



The Informant

The official newsletter of:

Women in the Wind® Ladies of Chrome & Leather Chapter

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October 2017



Mark Your Calendars!

October 21
Chapter Meeting & Ride
Idyllwild

November 18
Chapter Meeting & Ride
TBD

February 15-18, 2018
WITW Winter Internationals
Charleston, SC
Low Country Ladies Chapter

June 8-10, 2018
Ride California
Big Bear, CA

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- **Safe Mileage Contest**
- **Need a volunteer for the Christmas Party!**
- **Spotlight On: Gail S.**



Karen Scott

President

Hello Sisters,

Fall is truly upon us and I hope you have all had some good opportunities on some of the cooler days to do some riding. I have taken advantage and done a few myself since I saw you last.

One of the cool things I did was invest further in improving my riding skills. I realized with the challenge of the Rialto class, I needed to get more intentional about practicing my weaknesses, which is not always fun but ultimately will (hopefully) help make me a safer and more confident rider. I took a 4-hour one-on-one class with a motorcycle officer who also is an instructor for motor officers. I have to say it was one of the best things I have done in a while. He was able to critique what I was and wasn't doing and give me skills that built upon each other throughout the morning. We all have different ways to learn and I guess this is my best way. I think prior to this class I was doing the skills and if they worked, I was just lucky rather than really understanding all the mechanics that go into riding. Lots of insight and aha moments, for sure. Slow speed maneuvers are always a challenge and I think for a lot of us we would prefer to avoid them. Even a skilled motorcycle officer (who was amazing!) says he practices every day he goes out and rides which is EVERY DAY! If he still thinks it is valuable, probably the rest of us should think about doing it also. Food for thought??

As I write this, we are within a few days of spending some wonderful time together as we trek over to Prescott. Should be a fun time and I so appreciate Michelle and her family making this available to many of us. I have no doubt

we will have some good stories to bring back and have some wonderful memories to look back on.

We had a wonderful turnout for our September ride and I am encouraged that our chapter rides will continue to be well attended. Vicki decided we will be going to Idyllwild for our October ride, so that is definitely one not to be missed. It may be the last time to ride up there before the winter settles in. It is the week after Prescott so we should be on a high from that and ready to do some more "twisty" riding. Hope to see you there.

Safe mileage is due the end of October and I am sure we will hear more about that from Safety Officer Sandy in the next couple of weeks. If you didn't get as much riding in this year as you would have liked, you can reset come Nov. I and start that calendar journey all over again. I like fresh starts, how about you?

Stay tuned for more updates on Ride California. Registration forms should be out soon and we will continue to roll on our planning.

Since it is October, I am stunned that Christmas is right around the corner. If anyone wants to host the Christmas party, let us know and Santa Kim should be looking for elves in the next couple months for her Santa runs. Lots of great opportunities to fellowship and ride with your sisters in the coming months.

That's it and now you have your "Finger on the LOCAL Pulse."

Karen

243 DAYS

COUNTDOWN TO

RIDE CALIFORNIA 2018



DON'T FORGET TO BOOK YOUR ROOM!!

Go to the website:

[www.http//thelodgeatbigbearlake.com](http://www.thelodgeatbigbearlake.com)
or call 909-866-3121

Click on "Check availability"

Enter date of event (June 8-10, 2018) *

Enter group code (LCL)



* Group rate will show under "Rate Details." We have secured special rates for Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday in case you want to come early and stay late. Same rate for one or two beds.

Wed	June 6	\$ 89
Thurs	June 7	\$ 89
Fri	June 8	\$ 129
Sat	June 9	\$ 129
Sun	June 10	\$ 89

WHAT'S HAPPENING, ANYWAY??

- Budget committee has finalized costs and expenses.
- Ride California 2018 now has its own facebook page!
- Registration form will be posted shortly on facebook.
- We need your ideas for T-shirt designs, patches and pins. You don't have to be an artist, just have an idea!



**DON'T BE LEFT OUT!
SIGN UP FOR A
RIDE CALIFORNIA
COMMITTEE AND
SHARE YOUR IDEAS
AND SUGGESTIONS!**



VP' s Corner



Shelley Beetler

Vice President

Well, Happy Fall to you!

As we start into the Holiday season, we should all take a minute to reflect on this past year. I know that I am thankful that I am the mom of two wonderful young men and wife of 33 years to my husband Scott. I am also grateful for the Sisterhood I have enjoyed for the past 10 years.

With the recent event in Las Vegas, I sure several of you have been affected in some way and for that I pray for your healing.

Several of your Sisters rode to Prescott this past weekend. If you have not had the pleasure of staying with Michelle's brother and sister-in-law, Dave and Paula, you should put this on your bucket list. Their home is quite the place to visit with classic cars and motorcycles, automotive and motorcycle memorabilia.



Wow, what a wonderful trip we had. Michelle did a great job in leading the second group to Prescott with me as her sweep. I have to say that

having communication made both of our jobs much easier. Saturday's ride was to the Grand Canyon Caverns, then on to Seligman for ice cream and a photo op. Again, Michelle led us (17 motorcycles and one other vehicle) with Gail, Michelle and I communicating and what a huge help that was.



I was able to let Michelle know when to change lanes, when we all were back in the lane, and so on. Are you getting that I think we should all think of getting communication systems?? It came in very handy when on the way back near Whitewater where we were stuck in traffic and my bike was getting too hot and lost oil pressure, I told Michelle that I needed to exit ASAP. After a quick call to Matt's Mobil Cycle Service, we waited about 20-30 minutes for it to cool down and checked the gauge and I was good to go. So as you can see having communication is very helpful.

Until next time!

Shelley

Look Back L.O.C.A.L.

Four years ago this month LOCAL hit the road for Big Bear. We had been up there many times before (and have been up there several times since) but this was different. One, we went up the back way - clear around the mountain range through Yucca Valley before heading up to Big Bear from Lucerne Valley east of Victorville. And two, Linda Smith opened her home to us for a delicious lunch, which made us soon forget the long, challenging ride.



Gail and Karen at lunch: “Wow, this was our first ever ride with LOCAL. Probably going down the 38 on the way home will be a lot easier than the way we got here, don’t you think?”



CAPTAIN'S LOG

Vicki Goizueta

Road Captain

Autumn has officially begun and I like to think of this time of year as one for reflection and renewal. For those of us still in the workforce, this is typically performance review time and/or open enrollment. We begin to evaluate how we did at work, how we interacted with peers, where we succeeded, or where we faltered. We also vow to take better care of ourselves as the results are revealed from health assessments and we agonize over what benefits package to select.

Perhaps an odd place to interject this, but I'd like to propose an opportunity for each of us to reflect on our Ladies of Chrome and Leather team. Yes, I realize this is the place to leave any hint of work behind, let our hair down, and be loose. Yet, I can't help but think it makes sense for us to reflect and renew too. Reflect on what being a part of LOCAL means and renew relationships within the chapter.

We can all agree that what brought us together was our love of motorcycle riding. Even with this awesome common denominator, we are different beings. LOCAL is an incredible forum for bringing incredible women together and I refuse to fall victim to the cliché that a collective group of women can't/don't get along. How do I define getting along? To me, getting along is being respectful. To me, getting along is being kind . . . in words and action. To me, getting along is practicing patience. To me, getting along is being honest. To me, getting along is being communicative. These are simple concepts on paper, but sometimes these are hard things to carry out in practice.

Effort isn't always put forth in these areas because it may not be worth it to do so and you can a) choose to minimize your involvement with the chapter or b) choose to not renew your membership. These are pretty easy things to do with no impact to your livelihood or paycheck.

The challenge is staying involved and finding your place within the chapter. Who do you connect with? Who do you sit with at meetings? How do you respond when a member makes a comment that bothers you (personal politics aside)? How do you find your voice in an often vocal group?



I thought it would be insightful to take a free [assessment](#) so that we could learn a little about other on a somewhat more personal level.

Once you've taken the assessment, there are different facets to explore and what I think would be interesting to read is the "Friendships" section. The idea behind this is in the spirit in which I proposed it. It's not mandatory and it's not required. The last thing I want to do is infuse formality into what is supposed to be a fun, monthly gathering of women with a like-minded interest. This is about learning more about each other and how we can best interact with each other.



CAPTAIN'S LOG (CONT'D)

Everyone will not “click” and that’s simply human nature. I guess I would challenge you to think about why you don’t “click” with someone. This is no attempt to force relationships or make anyone uncomfortable. My hope is that we’ll all take a moment to be mindful of each other and always practice respect, kindness, patience, honesty, and communication.

As far as the ride this month . . . check your email and the LOCAL facebook page.

P.S. I’m still soliciting ideas for rides next year. Hit me up!

Vicki



LAST CHANCE TO ATTEND STREETMASTERS IN 2017!

Streetmasters is offering the same deal to former students this year that they did in 2016: Sign up now for the November 4 class and bring a friend and you will get a 50% discount. (Your friend will get your former student 20% discount, so you both benefit!)

Don't just “discount” the potential benefits of a refresher course: You may have gotten a new / different bike or it may have just been a few years since you rode the Horse Thief Mile. All the more reason to go again!

For those of you who have not yet attended, find a Sister who has and you can both enjoy reduced tuition as well as have company during the workshop!

**Cathie Siglow****Treasurer**

All bills have been paid and all ordered name tags are being shipped.

New checks are being ordered, but we are still able to use the checks with Patty's address.

This year we will continue to have one bank account but Ride California money will be accounted for separately from chapter money. Because of this we, Board and Cathie, are developing a system to keep good track of money coming in and going out. So, to be reimbursed for a purchase for chapter or Ride CA, I am asking you to complete a small information slip to submit along with your receipt(s). This will indicate authorization for the purchase from the Committee Chairman or

Board / Chapter directive, as well as which account(s) it should be drawn from. If you have a bill from a vendor, you will also complete a form so it will be paid in a timely manner from the appropriate account. Details to come later.

Ride California already has a positive balance thanks to members! Kim Airs and Elin Pendleton have donated the \$100.00 they won for the Founder's Cup at Denver Internationals. This goes into the Meet and Greet budget. Karin Whitehead has also donated her 50/50 winnings from the September meeting to Ride CA. The Treasurer is quite willing to take donations and put them into the preferred accounts!

Cathie

Looking for someone to host the

Ladies of Chrome & Leather Chapter

**CHRISTMAS
PARTY**

On or about December 9

Please contact Karen Scott if you would like to offer your home!



Stayin' Alive



Sandy Wietecha

Safety Officer

Lane Changes

CHANGING LANES IN FORMATION IS A HUGE SAFETY ISSUE!! This comes up every couple of years because people forget, get sloppy, or just don't think it's necessary to review the Ride Guidelines one more time. So . . . instead of repeating them once again, I am providing the following QUIZ for you to think about:

When the lead signals a lane change, you:

1. *Pass the signal back and then immediately change lanes.*
2. *Pass the signal back and move over when it is safe.*
3. *Pass the signal back but wait until the lead actually changes lanes and then move over from front to back when it is safe.*
4. *Pass the signal back but wait until you see the sweep move over and then change lanes when it is safe.*



The answer is #3. If everyone starts darting over as soon as they see the Lead's signal come on, you will find yourself in the middle of a swarm of bikes going every which way and not know how or where to fit safely into the group already in the new lane. You will likely slow down, leave a bigger gap between you and the rider ahead of you, and be uncertain about when to move over. Cars in adjacent lanes won't know what to expect and as we all know, we need to be **PREDICTABLE** when sharing the road with vehicles bigger than we are.

The main reason not to move over as soon as the Lead signals a lane change is the Lead does not always intend to move over immediately. She is only initiating the signal so everyone knows what is going to happen at some point in the near future – a freeway exit coming up, for example. She will not move over until it is safe and she can get all or most of the group over at the same time. The Sweep may move over immediately upon seeing the signal passed back, in order to secure the lane so everyone can move safely, but **the Lead's turn signal alone is not a signal to immediately change lanes.** You may think you are helping the Lead by moving over as soon as you can, but you're not. Traffic is dynamic, and the opening may close up before the signal even gets all the way to the Sweep. So when you see the Lead's signal come on, **STAY WHERE YOU ARE UNTIL SHE ACTUALLY CHANGES LANES.** Then move over from front to back, one at a time, not everyone at once. And **ALWAYS** make that last, final check over your shoulder before you go.

Stayin' Alive (cont'd)

Stopping in Formation



Reminder - We cannot just roll through stop signs without each rider stopping unless we are part of a "procession," and we are not a "procession" unless officially escorted (like at West Coast Thunder.) You **MUST** come to a complete stop when you are riding in formation and move out only when it is safe to do so. The Lead will slow down and wait for the group to form up again after everyone gets through, even if other vehicles get between us.

QUIZ:

When coming to a stop (stop sign or red light), close up the group by stopping two abreast.

1. Riders move out together after coming to a complete stop.
2. Rider on the left moves out first.
3. Rider on the right moves out first if there is a turn to the right from the stop.
4. Riders follow the Lead through the stop without stopping once the Lead stops.

The answer is #2. How did you do? If you got an answer wrong or weren't sure but just got lucky, it's time to get out those Ride Guidelines and go over them again. They are on both our website and private facebook page.

I am looking forward to seeing you all on Saturday!

Sandy

Safe Mileage Contest

As you know, the WITW Safe Mileage Contest ends October 31. We will be verifying ending mileage at the October meeting, for those of you in attendance with your bikes.

Anyone who will not be at the October meeting or who will be there without her bike should contact Sandy to arrange getting your miles validated before the end of October so you can be included in the contest and, of course, get your 2017 rocker.

We have half a dozen members who have racked up mileage in the 60 and 70K range; I don't think anyone will quite make it to 100K this year, but you never know. **HOWEVER**, don't forget that if you have accumulated over 25K, 50K or 75K LIFE MILES, you may purchase a rocker commemorating that milestone! Contact Dee if you want to purchase one. These do not have to be WITW "Safe Miles."



“WHAT YOU MISSED”

CHAPTER MEETING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

MEMBERS ATTENDING: 15
GUESTS: 3
RIDING: 14

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Three guests today - Deb (rides a H-D 883 and rode to Sturgis); Ann (will join today after the ride); and Jennifer (rides a Honda sport bike)
- The LOCAL website has been rebuilt and is up again! (Thank you, Dee!)
- Shelley (as VP) will be monitoring email inquiries about LOCAL
- Vicki has created a Ride California facebook page for Big Bear next June
- Ride California 2018 update (see page 3 in this newsletter)
- Today is Vicki's first ride as Road Captain. She asks that all members riding send a text or check in on facebook after the ride so we know everyone got home safely. Also - remember to "Praise [each other's riding] in public; criticize in private."
- Trish and TJ were awarded the Spoon this month for losing their GoPro on the way to Colorado because it wasn't secured after a stop. (Jackie found the case stuck under HER bike!)
- Karin W. won the 50/50 and donated her winnings to RC 2018.

upcoming birthdays

sandy
trish

oct 26
oct 27

SPOTLIGHT ON:



GAIL SCHRENK

I grew up in Diamond Bar. After meeting my husband, Chris, we moved to Vancouver, Washington for three years, during which time we got married. We moved back to Southern California in 2001. I have been in the insurance industry for 18 years. I enjoy reading, going to the gym, yoga, gardening and playing with our three Bengal cats. As anyone can tell after only talking with me for few minutes – the cats are our babies!!



Gail's babies

I've recently become a Grandma for Chris' son's new baby girl Juliana (we call her Jules). For someone who never babysat growing up, it has been an experience!!

We traveled to Colorado Springs in August for my first visit with her at 10 months. We babysat each night! I have a new respect for parents!! Juliana just turned one year old!!



My first ride on a motorcycle was five years ago on my husband's Kawasaki Concours - his first bike in years. Those first rides were terrifying for me. Within six months though, I was very comfortable riding with him. He encouraged me to take the MSF class to see if that was for me. That was all it took!! I've been riding for over four years now and I'm on my 3rd motorcycle since my start on this path. I started with a Honda CRB500, then a Honda Shadow Aero 750 and now my current steel horse, a BMW R1200RT aka "Bad Kat" that I've had for more than two years. I believe I will ride her for years to come.

SPOTLIGHT ON: GAIL SCHRENK (cont'd)

I heard about LOCAL from Jackie - she was a marketing rep for my insurance company, and I had her card on my desk for about two years before I even started riding. I found Karen through our dealership - we both had our bikes in to be lowered at the same time!

I joined LOCAL in October 2013, and I'm so very glad that I did. I have met some of the most wonderful ladies in this group. I'm so very grateful for their help and guidance – then and ongoing still. Everyone showed me what Sisterhood really is!!

Since joining LOCAL, I have been on some wonderful rides!! I love riding to Idyllwild, Angeles Crest, Wrightwood, Big Bear, Running Springs, Fallbrook, Temecula, and even Lake Matthews. As I write this article, I am preparing for my first ride to another state. A group of us will be heading to Prescott Arizona for the weekend!!



Gail



ARE YOU ON FACEBOOK?

If so, did you know there is a WITW International facebook page? The page contains events (Babes Ride Out, Winter Internationals, Ride California 2018!); files (Safe Mileage forms, bylaws, IK 2 Day forms); and of course hundreds of photos, comments and shared items of interest from your International Sisters. Stay up on the latest news, proposals, and new chapters.

Check it out: Search for "Women in the Wind" and send a friend request to:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2342553754/>

If you are a member of WITW (and you all are), you will be added to the page.



Ladies of Chrome and Leather Chapter (L.O.C.A.L.) is the Riverside, California area chapter of Women in the Wind (WITW), an international organization for women motorcyclists. WITW was founded in Toledo, Ohio in 1979 and has grown to over 100 chapters with members in the USA, Canada, UK, and Portugal. L.O.C.A.L. Chapter was founded in 1999 by Dee Norman and currently has over 40 members.

Our Purpose Is To:

- **Unite women motorcyclists with friends of common interest**
- **Promote a positive image to the public of women on motorcycles**
- **Help educate our members on motorcycle safety and maintenance**

<http://www.ladiesofchromeandleather.com/>

We're on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WomeninthewindLOCALChapter/>

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L.O.C.A.L. FOUNDER:
Dee Norman

 **LAST LOOK**

**SAFE MILEAGE
CONTEST ENDS
OCTOBER 31!**