Dear Solvang 2012 Winter Break Riders,

Hard to believe there are less than 90 days until this coming February’s ride. New participants continue signing up, adding to an already wonderful group of riders. I am looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones!

**Hotel Reservations**: If you plan on staying at the Wine Valley Inn, let this serve as a gentle reminder to call the hotel (800-824-6444) for the BAC rate ($116/ night, including tax) for a single or double room with continental breakfast included. Be sure to mention BAC for best rate. December 5, 2011 is the deadline.

**Dr. J’s Bike Shop**. The best and only bike shop in Solvang is three blocks from our hotel at 1693 Mission Drive –the main street thru town. Hours of operation are Monday-Saturday 9am to 6pm, Sunday 12 to 5pm. Phone No: (805) 688-6263. Dr. J’s will accept shipment of your bike and assemble it if desired. The shop has a knowledgeable and friendly staff. A floor jack or two will be available from BAC tour leader and some riders in our group will have meaningful mechanical know-how.

**Transportation.**  You can rent a car and drive from Los Angeles airport [LAX] (about a 2.5 hour drive) or Santa Barbara Airport (about 1.0 hour drive). AMTRAK also serves LAX to Santa Barbara, then it’s a bus ride to Central Solvang. This involves about 3.5 hours or more travel time, too cumbersome for me, but it’s another option.

**Climate and Bike Clothes.**  Weather is usually better than average. Meaning usually sunny and mild temps, but early morning starts can be chilly or even frosty. Just in case bring cold, rainy weather gear. And your Kindle ! Last years temps reached low 80’s one day. But no guarantees. Best described as “crisp in the morning , but sunny and warm in the afternoons”. Historically, the weather has cooperated with BAC.

**February 5th Meeting.** Like last years Solvang ride, this years first day, is Superbowl Sunday. To assure maximum attendance at the first BAC meeting, there will be a split meeting. We will meet briefly at 3pm in the breakfast dining room (where all subsequent Happy Hour meetings will take place). I will hand out the ride sheets and other documents, name tags and the like and describe BAC dinner plans then adjourn. We will reconvene at 6pm and conclude our meeting, after which we will proceed to a scrumptious dinner at a nearby restaurant. Dinner is at 7pm.

Once my conversations with the restaurants’ which will host our BAC sponsored dinners have concluded I will be back in your lives asking you to make choices in meal selections: Meat, fish or vegetarian.

Have a memorable Holiday Season. Cheers, Gary