

**Bumper Edition**

# NORCAL NEWS



Ride to Camp

Camp to Ride



November 2023

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amazing Sena 50S Motorcycle  
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XMAS PARTY: December 16th  
OAKLAND YACHT CLUB

**BMW MOTORCYCLE CLUB OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**





## President's Column



### SEPTEMBER BMW CAMPOUT, MAMMOTH LAKE CA.



After a day of riding through picturesque landscapes surrounded with the crisp mountain air, we arrived at Pine Glenn Group Campground, our base for our camping adventure.

Camping in the high sierras can come with unpredictable weather, especially at just under 8000 ft of elevation.

The recent adventure began with a hearty breakfast at Riches Plate, where 8 riders gathered to kickstart the day. After breakfast a pit stop was made at Lockford Sausages to stock up on some treats for the trip ahead. With their bellies full and sausages in tow, we embarked on the journey to Pine Glenn Group Campground at Mammoth Lakes, in California. You couldn't have asked for better weather as we rode over the Sonora Pass. The breathtaking views and crisp mountain air made for an unforgettable ride.

We took a break in Bridgeport for a well-deserved lunch. As Bridgeport offers a charming backdrop for a meal, and a great place to refuel and rest.

On the way to camp we also took a small detour around June Lake, which rewarded us with its stunning and natural beauty. The High Sierras are known for their picturesque landscapes, and June Lake offered no exception.

Friday night and the air was buzzing with what plans everyone had for Saturday.

After a day of exploring the area it was back to camp for the group meeting where we had five additional guests join us. Guests we look forward to have join us as new members someday.

Soon after the meeting and when dinner was over we grouped around the campfire, my favorite part of any camping adventure as it represents the joy of human connection in a natural and rustic setting. People at a campfire come together to share stories, laughter, lasting memories and warmth while surrounded by the beauty of the outdoors.

The mix of scenic routes, delicious food stops, and camaraderie with fellow riders made this trip truly memorable.

The High Sierras offer some of the most beautiful and diverse landscapes in California, making it an ideal destination for any motorcycle enthusiast and outdoor adventurer.

*Tresha Holloway President*



## Membership Anniversaries

35 Years	Ron Cash Pat Holland
30 Years	Lee "Lienhard" Wolff
20 Years	David Opheim
10 Years	Chris Valverde
5 Years	Nick Foster

## Editor's Corner



@thebritnickd

Well, I am pleased to say I got my first issue of NorCal News out the gate without too much of a faff. Mostly this was due to the fantastic support offered by John Ellis and the current board of directors – all of whom dedicate their time freely to the membership of this fine club.

### faff *intransitive verb*

'faf

-ed/-ing/-s

dialectal, British

: to make a fuss over nothing

Were there hiccups along the way? – I am sure there were, but they must have been so minor that I don't really remember what they were. Obviously, with little material and only one ride with NorCal BMW under my belt, content was going to be an issue, but the Range of Light Gypsy Tour was a great ride and had plenty to offer. Maybe the term 'ride' isn't quite right, maybe it was more of a new member hazing – Thunder, Lightning, Hailstorms, Freezing Wind, indeed everything that doesn't happen during the main summer month in California.

The reality is though it was a wonderful ride, yes there were challenges, but those challenges were memories in the making. Indeed, using a term I came to learn, 'Great Type 2 Fun'. Fun that is recognized only after the fact. The pack I rode with completed the full ride, and with some doing it only having summer gear (riding jeans and no wet weather clothes). Morale was high, and the experience would last forever.



In this new role, I have the pleasure of sharing people's experiences with other riders and promoting the reasons we all do this. In this month's edition, Michael Murphy shares his experiences in 'Off-Road, Out Back in the Far North' – a great read, fantastic views, and an experience that encourages me to seek out more of the adventure only possible when on two wheels.

If you have an experience and you are willing to share it with our club members or those just contemplating joining the fun that bonds us, please send me your experience to: [newseditor@bmwnorcal.org](mailto:newseditor@bmwnorcal.org).



Nick Dutton

Front Page Photo Credit: Brian Bennett (Range of Light 2023)





# Off Road Out Back in the Far North

By Michael Murphy

View of Daintree Cape Tribulation - sunny beach on Australian Coast in Queensland

## The Daintree Rainforest

The Daintree Rainforest located in Tropical North Queensland, Australia is over 135 million years old, making it the oldest rainforest in the world.

The rainforest is over 1,200 square kilometres and is home to many animal and plant species not found anywhere else in the world.

In August 2023 I joined an adventure-style motorcycle tour through the far north of Australia. This was to be an 8-day ride of more than 3,500 km (~2200 miles) from Cairns to Darwin. The route encompassed the Daintree ancient rain forests of tropical northern Queensland, rolling savannah in the Gulf Country, and great expanses of ochre desert in the Northern Territory. We visited some of the remotest settlements in a thinly populated land.

Australia has changed in the 23 years since I moved to California. You can get amazing coffee just about everywhere. In the larger cities, the food is excellent, and elsewhere it is better than it was. There is a genuine effort to acknowledge Aboriginal heritage and address the injustice done over two centuries.

The riding was mostly fast and on wide dirt roads featuring washboards, sand, and the dreaded bulldust pits. I've never felt so beat up as I did at the end of one particularly hard day after jackhammering through 300 miles of this stuff at 60 mph. Surveying the state of the bikes at the end of the tour, I understood why our tour operator insisted on tubed tires. Many had bent rims that would not have held air if run tubeless. We were warned to avoid bulldust at all costs, to the point of detouring into the bush to go around the worst sections. A bulldust pit is like baby powder of unplumbed depths; rocks and with unspeakable predators lurk beneath.



## Off Road Out Back in the Far North

By Michael Murphy

We were also warned about road trains. A road train is a single prime mover (truck) towing up to six trailers. To enter a road train's dust cloud is to experience an existential brown-out: fighting vertigo, you stop as fast as you can and, with luck before you crash. The only safe way past these behemoths is to pull over and wait for the dust to settle.



I was concerned about hitting wildlife. Happily, kangaroos and wallabies were not a problem because we did not ride when these animals were active. The constant sight of road-kill reminded us that dawn and dusk are dangerous for both 'roo and rider alike. Cattle are also range-free, they are unperturbed by speeding vehicles yet will spook and run if you slow down to look at them. I had one very near miss with a cow that bolted out of the scrub and across my path.

Speaking of wildlife, the entire 3,500-kilometer route is in crocodile country. Warning signs are everywhere. Don't believe the signs? Just try to get a beer in the small Queensland town of Laura. The owner of the town's only pub was eaten by a 'saltie' at the local fishing spot. No beer today.

So why, you ask, would a sane person sign up for this trip? Well, you can minimize most of the risks by slowing down. Okay, that's not gonna happen. But if you make it to the end of the day you will be rewarded with some of the best camping on the planet. Big sky, an oasis of fresh water (check for Crocs), perfect weather, and absolute isolation. Friendly people if you can find them, and you can't beat the quirkiness of outback culture.

>> Cont'd

*The soft, powdery dust known as 'bull dust' is a common hazard on bush roads and there are many horror stories about vehicles disappearing in huge bull dust holes. Fortunately, most bull dust encounters are far less dramatic.*

*Bull dust forms when the road surface loses cohesion and breaks up into individual dust particles. It's most likely to occur in dry areas, or after long, dry spells in areas that normally have regular rainfall.*

An advertisement for Weiser UltraBRIGHTS 2-in-1 driving lights. The ad features two side-by-side images of a vehicle's rear end. The left image shows the vehicle with standard OEM brake lights, and the right image shows the vehicle with the Weiser UltraBRIGHTS 2-in-1 lights, which are illuminated in red. The text 'THE MOST IMPRESSIVE BRAKE LIGHT SYSTEM YOU CAN BUY...' is at the top. Below the images, it says 'OEM' and 'weiser UltraBRIGHTS 2-in-1'. At the bottom, it says 'weiser DRIVING LIGHTS/ BRAKE LIGHTS/ TURN SIGNALS' and 'weisertechnik.com'. There are also small American and British flags in the bottom right corner.



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# Off Road Out Back in the Far North

By Michael Murphy

Just a couple of examples: an overturned car abandoned in the middle of a major arterial road, thoughtfully wrapped in warning tape. A road sign in an aboriginal settlement – “lift im foot” - which translates to “slow down”. This is still a country where people do for themselves and make the best of what they have.



*Michael Murphy*







## Art & Motorcycles, A Lifetime Obsession

By Dick Zunkel

### Part One

I've been a compulsive doodler since childhood. As a teenager, Mad Magazine's Don Martin was my hero. In my corporate years, I drew circles and arrows during staff meetings while my colleagues were taking notes, which is likely why I never made CEO. I credit (or blame) my older brother Tom for my obsession with art and motorcycles. He was an excellent sketch artist in his childhood and later a professional technical illustrator, and on weekends he rode motorcycles.

I chose mechanical design as my major at Bradley University realizing that a career in art would lead to poverty, a concept unfamiliar to me in my growing up years given my dad was a doctor. I took as many elective art courses as the university would allow including plein-air watercolor painting, a skill I still practice today. I continued my art studies at Wingate College North Carolina, The San Francisco Art Institute, and a host of painting and drawing workshops.

I've always wanted to be a professional cartoon artist. I made submissions of ink cartoons to popular magazines and anxiously awaited the rejection letters. I was not disappointed. I found attempts at professional cartooning to be difficult. Thinking up ideas and sketching the characters was easy, it was the drafting that stifled me. Traditional dip pen inking and text drafting are time-consuming and prone to ink splatter disasters. Zip-a-Tone shading with an Exacto knife earns frequent flyer miles at the Emergency Room, and color..... Forget it.

In 2015 I had a break. A local award-winning artist Uma Kelkar introduced me to the brush pen drawing instrument. With it I could easily draw cartoon characters without making a mess. This happened during a time when I was experimenting with *Inkscape*, a scaleable vector graphics (SVG) editor similar to the professional program *Adobe Illustrator*. It came to me as a free download a year earlier but I had only used it to make straight lines, circles, rectangles, and simple text. When I scanned my brush pen ink drawings, used it to frame cartoons, and add caption captions, I was thrilled with the results; I was making professional-looking cartoons! I soon realized that *Inkscape* was a powerful drawing tool that I could use to add grayscale injury-free shading to my cartoons, and ultimately, color. I've been using it for over eight years now and am still learning its amazing features.



Since 2015 my cartoons were mostly about art and artists. I published some of my art cartoons on my Facebook page. The editor of the Santa Clara Valley Watercolor Society saw them and offered to publish them on their website. As a result, I contributed cartoons to their media for over five years and published two picture books and an illustrated narrative from the series.

### So what does that have to do with motorcycles?

My first ride on a motorcycle was on the back of a 50's era Indian at age 10. It scared the hell out of me. Two years later a cousin offered to let me ride his scooter down an Iowa gravel road... I crashed. Hot rods captured my interest during my teen years and early twenties. I pieced together a 31 Ford coupe that morphed into a chopped and channeled purple street rod powered by a race-built '53 Mercury V8 engine. I drove it for several years until repairs took more time than the driving.

My brother Tom and Career Navy cousin George got me interested in motorcycles. George owned a Honda CL90 that he brought home from Japan on the Enterprise.

Tom's first motorcycle was perhaps the worst motorcycle ever made, a Bridgestone 90 two-stroke. I was living in North Carolina at the time, and they sent me plenty of stories and photos from their motorcycle adventures.





In truth, George was riding, Tom was fixing.

George thought he needed more power to scale the mountains to his cabin near West Yellowstone, Montana, and bought a Yamaha 400. He offered the CL90 to me, free., and...  
*THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A FREE MOTORCYCLE.*

I removed the seats from my VW microbus, drove to Chicago, picked up the Honda, and hauled it back to North Carolina. I rode it a couple of times and parked it in the carport. When my wife saw the dust collecting on the gas tank and the tires deflating, she said, "Either ride that thing or sell it!" I blew up the tires, changed the oil, and headed out into the North Carolina countryside on a Sunday morning. This turned into a weekly event. The foothills of the Appalachians make for spectacular day rides. Years later she became a passenger and navigator on my various motorcycles until her death in 2010.

Like so many bikers, I chased cubic centimeters; 90, 175, 360, and then 600cc in the form of a 1964 BMW R60/2 stored high in the Shenandoah Mountains of Virginia. It had 6000 original miles on it with serious road rash on the fenders and tank, but no structural damage. The crash had been bad enough for the owner to stop riding and store it for a few years until he sold it to me. *(Part 2 continues in the next edition of NorCal News)*

Did you find the easter egg in last month's newsletter?

If you are one of our HAM enthusiasts—don't tell your friends if you missed it!



## History Corner



For a long time, BMW made little effort to correct the myth that the BMW badge is a propeller.

*Fred Jakobs,  
Archive Director, BMW Group Classic*

In the October 2023 edition, we introduced BMW and the boxer engine. BMW's boxer engine was the start of a long story that kicked off with the R32. The R32 came in at just under 500cc and only produced 8.5HP, but with its low 269lb wet weight, it triggered a huge brand adoption that continues today.

### The BMW R32

The R32 made its initial debut at the 1923 Paris Motorcycle Salon. In an era of tight economic times, the machine offered an extremely high fuel efficiency at over 78mpg, though it did miss some of the key features any rider would expect – such as a front brake. The R32 is however recognized as the initial bike that set the direction for many of the BMW machines we ride today, so much so that an R32 can easily sell for ~150,000 USD today.





## Quick Links

Throughout this edition of the NorCal BMW newsletter, there are several references to places, products and so forth. If you want to learn more, here are a few quick links:



BMW Motorcycle Club of Northern California



Sena Motorcycle Intercoms



NorCal News October 2023 Edition



Rich Plate Restaurant and Cafe



Pine Glen Campground, Mammoth Lakes, CA



Lockeford Sausages, Lockeford, CA



# Save the date!



## XMAS PARTY:

December 16th

OAKLAND YACHT CLUB

Registration open mid-October  
on the events page of the website

It's hard to believe but the Holiday Season is just around the corner and that means another great BMW NorCal Holiday Party! Many thanks to Ted Crum for hosting us at the Oakland Yacht Club.

- We will have a private room and a no host bar for the event.
- The Club is covering more than half the cost for members.
- Meet as early as 5:30 for drinks and chit chat, and dinner at 6:30

This year's menu will be buffet style with tri-tip, salmon, potatoes, vegetables, salad and dessert. There is also a vegetarian option.

PLUS, don't forget to bring a White Elephant gift! Some go goofy, some go practical - and while we say to try to keep the cost to about \$25, folks just do whatever they want. It's always a blast!



REGISTER HERE

### Calling for Nominations: The Bent Rod Award

It's time to submit your nominations for the third running of the Club's Bent Rod perpetual trophy. At the December Christmas Party, the Board will award this trophy to a Club member demonstrating the most amusing ineptitude in the past year. Chris Weld is the current holder of this award for his determination to use the Quincy Sheriff's Department to solve the mystery of his stolen wallet (which was later found in his pants).

This is your chance to set your riding buddy up for a roasting. Bike maintenance gone horribly wrong? Embarrassing navigational error? Camping snafu that would be funny if it wasn't so awkward. We want to hear from you. The only rules are that nominees must be fully paid Club members and stories must be G-rated. Please email all nominations to [secretary@bmwnorcal.org](mailto:secretary@bmwnorcal.org). The deadline for submissions is Nov. 25th.





# Win the amazing Sena 50S Motorcycle Intercom System

Exclusively for NorCal BMW members



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We had a fantastic campout at Eastman Lake near Modesto! It's wonderful that we have been able to return to the same location year after year and that the lake had more water this time, making the experience even more enjoyable. It's clear that Oktoberfest is a cherished event for our club, with an average turnout of 100 attendees, making it a highlight of the year. Celebrating Oktoberfest with friends and fellow enthusiasts in such a beautiful natural setting makes it a memorable experience.

Oktoberfest is the world's largest and most famous beer festival, held annually in Munich, Germany. The history behind Oktoberfest dates back to the early 19th century:



The origin of Oktoberfest can be traced back to the royal wedding of Crown Prince Ludwig (later King Ludwig I) and Princess Therese of Saxony-Hildburghausen on October 12, 1810. The citizens of Munich were invited to join in the festivities, which took place on the fields in front of the city gates. The celebration included horse races, parades, music, dancing, and, of course, plenty of beer.

Over the years, the celebration grew and evolved. Agricultural shows were added to the festivities, and the event was extended to a two-week period to allow people from all around to attend. The



end of the festival was tied to the traditional close of the agricultural season, which was celebrated in October.

As a result, the festival eventually became

known as Oktoberfest, even though it typically begins in late September.

In the early years of Oktoberfest, beer was not a central focus. However, as time went on, beer



became more integral to the festival, and beer tents started to replace the smaller beer stands. Today, there are large beer tents and beer halls, each sponsored by different Munich breweries, where visitors can enjoy a wide variety of beers.



Oktoberfest has developed several traditions over the years, such as the tapping of the first keg by the mayor of Munich, which marks the official start of the festival.

There are also traditional costumes, including lederhosen for men and dirndls for women, and a wide range of

Bavarian foods, including sausages, pretzels, and roast chicken.





# OKTOBER FEST

There are also traditional costumes, including lederhosen for men and dirndls for women, and a wide range of Bavarian foods, including sausages, pretzels, and roast chicken.

Oktoberfest has been cancelled or postponed several times due to various historical events, such as wars and disease outbreaks. However, it has endured and become a symbol of Bavarian culture and hospitality. It now attracts millions of visitors from around the world who come to enjoy the beer, food, music, and the vibrant atmosphere. Oktoberfest has evolved over the years from a small royal wedding celebration to a massive international event that celebrates Bavarian culture, food, and, most notably, beer. It remains an iconic and beloved festival that continues to be a major attraction for people worldwide.

We had a delicious feast at our campout and Oktoberfest celebration! Bratwurst, potato salad, beans, grilled onions, sauerkraut, pretzels, and, of course, beer (from DustBowl Brewery in Turlock) are classic staples of German cuisine and a perfect way to immerse ourselves in the Oktoberfest spirit. The combination of hearty food and refreshing beer is a hallmark of this traditional festival.

It's clear that we enjoyed some wonderful German-inspired dishes and beverages, which surely added to the overall enjoyment of the event. Prost (cheers) to good food, good company, and good times



## Ok-to-ber-fest

an autumn festival held in Munich, Germany, in late September and early October, featuring the drinking of beer.

*...Sounds like a biker event to me!*



It's important to recognize and appreciate the hard work and dedication of the board members and volunteers who contribute their time and energy to make the campout's and Oktoberfest event a success. Their efforts in planning and organizing such gatherings play a crucial role in ensuring everyone has a great time and that these traditions continue year after year. Expressing gratitude to those who put in the effort to create memorable experiences for the club's members is a wonderful way to show your appreciation and encourage their continued involvement. Cheers to the board members for their commitment!



## IN MEMORIAM

### Terry Edward Hieb 1933-2023

Terry Hieb a long-time member of BMW Norcal passed away peacefully on Sunday Oct. 15, 2023 in his home in Lodi, CA. He was a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Lodi Resident.



Terry was drafted into the US Army during the Korean War where he served as a photographer in Greenland from 1953 to 1955. After his time in the Army, Terry returned to Lodi and married Ruth Trovinger.

Together they had three children Lynn, Larry and Lynette.

He had a passion for BMW cars and motorcycles. He joined the BMW Club of Northern California in 1981 and was awarded perpetual status after paying dues for 30 continuous years. He regularly toured around California and Mexico on his motorcycle and attended 30 consecutive rallies the latest being the 2017 49er Rally. He also belonged to the motorcycle club at church and

enjoyed riding in the California Gold-Country with his fellow club members. Terry was a past Master of the Lodi Masonic Lodge No. 256, and in 2021 received a Golden Veteran's Award for 50 years of service from the Grand Lodge of Masons of California.

Terry worked as a foreman in the construction industry at Les Caulkins Trucking, Claud C Wood Co. and Allegre Trucking, where he also served as the private pilot.

Flying was a passion, and as a licensed pilot, he also loved to fly his family to Lake Tahoe and Baja for weekends and vacations.

Terry was kind and helpful to everyone and loved cracking jokes to make people laugh. He will be greatly missed though greatly remembered and his legacy of adventure, kindness and resourcefulness will forever inspire us.



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# Tapioca Pearls Masala in Mammoth Lakes

By Ravi Verma

## Tapioca Pearls Masala Camping Breakfast Recipe

### Ingredients,

- 1 cup Tapioca Pearls ( Sabudana at Indian store)
- 1 tablespoon cooking oil (I use peanut oil from Safeway)
- 2 Green Chilies
- ½ Red Onion
- 1 teaspoon Salt
- ¼ teaspoon Red chili powder
- ½ teaspoon Mustard seeds
- ¼ cup of Roasted Peanuts
- 10 Curry leaves (Kadi Patta in Indian store)
- 1 small bunch coriander leaves
- 1 Lime

Next day, heat the pearls in a pan put over a low heat, and add 1 tablespoon of oil. Add the half teaspoon of mustard seeds then as they start to pop after about 30 seconds add the curry leaves.

After a quick stir, add a roughly diced onion and green chilies to the pan. Cook for a few minutes to see the onion change colour to pink.

Add salt and red chili powder.

Mix and add Tapioca pearls (Sabudana).

Mix well and cover the pot for 5 minutes on the lowest heat possible for a camping stove. Occasionally stir so it doesn't burn or stick to the pan.

Remove the lid and add roasted peanuts and chopped coriander leaves.

Continue to cook for a few minutes on low heat and switch off the stove.

Squeeze lime and mix before serving on any camping plate available.

Add to the enjoyment with a sweet hot cup of chai.

A quick easy breakfast in minutes with a lot of energy.



When people hear you are going camping many will think it will be a life of rough living, when they hear you are doing it on a motorcycle, they think you are nuts.

The reality is that it's memories in the making, and rarely is the cuisine a form of dehydrated food from a silver bag.

Indeed, at the September campout, in Pine Glen, Mammoth Lakes I introduced the biker pack to my Tapioca Pearls Masala Camping Breakfast.

The night before, whilst cracking into that second beer, simply wash some Tapioca pearls with water, twice.

Then put them in a pan along with a ¼ cup of water and allow the tapioca pearls to soak overnight.





# Member Play at Mammoth Lakes



1. Terry Lowe & Chris King getting started!
2. Bikes getting ready for another ride home.
3. Tandoori Chicken in the grill with Javier & Hakki
4. Exploring the Pinnacles peak from Bass lake. From left Hakki Oren, Javier Sanchez & Ravi
5. Olaf treating everyone with his truffle cheese, crackers and pear combination.
6. Jamie & Olaf in the night lights!



**Speed Up**  
Arm extended straight out, palm facing up, swing upward.



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**SUNDAY**  
**19<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY**  
**2024**

**MOVEMBER**  
*The Distinguished GENTLEMANS Ride*  
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**REVER**



**Stop**  
 Arm extended straight down, palm facing back.

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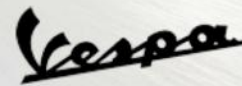
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# Upcoming Events

## November Member Meeting and Campout

02 – 03 Dec 2023 Salt Point State Park, CA.

Registration required

## BMW NorCal Holiday Party

16 December 2023 Oakland Yacht Club, Alameda, CA.

Registration required

## January Member Meeting and Campout

27 – 28 Jan 2023, Clear Lake State Park, CA

Registration required



For more information visit the club website: <https://www.bmwnorcal.org/Events>

The **BMW Motorcycle Club of Northern California** has been riding and camping since 1965! Join us on the last weekend of each month on our long tour, General Member Meeting, and overnight campout somewhere in the greater Northern California and Nevada areas. Membership is not required to participate

### Team NorcalBMW

President	Tresha Holloway	president@bmwnorcal.org	(707) 364-6869
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