



Club Newsletter

Sunday September 16th 9/11 Memorial Ride

It was one of those rare “Where were you” horrendous moments. Phyllis and I were at UCLA and the entire surgical staff was placed on alert. There was a fear of an eminent attack in downtown Los Angeles.

Harvey joined me for the 5th annual “Ride to the Flags” and this year Phyllis tagged along. If you are not familiar with this ride it started in 2008 as a commemoration of 9/11/01. The White Heart foundation was formed and they have raised tens of thousands for military and homeland hero causes. Part of the donations this year were given to Sgt. 1st Class Corey Remsburg, Army Ranger, who was severely injured by an IED in Afghanistan. The ride begins at Naval Base Ventura County Pt. Mugu and ends at Pepperdine University in Malibu.

We met Harvey at Best Breakfast Café about 830 a.m. near the corner of Saviers and Pleasant Valley Road in Oxnard (it was Uncle Herbs). Our plan was to have a good breakfast and be at the Base when the registration opened at 10.

Registration was on time and well organized just off Hwy 1at the Los Posas Gate. Riders pulled over at the entrance in columns and ladies came over with the usual **Disclaimer / Donation** forms. After our wrists were banded Base access was granted and off we went to the meeting area at Naval Base Headquarters.

Harvey and I attended the 3rd annual in 2010 and the event has grown a bit since then. This year 850 riders attended with bikes of every make, but predominantly Harleys. A large food court is available, a static display of missile’s used by the Navy, Fire Trucks, and matching 9/11 white Camaros with the written names of all souls lost (9/11). One vehicle was an armored troupe carrier, opened up to take a look. I was trying to imagine the soldiers all packed in with their gear... must be a tight fit! They have been manufactured for some time now to absorb IED blasts. The bottom hull is V shaped to deflect the blast energy away but there are still fatalities....

The Pt. Mugu Headquarters Building faces East and the parking lot is the gathering spot for the event. A flatbed trailer (facing South) serves as the stage and this year a Country Western/ Rock Band entertained us. Two Celebs were present, Rob Lowe and Keiffer Sullivan. Captain Vasquez, Base Commander, opened the solemn occasion along with a Bell and Wreath Ceremony, taps were played, a fly over of an AN 12? Right over us, SFC Cory tried to say a few words and the gathering closed





with a benediction . .

SFC Corey Remsburg did ten tours before his incident. He was in a vehicle which hit an IED, subsequently rolled over into water and was pulled out by a buddy and resuscitated a few times in the field and while in surgery. The blast damaged his entire R side including his brain, he cannot walk or talk that well. The donations are for needed equipment and his rehabilitation.

Rob Lowe said a few words on stage; turns out he was on a plane with the 9/11 hijackers when they were doing a *dry run* and only found out about it a few years later when he was subpoenaed. The Government wanted to know if Rob noticed anything unusual about the flight. The actor was a bit stunned, the flight seemed so normal and he thought "how quickly things could change".

It didn't take much to convince Phyllis and Harvey to take an alternate route and travel down Hwy 1 to Pepperdine. Who wants to be behind all those Harleys? The normal route was about 40 miles in length and traveled inland between Hwy 101 and the Coast Hwy. With all the bikes and fanfare, speed was reduced to 25 mph.

Pepperdine University is on the corner of Malibu Canyon Road and the Coast Hwy. The entire corner is covered with 2,977 flags in evenly spaced rows and columns. Each flag represents a person killed on that Day. Sprinkled among them were flags of other Countries. Terrorism is equal opportunity it appears. Solemn, very solemn...

We then took off for lunch at Howdy's located on Cross Creek Road just a few blocks south of Pepperdine. Good Mexican food. Our return trip was up Malibu Canyon Road and as we were traveling north here came the Riders! About a quarter mile from the Coast large fire trucks were parked on either side of the road. Hoisted between was a large American Flag over the middle of the road welcoming the riders to their destination. I honked at 'em! Can you imagine our World today if the attack did not take place? Look at what has been lost, the lives, the material,, etc.....

John White

Thanks John for your contribution.



Upcoming Rides

- Harvey takes his rides on Sunday, anyone want to join in?
- Oct 18-21 Horizon Unlimited Expo and Camp near Cambria.
- Oct 20-21 Santa Fe, NM—Loretto Chapel and the Staircase. Ride departs from Colorado Springs. ;-)
- Oct 27-28 (?) Airhead Beemer Club , Bad to the Beach , Manchester Beach near Fort Bragg.
- Monterrey BMW Club will be in our area Nov 3rd visiting the Solvang Motorcycle Museum.



Editorial

I have been putting in some hard labor recently, in between surgeries. I needed a trailer to haul the bikes so I picked up this project a few months ago. I finished fastening the last screw today and realized this thing will haul quite a few bikes. Stacked sideways and 180° from each other, I could easily load eight road bikes or twelve dirt bikes. A little overkill, I know. Maybe I need to think a little longer before I jump on the next trailer. That's right, I said it. This one is already on Craigslist.

My next trailer will be...

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In case you didn't know...

- It's official. Max Biaggi (Aprilia) clinched the championship in World Superbike by a hair. He beat Tom Sykes (Kawasaki) by a half point, 358 to 357.5. Marco Melandri (BMW) came up short with 328.5 points. In the manufacturers, Aprilia took the top step with 444.5 points. BMW and Ducati were second and third, 421 and 416 respectively.
- It's close, very close. Dani Pedrosa trails Jorge Lorenzo by 30 points with four races left on the calendar. The battle of the Spaniards continues this weekend in Japan at the Motegi Circuit.
- Only 87 days until the Dakar but who's keeping track?
- And finally, **the club meeting is Monday, October 15th at Cody's Café.**

Jim Rowley, Editor.

Have a story to tell? Want to set up an upcoming event?

Send it to me at mapenginc@hotmail.com.



Make every ride count.

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