

SOUL SMOKE NEWS LETTER

EDITOR
MACGYVER



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BROTHER MALE MAN OG



Ladies of Island Thunder
supporting the kids of the
South Bay.



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The day was warm and quiet. I found myself on the patio of the Red Hen Restaurant in the Napa Valley. The waitress brought my drink and asked what I was doing. I smiled, thanked her for my drink, and told her I was writing an article about a man. She replied there are a lot of men around. “No,” I said, “it’s about a real man.” Then she smiled and said, “Well there are not too many of them around,” as she went on her way. Too true I thought to myself, remembering back to the first time I met Male Man, the same day I talked to **AJ (Negotiator)** and **Richie Rich**, who would later become my sponsors.

(continued on next page)

Photos by Roadrunner

BROTHER MALE MAN (CONT.)

I saw **Male Man** at the Oakland Motorcycle Club house after a Three Bridges Run. He is hard to miss at 6'4", **The Gary Cooper size shadow he casts as if he was in the movie *High Noon***, making quite a picture. I introduced myself, and he asked me how I had met the Iron Souls. I told him the story about the first time I saw our Colors, and how I had wondered who the hell these guys were. He smiled and said to come by and ride with them sometime. There was no way of knowing I had just met an original OG, one of the 21 riders that started the club. His calm demeanor and observing way gave no clue other than, I had met a gentleman.

He, along with 19 other members, need not have paid their dues as a prospect. No prospect book, phone calls or good natured harassment was given. Those things would have been a breeze compared to all the hard work it took to put a club together. The changes early on were not easy. Male Man says there have been two or three more changes through the years. Not just the club has changed. Maleman himself has evolved from his first motorcycle..., I'll say it, a Honda. That changed of course to a Harley Davison he named E-Glide. Most things are different since 1993 when the club was established. Everything in fact, but his love of family, riding and club.

Bernice, Male Man's wife, best friend and dance partner along with **Lenita**, their daughter, may or may not have heard about his favorite ride. It was the 2000 National Roundup in Rosenberg, Texas. No telling for sure with this quiet man, a 40 year riding veteran, He has gone across the United States, sea to shining sea.

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ISM C OG21'ers

Seated: Roadrunner & Gil

Standing: "D", Chief, Beaver Doctor, Maleman, Voodoo, Iron Butt, & Mack

BROTHER MALEMAN (CONT.)

Born in 1941, in Louisiana, but he didn't stay there long. By his first birthday he was in San Francisco straight through high school. Next, with no stopping to chit chat, it was straight to work supporting himself and his family with an amazing 37 years at the U.S. Post Office. When he finally retired, it was just to start a part-time job with Hertz...no doubt for pocket money to go riding off to those far flung places thanks to his loving family in and out of the club. He pursues what makes him happy, riding with his brothers. How copacetic that is, to have such support.



When asked what he would say to anyone thinking of becoming a member of the Iron Souls, it was, "Don't think about joining unless you're committed to do what it takes to make us successful, like supporting the Mother Wright Foundation from the start." The countless events to support her and the community, as well as taking a Road Captain or Treasurer position, just to name a few of the many things this man has stood up for. He would not tell you about these things, and would rather set standards by doing, not just talking about it, has been this man's way from the start.

When I asked him about the worst weather he had ever rode in, he didn't frame the answer as OMG. He spoke of it as if riding through several states through storms and rain, and wind that would blow your windshield off your bike if faced the wrong way. That was just part of the joy of his adventure. He spoke fondly of Interstate Highway 40. You should ask him about that yourself. After that you should find Richie Rich, "Mr. Bling Bling" himself and Road Captain Extraordinaire, and ask him how Maleman delivered Richie a package of humble pie coming through the desert one day when only mad dogs and Englishmen wouldn't be out in the noon day sun. When Maleman has gas in his tank and highway in front of him there's one thing for sure, he's going forward.

I speak for every member of Iron Souls without hesitation, it's an honor to call this man Brother.

*Article provided by
MacGyver*

Photos by Roadrunner



END

THE LAST RIDE OF 2010



Chainsaw is all smiles sporting his new wheels.



Heavy K, Jodie and Mike Nieman, Truck, Gil, Tree

This was the last an impromptu ride. It started by the simplest push of an e-mail and a phone call. If you had to blame someone, Truck or Tree would be at the head of the list for getting things going. Meeting at Cordelia Junction Starbucks, there wasn't much more known about the days events other than we were going to ride somewhere. I had talked to Tree earlier, telling him about the crush going on in the Napa Valley. As we drank our coffee and chatted about our options, it came to me to make arrangements.

So Napa Valley it was, with a quick phone call to my good friends Jodi and Mike Nieman to give them a heads up I was bringing brothers by. I took the lead of the pack. I led them onto Highway 29 over the Silverado Trail, and then doubled back to St. Helena. Then we pulled into Nieman's Harley Rentals and Jodi's sign company, located downtown. They both are outgoing and dynamic personalities in their own right. Always friendly and hospitable. My Brothers were curious why I would pick this particular spot to stop. Their questions were answered with enthusiasm and pride of their town and their businesses. Their tour of the facilities enlightened and delighted the brothers. Everyone agreed this was a spot to return to. For a quick cup of coffee and a howdy. Our time permitting to just set and enjoy Mike's and Jodi's company. Everyone was full of good information about this location.

Then we were off to fill our hunger at the Freemark Abbey, a local brewery with family-style culinary treats. I love showing off the Napa Valley with my Brothers in tow. It's always a treat to fly the black and teal in the Valley. I was happy to hear the Brothers had one more stop in them before leaving the Valley. We crisscrossed the vineyard roads and headed south, ending up at the Red Hen Restaurant. It is a more than a little biker-friendly place, always ready for daiquiris and dining. We hung there for quite a while. My working schedule dictated that I was as far as I was going to go that day. My Brothers were in no such situation. As we left, heading back down Highway 29 South, I waved them on and I headed home, jealous in the knowledge their adventure was not over for this day.

Article and photos provided by MacGyver

END

FIRST RUN OF 2011

Today, January 3, 2011, five hearty Brothers and one other guy went for our first ride of the New Year. We met at the Starbucks in Cordelia around 11:00 AM. **Tree, MacGyver, ChainSaw, Taz,** outsider Charles Brown and myself. Charles Brown is a friend of mine that I have had the pleasure of sharing a lot of riding miles with over the past several years. He was also with us in October on the ride down to Las Vegas. While sitting at the Starbucks we hadn't any particular riding destination, but with motorcycles and a good day to ride, you don't have to get all technical about where you have to go. I mentioned that I had purchased a communication set last week at a good price. The same set that Brother **SeaBreeze** and Tammy had, which they used extensively on their cross country trip this past July and August. Now we had a place to ride.



We left the Starbucks and headed to Fairfield and the Cycle Gear Store. There Taz snagged the only headset they had left. The clerk contacted the Cycle Gear Store in Concord, so off we went. There MacGyver and ChainSaw made their purchases. So now we have five members with the same communications systems. I don't think we are able to pair them all together, but we will be able to pair some together. "Got to read the instructions."

By this time, we had been together about two hours, so some of us needed to eat...cause we had ridden about 20 miles. We went to the Claim Jumpers Restaurant and had meat, drink and conversation. After lunch it was getting late and ChainSaw had a Doctors appointment in Vallejo, so he had to leave to make that on time.

It was getting late about 1545 HRS...(D-Tour) that is 3:45 PM, so Tree and Taz decided to head back to Sacramento. MacGyver and I rode with them to Fairfield, where MacGyver headed back to Napa. With them I went to Vacaville where I made two right turns and a left back to the freeway and home. I just checked my odometer the ride was about 120 miles...not very much, but quantity does not equate quality when I get the chance to spend it with my Brothers.

A day of BRU doesn't need a lot of miles just good conversation. Seeing MacGyver and Taz breaking bread and taking pictures together was all in the day.

Article by Truck

Photos by MacGyver

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SOUTH COUNTY TOY DRIVE



Santa surrounded by some of the Island Thunder crew.

In addition to the ISMC holiday support and involvement in the Annual Lend-A-Hand Toy Drive, several members from the ISMC volunteered to participate in the Alameda County Legion of Motorcycle Clubs, South County Toy Drive.

The South County Toy Drive was *coordinated* by the **Island Thunder MC** and was supported by several motorcycle clubs from Alameda county. ISMC members donated both toys and personal time for this 2nd annual event. The event's main community organization is the **Tri-City League of Volunteers** located in Newark. The center is located in the residential neighborhood of Newark and was overwhelmed by the motorcycle clubs support. **Over 200 motorcycles participated** in the run that **started at the Miscreants MC Clubhouse** in Oakland. After the main pack arrived at the center, Santa arrived on his Ultra "Christmas Classic" with all his "Ho, Ho, Ho goodies". Kids and adults alike, were all smiles as Santa rode in and took the seat of honor in the hall for the toy give away.



As you can imagine, a good holiday time was shared by all. The holiday cheer finished with a BBQ and "holiday spirits" back at the Miscreants Clubhouse. **The President of Island Thunder gave personal thanks to the ISMC members that participated.** Much thanks goes to members: OG Mack, OG Gil, T-Bone, MacGyver, Truck, Xman, Richie Rich

*.Article provided by Heavy K
Photos by MacGyver*

END

THE NEW TAZ LIGHT

Brotherhood, Respect and Unity. It's in our Creed, written in our bylaws and embroidered on our Colors for the world to see. Three simple words. We strive to live by these three words, not only in our lives as an Iron Soul member, but in our daily life and even as a prospect. These words change you, for the better. The way you interact with others inside and outside of the club. Simple words by definition, however put together can be a complex and enduring legacy to live by. The path was set by the Original 21 with these three words. They could not have possibly foreseen the enduring legacy they put into place.

I still consider myself a newbie to the club. Relatively speaking, the past five years has still been an introductory period to the history and members of Iron Souls. I have ridden on countless rides with my Brothers and still I have not scratched the surface of the diversity of our membership. It's only in those cherished moments that are all too far between. That time after a long ride, at a local watering hole, when the conversation turns to past rides, lost members and favorite moments. You get to learn the rich history of BRU that has shaped this club and its membership in such a positive and enduring way.

Don't misunderstand. It would be easy to turn this article into a love fest, but honestly we are a group of men. No two are alike in the fabric our opinion, as any group of men, guided by passion and determination. There will be strong feelings. You can see this dynamic on ESPN or any nightly sports broadcast. Talking about the players of any given sports team. The interactions within their team and with others., not to mention their outside sources of influence challenge the hearts of men with strong feelings and equal parts of commitment and desire, coupled with a heavy portion of honesty. There can be conversations that lead to different opinions taken to heart. They can lead to questioning one's own opinion, or questioning a members direction and true meaning.

Talking to **Male Man** recently, he explains it in simple terms. that even I can grasp. There is no simple way around it. When starting the club, paths crossed and paths changed. He has seen the club changed two or three times now. Being here from the start, he says Brotherhood, Respect and Unity always rights the ship. The power of it, as I'm starting to understand, is change guided by the compass of BRU. This Club's oversized heart is so big a cardiologist would question its health, if not seen for himself, how its power changes even the most straightforward of us.

At a recent show of Brotherhood after a club meeting, a group of 18 riders and one car club member went to **Beaver Doctor's** beautiful home for no other reason than to show him our love. On arriving, there was a small group that responded to a member in a way that prompted a response by me. There was a time I would have agreed with their greeting, though not agreeing verbally. I would most likely had stood silent. That in itself, a bad behavior, like hearing an inappropriate joke and not speaking up.

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SOUL SMOKE NEWS LETTER

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THE NEW TAZ LIGHT

Taz was the member to whom they were referring too. Greeting him with a grumpy hello, as if he were one of the seven dwarfs. You know of whom I speak. I have had a rocky history to say the least. However with guidance by wiser men than I, and the ever present if not overwhelming feeling of BRU, I now look forward to seeing my Brother Taz. I had, as I am sure that Taz had, smiled too in seeing the perplexed looks on some members faces when they saw us riding side by side at the head of the pack or off to the side in deep conversation. So he was not surprised when I jumped in to the conversation. **I said, "No you're wrong my Brothers. This is the new improved Taz, or as I call him, Taz light."** Taz himself was the first to laugh. He caught the irony of the situation. The members standing around were caught off guard by the turn of events, but were compelled by the infectious laughter that could not be stopped. Changes happen with the simplest forms of support powered by Brother Respect Unity.

Article and photo by MacGyver

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WORD FROM THE EDITOR

I'm very excited about the beginning of this year. This is the earliest jumpoff for getting on the road in recent memory. As with any organization there always seems to be groups within the group. In a recent club meeting **T-bone**, our Keeper, spoke on the subject. I took his words to heart and took it upon myself to start answering e-mails about getting out and doing things. This includes things like picking up the phone and keeping in touch, and most importantly getting my ass on my bike. It wasn't long before I found myself understanding **T-bones** sentiments if you want to belong **participate**. I've already ridden this year with several members that I had not had the pleasure to really get to know. I have been able to go riding with a new enthusiasm that only motivates me to do more. This year as in last, I have made my reservations for our runs to the National Roundup in Las Vegas and The Brotherhood run in San Diego and set time aside for the Fallen Brother run along with the Sweetheart run April 30th. This ensures that my work, family and friends know my intentions. Just having this planned out with reservations made and confirmation numbers in hand helps with the trials and tribulations of everyday life. Now the worst of days don't seem so overwhelming. I know no matter how many double shifts come up, how long I am stuck in traffic going to that next job site, in the back of my mind I know I'm going to ride with my brothers this summer. It gives me leverage to keep a polite smile on my face and from going postal on some dumb ass inspector. **I'm just saying.** It might work for you too.

Keep it up right.

MacGyver

END