



THE BIG GETAWAY

By John Del Santo

It's finally time to start out on that long awaited Vacation !! Be it Summer in the mountains, Fall in the desert, or Winter at the resorts, we need to prepare our bikes, plan our route (maybe), and adjust our thinking to get ready for many miles and hours on the road. All Right !

Tire pressure and amount of tread wear... Big Time Important ! How old is that battery? Checking hoses and wires for chafing and wear. We can ask other riders about areas and roadways ("don't miss Route 89A") and map out a route, or we can just plan on heading "Kinda Thataway" until we get to someplace we like the feel of. Sometimes the destination you want to reach is far away, and it's not the best idea to push yourself too many hours and miles at a time, especially for the first couple of days, that's not the most pleasant type of riding, and tired riders tend to miss seeing important parts of the road... and "falling" asleep has a whole different meaning when we're on a motorcycle. There's a lot of nice stuff to see and enjoy along the way.

Pack a light set of rain gear... Doing that will almost guarantee that you won't run into any rain on the trip. When traveling someplace cold we need to avoid Hypothermia. Wearing layers of clothing allows us to wear less or more as the day goes along. How fast you are traveling combines with how low the temperature is to create an extremely low windchill factor. When we ride in hot weather, stripping down to a t-shirt will allow our body moisture to just fly away. In the movies you don't see those Bedouin Tribesman in the desert wearing shorts and a tank-top... Gotta be a reason there. Drink a LOT more than you think you need, and if you get to a stop and *don't* need to use the rest room, then you're not drinking enough. Hydrate !!! Wet your clothes down!

Pour water on your head! Feeling very tired while riding in very hot or very cold weather is a BAD sign of things to come. Know when it's time to take a break. A good time to stop is in that little town to buy whatever it is that you forgot to pack. Sometimes we get High... in the mountains, that is. Traveling in higher altitudes than we live in can cause a change in equilibrium, balance, and temperament. Be ready to recognize that.

So Ride, Ride, Ride !! Get out there and *do* it, and ride smart, and *enjoy* it ! Because on a bike, the Trip *is* the Destination !

White Water Fever

By Ron Farkas

A day trip up the mountain: No, not the local San Diego Mountains, but the San Bernardino Mountains. With summer nearly upon us the snow pack left by this years' record rainfall, it has generated some much needed watershed for the lakes and streams. The view of Mill Creek along CA 38 and a surprise waterfall once you're up in the mountains is a great sight.

Head north up I-15 and then take I-10 east toward Palm Springs. Don't take the "new" cutoff from I-10 to CA 18 to Big Bear Lake up the front side, but take the University St exit from I-10. Turning left onto University look for East Lugonia Ave./CA-38 in a little less than a mile. Turn right onto 38 and watch for the town of Mentone. Why Mentone, well, this is the last gas stop before you head up the mountain toward Big Bear Lake (about 50 miles ahead...check your tank). As you head east on 38 the road begins to twist a little, paralleling the creek bed just north of it. As you follow the creek bed the "White Water" comes into view and the battle of watching where you're going and watching the water confronts your mind.

If you want to watch this miniature version of the Colorado River – keep going past the ranger station and over the bridge that spans the creek. Once on the other side of the creek – the road straightens out a bit and has some view points with even a small town and picnic area if you want to stop and take a closer look.

If you haven't noticed, you're gaining in elevation and once the road "ends" you are at the start of the climb up the mountain. Take the left up the mountain – it's double yellow most of the way up so enjoy the scenery in case you get stuck behind an RV or a fisherman towing his boat.

As the road begins to level out a bit the hairpin turns make their way in out of the mountainside like kids playing Hide-N-Seek in a forest of pine trees. The turns have some banking or camber and urge you to lean the bike into the turn and rail around on that imaginary "perfect" line. Some cars tend to park on the side of the road to take in the scenery or enjoy the miniature waterfalls that occur due to the snowmelt. About half way up to Angelous Oaks a rather tall and thin waterfall makes it's presence on side of the road – watch out for the cars parked next to it doing their best imitation of the "Maid of the Mist" boats at Niagara Falls.

You have to stop at Angelous Oaks, if you're hungry they have a small restaurant, but I usually stop in the general store and buy something to drink. It surprising how much it looks like the store up at Mt. Laguna as they even have benches outside to sit and enjoy the mountain air and take in the beginning of the trees that make up high mountain forest.

Heading back on the road for Big Bear, many camps and open-air theaters appear on the each side. Continuing the climb toward the Onyx summit, a bridge that spans the beginning of the Santa Ana River comes into view and the creeks that feed the stream are visible on the right side of the gently curving road. Finally some passing lanes are carved into the mountain and the summit is reached with a rewarding view of the high desert and mountains to the north.

Descending into Big Bear is very apparent by the speed you can attain and the CHP is aware of this as well, so watch your velocity! The road will end rather abruptly with a hard left turn with the cross traffic yielding to your decent onto Hwy 18 and the town of Big Bear. Go a little further for the first gas station and decide to follow Hwy 18 down to the desert (a very twisty road- with too much traffic at times) or head to the town of Big Bear Lake for a bite to eat – (the Italian restaurant in the Von's Shopping center on the right is a local favorite). I wouldn't recommend going too much further into town as the traffic is a usually a challenge and the roads down the "front side" are filled with cars, buses, RVs and it is very well patrolled.

Take time to buy some gas, turn around and follow the road you came up on. With a little planning you can make it home in time for dinner and reflect on the great time you had chasing the "White Water" in those "other" mountains to the north.

May's meeting

A very informative meeting – not one, but two speakers – both on how to help save your butt if you get into trouble. The first speaker, Celia Diaz, from Mexico represented a service organization (Binational Emergency Medical Care Committee) that helps with communications and liaison between Mexican and US authorities especially if you were critically injured while riding in Baja. The organization works mainly on the Mexican side to help the injured rider (or driver – if you take your four wheeler) – and arrange for medical transport to the border and have an ambulance waiting at the border to take you medical services here in the US. Note- this is NOT insurance, but just a service that is bilingual, knows what services are available across the border and how to get them to react to your immediate needs. This service is US based and costs \$30 a year – a real bargain especially if you take an extended ride in Baja. You can reach Celia at (619) 425-5080 or check out their web site at www.binationalemergency.org. Our second guest speaker, Joy Medved, was sur-

prised at the result to her first question – as many of us raised our hands in response to having “contributed” to the state due to our enthusiastic enjoyment of motorcycle riding. Yes, someone has finally done it and created a “State Registered” traffic school especially for motorcyclists! No more boring lectures on how to signal correctly to change a lane with your four wheeler, but actual information on two wheel navigation – that’s state approved. The “Joy of Motorcycling” traffic school is here in San Diego and offers intelligent options to those of us that had too much fun riding and have a ticket to prove it. You can call the school at, (858) 271 7433 or check out their web site at www.joyofmotorcycling.com.

BEMCC
Binational Emergency Medical Care Comm.
(619) 425-5080
www.binationalemergency.org

Joy of Motorcycling Traffic School
(858) 271 7433
www.joyofmotorcycling.com

Next Meeting: 6/8/2005

JUNE'S speaker

For any of you who like to save money and do your own maintenance, don't miss this meeting when Lou Gutowski from K&N Filters (www.knfilters.com) in Riverside joins us. He'll tell us about their famous "washable" filters and how they affect engine performance. perfect for all you wrenchers!

Club Meetings:
 Giovanni's Restaurant in Kearny Mesa, Corner of Clairemont Mesa & Ruffin Roads
 6PM 2nd Wed of the Month

Newsletter Submission:
 Newsletter submission can be sent to Ron Farkas, email is: hondaron@cox.net, Phone & Fax: 858-486-3257

Officers 2004-2005
 President.....Jim Branch
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 HRCA Liaison.....Dale Stark
 Referee.....Rached Maalouf
 Legislative Officer:

EVENT CALENDAR

- JUNE WED 8—RHR meeting at Giovanni's
- JULY FRI-SUN 8-10—MotoGP and AMA SBK at Mazda Speedway, Monterey, Ca.
- WED 13—RHR meeting at Giovanni's

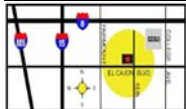
Inclement weather may cause the cancellation of any of the above RHR events. Contact Jim Branch at (619) 460-0669 the evening before a RHR scheduled ride/Track day if weather is a question. You can also check out the Web site for up-to-date changes in the Schedule : www.redhotriders.com

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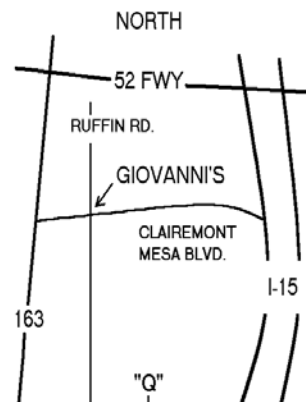
Entry is open for the
2005 Baby Butt 1000/1500
September 17-18, 2005

1000 or 1500 Mile
24 hr. Endurance Ride
Check our web site for entry forms

San Diego to Laughlin—the long way! Mark your calendar now. Registration forms are available! We leave on Friday morning at 6:00am and arrive at the River Palms in Laughlin, NV by 6:00am on Sunday morning. There is a banquet at 11:00am or so where we have loads of door prizes, speakers and a buffet brunch



Formula Extreme—Honda Style—Fontana 2005



MEETING LOCATION
Giovanni's Restaurant
9353 Clairemont Mesa
(858) 279-6700