



Order of the Phoenix MC Newsletter

"Creating and Promoting Camaraderie within Our Ohana and Community"

**Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year!**



Safe Riding in 2010

Order of the Phoenix, MC



The Order of the Phoenix, MC (the "Order") is a Hawaii nonprofit corporation. The Order's mission is to pursue and promote the interests, camaraderie, welfare and benefits of its members, their families and guests; to promote motorcycle safety and ridership in accordance with the law; to foster a positive relationship with others in our community; and operate in accordance with Section 501(c)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Order is recognized by the Hawaii motorcycle community. All makes of motorcycles are welcome. The Order comprise of a diverse group of riders with varied riding experiences and backgrounds. We advocate safety, and, accordingly, we plan and conduct our rides within the law, prohibit the consumption of alcoholic beverages or narcotics during training and rides.

Any person of good moral character eighteen (18) years or older, who embraces the Order's purposes is eligible to become a member without regard to race,

creed, sex or national origin. Riders must hold a valid motorcycle operator license or permit, and completed (or agree to complete within three (3) months after becoming a member) the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic Rider Course or its equivalent is eligible to become a member. Persons residing in the same household may be listed on the member's application and will be counted as members. Any two members who are in good standing may sponsor an eligible person for membership by filing a membership application.

If you have friends looking for a family motorcycle club with a lot of pride, spirit and camaraderie without the attitude you are encouraged to have them come and ride with us and feel the spirit of the ohana!

Our First Annual Meeting

The Order of the Phoenix held its first annual dinner meeting at SamChoy's BLC on October 3, 2009 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009. The meeting and dinner were attended by: Ronald & Tonya Ahn; Ron, Gina & Prescott (son); Eri Iwasaki; Howard Kam Jr; Henry Matsuno; David & Debbie Merkle; Danny Okawa & Jamie Konno; Gilbert & Bonnie Valdriz; and Arthur & Diane Quisano. Members, who were unable to attend were: James Kam; Jeffery & Karen Kam; Howard Kam III; Susie Kam; Tabitha Kam; Dean Ueda; and Dan Soraoka (Honorary).

The President presided over the meeting and the following matters were discussed: (1) Evolution of the Order of the Phoenix, and our vision to recruit and retain like-

minded fellow motorcyclist and enthusiast into our ohana; (2) Reasons for the need to amend and restate the Order's articles of incorporation and bylaws (social v. charitable tax exempt being granted by the Internal Revenue Service, which was read and approved by the membership; (3) Why we are tax exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(7) rather than 501(c)(3), therefore any donations, dues, etc. to the Order are not tax deductible as a charitable contribution, and our tax exemption is for federal income tax purposes only, not State of Hawaii; (4) Election of the FY 2009-2010 directors (Howard Kam Jr., Danny Okawa, and Gilbert Valdriz);¹



(5) Order's cash balance at June 30, 2009 was \$260; (6) Need for additional fundraising events in the near future since we wish to leave the dues at \$20 per annum but need to fund the purchase of logo items available for purchase by the members, additional education materials, host social events, participation in charitable events, establish a welfare fund, etc.; (7) Members are encouraged to serve in the various officer and official positions of the Order; (8) Clarified

¹ Our directors are charged with special trust and confidence of the ohana to direct and oversee the affairs of the Order as fiduciaries in accordance with our bylaws and the best interest of our members; duly qualify and appoint the officers of the Order to manage the day-to-day affairs; and review and approve applicants into the Order.

the point that spouses and significant others participation in our meetings and rides are not limited to specific days or by invitation only as they are also members; and (9) Members are encouraged to assist in growing the ranks of our membership with other like-minded motorcyclist and motorcycle enthusiasts.

The meeting was followed by dinner with grace given by Ronald Ahn and socializing...highlighted by Debbie Markle's video presentation. It was touching to observe the camaraderie that has evolved among our ohana and one cannot help but to think it was only created nine months earlier.

For those of unable to attend our first annual meeting you missed a great meeting, dinner and an exceptional video of the Order of the Phoenix Labor Day Ride painstakingly put together by Debbie. We were also very happy to have Henry unexpectedly join us...Henry you look great and we continue to wish you and your family the very best...our prayers are with you.

Mahalo to all of you for coming out and making first annual dinner meeting a fun and memorable event since you are the Fraternal Order!

2009 Memorable Rides



The Labor Weekend Ride probably had the largest turnout during the year. Participants included members, spouses, and their guests. Danny, Gilbert and Ron, thanks for putting the ride together while Susie and I was touring the Pacific Northwest.



Crossover to Vancouver, BC



Astoria, OR

The 35th Annual Toys for Tots Parade held on December 6, 2009 should be another memorable ride since this was the Order's first. The annual charitable event benefits needy children within our community, which is sponsored by Street Bikers United of Hawaii in support of this Marine Corps' program. This year's event was attended by Art & Diane Quisano, David & Debbie Markle, Dean Ueda, Gilbert Valdriz, Howard Kam, Ronald & Tanya Ahn, Ron Asuncion, and Shawn Quisano and his lovely wife. Hey Art & Diane, now there are two potential family recruits.



Order's Toys for Tots Participants

Our Christmas Night Ride is another ride worthy of making the memorable list for Calendar Year 2009. We met at Starbucks in Maunaloa Shopping Center at 5:30 PM on December 13, 2009 and rode out to view the Christmas display in Honolulu financial district and around City Hall, to include the Christmas Trees in City Hall.

Afterwards we head out to Starbucks in Kapolei for some refreshments, than to Hanapaa Street in Kapolei, where the neighborhood has gone all out to celebrate Christmas Hawaiian Style. We were all in agreement that the Hanapaa Street Christmas decorations were the most impressive. Ride participants included: Art & Diane, Danny, Gilbert, Howard & Susie.

Okay let's make next year's ride bigger and better, however we need our members to be our pre-ride spotters and guides.



Ron, Ronald, Danny & Gilbert at Dan Soraoka' House

Lastly, let us not forget the Order of the Phoenix inaugural mainland ride, which was attended by Danny, Gilbert, Howard, Ron and Ronald. These five guys left Honolulu on the evening of October 29, 2009 for San Francisco and returned on the evening of November 2, 2009. Our gracious host was our Honorary Member Dan Soraoka, past-President of the Contra Costa Chapter 186 of Star Touring & Riding Association, and fellow Contra Costa members (Cecil, Domenic, Jerry, Ken, and Kerry).



Parking Lot at Beringer Winery

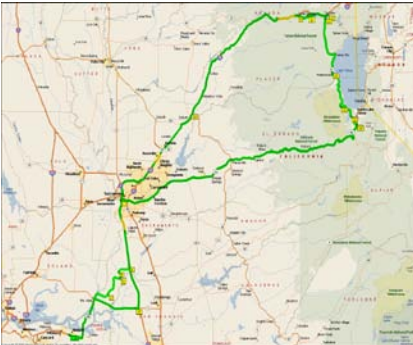
On Friday, October 30, 2009, we checked out the rental bikes from EagleRider and headed across the Golden Gate Bridge up the coast

into Marin, ate lunch at Tony's Seafood before crossing the coastal foothills into Sonoma and Napa, and returning to Antioch that night.



Bodega Bay

On Saturday, October 31, 2009, we headed for the Sierra-Nevada Mountains through Donner Pass, had lunch in Truckee, toured Lake Tahoe-South, and returned back to Antioch that night. This proved to be our longest and most technical ride.



Ronald overlooking Lake Tahoe



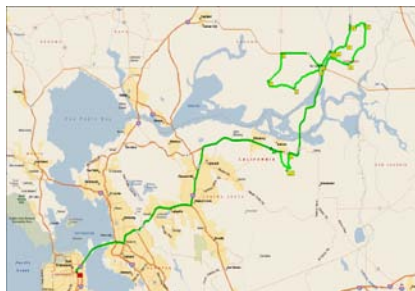
Lake Tahoe two weeks later sent by Dan

We were planning to head down the coast on Day Three (Sunday, November 1, 2009), however the ride was shortened, and we rode east to Amador, ate at Jackson Rancheria Casino (fabulous buffet), were a few guys got lucky, and returned to Antioch that evening.



This proved to be a much more manageable ride for the local boys since there were more rolling hills and the rural roads which were less technical.

Dan planned and conducted a half-day ride on the Monday, November 2, 2009, before we returned to San Francisco to return the motorcycles and catch our flight back home.



Ferry ride across a Suisun Bay Inlet in Rio Vista

The ride took us through the levees east of Antioch, to include having to take several ferries across the irrigation canals. Nice rural roads, dotted with sheep ranches along the route.

During the San Francisco Bay Area ride, wet weather was forecasted for Sunday and Monday, however we were blessed with great riding weather during the entire tour.

The mainland riding experience definitely provided the participants with a better understanding of mainland riding styles which is a lot different than island rides. Hopefully the ride touched all participants in a positive way, and provided them with an experience they will always cherish.

A special thanks to Dan Soraoka for planning and coordinating the rides, taking-off from work to conduct the rides, and rounding up a few support riders for each day's trip, who were members of the Contra Costa Chapter 186 of Star Touring & Riding Association. Also a few friends that rode the 4,000 miles Pacific Northwest trip with Dan and I in June-July 2009.



Dan checking on the status of a rider joining the group and riding conditions ahead of us



Special thanks to Cecil Adams, who was always there to watch our tail and provide encouragement for our riders.

For those who are up for another mainland ride in 2010 it's time to start saving for it, and hone your riding skills and mentally prepare yourselves to conquer the mainland roads and make it a memorable riding experience.

Official and Designated Positions of the Order

The Order of the Phoenix, like all other organizations, requires the combined efforts of all its members, to include its leaders, to ensure its success. At the forefront of any successful organization is its leadership team. In a nonprofit organization, such as the Order of the Phoenix, the leadership team is elected and entrusted with creating a means for the members to voluntarily participate and contribute to making things happen. In turn, the leadership team should have a good understanding of the organization's vision, purpose, policies and rules.



One of the Order's earlier rides with Dean, Howard III, Ron, Danny, Art & Gilbert

Fulfilling the leadership role in a nonprofit organization is much more challenging than that of a for-profit organization. They must have the capacity and ability, if not obligation to volunteer their time, energy and resources, to listen and observe, to use their expertise to encourage dialogue, to establish

processes and transparency, to articulate their own values and visions clearly but not impose them. Additionally, leaders have an obligation to set the agenda and tone from the top, identify problems, and initiate change and manage change to better the organization and its membership at-large.

Members of an organization also have an obligation to the organization to achieve individual satisfaction, and furtherance of the organization's purpose. They should abide by the rules set forth in the organization's policies and guidelines, attend its meetings and participate in the activities, accept and being mindful of the organization's purpose in the conduct of oneself, and support the leadership team for the common good of the organization.

With that said, and as earlier mentioned, the Board of Directors appointed by the membership for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2010 is Danny Okawa, Howard Kam & Gilbert Valdriz.

The Board, in turn have duly qualified and appointed the following members to serve as the Order's officials, they are: Howard, as President and Secretary, Danny, as Vice President, Tabitha, as Treasurer, Ron, as Sergeant of Arms, Ronald, as Veteran's Representative and Chaplain, and Dean, as Auditor.



Ron (SAA & SR)

Your Board has also solicited members to serve in other key positions, they are: Howard III and Ronald, as Webmasters, and

Debbie, as our videographer. Additionally, during our rides we have our customary Ride Captains and Sweep Riders (or Tail Gunners), who are thoroughly familiar with the Order's Ride Rules and entrusted to keep our rides safe and conducted within the law.

To all of you, we extend a big Mahalo for your willingness to volunteer and dedication to make the Order a truly bigger and better family-orientated motorcycle club.

Order's Ride Rules



Gilbert (RC), Dean, Art & Diane

As a reminder, the purpose of riding in an organized group is to provide the additional safety that an organized group generates. When a group rides in an orderly fashion, riders provide fellow riders with sufficient space to operate safely, allows for emergency and evasive maneuvers, and the organization of the formation itself discourages cars and other vehicles from attempting to break up the group possibly causing a hazardous situation.

The Order's riding rules which were adopted from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation are as follows: (1) Motorcycles will be kept in a safe working condition. Motorcycles with malfunctioning lights, brakes or worn tires (less than 2/32 tread) will not be permitted to participate in the ride. (2) Motorcycles shall be fully fueled prior to arriving at the designated ride assembly area. (3) No alcohol or narcotics will be consumed. Any rider or passenger who consumed or appear to have consumed alcohol or narcotics will

not be permitted to participate in the ride. (4) Traffic laws will be strictly enforced. (5) When riding in a group formation, motorcycles will be ridden in a staggered formation. (6) One rider will be designated as the Lead Rider, who will occupy the lead left position. The Lead Rider is responsible for planning, mapping and coordinating the ride. If the Order has a large group riding, it may be necessary to have two or more Lead Riders so that the riders can be broken into groups (preferably groups of six motorcycles with the equivalent of 50 yards between the groups). (7) Each group will have a Sweep Rider, who will occupy the last position in each group. The Sweep Rider is responsible for keeping all riders in formation. Should a rider need to leave the group for an emergency only the Sweep Rider will stop to assist. (8) Any rider who elects to drop out of a ride, i.e., they do not desire to complete the planned ride due to time constraints, prior commitments, etc., will notify the Sweep Rider before doing so. (9) The Sergeant at Arms is responsible for keeping the peace, enforcing the Order's policies and rules, securing and maintaining the Ride Waivers. (10) Passing - The procedure for passing is as follows: (a) Four Lane Highways and Freeways - The Lead Rider will initiate the lane change by signaling for the change. All riders will turn on the appropriate turn signal while remaining in their lane. The Sweep Rider will secure the lane when it is safe to do so. The Lead Rider will then initiate the lane change once the Sweep Rider has secured the lane. Only after the Lead Rider has initiated the change will the rest of the riders follow. (b) Two Lane Highways - When there is a need to pass a vehicle on a two lane road the Lead Rider will first bring everyone to single file. Then when it is safe to pass the Lead Rider will pass. All members are now responsible for their own safe pass. Do not pass the person in front of you and do not pull out to pass until the rider in front of you has passed and entered the proper

lane. Once the vehicle is passed return to the stagger formation. Make sure you are riding fast enough to insure the rest of the group can safely move back into the proper lane. Once you verify that all have successfully passed the vehicle resume the group's normal riding speed. (11) Hand Signals: (a) Single File Formation - Lead Rider extends left hand index finger upward above his/her head. All riders will utilize the same hand signal to relay the message to the riders in the rear. (b) Double File Formation - Lead Rider extends two fingers of the left hand upward above his/her head. All riders will utilize the same hand signal to relay the message to the riders in the rear. (c) Pull Over - Pat your helmet. This signal is in case an individual needs to pull over. Pull over in an area which is safe and affords the best visibility of motorist traveling in the same direction. (d) Turn Signal On/Off - Pinching your thumb and fingers together repeatedly. (e) Right/Left Turns - Use your blinker and/or the correct hand signal. (f) Road Hazard Right Side - Point with right foot extended. (g) Road Hazard Left Side - Point with left foot extended. (h) Slow Down - Using your left hand move in a downward motion, palm open. (i) Quick Stop - Using your left hand move in a downward motion, fist closed. (j) Tighten Up - Closed fist pumping up and down. Only the lead bike will start this signal. (12) Group Riding Positions

Lead Rider	Member
Shepherd	Member
Shepherd	Member
Sweep Rider	Sweep Rider

(13) Group Riding Officials and Duties: (a) Lead Rider (or Ride Captain) - Shall plan and coordinate the ride and become familiar with the ride routes before the ride through route or road map reconnaissance. The designated Lead Rider is in charge of the ride and will lead the ride. No rides will be ridden over the posted speed limit to enhance the safety of all the participants in the ride. The Lead Rider shall plan, coordinate and conduct the ride with the

assistance of the Sweep Rider to help monitor and control the group formation. (b) b. Sweep Rider (Tail Gunner) - Shall be the last rider in the group to monitor the group. It is the duty of the Sweep Rider to stay with any rider that has dropped out of the ride due to mechanical or personal problems so the group can safely proceed. The Sweep Rider works closely with the Lead Rider to help control the group formation. (c) Shepherd - Shall greet new riders into the group and serve as mentors. Shepherd are responsible for explaining to new or prospective members about the Order's mission, Bylaws, and Ride Rules, and making all new or prospective members feel welcomed to MC. The Shepherd shall be paired for the first two to three events and rides to insure that new or prospective members are able to assimilate with the Order. They should also be available to explain and answer questions regarding the MC.



Kawika, Diane, Dean & Art

Acknowledgements

Wish to thank all the members for sharing their photographs with each other during the year. Unfortunately, I could not use everyone's photographs so don't take offense.

We also wish to thank all of you who contributed to the 2009 Toys for Tots Parade in which we made a \$100 contribution on behalf of the Order of the Phoenix.

Special thanks to Danny & Jamie, Gilbert & Bonnie, and Eri for their generous contribution of a \$100 to the Order. Also, Jeffery & Karen for hosting a breakfast fundraiser ad allowing us to use their house

for the Group Rider Course training video earlier this year, also the folks at Horwath Kam & Company for the annual meeting contribution, to include Candice Nakashima for organizing the tee shirt distribution.

Additionally, we wish to acknowledge Howard III and Ronald for agreeing to get our website up this coming year. After they've constructed you can visit it at www.orderofphoenix.org.

Special Acknowledgement Patch



Some of you may be wondering why some of our members wearing this patch. Your Board approved the awarding of this patch, which was donated by your President, to the Order to acknowledge the special contributions or achievements of our members. The first five patches were awarded to Danny, Gilbert, Howard, Ron and Ronald for completing the Order's inaugural mainland ride.

While on the subject of patches, the Order has a Colors Policy, which you should have received when you became a member. The following are excerpts from the Policy.

Colors serves as the primary visual identification of a member of a motorcycle club or other organization, it consists of a specific large club patch or patches, predominantly located in the back of a vest. The patches will contain a club logo, the name of the club, and the letters "MC". This garment and the patches themselves are referred to as the "colors". The Order has three patches: (1) Small arm or chest patch that contains the Order's logo and name; (2) Large back patch that contains the Order's logos; and (3) Rocker patch for the back patch which denotes the name "Order of Phoenix". The

latter two patches are sewn to appear as a single patch. The Order of the Phoenix patches remains the property of the Order, not the member, and only members are allowed to wear the Order's colors. In other words, members are granted a license to wear the colors of the Order after satisfying the qualification requirements. The officers of the Order are responsible for the management and enforcement of the Colors Policy.

Members' colors duties and responsibilities, include: (1) Safeguarding their colors;



Not permit their colors to be used by non-members; (2) Insure that the colors are not displayed inappropriately; (3) Not manufacture, copy or sell the colors; (4) Return the colors upon termination of membership; and (5) Report any violations of the colors to the officers of the Order for appropriate disposition. Members should refrain from wearing the colors at events which are not sanctioned and attended by other members of the Order. Furthermore, while wearing the colors members will conduct themselves in a professional manner in accordance with the Order's Code of Conduct Policy so as not to reflect poorly or bring discredit upon the Order or its members.

Calendar Year 2010 Activities

As a reminder our monthly meeting and ride are scheduled for 8:30 AM on the first Saturday of each month, unless otherwise announced in advance. We also conduct rides on other days of the month, typically a weekend date.

Hopefully, we can also generate enough interest of a Mainland and Big Island Ride in 2010. Our 2010 Annual Dinner Meeting is tentatively planned for Saturday, June 26, 2010. Besides a 2010

mainland ride, we hopefully can also plan a Big Island ride in 2010.

Need Your Kokua

If any member wishes to contribute to future Newsletter please send your Word articles to Howard Kam. Will attempt to at least publish a Newsletter covering January to June, and another covering July to December. So keep the photographs coming so that I can use them in future articles.

A Biker's Prayer
by Rev's Roadhouse

*May the sun rise in front of me,
may the rain fall behind me, and
may the wind follow me;*

*May the angels of my brothers and
sisters who have gone before me
guard my travels for they know the
perils of the road ahead of me;*

*Keep me safe through the rough
city streets on my way to the land
of swirling turns and rolling hills;*

*Let the colors of fall keep me
warm, let the eagle guide me to
the mountaintops, let the moon's
light guide me through the night;*

*May my tires not fail me, nor my
engine grow old, may my bike
draw life from the streams I pass,
and keep my seat soft and my
mind sharp; and*

*Let the air of spring breath life inot
my soul to journey to another
adventure besides my brothers
and sisters.*

Closing

Let's continue to grow the Order with more like-minded members in 2010. Mahalo for your support in 2009!

