



Honda Riders Club of America

Southern California Motorcycling Association

American Motorcyclist Association

THINKING DOWN THE ROAD....
by John Del Santo

Good Riders scan the traffic picture at least a block ahead in town and a half-mile ahead on the open road, and they try to keep their concentration zeroed in on the developing traffic situations. This would be real easy to do if we were programming a computer or setting the controls on an automatic pilot. *Our* computer, *our* flight controller, is located between our ears... And If we supply our brain with the proper info, it can work faster than a computer and is able to think and make decisions which a computer cannot do.

When I am out there rolling down the road on my motorcycle I'm having a more enjoyable ride than the other vehicles around me...Freedom! And when I am out there on a bike, rolling down the road I have put myself in more dangerous circumstances than the other drivers around me. So.... If I am riding along thinking about the argument I had with my kids this morning, or about that terrible driver that violated my right of way at the last intersection, or worrying about my job security, or thinking about paying bills, then I am not supplying my brain, my flight controller, with the right information to keep ME in control of the traffic developing around me. They say that the 'average' driver makes about a hundred driving mistakes each mile. We are surrounded out there by all of these "average" drivers, and need to stay sharp and focused to protect ourselves and stay out of the hospital! It would be convenient if we could just "click" our emotions and stress onto 'Hold' until we arrive at our destination, but we are not computers... and certainly don't *want* to be... far from it. As motorcyclists we want to be free and more in control of ourselves than any of those other drivers around us on the road. If I have a bunch of stuff on my mind, Ill *try* to put most of it aside while I am riding. But if I don't, then I am letting outside situations cloud my decisions. Some prescription drugs can change how we'll react, too...Read the bottle. If I get a late start, and I know that I'll be fifteen minutes late for that really important appointment, I can call and let them know that

I'll be twenty five minutes late...this will take the pressure off, and gives me some breathing room. If it's really a terrible horrible nasty emotional day, overflowing with turmoil and stress, we can always cancel the trip. You're the Boss !! You're in charge !

Computers crash, and automatic pilots fly planes into the sides of mountains. *We* can certainly be better than *that*. We need to do our best to stay alert and focused....Controlled and in charge and ready for just about anything that might happen around us in traffic. Be Aware, No Surprises, and... Ride Safe !!

When will it STOP raining ? - is there a committee forming to start building an Ark?



Some tips for riding in the rain....

You are most likely to dump your bike when braking. Increase your following distance when behind a car.

Ride behind one of the vehicles brake lights (not in the middle behind his number plate). If the car should stop suddenly you can slip your bike past him and therefore earn a few more feet to stop your motorcycle.

Brake with your rear brake first. If the rear wheel should lock up, LOOK UP, LOOK AHEAD, GO STRAIGHT. Yes, the bike will fish-tail around but it should remain controllable and upright.

Keep your bike more upright when cornering. This is not the time to counter-steer and knee scrape.

Keeping your tires on good surface. Avoid puddles and places where the tar has risen to the surface and cov-

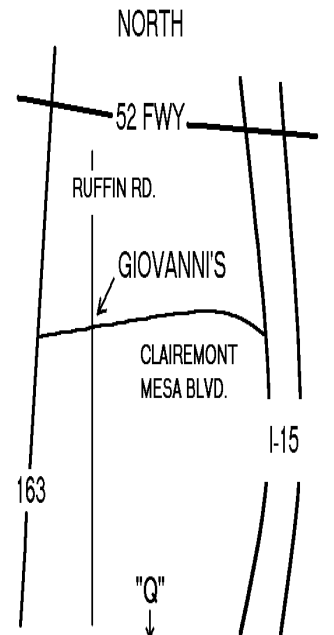
Tips....continued
ered the embedded pebbles forming a shiny-smooth surface.

Never ride on the painted surface of a road (even in the dry - make this a riding habit) . Avoid manhole covers and large steel plates near roadwork. Go very slowly when turning through intersections as there is more oil here due to slow moving traffic than anywhere else. Lean forward and keep lots of weight over that front wheel.

Happy New Year !!!!
It's Membership renewal time again!!

Membership renewal forms are available on the Red Hot Riders web site .Down load the form , print it out and mail it with a check for 15 dollars to the address on the form.

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



December Meeting Report

Christmas arrived and the club did not forget our members serving in the military. We collected almost 150lbs of food and motorcycle brochures from the recent Long Beach Show. I packed up all of the "goodies" and shipped them out New Year Eve's day to Gunnery Sergeant Andy Kenefick stationed in Iraq. Andy should be receiving his "CARE" packages soon.

On the Home front, Ed's wife Judy Krugman did a great job of decorating Giovanni's for the holiday season with some unique centerpieces that were later raffled off as gifts. The centerpieces were done in motorcycle theme and if you won one, it turned out to be a neat ornament for your Christmas tree.

Since we had not scheduled a "speaker" for the night, we were lucky enough to get "Earplugs USA" (<http://www.earplugsusa.com>) to take impressions of those members' ears that wanted a "professional earplug" to use while they were riding or racing.

After a good meal and some friendly kidding (check out the RHR Forum , Classifieds, "Red Bike for Sale") we all wished our fellow riders

happy holidays and agreed that even with the loss of one of our members, some great speakers at our meetings, and a challenging Baby Butt, our organization grew stronger and closer in this last year.

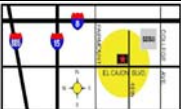
A example of Judy's handy work, a super-bike Christmas ornament complete with goodies



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EVENT CALENDAR

FEB	9-WED	Club meeting at Giovanni's
	19-SAT	SuperCross at the "Q"
MAR	9-WED	Club meeting at Giovanni's
	12-SAT	AMA Superbike at Daytona
	TBA	Overniter to Palm Springs
APRIL	13-WED	Club meeting at Giobvanni's
	25-MON	RHR Track Day at Willow (Big Track)
	29-May 1	AMA Superbikes at Fontana

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

MotoPro
House of Motorcycles

1425 South Coast Highway
Oceanside, CA 92054
(760) 433-4333

Next Meeting: 1/12/05

January 2005:

Here's our guest for Jan. 12, 2005

There's a new helmet manufacturer out there that promises high quality lids at a very reasonable price!

Stop by to hear what Jon Eide from Scorpion helmets

(<http://scorpionusa.com>) has to say about their new line of on-road and off-road gear.

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

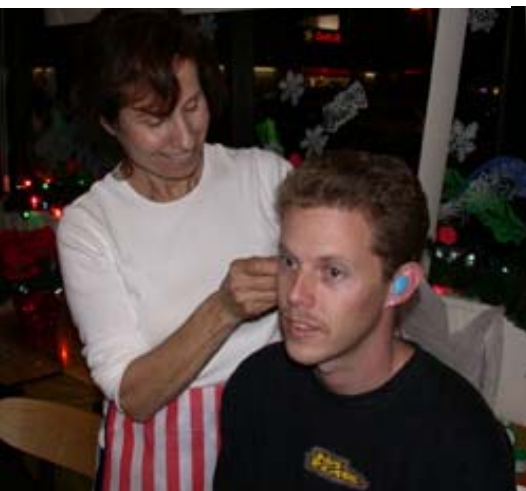
Officers 2004-2005

President.....Jim Branch
Vice President.....Chris Crawford
Secretary.....Michael Gorga
Treasurer.....Ed Krugman

Committee Chairman

Rider Education.....Vacant
Activities.....Richard French
Merchandise.....George Devereaux
Publication.....Ron Farkas
Membership.....Ron Farkas
HRCA Liaison.....Dale Stark
Referee.....Rached Maaloul
Legislative Officer:
Andy Mansker

Scott gets impressions taken for earplugs



December's Ride Report

Sunday morning of the 12th HOM's accessories wizard and all around good guy, Geoff King led a mixed group of bikes to Golden Acorn Casino.

Leaving HOM, the sky was a little heavy with mist, but soon cleared up as the sun finally made it's way up and out. Geoff had us head east on El Cajon Boulevard, testing our city motorcycle navigation skills and connecting to the back roads of the south east county on our way to Lyons County Store.

Once at the store it was apparent that Santa came early for some of our members, Andy White with a ZX10R, Scott Gage got a RC51 and Keith Knapp with a new blue FJR. After a cup of coffee, and maybe a carrot for "Black Jack", Geoff had us head out with a word of warning not to get airborne on some upcoming 'dips' on the

way to the Highway 94; as this was a good thing due to the amount of law enforcement we saw that day. None of us needed any additional "Christmas Gifts" from the CHP.

Upon arriving at the casino, we were able to park up front, walk right in and sit down at some tables waiting for us. The food and service were great as it was a perfect way to end the last ride of 2004.