

JUNE 2018

NORCAL NEWS



Ride to Camp

Camp to Ride



This month featuring:
Norcal riders survive the Sahara
49er Pictures
Prepping for Alaska
and other stuff

JUNE 2018

The Captain's Log

Break out those cool vests and vented gear, it's June and things are heating up! And remember to stay hydrated, starting a few days before that big ride. You want to be as hydrated as you can when you start out, not trying to play catch-up along the way. To help with my hydration and recovery after I add electrolytes to my water. It makes a big difference!

Thankfully the temps were mild for our 49er Rally. Friday was wet with some drizzle but that didn't keep too many folks away, we topped last year's attendance with numbers well into the 500's. The rain knocked down the dust for a minute and the roads weren't adversely affected. There was a section of Hwy 49 that was closed but the diligent Tour Captain posted that in advance, so folks were able to work around that. This year's 49er was a great success, thanks mostly to our Chairman, Joe Luthy, and a new take on the registration pioneered by member volunteer Hugo Bonilla. Of course, there are many more volunteers and the Board of Directors that make this event work, so a huge thanks to everyone!

Speaking of the Board, in case you've somehow missed it, the June Member Meeting and Campout is also our Annual Election. This is where members (in good standing) stand up and give back to the Club by running for a Board seat, and the rest of us put it to a vote. The Board positions are something to be taken seriously – sitting on the Board does require a fair amount of work and participation. This is how the Club gets business done. That said, serving on the board can also be a lot of fun! So step up and run for a position, and, come out and vote! This year the meeting is at Chanslor Ranch in cool Bodega Bay and some of the Board is BBQ-ing some good grub! Also, try out your choice of street of GS routes to the campout.

Then - are you ready for a great line-up of riding and campouts this summer? Well you're in the right Club! July we are at Nordheimer, on the Forks of the Salmon. This will be a great one, smack dab in the middle of some of the best riding in the State. August we are at Lodgepole at Lake Alpine, in the Sierra – gorgeous with more great riding. September I'll be getting the Club high. September we'll be up at 10,000' at Saddlebag Lake, on the crest of the High Sierra. This isn't just fun and games, at this elevation we could get everything from sunburns to the first snow dusting of the year. (But don't worry, yours truly will be monitoring the weather forecasts carefully and posting updates leading up to the Campout.) This October you can expect another great Member Meeting and Campout at Liberty Glen by Lake Sonoma. Same line-up as last year, great riding followed by a great campout with German-ish food served up by the cooking wing of the Club. Don't miss this one!

In closing – we have also announced the starting location of this year's Range of Light Gypsy Tour, Napa Valley Expo in Napa! And registration is now open! I have finished planning the routes and am part way through the pre-riding – and you'll hear it here first, this year's riding is going to be epic! And in the event of fires, the alternate routes are pretty spectacular too.

Nick Gloyd Tour Captain

Presidents Report

The best part about being the President is the annual welcome to all the new members to NorCal! According to the Club by-laws, if you attended the 49er, paid admission, own a BMW, and are over the age of 18; you're a member until the end of the fiscal year – June 30th. So for 30 days, we're one of the largest physical BMW MOA Chartered Clubs with around 700 members. We hope you enjoyed the camaraderie and activities at the 49er, learned something in the seminars, met old friends and made new ones.

As you saw at the Rally, we have a lot of fun putting on two very different events (49er and Range of Light) and holding our monthly meetings at various locations all over California and Nevada. If you enjoy riding, camping, and traveling, you should consider signing up for next year and attending the next election meeting near Bodega Bay at the end of June...just off Highway 1 up on the north coast.

As we reflect on the last year, the Club is healthy and growing, the annual budget/actuals is pretty much spot on (miracle), the monthly meetings are having some of the largest attendances in decades, around 100 at both the Octoberfest and at Songdog Ranch, the 49er got kudos from everyone we talked with, and the Board moved lots of issues to the completed side of the column. We hope everyone has enjoyed being a member and want this fun atmosphere to continue with more riding and camping.

The June election meeting will have a lot going on, besides the regular meeting agenda, we will have the first reading and discussion of the proposed changes to the By-Laws. These are very specific items that you will decide yea or nay on each section at the following July meeting. Nothing earth shaking but important to the future direction of the Club.

Until then the focus will be on getting some additional candidates for next year's leadership positions. So far, we have some people interested in running for the different positions but more candidates are always welcome. Talk to any current officer about any position to see what actually goes on during a monthly Club and Board meeting. Take a few minutes to read and understand the roles and responsibilities in the online Club By-Laws. Nothing makes a group run better than everyone volunteering in any manner, one time event or officer....get involved...have fun.

That said, we've had many members come and go over the years. They left when changes happen in their life, quit riding, moved, changed passion to sailing or horses,,,or in the case of long time members Ted Hutz and Rick Huemmerich, both passed on in the last month. I knew Ted for over 25 years and always rolled with laughter when he told the tales of his little group rides to Baja and the Philippines...a life well lived.

Greg Hutchinson President

See you at the election meeting.

BMW
NORCAL

THE RANGE OF LIGHT GYPSY TOUR

NAPA VALLEY EXPO
AUGUST 31ST 2018

OUT OF THE ASHES

The 2018 Range of Light Gypsy Tour starts at the Napa Valley Expo!

So, August 31st show up and be ready for a great tour or, come a day or two early and enjoy the awesome Napa Valley before the Tour begins...

Part of what we'll see firsthand on this year's Tour is the damage from the October Firestorm that ravaged Napa and Sonoma Counties, but more importantly, the rebuilding and healing of the damaged areas.

Go to <http://bmwnorcal.org/ROL> for more information and to register!
For volunteering and sponsorship opportunities contact Nick at rolchair@bmwnorcal.org

2018 Election Meeting - 23 June

This years election meeting will take place at the Chanslor Ranch, Bodega Bay. Our tour captain is promising a BBQ dinner so it will be well worth attending. At the time of going to press the only declared candidate is Chris Dailey for president. Others can be nominated at the meeting.

Please attend and think about how you might give something back to the club.

See you there.

Acknowledging the 49er Volunteers

Hugo Bonilla for innovation and streamlining the registration packet process, plus donating the time and materials to get that system in place. Huge contribution!

Fred Montano for doing a great job with the food vendors - that's a slippery beast to herd.

Dennis Godwin and the GS Giants crew for building the courses for the English and GS trophy course.

Nick Gloyd for laying out the self guided routes and the route of the Poker Run

Rick Webb for tussling presentation equipment

Kevin Coleman for counting the money

Greg Hutchinson 3 days sitting behind the table in Rally HQ

Joe Luthy as Rally Chair for the enormous amount of he devoted to organizing the very successful event

+

The rest of the volunteers for selflessly giving their time for the Rally.

Having trouble registering on line for an event ????

We get a fair number of questions from members saying they are a member but can not register for an event as a member or can't find their online membership card. The cause of this is almost always because the member has more than one login account set up in the system and they have logged into one of their accounts which is not set up as a member account. This situation causes lots of questions and confusion as well as additional efforts to administer. Your club attendance records and financial transactions are spread across multiple accounts.

When we come across these situations we clean them up by merging all the accounts so we have a single account for the

member. If you are receiving multiple copies of our club emails in different email boxes then you probably have more than one account on our system. We have a few members that have 5 or more accounts ! That makes for a lot of emails from the club. Next time you can't register for a club event as a member click on your name in the upper right hand corner to look at your profile. If you don't see your membership status in your profile you are logged into one of your "extra" accounts. Send an email to treasurer@bmwnorcal.org and we will get that cleaned up to make it easier on you and us

Kevin Coleman

Wunderlich Frame Plugs



Just when you thought there is no possible way you can add another farkle to that water cooled R1200 then the good folk at Wunderlich find another way to entice you to spend that hard earned dollar. They have recently introduced "frame plugs kits" made specifically for the R1200 R and RS, and the R1200 GS and Adventure. I am a bit surprised BMW did not ship the bikes with these. They tidy up appearance and help make the bike easier to clean.

Prepping for a Alaska Trip

I am planning a ride to Alaska for the first time in July and was trying to figure out what in addition to general servicing I needed to think about ahead of time.

Well the first and obvious thing is the tires. By all accounts the roads in the far are fairly decent gravel when dry, but can turn pretty ugly in the wet. I figure the there and back mileage could be around 10,000 miles. I want to avoid if possible the necessity for tire changes on route so I needed a tire that can last the distance. I checked various bulletin boards and the consensus was that Mitas E-07 Dakar should meet requirements. These tires are 4 ply cross ply and are made in Czechoslovakia. The Dakar means the sidewalls are a stiffer and more suitable for heavy adventure bikes. Bought a pair from Twisted Throttle for a reasonable \$270.



I freely admit to being a poor off road rider. One of the things I have noticed when standing on the pegs is the difficulty I have applying to rear brake. An on-line recommendation suggested an Altrider dual level brake pad. They make these for a variety of bikes.

One thing that I hadn't thought about previously was protection to the front fork seals. In the good old days rubber covers were used, but modern esthetics leave them naked. My bike has sliders at the bottom, and although plastic covers protect against rocks, if the forks are covered in mud then bits could get into the seals and cause them to leak. I found this really simple product

called Shock Sox. They basically wrap around the fork covering the seals and are secured by Velcro. One size fits all.



The last item I considered was extra gas. I figure my bike has a range of 280 miles, if its not being thrashed. The road to Prudeau Bay has a 240 mile section without gas, so I should be OK. However, if something goes wrong.... To be on the safe side I figured I needed to carry extra gas. I looked at the RotopaX products, but the optimum place for this is the rear carrier or in place of the pillion seat. I already have a top case installed so I looked for another solution and found these Givi Jerry can that can be attached to aluminum side case. I ordered two which gives me an extra 1.3 gallons, and plan to mount them on the front of my side cases, to keep the additional weight low and forward. I see no reason these could not be used with other makes of side case.

Ho Chi Minh Trail Tour by John Vashon

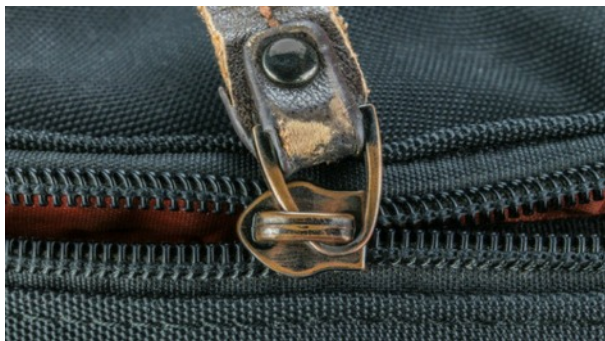
September 7, 2018 - 8 Day Guided Tour Limited to 6 riders - \$1700 per person

This Ho Chi Minh Trail tour will be an adventure! Ethnic Tarig and Katu villages, river crossings, spectacular waterfalls, the ancient Khmer Temple of Wat Phou, karst caves, crossing the longest bamboo bridge in Lao and of course, all the history of the Ho Chi Minh Trail! This is an 8 day tour starting in Vientiane, Lao. We'll ride Honda CRF 250s on a mix of sealed and graded roads about 150 KM a day. We'll pass through several karst valleys, Nakai Plateau, Champasak and the Bolevens Plateau. Total cost including motorcycle, guide, support vehicle, all meals, accommodations and fuel, \$1,700 per person. The link below leads to Facebook event page and a detailed day by day itinerary and a map of the route. If you questions please reply to me at jevashon@gmail.com or call (925) 698-6360

https://www.facebook.com/events/423223911456890/?active_tab=discussion

Repairing a tent zip

I bought a Kelty TN2 tent about three years and have been very pleased with it. It keeps the water out and stands up to strong winds but the best bit is that the tent poles fold up really small into a 11 x 14 inch pack that easily fits into a top box or side case. Unfortunately I started to have problems with one of the zips after a dusty Death Valley camp out. I cleaned the zip and added lubrication but after a time the long zip on one side would not close with one of the two metal zipper sliders.



This is what my zip looked like

In my ignorance I figured my only options were to find someone who could replace the zip or simply toss the tent. Fortunately the web is there to provide assistance. A quick search resulted in a multitude of hits.

Since the zip worked fine with one slider but not the other suspicion fell on the one slider. Apparently the jaws can open out. I tried squeezing but that didn't work. A visit to Amazon found "Zipper Rescue, Zipper Repair Kit, Outdoor"

In my case the zip is made of plastic to replace the slider meant running the slider right to the end of the zip and then cutting the zip just in front of the slider (3/8 inch from end) with a Stanley knife. Remove the old slider with one from the kit and then carefully line up zip so it meshes correctly with the new slider. Then use one of the stops that come with the kit to create a new end point.

Job done. While searching the web I saw there was tricks for repairing other types of zip failure, so if your zip fails check it out, you may be able to salvage it.

John Ellis



Recycling Center

This year and model Beemer is a hard to find Midnight Black (BMW color code 999) Currently 84,100 on the clock. I am the second owner. It has been my ride for 15 years and is very difficult to part with. I have medical problems that makes riding painful.

This bike comes with good Michlien Pilot GT 4 tires, AGM battery, Booster Plug, Wunderkind thermometer, Throttlemeister, Hyperlites, Custom accessory shelf, Garmin Zumo GPS mount only, USB charge port on shelf, C Bailey tall windshield, Handlebar combo risers/setbacks, extra fuse panel added, heated clothing wiring, tankbag, extra 12V outlet on fairing, PIAA1100 driving lights with manual switch on bars, K&N air filter, positive battery terminal extension for ease of jump starts, large panniers, trunk all keyed alike, so-called "comfort" seat by BMW, passenger seat back cushion, heated grips, auxiliary mirrors, cylinder head guards, service records of work done, larger brake pedal, brake pads in good shape, previous owner removed the radio. I will include some service tools and a special Best Rest cargo plate/rack that goes in place of the trunk also tiedowns for trailering the bike (never used) I have more pics showing parts of the bike described above. First \$4,000 takes it home! have the clear title in hand. Registered in Nevada.

Walt Farnlacher wfarnlacher@yahoo.com



49er Vendors and Sponsors



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Chris Walstow RKA \$100 Gift Certificate
Marilyn Edmondson GS Gloves Cycle Specialties
Mark Whaley Dunlop Tire
Frank Parker High Road Adventure 1day GS Rental
Lori Perrine Ted Porter ProTool Kit
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Carolyn Enlow RKA\$100 Gift Certificate
Tom Connolly Dennis ?? Motorcycle Art Work
Mark Rodda RKA \$100 Gift Certificate
Tom Jones 50% Clearwater Lights Certificate
jack Pinhero Jesse Top Box
Bob HighFill Overland Adventure Kit Kube System
Robert Edmondson Weiser Lights Set
Kathy Ohannesian Set of Dunlop Tires



Women Exploring On-2-Wheels



A&S Maintenance Tips - Coolant:

Keeping your engine from overheating is the job of the coolant in your radiator(s). When it deteriorates it's less efficient, meaning your engine is not properly protected from the heat that causes components to wear prematurely. Check the condition and level of your bike's coolant during routine maintenance and replace it every four years - regardless of mileage.



Red Rock Rendezvous, RRR Panguitch Utah Jun 14, 2018 - Jun 17, 2018
<https://beehivebeemers.org/events/red-rock-rendezvous/>

Chief Joseph Rally June 29 to July 1, 2018

http://www.bmwro.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=301799&module_id=172743



46th Annual Cascade Country Rendezvous and Republic Dual Sport Rally
July 19 to 22 Ferry County Fairgrounds in Republic, Washington
http://wsbmr.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=507138&module_id=150331

BMW Club
Washington State Riders



The 2018 Stanley Stomp Rally August 9-12

<http://www.idahobmwriders.com/stanleystomp.html>

Nakusp Hotspings Rally, BC Canada

August 16 - 19

<https://beeceebeemers.com/index.php/rally/>



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20th annual Beartooth Rendezvous will be August 16 - 19, 2018.

<http://beartoothbeemers.org/>



Range of Light Gypsy Tour

Starts at Napa Valley Expo

August 31 to September 3

<http://bmwnorcal.org/ROL>



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For more details

Click on boxes above to be redirected to rally web sites

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NorCal Riders tour in Morocco and the Sahara by Minako McMahon

I never thought I would put a foot on Africa soil in my lifetime, but I did this past April 2018! And what an amazing experience it was!

It all started when our dear friends Chia Lee and Ed Perry (Norcal BMW club members) asked Buddy Scauzzo and me if we were interested in joining them for the trip. We are very happy that we indeed joined them along with Claire Palmgren and Jason Risica from our club.

We rode our beautiful and well-maintained rental BMW motorcycles from Lisbon, Portugal all the way to Morocco and back in 12 days on the "Morocco Premium Tour" provided by MotoXplorers. Total mileage was 2,200.

Riding in the pouring rain and deep fog through the Atlas Mountains really tested our riding skills. But all of us were experienced and skilled foul weather riders.

Exiting a gas stop I spun my wheel and almost lost it, but my off-road skills kicked in and I was able to hold my bike in upright position without



going down. By the time we arrived Merzouga on Sahara Desert, we felt like we could ride the world!

Tour leader Carlos Martin, owner of MotoXplorers who thoroughly planned our route, accommodations and scenic stops along the way made our trip very easy and interesting.

I know there are several companies running motorcycle tours in Morocco, but I highly recommend MotoXplorers as they were very attentive and did an excellent job. Some of photos attached to this article are provided by them.

Morocco is truly an amazing country with warm, friendly people and beautiful land to see. And there is no better way than touring it on a BMW Motorcycle!!!

Minako McMahon



My trip Highlights were

Crossing the Strait of Gibraltar from Spain to Morocco by ferry

Riding through the beautiful Atlas Mountains

Being introduced to Moroccan culture day by day.

Crossing paths with camels while riding the desert.

Camel riding the Sahara dunes at sunset.

Meeting HONDA motorcycle factory team in a gas station

Interacting with local Moroccan people – they were very nice!

Riding off-road and visiting a authentic Oasis near Dades Valley

Riding through hundreds of roundabouts with crazy traffic in towns

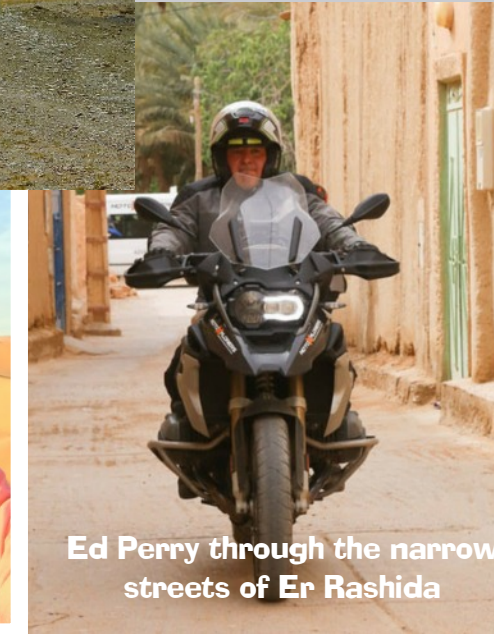
Being in Seville Spain where the festival Feria was happening



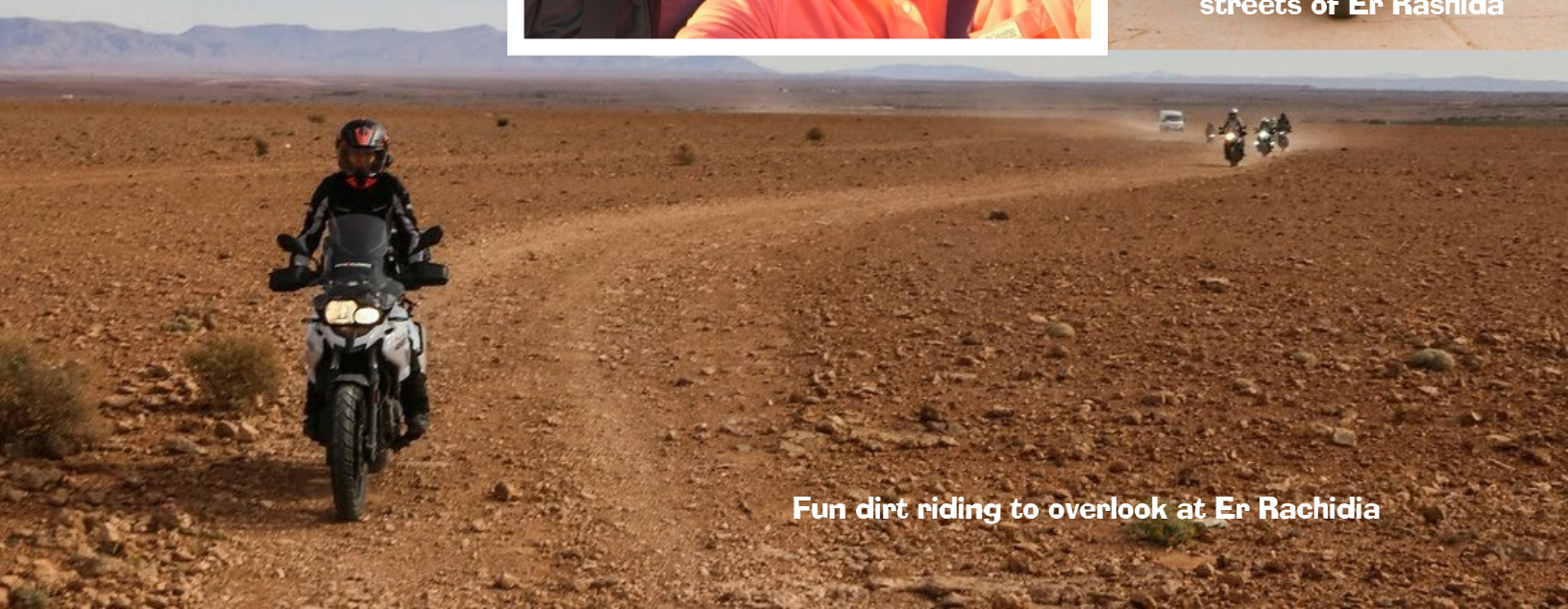
Jason hiking up dunes in the Sahara desert near Merzouga



Clare and I dressed for the camel ride



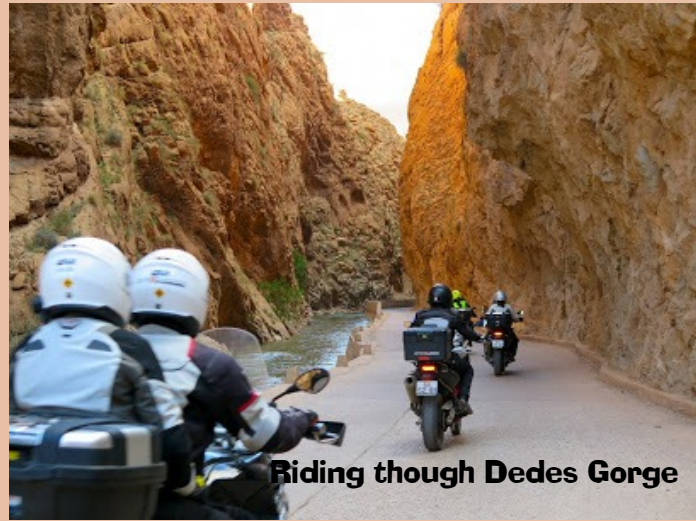
Ed Perry through the narrow streets of Er Rashida



Fun dirt riding to overlook at Er Rachidia



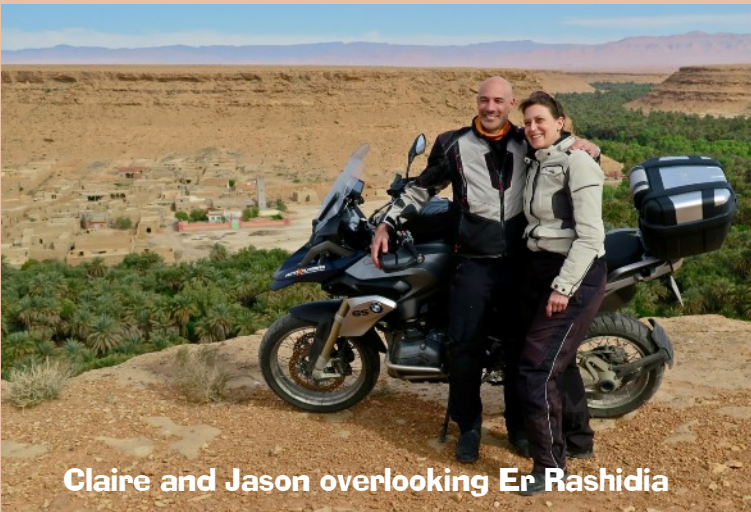
Hotel in Alt Ben Hadden



Riding though Dades Gorge



Overlooking Dades Gorge



Claire and Jason overlooking Er Rashidia



Pretty senorita in the streets of Seville Spain



Riding though an Oasis

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One rider didn't get the No-Hot-Dogging instructions

2018 49er People Pictures



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SECOND SUNDAY BREAK-FAST

Open

**Board Member*

Events

June 15 &16, 2018
Antique Motorcycle Club of America
National Meet to be held at the fairgrounds in Dixon
California.

June 16-17, 2018
Adventure Bike Challenge II
Middlecreek Campground,
Mendocino National Forest

June 23, 2018
June Member Meeting, Campout and election
8:00 am at Black Bear Diner
303 Soscol Ave, Napa, CA 94559
Camp out at Chanslor Ranch,
2660 CA-1, Bodega Bay
BBQ cook out by the Tour Captain

29 June to July1
Chief Joseph Rally
John Day, Oregon

Pre-registering for events at
www.bmwnorcal.org is highly
recommended. Avoids the need
to sign a waiver at the event.

Anniversaries

Markus Fromherz 15



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