



Happy July

Pat Riley (with minor edits by Tom H, 7-7-10)

I hope each of you had a wonderful Fourth of July. Perhaps you had a little cob of hot buttered corn, a sizzling grilled hamburger, topped off with a cool, crispy slice of watermelon. Yum. Maybe you were able to listen to at least one stirring all-American march of John Philip Sousa. And, I hope you had chance to reflect on the wonderful experiment that is the United States, and the fragile nature of our precious freedoms seemingly assaulted by all sides. My Afghanistan-bound Marine, on leave before deployment, reminds me that **Freedom isn't free.**

This 'n' That

If you missed the last chapter gathering you missed a good one. Chapter Educator, Tom Taylor, invited CHP Information Officer Tom McGuire to speak. McGuire, a 16-year veteran of the force, is particularly suited to address a Gold-wing chapter; He owns seven motorcycles. Engaging and lively, Tom touched on many subjects, including the top five reasons for collisions. They are:

1. Excessive speed
2. Following too close (use the 3 second rule)
3. Unsafe lane change
4. Distraction (put down that cell phone!)
5. Under the influence (of anything that impairs driving)

We also learned useful was information concerning trikes and trailers. According to Officer McGuire, trikes cannot use the commuter lane without another passenger legally. Also, bikes pulling trailers are subject to the same restrictions as a semi truck. Of course, he also mentioned that most CHP officers have not mem-ORIZED the entire California Vehicle Code, a book a couple of inches thick.

After the next gathering, July 10, Tom Taylor would like to have a little PLP. Hope to see you there.

Also, for those of you who signed up for the CPR/First Aid class in the fall. Mike Burke, the instructor says there will be training opportunities at the District Rally if you don't want to wait. It looks like the soonest we can have the class in Concord is November. Negotiations for a date are still in progress.

Tom Taylor's Safety Item

Hi all,

I'm sure we have all heard of "T_Clock" or more correctly "T_CLOCS". A system of checks we should do at least once a week to insure our bikes are safe to ride. Well, we now have a new expanded version of the old "T_CLOCS", but as a refresher let's look at the old version and what it covered.

T = Tires & Wheels (condition and wear of the tires and are there any cracks in the rims and check the bearings and seals)

C = Controls (condition, routing, pivots and operation of Levers, cables, hoses, and Throttle)

L = Lights (condition and function of Battery and lights)

O = Oil (Levels and Leaks)

C = Chassis (Frame, Suspension, Belts, Fasteners condition and function)

S = Sidestand (Center and Sidestands condition and retention)

The new version of "T_CLOCS" includes the old system but goes much further to insure your safety. It's still called "T_CLOCS" but as I said it is expanded.

Tires and Rims (Condition / Air Pressure and alignment)

Center / Side Stand (Center and Side stand's condition and retention of springs)

Steering / Suspension (Forks / shocks no leaks proper air pressure)

Breaks (fluid / leaks / hoses condition / routing / Lever / Pedal / Pads / Shoes)

Cooling (leaks / Coolant level)

Battery (fluid / Terminals / Vent route)

Fuel System (Leaks / Hoses / Fuel filter / fuel tank / carburetors)

Transmission (operation)

Engine (Leaks / oil level / air cleaner / Wire harness / Ignition / Exhaust)

Ignition Switch On (Lights / Head-break-turn-panel-horn)

Start / Run Engine (Starter / Idle-stop / switch-noise)

Throttle (Response / Cable / Routing)

If we all follow "T_CLOCS" at least once a month we will all be safer on our own bike and following that guy in front of us. Yes, I know GWRRA says we should perform a "T_CLOCS" at least once a week and I support that, but in the real world is everyone in the chapter going to go through this weekly... probably not, but, spending 20 minutes with your bike in the garage once a month is doable for most.

Remember; treat your bike as though your life depends on it at 70 miles per hour. If you're at our next meeting I will have a laminated version of the expanded "T_CLOCS" for you.

Up-coming Events

- July 10 Chapter Gathering and PLP
- July 24 Maintenance Day at Morris Carey's @ 10:30
- July 24 Team and Co-rider Class in Danville (contact Bruce Howland at <mailto:pogopsm@aol.com> 925-830-4550)
- July 30–Aug 1 Testostrogen Ride (see the last issue of this newsletter for motel information or call me, 925-685-2111)
- Aug 14 Chapter Gathering
- Sept. 3-5 District Rally in Mammoth, CA. ([District Rally](#))

Road Tales and Other Lies

The *Lunch in Nevada* ride went pretty smoothly. Four intrepid souls: Barry, Ed, Walter and I went. On Highway 12 Barry lost his FastTrak transponder. It was apparent to the rest of us that he hadn't yet discovered the benefits of Velcro.

Sunglasses seemed to be a minor theme of the ride. It started with Walter buying a new pair at our first gas stop at Jackson Rancheria. He was *stylin'*. Later Barry bought a new pair at a *coffee-drain* stop in Myers. He was *stylin'*, too.

As usual, Barry & Ed barreled through the mountain traffic, God love 'em, leaving Walter and I in the dust. But that was cool. Walter is a good rider and not in a hot-iron hurry. His pace was much to my liking; not onerously slow, and not frenetically fast. Barry and Ed waited for us at the 88 – 89 junction, but most of the time we all arrived at the same place about the same time.

When we arrived in Gardnerville Barry broke his new sunglasses taking them off his head. "Cheap, damn things" he said. But I looked at the shades and noticed how small they were. "That's your problem, Barry. These sunglasses weren't made for a melon-head like you!"

JT's Basque Restaurant was pretty satisfying. The lunch menu is limited but reasonably

priced. Everyone else ordered the steak sandwich, but I said "We're at a Basque restaurant, what's the matter with you?" I had the lamb steak. It's been a long time since I had lamb. It was thinly sliced and appeared to be more than I could eat. But it wasn't. Being especially wired for the ride, I didn't eat breakfast. I gave in to my hitherto unfelt hunger and ate the entire plate of french fries, salad, and lamb. Pretty good, but there goes my diet!

The way back was more of the same. Predictably, Melon-head and Ed ran ahead, blah, blah, blah (you know the drill). We stopped in Lodi for an icy Starbucks. The only negative review was from Ed. He said he did not like going through South Lake Tahoe; too much traffic; I don't blame him there. We went that way for the view coming down the Kingsbury Grade into Nevada. Can I help it if he and Barry got stuck behind an RV doing 25?



Wing Nut

for June

Last month's winner of the illustrious Wing Nut Award was Christine Mc-Gillicutty. She received the nomination from Marce Ageev who cited an incident that recently took place in a local restaurant. While at their table, Barry, Aylesa, Alex, and Marce asked the May Wing Nut winner to show the valuable object, of which he apparently didn't have on his person. Being the dinner guest of the hapless person in question, and wanting to help in his predicament, she surreptitiously slid her chain necklace off and handed it to him. He showed a bit of the chain above the rim of the table, but the ruse fell apart when the inquisitors demanded to see the entire object. Of course, the Wing Nut wasn't there.

So, Ms. McGillicutty got the wing nut for simply *helping a friend in need*. That's a good thing, right?