



STAR GAZER

July 2008

THE "PREZ SEZ"

No soap box issues this month, so it's gonna be short and sweet! The first six months is under our wheels and I hope all enjoyed the rides and events attended. I want to thank all that contributed to the first half, whether as ride captain, middle of the packer, tailgater (er tailgunner), BBQ master, shopper, ride reporter, cartoonist, gadget getter, biker breaker downer (yes, you Disney), raffler, belly dancer (if you didn't see this, you missed a sweet ride to the Berkeley Hills..., not really I just wanted to see if I still had your attention), security guarder, note taker, attention getter, poem reader, complainer (yep, even a complainer, because this helps us grow and evolve, yeah right!). But thanks to everyone for a great first half. Now that the smoke has cleared, the second half of the year promises to be all that (and maybe just a little bit more, we'll have to wait and see).



CAUTION: The wearing of thongs while riding is considered dangerous and uncomfortable (at least that's what The Paparazzi said). Maybe we should ask The Thongman and get a second opinion!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

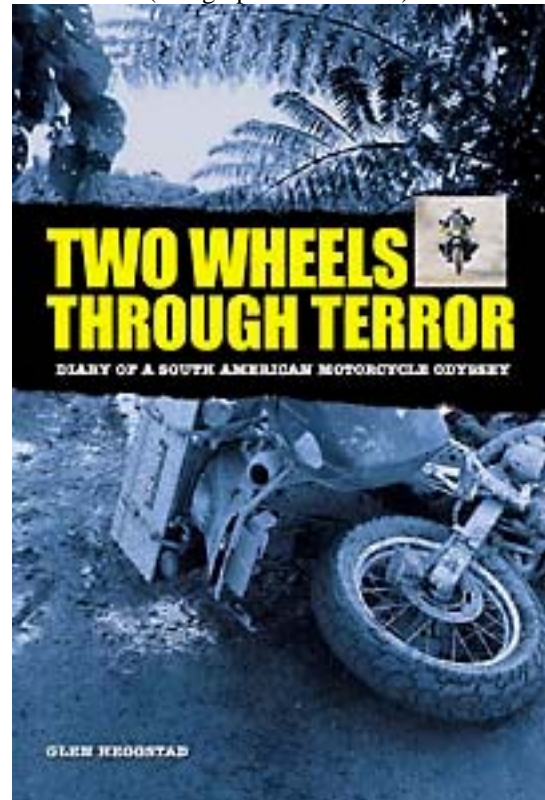
Check the website calendar for further information

July 5 th	Dinner in Grass Valley
July 12 th	Holli-STAR Rally
July 18 th	Chapter Meeting
July 21 st -26 th	STAR DAYS
July 27 th	Chapter Ride

WHAT MEMBERS HAVE TO SAY

Two Wheels Through Terror

(autographed hardcover)



RIDING FREE with 153
Chapter website: www.star153.org

The engaging true story of motorcycle adventurer Glen Heggstad's capture by Colombian terrorists during a journey to Tierra del Fuego, the Southernmost tip of the Americas. Tom Myers, CycoActive/Touratech prez read the entire book in two sittings ("I couldn't put it down...")!

The story: Glen Heggstad, the self-proclaimed "Striking Viking," is an adventure motorcyclist who seeks out and rides the most rugged places on the planet. He has been a Hell's Angel and a martial arts competitor, but no amount of training or experience was able to prepare him for what he became while riding to the southern tip of South America: a prisoner. This book is the shocking travelogue of Heggstad's journey, his capture by Colombia's rebel ELN army, and the eventual realization of a dream. Read about an exciting round-trip to the tip of the world, made all the more amazing by its intermission at the hands of terrorists. Heggstad is ripped from his motorcycle, robbed of everything, and forced to march through strange jungles with assault rifles in his back. He is fed only small amounts of rice and water and is forced to carry heavy equipment, heavy packs, and heavy doubts about his future. Even with all the hand-to-hand and sophisticated combat training Heggstad possessed, it was his shrewd thinking, precise planning, and a "do-or-die" last act of desperation that eventually secured his freedom. But Glen does not accept his ticket home to sunny Southern California. Instead, after weeks of torture and mental torment, he decides to show his terrorist captors that they had not beaten him, and that their violent methods will never beat Americans. With the help of his heroic support team back home, Heggstad receives another motorcycle, and another chance at realizing his dream. Heggstad races, hoping to outlast his failing motorcycle, out-manuever the pitfalls ahead, and outrun the psychological avalanche barreling down behind him. Glen Heggstad has spared no detail from this account. He has stated that writing this book and reliving his tragedies was as painful as suffering through them the first time. Read this first-hand account of an ambitious motorcycle journey that gets horribly, and violently, detoured.

<http://www.cycoactive.com/mc/2wtt.htm>

The GADGET CORNER

This is your section to share "tech" stuff
By Rich Powers

Blow me down.....

Metro "Blaster" Dryer

Washing my bikes can be very relaxing. I like getting the sponges, rags, and brushes together, going through the chrome, plastic, and steel bits (depending on which bike I'm washing) and cleaning all the grime out of the nooks and crannies. It's a task that requires concentration, and if I'm thinking about how to get that bit of grease out of the engine fins, then I just sort of run out of time to think about whatever is bothering me at that moment.

Drying the bike when I'm done, on the other hand - That's not so relaxing. My chamois always gets trashed from hidden grease, and no matter how hard I try to get the water off the bike, I always end up with water runs and spittles on my nice, clean bike as soon as I start out on a ride. If I paste-wax the bike after washing it, the wax applicator always manages to find a hidden puddle of water, screwing up the application.

I was wandering the aisles at a power sports industry show a while back, and saw what looked something like a canister vacuum - along the lines of the Electrolux that my grandmother used to drag around the house. My curiosity piqued, I stopped for a closer look. I'm very glad that I did!

Although it may look like a throwback to the 1950's, the Metro "Blaster" motorcycle dryer is a new way of dealing with an old problem - drying your bike. It comes by its vacuum-cleaner appearance honestly; Metro Vacuum makes big, heavy-duty industrial vacs like used in car washes and detail shops. In this case, Metro has taken one of their beefy

4.0HP vacuum motors, run it through a dual-stage 2-fan assembly, and into a 10-foot-long commercial grade 1.5" hose tipped with a rugged, soft neoprene nozzle. The end result is simple - it blows air, which you direct onto your bike to blow the water off. Sound too simple? Well, this isn't like a hair dryer - it pushes a LOT of air. 29,250 cubic feet of it PER MINUTE. That's like taking the entire air volume in a 3,600 square foot house, squeezing it down into a nozzle the size of a quarter, and directing it at the water left on your bike - and repeating that volume every minute!

The "Blaster" has a couple of siblings now. The new "Master Blaster" pushes nearly TWICE the air volume per minute as the original model. The Blaster is thorough, but the Master Blaster is even Faster! The new "Sidekick" is for people who need something more portable. It blows away (pun intended) the competition, at 18,000 cfm no other handheld dryer comes close. No matter which Air Force dryer you choose, you'll have a clean and spotless bike with a minimum of effort.

Believe me when I tell you, the Metro "Blaster" dryers WILL dry your bike - faster, better, and easier than you could ever hope to do by hand. Don't be fooled by cheap imitators that look like overgrown hairdryers or little leaf blowers. They may be OK for a nice, smooth, flat car hood, but for getting the water out of all the little crevices on your bike - "fugettaboutit" - it just isn't going to happen.

Air Force "Master Blaster" 58,500 fpm Motorcycle Dryer. 8.0 peak HP, two twin-fan motors with 3 selectable speeds, 10ft hose, neoprene nozzle. Includes 1-1/4" adapter, Air Maximizer blower nozzle, Micro adapter, Air Streamer tool, and Air Flare nozzle.



For more information to go:
http://www.cyclegadgets.com/Products/product_print.asp?Item=MV

Don't let a flat get you down...

Tire Repair and Inflation Kit

Here's one product that I hope never to use, but I carry it with me on every ride. Picking up a nail in your tire can be a real stopper for a good day's riding. You have to wait around for a tow, and hope that the driver has the proper equipment to tow your bike without damage. Some roadside assistance plans cover motorcycle towing, but a lot don't - and it's expensive!

Although any tire with a hole in it needs to be replaced ASAP, it's a time, money, and damage saver if you can plug the leak long enough to ride yourself in to get a new tire rather than relying on a tow. My old BMW R-80 included a rudimentary tire kit, and while I never had to use it I had friends who did. It worked OK but the tiny CO2 cartridges they included were barely adequate to keep the rim off the ground, the one time we had to use it on a rear tire we rode about 10MPH to the nearest gas station with a working air chuck to inflate the tire enough to get to a bike shop.

We've searched high and low for a quality tire kit. We wanted something that would provide a good repair (though a temporary one). That wasn't too hard to find, but the other issue is - what if the bead of the tire unseats when it deflates? A tire inflator like the [Powersports Inflator](#) that we sell works great, but it doesn't have enough airflow to reliably seat a bead.



We finally found what we were looking for at a trade show. This street tire kit features both plug & patch repair kits, and it has a "Monster Air Chuck" with two huge 45 gram CO2 cartridges. These are about 3X as big as the little cartridges included with my old BMW tire kit! They provide PLENTY of airflow, and two cartridges is enough to inflate even a huge 180-sized cruiser rear tire up to 22PSI - good enough to get to a gas station for a proper air-up.

I keep this kit along with the Powersports Inflator in the saddlebag of each of my bikes. They're great insurance and if I ever do pick up a nail, they'll let me get back on the road on MY schedule rather than waiting and paying for a tow.

Tire Repair & Inflation Kit for Street Tires. Includes tire reamer, five plug sticks, tube and tire patch assortment with glue, and Monster Air Chuck with two 45-gram CO2 cartridges. All are stored in a compact 6-1/2" x 5" nylon zipper bag.

For more information contact:
<http://www.cyclegadgets.com/Products/product.asp?Item=TIREKIT>

Show your patriotism on the 4th...

MULTICOLORED EAGLE EMBLEM WITH AMERICAN FLAGS

- Emblem mounts to any flat surface with self-adhesive backing
- Self-stick backing adheres to metal, plastic and fiberglass
- Superbly detailed cast metal emblem adds sparkle and style to any cycle!

Patriotic red, white and blue crossed stars-and-stripes flags are behind a spread wing eagle.



For more information contact:
http://www.jcwhitney.com/Frame-Body-Accents/GP_2006678_N_111+2004+200004571+600014460_10111.jcw

The article is for informational purposes only. STAR and STAR Chapter 153 does not endorse or recommend any specific vendor or product.

HAPPY HAPPY BIRTHDAY

16th – Eddy [Fast Eddy] Avila