

SOUL SMOKE

Iron Souls Motorcycle Club—Oakland Chapter

2020 Rides: East Bay Dragons

Well hell brothers, I don't know about you but I couldn't wait for this damn year to be in our rearview mirror. Though I make no pretense that we won't be thinking about it or referring to 2020 for years to come.



All photos provided by MacGyver unless noted otherwise.

East Bay Dragons



Negotiator's House



However, that's not what this conversation is about. I wish to point out some of the outstanding work from 2020 by a few of the Road Captain's and members.

The rides were changed this year to Day Rides, two up Rides. I thought this would be the best way to get the best showing for the day rides. There was some blowback on this idea at first, but we carried on and our numbers grew. The group adjusted by bringing Scooby snacks and seating when needed.

Negotiator's House





One of our first Day rides we stopped by to see AJ just to say Hey. It was Great to see him. He was looking good.

When Yung Blut's new bike had issues, some riders learned that bringing snacks and a small chair was a good idea, which had been sent in the staging info prior.



Negotiator's House



You can see in X-Mans face preplanning is the way to go. You never know where our need to stop will happen. After a snack break everyone continued on to the beach while I stayed with Yung Blud until help arrived.



Cloverdale



Cloverdale



Cloverdale



D-Tour had us rolling all around NorCal. We went to Goldflake bar and grill in Oroville, Hamburger Ranch and BBQ in Cloverdale with one of the largest groups of riders. Our special Guest Heavy K was a good surprise for the ride. Even the Cloverdale Sheriff showed the BRU.



Point Reyes



I wanted to give the Wolfman, and his better half Red, from the Sac Chapter a huge shout out for coming to more than a few of our two-up day rides. He told me on several occasions how it meant a lot to be able to ride with his brothers.

Point Reyes



Point Reyes



We had picnics outside. Yung Blud set up a ride to Point Reyes for us. That was a great day and a lot of fun. He picked out a good spot.



Channel Islands Harbor—Oxnard

Our big ride of the year kept getting downsized. The Atlanta Round up was one of the most well planed rides. You know the rest. We still pulled a rabbit out of a hat by ending up at Channel Islands Harbor. In Southern California we found a smoke free environment and an outstanding hotel on the water, thanks to Kimberley's travel agent planning and plenty of BRU.

Below every one is pointing at Chainsaw because the question was asked how he made the rookie mistake of not road testing his bike before a long ride. P.S. don't turn off your bike in the middle of nowhere.



Channel Islands Harbor—Oxnard



This ride really showed the BRU when Skip and D-Tour jumped on their bikes and doubled back all the way to San Jose from Harley Salinas to pick up a part for Chainsaw so he could also continue to Oxnard. The main pack continued on. The two pictures show the High and Low parts of any long ride. Shown here is Chainsaw, dropping off his bike at the shop. and thanking the Crew for there patience on the ride down with a top shelf Don Julio.



Channel Islands Harbor—Oxnard



This is where Skip sent a picture out letting all the brothers know that the Chief Road Captain needs to stop worrying about everyone else's bike and take a moment to check his own bike out. Yung Blud spotted a shiny rear tire on my bike at the last gas stop before the hotel. My own roommate sent a picture of the tire out to the club. I would be pissed off about that if not for the fact that I would have done the exact same thing. When we got back I also thanked Yung Blud with a bottle of Don Julio 1952 for the heads up.



Channel Islands Harbor—Oxnard



Hanging at the fire pit. All the BRU is relaxing and talking story about current and past adventures. For those present and those who have passed, it's not just the good days that bond us. It's also the shared times of surprise that make the true stories that bind us together. The crazy shit that happens on the road. The hailstorms out of nowhere to heat that really can't truly be described. The joy of sharing what only cross country riders experience together. You can buy a Harley and call yourself a Harley owner, but you can't call yourself a Harley rider until you've ridden cross country.



Channel Islands Harbor—Oxnard



Channel Islands Harbor—Oxnard





The Fisheterian Fish Market in Bodega Bay was arguably some rider's favorite. Those who read the staging info and pre-ordered their food maybe even enjoyed it a little bit better. It wasn't just the great food, but a combination of things coming together. Not often do you get to ride on Highway 1 in a short sleeve shirt. The weather was perfect and the vibe that day was outstanding. It was one of those rides when everyone who came really needed to be there.



Fishetarian



TKO's Event



The quickest ride was TKO's ride to Sacramento for a BBQ & BRU. Where Baby Girl got her Swag on rolling with the Crew.

TKO's Event



San Juan Bautista



The last ride of the year was D-Tour's suggestion. Dona Esther's in San Juan Bautista, a place ISMC is very familiar with. There were some safety concerns about this ride. However, with some common-sense, appropriate mask wearing, and eating outside, this two-up ride was a success. It turned out not to be too cold or too windy, and our lawns were mowed.



San Juan Bautista



San Juan Bautista



Dona Esther's Restaurant had built seating outside in front. She was happy as always to see the Iron Souls. It was especially meaningful for her during the current situation, trying to keep this restaurant afloat.

A 2020 to Remember

The Road Captain's really hit all four points of the compass in 2020 when it came to picking rides.

Again, in no particular order, to show my appreciation to the Road Captain's who stepped up:

D-Tour, our go to rider for cross country rides, has been there for me to run ideas by and calm me down when I get excited. His riding ability enables him to place himself anywhere in the pack when needed. More times or not you can find him leading the pack.

Yung Blud, one of the youngest and newest members of the ISMC, jumped into the role of Road Captain with both feet. I see a little of our former member, Richie Rich, in him with the ability to call out bullshit. His riding ability is good enough to put the safety of the pack first. This new Road Captain is running a household with his beautiful wife Carrie, three daughters Siena, Sydney, with the recent addition of Soleil, plus a cat indigo and dog Rocco. When I asked Carrie if this was a planned female overthrow of the household. She said it was just a happy coincidence. But the new addition of a fourth female into the household was apparently too much for their male cat. It packed up and left, never to be seen again. He just could not take that much estrogen. So obviously a big shout out to Yung Blud for remaining and stepping up as a Road Captain.

Chicago Jonny is taking the toughest spot in the pack, stepping up. Knowing no one can take the spot that Truck ran so well, running drag. This position takes the patience of Job. His riding ability and character will keep him moving forward towards filling a position that was held by a legend.

All the Road Captain's and members wish to thank the new Chief Road Captain, D-Tour. I know the pack and the members are in good hands. I wish to thank all the Bothers that participated in these rides. Even with what's going on in 2020, you guys managed to put some miles on when others didn't or couldn't...Congratulations!!!

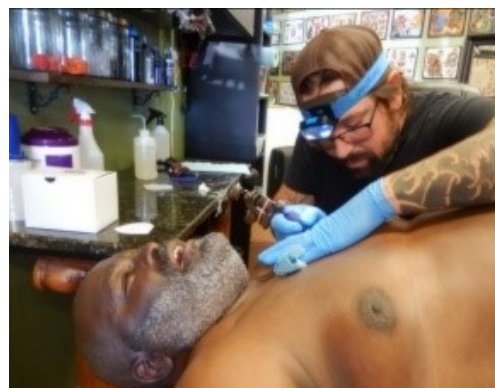
We even got to stop by and say happy birthday to Tree in Sacramento. on our way up to the Fat Cat Tattoo Parlor in Sutter Creek, California, where Madison, my daughter, got to meet some members of the ISMC. Green mile even had time for a tattoo while we ate our Scooby snacks and had adult beverages. Even Taz took time out from his part time safety guard job for a ride. Cutty points out the latest in safety wear.



Tree's Birthday Ride



Fat Cat Tattoo



Brotherhood, Respect & Unity



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With everything going on this year, there were proper and warranted reasons for people not to ride. I respect and stand by those who made that decision. However, we had some never before used excuses/reasons a few members use this year that I've never heard. Without naming those riders, here are a few reasons, in no particular order:

- My girl said it's too windy outside to ride my motorcycle. I can't go.
- I need to mow my lawn.
- I don't ride when the temperature is below 65°.

That's all I'm gonna say about that.

~MacGyver # 76

