

Sikh Riders of America



July 2015 - July 2016
Issue No. 2

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A Message from Sikh Riders of America: A Year in Review



Looking back on this past year Sikh Riders of America (SROA) was able to accomplish many positive things in Bakersfield, California and in Dallas, Texas.



As a non-profit, the group's mission is to increase awareness about the Sikh religion. We strive to accomplish this goal by being actively involved in our communities and by hosting and participating in various fundraising events. In the past two years, we have donated approx. \$44,500 to local and other charities.

This past year we provided and served food at the Homeless Center once a month; and responded to the largest fire in Kern County's history by donating food, water and supplies to the hundreds of victims that lost their homes.

We are also very appreciative of the positive response from television and radio stations and the newspaper that helped put our message out in front of the public and our local communities. It was also these local radio stations that provided us with a forum to help better educate the public on issues such as school bullying, religious freedoms when traveling, hate crimes, and a general misunderstanding of who Sikhs actually are ... and who they aren't.

As a result, we have seen an increase of individuals who want to become active members of our group. We are looking forward to what this next year holds and hope to be able to focus our efforts in more cities across the country so we can do even more work on the ground.

Hosted Rides





MULTIPLE PHOTOS - SCROLL LEFT OR RIGHT TO SEE ALL IMAGES

3rd Annual Ride Bakersfield, CA

October 10, 2015



SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA hosted their 3rd Annual Ride on Saturday, October 10, 2015. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to making this another successful event. This year, we were able to present 3 checks, for \$1,500 each, to the Wounded Heros, the 999 Foundation, and the Armed Forces Support Riders.

We want to thank you everyone - the 999 Foundation, Armed Forces Support Riders, Wounded Heroes Fund, Bakersfield City Mayor, Council Member Chris Parlier, Deputy DA David Wolf, Shafter PD Brian Smith, Bakersfield Harley Davidson, Tulare County Sheriff, California Highway Patrol, Bakersfield Police Department, Bakersfield H.O.G #1580, American Legion Chapter 26, Iron breed, Bikersfield, Bright House, Mission Bank, Sullivan Petroleum, SSJ Victory Riders, and all the members and participants. If we accidentally missed your name, just know we appreciate each person and organization who supported us and made this event successful.

Our 4th Annual Ride is scheduled for Saturday, October 8, 2016.



1st Annual 9/11 Memorial Ride hosted by SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA, Texas

Sept 11, 2015

United Sikhs participated in the first 9/11 Memorial Ride hosted by Sikh Riders of America in Texas. Riders were asked to bring donations of stuffed animals, all of which were given to the Kennedale Fire and Police Departments for children in need. The final destination of the bike ride was a memorial service in remembrance of the victims of 9/11. Thank you to everyone who came out to support this event.





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Back the Blue Motorcycle Ride & Candlelight Vigil - July 22, 2016

Texas Chapter of SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA hosted a free ride and candlelight vigil to benefit the fallen officers of the Dallas Police Department. Law enforcement, elected officials and local community members attended the vigil which took place at the Sikh Temple of North Texas.

In recognition of the fallen officers, a check for \$10,000 was presented to the Dallas Police Department.



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2nd Annual Ride - Texas

March 20, 2016

Thanks to all of your support, participation, sponsorship and faith in us we had another successful fundraiser. We will continue to support those in need in our community.

SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA donated \$4,500.00 as follows: \$1,500 to the Euless Police Department, \$1,500 to the Lakeworth Police Department, and \$1,500 to the family of fallen officer David S. Hofer.



2nd Annual Ride - Texas





Community Service Sewa





National Day of Sewa - Aug 13, 2016

To remember and honor the victims and survivors of the Oak Creek and Orlando tragedies, SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA members and local sikh organization volunteers from Bakersfield sangat prepared and served food throughout the day at the Bakersfield Homeless Center. Special thanks to 23 ABC news & 93.1 FM for providing media coverage to help spread the message of love and unity. We were humbled by the support we received. Thank you to all of our members and all the volunteers for preparing and serving all the meals feeding over 500 families with love and passion.

"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal."



National Day of Sewa

August 13, 2016





Fire Start: June 23, 2016

Size: 48,019 acres

Location: Lake Isabella

Percent Contained: 95%

Cause: Under investigation

Total Personnel: 146

Costs to Date: \$22.6 million

Unified Command: USFS, BLM, Kern County Fire Department, Kern County Sheriff



Slide show photos (left) via Sikh Riders of America and Balmeet Singh

PLEASE SCROLL LEFT OR RIGHT TO SEE ALL IMAGES

Officially the most destructive fire in the history of Kern County, SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA served meals and sent vans of donated goods to those impacted by the **Erskine Fire near Lake Isabella, CA**, which has burned 45,000+ acres, destroyed hundreds of homes, and killed at least two people. U.S. Forest Service officials hope to have the fire contained by June 30th.

We encourage all the community members to come out and volunteer for this relief effort.



Sikh Riders Partner with Homeless Shelter

SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA is Partnering with Bakersfield Homeless Center to help our very own community help fight the issue of hunger and homelessness. We will be providing following meals in 2016. All the meals will be sponsored, prepared and served by SROA members, Sikh Community and Community Volunteers. We welcome volunteers, sponsors and the whole community to participate on any of the following days and help to make our community a better place to live.

Homeless Center Schedule for 2016

May 15, 2016 (Breakfast & Lunch)

June 11, 2016 (Breakfast & Lunch)

July 31, 2016 (Breakfast & Lunch)

August 13, 2016 (Breakfast & Lunch)

September 11, 2016 (Breakfast & Lunch)

October 16, 2016 (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

November 6, 2016 (Breakfast & Lunch)

December 25, 2016 (Lunch & Dinner)



Celebrating Vaisakhi

April 17, 2016

To commemorate Vaisakhi, SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA provided all meals to the community at the Bakersfield Homeless Center complying with the important Sikh Value of sharing with needy. We are very humbled to be able to bring happiness to so many faces today and enjoy community support.

What is Vaisakhi?

For many thousands of years, Vaisakhi has been the time when farmers have put their sickles to harvest and celebrated the coming of a new year. Since 1699, the Sikhs have had a further reason to celebrate at this time of the year. Now Vaisakhi is celebrated with even more energy, pomp and fanfare. It has become a holy day to mark the birth of the Khalsa fraternity. And so 300+ years on, this tradition continues with much gaiety, vigour and enthusiasm. Sikhs worldwide will spend much time remembering this most important day in their religious calendar – the day the Khalsa was created.

If we take ourselves back to 1699 and the birth place of the Khalsa perhaps the real significance of Vaisakhi for the Sikh people can be comprehended. During the period around 1650, the country around Punjab was in turmoil; the rulers were corrupt; there was no rule of law; the rights of the common people were non-existent; justice did not prevail. The strong imposed their will and their way without question; the weak suffered constantly and quietly; there was misery everywhere. It was under these circumstances that Guru Gobind Singh rose to the occasion and chose to create the Khalsa. The Guru was looking for people within the community who would take on the challenge and rise above the weakness; to be strong and fearless; to be prepared to face these challenges without reservation and to uphold justice; to be fair and even handed at all times; to be prepared to die for the truth.



"Thank you Sikh Riders of America, for donating thousands of dollars worth of toys to the children at BHC! You've made a difference!"

BAKERSFIELD HOMELESS CENTER
DECEMBER 21, 2015

SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA donated toys at Bakersfield Homeless Center. Every family and each kid deserves a Christmas filled with love and joy.

"When we remember a special Christmas, it is not the presents that made it special, but the laughter, the feeling of love, and the togetherness of friends and family that made that Christmas special."



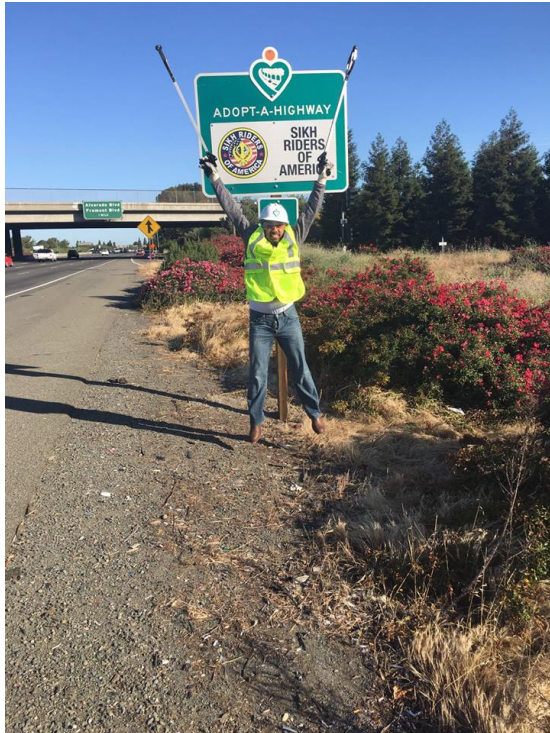


32nd Annual Toy Run Bakersfield, CA

Dec 13, 2015



Adopt-A-Highway Bay Area May 1, 2015





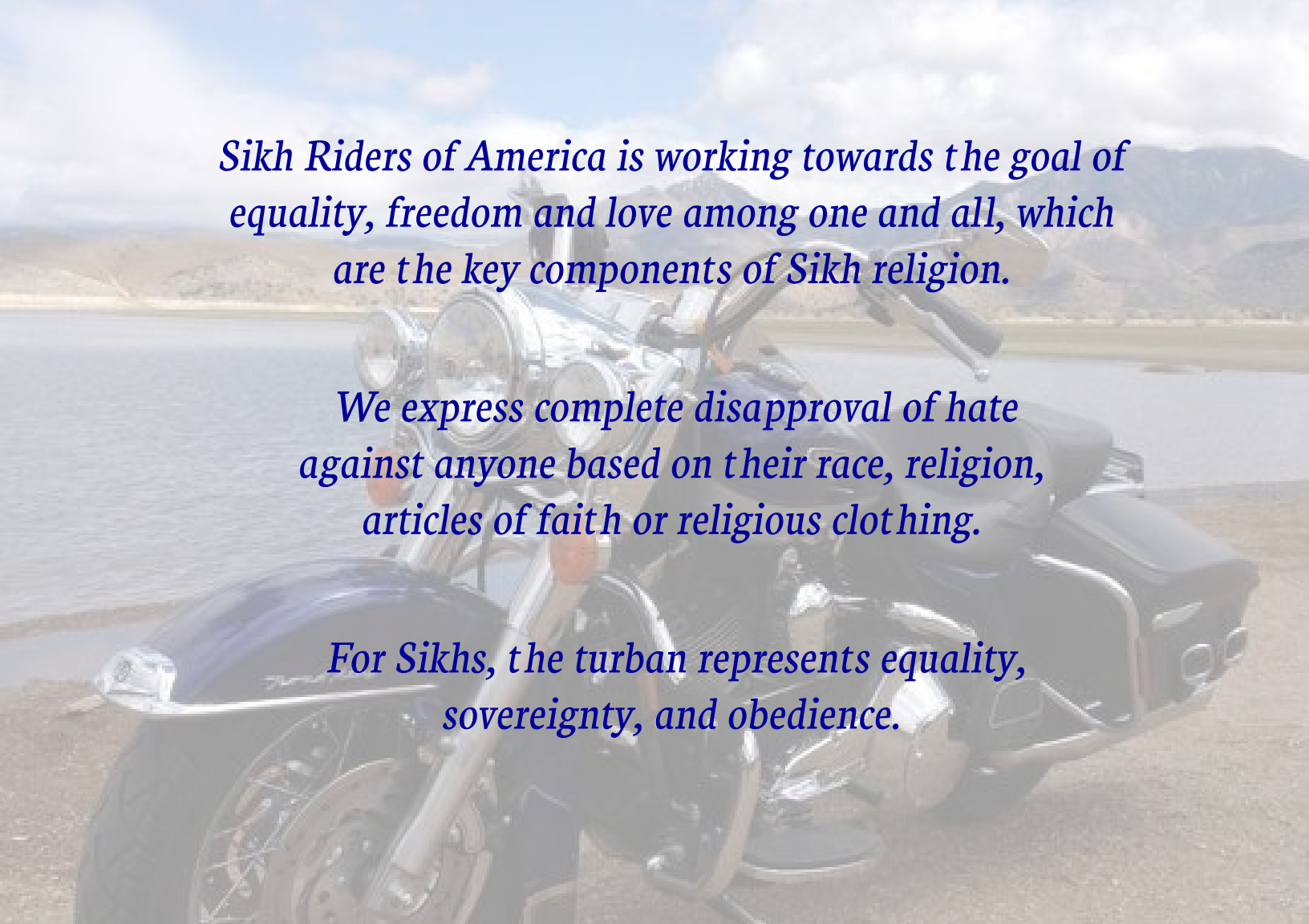
Adopt-A-Highway Bakersfield October 26, 2015

SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA help clean up
the roads in Bakersfield and the Bay Area
that help make America beautiful.
Signs are posted on Highway 58 and
Highway 880 North.
The sewa continues everywhere!



Education



A blue Harley-Davidson motorcycle is parked on a paved surface. In the background, there is a calm body of water, possibly a lake or reservoir, and a range of mountains under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The motorcycle is a cruiser style, featuring a large headlight assembly with multiple lenses, a prominent front fender, and saddlebags. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

Sikh Riders of America is working towards the goal of equality, freedom and love among one and all, which are the key components of Sikh religion.

We express complete disapproval of hate against anyone based on their race, religion, articles of faith or religious clothing.

For Sikhs, the turban represents equality, sovereignty, and obedience.



MULTIPLE PHOTOS - PLEASE SCROLL LEFT OR RIGHT TO SEE ALL IMAGES.

Washington, October 3 , 2015

A group of Sikhs in California have raised about \$12,000 to create national awareness campaign about Sikhs and Sikhism in the US media and society.

At a dinner fundraiser organized by the Sikh Riders of America in Bakersfield, California, over 70 Sikhs endorsed the initiative in this regard by Washington-based National Sikh Campaign which has devised a national strategy engaging President Barack Obama's

media team to present an accurate view of Sikhism in the national media.

Bakersfield Sikhs have witnessed several incidents of hate violence and an incident of Gurdwara being vandalized in the past since 9/11 attacks.

"Our community has faced many problems since 9/11 and it is high time that we change the narrative and adopt a proactive approach to tackle the menace of hate crimes. This task belongs to all members of the

***Sikh Riders of
America help raise
funds for national
awareness
campaign about
Sikhs & Sikhism in
the U.S.***



community," said D Rajwant Singh, co-Founder of the National Sikh Campaign and the Chairman of the Sikh Council on Religion and Education.

"We must make sure that the roots of the community in America are strengthened by media exposure. This will provide a platform for many youngsters to shine nationally. This is an urgent need of all of us," he said. — PTI



November 24, 2015

Sikh Riders of America with Jaz McKay 97.7 FM / 1560 AM, Bakersfield, CA.

Great conversation with Jaz McKay about Sikh Identity; Sikh History and Beliefs; and Contributions of Sikhs Worldwide in all aspects of life.

Jaz McKay Show



I just talked to a Sikh biker named Mandep, from Sikh Riders of America, and they will be coming down to the show on Friday to break bread with us and talk about the Sikh community and what their religion is about. REMEMBER, the Sikh people are great people and THEY are not Muslim. Not even close. I can't wait.

Share

Billy Owens and 198 others like this.



Jaz McKay
Be sure to be listening.
Yesterday at 6:30 PM · 🍷 3



Clifford Fretwell
Sounds great.
Yesterday at 6:32 PM · 🍷 1



Chad Garcia
So happy you got ahold of those guys.
Awesome people
Yesterday at 6:32 PM · 🍷 1



Jared Byron Cheeseman

**MULTIPLE PHOTOS - PLEASE SCROLL
LEFT OR RIGHT TO SEE ALL IMAGES**

CONVERSATION WITH SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA, TSA

April 21, 2016



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SAYS HE WAS HUMILIATED AT MEADOWS FIELD

April 20, 2016



SIKHS COME FORWARD, TALK MISCONCEPTION OF RELIGION 23AB NEWS (SROA)

February 11, 2016



SROA DISCUSSION ON RECENT HATE CRIME & SIKH IDENTITY WITH RADIO HOST, INGA BARKS

December 21, 2015



**ELDERLY SIKH MAN ASSAULTED FOR POSSIBLE HATE CRIME AT
WARREN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN BAKERSFIELD, CA**

December 10, 2015



LOCAL SIKHS REACT TO VIRAL 'TERRORIST' PHOTO

November 19, 2015



Parades





**Christmas Parade, Fortworth, TX
December 25, 2015**

**"Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it
by giving the light of love to those who need it most."**



Texas Toy Run December 20, 2015

Sikh Riders of America participated in Fort Worth, TX Toy Run Parade. The event benefited Tarrant County Mental Health Mental Retardation & Metrocare Services in Dallas.



**Arvin Christmas Parade
December 10, 2015**



Tehachapi Christmas Parade December 9, 2015

Sikh Riders of America won 1st Place for the third year in a row, Vehicle Category.



Bakersfield Christmas Parade

December 7, 2015

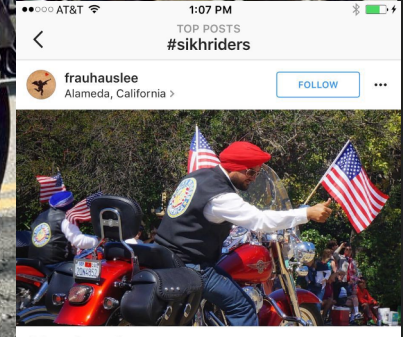
**"The spirit of Christmas is the spirit of love and of generosity and of goodness.
It illuminates the picture window of the soul, and we look out upon the world's busy life
and become more interested in people than in things."**

Bakersfield Christmas Parade





Bakersfield Veterans' Day Parade
November 1, 2015



Pleasanton Veterans' Day Parade November 1, 2015



Alameda, California

Mayor's 4th of July Parade

SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA
received 3rd Place, Vehicles

Trophy ceremony was held on
July 14, 2016 in the Alameda
City Council Chambers.



Sponsored Rides



"We were here to represent and honor India and the Sikhs in the British Army, who fought and gave their lives during the Vietnam War & World War II."



ON THE COVER



Bikers from across the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, South Africa, France and New Zealand participated in the 7th Annual Allied Memorial Remembrance Ride (Allied Ride or AMRR) creating one ride worldwide; riders united in remembrance of our fallen heroes from the Allied Forces, past and present, who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

The first Allied Ride consisted of a UK ride in Cambridge and a ride to Terrell in Texas. Inclusion of Texas in that initial ride is thanks to George "Tank" Sherman, who is a member of both the Royal British Riders and the American Legion Riders. This year, in addition to the two original locations, the ride took place in other US locations: Oklahoma (Ponca City and Miami); and New Hampshire; three in Canada: Ottawa, Calgary, Owen Sound, and St. John's; and in South Africa, France and New Zealand.

Each year, this ride attempts to take place on the same day, failing that, within a month of each other; with new rides planned by the end of 2015. This year the Texas ride was held on Saturday, June 27 by the American Legion Riders, in association with the Texas Allied Riders, supported by Thunder Roads Texas and the No. 1 British Flying Training School (BFTS) Museum. Thunder Roads Texas is proud to be a sponsor of this event from the beginning.

During World War II, thousands of British pilots learned to fly at six civilian training schools in the United States. The first and largest of the schools was in Terrell, Texas. After the United

By Shelly Horan

Photos by: Carol Mullen, Cathy Atchison Stroud, George Sherman, and The Terrell Tribune/Gary E. Lindsley

States entered the war, American Aviation Cadets also trained at the school. More than 2,000 Royal Air Force (RAF) and American Army Air Force pilots earned their wings over North Texas between 1941 and 1945. Terrell's citizens welcomed the student pilots to their community and many life-long bonds were forged. Housed at the Terrell Municipal Airport, the BFTS Museum celebrates this little known chapter of WWII history. The collection includes hundreds of historical items and the archives contain the most extensive record of the training school that exists.

There were various starting points: Benbrook, Dallas (pick up along the Benbrook route), Kaufman, Canton, and Tyler. All ended at the BFTS Museum where riders took a break and perused the collections and talked with museum

hosts. After the respite, riders climbed back on their steeds for a short ride to the cemetery. At the RAF Memorial and small section of RAF trainees interred there that never made it home, there was the presentation of colors, a bagpipe player, a short memorial service, placement of wreaths, a flyover, and "Last Call" played.

After the memorial service, riders could return to the museum for lunch and relaxation... and to catch any exhibits they missed earlier in the day.

For those interested in continuing the camaraderie, the Allied Ride took over the Best Western Country Inn in Terrell. SaudDust provided music for a parking lot party complete that included barbeque. It's a great way to wind down and discuss the day.





*9th Annual Officer
Down Ride,
Bakersfield, CA*

October 3, 2015





Alex and Dienna Young



Mahesh Kundal and Gurtejpal Singh

SNAP!

Sikh Riders of America Day of Seva

Date: Aug. 1

Held at Bakersfield Homeless Center

Photos by Casey Christie

View these photos and more at
bakersfieldlife.com



Gurdip Dhindsa and Gurjit Manak



Rica Kagawa and Jennifer Rodriguez



Cindy Lyday and Mandeep S. Chahal



The Sikh Riders of America



Kuldip Singh and Surinder Singh





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-Mortercycle riders
are Welcome



SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA" (MOTORCYCLE GROUP) IS NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION Find us on facebook.

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