



**TOYOTA of IRVINE**

# Sikh Riders of America

2023 Annual Report

*Issue No. 6*



Learn more  
about the  
event here!

## UPCOMING RIDES

California - **October 12, 2024**

Texas - **April 27, 2024**



## ADMISSION FEE

# \$30

**Per Bike (1-2 Riders)**

Breakfast, Lunch & Ride Pin Included!

Cars welcome to register as well



**SATURDAY**

**OCT 12, 2024**

# 12TH ANNUAL **RIDE**

**LIVE MUSIC - SIKH EDUCATION - RAFFLE  
FREE MENHDI - VENDORS - ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS**

Ride starts: **HARLEY DAVIDSON**

35089 Merle Haggard Dr., Bakersfield, CA 93308

8am to 11am (kick stands up at 11am)



Ride ends: **PYLES BOYS CAMP PICNIC AREA**

13375 Lake Ming Road, Bakersfield, CA 93301

11am to 3pm (festivities, charity presentations and raffle)

**ALL PROCEEDS RAISED BENEFIT THE FOLLOWING LOCAL CHARITIES:**



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL RAJVIR

**(661) 340-0828**



# Dream Big!

*Gurinder Singh Basra, President*

As President of Sikh Riders of America, I'm very proud of all the hard work our members have put in over the last decade. We just finished our 10th Annual Ride in DFW, Texas and our 11th Annual Ride in Bakersfield, CA this past October 2023. I'm also very proud that all our members have been working hard outreaching to other non-profits who help local law enforcement, veterans, children with special needs, MADD, American Legion Chapter 26, RED, and homeless centers spreading awareness about who Sikhs are.

Over this past year, we've also been hard at work strengthening bonds with our motorcycle brothers and sisters throughout the country. We have been diligently working towards making our annual fundraiser events a great learning experience for those who may have never met or come in contact with a Sikh person or who may know little to nothing about the Sikh religion. We also strive to have positive encounters with everyone we come in contact with throughout the year as well.

Now that we have the next generation of Sikh Riders coming up and joining us in these efforts, we are committed to growing our organization and our events bigger and better every year. We appreciate the community's feedback and are honored and love hearing from other community members that their families, children or loved ones are proud of what we do and want to help with our upcoming events.

In the years to come, it is our dream to make this fundraising event as famous as Sturgis or Daytona bike week - infamous all over the United States. So, I invite you to join me in spreading the word and dreaming big for our future of helping others!

**DASTAAR: SIKH TURBAN STYLES**

**GURDWARA**

- Place of prayer, service and learning
- Everyone is welcome
- Services in America typically held on weekends







**March 11, 2023**

Sikh Riders provided breakfast and beverages for the American Legion Riders, Chapter 26, in support of their Annual Veterans Memorial Poker Run. While there, SROA was unexpectedly presented with a **Certificate of Appreciation** from the American Legion Riders. Accepted by Gurinder Singh Basra and Jastej Singh Grewal, the certificate read:

*"Gratefully presented to Sikh Riders of America in recognition and sincere appreciation for their outstanding service and assistance to the American Legion Riders which contributed to the advancement of the American Legion programs and activities dedicated to God and country. Signed by our Director, David Copp, and our Secretary, Rochelle MBA Smith, Chapter 26, Bakersfield. Gurinder, it is truly a pleasure to present this to you and Sikh Riders of America this 11th day of March, 2023".*



**WATCH THE PRESENTATION HERE**

<https://www.facebook.com/SikhRidersOfAmerica/videos/869052107502093>





**May 29, 2023**

## **ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE, TEHACHAPI.**

According to 23ABC, hundreds gathered at Phillip Marx Central Park in Tehachapi for the city's Memorial Day Parade and ceremony to honor those who died serving our country. Sikh Riders was honored to attend this event honoring our fallen soldiers.

*"Freedom isn't free, and we owe a debt of gratitude to those who selflessly gave their lives in the line of service."*





**October 7, 2023**

**17TH ANNUAL KERN COUNTY 999 OFFICER DOWN RIDE, BAKERSFIELD.**

Sikh Riders of America served breakfast and beverages to hundreds of hungry riders who showed up to support the 17th Annual Officer Down Ride.

This ride honors law enforcement, fallen heroes and their survivors. Participants always look forward to the breakfast burritos and coffee while others are content to grab a quick Krispy Kreme doughnut and try some delicious hot Indian chai tea. In any event, this gives us an opportunity to connect with the community and show our support for local law enforcement.





**October 14, 2023**

## **11th Annual Fundraiser Ride**

With 300+ in attendance, Sikh Riders celebrated its 11th year of fundraising in California. Over the years the event has grown and we wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came out to be a part of it. This is a great event that supports local non-profits, veterans, law enforcement and the homeless. Planning for 2024 is already underway. If you'd like to be a part of this event - as a bike club, a member of the community, an organization or business who might like to vend or sponsor the event, please contact us via our website or by email at [SikhRidersofAmerica@yahoo.com](mailto:SikhRidersofAmerica@yahoo.com).



*"Great support for our veterans, law enforcement, and community as several hundred motorcyclists participated in the SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA 11th Annual Motorcycle Ride benefitting RED Remember Everyone Deployed, Kern County 999 Foundation, and American Legion Post 26 with a ride from Bakersfield Harley-Davidson to Hart Park.*

*Many thanks to Gurinder Singh Basra, Jastej Singh Grewal, and Sikh Riders of America for their leadership and generosity. Thank you to Bakersfield Police Department for the escort. Thank you to all partnering organizations."*

- Karen Goh, Bakersfield Mayor













# Vendors!

## 11th Annual Fundraiser Ride Bakersfield, CA

Saturday, Oct 14, 2023



**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.**

For the first time this year, I had the honor of coordinating vendors for our event. I will say that it was quite an adventure seeking out all these wonderful people and businesses. On behalf of Sikh Riders (and with much love and admiration for what you all do) I'd like to offer a personal and heart-felt thank you to everyone who was able to come out and support our annual fundraising efforts.

Not only did your amazingly decorated booths add to the festivities, but your participation was invaluable and helped make the community's experience what it was. I was especially pleased that we were also able to have long standing non-profit organizations attend and provide information on available services - especially to members of our Indian community who don't always know how to access these crucial services (or that they even exist). We also recognize that many families in this community are mono-lingual Punjabi speakers so kudos to GBLA's Fair Housing Unit who came with fact sheets written in Punjabi!

We sincerely hope that you had a good time, maybe learned a thing or two about Sikhs, and that you will consider returning next year. Space is limited. To secure your spot for 2024, shoot me an email at [SikhRidersofAmerica@yahoo.com](mailto:SikhRidersofAmerica@yahoo.com) or give me call directly at (661) 310-0852, Ext. 6. Again, - thank you, thank you, thank you!



THE CAMEL'S TASSEL DUKAAN/SHOP  
(661) 340-0828



BOXES OF LOVE & ENCOURAGEMENT  
KERN RIVER BLUE STAR MOMS  
SEW SWEET EMBROIDERY  
SWEET ICE - ITALIAN ICE





***Sikh Riders of America***  
**11th Annual Fundraiser Ride**  
**Saturday, October 14, 2023 - Bakersfield, CA**

*Event  
Sponsor!*

**A HUGE SHOUT OUT & THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!**

Sikh Riders of America would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank all of its generous sponsors - businesses and individual donors - who helped make this event, as well as our many other endeavors throughout the year, a success.

Because of people like you we are able to support worthy local charities, such as those featured this year's ride - the American Legion Chapter 26, the Kern County 999 Foundation, and RED Remember Everyone Deployed.

We are very proud of the fact that we have been able to donate more than half a million dollars to worthy people, causes and charities over the past 10 years. And it is only because of you that we are able to do this, so please accept our heart-felt thank you for allowing us to be good stewards and help others on your behalf.

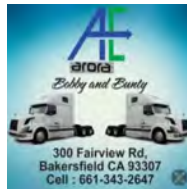


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**(661) 800-4999**







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Saminder P Singh  
Talwinder Singh Gill  
Tim & Penny Brassfield  
Union Village / Sukhi Ghuman  
Varinder Singh Maan - Simi Valley  
Vista CCTV Technology





**November 4, 2023**

**2ND ANNUAL HOMETOWN HEROS VETERANS DAY PARADE, DELANO.**

Only in its second year, we were honored to have been invited to attend this event. Members of Sikh Riders attending included veterans and others who had previously resided in this community. We definitely plan on attending again next year!





**November 4, 2023**

**EARL'S V-TWIN BIKE NIGHT., TEHACHAPI.**

Earl's V-Twin Motorcycle Services hosted a bike night in Tehachapi. There was music, food and vendors on hand to ensure everyone had a good time. Members of Sikh Riders were happy to participate in this community event and took the opportunity to get to know some other local riders.





**November 9, 2023**

**MILITARY HEROES GALA, BENEFIT DINNER & AUCTION, BAKERSFIELD,** Sikh Riders of America sponsored a table for 8 and attended the Armed Forces Support Foundation's 2023 gala benefit dinner at Luigi's.

The AFSF's mission is "to help by providing financial and non-financial assistance to veterans of all eras in appreciation and recognition of their sacrifices." They enlisted the assistance of Command Serfeant Major John Wayne Troxell who was a dynamic and passionate speaker.





**November 11, 2023**

**ANNUAL VETERAN'S DAY PARADE, BAKERSFIELD.**

Hosted by the American Legion, Post 26, we had the honor of heading up the parade with other American Legion riders.

Most people may not know, but our local Post 26 was chartered on August 7, 1919 - - making this their 104th Annual Parade! The Chapter's focus today, which is still the same as it was in 2019, is to support all veterans and to be an asset to the community.





**December 2, 2023**

**23RD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE, TEHACHAPI.**



**December 7, 2023**

**41ST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE, BAKERSFIELD.**

Sikh Riders were lined up and ready to go when we were advised by members of the Bakersfield Police Department that the parade had been cancelled due to an unauthorized vehicle entering the parade route and hitting several innocent onlookers. Many participants and those there to watch left as instructed only to have the parade re-routed and started back up an hour later.



**December 21, 2023**

**KERN COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT FOUNDATION'S 35TH OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARDS DINNER, BAKERSFIELD.**

Members of Sikh Riders attended KCLEF's annual awards dinner honoring Kern County's law enforcement, dispatch and citizens. The event celebrated the dedication and excellence of our local heroes in law enforcement. It was an opportunity to come together as a community and show appreciation for those individuals who tirelessly serve and protect us and witness the outstanding officers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty and receive well-deserved recognition for their exceptional contributions. We also heard remarkable stories of bravery, dedication, and service that inspired and reminded us of the importance of law enforcement in our community.









April 29, 2023

## 9th Annual Fundraiser Ride



*"Yesterday I was honored to accept, for the 5th time, a very generous donation on behalf of the VROC from the Sikh Riders of America (SROA). In return I was happy, along with my SDMC Brothers, to support their 9th Annual Event Ride from Bedford to Stokers in Dallas where they hosted another first class event!"*

*If you do not know the men of SROA or what they do, I would suggest you take the time to get to know them and their organization! Yesterday, they donated over \$10,000 to 5 DFW area charities and one from OK! I support, the VROC supports, and SDMC 286 supports Sikh Riders of America!!"*

- Brian Wilburn, #THEVROC













#### AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Irving Police Department

Irving Police & Fire Blue Christmas

Mayor Rick Stopfer

The Veteran's Resource Center



VIDEO LINK:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCoAn3PufA8>



Sikh Riders of America would like to acknowledge and recognize the following businesses and/or individuals who helped make our event the success that it was. Specifically:



#### CYCLE GEAR BEDFORD & STOKERS DALLAS

for allowing us to utilize their venues to stage and host our event



#### 99% RADIO NETWORK

for event promotion and radio interviews

#### MANN BROTHERS

for generously providing breakfast to all participants



#### TEXAS 7-11 FRANCHISE OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

for generously providing lunch to all participants

#### PCANT and HASDA PUNJAB

for their generous financial support of this event









**December 23, 2023**

Sikh Riders participated in Bikers Against Bullies USA, Central Florida, Soldier City Chapter's 4th Annual "Oh What Fun it is to Ride With Bikers Against Bullies USA".

This was the third year that Sikh Riders participated in this event.

We were honored to be a part of this amazing and heartfelt project and honored to make a \$1,500 donation to BAB-USA.

Thank you BAB-USA for letting us be a part of bringing joy to these kids.



**WATCH VIDEO HERE:**

[https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch\\_permalink&v=681811087410489](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=681811087410489)





**March 25, 2023**

Florida Sikh Riders participated in the American Legion Post 412's Annual Central Florida Ride for our Troops.



**MARCH 25, 2023  
9AM-3PM**

**ANNUAL  
Central Florida Ride  
for Our Troops**

**AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS  
CHAPTER 412  
LAKE NONA, FL**

**PROCEEDS BENEFIT**

**\$20/PP**

**SUPPORTING THE CARE PACKAGE PROGRAM**

**KIDS IN SUPPORT OF SOLDIERS  
CARE PACKAGE PROGRAM**

**JUST OUR SOLDIER'S HELPERS!  
CARE PACKAGE PROGRAM**

**\$15 PRE-REGISTER AT CENTRAL-FLORIDA-RIDE-FOR-OUR-TROOPS-2023**

**REGISTER DAY OF 9-10:45AM AT  
LAKE SQUARE MALL  
10401 US HWY 441/LEESBURG KSU 11AM  
TO GATOR HARLEY-DAVIDSON  
ESCORTED RIDE LAKE CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**VENDORS 50/50  
FULL BAR FOOD RAFFLES**

**BY  
AMERICAN LEGION  
POST 35 /MT DORA**

**LIVE MUSIC 11AM-3PM  
PETE HUNT  
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**Traditional Country, Country-Rock & Gospel-Music  
PETEHUNT.COUNTRY.COM**

**SCAN  
HERE TO  
PRE  
REGISTER**

**GATOR  
1745 US HWY 441  
LEESBURG, FL 34748**

**ORLANDO/LAKE NONA  
POST 412**





# WHO ARE THE SIKHS?

**5<sup>th</sup> largest** Sikhism is the fifth largest world religion after Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism.

## POPULATION OF SIKHS



~25 million Sikhs worldwide



500,000+ Sikhs in America

The largest concentrations of Sikhs in America live in CA, NY, and NJ.

## SIKHS IN AMERICA

**>100 years** Sikhs have been in America for over 100 years.

Dalip Singh Saund, a Sikh from California, was the first Asian American elected to the U.S. Congress.

In America, the oldest gurdwara, a Sikh house of worship, was built in Stockton, California in 1912.



In America, 99% of the people you see wearing a turban are Sikhs.

## BELIEFS

Sikhs share basic values with Americans: the importance of **equality, religious pluralism, and justice for all.**

**founded in 1469** Sikhism was founded in 1469 by Guru Nanak in the Punjab region of South Asia.

Sikhism is a distinct, independent and monotheistic religion. It is not a branch or blend of any other faith.

**3 core beliefs** There are 3 core Sikh beliefs: devotion to God, truthful living, and service to humanity.

## FUN FACTS

Most Sikhs speak Punjabi, the language originating from Punjab.

The largest peach, pistachio, okra, and raisin farms are all owned by Sikh farmers in California.



## OUR MISSION

Sikh Riders of America (SROA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established to increase awareness throughout the community about the Sikh religion. We seek to achieve this by hosting, sponsoring and/or supporting fundraising events and being actively involved in our communities.

## OUR VISION

To create an inclusive, equal society for one and all, bringing awareness to the Sikh religion and peace to the world.

## WHO ARE SIKHS?

The word Sikh (pronounced "sickh") means 'disciple' or 'learner'. Sikhism is a divinely revealed religion founded by Guru Nanak Ji (1469-1549), our first Guru. Sikhs believe in the teachings of the 10 Sikh Gurus, the Guru Granth Sahib (the holy scripture), and that all people have the right to follow their own path to God. Sikhism is monotheistic and stresses the equality of all men and women.

Sikhs endeavor to live up to the principles, ideals and the code of conduct as described in the Guru Granth Sahib. Sikhs believe in three basic principles:

- (1) **NAAM JAPNA** *Meditating on the name of God (praying);*
- (2) **KIRAT KARO** *Earning a living by honest means; and*
- (3) **VAND CHAKKO** *Sharing income/resources with others.*

## WHY JOIN US?

We are the largest, and only, Sikh club in the USA. Join us to raise awareness about Sikhism in your community! For more information on membership, please visit our website.

**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 (MOTORCYCLE GROUP) IS NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**

www.sikhridersofamerica.com E-mail : sikhridersofamerica@yahoo.com

661-873-5181 • 661-978-7610 • 510-760-5694 • 817-372-6151



## Beliefs of the Sikhs

- One God/Creator
- All Humans Created Equal
- Human Life a Precious Blessing
- Service of Creator
- Warriors of Truth
- Salvation in This Life



© 1997, Sikh Gurdwara of North Carolina

## SAVE THESE DATES

### Upcoming Annual Rides!

#### BAKERSFIELD

#### TEXAS

10-12-2024	04-27-2024
10-11-2025	04-26-2025
10-10-2026	04-25-2026
10-09-2027	04-24-2027
10-14-2028	04-29-2028
10-13-2029	04-28-2029
10-12-2030	04-27-2030
10-11-2031	04-26-2031
10-09-2032	04-24-2032

California: Always the second Saturday of October  
Texas: Always the last Saturday of April

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Gurinder Singh Basra, President*

*Jastej Singh Grewal - Central Valley, CA*

*Gurmeet Kaila - Bay Area, CA*

*Gurjit Sidhu - Florida*

*Raman Singh Saini - Texas*

## EDITOR & WEBSITE

*Rajvir Kaur*



# REMEMBERING SHERJUNG S DHILLON



In July of 2023 it was with deep sadness and heavy hearts that we regretfully informed you that we lost a dear brother and SROA member from Florida in an unfortunate bike accident.

He leaves behind his wife and 2 sons. He will be remembered for his smile, caring heart, and love for children. We kindly ask that you please continue to keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.



## HOW SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA STARTED

Sikh Riders of America (also known as "SROA") is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation that was established to increase awareness throughout the community about the Sikh religion. The organization was born in 2012 after many Sikhs were targets of a senseless hate crime due to mistaken identity. At that time, we saw a dire need to spread education and awareness about Sikhism in order to try and prevent this type of tragedy from happening again. The jarring event that was the impetus for creating this motorcycle group was the mass shooting that had just taken place at the Oak Creek Gurdwara (place of worship) in Wisconsin where 6 individuals were fatally shot and 4 others were wounded. Thereafter, family members of victims testified before a U.S. Senate panel where the government was lobbied to start tracking hate crimes against Sikhs.

Members of this group are committed to educating the public about Sikhism and changing the unfortunate misperceptions people often have about Sikhs. Members are also obligated to participate in seva (community service). To date, in addition to all the hours spent attending fundraisers and other community events and/or functions, the group has donated well over half a million dollars to the homeless and other disadvantaged individuals, veterans, law enforcement, and/or victims of natural disasters both locally and abroad.





# SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA

Sikh Riders of America (SROA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established to increase awareness throughout the community about the Sikh religion.

For further information on our group or to learn more about Sikhism, please contact us !

Subscribe to our  
**You Tube Channel**

[www.SikhRidersofAmerica.com](http://www.SikhRidersofAmerica.com)

**(661) 310-0852**