and approximate ride duration.

If everything is OK, the Ride Captain will approve it and let you know ASAP.

When the Ride Captain lets you know, you **MUST** then email all members to give them advanced notice of the ride details.

(if you can't do that, ask the Secretary to do it ASAP).

YOU must then lead the ride.

If nobody volunteers, the relevant Ride Captain will take the ride as usual.

You must phone the relevant Ride Captain by 7.30 pm the night before a ride to confirm you wish to do that ride.

Meeting Points & Ride Captains

South	M1, Exit 38, Yatala (BP Service Centre)	Yogi — 11yogi11@gmail.com Mob: 0418 692 277; Ph: 07 3206 0440
West	McDonalds, 2 William St, Goodna	Sam—samhobden@hotmail.com Mob: 0419 174 201; Ph: 07 5464 1066 Cosmo—cutidea@bigpond.com.au Ph: 07 5464 5275
Central	McDonalds, Logan Rd & Norton St, Upper Mt Gravatt	Sarge—sarge44@bigpond.net.au Mob: 0417 636 425; Ph: 07 3272 5981

September 2010

Sat 4	Central	9.00 am	Beaudesert, Mt Lindsay, Kyogle, Lions Road, Beaudesert, home	350km 6 hours
Sun 5	West		Father's Day	
Sun 12	South	9.00 am	Mullumbimby, Montecollum, Rosebank, The Channon, Blue Knob, Kunghur, Murwillumbah, Tweed Heads, Coomera	300 km
Sun 19	Central	9.00 am	Beaudesert, Boonah, Harrisville, Rosewood, Black soil, Home	300 km 5.5 hours
Tues 21	All	7.30 pm	Meeting at Lord Stanley Hotel, East Brisbane	
Sat 25	West	9.00 am	Rider's Choice	?
Mon-Wed 27-28-29	Debbil (West start)	8.30 am	Mild Hogs Ride—ALL GENDERS—Leyburn, Texas, Inverell (overnight) Uralla, Tamworth (Powerhouse Museum), Walcha, Dorrigo (overnight) Tyringham, Nymboida, Grafton, Woodburn, Casino, Beaudesert, Home.	1,400 km 3 days

October 2010

Sun 3	Central	9.00 am	South but Central start —going north: Caloundra, Mooloolaba, Noosa, Home	?
Sat 9	Central	9.00 am	Esk, Yarraman, Nanango, Kingaroy, Kumbia, Bunya Mountains, Bensenville, Maidenwell, Blackbutt, Esk—Springwood Suzuki START	550 km
Sun 17	West	9.00 am	Peak Crossing, Boonah, Queen Mary Falls, Killarney, Yangan, Clintonvale, Aratula, Ipswich	295 km
Tues 19	All	7.30 pm	Meeting at Lord Stanley Hotel, East Brisbane *** AGM ***	
Sun 24	South	9.00 am	Rider's Choice	?
Sun 31	Central	9.00 am	Pillion's Choice	?

November 2010

Sat 6	West	9.00 am	Fernvale, Wivenhoe Dam, Esk, Lowood	123 km
Sun 14	South	9.00 am	Yatala, Beaudesert, Kyogle, Lismore, Bangalow, Coomera	350 km
Tues 16	All	7.30 pm	Meeting at Lord Stanley Hotel, East Brisbane	
Sat 20	Central	9.00 am	Landsborough, Nambour, Cooroy, Noosa, Caloundra, Burpengary	295 km
Sun 28	West	9.00 am	Rider's Choice	?

December 2010				
Sat 4	All	6-6.30 pm	Christmas Party !!!!! Carina Leagues Club.	
Sun 5	South	9.00 am	Mudgeeraba, Neranwood, Springbrook, Ingleside, Tallebudgera, Dungay, Murwillumbah, Tumbulgum, Coomera	204 km
Sun 12	Central	9.00 am	Mt Nebo, Glorious, Somerset, Kilcoy, Toogoolawah, Esk, Hampton, Toowoomba, Murphys Creek	400 km
Sat 18	West	6.00 pm	Christmas Lights ride and Dinner	
Tues 21	All	7.30 pm	Meeting at Lord Stanley Hotel, East Brisbane	
Sun 25			Christmas Day	Prezzies
Sun 26	South	9.00 am	Rider's Choice	?
January 2011				
Sat 1	West	9.00 am	New Year's Day: Redbank Plains, Greenbank, North Maclean, Jimbour, Mundoolin, Canungra	Hangover ?
Sun 9	South	9.00 am	Advancetown, Natural Bridge, Byron Bay, Home	?
Sat 16	Central	9.00 am	Samford, Dayboro, Mt Mee, Maleny, Burpengary, Home	210 km 5 hours
Tue 18	All	7.30 pm	Meeting at Lord Stanley Hotel, East Brisbane	
Sun 23	South	9.00 am	Rider's Choice	?
Wed 26			Australia Day	
Sat 29	West		Rosewood, Gatton, Murphys Creek, Hampton, Esk, Fernvale	?

Coordinator's report—September 2010

On Saturday October 9th the Central ride will start at Springwood Suzuki for breakfast then the ride.

This is so that we can show support to this business that is very supportive of us. It would be good if as many members as possible could attend just for Breakfast even if you cannot make the ride.

The West ride is going to have a sausage sizzle at the end of a ride. I will let you know more details soon.

The Mild Hogs Ride is coming up soon. Please let Debbil know if you are going as these are always good and cater for all riders.

We had social night on Saturday which went very well. Thank you for coming.

At the moment I am planning another poker run before Xmas.

Regards

Sugar



The world's shortest joke!

A man asked a woman to marry him...

She said NO! and he lived happily ever after...

Ride— West — Sunday 22 August 2010

We left the West Meeting Point just after 9.00am on a fabulously fine day. The riders were Rowdy, Drastic, Shadow, Pedro, Sarge, Steiny and guests Paul and Geoff.

Our route was down the Western Freeway and through to the Gap, over the hill at Settlement Road through Samford and on to Dayborough.

This was our first stop and was with purpose, yes this was the RBC. (Rowdy Bag Check). Once confirmed that his bag was secure for at least the next stage of the trip, I noticed we were right outside the Dayborough Pub, what a coincidence! So, not being one to mess with Karma, we had a beer and a 15 minute chat then it was back on the road heading over Mt Mee and we regrouped at the look out under the power towers.

After taking in the view for a short period we headed down the mountain to Woodford, straight through the town and then headed right towards Peachester. Another left hand turn and we climbed Bald Knob Road and on to Maleny for a pub lunch. Rowdy seemed quite happy to actually get his feet on the ground and was tempted to go to the local markets, as he was told they sell quite secure bags.....

After our lunch we departed Maleny from the other side and went down through to Kilcoy, fueled up and then went around Somerset Dam. From Somerset we regrouped at the Mt Glorious turn off where we spilt up, some going straight through to go home, the rest of us went over Mt Glorious and stopped for a coffee at the usual spot. Sadly, they had closed so we went down the hill about 500 metres and stopped at another coffee shop, where the view and the coffee were impressive.

Thanks to all who came for the run, it was almost incident free, no names here, but someone got stoned in the face. Broke his glasses too. So if any one knows where to get a good pair of safety glasses and a strong carry bag, let me know and I'll pass this on to Rowdy.

Cheers

Boots

(These boots ain't made for walking)

Ride— Central — Saturday 14 September 2010

I had a GREAT ride and I know I rode with a lot of Steel Horses but for the life of me I can't remember who or where we went.

Breakfast at my place before the start was excellent and well cooked by ME! I know Rowdy, Ynot, Boots and Lace, Steiny & his son in law (Neil?), and Cosmo were all there (sorry if I missed ya), I also know we collected a guest from Samford at the first stop.

We did go over Mt Glorious and it was Glorious and then along to Kilcoy for lunch after travelling along Ynot's favourite road.

I should NEVER write the ride report weeks after the actual ride because I have no hope of remembering the details.

Too many rides and not enough pictures to remind me of the details.

See ya on the next one

Sarge

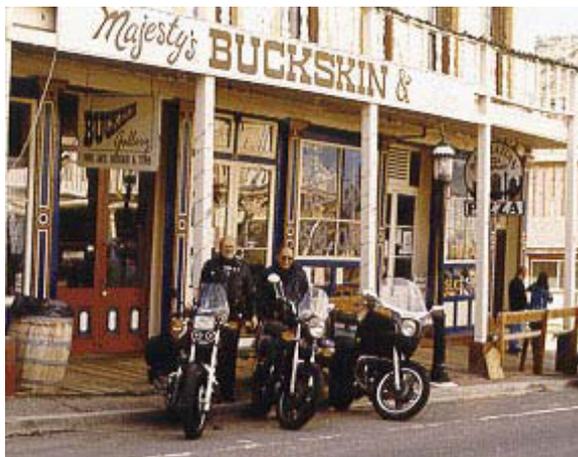
Baz tours the US—a 4 part series—part 2

That evening I lay in bed in my trailer home and listened to the eerie sound of coyotes howling out in the desert flats. It was a chill night and I was glad of the gas heater. I was excited thinking about the long motorcycle journey that lay ahead of us.

Over the next week we worked on the bikes when we could but also did some sightseeing and got involved in some family activities. That included an overnight trip to Chico, a university town in northern California, to see another of Gladys's daughters, Shannon, pass through her graduation ceremony. Gladys had four daughters by Glen, the late son of Martin and Lillian. Martin and Lillian came with us on that journey and were proud to witness Shannon's graduation. We brought Gladys's youngest daughter, Alison, back from Chico after the graduation to stay with her grandparents.

The bikes were now rideable. Gerald, Frank and I decided to take them to Virginia City to shake them down. Alison rode on the back with Frank. She loved it. This was my first real experience at riding on the right. Going round those switch back curves on the way up the range to Virginia City I had to fight a strong instinct to pull to the left instead of hanging out there on the right.

Our destination was a real old frontier town, lovingly restored and with many genuine artifacts of the period when silver was the currency and fortunes were won and lost in the many saloons and casinos. Lots of folks there still tote six guns and wear cowboy hats and boots. I almost expected to see "Hoss" or "Little Joe" Cartwright come riding into town from the Ponderosa Ranch.



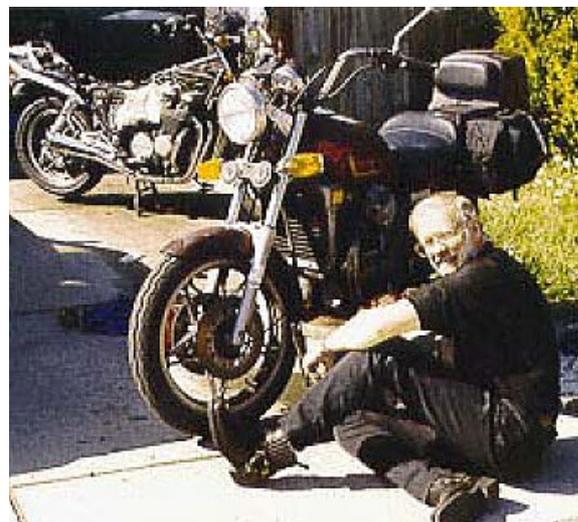
Riding back down that long steep range I noticed that the front brake on my bike was not working too efficiently. I mentioned it to Frank.

During that time I also visited Lake Tahoe with Frank and Gladys and Martin and Lillian. We had a wonderful day together and the scenery was spectacular. Dinner at the Charhouse Restaurant that evening was memorable. At 8:30 in the evening we watched the sun go down over the lake. I will always remember my short time with Martin and Lillian with great affection

Final Preparations

Frank had been thinking about the front brakes on my bike. How difficult would it be to strip them down, clean them up and put it all back together so they worked more efficiently? Gerald advised against it. He had tried it once with his bike, which was also old, and it had proved very difficult to get the air out of the lines. Frank was convinced he could do it.

The first part of the procedure went well. All the components were meticulously cleaned (my job), and carefully re-assembled. That's when the trouble started. Frank tried everything he knew to bleed the system and re-set the callipers but still they were spongy and would hardly arrest forward movement. Gerald offered to ride my bike and give me his bike. He didn't need a front brake he declared. I couldn't agree to that. More theories were tested tried and failed. We were all packed and ready to go but my bike was now not ready.



Another day went by and finally Frank conceded defeat and we took the machine into the Honda shop. Even the mechanics at the shop struggled to get some brake pressure but eventually they achieved about sixty percent braking efficiency. That was good enough for me! I would just have to avoid making any emergency stops!

Departure

Tuesday, 26th May 1998. The day had been spent in last minute frustration trying to get the front brakes on my machine working. In the late afternoon, after picking the bike up from the Honda shop, we decided to make a start on

our journey that same evening. Enough time had been lost already.

We sat down to an early dinner and Martin said a special prayer asking that we be kept safe on the roads in the days ahead. I especially hoped God was listening that night.

Our kits had been packed ready for days. We strapped them onto the bikes and climbed into our thermal underwear and leathers. It was bitterly cold. We pulled on surgical gloves under our gauntlets to keep out the cold and damp. Gerald produced some quilted ski suits for Frank and me. We were very grateful for the additional warmth these suits provide and zipped them on over the top of everything else. I looked like the Michelin man.

It had been a grey day and the light was beginning to fade as we climbed onto our machines and started the engines. Mine took some special coaxing when it was cold. In the days ahead Gerald would give it a burst of pure alcohol up the air intake each morning to get it firing. Too much winding of the starter motor just flattened the battery.

We were rolling! My heart was pounding with excitement. I took up the rear position, as riding on the right hand side was still a little foreign to me. I followed Gerald's line through the intersections as we left town. On the outskirts of the city, snow flakes began swirling around us and melting on our windscreens. A strong cross wind was tugging at my bulky clothing and altering the trajectory of my bike.

We passed Pyramid Lake Indian Reserve on our right and by 8 pm it was nearly dark. The wet road surface was eating up the weak beam from my headlight. The cold was seeping into my bones. We passed signs warning of deer crossing the road and I calculated we had climbed about 4,000 feet. The temperature was dropping and was probably now about minus one degree allowing for the wind chill factor. Eventually we came to Susanville, about 100 miles north of Reno, and decided to find a motel for the night and thaw out a bit. Everyone at the motel was complaining about this unseasonably cold spring weather.

Change of Plan

The next morning we were told the road ahead was impassable for motorcycles and the bad weather was socked in over the mountains. Our only chance was to make it down the Sierra Nevada's to the more temperate coastal plain in northern California and then turn north.

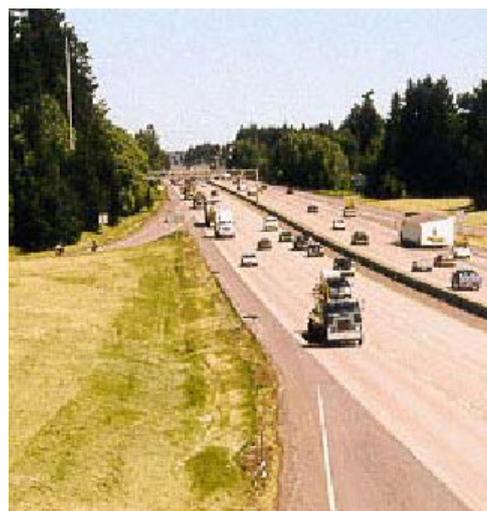
We passed through Westwood and headed for Red Bluff in California riding down the ranges through falling snow with high snow banks on either side of the slippery wet road surface. At one point we pulled over to look at this winter wonderland scene and listened to the clumps of snow falling from the bows of conifer pines and plopping onto white blankets of snow on the ground beneath. The chill produced a sudden urgent need to empty bladders and after negotiating numerous zippers I witnessed for the first time the full significance of the term "piss-holes in the snow".

Eventually we reached the Interstate 5. We were riding through intermittent showers. When we got onto the Interstate we turned north. Now we had joined a steady stream of commercial and recreational traffic flowing along this super highway that snakes its way all the way north into Canada. Three lanes of vehicles moving in an orderly fashion provided me with a cross sectional view of America. I was surrounded by a phalanx of heavy trailers, 'RVs' - some towing the family car behind, timber jinkers, Cadillacs, Chryslers and Lincolns. I looked at the people in the cars and wondered about their lives.

We stopped at a diner at Mount Shasta for coffee. The top of the peak was shrouded by a small white woolly cloud looking for all the world like something out of Walt Disney's magic kingdom.

Oregon

The rolling green hills of northern California soon changed into pine forests in Oregon. We rode beside fast running snow fed streams with mountain ranges filling the horizon. We glimpsed awesome lakes caught in the afternoon



sunlight as the rain showers cleared. It was cold but clear and the bikes were singing on the concrete surfaced highway. At 8 pm it was still bright daylight as we pulled into Eugene and found a motel for the night. We had been travelling for ten hours and had covered 500 miles.

Next morning we wiped the dew off our bikes and Gerald gave my machine its whiff of alcohol. We rode from Eugene to Portland on the I-5. After a quick tour of the city we took highway 30 to Astoria out on the coast. It turned out to be a long ride and we passed the Trojan Nuclear Power Plant with its cooling towers dominating the skyline and looking like huge native drums. I remember thinking, "Please don't let it melt down today!"

We had great views of snow capped St Helen's mountain. Still thermally active, it last erupted in 1990 when it lost 1,000 feet off its summit. At Longview we watched as timber exports were loaded onto the docks on the Columbia River. At Astoria we saw the battleship "Missouri". The Japanese signed their surrender in World War II on its steel plated decks. It was now being "moth-balled" at that location.

In the afternoon we crossed over a long suspension bridge and passed into Washington State. It was a beautiful ride along the shoreline with the highway following the huge sweeps of the headlands. Sunlight was dancing off the north Pacific.

By early evening we made it to Olympia, the capital of Washington State. The early Greek architecture of the Legislative Building held us enthralled. We moved on to Lacey a short distance away for our over-night stop.

Sleepless in Seattle

The next morning we had a big breakfast at Denny's. Then we were hurtling down the I-5 in four lanes of traffic. Car carriers, transports, business commuters thronged the lanes both coming and going.

By this stage a pattern of travel had been established. Frank in his bright red helmet rode up front setting the pace and the agenda. Gerald on the other hand cruised at the back keeping an eye on this rookie-right-hand-side-rider from Oz. On more than one occasion I was grateful for his presence behind me when the road signs and traffic crowded in on us. Gerald was very cool. He didn't care if Frank got 100 miles ahead of us. He just kept rolling on at a steady pace for as long as it took. He would often pull along side me and signal to see if I wanted to stop somewhere and take a photo. We often did, and that's how I managed to get such a good pictorial record of our trip despite the need to cover big distances each day.

Approaching Seattle we bunched together tightly in the traffic to avoid one of us missing an exit ramp on the fly-overs and clover leaves. If we got separated here we might never find each other again! Frank missed our exit and went the wrong way down an on-ramp to get back on track. Don't ever try that in a car! It added a little adrenalin to the morning ride and we ignored the angry horn blowing and screeching of tyres.

That morning we visited the Flight Museum at Seattle. We got immersed in the history of flight from old biplanes to the Apollo Moon Lander. Gerald was quite knowledgeable about such things being in the Air Force Reserve. We even took a tour through an old Air Force One jet. (Is that really LBJ's hat and JFK's pipe in the President's airborne War Room? I don't know about that...)

After lunch we took a look at the Space Needle Tower. It was an overcast day for viewing from the top but we were told Seattle had a forty-percent chance of overcast weather all year round. In the late afternoon we took the ferry across the bay to Port Angeles ready for our jump off next morning for Vancouver Island in British Columbia.



..... to be continued

Merchandising—contact Loges—see p. 2 for details



Steel Horses Caps \$17.00



Chopper sunglasses \$15

LADIES
Jeni B
3/4 Sleeve
Black



LADIES
Jeni B
3/4 Sleeve
White



Tee-shirts \$36

The club does not stock these but will put your name on a wait-list.

MENS
Johnny Bobbin
Long Sleeve
Black



MENS
Johnny Bobbin
Long Sleeve
White



When the Merchandiser decides there are enough for a bulk order, you will then pay for your order.

How to wear your Patch and Insignia

