

# BREAKFAST RIDERS

C.C.B.W.: Grumpa Les Kurtz

Newsletter (free)

Jan 8, 2011

**Middletown** It was the best of times. It was the... well not the worst of times by any means. The weather gods had played with us for a week. Was it gonna rain or not? Finally at 7:30 that morning there was a strong shower over my house, and I assumed all of the Solano county area. No ride – sigh. Well I was going to have to go to the start point and tell folks there was no ride. But by the time I was ready to go, the rain had stopped, the sidewalks were nearly dry, and even the road was showing signs of drying. Maybe...? I got my gear on and rode out. Only Skip Moffat was at the parking lot. I was also expecting Greg Leopold at the Corners – rain or shine. We two brave fools left and were soon headed along Mankas Corner Rd. It was slippery, but not bad. Smooth was our watchword: Smooth braking, turning, and acceleration. Alas, as soon as we got onto Suisun Valley/Wooden Valley Rd, the surface got wetter and schlimier (my word for worse than slime). In a word, it was treacherous. At times, especially under the trees, I felt I was coming to complete stops to make turns. Other times, where the road was drying out, I was able to roll at a gentle speed through the sweet turns. It continued to be real bad all the way to the Corners where we took a break and met with Greg. All of us had tales of tires slipping, even Greg who likes this kind of sloppy road. We stepped out of the Corners and found the parking lot was dry. Wow! We mounted up and rolled onto roads that had very little moisture on them and even less traffic. I had feared the downhill run from Turtle Rock to the lake, but was overjoyed with dry road. A sheriff heading south passed us along the lake. As expected, he turned around and caught up with us. We were over the speed limit, but not enough for him to stop us. We pulled into the rest stop and waved at him as he passed us. After a good rest, we headed up the hill, expecting to find our sheriff friend. Never saw him. Just before Pope Valley Cross Rd (such a long name for a short road) Skip opened up his throttle and flew by me. Not like I have ever used that wide



open stretch of road like that. Oh no, never me. The run up Pope Valley Rd/ Butts Canyon Rd was sweet, dry, and little or no traffic. The smell in the air of the juniper trees was sweet and clean. Rather than eat at the deli, we stopped at Beulah's Kitchen and had breakfast

outside. This building is a traditional hole-in-the-wall joint that has seen better days. The food was tasty, the service was friendly but a bit uneven, and the prices quite cheap. As we sat after eating, I thought I felt a few light drops of rain. After paying and taking some more photos, it was confirmed, there was a very light, very sparse rain. We saddled up and headed for the gas station – where only I had to get gas. These smug guys with large gas tanks make me envious. We quickly left and were back on Butts Canyon Rd. The light mist was coating my windshield and sending the occasional drops onto my face shield. We did encounter traffic this time, but we were able to pass them quickly and safely. Just south of Pope Valley, we were hit by a good downpour and our pace slowed down considerably. But the rain let up by the time we got to Chiles Valley. The plan had us going down to Lake Hennessey and up Soda Canyon Rd, but I felt we should cut the ride short to avoid any more rain, so we headed onto the sweet, narrow, and (as Skip will attest) rough road of Lower Chiles Valley Rd (another big name for a short road). I had a blast zigging and zagging (Which is left? Which is right?), shifting up and down, braking, and twisting the throttle. Whee! We got back on 128 and smooth road again. We took another break at the Corners – I must

All Breakfast Riders rides are open to all riders -- with their head on square. No stunts. Riders are responsible for their own insurance.

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Breakfast Riders  
1609 Northwood Dr.  
Fairfield, CA 94534



Draft calendar for 2011  
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Jan 15-16 |x|Easy Riders Bike Show  
**Sun, Jan 23 |\*|B.R. Planning Session 1 PM**  
Sat, Jan 29 |x|AMA Supercross/SF  
Sun, Feb 6 |x|Two Mountain Run  
**Feb 19 or 20|\*|BR Ride, Sat/Sun & route TBD**  
Sat, Mar 5 |\$|ABATE 17 FYAO  
**Mar 19 or 20|\*|BR Ride, Sat/Sun & route TBD**  
**Apr 16 or 17|\*|BR Ride, Sat/Sun & route TBD**  
Apr 27-1 |x|Laughlin  
Fri May 6 |x|International Female Rider Day  
? May 7 or 8|x|STAR 186 BBQ  
May 11-15 |x|AMA Superbikes at Infineon  
**May 21 or 22|\*|BR Ride, Sat/Sun & route TBD**  
Jun 3-5 |x|Reno Street Vibes, Spring  
**Jun 11 or 12|\*|BR Ride, Sat/Sun & route TBD**  
Jun 18-19 |x|Nascar at Infineon  
Mon, Jun 20 |x|Ride to Work  
**Jul 9 or 10 |\*|BR Ride, Sat/Sun & route TBD**  
Jul 22-24 |x|U.S.Grand Prix  
Jul 29-31 |x|NHRA at Infineon  
**Aug 6 or 7 |\*|BR Ride, Sat/Sun & route TBD**  
Aug 26-28 |x|Indy Cars at Infineon  
**Sep 17 or 18|\*|BR Ride, Sat/Sun & route TBD**

Sep 21-25 |x|Reno Street Vibes, Fall  
Sun, Oct 2 |\$|Fairfield Ride-4-Kids  
**Oct 8 or 9 |\*|BR Ride, Sat/Sun & route TBD**  
? Nov ? |\$|RKA/Infineon Food Drive  
? Nov 18-20 |x|International Motorcycle show  
? Nov 26 |\$|Marines Toys for Tots  
Sat, Dec 3 |\$|Ronald McDonald House Toy Run  
???, Dec ?? |\$| Other toy runs -- galore  
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**\* Breakfast Riders run, \$ Benefit/cost run,**  
x Non Breakfast Riders event of interest,  
(???) date not yet determined -----  
Breakfast Riders runs are open to everyone - we allow all makes (cruisers, sport bikes, tourers, whatever is freeway legal), young through old, male and female. We are looking for riders, friends, and family who enjoy riding. Breakfast Rider runs meet at Texas Road House parking lot, 3333 N.Texas, Fairfield and leave by 9:00. Check web page to be sure of details. Each rider is responsible for their own lunch, gas, insurance, and behavior. Times and places to meet for non-Breakfast Riders events ain't determined by us!

For more photos and full stories go to  
--> <http://www.breakfastriders.org> <--

## Middletown cont

have my post-lunch candy bar -- before heading towards Wooden Valley Rd. Here we unfortunately encountered slow, rude traffic. The jerk finally pulled over just before Wooden Valley Rd after passing two marked turnouts and many other good, wide, safe places. It may have been a good thing as the road did have a few damp places that might have given us grief if we were running at speed. So I apologize to the miserable piece of...uh...gentleman. At Rockville, Skip went straight while Greg and I made the right to Green Valley Rd. Now here I am a bit confused. I got on the freeway and Greg went straight. OK so far. He had other ideas or plans. I was almost to the Gold Hill exit when he passed me. Huh? How? I was not being overly aggressive through the thick traffic, but I was taking the opportunities to slide pass the cars and trucks. Again...how the heck? I got home and left the bike on the driveway. It was a grimy mess. Everywhere there were tracks of the road slime and muddy rain. I got the power washer out and gave the bike the first round of cleaning. Monday it will get the hours of hand work with the Honda Spray.



If you changed your address or email, send me the new info. If you do not get my emails, and do have email, send me the info.

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**Napa** We had 11 bikes with regulars Steve Wright, Ed Buckner, Mark McCoy, Frank White, Gary & Beth Helm, Skip Moffatt, Greg Leopold, and me. New to the group were Dave Buckner, Matthew Takeda, and Terry Dilley who joined us at our first stop. To start off with, I messed up. I forgot my wallet and had to run back home and get it. Ed covered the sign up list (thank you) while I cruised somewhere near the speed limit (t.i.c.). This gave us a late start. Mark covered the tail gunner spot (thank you) as we left Fairfield. Since I was a bit flustered, I made another mistake. I aimed at Hwy

80 west bound when I should have aimed for east bound. I figured it out just before getting on the freeway. But not to worry, we took Lyon Rd to get to Cherry Glen Rd (this will soon be a permanent change for this route). Once on Pleasants Vly Rd, I worked hard to settle down (ommmm). Avoiding a peacock, two sets of wild turkeys, a deer, and a few squirrels made calming down a bit rough. Even so, I was much better by the time we got to Hwy 128. I favor going this way on this stretch as it keeps us away from the fallen rock debris and the best twisties are uphill. Unfortunately, we hit traffic and ran those good twisties at very moderate speeds. We pulled into The Cross Roads and we took a break. We left and headed for Napa. Once down off the hill, I pulled the group over to re-gather. I had coordinated with Steve to take over as leader and guide us through the back ways of Napa. Steve also made a mistake and missed the turn for Vichy Rd (See! It's not just me.). He quickly figured it out and got us back on path. We crossed the valley floor and started up the hill on Mt. Veeder Rd. This is a tight and twistied road that could really use repaving. It is one of our roughest and also one of our most technical roads. It provides great views of the valley and the redwood trees. We

took a nice break at the top before heading back down Dry Creek Rd. This road is also a whole bunch of fun twisties, but the road is wider by a little and smoother by a lot. Steve again guided us across the valley floor to Bear Creek restaurant. Last year we hit the restaurant at the peak of their breakfast crush. By adding an hour and a half of riding with Mt. Veeder and Dry



Creek before breakfast, I hoped to avoid that. Well it worked to a small degree. It still took maybe 10-15 minutes before they sat us at three booths. The service was nice and pleasant, the food was tasty and plenty, with enough choices to cover everyone's pleasure. After breakfast, we took group photos - after Gary got gas. Skip left us here as did Steve. The rest of us headed up Hwy 121 to Wooden Vly Rd, where Terry headed his way home. With a last bit of fun twisties, we made it home. A short day, but a fun one.

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Wow! With just two rides to report on, I have space on the newsletter, so I will fill it with my usual drive!

We had a very busy and fun time in 2010 riding the roads of our state. We had ten planned rides and added the Geo-Center of California and the dry run to Mt Hamilton. We tried to get one more dry run in, but the weather gods said no. We did have one crash (on the dry run), a few mechanical problems, and a bit of rain. Over all we had great riding.

We have 9 weekends currently set for our rides in 2011. Whether they are Sat or Sun and where they are going will be determined at the planning session. Join us and throw your two dimes worth in (inflation).

New for this year: On the web page, I have started uploading the 'full' versions of the stories as I have to cut (usually a lot) to make them fit on the newsletter. I noticed that my wife's fantastic editing of the newsletter does not get back edited into the full stories -- win some, lose some. I added a couple of articles of interest (hand signals, picking up a bike, etc). I added some new routes and took away some (quasi-duplicates). On the new routes, I have been trying to create 'destination oriented' routes -- go there, do something besides eat, then ride home. Thus the Dam rides and Mt Hamilton. I still want to hit fun roads to and from. I converted the routes (maps and directions) to the new version of Streets and Trips (major effort). I have upgraded my camera from 3 mps to 6 mps and the images are sharper. While trying to get rid of this cold, I created 'hang on the wall' calendar pages for 2011. I sent out January's via email for you to print (or not) and will send out the remaining months after the planning session.

Enjoy and smile. Grumpa Les

**FAIRFIELD**  
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