

STAR TOURING CHAPTER 212
CHAPTER MEETING @ Smokie's Firehouse Restaurant
Hilmar, January 14, 2006

There were 15 members in attendance at Smokie's. 13 continued on to Atwater for a fun afternoon of bowling.

We held a 50/50 raffle. \$67 worth of tickets were bought. Tina won the \$33.50. \$10 toward breakfast was won by Jerry. We now have \$705.52 in our fund. Thank you to Cindy for running the raffle and carrying on the treasurer duties for Jacquie, who was away on a cruise!

Old business:

Jim attended Modesto's chapter meeting where he discovered their Star Vet is CPR/First Aid Certified and willing to train some of us. He has been invited to our next meeting. Certificates for the training will run \$8 each, and the class will need to be within the next month as he is moving out of the area.

The New Year's Day ride to Miwok was postponed until the following Sunday due to the horrible weather. Several of us went. We stopped to let the boys play in the snow at the Dodge Ridge exit. It was a VERY cold ride home. A most definite polar bear run!!

New business:

The 2006 charter had not arrived by this meeting, but was signed and taken care of the following week when it did arrive.

New ride waivers are needed for 2006. Please ask for and complete one at the next meeting.

Tina has adapted Chapter 315's informational pamphlet, describing Star Touring, with contact information for our chapter.

She will bring a few copies to the next meeting for the rest of the chapter to hand out.

This year's High Sierra Star B Q is at John Ascuaga's Nugget, Reno, June 9 & 10, 2006. Doug has been asked to the committee and will be heading up security this year.

The chapter is interested in finally holding our own Poker Run again. **WE WILL NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET!!** These are not easy to organize, and a few end up doing all the work, so we need every member to help, please.

Jim mentioned talking to Sierra Vista about using their facilities and was told they have a chapter in our area. This is the first step of many in putting this run together.

Jim will be attending the Stockton chapter meeting on Feb 4. Anyone else wishing to go should meet Jim at the Flying J at 9AM. Contact Jim, 522-1545 for the location, and to let him know you are coming.

Jim mentioned a few items in support of service men and women: a Vet ride; Vet wish list (Jack was going to check with the Merced recruiting office for details; support of a co-worker whose husband is away on Guard.

Jim Cecil would like to have a maintenance day on February 26, his house.

Our next meeting is Saturday, February 11 - Valentine's weekend so bring your sweetie!! Jim has made reservations for lunch at Marie Callendar's in Merced. We will meet at M&M at 11:30. Afterwards, a short ride out to Los Banos.

On a personal note, I discussed with some of the officers a fundraiser close to home. I have a co-worker who suddenly became very ill. Raymond was one of our drivers, who I have worked with for 6 years. Last year he became ill and was out for about 3 months, returning to work only about 2 months ago. He was told he had 4 years unless he got a new liver, but he was healthy and able to get back to his life. A few weeks after returning to work he had a bad toothache. This turned out to be the discovery of an aggressive cancer. His wife, a custodian with our school district, has wonderful co-worker's who decided to hold a drive thru dinner to help them with the bills. Our officers, when asked, thought it was a good cause and we were going to make a donation at the drive thru dinner, which happens to be the same day as our Valentines meeting. At one visit Ray mentioned to his friends that there better be a lot of bikes at his funeral. (Raymond bought his Yamaha at the same time as Mark and two other co-workers bought theirs. Our non-riding co-workers called us the Triangle gang!) As Jim said, if we made the ride to the dinner this would give him his wish and at least he'd get to see it. Unfortunately, he won't. We lost Raymond this past Thursday. He was only 44. His funeral, Tuesday, will have bikes in attendance. They are riding from his home to the services. The dinner will still go on, and I hope the chapter would still be willing to ride thru Los Banos and make a donation. In addition to the medical bills there will now be the funeral costs.

Sometimes, the causes come to us. I know none of you ever met him, but he was a great guy who turned a bad life around. He was a wonderful grandpa, and those kids will miss him terribly.