



The Siren

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
MUNICIPAL MOTORCYCLE OFFICERS OF CALIFORNIA
3RD QUARTER ~ 2012

STEPPING DOWN...

Gene Gray, President
Retired Police Lieutenant
Pasadena Police Department

This will be my final article. Effective September 12, 2012 I will officially resign my commission as an MMOC Director opening my position to any active member in the State of California.

I was nominated President of MMOC in 1987 after serving 3 years as a Director. After completing my Presidential term I went back to being a loyal member. In February of 2005, I received a call from my long time pal and Past-President Dennis Brown, retired Oakland PD. Dennis asked me if I was interested in returning to the Board. Well, the rest is history.

I served two years as one of five great Directors from February 2005 to September 2006. Then at the end of the 2006 Convention in San Diego - Mission Valley Resort - I was elected President again. At the President's Ball, my good friend and then current President, Mark Murray, passed the gavel to me with a huge smile on his face. I could even see all of his fillings. I figured out why he was in good spirits later on in the year. Since that date I have spent six years serving the members and the Board of Directors as President. This gave me 12 years total as a Board member starting in 1984.

Being on the Board of Directors has been an extremely fulfilling and rewarding adventure. Every year I would meet a newly appointed Director who had a multitude of questions and great suggestions. Prior to and during my tour Rich Bailey and Kim Wirht, brought back the fabulous "Cioppino Feed" originally started in the 70's by Past-President (3 times) Dick Tush and

Past-President Dick Knell (1974). Dennis Brown, Past-President (1985), continues on with the Northern M/C tour which has been a flaming success 19 years in a row. Don Winslow, Pasadena PD retired and 50 year Active member of MMOC, started and still leads the MMOC Honor Guard in parades up and down the State. Doug Wayne, Oakland PD Sergeant retired and Active member of MMOC for 28 years, built our MMOC Web-Site and continues to maintain it, www.mmoc.org. Cliff Heanes, Oakland P. D. retired and a long time veteran of MMOC operates our product sales Department as Quartermaster.

Our 83 year old tradition of educating the public about Bicycle and Traffic safety will continue on in grand style as always.

Keep the Rubber Side Down and God Bless...



2012 DIRECTORS

President	Gene Gray Retired Lieutenant Pasadena PD
Vice President	Michael Rores Retired Sergeant Alameda County SO
Director	Rich Bailey Retired Officer San Jose PD
Director	William Loveless Retired Officer CA Highway Patrol
Director	Michael Nichelini Officer Vallejo PD



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Webmaster	Doug Wayne Retired Sergeant Oakland PD
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Honor Guard	Don Winslow Retired Officer Pasadena PD

2012 STAFF

SAFETY OR SORROW

Change is Constant

Mike Nichelini, Director
Motor Officer
Vallejo Police Department

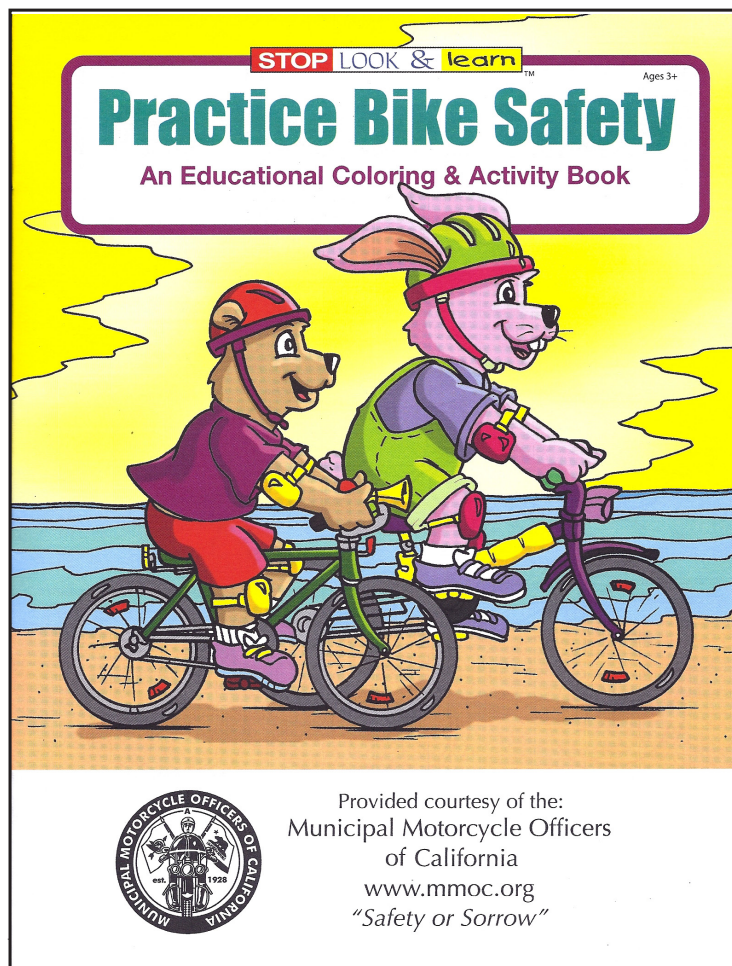
They say the only thing constant is change. Change is catching up with the Municipal Motorcycle Officers of California. As you just read, Gene Gray is stepping down after many, many years of dedicated service. Gene has kept the MMOC going and managed to drag it through periods of uncertainty. We are/were very fortunate to have him keep the MMOC alive. Thanks Gene, for all of your tireless efforts and commitment to this organization.

This does mean that a new directors spot will be opening up. Nominations are being accepted and a vote will take place at the Convention in September. There is always work to be done and we have some important issues to work on in the near future. In order to insure our success we need your help.

In order to continue our mission of promoting bicycle and traffic safety for children, the MMOC has ordered a new batch of bicycle safety coloring books (complete with crayons) to hand out to schools and other events. Our dwindling supply of old books were not current with the vehicle code. I have some events lined up for the beginning of the school year in the Bay Area. If your department has a use for some of the coloring books for your school resource officers or other events, please let me know and we will make arrangements to get some to you. I can be reached at mnichelini@mmoc.org

Finally, new challenge coins have been designed and will be available for sale at the convention. Hope to see many of you there.

Mike



Provided courtesy of the:
Municipal Motorcycle Officers
of California
www.mmoc.org
"Safety or Sorrow"

Mike Rores, Vice-President
Retired Sergeant
Alameda County Sheriff's Office

We are getting into the new riding season and hopefully all of you have been able to enjoy some of the great weather. This year's July ride found its way to Mt. St. Helens in Washington. Dennis Brown mapped out a great ride. Look for his ride report in an upcoming issue of the *The Siren*.

To ensure that we keep the rubber side down and keep our riding skills up, here are some tips to make wherever and whatever you ride, safer.

Leave your ego at home

The only people who really care if you were faster on the freeway will be the officer and the judge.

Beware of cars running traffic lights

The first few seconds after a signal light changes are the most perilous. Look both ways before barging into an intersection.

Left-turning cars remain a leading killer of motorcyclists

Don't assume someone will wait for you to dart through the intersection. They're trying to beat the light, too.

Don't troll next to--or right behind--Mr. Peterbilt

If one of those 18 retreads blows up--which they do with some regularity--it detreads, and that can be ugly. Unless you like dodging huge chunks of flying rubber, keep your distance.

Mind the gap

Remember Driver's Ed? One second's worth of distance per 10 mph is the old rule of thumb, especially when riding in a group. Better still, scan the next 12 seconds ahead for potential trouble.

Excessive entrance speed hurts

It's the leading cause of single-bike accidents on twisty roads and racetracks. In Slow, Out Fast is the old adage, and it still works. Dialing up corner speed is safer than scrubbing it off.

Use both brakes

The front does most of your stopping, but a little rear brake on corner entry can calm a nervous chassis.

Keep your eyes moving

Traffic is always shifting, so keep scanning for potential trouble. Don't lock your eyes on any one thing for too long unless you're actually dealing with trouble.

Get your mind right in the driveway

Most accidents happen during the first 15 minutes of a ride, below 40 mph, near an intersection or driveway. Yes, that could be your driveway.

Stay in your comfort zone when you're with a group

Riding over your head is a good way to end up in the ditch. Any bunch worth riding with will have a rendezvous point where you'll be able to link up again.

If we all keep these riding tips in mind and practice them on a regular basis, we can hopefully tip the odds in our favor and keep from becoming statistics.

Be safe and keep the rubber side down!

Mike



Remembering the Legend Dave "Stumpy" Ellis

On 7 May 12, I lost my partner David E. Ellis to a heart attack. Dave was an Oakland Policeman for 14 years and an Alameda Policeman for 16 years, he was a Motorman for 20+ years of his career. Dave retired on 4 Feb 12.

A celebration of Dave's life was held on 14 May 12. The church was filled with about 1,000 people. Many of those attending were current and retired Motormen who worked with or were trained by Dave.

Dave is survived by his wife of 25 years Carol and Daughters Casey Ortiz (Chuck) and Jesse Ellis. Dave is also survived by his namesake Grandson David.

Dave was born on 12 Mar 60 in St. Louis to Charlotte and Frank Ellis. He grew up in Oakland, California with his five sisters and one brother, Sabrina, Bridget, Jen, Brian, Rosa and Marie Therese.

Dave joined the Oakland Police Department (OPD) in 1982. Though his hard work and dedication he soon realized his lifelong goal of becoming a Solo Motor Officer. When the Motorcycle Drill Team was resurrected in the late 80's, Dave was a founding member of the team. He competed in police motorcycle competitions in Pacific Grove, Redding, Vallejo and Oakland. He has many ribbons and trophies to attest to his hard work and competitive spirit.

Dave resigned from the OPD 1995 and went to work for the Alameda Police Department (APD). Soon after joining the department he was back in the saddle as a Motorman.

I worked as Dave's partner for three years at OPD. It has been 16 years since I worked with him but I still call him my partner. Dave had the highest work ethic of anyone I ever worked with. A normal day of work for Dave was to write 20 tags and tow 10 vehicles. All of this was accomplished without missing a coffee stop or a lunch break and he always went home on time.

I never saw Dave angry and always marveled at how he could



talk to anyone and get them to laugh. He was always fair in his dealings with violators but at the same time being firm. He was compassionate in his dealings with victims of crimes and at the same time was hard as nails in his pursuit of justice.

There were three loves in Dave's life. His family first, "The Job" second and riding motorcycles anywhere, anytime third.

Dave possessed all of the admirable attributes that a cop, father, husband and a man should have. He is the example of the person all of us should try to be. I will miss him and his friendship.

I last saw Dave in person at the MMOC Cioppino Feed in San Jose. His photo is on page 6 of the last Siren. I will miss my friend.

Until we meet again Stumpy, God's speed.

Billy Focha

Donations can be made to:

The Martin C. Kauffman 100 Club
or

COPS of Northern California

c/o Oakland Police Officers Association
555 5th Street
Oakland, CA 94601
Attention Renee Hassna



END OF WATCH

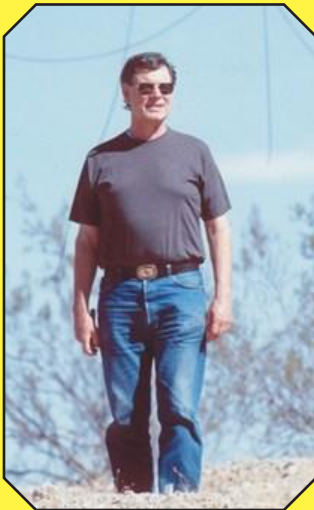
Norman Solari

October 25, 1939 - June 16, 2012

Norm Solari passed away on Saturday, June 16, 2012 from a battle with cancer - he was a long time active member of the Municipal Motorcycle Officers of California. Norm retired from law enforcement after 30 years of distinguished service with the South San Francisco Police Department and San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. He was a member of the Fraternal Order of Police and Municipal Motorcycle Officers of California. His hobbies included photography, trains, travel and vintage cars.

Norm was a long time Sergeant with the SSFPD then went to the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office where he rose to the rank of Lieutenant. He had three children, Lisa, who is a current Lieutenant with the San Mateo Sheriff's Office, a son Mark and another daughter Gina. He was married 53 years to the love of his life and best friend Jan.

Even though Norm and Jan lived in Lake County he not only took care of his mom but always had time for his friends. Not enough can be said about Norm - he was a special person we will sorely miss.



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A Piece of History

Pictured to the left is an "Honorary Member" badge submitted by one of our Honorary Members. He purchased it at a western show in Grass Valley. It's made of sterling silver and he indicates it has "Frank Elles" engraved on the back. He told me that it roughly two inches in size. If anyone has more information on when and where these were made, who they were given to, or have any information on Frank Elles, I'll share it in an upcoming issue of the *The Siren*.

I have a few more pieces of history to share in future issues of the *Siren* and am always looking for more. If you have any photos, documents or any interesting piece of history please send them my way. Email is great. You can send your submissions to mnichelini@mmoc.org. If you have something that needs to be photographed or scanned, email me and I can help.

Mike Nichelini



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Sunday, 9th 1pm Board Meeting
Monday, 10th 10—Noon Registration
1 pm—3 pm Intro Luncheon
Tuesday, 11th Free Day (Shop, Disneyland Or ?
Wednesday, 12th President's Ball—Semi Formal
Thursday, 13th Check Out

**** Attendance Fee: \$100.00 PP—Mail to 80 W. Sierra Madre #391, Sierra Madre, CA. 91024 ****

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2012 Annual Convention

September 9 - 13, 2012

Red Lion Hotel

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