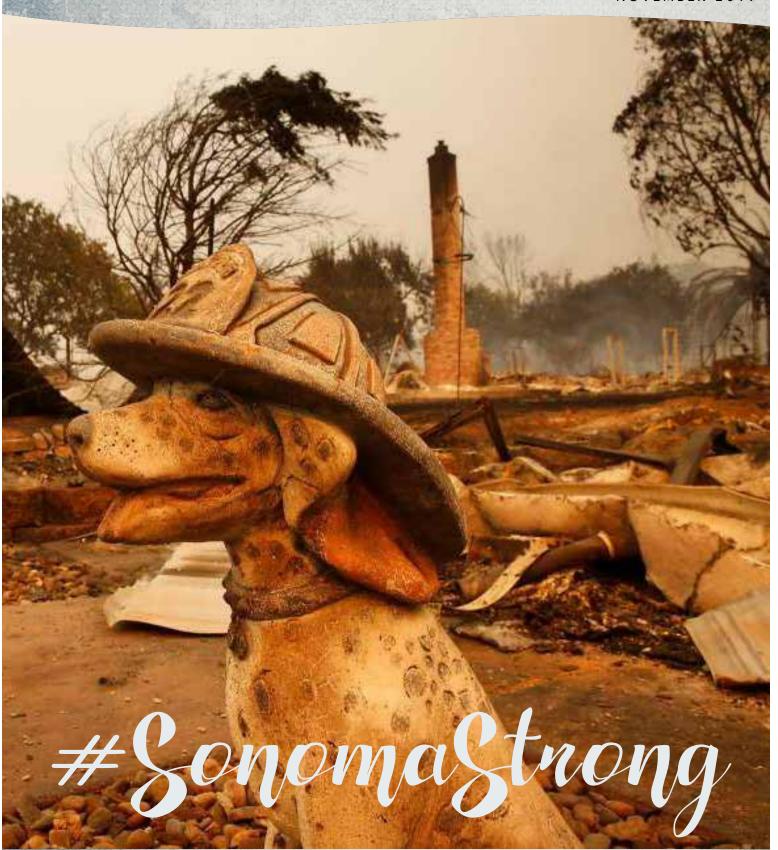
TALES FROM SWOODS

NOVEMBER 2017



REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER #3494





RECHOG is proudly sponsored by Sonoma County Harley-Davidson

7601 Redwood Drive, Cotati, CA 94931

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RECHOG OFFICERS 2017

Director: Dave McCombs. ...director@rechog.org Assist. Director: lan Refugio assistantdirector@rechog.org Treasurer: Linnea Cartertreasurer@rechog.org

Membership: Rob Carter membership@rechog.org Activities Director: Marc Mendleson activities director@rechog.org Road Captain: Donna Fess roadcaptain@rechog.org Newsletter Editor: Cherie Wheeler newslettereditor@rechog.org Communications: Ron Lamariana . . communicationsofficer@rechog.org Historian: Marty Hlusak.....historian@rechog.org Safety Officer: Vince Mulligan safetyofficer@rechog.org Sergeant at Arms: Mare Skipper sergeant-at-arms@rechog.org Photographer: Steven Reed photographer@rechog.org Webmaster: Sergio Bravowebmaster@rechog.org Ladies of Harley: Shelly Bokkin LOHofficer@rechog.org

Online: RECHOG.ORG



Dealer Liaison: Phil Eiselinlacustomc@aol.com

Redwood Empire Chapter #3494

For more information, email webmaster@rechog.org



www.redwoodcu.org/northbayfirerelief

100% of your tax-deductible donations will go directly to support those affected.



DIRECTOR BY DAVE McCOMBS

This has to be the hardest article I have had to write.

The recent disaster that has struck our area has impacted each and every one of us in one way or another. Some of us very severely and others not so much. A number of our members have lost their homes and many valuable possessions and a great many had to evacuate not knowing if they would have a home to return to, fortunately many did. As of this writing, I only know of two current members that have lost their homes and have heard of some past members that have lost theirs also. I am hoping the greatest majority of us are fortunate.

The fire also destroyed The Hilton Round Barn Resort which was to be the location for this years Holiday Party. With little time and even fewer choices of where to hold the party, it was decided to cancel the party altogether. Those that have purchased tickets will get a refund, please see me so I may return your checks or cash.

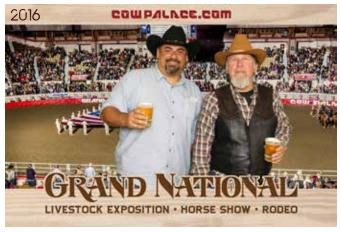
I know over the past few months when discussing the nominations and elections, I have complained about "White Ballots." I am very flattered and happy to have been nominated again for the position of Director for 2018, but after great thought and much soul searching, I have decided to pull my candidacy for the position. My worthy opponent (and good friend) is more than capable of moving this chapter forward as next years Director.

We can still use a few volunteers for the Berkeley Half Marathon and I am hoping by the time the newsletter is sent out, or at least meeting night, I will have received our assignments for this years event.

Winter is quickly approaching and that means toy runs are near, lets get out and spread some cheer to the less fortunate. Dress accordingly and check the Hotline for ride updates and cancellations

Let's Make Some Noise!





Déjà Nu



Greetings Redwood Empire!

October was a trying month for all of us. The recent events that affected our community has touched each and every one of us in some way. We are aware that a handful of our members have been directly affected by these terrible events and we hope and pray that they continue to have the strength and resolve to continue and rebuild.

Also as a result of this disaster, our venue for the annual Christmas Party suffered catastrophic damage. Because of this, we were forced to cancel that scheduled event. We understand that a lot of hard work and planning was put in to planning the Christmas Party and we would like to thank everyone who put in the time and effort. We will be resuming all chapter events/rides/meetings this month. Please check the calendar at https://www.rechog.org/calendar or call the ride hotline at (707)575-6786 for ride updates.



We will be electing the 2018 primary chapter officers during the November general membership meeting. Those positions include the Director, Assistant Director, Secretary, and Treasurer. Whoever is elected to lead our chapter next year will appoint the rest of the discretionary officers as he/she sees fit. Even though we are only electing the four primary officers, these officers need your help to manage the chapters business. If you are interested in holding a chapter officer position, volunteer and get involved and together let's make our chapter great again.

I look forward to seeing y'all on one of our upcoming rides. Get out on your Harley Davidson and

have fun. Remember, each member can invite one guest to our chapter rides. As always, if you have any concerns or suggestions, please do not hesitate to approach me or any of the officers. We welcome any new positive ideas that is beneficial to our chapter. We are here to make our chapter the best we possibly can and to ensure everyone has a positive and safe experience.

"Ride safe. Ride hard"



When Disasters Strike

This month has proven to be a roller coaster of National Disasters from coast to coast, with Sonoma County yet again becoming another victim. As I write this article, I can't think of one person (Friend, RECHOG Member, Family, or Workmate) that has not been touched somehow by the "Fire of the Century. I really wanted to write a Tales from the Redwoods article that was geared to Safety and our Harley's, but because of the fires and the tragedy's or heroic efforts I heard coming from it I wondered "Have we forgotten to teach need to know tasks when an emergency strikes"?



Technology has improved our lives, which trumps any dependency, because the benefits are priceless. Like some of you, I am old enough to remember thirteen inch black and white TVs, vinyl records, and party-line telephones. I also remember cars getting 8 MPG acceptably. While technology has improved our lives, I feel we are becoming more and more dependent upon it. More and more people are relying on information from the Internet, relying on our smartphones, apps, devices, and seeing more and more people becoming isolated from each other because of a false sense of connection, due to social media.

When the power goes out in your neighborhood or home, can you deal with the most common tasks that a button once controlled? Although the Automatic Garage Door has been around for generations, does everyone in the family or household know how to open it when the power goes out? When there is an emergency and you must evacuate the home, is there a clear path or set path? Do you know other routes to evacuate out of the neighborhood? Do you have flashlights at the ready? Knowing how to turn the gas, electrical and water off?

Nobody likes being caught with their pants down, but some how this seems to happen at an unreasonable time. As humans, we are a predictable creature with set routines and habits and we tend not to deviate far from them.

During a firestorm, a house and its contents are just stuff (some being hard or irreplaceable), I get that but life too is irreplaceable. Trying desperately to fight a firestorm to save yours or neighbors house with a garden hose is a David vs Goliath undertaking with real life implications. The fires we had here last week, temperatures at the base would easily be 750 degrees and rising well past 1200 degrees. The amount of water at those temperatures (1/2" x 100' hose, 40 psi,) is 6 gallons per minute (gpm) would virtually dry before putting any flame out and placing yourself in harms way, not to mention that you are taking water psi away from firefighters need for water to help in the evacuation process.

Life is far too important and I am thankful for all of my family, friends, RECHOG friends and members, and workmates who are safe from the fires. But stuff is stuff (which I have found out just last week I have far too much of) and life is far more valuable, so please take the time to see its value.

As Always "Keep the Rubber Side Down and the Shiny Side Up" Vincent Mulligan, Safety Officer

HISTORIAN BY MARTIN HLUSAK

It is with difficulty that I submit this months newsletter comments.

Four and half weeks ago I was in a motorcycle accident. And I now find that the older I become, the slower I heal. But the alternatives are worse. Not aging vs. dying. Healing slowly vs. not healing or deteriorating. But being infirmed and inactive and in pain, I find myself irratible and grumpy. Add to this the devastating fires in Sonoma and Napa counties, it is difficult for me to be upbeat, as I write to you.

I will not dwell upon my accident. We share the roadways with inexperienced, inattentive, and distracted drivers. So accidents can and do occur. This is why we have a safety officer in our chapter and we spend as much time as we do encouraging our members to always be vigilant. I should have been more vigilant.

Since I was ambulanced to the ER the officer arranged to have my bike towed and stored. This became a problem, since when we tried to have the bike towed to the dealership, the towing company refused to release the bike unless the impound fees were paid upfront. \$365 to "store" my bike outside in the rain, for one night. And HOG membership towing and my insurance towing was not set up to pay upfront and on site! What to do? What friends do I have who have a trailer and would be willing to go pick up my bike and willing to pay \$365 cash? And do I even want to impose upon them?

Solution and Take Home Message: Call Phil Eiselin, our dealer liaison for RecHog, and owner of Sonoma Co. Harley Davidson. Phil arranged to have the bike delivered to his shop, he paid the impound fee for me, and has stored the damaged bike since, for free. Just as he has offered to store any bike, for free, for anyone needing storage due to the fire storm that ravaged our county! Thank You Phil!!!!!!

Now on to reporting the fires: Although the fires are fresh in our minds, and to some of us traumatizing, our newsletters also become our chapter's archives for current and future members.

Monday morning at 2:30am on Oct. 9th, 2017 my cell phone alert message dinged. It said fire warning! Groggy and half asleep, I did not take it seriously. Kind of like an Amber Alert. What do they expect me to do about it at 2:30am? This was shortly followed by loud pounding and door bell ringing at my front door. My wife jumped out of bed, answered it, and was told to get out NOW! I was struggling to get up (I was just in a motorcycle accident. Remember?). When I limped to the front door I stepped outside. A ¼ mile north on the hill was the Fountain Grove neighborhood lit with fire. I could see the flames and the bellowing smoke was glowing bright orange all leaning left to the west. And although it was not coming directly at us, it was still terrifying! And the smoke was heavy. Unprepared for evacuation we grabbed a few things and my wife Caroline and I each drove a car out of there. Leaving her Harley in the garage. My Harley was still being stored at the dealership (Courtesy of Phil. Remember?). But drive to where? Again unprepared. After driving a few miles away, Caroline was following me, I pulled over to read my cell phone for the staged evacuation center. It stated a location. But I had no idea where that was! Then it dawned on me to go to my daughter's house, near Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Center. We spent the night at her house, not knowing if they might be evacuated also.

We returned home the next day to gather more stuff out of our house. And returned again the next day to get more stuff. We were voluntarily evacuated two more times. But since we still had electricity, but no gas, we stayed in our house glued to the TV reports.

Claude and Shirley Jones had it worse. Even though their house was spared, almost every house just across the street from them was burnt to nothing.

And worse still were Larry Jacobs (RecHog printer & member) and Bill Parker (member) and their families lost their homes completely. There may be more members that I'm unaware of at this time.

The Fires consisted of the Redwood Valley Fire (North of Ukiah), The Pocket Fire (North East of Geyserville and close to Marc Mendelson's home, our activities director), The Tubbs Fire (Calistoga to Santa Rosa), The Atlas Fire (East of Yountville and Napa and South East toward Fairfield), and The Nuns Fire (West of Yountville and down West of Napa) All burning simultaneously, vigorously pushed by winds up to 80mph.

It was the severe wind that created the largest fire storm that California has ever seen. The Tubbs Fire came up from the Napa Valley north into Calistoga. Then west over the Calistoga Rd pass into Santa Rosa. The wind acting like a blow torch across the Fountain Grove district, continuing west taking out the Red Barn Hilton Hotel, jumping the US Hwy. 101, igniting the Coffey Ln. district. The fires moved so fast the first responders couldn't stay ahead of them. Their priority became to get people out, forget about trying to fight the fire.

A day or two later the Nuns Fire flared up moving north through Glen Ellen, Kenwood, and Oakmont.

The fire fighters and helicopters, now from almost every state in the country returned daily inching on containment. On Thursday Oct. 19th, ten days later, the north bay area got a ¼ to ½ inch of rain. The fire crews started to return home. Some lost their homes to the fire as well.

Over 160,000 acres burnt, 42 dead, 6,900 homes and other structures lost.

Shock and Grief following a severe loss affects people at different times and in different ways. Let us all be as supportive as we can to our fellow citizens.





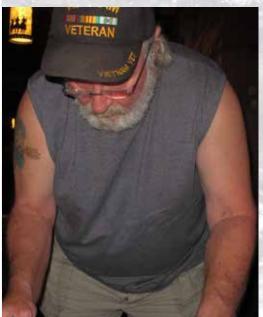


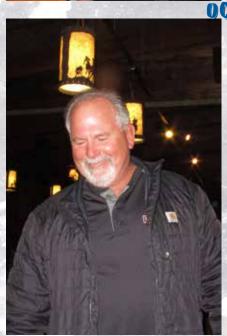


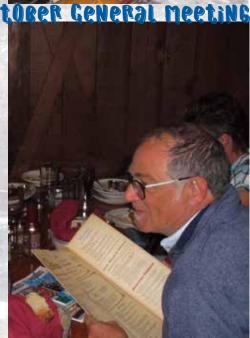












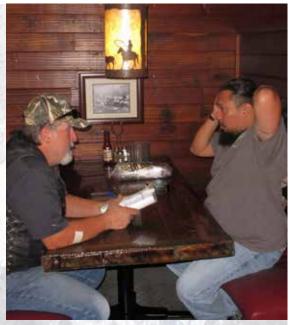




REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER HARLEY OWNERS GROUP | NOVEMBER 2017









Please review website calendar at rechog.org & call the Ride Hotline for latest updates and additions 707.575.6786.



RECHOG GENERAL Chapter membership meeting, held the first Thursday of every month at Cattlemen's in Petaluma. Eat and socialize beginning at 6pm. Meeting begins at 7pm. Please sign-in for the birthday raffle drawing; next month's birthday list for the Tales of the Woods: and the quests list.

Friday Off Work Ride Meet at Johhnys' Java at 10:00 am and depart at 10:30 am. We will be riding out to towards the coast and come back in to Novato. Lunch will be at Jennie Low's located at 120 Vintage Way, Novato, CA.

11th nnual Johnny V Memorial Toy Run. This toy run benefits the San Francisco Firefighters, Local 798 Toy Program. Cost is \$25/rider; \$5/ passenger AND a NEW unwrapped toy. Please join us for a day of fun helping those less fortunate in our community have a Merry Christmas. We will meet at SCHD at 9am and depart at 9:30am and ride to 2225 Jerrold Street, San Francisco, CA for registration. This will be police escorted ride around San Francisco. Lunch will be by the waterfront with raffle prizes and live music.

Veterans Day



17th Annual Sonoma Raceway Food Drive. We are meeting at RKA located at 7694 Bell Road, Windsor, CA at 7:30 am. This ride supports the Sonoma Raceway Thanksgiving Food Drive. Donate five or more non-perishable food items of food, or give a \$10 donation. Now until November 11th drop off at Sonoma Raceway or RKA and receive a ticket good for the ride around the coast and wine country & laps around Sonoma Raceway. Start at RKA 7:15 AM to 7:50 AM. Sign in when you arrive at the RKA shop. Coffee, rolls, Raffle/Drawing tickets, are waiting for you. Ride leaves RKA at 8am SHARP. Arrives at Sonoma Raceway at 11:00 AM! Riders meeting 7:50 (MUST attend). Depart 8am SHARP! The ride is about 90 miles, so please have a full tank when you arrive at RKA, a proper machine and proper riding gear. This ride will take just about three hours getting us to the track just in time for the food presentation and laps. http://www.rka-luggage.com/A15 Events/2017/fooddrive2017.html

Ride Planning Meeting.
Meet at SCHD at 9:00.
All road captains and anyone interested in being a road captain are encouraged to attend. Those who would like to meet for breakfast before the meeting are welcome to make their own arrangements.

Remembrance Ride. Meet at SCHD at 10am and depart at 10:30am. We will be riding to Bodega Head in Bodega Bay for our chapters annual



Remembrance Ride. After the ride, the director will be leading the group back to Cotati for food and refreshments. Director will lead ride

RECHOG BOARD Meeting, Board of Directors will meet at SCHD at 6:00 p.m. Members are encouraged to attend and observe the workings of our chapter and participate in the round table discussion. If you want to learn about how you can participate in our events, rides, and activities this is a good meeting to attend. Anyone considering becoming a chapter officer in the future is encouraged to attend.

Berkeley Half Marathon. Director will lead ride. Details to follow. Please continue to check the calendar and ride hotline.



Monday Fun Day Ride. Meet at SCHD at 10:00 am and depart at 10:30 am. Sean Smagalski will lead this ride.





Willits Toy Run. We will be riding directly to Evergreen Shopping Center, 1700 S. Main Street, Willits, CA. The pack leaves at noon, escorted thru downtown by Little Lale FD to the Little Lake Grange...Live Music, Great Food, Raffle, No Host Bar and Live Auction. Benefits the Willits Kids Christmas Program. Admission Cost: a new unwrapped toy. Meet at Johnny's Java at 9:30 am and departing at 10am.



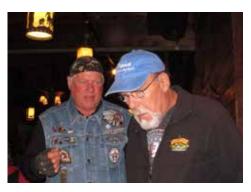


RECHOG Christmas Party. Due to recent events in Sonoma County, our annual Christmas Party has been cancelled.

RECHOG GENERAL Chapter membership meeting, held the first Thursday of every month at Cattlemen's in Petaluma. Eat and socialize beginning at 6pm. Meeting begins at 7pm. Please sign-in for the birthday raffle drawing; next month's birthday list for the Tales of the Woods; and the guests list.

Ride Planning Meeting. Meet at SCHD at 10am. All road captains and anyone interested in being a road captain are encouraged to attend. Those who would like to meet for breakfast before the meeting are welcome to make their own arrangements.

Valley of the Moon Toy Run. We will be visiting the children at the Valley of the Moon Children's Home. We ask that chapter members and friends please show up with toys and other items for Christmas. More details soon. Please continue to check the



calendar and ride hotline.

RECHOG BOARD Meeting will meet at SCHD at 6pm. At this meeting, the 2017 officers will turn over all duties and responsibilities to the incoming 2018 board. Members are encouraged to attend and observe the workings of our chapter and participate in the round table discussion. If you want to learn about how you can participate in our events, rides, and activities this is a good meeting to attend. Anyone considering becoming a chapter officer in the future is encouraged to attend.

Monday Fun Day Ride TBD

Merry Christmas

For more outside activities please pick up a copy of Thunder Press at Sonoma County Harley-Davidson.

If you have an idea on a place to go, or an event that the group might like to do, please send an e-mail to the Activities Director at: activitiesdirector@rechog.org

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November 2017						
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It's that time of year again – membership renewal!

Because our accounting system is on a cash basis, any membership dues we collect in 2017 are applied toward 2017 income, even though it's really for 2018. So this year we're going to try something different.

I will start sending out bills in November. The annual premium will remain \$25. You are welcome to pay early (in fact, we encourage it) to avoid the January rush. However, we will not deposit your check until January, 2018. Obviously, if you pay cash, it won't matter. But, if you write a check, it will be a little while before it's deposited.

Also, we are pleased to announce that you can use a debit/credit card to pay your dues. But, because we want the money to be posted in 2018, this feature won't be available until January. We tried using it for the Summer Run, and it was very successful.

Ride Safe and Have Fun! Linnea Carter, Treasurer

flashbach photos 2008

















EDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTE

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October 2017 General Meeting

Call to Order: Dave called the meeting to order at 7:02pm

Flag Salute: Mare led us in the pledge of allegiance

September General Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Mike Faria to accept the meeting minutes as prepared with a second from Dave Screen.

Assistant Director: Happy Birthday October birthdays. Jean Riggs won a \$25 gift card to

Sonoma County Harley-Davidson

lan gave a Treasurers report (on behalf of Treasurer, Linnea): The Chapter is solvent

Ian gave a Membership Report (on behalf of Rob) #150 current members, plus another new member tonight = #151

Safety Officer Report: We should be prepared to go down. We've recently had 3 members go down when riding, so we should all be prepared. The older we get, the longer it takes to heal road rash.

Assistant Director: Ian covered the Membership Drawing: Lori Boatright was absent, so the drawing will increase to \$75 for the November General Meeting.

Director: Dave – We need volunteers for the Berkeley Marathon on November 19. Volunteers get 50% off the Holiday Party tickets.

Holiday Party tickets are \$25 each, and available at the meeting. They will then be at the dealership for purchase. If you have a ride idea, dinner get-together, etc, please let us know.

2018 Harley-Davidson bikes are in at the dealership.

Nominations

DIRECTOR - Dave McCombs (Steve Read), Ian Refugio (Steve Pehargou)

Donna Fess (declined) Sergio Bravo (declined)

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - Mare Skipper, Steve Pehargou, Jim Wheeler (Cherie)

SECRETARY - Vince Mulligan (Mare), Randy Mack (declined)

TREASURER - Tammy Mulligan, Jean Riggs (declined), Shelly Bokkin (declined), Debbie Mentz (declined)

Open Mic:

Dorene Barnes – Sturgeons' Mill Restoration Project a working museum will conduct a demonstration Oct 14-15 Steve Pehargou – Berkeley Marathon is a 1 hr ride, we hang out and help guide the runners, and then go out for breakfast – come have. Also This Sunday – Meet at Johnny's Javaat 9am, leave at 9:30am Doug Barnes – "A blonde and a lawyer..."

Meeting Adjourned: 8:13pm

Minutes compiled and submitted by Cherie Wheeler

Raffle Prize Winners:

Ticket Number	Name	Prize
2265489	Vince Mulligan	HD Garden Gnome
2265534	Bill Faulkner	HD baseball hat
2265601	Walter Kettler	H-D fleece blanket
2265503	Dave Anderson	H-D metal sign
2265571	Steve Pehargou	Pig Spit shine spray (donated by Mike Faria)
2265572	Steve Pehargou	HD baseball hat
2265483	Mike Faria	H-D truck hitch

50/50 - Opportunity Drawing: #392441 Vince Mulligan \$60

SUBMIT YOUR MATERIALS

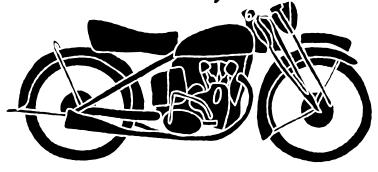
Send your comments, photos, anecdotes and jokes for the RECHOG Newsletter to newslettereditor@rechog.org.





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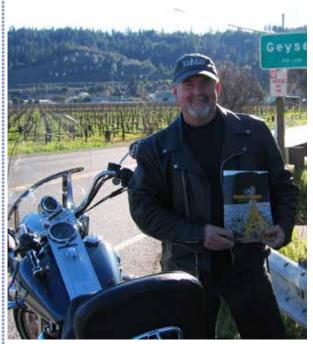
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When you're riding lead don't spit.

TALES FROM THE REDWOODS

c/o Sonoma County Harley-Davidson 7601 Redwood Drive Cotati, CA 94931







800.400.2011



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