



SR0A

SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA

June 2015

Hosted Rides

- 6 1st Annual Ride for The Shield Foundation, TX
- 8 2nd Annual Ride for Wounded Heros/999 Foundation, CA
- 10 1st Annual Ride for Wounded Heros, CA

Community Events / Seva

- 14 SROA Raise Nearly \$18,000 for Quake Victims, CA
- 15 2nd Annual Blanket Drive, CA
- 16 2nd Annual National Day of Seva, CA
- 17 1st Annual Blanket Drive, CA

Parades

- 19 32nd Annual Bakersfield Christmas Parade
- 20 14th Annual Tehachapi Christmas Parade
- 21 Arvin Christmas Parade
- 22 SROA Celebrate Freedom at Independence Day Parade
- 23 13th Annual Tehachapi Parade
- 24 31st Annual Bakersfield Christmas Parade

Proclamations

- 26 Sikh American Awareness & Appreciation Month
- 27 Celebrating Vaisakhi (Birth of Khalsa)
- 28 Vaisakhi Celebrated by Performing Seva

Sponsored Rides

- 30 1st Annual Armed Forces Support Ride/Poker Run, CA
- 32 Tulare County Peace Officer Memorial Run, CA
- 33 Inaugural Toy Run, TX
- 34 8th Annual Officer Down Ride, CA
- 35 2nd Annual 9/11 Memorial Ride, TX
- 36 8th Annual 9/11 Support Our Troops Memorial Run, CA
- 37 7th Annual 9/11 Support Our Troops Memorial Run, CA
- 38 6th Annual Officer Down Ride, CA

Contributors

GURINDER SINGH BASRA
SURINDER SINGH BASRA
JASTEJ SINGH GREWAL
RAJVIR KAUR
GURJIT SIDHU

Editor

RAJVIR KAUR

Board of Directors

Gurinder Singh Basra - CA
Jastej Singh Grewal - CA
Gurmeet Kaila - CA
Gurjit Sidhu - TX

Contact Us

www.SikhRidersofAmerica.com
SikhRidersofAmerica@yahoo.com

*For a membership application,
please visit our website and select
"Contact Us"*

Commitments : Members
are obligated to
Participate in seva (community service)
Actively educate others about sikhism
Work together to help promote and
grow the motorcycle group
even Non-Motorcycle riders
are Welcome



SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA'S MOTORCYCLE GROUP IS NOW OPEN FOR ALL SIKHS
www.sikhridersofamerica.com E-mail: sikhridersofamerica@yahoo.com
☎ 661-873-5181 • 661-978-7610 • 510-760-5694 • 817-372-6151

Mission

Sikh Riders of America is a non-profit organization established to increase awareness throughout the community about the Sikh Religion. We seek to achieve this by holding various fundraising events to provide help where needed (disasters, the less fortunate etc.)

Vision

The Organization of Sikh Riders of America has a vision to create an inclusive, equal society for one and all, bringing awareness to the Sikh religion and peace to the world.

About Us

The organization was established in 2012 after many Sikhs were targets of hate crimes due to mistaken identity and lack of knowledge. In response, a group of American Sikhs set out to begin spreading awareness of who the Sikhs are through participating in various community events.

Who Are Sikhs?

The word Sikh (pronounced "sickh") means 'disciple' or 'learner.' The Sikh religion was founded in Northern India in the fifteenth century by Guru Nanak Dev Ji (the first of ten gurus and the founder of Sikhism) and is distinct from Islam and Hinduism. Sikhism is monotheistic and stresses the equality of all men and women. Sikhs believe in three basic principles; meditating on the name of God (praying), earning a living by honest means, and sharing the fruits of one's labor with others. Sikhism rejects caste and class systems and emphasizes service to humanity and respect for all religions.

Why Join Us?

We are the largest, and only, Sikh club in the USA to help needy people. Join us to raise awareness about Sikhism in your community.

SROA

SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA

In God We Trust - May God Bless All



One evening back in 2012 five of us had gotten together to plan a hunting trip. We were all sitting around discussing the shooting deaths that had just taken place at

the Oak Creek Gurdwara in Wisconsin and that how if it could happen there, it could also happen here.

The conversation quickly turned into what can we do to make a difference? And the answer was very simply, we need to educate people. People need to know who we are. They need to know that we (Sikhs) are good citizens, hold common American values, and that we care about and contribute to our communities.

We continued to talk about making a difference – one person at a time, and then we realized we all have bikes, let's organize a group and reach out to an even larger group of people (i.e., other bikers). Everyone agreed so we started the process to become a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and we currently have active members in several states. Shortly after incorporating we started talking about organizing our first fundraiser which, by the grace of God, has helped us grow everyday.

We have great members who are committed to educating the public about Sikhs and who are dedicated to changing the unfortunate misperceptions people have about us.

– Gurinder Singh Basra, President

Calendar

Mar 25	Presentation by Mayor Harvey Hall Proclamation Celebrating the Birth of Khalsa
Apr 13	Seva in celebration of Khalsa
Apr 18	Tulare County Peace Officer Memorial Run
Apr 25	First Annual Ride benefitting the Shield Foundation of Grapevine, Texas
May 3	Harley-Davidson Poker Run Ride for Armed Forces Support Riders & Wounded Heroes
June 21	General Membership Meeting, Keene Cafe
July 4	Freemont Independence Day Parade
August	3 rd Annual National Day of Seva
Sept 11	9 th Annual 9/11 Support Our Troops Memorial Run
Oct 3	9 th Annual Officer Down Ride
Oct 10	3 rd Annual Ride, Wounded Heroes / 999 Foundation / Armed Forces Support Group
October	Presentation by Mayor Harvey Hall Celebrating Sikh Awareness & Appreciation Month
December	3 rd Annual Blanket Drive
December	Bakersfield Christmas Parade
December	Tehachapi Christmas Parade
December	Arvin Christmas Parade



Important Notice

Please note that some of these events are hosted by Sikh Riders, while others are supported or sponsored by the group. Details on these events will be shared on our Facebook page - please check back frequently for the most recent information available.

HOSTED RIDES

Sikh Riders Sponsor 1st Annual Motorcycle Run to Benefit The Shield Foundation, Texas

April 25, 2015

On April 25, 2015, Sikh Riders of America hosted their first official ride in Texas to benefit the Grapevine Shield Foundation. With Sikh Riders coming in from California, Colorado and Texas to participate, there were approximately 60-70 bikers on hand. Warm thanks to the Garland Sikh Temple for introducing Sikh Riders to the crowd (sangat), and a very special thanks to the Sons of Liberty for their on-going support. We'd also like to thank all the other riders who joined us and helped make our first ride a success. After the lunch and raffle, a check for \$2,500 was presented to the Shield Foundation and a law enforcement officer was presented with a trophy recognizing valuable contributions to our safety.

Enjoy our video from this event at: <http://youtu.be/9y505jyzWbA>



About the Shield Foundation. The Grapevine Shield Foundation was established in 2008 to provide assistance to the family members of Police Officers and Firefighters from Grapevine who are injured or killed in the line of duty. The Foundation provides a method for the community to provide security for the public servants who provide security for us every day. Citizens tend to take for granted that when they need help from the police or firemen, that they will be there - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. These brave men and women are willing to put their safety ahead of their own safety. Traffic accidents, fires, burglaries, medical emergencies, whatever the need. The Foundation provides the ability for the community to be there for the police officers and firefighters in their time of need.





Sikh Riders Host 2nd Annual Ride to Benefit Wounded Heros & 999 Foundation - Bakersfield

October 11, 2014

On Saturday, October 11, 2014 the Sikh Riders of America hosted their 2nd Annual Benefit Ride. Approximately 67 bikes registered to take part in this ride - nearly triple that of our first year ... and even more impressive was the fact that 35 out of the 67 riders were non-Sikh!

Over 100 attendees came together and enjoyed a delicious indian lunch with us at Hart Park. For many attendees, this was their first interaction with Sikhs. We felt it was positive and that we encouraged them to feel even more proud of their country. Thanks to the support of the community, and to our countless sponsors, who made this event a huge success. As a result, we were able to present a check for \$2,000 to each organization. **Please take a moment to watch our video at: http://youtu.be/b_Xs1CQEYvU**

Planning for our 3rd annual event (scheduled for October 10, 2015) is already underway. The ride will start at Bakersfield Harley Davidson on Merle Haggard Drive. If you'd like to be involved or help support the event, please contact Gurinder Singh Basra at (661) 873-5181.

About the Wounded Heroes Fund. The Wounded Heroes Fund is a service organization for those veterans and their families affected by the war on terror with a focus on facilitating a healthy transition to civilian life through support and appreciation. **About the 999 Foundation.** The 999 Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supporting and assisting the families of Kern County peace officers who have died in the line of duty since 2007.





Sikh Riders Host 1st Annual Ride to Benefit Wounded Heros - Bakersfield

October 5, 2013

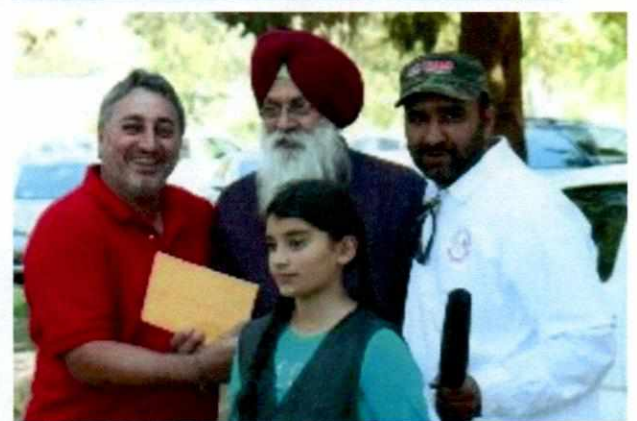
On October 5, 2013, Sikh Riders of America hosted their first official ride to benefit the Wounded Heroes Fund. When asked why they chose to sponsor this organization, *"we felt like it was a good cause because they are protecting our freedom and we should respect that."*

All in all, there were approximately 29 bikes who registered to participate in the ride and there were about 70 people at the event which culminated out at Hart Park where lunch was provided by Zaika.

Our raffle raised \$800. Raffle prizes included \$200 gas cards, discovery flight tickets, a gift basket from Bakersfield, restaurant coupons, and more. Thanks to all of our donors and generous sponsors Sikh Riders was able to present the Wounded Heroes Fund with a check for \$2,000.

About The Wounded Heroes Fund. The Wounded Heroes Fund is a community-wide service organization dedicated to providing assistance to brave service men and women returning home from the battlegrounds of Iraq and Afghanistan and strives to lead the effort in helping those who fought for our freedom in the Middle East transition back to civilian life.





web.punjabmailusa.com



ਸਿੱਖ ਰਾਇਡਰਜ਼ ਆਫ ਅਮਰੀਕਾ ਵਲੋਂ ਜ਼ਖਮੀ ਫੌਜੀਆਂ ਲਈ ਫੰਡ ਇਕੱਠਾ



ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਮੋਟਰਸਾਈਕਲ ਚਾਲਕਾਂ ਵਲੋਂ ਇਕ ਰੋਲੀ ਦੇਹਾਨ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ।
 ਸ਼ਕਰਸ਼ਹੀਲਡ, (ਨੀਟਾ ਮਾਫੀਕ/ਕੁਲਵੰਤ ਧਾਲੀਆ/ਪੰਜਾਬ ਮੇਲ) ਸਿੱਖ ਰਾਇਡਰਜ਼ ਆਫ ਅਮਰੀਕਾ ਨਾਮੀ ਸੰਸਥਾ ਜੋ ਸਦਾ ਚੰਗੇ ਕਾਰਜਾਂ ਕਰਕੇ ਚਰਚਾ 'ਚ ਰਹਿੰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਸੰਸਥਾ ਦੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਮੋਟਰਸਾਈਕਲ ਚਾਲਕਾਂ ਵਲੋਂ ਇਕ ਰੋਲੀ ਸ਼ਕਰਸ਼ਹੀਲਡ ਸ਼ਹਿਰ ਦੇ ਵਾਲਡਰੀਨਸ ਪਾਰਕ ਤੋਂ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਹਾਰਟ ਪਾਰਕ ਤੱਕ ਕੱਢੀ ਗਈ। ਇਸ ਰੋਲੀ ਦਾ ਮੁੱਖ ਮਕਸਦ ਜੰਗਾ ਯੁੱਧ ਵਿਚ ਜ਼ਖਮੀ ਹੋਏ ਸ਼ਕਤੀਸ਼ਾਲੀ ਲਈ ਵੰਡੇ ਇਕੱਠਾ ਕਰਨਾ ਸੀ ਤਾਂ ਜੋ ਪਿਛਲੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਦੇਹਾਨ ਕੁਝ ਪੰਜਾਬੀਆਂ 'ਤੇ ਹੋਏ ਨਸਲੀ ਹਮਲਿਆਂ ਕਾਰਨ ਪੈਦਾ ਹੋਏ ਹਾਨਾਤ 'ਤੇ ਉਪਰ ਉੱਠ ਕੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਕੌਮ ਦੀ ਸਹੀ ਪਹਿਚਾਣ ਤੋਂ ਦੂਰ ਹੋ ਸਕੇ। ਇਸ ਰੋਲੀ ਨੂੰ ਜਾਣੂ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਸਕੇ। ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ 'ਤੇ ਸੰਸਥਾ ਦੇ ਮੁਖੀ ਨੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀਆਂ ਨਾਲ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਦੌਰਾਨ ਦੱਸਿਆ ਕਿ ਸਿੱਖ ਕੌਮ ਜ਼ਖਮੀ ਹੋਏ ਅਤੇ ਯੁੱਧ ਦਾ ਕੰਮ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਜੰਗਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਜ਼ਖਮੀ ਹੋਏ ਯੋਧਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਮਦਦ ਕਰਨਾ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਸੰਕਲਪ ਅਧੀਨ ਸਿੱਖ ਰਾਇਡਰਜ਼ ਆਫ ਅਮਰੀਕਾ ਦੇ ਕਾਰਕੁੰਨਾਂ ਵਲੋਂ ਇਹ ਵਿਸ਼ਾਲ ਰੋਲੀ ਸ਼ਕਰਸ਼ਹੀਲਡ ਵਿਖੇ ਆਯੋਜਿਤ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੱਸਿਆ ਕਿ ਸਿੱਖ 'ਤੇ ਹੋਏ ਨਸਲੀ ਹਮਲਿਆਂ ਖਾਸ ਤੌਰ 'ਤੇ ਵਿਸ਼ਕੋਨਸਿਨ ਵਿਖੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰੇ ਵਿਚ ਵਾਪਰੀ ਇਕ ਦਹਿਸ਼ਾਤ ਵਾਲੀ ਘਟਨਾ ਪਿੱਛੋਂ ਇਹ ਸੰਸਥਾ ਹੋਰ ਵਿਚ ਆਈ ਸੀ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਸੰਸਥਾ ਦੇ ਅਣਥੱਕ ਮੈਂਬਰਾਂ ਨੇ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਉਪਰ ਹੋ ਰਹੇ ਨਸਲੀ ਵਿਤਕਰਿਆਂ ਬਿਨਾਸ਼ ਆਵਾਜ਼ ਉਠਾ ਕੇ ਹੋਰ ਹੋਰ ਵਰਗਾਂ ਦੇ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸਿੱਖ ਧਰਮ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਜਾਗਰੂਕ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਬੀੜਾ ਉੱਠਾਇਆ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਇਹ ਨਾਨ ਪ੍ਰਾਇਟ ਸੰਸਥਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਰੋਲੀ ਵਿਚ ਬਹੁਤ ਸਾਰੇ ਸਿੱਖੀ ਸ਼ੁਰੂਪ ਵਾਲੇ ਬਜ਼ੁਰਗਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਵੀ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੇ ਨੂ-ਬਰੂ ਬੀੜਾ ਗਿਆ ਤਾਂ ਹੋਰ ਵਰਗਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਦੀ ਪਛਾਣ ਬਾਰੇ ਚੰਗੀ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਸਮਝਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਸਕੇ। ਇਸ ਰੋਲੀ ਵਿਚ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਹੋਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਸਾਰੇ ਵਰਗਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਬੰਧਤ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸੰਸਥਾ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਟੀ-ਸ਼ਰਟਾਂ ਵੰਡੀਆਂ ਗਈਆਂ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਉਪਰ ਬੰਨ੍ਹੇ ਅਤੇ ਸੰਸਥਾ ਦੇ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦਾ ਫੋਟੋ ਛਪਿਆ ਹੋਇਆ ਸੀ। ਇਸ ਰੋਲੀ 'ਚ ਹਿੰਸਾ ਲੈਣ ਲਈ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਨੌਜਵਾਨ ਅਮਰੀਕਾ ਦੇ ਦੂਰ-ਦੁਰਾਡੇ ਸ਼ਹਿਰਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਆਪ-ਆਪਣੇ ਮੋਟਰਸਾਈਕਲਾਂ 'ਤੇ ਪਹੁੰਚੇ ਹੋਏ ਸਨ।
 ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ ਸ਼ਕਤੀਸ਼ਾਲੀ ਫੌਜੀਆਂ ਲਈ ਤਕਰੀਬਨ ਦੋ ਹਜ਼ਾਰ ਡਾਲਰ ਦਾ ਫੰਡ ਇਕੱਠਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਅਤੇ ਸੰਸਥਾ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਅਪੀਲ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਕਿ ਵੱਧ ਤੋਂ ਵੱਧ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਇਸ ਸੰਸਥਾ ਦੇ ਮੈਂਬਰ ਬਣਨ ਤਾਂ ਜੋ ਇਸ ਸੰਸਥਾ ਨੂੰ ਹੋਰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾ ਸਕੇ। ਇਸ ਰੋਲੀ ਦੀ ਪੂਰੀ ਕਵਰੇਜ ਸ਼ਕਤੀਸ਼ਾਲੀ 23 ਵੱਲੋਂ ਵਿਖਾਈ ਗਈ। ਹੋਰ ਵਾਰੰਗੇ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲਈ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ sikhridersofamerica@yahoo.com or website www.sikhridersofamerica.com



SIKH BASICS

WHO ARE THE SIKHS? A Sikh is one who follows the Sikh religion. The word "Sikh" means disciple or learner. Sikhism is a divinely revealed religion founded by Guru Nanak (1469-1539). A Sikh believes in the teachings of the ten Sikh Gurus, the **Guru Granth Sahib** (Sikh Holy Scripture), and that all people have the right to follow their own path to God. A pious Sikh endeavors to live up to the principles, ideals and the code of conduct as described in the Guru Granth Sahib.

SIKH BELIEFS Guru Nanak laid down the foundation of Sikhism, and over a period of about 239 years, the ten Sikh Gurus developed it into a universal faith. The beliefs are a product of their practice, preaching and sacred writings.

IK ONKAR (ONE GOD) Sikhs believe in one God; the sole creator of the universe. God is eternal, omnipotent, omnipresent, fearless, without enmity, is not incarnate, is not born and does not die, is self-illuminated and is without shape or form.

EQUALITY Sikhs believe in the equality of all human beings and stress gender equality. The first guru, Guru Nanak, gave equal status to women stating that women cannot be inferior to men as they give birth to emperors, kings, queens and scientists. According to Guru Nanak, "So kiyon mandaa aakhiye, jit jamme raajaan" (Asa-Di-War). Sikh women enjoy equal status in religious services and ceremonies. Further, Sikhs do not believe in the caste system. Said the tenth guru, Guru Gobind Singh, "Recognize ye all the human race as one".

KIRAT (WORK) The Sikh faith teaches that one should earn a living by honest means and one should not take what rightfully belongs to others. Guru Nanak said, "Taking away the rights of others is sinful."

WAND CHAKNA (SHARING) Sharing your earnings with the poor and needy is a fundamental principle of Sikhism.

SEVA (SERVICE) "Seva", short for the word Karseva, refers to "selfless service" - work or service performed without any thought of reward or

personal benefit. In the Punjab language the person performing such service is called a **Sevadar**. All Sikhs are encouraged by their Guru (Guru Granth Sahib) to perform this selfless service. Not only is this good for community relations, but it is also good for the moral uplifting of the person. Sikhism was founded on principles of **sarbat da bhalla** (working for the "common good of all"). As an example, during a battle between the Sikhs, Hindu kings and Mogul forces, a Sikh named Bhai Kanahya was on duty to provide water to the wounded. Some Sikhs complained to Guru Gobind Singh that he was serving water to the enemy troops in addition to Sikh troops. He answered to the Guru, "I don't see a friend or a foe, I only see you amongst the wounded." The Guru was pleased and blessed him for his spirit of service to humanity.

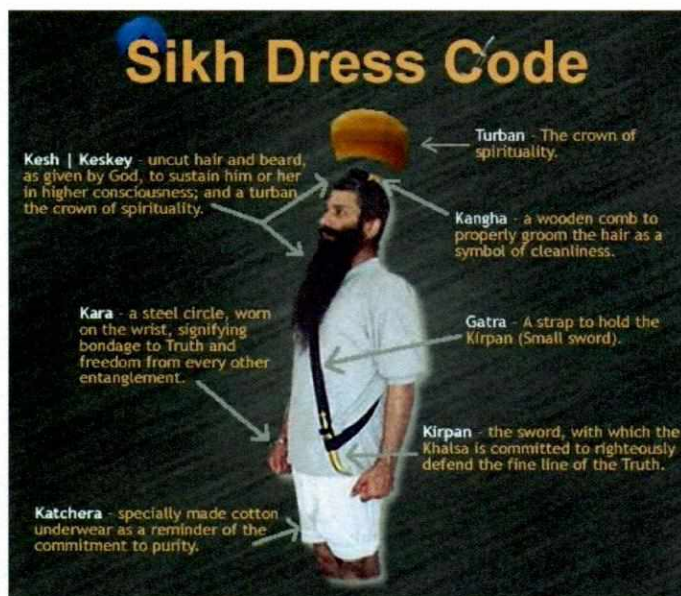
NON-VIOLENCE Sikhs are peace-loving people who stand firm for truth and justice. The tenth guru, Guru Gobind Singh said, "It is right to use force as a last resort when all other peaceful means fail."

SIMRAN (MEDITATION) Simran is remembering God and repeating the holy name "Satnam-Waheguru, Satnam-Waheguru". Simran helps one to get closer to God and leads to the realization of that which is of the highest aspect and purpose in one's life.

APPRECIATION OF OTHER FAITHS Sikhism is a secular religion and its followers do not believe in forced conversions. Mian Mir, a Muslim saint, laid down the foundation stone of Hari Mandar Sahib (Golden Temple) in Amritsar.

WELLNESS OF THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE Sikhs, in their daily prayer, wish for the well-being of humanity. Guru Nanak said, "Nanak naam chardi kala tere bhane sarbat da bhalla". ("Oh God! Endow us with ever rising spirit and provide for the wellness of the entire human race.")

SELF-DISCIPLINE Sikhs are expected to be able to control **kaam** (passion), **karodh** (anger), **lobh** (greed), **moh** (materialistic attachment), and **hankaar** (ego).



How to Identify a Sikh Using The 5 K's

In April of 1699, Guru Gobind Singh established Khalsa (the army of God) and gave Sikhs their code of uniform known as the "Five K's" including turban (for men) and scarf (for women). The following are the five identifiers of a Sikh:

(1) **Kesh (Unshorn Hair)**. Long, uncut hair is a natural way of living in harmony with the will of God. Sikh men and women do not cut their hair. Hair is also kept covered by a turban, or dastar. The main reason to wear a turban is to take care of the hair, promote equality, and preserve the Sikh identity. Covering the head also symbolizes respect towards God. (2) **Kangha (Comb)**. Sikhs carry a small wooden comb symbolizing cleanliness and order. The kangha is used to keep the hair clean and is normally tucked neatly in one's uncut hair. As a Sikh combs their hair daily, he/she should also comb their mind with the Guru's wisdom. (3) **Kirpan (Sword)**. Sikhs carry a ceremonial sword, symbolizing readiness to protect the weak, and defend against injustice and persecution. The kirpan is normally worn with a cloth shoulder strap called a gatra. It is not to be used for offense. (4) **Karah (Iron Bracelet)**. A Sikh will wear a bracelet on his/her wrist as a constant reminder of one's bond with God and as a reminder not to perform prohibited acts. Symbolizes strength and integrity. (5) **Kachhira (Shorts)**. Cotton boxer shorts, symbolizing self-control and chastity. They also serve to remind Sikhs to be faithful to their partners.

Want More Info? Contact Us!

If you'd like more information on Sikhs or the Sikh religion,

please visit our web-site at www.SikhRidersofAmerica.com.

E-mail us your name and address and we will gladly mail additional written information to you.

COMMUNITY
EVENTS & SEVA

Sikh Riders Respond to Quake Victims in Nepal by Raising Nearly \$18,000 in Less Than A Week!

by Rajvir Kaur
May 5, 2015



According to the Los Angeles Times, "just 3 days after the quake it was estimated that the death toll reached 5,006 with thousands more injured. At least 10 of the dead were foreigners, including 4 Americans and scores more were killed in neighboring India and China's Tibet region." According to the United Nations, about 8 million people had been affected by the quake and 1.4 million were in need of food. The 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal near the capital of Kathmandu caused massive devastation, and after-shocks continued with magnitudes of up to 6.7.

The earthquake was the worst to hit the South Asian nation in more than 80 years. It destroyed swaths of the oldest neighborhoods of Kathmandu and was strong enough to be felt all across parts of India, Bangladesh, China's region of Tibet and Pakistan. Prior to that, Nepal's worst recorded earthquake was in 1934 and measured 8.0 and all but destroyed the cities of Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Patan.

On Tuesday, May 5th, Sikh Riders of America and members of the community met at Zaika Indian Cuisine on Ming Avenue to do their part and make donations towards the relief efforts. Although the check was written out for \$15,000, by the end of

lunch the group had actually raised \$17,500. Funds were wired to Khalsa Aid, an organization which quickly mobilized in Nepal and began providing emergency services and assisting victims with basic necessities of life such as food, clothing and shelter. Khalsa Aid reported that after the second quake they were feeding 5,000 people a day (that's 10,000 meals a day for lunch and dinner). **Watch news coverage at: <http://youtu.be/dft2pAHYM3w>**



About Khalsa Aid. Based in UK, Khalsa Aid (KA) is primarily a humanitarian relief agency, based on the teachings of the Sikh Gurus who preached the well being of all humanity. Since the launch of KA in 1999, they have provided aid in many different disasters - made possible only by the generosity of the Sikh community worldwide.

Sikh Riders Host 2nd Annual Blanket Drive to Benefit the Mission at Kern County - Bakersfield

December 4, 2014

For the second year in a row Sikh Riders hosted their annual blanket drive. Ask yourself, what is more miserable than feeling alone in this world AND being cold? Not much. Our goal was to donate at least 100 blankets, but thanks to all our donors by the end of the day that goal was far exceeded as we neared 200! In addition, we handed out a few blankets directly to curious homeless individuals who were passing by and we also donated lunch sandwiches to all the shelter residents that day.

While at the Mission, members had the opportunity to speak with a few people about Sikhism and its parallels to Christianity, which was a great saguay for a very positive conversation. *"It's important that people see us (Sikhs) as having similar values. People always fear what they don't know, and even if you are only talking to one person at a time, you are still increasing awareness and making a difference."* **Visit our You Tube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdUaNBkmDGTgZGrLXzXmqmQ> and watch coverage for our Blanket Donation.**



About the Mission at Kern County. The shelter's mission is "to offer an environment conducive to the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of the people we serve by providing hope and a future through Jesus Christ." According to the Mission, "in 2013, the Kern County Point-in-Time Homeless Count (homeless census) revealed that, on any given night of the year, there are 1,158 local people living in homelessness. About 87% of all homeless are found in the Metropolitan Bakersfield area and about 13% are found in the rural communities."



NATIONAL DAY OF SEVA

August 2, 2014

by Rajvir Kaur

To honor the victims and survivors of the Oak Creek massacre, the Sikh Coalition once again organized a "National Day of Seva" and for a second year in a row turned a tragedy into something positive.

SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA partnered with the Sikh Coalition and co-sponsored a Day of Seva right here in Kern County at the Bakersfield Homeless Shelter and on Saturday, August 2 2014, sevadaars (volunteers) arrived early in the morning to prepare and serve langar (food) to the homeless. In recognition of the much needed services provided by the Bakersfield Homeless Shelter, SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA also presented them with a financial contribution.

As you know, all Sikhs are encouraged by their Guru to perform seva (community service). In fact, Sikhism is

founded on the principles of sarbat da bhatta (working towards the "common good of all"). For Sikhs, this means reaching out to serve and uplift all of humanity as an outward expression or show of devotion to the Creator. As Sikhs, we are also called to make a concerted effort to seek opportunities to perform seva.

Personally, I had only just recently started working with the Coalition to try and make a difference in my community and that was how I came to sign up for seva and subsequently became a member of the SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA. It was apparent to me that this group was genuinely doing great things here locally and I wanted to be a part of something bigger than just one person. Being an active member of SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA has enabled me to give back to my community in ways I never thought possible.

"Two years ago, on August 5, 2012, a gunman with Neo-Nazi ties entered the Oak Creek Gurdwara (Sikh house of worship) in Wisconsin and killed six innocent worshipers, injured several others, and shook our nation. It was one of the most lethal attacks on an American house of worship since the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL. As we honor those who lost their lives that day — Paramjit Kaur Saini, Sita Singh, Ranjit Singh, Prakash Singh, Subegh Singh Khattra, and Satwant Singh Kaleka —and pray for the full recovery of those who were critically injured—Baba Punjab Singh, Bhai Santokh Singh, and Lt. Brian Murphy — we are proud that Sikh Americans nationwide have responded to this tragedy with open hearts and heads held high, consistent with the Sikh belief in Chardi Kala (eternal optimism)."

— The Sikh Coalition



Sikhs hold up placards with photos of six mass shooting victims after a candlelight vigil in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, Aug. 7, 2012 (REUTERS)

Sikh Riders Host 1st Annual Blanket Drive to Benefit the Mission of Kern County - Bakersfield

December 5, 2013

On December 5, 2013, Sikh Riders sponsored their 1st Annual Blanket Drive to benefit the Mission at Kern County. Thanks to everyone who contributed towards the effort, the group was able to donate close to 100 blankets to the Homeless Center. **Please check out Channel 29's news coverage of this event on you tube at: <https://youtu.be/nZZOf9KriuA>**

About the Mission at Kern County. The shelter's mission is "to offer an environment conducive to the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of the people we serve by providing hope and a future through Jesus Christ." According to the Mission, "in 2013, the Kern County Point-in-Time Homeless Count (homeless census) revealed that, on any given night of the year, there are 1,158 local people living in homelessness. About 87% (1,008) of all homeless are found in the Metropolitan Bakersfield area and about 13% (150) are found in the rural communities."



PARADES

Sikh Riders Participate in 32nd Annual Bakersfield Christmas Parade

December 4, 2014

Earlier in the day, while still at The Mission, Sikh Riders were busy decorating their pace car with twinkling lights, festive trees and banners extending warm wishes to the community during this holiday season. As the sun began to set, approximately 20 riders donned their colorful turbans and began winding through a 15-block route in the downtown area which drew approximately 20,000 spectators. In addition, this year the parade was also streamed live on-line. *"Each time the engines roared, you could see the children's eyes immediately light up; it was fun watching them get so excited."*

With more than 100 entrants in the parade, the Bakersfield Sikh community took first place in the Religious Division and Sikh Riders of America was recognized for the "seva" it does in the community throughout the year.



Sikh Riders Participate in 14th Annual Tehachapi Christmas Parade

December 6, 2014

This was our second year in a row participating in Tehachapi's Annual Christmas Parade. We had approximately 12 riders and we were humbled to once again receive a 1st Place trophy and even without the snow, the weather was still crisp!



Sikh Riders Participate in Arvin Christmas Parade

December 6, 2014

This was the first year that Sikh Riders participated in the Arvin Christmas Parade. Approximately 10 riders were on hand to help bring cheer to the holiday season.



Sikh Riders Celebrate Freedom in Freemont's Independent Day Parade

July 4, 2014

Sikh Riders were proud to join forces with our Northern California/Bay Area members and participate in Freemont's 4th of July Independence Day Parade. *We wanted to come out and support this parade because we are appreciative of all the freedom this country provides us. Sikh Riders of America salutes the American flag."*



Sikh Riders Participate in 13th Annual Tehachapi Christmas Parade

December 14, 2013

This was our first time participating in Tehachapi's Annual Christmas Parade. We have several members residing in the area and we wanted to take the opportunity to introduce ourselves to the community. There were approx. 8-10 bikes and we felt honored to be presented with a 1st Place Trophy. Originally scheduled for Dec 6th, the parade had to be postponed a week due to snow.



Sikh Riders Participate in 31st Annual Bakersfield Christmas Parade

December 5, 2013

This was our first time participating in Bakersfield's Annual Christmas Parade.

"We wanted to be part of the parade to let everyone know who we are and that we are part of the community and here to support them."



PROCLAMATIONS

November 2014 Designated as "Sikh American Awareness & Appreciation Month"

by Rajvir Kaur

For the fourth year in a row, the California Legislature has declared November as "Sikh American Awareness & Appreciation Month."

With nearly half the nation's Sikh population residing in our state, the measure recognized and acknowledged the significant contributions Californians of Sikh heritage have made to our state. The measure also sought to afford all Californians the opportunity to understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history and shared principles of Sikh Americans. The full text of Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 147 (ACR-147) can be found at:

[http://
leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/
faces/billNavClient.xhtml?
bill_id=201320140ACR147](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140ACR147)

According to the roll call, the resolution was unanimously supported in both the House and the Senate.

And locally, here in Kern County, the support was just as strong. On November 26, 2014, Mayor Harvey Hall, a long-time supporter of the Sikh community, signed a Proclamation urging all citizens to celebrate the

contributions of the Sikh community to our society.

*"70% OF
AMERICANS
MISIDENTIFY
TURBAN-
WEARERS AS
MUSLIMS."*

Thanks to the coordinated efforts of the Sikh Coalition, 15 other resolutions and proclamations were also passed in the cities of Ceres, Elk Grove, Lathrop, Los Angeles, Manteca, Modesto, San Joaquin, San Jose, Santa Ana, Santa Clara, and Tracy in addition, to the Fresno County Office of Education, Elk Grove Unified School District and West Contra Costa County School District and a campus-wide resolution at California State University, Fresno. Presentations were also made to almost 1,000 individuals across California in schools, law enforcement agencies, libraries, community organizations and prisons. There were also educational videos created, book readings, film screenings, empowerment workshops, and much more.

According to the Coalition, *"the statewide proclamation opened the door for Sikh Americans to expose over 5 million Californians with Sikh awareness information. California continues to be the only state in the country to have an entire month designated to recognizing and raising awareness about Sikh Americans."*

According to a study on "Turban Myths" researchers at SALDEF and Stanford University found that 70% of Americans misidentify turban-wearers as Muslims (48%), Hindu, Buddhist or Shinto – when in fact, **99% men in the US who wear colorful turbans are Sikh Americans**, whose faith originated in India.

People I have talked to (prior to being educated), shared that they were fearful of any individual with their head wrapped.

By providing education and outreach these numbers can be greatly reduced and people can really begin to know who Sikhs are and what they are all about.

March 25, 2015



Seva Celebrating Vaisakhi (Birth of Khalsa) - Bakersfield

April 13, 2015

In recognition of Vaisakhi, Sikh Riders of America donated \$1,015 to cover the cost of breakfast, lunch and dinner for all residents at the Mission at Kern County, Bakersfield. In addition to paying for the meals, members were also on hand to serve the food.

About the Mission at Kern County. Did you know that the Mission provides over 200,000 meals per year? In addition, they also provide 94,500 nights of emergency shelter, adult rehabilitation programs and aftercare, spiritual restoration and nourishment to those in need, next step to transitional living, and GED and computer classes.



April 14, 2015

Sikh Riders of America
300 Bear Mountain Blvd.
Arvin, CA 93203

Dear Friends,

On behalf of The Mission at Kern County we would like to thank you and let you know how much we appreciate the meals you sponsored for our guests on Monday, April 13, 2015. For Breakfast we served delicious eggs, sausage, potatoes, toast, orange juice and milk. For Lunch we served Ham sandwiches, chips and oranges. For dinner we served Deep Pit BBQ, rice pilaf, green beans, dinner roll and banana pop ice cream. Our guests were really elicted to have such great meals all in one day.

We serve approximately 200,000 meals a year; a hot meal can open the door to many opportunities that can lead toward independent living. Providing nutritious meals is very challenging on such a large scale with limited funds. Your continued donations help make this possible.

We would also like to thank you for the McDonald's meals and blankets that you provided during the holidays. It was a great blessing to all.

Please know that we value your partnership in assisting the less fortunate. May God's blessings be with you.

Sincerely,

Carlos Baldovinos
Executive Director



SPONSORED RIDES

Sikh Riders Host Poker Stop for 1st Annual Armed Forces Support Ride/WHF "Bikers for Heroes" Poker Run - Bakersfield

May 3, 2015

Sikh Riders of America were on hand bright and early on May 3rd to provide free breakfast, snacks, water, soft drinks and iced coffee to event participants. Participants had the option of punching their poker cards at Bakersfield Harley Davidson where the festivities began or to enjoy rides out to other stops and punch their cards along the way. Stops were manned at Minter Field Airport, Hart Park (hosted by Sikh Riders), Murray Farms, and the Vet Center on Golden State. The full circuit took riders approximately 2 hours to complete and donations included a tri tip lunch. Sikh Riders also made contributions to the raffle. All event proceeds will stay in Kern County to benefit local veterans through the Armed Forces Support Riders & the Wounded Heroes Fund.



Armed Forces Support Foundation. The Foundation helps local veterans in need. Among other things, the foundation has built wheel chair ramps, purchased suits for burial services, and provided boots for veterans in need. Also provides motorcycle escort for new recruits entering active duty, welcome homes, and other honored events. This is the foundation's way of showing appreciation to our troops. Founded by Ben Patten of Bakersfield.



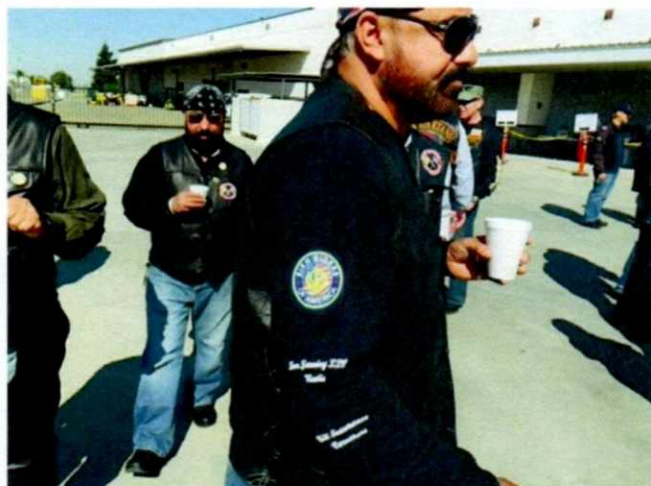


Sikh Riders Sponsor Tulare County Peace Officer Memorial Motorcycle Run

April 18, 2015

Sikh Riders of America proudly sponsored the Tulare County Peace Officer Memorial Motorcycle Run, donating \$5,000 towards the effort. The event, hosted by Visalia Harley-Davidson, Inc., began with a short memorial ceremony followed by stops in Tulare, Exeter and Lake Success. The ride ended at the Tulare County Fair Grounds where lunch was served and Sikh Riders provided sodas, water and ice cream. All proceeds benefitted the Tulare County Peace Officers' Memorial & Education Foundation. Approximately 20-25 Sikh riders were on hand to support the cause. **Watch our video here: <http://youtu.be/SOviAKEYX6g>**

About the Tulare County Peace Officer's Memorial & Education Foundation. Tulare County Peace Officer's Memorial and Education Foundation is a non-profit foundation (501c3) supporting the Tulare County Peace Officers Memorial and the families of Fallen Peace Officers throughout Tulare County.



Sikh Riders Participate in Inaugural Toy Run - Texas

December 21, 2014

Sikh Riders in Tarrant and Dallas Counties gathered on December 21, 2014 with toys and/or money donations in hand to support this historical collaborative event benefitting MHMR (Mental Health & Mental Retardation). Both locations rode down I-30 with Santa and police escorts and waved to the hundreds of people lining the highway. Riders met up at the Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie, Texas, where 2 checks in the amount of \$10,000 were presented to MHMR. Sikh Riders also participated in another local toy run earlier this same month in Terrell, Texas.



Sikh Riders Support 8th Annual Officer Down Ride - Bakersfield

October 4, 2014

Sikh Riders of America were on hand bright and early on October 4th to provide free breakfast, juice, water and coffee to event registrants. Participants, including Sikh Riders, then rode to the downtown Law Enforcement Memorial for a service honoring those who gave their lives while protecting ours. Thereafter, riders enjoyed a BBQ from Roadhouse Grill on Rosedale Highway. 100% of the proceeds from the BBQ and ticket sales were donated to the Kern County Officer Down Foundation.

A note from the Kern County 999 Foundation. "Kern County is known for its generosity and hospitality in supporting the local community and its charity organizations. Remember all funds raised stay here locally (Kern County) and go to help the families of Law Enforcement Officers who have been injured or killed in the line of duty since 2006!"

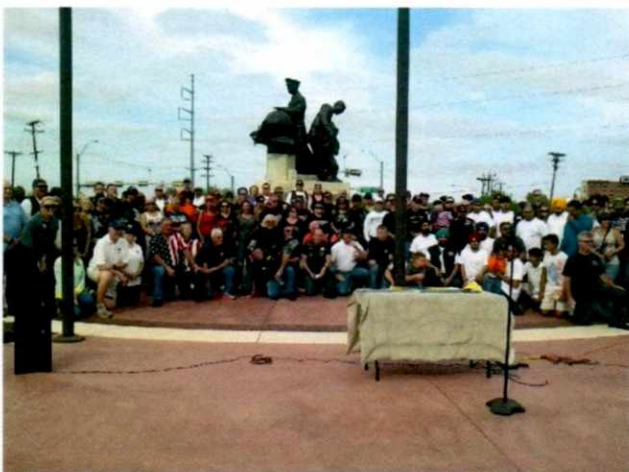


Sikh Riders Participate in 2nd Annual 9/11 Memorial Ride - Texas

September 14, 2014

Hundreds gathered in North Texas, including our own Sikh Riders, to honor and remember those killed 13 years ago on 9/11. The event, hosted by the Sons of Liberty, paid tribute in particular to the 8 children (ages 3-11), who were also killed that day. Sikh Riders reached out to Sons of Liberty and offered to provide free water and sodas to event participants. *"After our initial discussion with the group's President, we found out that up until that day not a single member knew anything about Sikhs, but credit to our members for making a positive impression. After the ride the group started posting positive pictures and videos about Sikhs."*

About Sons of Liberty. Sons of Liberty is a non-violent, law abiding gathering of like-minded Patriots. They stand united against any acts of violence or illegal activity. The Sons of Liberty Riders do not endorse or tolerate radical, extreme, violent or ill racial behavior. The group is a Non Partisan, Strict Constitutional Motorcycle Riding Community and a family-oriented group.

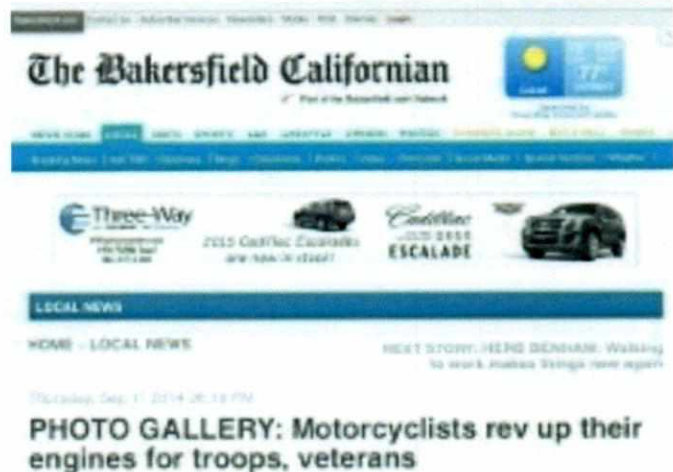


Sikh Riders Participate in 8th Annual 9/11 Support Our Troops Memorial Run - Bakersfield

September 11, 2014

This ride honored those who lost their lives in 2001, coupled with those who still fight every day to protect our freedoms. Riders, too many to count, assembled at Bakersfield Harley-Davidson on 7th Standard Road and rode to the Shafter Minter Field Air Museum. Sikh Riders were on hand to show their support and distributed free water and cold sodas to all those in attendance. The casual setting afforded members the opportunity to share the principles of Sikhi and educational materials with those interested. One comment we heard after talking to an individual was *"having a vest on does not make you a biker, just like wearing a turban does not make you a bad person."* Sometimes you really can make a difference and talking to this person was all it took to change his entire perspective.

About Bakersfield Harley-Davidson. Organizers say the event aims to encourage people to remember the sacrifices of veterans and their families. The annual ride started 5 years after the attack in 2001. Past projects have included building ramps and other accommodations for disabled veterans, and providing food, clothing and other basic necessities.



The Sikh Riders of Bakersfield distributed water and cold sodas to those participating in the 8th Annual 9/11 Support Our Troops Memorial Run.

Sikh Riders Participate in 7th Annual 9/11 Support Our Troops Memorial Run - Bakersfield

Sikh Riders Gurinder Singh Basra and Jastej Singh Grewal attended the 7th Annual 9-11 Ride.

The event, which was hosted by Harley-Davidson, always draws hundreds of bikers who come together for a common cause.



Sikh Riders Participate in 6th Annual Officer Down Ride - Bakersfield

October 6, 2012

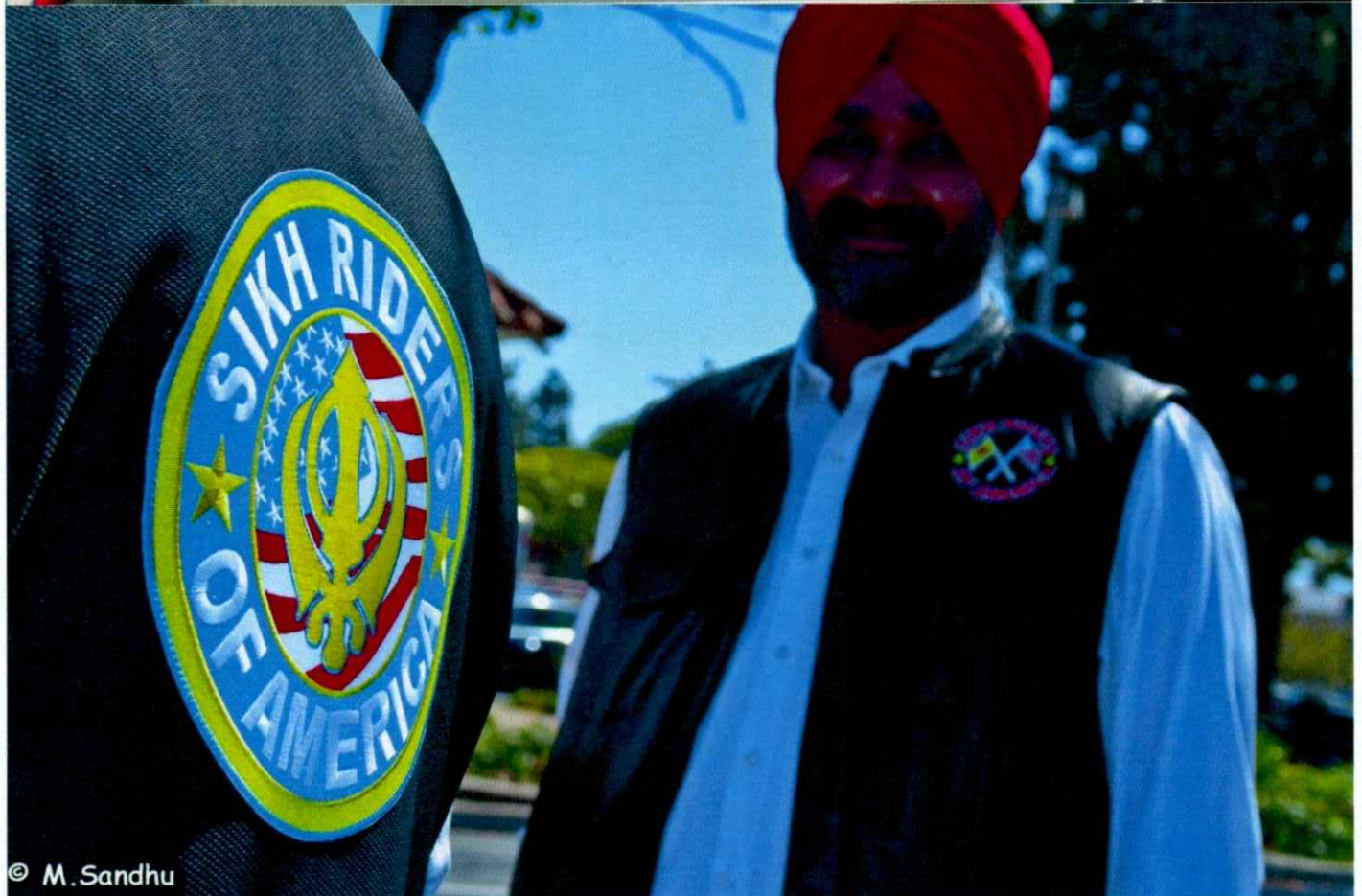
The club had humble beginnings when its first three members, Gurinder Singh Basra, Jastej Singh Grewal, and Teg Singh Sidhu, got together and decided to participate in the 999 Foundation's local Officer Down Ride. The small group, unified with matching jackets and logos, hopped on their bikes and the rest is history. *"After the ride, while we were eating at the restaurant, people were talking about our group in a good way and they started asking us questions. This opened the door for us to start sharing what Sikhs were like and we found out that people were really receptive and eager to learn more about us."*



About The Kern County 999 Foundation.

The Foundation's mission is "to recognize and honor Kern County's fallen peace officers who gave their lives 'in the line of duty' serving the citizens of this great country, and to provide support to the family members left behind."







SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA
300 Bear Mountain Blvd.
Arvin, CA 93203