

Desert Wind

**NO MATTER
WHERE YOU WANDER,
YOU'RE HOME.**



Join H.O.G. and join an international family of enthusiasts who share a common passion to ride.



Dec/2005-Jan/2006
Vol 11 Issue 6

The Toys for Tots held December 3rd was a success!

Toys for Tots

**8th Annual
Col. Kevin Leffler
Memorial Show**

December 3, 2005 at the K Mart Parking Lot
RIDGECREST, CA
Registration: 8am to 10am Show: 10am to 3pm

ENTRY FEE
\$7 and unwrapped toy (\$10 value)

50/50 Drawing and lots of Raffle Prizes

FRIENDS ON SITE Live Band

CA 395

Send Entry Payment to: Offing Toy & Shirts
High Desert Roadrunner's Car Club
P.O. Box 1771
Redlands, CA 90056

CONTACTS:
Bill Eubank: 760.375.4200
Mike Warrington: 760.375.9337
Barbara L. Lee: 760.373.0882

HARLEY OWNERS GROUP #1665 ANTELOPE VALLEY CA CHAPTER, RIDGECREST ACTIVITY GROUP

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Road Capt Coord.	Rex Walraven	(760) 375-1672
Safety Officer	David Hunter	(760) 375-3402
Webmaster	Don McCauley	(760) 446-5310

ARTICLE XIV-DISCLAIMER

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Director
Dennis Linck

Happy Winter to All,

Hope you all have been out exercising your Harleys lately, enjoying the great late fall/early winter weather we have been enjoying. The months of November and December are usually quite busy for the RAG and this year is no exception. We are making the final arrangements for the annual Christmas Party and the Toys For Tots Car and Motorcycle Show. I want to thank everyone who has helped in the collection of attendance prizes for the show. We will also be riding in the annual Ridgecrest Christmas Parade on 10 December. We delivered a food basket to a family in Inyokern for Thanksgiving and will be delivering a Christmas basket to them and we will also be delivering food and gifts to another family. I want to thank Chris Hunter and all of you for all of your support and financial donations that help make this annual sharing a possibility. If you have missed the last couple of meetings, we were able to donate five hundred dollars to the American Cancer Society (October meeting) and five hundred to the Make A Wish Foundation (November meeting). The funds for these donations were generated at the car wash in July and the annual picnic and poker run in October. Our ride down to Coronado Island in early November was a big hit, we had nine bikes make the ride down to San Diego. If you were not able to attend the ride, please check out the photos on the website.

I want to thank all of you for putting up with me as a member of the Board of Directors for the past five or six years. I started as the photographer, moved on to the editor when Robert needed a change, then onto the deputy director during Bland's term as director and then finally to director for the last couple of years. I have really enjoyed my time on the board and the opportunity to help make the Ridgecrest Activity Group the great organization that it is. My wonderful wife,

Debby, will also be stepping down from her position on the board as the secretary/treasurer. Stan Austin will be moving up to director next year and we are still talking to some folks about the deputy position. At this time, no one has expressed interest in the secretary or treasurer positions. Debby is planning to step away from the jobs after she closes out the books for 2005 and sends the latest roster down to AV and we need to fill the position as early in January 2006 as possible.

I want to wish everyone a very safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thanks for having me,

Dennis



Asst. Director
Stan Austin

The year has passed so quickly. It seems that summer just started a few weeks ago. Well no matter what, the year is mostly gone and Santa will arrive soon! My wife and I have had an awesome year. Ridding our new bike on vacation (6K miles) and all the wonderful trips we made with our motorcycle friends. We are look forward to the New Year. Barb is now a life member of H.O.G. (Way to go Barb!)

I will step up to director in January. I want to say a special thanks to all who have served on the board over the past years, don't think you can rest now. You all did so much to keep the club going and everyone in the club thanks you. I do not yet know who will make up the new board but I know who ever steps up will work hard for the club and the membership. I want to share with all of you what my goals for the club are. **I want us to have fun and ride all that we can.** Yes, our community efforts are important to me and I feel we do our fair share of good things. I really hope this club keeps growing and that everyone rides when they can. Please take part in the H.O.G club. You can call me, e-mail me, or catch me at the meetings anytime. Share your thoughts with me or give me your comments on what you think. The board will consider any plan, ride or other input you might have. Remember the board meetings are open to every one and those too are fun. Speak up and say your say so that the club is fun for you. Help us plan the rides and trips that will peak your desire to go along. If you plan a ride feel free to invite members to ride along with you. The

bottom line is that the H.O.G club belongs to all of us and not just the board. I have spoken with the board members of the Lancaster club and they hope to do more things with us next year. We are looking forward to getting our own Harley Shop soon. That will open up new things for us to do. It should bring in more new members and the community we see more of us. Promoting the new store and the HOG club should be fun. Please keep checking the web site for events and make meetings when you can. Speaking of the web site, thanks to Don and Judy for a level of support that few could give, most of us know little about the web and you have made it better for our club. Please, all of you keep your e-mail address current with the club so we can contact you. If you do not have e-mail or don't want it to be your form of information then please tell us so we can use the more standard ways to contact you. The e-mail system is cheaper to use but sometimes people don't get the word. Let the board know how we can ensure the word gets to you. Without you there is no H.O.G club

In the past few weeks we have had some fun things going on. The ride to San Diego was great, we all had so much fun, food, friendship and the great rides, the ride there, the ride on Saturday, and then the ride home. We hope to make this an annual ride. By the time you read this the food basket rides will be over, the 10 Dec. meeting will be upon us. The Christmas parade will follow the meeting and then we will have our Christmas party. The 10th will be a full day. I want to say a big "Hi" to all of our new members, too many to name. For all past members who may read this I want to extend an invite for you to come back and join in on the fun. Even when we work, Car Wash, Toys for Tots, and other fund raisers, we still have fun. Fun is what counts! Keep Safe, Keep Riding, and I hope to see you soon.

RAG Poker Run & Picnic





Safety Officer *Dave Hunter*

Well it looks like fall is almost over and old man winter is rapidly approaching. Riding home from the Very Successful Toys for Tots Motorcycle and Car show I noticed a lot of leaves on the streets, especially in the gutters and intersections. Combine these with the water that always seems to be present and you have a very slippery surface. So, keep a sharp eye out for leaves and other debris on the road as you enjoy our year round riding season.

Another thing to be mindful of is the weather. Living where we do it is not uncommon for there to be sunshine here in the Indian Wells Valley, snow or rain in Tehachapi and sunshine in Bakersfield. The same goes for the mountain passes. So while out riding be mindful of rapidly changing conditions.

I am passing on a website that Dennis Linck provided. Everyone should be allowed the freedom of choice, HOWEVER you need to be informed before of the risks so that you make an intelligent choice. Every style of riding has its pros and cons. This is true of every piece of gear that you choose to wear or not wear. The data provided on the website comes from Europe but is just as applicable to US riders as it is to our brothers and sisters overseas.

We always need to be vigilant when we ride. Watching out for other motorists attempting to harm us is a full time job. In the last month, two of our members have had extremely close calls with cars. In both cases, once the action stopped, the rider could actually touch the offending automobile. The most accident-prone areas we ride are parking lots and the areas around major shopping centers. This time of year, drivers of cars are often preoccupied with getting the perfect parking space or getting to the next sale. Combine this with the reduced visibility that so many parked cars causes and you have all the makings of an accident waiting to happen. So whether you are riding your favorite ride or have to drive your alternate four wheeled vehicle be extra careful when you are out shopping for the holidays.

Lastly and most importantly, life is full of risks and the choices we make every day of our lives determines the amount of risk those choices bring. When each of us chose to ride a motorcycle we chose a way of life that has inherent risks. The degree and level of risk that each of us is exposed to when we ride our motorcycle depends on the choices we make. So be informed and coconscious of the choices that you make when riding. The old saying about pilots is true of motorcyclists. "There are old Motorcyclists and there are bold Motorcyclists **BUT** there are damn few **OLD BOLD** motorcyclists.



Secretary/Treasurer
Debby Linck

To all- I've enjoyed my 4 year stint as the group's Secretary and Treasurer, but now it's time to turn over the position(s) to someone with more energy than I have! So far no one has stepped forward for the position. The position can be split into separate Secretary and Treasurer's roles. I would gladly help the new person(s) for the first couple of months. Please contact me at 375-3950 if you want more details on what the positions entail.

Ridgecrest Activity Group
Antelope Valley Chapter Meeting Minutes
8 Oct 2005

The meeting was called to order at 0920 hours by Director Dennis Linck at Charlie's (Carriage Inn) in Ridgecrest.

Director Dennis Linck –

1. Welcome to new members Tommie and Clint Lawrence.
2. We'll be passing the hat today to help support victims of Hurricane Katrina.
3. We'll also be passing the hat for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets.
4. Next Cruise Night will be at Pony Espresso. Cruise Nights will move to Nickoletti's Espresso Café in November.
5. Toys for Tots Motorcycle and Car Show will be Dec. 3. 1st meeting will be at Nickoletti's Espresso Café on Wed. 12 Oct. at 1830 hours (6:30 pm). RAG will be taking care of advertising for the show.
6. Board Vacancies for next year: Asst Director, Secretary, Treasurer, LOH and Historian
7. Christmas Party will be on Sat. Dec. 10 at the VFW Hall. No host cocktails at 1800 hours (6 pm) followed by dinner at 1900 hours (7 pm). Same Caterer as last year – Mystique. There will be an optional white elephant gift exchange. Tickets \$25.
8. San Diego/Coronado Trip is 4-6 November. Visiting the Midway, Wade Tallman has ride planned for Sat. followed by Dinner; Ride home Sun on your own.

Secretary Debby Linck –

1. Updated email roster has been sent out. Please send me any corrections.

Asst. Director Stan Austin –

1. Poker Run/Activity Group picnic on Sat. Oct. 15. 2 hand maximum. \$5 per hand. Can buy one extra card for \$1. Map available at the first stop. BBQ Tri-Tip/Garlic Bread provided at the picnic. Bring a side dish to share. Raffle tickets available. Need not be present to win. First card available at IYK Chevron from 0930 hours (9:30 am) to 1100 hours (11 am).
2. Would like to get ideas from members for a Poker ride this year.

Activities Officer George Fields –

1. AV's next meeting is 6 Nov. Ride will be to Panamint Springs.
2. AHDRA 12 Nov. in Las Vegas.
3. Love Ride 13 Nov. in Los Angeles.

Editor Paul Liesman – Not present.

Safety Officer Dave Hunter-

1. Has been reading up on the causes of motorcycle accidents.
2. Remember to ride to your ability level.
3. Riding Sweep – need t pay attention to what's coming up behind the group.

Road Captain Rex Walraven – Nothing to report.

LOH Billee Burchett – Not present.

Photographer Dwight Furnish –

1. Trying to get pictures of all club members.

Historian Deb Milam – Not present.

Webmaster Don McCauley -

1. Website up and running fine.

New Business:

1. None.

Member/Guest Comments:

1. None.

Old Business:

Reminder – Next board meeting is Fri. 11 Nov. at location TBD. Next general meeting will be on Sat. 12 Nov. at 0900 hours at Charlie's in the Carriage Inn.

Meeting was adjourned at 1006 hours.

Ridgecrest Activity Group
Antelope Valley Chapter Meeting Minutes
12 Nov 2005

The meeting was called to order at 0909 hours by Director Dennis Linck at Charlie's (Carriage Inn) in Ridgecrest.

Director Dennis Linck –

9. Presentation of Donation to Make A Wish Foundation representatives Anne Haber and Ruth Mooney.
10. Thanksgiving/Christmas Food Basket Family has 2 38 yr old adults, 1 20 yr old adult and a 1 yr old child. Meet on Sat. 19 Nov at Jack-in-the-Box between 1200 and 1230 hours.
11. Cruise Nights moving to Nickoletti's Espresso Café on Flex Thursdays at 1900 hours (7 pm).
12. Poker Run went well. Raised over \$300 to support our two charities.
13. Toys for Tots Motorcycle and Car Show on Sat. 3 Dec. at Kmart parking lot. \$7 plus a new toy valued at \$10 or more to enter.
14. Christmas Parade on Sat. 10 Dec after the meeting. Parade starts at 1000 hours (10 am).
15. December meeting time will be 0800 hours (8 am) to accommodate those who want to ride in the parade.
16. Christmas Party on Sat. 10 Dec. at 1800 hours (6 pm). Tickets are \$25 per person.
17. Base Maintenance Officer appreciated those who showed up on their bikes for his retirement ceremony.
18. Board Vacancies for next year:
Asst Director (Stan Austin will be moving up to Director), Secretary, Treasurer, LOH, Historian

Secretary Debby Linck –

2. Please keep your contact information updated.

Asst. Director Stan Austin –

3. Trip to Coronado went well. Would like to do it again next year.

Activities Officer George Fields – Not present.

Editor Paul Liesman –

1. Newsletter inputs are due 3 Dec.

Safety Officer Dave Hunter-

4. Chemical heat packs are good to keep your hands and feet warm. Available at Kmart, Wal-Mart, Big 5, etc.
5. Watch for ice on the roadways from sprinkler runoff.

Road Captain Rex Walraven –

1. Looking for those who want to do the experienced riders course.

LOH Billee Burchett –

1. Toys for Tots needs help on 14 Dec to load toys, 15 Dec to unload toys. Next meeting is on 22 Nov at Nickoletti's Espresso Café at 1830 hours (6:30 pm). 8 Dec. is Thank you party for volunteers at the Carriage Inn.

Photographer Dwight Furnish –

1. Needs pictures of all new members.

Historian Deb Milam – Not present.

Webmaster Don McCauley - Not present.

New Business:

1. None.

Member/Guest Comments:

2. AV's LOH Starr : AV Toy Drive on 19 November from 0900 hours – 1400 hours (9 am to 2 pm) at the shop. Poker Run, Bike Games, Raffle Prizes, EZ Rider Magazine will be there.
3. Liz Gray: McDonald's promotion for Toys for Tots: Free small eggnog shake if you donate a toy.

Old Business:

Reminder – Next board meeting is Fri. 9 Dec. at location TBD. Next general meeting will be on Sat. 10 Dec. at 0900 hours at Charlie's in the Carriage Inn.

Meeting was adjourned at 1006 hours.



Photographer
Dwight Furnish



Road Captain Coordinator
Rex Walraven

Well, let me see what we did over the past couple of months. The picnic was AWESOME in October, the ride to San Diego orchestrated by our director, Dennis Linck, and Wade Tallman, was AWESOME, we delivered a thanksgiving dinner to a needy family in Inyokern, which is always so worth while, and we did a lot of work for the Toys for Tots culminating on the day the newsletter inputs are due. So I am hoping the Toys for Tots Car and Motorcycle show will also be awesome.

If you haven't been around, we are growing big time, and we seem to have plenty of Road Captain participation on our rides. The captains and our board members are working hard to put these rides together and then ride with the group to make sure all goes as well as possible. I want to thank each and every one of you that have worked on these and I wish you well in the riding we are planning on doing next year.

The ride to San Diego was great due in part to the communication between the motorcycles with CB radios during our ride. Riding in traffic and being able to communicate is a great advantage over simple hand signals. I would encourage anyone having the capability to use this to take advantage of it, especially if they are going to the heavy traffic areas such as L.A. or San Diego. In a group of more than five or so the hand signals from front to rear are slow and difficult to use sometimes. With the radios, we found it great to be able to set up lane changes. It's just one simple thing your road captains are there to help the group with.

For those of you riding during the winter, do your best to keep warm and dry, and stop if you feel the need, pushing yourself too hard will only get someone into a problem. Our road captains need to monitor the riders in the group and their ability to handle the situations on the road. If one needs to stop, then the group stops and makes sure everyone will make it through the ride.

Take Care, Ride Safe, and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.





Submitted by Bruce Bartels

From today's SF Gate webpage: More women are switching gears, from the safety of cars to the freedom of motorcycles.

It's after dark on a work night. The freeway is jammed with commuters trying to get home. Brake lights line the road like Christmas ornaments. Jacqueline Tona fires up her Suzuki GSXR. Six-hundred cubic centimeters of metal and torque roar to life, then purr. She pulls out of a parking lot in Burlingame and winds her way to the on-ramp. Traffic is slow but steady. Tona doesn't hesitate a bit, just twists the throttle and glides the bike expertly between two cars. Checks left and back. Then moves to the next lane. There's nothing between her boots and swiftly moving pavement but a small foot-peg.

Tona, who commutes from her home in the Mission District to her job at TAG Aviation in Burlingame, is one of a growing number of women who are trading in the safety, expense and bulk of cars for the swiftness of motorcycles. According to the Motorcycle Industry Council, a trade group based in Irvine (Orange County), bike sales in the United States have more than tripled in the past decade, to 1.04 million last year from 306,000 in 1994, and part of that rise is due to female riders. One in every 12 U.S. motorcycle owners is now female. In 1986, Harley-Davidson sold 600 bikes to female riders; in 2004, the number was 30,000. Industry officials say bike companies ignored women riders for years and focused on the Baby Boomer male market, but that market now is saturated. This year, Harley-Davidson is coming out with bikes that sit lower and offer parts to tailor the rides for women. Still, no one is entirely certain why the number of female motorcyclists is rising. It's not as though Britney Spears has bought a BMW K1200 R. Tona doesn't care. She moves faster than the rest of traffic, driving down the white lines walled with vehicles, a practice called "lane splitting" that is entirely legal, despite the irritation of drivers who cannot share her ease of movement. It's one reason Tona rides. TAG Aviation is a 16-mile commute from San Francisco on Highway 101, which is among the most congested

pieces of real estate in the Western world.

Tona can get home in 30 minutes, traffic or not. She rides a lot and doesn't own a car. She got her first bike, a scooter, in 1989, then bought progressively bigger and faster motorcycles. She is 40, single, no kids. Tall and red-haired. A former soldier, her boyfriend does not ride. "But he thinks it's cool that I ride," she said. "I think he's proud of that." TAG Aviation is a largely male-dominated company with a lot of macho pilots and motorcycle riders. When Tona is introduced to strangers at work, they often say, "This is Jacqueline. She rides a motorcycle." Tona doesn't think much about gender differences of motorcycle riding. For her, it's about convenience and adventure. The convenience to get where you're going quickly, and be able to park when you get there. The adventure of hitting the road with no protection. Driving inches from cars and trucks. The wind in your face. And speed. Always the speed. "It's frustrating to sit in traffic and just ... sit," she said, her brow knitting with intensity. "I might be going along at 5 or 10 miles per hour, but at least I'm moving while everyone else is just sitting there."

On the other side of San Francisco, in Marin County, another woman is just starting a love affair with motorcycles. She goes by the name Aruna, which is Sanskrit for "radiance." Her birth name is Karen Andes. Aruna teaches belly dancing in San Anselmo, and recently turned 49. So it was time to buy a motorcycle. Hers is a 535cc Yamaha Virago. Black with lots of chrome. It has a V-Twin engine and the low-slung look of a cruiser, like a mini-Harley. She has dubbed it Veronica after the semi-mischievous girl in the Archie comic books. "Veronica (the bike) is like the dark side of my personality," Aruna said. "Not real bad. Just a little bad." Aruna's first recollection of motorcycling was riding on the back of her uncle's bike. Her second was when she broke her ankle after falling off a scooter. She grew up in Philadelphia, moved to the Bay Area 18 years ago, went on a spiritual journey, got a new name and then a new boyfriend. He rode a motorcycle. "Once I got on that bike, I was hooked," she said. "I'm a slut for a ride on a motorcycle. I figured I would become a pest, asking him for rides all the time, so I decided to get my own." That was seven months ago. "I respect the fact that I could kill myself on that thing," Aruna said. "So, it takes a while. You don't just become a rider; you have

to earn it. And you have to really bond with your bike." Aruna sees riding as an extension of belly dancing. She straddles the bike and moves down the road, upper torso fixed while her pelvis moves and sways in time with Veronica. It's also a form of meditation. Not just for her, but for most bikers. You get in the saddle, listen to the hum of the engine, the whine of tires on blacktop and you get inside yourself. You see things and hear things and think things that are lost to most drivers inside their steel cages. Aruna said there are small differences between men and women riders. Mostly it comes from the relative newness of riding for women. "There's a whole allure of 'I ride my own,' " she said. "And then, you have girly moments: parking, or little moments when you think, 'This thing is heavy.' I almost dumped it. Gassing up is a challenge. You have to be willing to not be cool in certain moments."

As more women like Tona and Aruna buy and ride motorcycles, it seems clear gender is less important than personality type. What separates the riders from the non-riders is attitude. It's a dangerous hobby, or commute alternative. You have no protection, you travel at fatal speeds and there is no margin of error. But today's female riders (like many of their male counterparts) do carry a whiff of midlife crisis about them. The median age of women motorcyclists is 42, up from 38 in 1998. Almost 60 percent are married, 28 percent have a college or post-graduate degree and 35 percent are in a professional or technical profession, according to the Motorcycle Industry Council. Women do appear to be more interested in driver education, though. Kathleen Lawler, vice president of communications for Harley-Davidson, said: "One interesting fact is that more and more women are enrolling in our rider education program. About 40 percent of the students are female."

A couple of Fridays ago, Aruna brought Veronica to the studio so she could ride to the beach afterward. She changed into leather chaps and jacket - all black, of course. Aruna gets on Veronica and pulls into traffic. The belly dancing studio - World Dance Fitness - is on the edge of developed Marin, so it takes only a couple of minutes to get to two-lane blacktop leading to Point Reyes Station. This is what lures people to motorcycling as much as commute convenience. The road is dry and clear, there's little traf-

fic. The sun is out and the birds are singing. She rides easily, not too fast, enjoying the day and becoming one with the 500-pound metal machine between her legs. "It's one of the best things I've ever done for myself," she said. "I get crazy when I can't ride. Sometimes I'm at work and I just think, 'I've gotta go. I've got to go for a ride.' I never had that before."



Editor
Paul Liesman

Doug & Judy Gerard and myself enjoyed several trips this fall to watch our daughters play volleyball for Burroughs H.S. There were road trips to Lancaster, Phelan, Victorville, Hesperia, & Barstow. We really enjoyed the trips and the games and look forward to doing it again next fall.

We had an excellent turnout for the club poker run & picnic. I hope everyone enjoyed it. Stan did a fantastic job with the BBQ.

The 7th Annual **Toys for Tots** car show & motorcycle show was held last Saturday, Dec. 03. **Rex Walraven, Dennis Linck, Dave Hunter, Stan Austin, and myself** went around town begging for donations. **Debbie & Josh Wilkerson** set up their camper in the K-Mart parking for the volunteers.

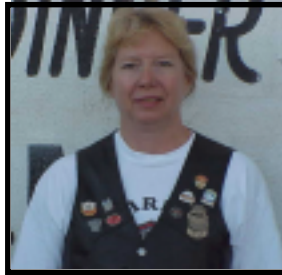
Debby & Dennis Linck are stepping down the RAG board of directors. We need members to fill open positions.

As always, if you download the newsletter from the website and do not want to receive a paper copy, let me know.





Ladies of Harley
Billee Burchett



Historian
Deb Milam



Activities Officer
George Fields



Web Master
Don McCauley

Happy Birthday!!

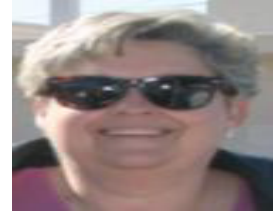
December



Stan Austin



Judy Gerard



Liz Gray



Bob Haber



Chris Hunter



Robert Lindeman



Mike Moore

January

Tim Andolsek



George Fields



Dwight Furnish



Tom Lara

Toys for Tots



Motorcyle Web Links

HD of Lancaster

<http://www.hdoflanaster.com/lancasterhome.html>

AV Hog Public Site

<http://www.avhog.com>

AV Hog Members Site

<http://www.avhog.us>

HD Home Page

http://www.harley-davidson.com/hd_main/hd_home.jsp

Motorcyclists Rights

<http://www.abate.org/>

Motorcycle Safety Foundation

<http://www.msf-usa.org/>

Ridgecrest Activity Group

<http://www.ridgecresthog.com/>

HOG Chapters

<http://hogchapters.net>

Maps

<http://www.mapquest.com/>

California Department of Transportation – Road and Highway Info

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/>

Harley Owners Group

<http://www.hog.com>

Lancaster HD Store Hours

Monday	8:00AM - 8:00PM
Tuesday	8:00AM - 8:00PM
Wednesday	8:00AM - 8:00PM
Thursday	8:00AM - 8:00PM
Friday	8:00AM - 8:00PM
Saturday	8:00AM - 7:00PM
Sunday	10:00AM - 5:00PM



320 Dawn Ct.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555