

SEPTEMBER 2023

# NORCAL NEWS



Ride to Camp

Camp to Ride



**BMW MOTORCYCLE CLUB OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

# PRESIDENTS COLUMN

Good day Members,  
Well, here we are at the end of summer and seven days left until the ROL! I have been up to my eyeballs with putting the final touches together. We have been working on this event since February and am very excited to see everyone's hard work come to fruition. There are many people behind the scenes helping to make this event happen and I greatly appreciate all their help. We currently have 284 registered participants. It's going to be a great event!

I hear the August Campout was quite eventful. Super loud thunder and a bit of Rain. On Friday nine people showed up for breakfast and the ride to camp, followed by many others who showed up later that afternoon. By the time Saturday morning rolled around there were 8 brave souls left. Everyone who stuck around took the opportunity to enjoy the area. Sunday's ride home was nice and dry. I hope we can get back out to Badger Flats again.

As you know our club is growing. Just in the last year and a half we have had over 100+ new members. Each campout produces approximately two new members. After the ROL I anticipate our member number to hit 450.

As a reminder this is a 100% Volunteer Based Club. While most of your board members work full time jobs, being on the board is also a job in itself. We definitely don't serve on the board for any

## EDITORS CORNER

I have been editor of this newsletter since Jan 2016. During this time, I have received huge support from club members that made it possible to fill those pages every month. Now the time has come for me to step down and let someone else have to go. I hope you will also support the new editor in the same way that you always supported me.

This month we have another Delf Hedde article and one from past president Greg Hutchinson. When I first read Greg's article my eyes watered a bit. With Greg's permission I toned down some of the colorful descriptions of his stay in hospital but I think it still gets the message across.

compensation. We do it for the people of this club. The diversity everyone brings to the table, the fun we all have with everyone at the campouts and other events is why we do what we do.

Board Meetings - Due to the demographics of the club members we felt that holding only in-person meetings we were not capturing members who wanted to attend the meeting but couldn't due distance. We now have some of our board meetings online so every member has an opportunity to attend and see your elected officials in action. We discuss plans and strategy & making significant decisions. We invite you to come discuss anything with the board, but you'll want to make the most of their time by raising only the most important topics. Check the website for details and register there to get the access link.

There has been some confusion on what qualifies as a General Members Meeting. General Member Meetings are our monthly campout meetings that take place the last full weekend of the month. For more clarification, please review our By-laws Article 4 - Section B. While we do post other events on our website not all events qualify for a General Members Meeting.

See you at the ROL!

*Tresha Holloway President*

I would also like to thank Ravi Verma. Ravi, really enjoys his time with the club and has put together an Indian trip to allow club members to enjoy India in the same way as he did when growing up there. The trip is a purely cost sharing effort. He recently got back from India having done a dry run. He took many pictures which I squeezed on to two pages. What caught my eye was the remarkable picture of a tiger taken with a cell phone. In addition, Ravi documented his experiences at the Badger Flats campout where things took an unexpected turn for the worst.

*John Ellis*

## A Norcal Exclusive by Dick Zunkel



### "He dropped the key thing"

This copyrighted and offered to NorCal BMW at no charge. Promotional or commercial use of is prohibited without written permission by the artist or his agent".

Dick and his wife Salinda web site can be found here

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

## BIG THANKS TO ALL RANGE OF LIGHT SPONSORS

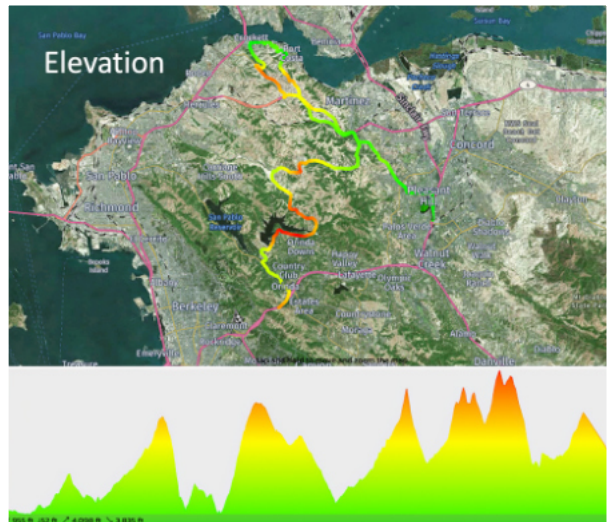
REVER



# AUGUST SECOND SUNDAY BREAKFAST

The August Second Sunday Breakfast took place on the 13th at the Black bear Diner in Walnut Creek. About 15 people showed up. An informal ride after breakfast was organized with five riders participating. Thanks to Nick Dutton, a guest at this

event, who documented the ride with lots of GoPro pictures, a few of which are shown here, and Mini McMahon who provided the in-restaurant pictures and also participated in the ride. For the record we also have details of the route they took.



# OTHER CLUBS WORTH YOUR CONSIDERATION

If you read this, you are very likely a member of the best motorcycle club out there :

The BMW Motorcycle Club of Northern California.

If you are an active and engaged rider, there are a couple of other clubs that are worth your attention:

## The BMW MOA (BMW Motorcycle Owner of America)

The MOA is the "Mother Club" of all BMW Motorcycle Clubs in the US. The BMW Motorcycle Club of Northern California is one of the first clubs that was chartered by the MOA (our charter number is #9). In fact, the first national rally was held in Morgan Hill, CA, one year after our club held the first rally there.

Why would anyone join the MOA? Well, I really don't understand why anybody would not!

Every year the MOA holds a large national rally. Last time I attended, in Montana (2021), there were about 5000 participants and the number for this year's Rally in Virginia was similar. Next year's rally will be in Redmond, Oregon, and expect many Norcal club members will be attending.



Membership includes the subscription to a pretty good monthly magazine. Yep, it's very BMW specific, but in my eyes, that makes it even better.

The MOA offers access to Roadside Assistance and Tire replacement programs.

MOA also has the BMW Owners Anonymous Book. It is a voluntary listing of members who have agreed to help in a time of need. Got a flat?

You can find a member with a truck and trailer in the Anonymous Book. Want to know the good roads to ride in a new area? Members can help out with that, too. It also comes in a digital version accessible via web, tablet or smartphone.

Like other nationwide clubs, the MOA offers members rebates, a website, a marketplace, etc.

**But here are the real offers that make the membership fee pay for itself**

**Consumer support:** MOA members spend millions buying, maintaining, and enjoying their BMW motorcycles. If a member has a problem with a company providing a product or service they can get useful information to resolve the conflict by contacting one of the Consumer Liaisons.

**10% Rebate on BMW parts, gear and accessories:** BMW Motorrad is offering an "All the Time" 10% discount to BMW MOA members for purchases of Original BMW Apparel, Accessories, Parts, Classic Parts, Service Parts and Replacement OEM Parts. If it has a BMW part number, MOA members can earn a 10% rebate!

For the details, check out: <https://www.bmwmoa.org/news/639352/BMW-MOA-Members-Earn-10-Rebate-on-BMW-Parts-Gear-and-Accessories.htm>.

**The MOA Foundations Paul Bachorz Rider Safety Training Grant**

If you do any kind of safety-related training, you can request up to \$250 to defray the training cost. NorCal members have been requesting this grant every year and most grant applications have been accepted. NorCal is a major sponsor for the MOA Foundation.

The application form can be found at: <https://www.bmwmoa.org/page/paulb>

The yearly membership fee for the MOA is \$49.

You can join at: <https://www.bmwmoa.org/page/membertypes>

To celebrate its 50th anniversary, the MOA is currently offering new, never members one year of FREE membership! To take advantage of this offer go to: <https://airtable.com/shrPT7yA9hWiUM9XV> and use code 50YRSON .

## The AMA (American Motorcyclists Association)



Most of us know the AMA for their racing activities: Superbike, MoroCross, SuperCross, Flat Track, Enduro. For pretty much all racing that involves motorcycles, AMA is the national governing body.

The AMA Vintage Days is one of the largest (40 000+ attendants) and fun rallies in the US. Unfortunately, Mid-Ohio is a long ride from Northern California, so not a lot of our members have been able to attend.

The AMA membership comes with the usual, big club benefits:

- A really nice monthly magazine (where all our club rides and rallies are listed)
- Roadside assistance and tire replacement programs
- Members discounts and rebates
- a website,.....

But why we should you care? Well, there are two aspects that really matter for all motorcyclist and especially for our club members:

1) The AMA's mission statement is: "To promote the motorcycle lifestyle and protect the future of motorcycling."

The AMA is the only relevant organization that lobbies on a national, state, and regional level for the interests of motorcyclists:

- If you are concerned about what high percentages of Ethanol will do to your engine
- If you are concerned that current certification for autonomous cars does not require reliable detection of motorcycles
- If you are about your right to lane split
- If you care about your right to ride in the desert or on BLM and Forrest Service Land
- If you care about the access to Off Road Vehicle parks

The AMA is there to represent your interest. By joining the AMA, you are taking an active role in fighting against anti-motorcycling forces that threaten our freedom to ride.

2) Through its sanctioning and insurance process, the AMA allows us to hold our club rides and rallies. Without the AMA we would not be able to obtain insurance for our events. And without insurance, we would not be able to have our rides and rallies. It's really that simple.

Therefore, the BMW Motorcycle Club of Northern California is a chartered AMA member. Our charter number is #6083.

The yearly membership fee for the AMA is \$49.

You can join at: <https://ama.users.membersuite.com/auth/portal-login?isSignUp=true>

If you are an AMA member, please take a minute to update your membership profile at our website with your AMA membership number. The more of our members are AMA members, the easier it is for us to deal with the AMA.

*Delf Hedde Safety/Tech Director*

## Repairing Broken Tent Poles - A Camping Tip



I came home to find that my 9-year-old had broken one of my Marmot tent poles. I love that tent. It has been a faithful companion last 16 years.

I called Marmot and they connected me with a lovely repair shop called Tentpole Technologies in Vancouver, Washington state. I sent my broken pole to them by post and a week later they returned an almost new looking pole. I can now use my tent again for the next Camp-out at Badger Flats.

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

*Ravi Verma*



## ARE YOU PLANNING A TO SPEND A FEW WEEKS TOURING IN EUROPE IN 2024-5?

**Then maybe you should hook up with club member Roger Gage who is planning several such trips.**

I am reaching out to see if anybody is planning on riding Europe in the 2024 or 2025 season, and would like to team up for any parts of the adventure. My RT is currently on the east coast, and I am shipping it to Germany in March via Stefan Knopf.

My plan is to do this in segments (2+ weeks at a time). A few tours that I know I will do are the Alps/Dolomites and England/Scotland/Ireland, both of which I have ridden before, as well as Spain/Portugal, and Croatia. I would love to add Scandinavia (probable?), and am looking at Morocco but am still studying whether or not that would be good riding territory.

I will ride most of these legs "un-led" without a tour guide, but might sign up for a guided tour (i.e., Eidelweiss, IMT, Adriatic, etc.) for the regions that will be new to me.

In addition to visiting the typical European tour spots, I will be scheduling these trips to be able to attend a few sporting events (Wimbledon, Isle of Mann, Nuremberg, MotoGP, etc.).

If anybody is interested, please contact Roger Gage at [89zephyr@gmail.com](mailto:89zephyr@gmail.com) or 408.718.9861. Also feel free to shout out any expertise you have on any of these rides..... greatly appreciated

# RAVI VERMA'S INDIA BY MOTORCYCLE – TRIP UPDATE

I just got back from India after making a complete recce of the intended route. I was able to check out the state roads through small villages, as well as with large cities in the Indus valley such as Dholavira (which dates back 5,200 years). The ride was a total blast, and I can't wait to ride it again with all of you! I took all the pictures you see here using my phone (no stock pics).

I organized this trip with the intent of sharing my youthful Indian motorcycle experiences with club members. This is not a commercial tour. The purpose is to give riders an opportunity to see India, as a local would see it, but at a reasonable cost.

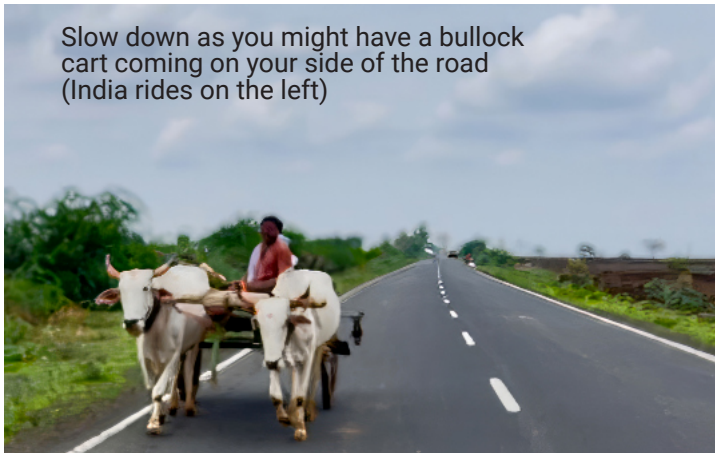
Expect to spend \$6,000 and \$7,000 for accommodation, breakfast, and dinners (excluding any resort stays), Royal Enfield Himalayan motorcycle rental, fuel for participants, along

with a backup vehicle for bags and mechanic support. There will also be local support riders to help with the ride. Not included in the cost estimate are personal items, alcoholic drinks, and sightseeing fees. We have added minivan to follow the tour, just in case your riding partner prefers to travel in a car.

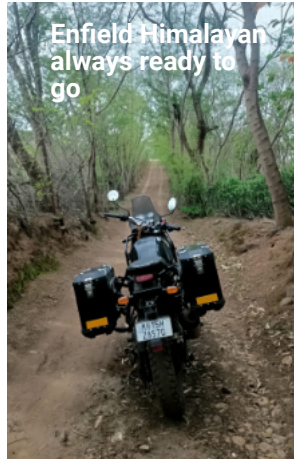
The group trip will take place in February 2024 and is expected to take 30 days, excluding travel to and from India. We will cover around 4000 miles and will cross through 6 Indian states.

The maximum number places available is fifteen. Ten members have already confirmed leaving just five seats left. If you are interested contact me, Ravi Verma - Email - [ravivermanasikse@hotmail.com](mailto:ravivermanasikse@hotmail.com)

**Editors Note - pictures are presented in sequence order**



Slow down as you might have a bullock cart coming on your side of the road (India rides on the left)



Enfield Himalayan always ready to go



Blue Cow Antelope next to state highway crossing



Only male antelopes are with a blue coat and horns



Horn is your best friend



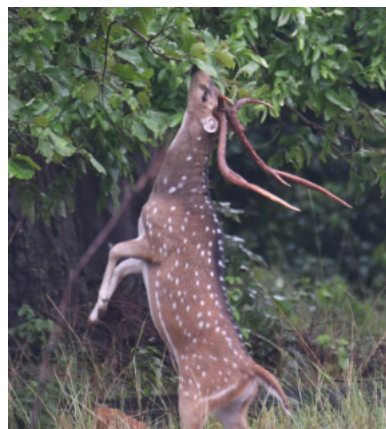
Ready to enter the jungle which Rudyard Kipling wrote about in his book The Jungle Book - Kanha National Forest



Complete Vegetarian Thali Lunch



The king of the jungle did give us commoners a brief audience



Spotted Deer Kanha Junhke



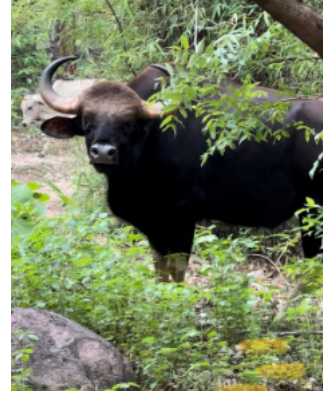
Langur Monkeys Kanha



Aurangabad to Nagpur through back roads



Railway crossing



Indian Bison



Anything can be coming on your side of the road! Got to be ready!  
At 50mph press down hard on your brakes as these cows are everywhere just as you get comfortable



Stupas at Sanchi



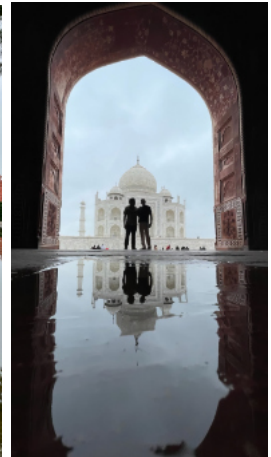
Agra entrance in red sandstone



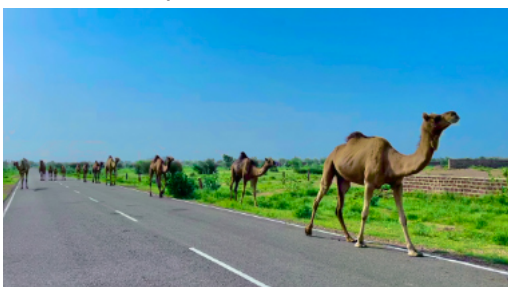
Taking a break after 70 kms of torrential rain on route to Jaipu from Bikaner



Breakfast stop rather palatial being the land of kings



Taj Mahal Agra



Camels welcome us into the Thar Desert



Dusty Eagle Owl finally spotted outside Udaipur



Rani ki Vav - 7levels step well below ground



These sculptures are in the Queen's Step-well from the 11th century in Patan Gujarat



Chai stop in the jungle near Udaipur

# SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND MILES DOESN'T MEAN A DAMN THING

It doesn't matter that..

1. I spent over eight years as a certified MSF instructor teaching thousands of students the basics of safe riding.
2. I have BMW NA 700,000 Mileage Award
3. I have spent decades of riding on the right side and left side of the road, across the US, Australia, New Zealand, Finland, over the Alps of France, Germany, Austria, Italy, plus a dozen rides to Baja.

**When that 2-second lapse of concentration puts you down on the ground and in a lot of pain.**

Instead of attending the NorCal election meeting in June (time for the next generation), a good friend and former business buddy and I decided to head north to the Chief Joseph Rally – great rally at John Day, Oregon. The ride up was wonderful, the weather perfect, and the people friendly.

The ride home was SUPPOSED to be just as fun, heading down 299 from Alturas to Redding, then 3, and finally following Highway 36 up to the coast and Highway 1 back to the Bay Area.

That is until we got to Burney, CA.

I had led the ride most of the way up and when starting back. After Alturas, I asked my riding buddy to take the lead so I could enjoy the ride from the behind. We rode a leisurely pace down 299 through Fall River Mills and through the rolling hills. Burney is a nice small town with a wide main street with almost no traffic on this particular morning. We're cruising under the 30mph speed limit and I'm about 3-4 seconds behind my friend as I keep my head on a swivel, seeing no traffic in front or behind. No stop signs or street lights. Just enjoying the ride and looking at the small shops along the street.

Then, heading up a slight hill, I glanced at something interesting on the side of the road, and when I looked back ahead, my friend in front stopped right in the middle of the lane. No stop sign, no stop light, no traffic. He just stopped ... and I didn't. BAM. Both bikes are down and bent. He's fine, but his bike fell on me; three cracked and one broken rib, together with a partially separated left shoulder. It turns out he was being a nice guy and decided to stop to let a person cross the street. No crosswalk, no traffic light, and no traffic - he just stopped.

OUCH. Cracked ribs are an irritation but broken ribs are another level of pain. Compared to my rib, the shoulder is just an irritation.

Ambulance, Sherriff, Highway Patrol, and a flatbed tow truck all come by. The medics give me the once over. I'm hurting, but nothing I haven't been through before, so they decide I need to go to the hospital in Redding to get checked out. Then the medics tell me there's a lot of construction on 299 with long stretches of gravel, washboard, and ruts which is not great for broken stuff, so they load me into the flying sarcophagus for a 15-minute flight to Mercy Medical in Redding. The helicopter ride to the hospital was claustrophobic. Not even a good view.

I am rolled into the ER at Mercy for lots of questions and probing. At that time, there didn't appear to be any more injuries - lots of MRI, CS, X rays, blood work, and physical exams - everything looked good.

Merci Medical in Redding, CA. is a great regional medical center in a fun mountain town with wide streets and open shops. The staff were focused and fun. They cracked one too many jokes and I had to tell everyone to stop. It just hurt too much.

All the probing showed nothing else broken, and no internal or external bleeding

Because of my long-term use of the blood thinner, it was decided to keep me overnight for observation to make sure I

hadn't ruptured a kidney or spleen. No problem, I like chocolate pudding. However, an overnight stay means inserting a catheter and strapping a bag on the leg for a "couple" days.

By now, I had the Oxi pain med bottle in front of me. It was recommended that I take one since they weren't going to use a general anesthetic. I take a pill, and 15 minutes later, they try the first insertion.

Unfortunately, the team is not having any luck. Another pain pill, they keep trying, I keep screaming and trying not to move. They pull the first catheter out They get another smaller catheter and start all over again. Now I am yelling, shaking, trying not to pass out, and waiting for a real pain shot. One nurse on the team commented that the pain I went through (screaming, yelling, sweating, and more screaming) was similar to childbirth with no drugs. OUCH.

I've been put back together more than a few times over the years, so pain from operations and physical therapy is very much of a "been there done that" but this pain was on the next level up. Forty-five minutes later they finally got the catheter in and the bag works.

But now my other pains are starting to come out. My right knee now feels like it was hit with a sledgehammer, and doesn't want to move a lot. The left shoulder is still tender, and doesn't want to move a lot either. The monster bruise on my stomach is where the other bike landed on me (and broke my rib).

In the morning, there's blood in the urine in the bag. Not good, but fortunately none of the tests show a rupture or tear in the kidney or spleen – just more observation.

Trying to pee is like passing glass shards - instant tears - but now the tube has been dislodged, so about half the fluid goes in the bag, and the rest makes a mess. I'm stuck since the earliest I can get to clinic for removal is when I get back to Kaiser in Redwood City. A good friend comes up with a truck and trailer to pick us up. Another shot of morphine and I just collapse in the front seat for the ride home, I send a text to my urologist at Kaiser. An hour later he tells me to get over there RIGHT NOW. Another pain shot and out the catheter comes and all is right with the world again.

Long term healing is just a day at a time. Waiting for the pain to diminish. Can't do anything at the shop. Can't even connect a wire, much less install a new tire. Another 3-6 weeks before I can lift a wrench.

And how was your day

*Greg Hutchinson*

## Update - Late July

The ribs healed, pain gone, exercises got the shoulder back in shape, and all the colorful hematomas have magically gone away. Now to rebuild both bikes and deal with insurance adjusters.

Bottom line, no matter how experienced you are at ANYTHING, life can throw a curve ball just to keep things interesting.

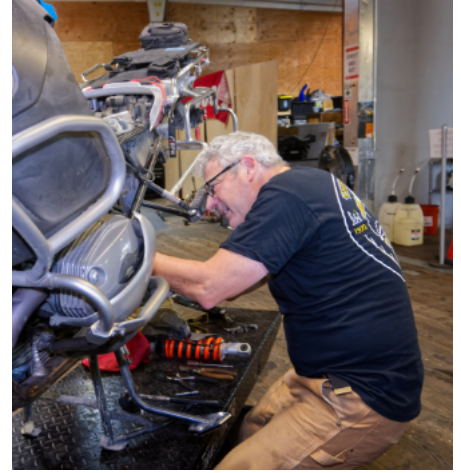


# AUGUST TECH DAY AT MOTO GUILD

A Tech Day was again held at Moto Guild on August 5th. Massive thanks to Craig Rogers, Moto Guild's owner, for allowing the club to use some of his shop's facilities for free.

Food was provided by Puck Ananta of the famous .Osha Thai restaurant. I am going to start lobbying Puck to open a restaurant in Pleasanton. His food is so good.

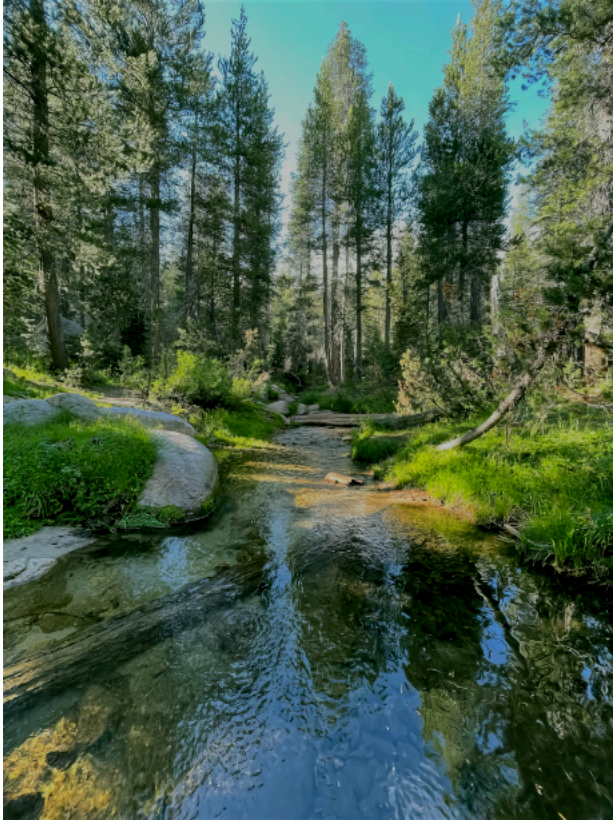
Big thanks to Delf, Hedde, our Tech Director, for organizing this event



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# WASHOUT AT BADGER FLATS - AUGUST CAMP OUT



Terry, Hakki, Brian, Oscar, Hemanshu and I spent Friday night at Badger Flats. At brunch on Saturday, we learnt that the storm (Hurricane Hilary) that was heading our way. Instead of the planned boat hire on Shaver Lake and visit to the hot springs we headed back to camp and quickly packed everything up. Just as we were leaving Ed Perry showed up. Oscar and Hemanshu split off from the group and headed home using the fastest route, but Hakki, Daksh and myself decided to head north towards Yosemite NP.

The ride was wonderful, and at the end of the day the experience was enhanced by the wonderful smell of pine trees growing stronger as the sun was setting. We pulled into Priest Café, just passed Groveland, for dinner. 15 minutes after we sat down,

we saw the storm coming in from the south complete with lighting and thunder. It quickly became clear that we had to spend the night right there at the café. I pulled the bike under the porch and started setting up the tent, and then a really beautiful thing happened, something that rarely occurs today. The café owners offered to let us sleep in their store room.

We three slept peacefully store room as the storm passed over during the night and we headed out to Yosemite in the morning.

An interesting camp out but not a total washout.

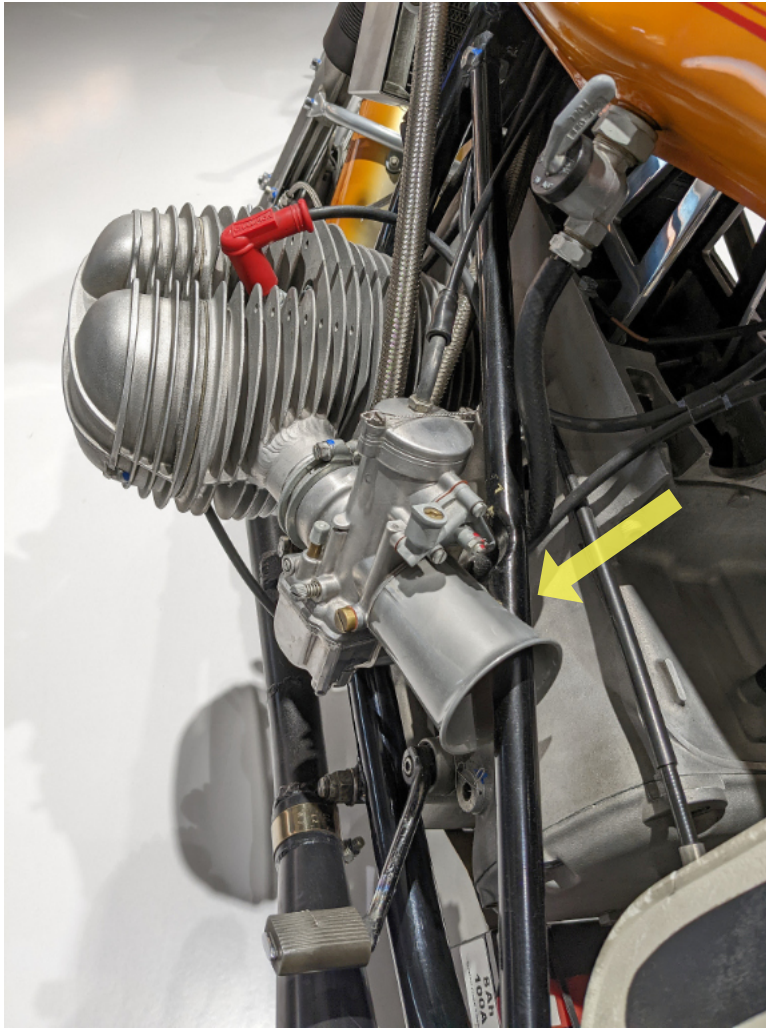
*Ravi Verma*



Our two guardian angels at the Priest Station Cafe

Yosemite NP Visa Point

# LEGENDARY R90S IN THE MUNICH BMW MUSEUM



One of the bikes on display at the Munich BMW Museum is this R90S production racer..

This particular bike, ridden by Steve McLaughlin, was the winner of the inaugural AMA Superbike race at Daytona in 1976. The race was a one - two win for BMW with Reg Pridmore coming second. Reg went on to win the 1976 Superbike Championship for BMW.

In 1976 all Superbike races were won by European machines, their superior road holding and braking making up for inferior horse power, when compared to the Japanese. This superiority lasted until mid-way through 1977, when the Japanese finally got their act together.

The BMW R90S was built by Butler & Smith, a dealership that had locations on both the West and East coast. They started building racing BMWs to improve BMWs stodgy image. Success in endurance racing spurred them to develop a BMW F-750 (based on R75/5), to compete in AMA Formula 750 in the early 70's. During the development of this racing engine they managed to raise the rev limit to 10,500 (up from the standard 6000 rpm). The engine went into a custom frame designed by the famous Rob North (BSA and Triumph factory racers). By 1975 at the end of the bike's development, it was producing 86 horsepower and was capable of 165 mph.

For 1976 they moved to the new AMA Superbike formula. The rules meant that they had to use the standard R90S frame. The photos attached show a couple of ways they managed to improve the standard chassis without falling foul of the rules. The picture of the front wheel illustrates how the robust "mudguard stays" were used to improve front fork rigidity. The side view picture of the engine shows how they added a straight, strengthening brace between head stock and footrest location. that required a hole to be drilled through the carburetor bell mouth.

This bike, like a lot of old racers, was thought lost for ever but was actually rescued (in 1979), and restored by Bruce Armstrong before being discovered by the rest of the world 20 years later. Bruce sold the bike to BMW Motorrad in 2004.

*John Ellis*



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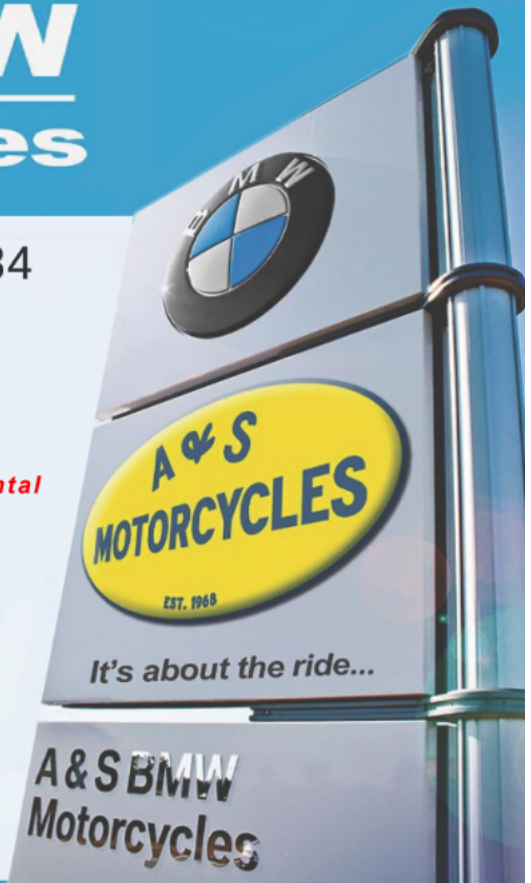
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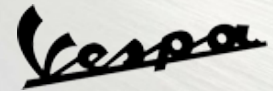
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\*Board Member

## EVENTS

### The 2023 RANGE OF LIGHT GYPSY TOUR!

01 – 04 Sep 2023  
Elk Creek CA 95939  
Registration required

### Board of Directors Meeting

12 Sept 2023, 7pm Virtually 7.00pm via a Zoom web conference call. To attend - register on BMWNorcal.org, Events page - details will be emailed

### Ride for Kids - Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation

17 Sep 2023 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM Start at CalMoto Livermore, 952 N Canyons Pkwy, Livermore, CA 94551. CHP escorted ride through the Livermore Hills, ending with a raffle and Your Taco Guy lunch RSVP with a \$40 donation to the event beforehand (on the day registration possible) covers breakfast, lunch and a free T-shirt.

Register here <https://team.curethekids.org/team/523147>

### September Club Meeting and Camp Out

22-24 Sep 2023  
Pine Glen, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546  
Start location - Lockford, CA

## ANNIVERSARIES

<b>July</b>	<b>Marcelo Fernandez</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Steven Salter</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>Luis Arevalo</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Maria Stockdale</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Matthew Stockdale</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Jack Walshe</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>Tim Booth</b>	<b>20</b>
	<b>Anthony Lassos</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Mike Murphy</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Karl Paulson</b>	<b>5</b>

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