

MARCH 2020

NORCAL NEWS



Ride to Camp

Camp to Ride



BMW Motorcycle Club of Northern California

President's Column

Well we finally had a full campout meeting in February, after 5 months of cancellations. It was great to see such a strong turnout for the meeting at Clearlake. Thank you Nick for the outstanding route and the weather great. I am happy to report that the second vote for our bylaws modification passed unanimously. Thanks to Mike Murphy for doing the heavy lifting on the update and the membership for approving.

I had an exciting ride home from our bonus January campout when my final drive failed cruising down highway 17. Jorgen Larsen and Hugo Bonilla stuck with my while I limped the several miles to Mark Rodda's house where I stored the bike until San Jose BMW could pick it up. A week later I had my bike back noticeably smoother. The bike was due for the 24K service and I had previously planned to do all the work at our Tech Session a few weeks ago but since it was already in the shop I told San Jose to do the work. That hurt my pocketbook but I was happy to support one of our longstanding sponsors of the club plus get a clean bill of health from them in the records.

Our Motoguild Tech Session was a big hit. Thanks Jorgen for organizing and Mylene for the tasty muffins. It's nice we could help some members learn more about their bikes and complete the 6 and 12k service and happy to report that all bikes made it home safely save for one bike that had a drive shaft spline failure needed a new drive shaft. Thanks a million to MotoGuild who donated the shop space for our session. They have really been so supportive our club and I really appreciate the effort they put in for our moto community.

Our preparations for the 49er are well underway and Greg Hutchinson and Mark Rodda have some really great plans to make this year better than ever. We recently launched the registration site so sign up early to take advantage of our early bird pricing that includes a complimentary 49er Belt Buckle.

Be sure to check our event page regularly for newly posted events. One ask I have is to be sure and sign up online to help us better plan for our rides and campouts. It's rewarding to see so many people participating but it requires greater coordination and planning and the signup list really helps. The topic of growth will be on our upcoming board agenda focused on discussing how best to handle the increased size of our events and how big should we be. If you have some opinions on the topic please drop me an email at president@bmwnorcal.org or any of the board members. Better yet show up at our Board Meeting March 7, 10 AM, Motoguild in San Francisco.

Safe Riding

Kevin Colman NorCal President

49er Update 21-25 May 2020 Mariposa Fairgrounds

This year's 49er is heading for a great time in May with the venue set, great dinner and food choices set, professional GS instructors set, plenty of diversified speakers signed up and growing, more vendors set and still expanding, green grass for camping set, Bier Garden selection is expanding, Airheads folks jumping on board to volunteer. People from the east coast are registering, and the weather may actually help open the Sierra Passes in time for the Rally.

Everything looking good

Sign up early for big discount and free 49er belt buckle

Greg Hutchinson 49er Chairperson

Captain's Log

And just like that, we're back into our regularly scheduled campouts, complete with some exceptional February weather, a great campground, and a pretty awesome route! And for those that missed our campout and ride to Clear Lake, keep in mind that you can find all the past routes at the bottom of the page at bmwnorcal.org/events. There's literally years of events with the routes cached there. And who knows, maybe I'll get around to creating that route library I've been dreaming of for our website. Maybe in all my spare time?

Heading into March, get ready for our annual NorCal Death Valley campout. We have one "early bird" site for Thursday, March 26th (group site 2). Friday and Saturday are then both group sites 1 and 2. And remember, these are not the same sites as the last couple years. And always, be ready for all sorts of weather there. If you want a warmer climate than DV, try the Baja Cross Border Ride. Remember, this is not a guided tour. It's a group of folks heading down for some fun in the sun before Death Valley. Feel free to contact me with questions. Then in April we are heading back to La Grange to celebrate the BMW NorCal 55th year! We'll have another fun campout hosted by Russ Drake at his daughter's property. Rumor has it that she will actually be there this year so we can thank her in person!

May will be our 48th annual 49er rally! Register before April 15th and get a free commemorative belt buckle! Take advantage of special early bird pricing and a 49er belt buckle?? How great is that? Go to bmwnorcal.org/49er for more information. And be sure to check out the beefed-up GS classes!

Also check out the SSBRs we've got coming up. For those that aren't familiar, these are casual Sunday rides, going from breakfast to lunch and put together by one of the membership. Have a go-to ride in your neighborhood? Let us know and share it with the club! Email us at ssbr@bmwnorcal.org!

Lastly, looking ahead to rally season and the MOA Nationals in Montana. After the June election campout/meeting, some folks are hitting the road for Montana. Interested in coming along? Register on our events page. As usual, BMW NorCal has a dedicated camping area set aside for us.

That's it for this month! Wash your hands and stay safe folks!

Nick Gloyd Tour Captain

Narain's Outdoor Repair

At the camp out I was talking to Don Wilson and mentioned that Aerostich was the only company that I knew of that would repair damaged items of clothing. Repairing damaged protective gear is important to me since I regularly spend time sliding along the pavement. Don however mentioned Narain's Outdoor Repair which specialized repairing/cleaning sleeping bags, bag packs, tents, and zips. They do motorcycle clothing as well. They have been around since 1980. Sounds like an excellent place to get your stuff fixed.

Narain's

1275 San Pablo Ave, Albany, CA 94706

Phone: (510) 527-2509

E-Mail: narains_outdoor@yahoo.com



These pictures were taken in 1977 en route to Colorado Springs for the MOA rally. This sidecar passenger's name is Esther. Who is the Norcal Charter Member in the picture?

Editors Corner

This Jorgen Larsen is currently pulling together Norcal's 55th anniversary celebrations. In support I have included a short write up and pictures Rick Klain produced for the 2003 49er and sent me some time ago for use in such a situation. I also included a couple of photos from the 1970's taken by Bern Hyman.

I would like to thank Buddy Scauzzo and Chris Weld for pictures from the Big Basin campout, and Buddy again for the pictures of Pepe and Robin with their new R1250GSs. The picture on the cover is also Buddy's taken on Mines Road.

February was a busy month with no less than four separate club events. All are captured in this month's newsletter making up for all the cancellations suffered over the past few months. Big thanks to all responsible.

The 49er is rapidly approaching. Greg Hutchinson is acting as chairperson this year. If you feel that you can contribute in some way please contact Greg. Everyone should be aware of the substantial savings are available to those who sign up early. The bonus is a free 49er belt buckle.

John Ellis

Charity Ride in memory of Neil Peart

We are still looking at the possibility of the Club's involvement in a charity ride to benefit cancer research in honor of Neil Peart, who passed away recently and was an avid BMW GS rider as well as the drummer and lyricist of the Canadian band Rush. This is part of a national event called "Sunlight on Chrome" being organized in collaboration with the American Brain Tumor Association. A couple options include a ride and possible seminar at the upcoming 49er Rally...or a separate fund raiser ride in the Bay Area in place of a SSBR, possibly ending up at MotoGuild on Treasure Island. Jeff has a contact with the NJ BMW Motorcycle Club who is coordinating club charity rides and events nationwide. Stay tuned!

Jeff Zane Vice President



2020 Hillsborough will feature both BMW cars and motorcycles and is now inviting owners of vintage BMW motorcycles to show their bikes

Go to <http://www.hillsboroughconcours.org/> to register

Central Cal invite Norcal members to their 2020 Spring Fling 1-3 May



Our friends in Central Cal BMW have extended an invitation to NorCal members to attend their 2020 Spring Fling. This event is usually a members only. As usual it takes place at American River Resort in Coloma, situated on Highway 49 between Auburn and Placerville. It is a great campsite situated on the banks of the river and surrounded by brilliant riding roads. As is Central Cal way the campout features gourmet food. You can be assured there will be no Danishes sealed in cellophane for breakfast on Sunday. There is a higher likelihood that breakfast will be an array of home made quiches. This a great event that I can highly recommend.

Register here <https://www.cabr.org/event-3747632>

Flashback in time to 2003 - 49er Rally in Auburn courtesy of Rick Klain

2003 was the 31st year that the BMW Club of Northern California had been putting on the '49er Rally. A club and a rally with a rich history. A little-known fact is that the club's second rally was combined with the BMW Motorcycle Owners of America's very first rally, known these days as the "National". Over the years, and held over Memorial Day Weekend, the '49er has visited the fairgrounds of many California Gold Country towns, including Angels Camp, Mariposa, Quincy, Auburn, and Sonora (2005). 2005 was also the year that the club celebrated its 40th anniversary! The 2003 rally was special to me in other ways. This was the last time I saw Mary Hubbard (pictured below, next to

her Husband, Doug, on the left). I have known them since February, 1978, when I joined the club. Doug and Mary sort of took me under their wings as a fellow club member, and showed me the ropes of an interesting culture that has roots and ex-pat members from all over the world. Which might explain why the rally attracts folks from as far away as Europe, South America, and down under, who just happen to be traveling by motorcycle in the Gold Country of California during the last weekend in May

Rick Klain.





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January Bonus Club Ride

Given the January club meeting cancellation, when the weather looked awesome for the next week and Big Basis State Park group site was free we put together a last-minute bonus campout. We had a great turn out with more than 25 joining for the ride and about the same staying for the campout. Mark Rodda prepared an impromptu tri-tip barbeque for the crowd and Bert Lankins brought plenty of firewood for a great evening of catching up and cooler of beer. Other members added to the potluck and we had quite the meal. Plus lots of holiday party gifts (aka Crown Royal) were put to good use.

One thing we were not prepared for was the campground being crumb free. Have you ever heard of such a thing? The campground is home to the Marbled Murrelet, an endangered seabird. The crumbs attract ravens and blue-jays that eat the single egg each female lays in the spring way up on the mossy limbs high of old growth redwoods. The rangers are super serious about this as the fine for leaving crumbs is \$850. Needless to say, we made sure to leave the campground spotless!

Kevin Colman



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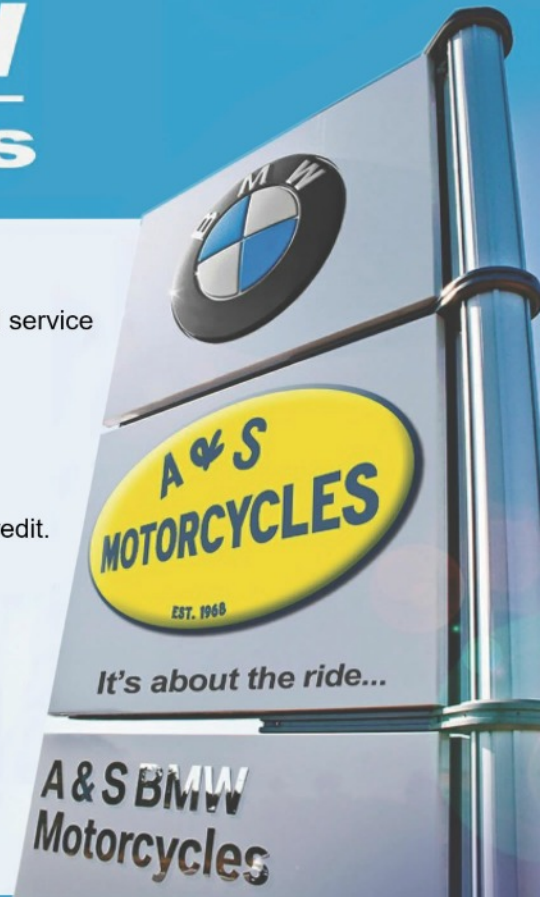
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February Clear Lake Campout

This was the first official campout since Hornswaggle in Sept 2019. After three successive cancelations due to fire, rain, and snow I was almost expecting a plague of locusts to descend the skies, but no, the campout to Clear Lake went ahead as planned. Starting from Black Bear in Napa in cool temperatures we headed north through Napa Valley to Calistoga before heading East to Guerneville. The desolation caused by the fires over the last couple of years was in marked contrast to the spectacular purple, pink and white blossoms and early Spring flowers surrounding the unaffected wineries. Heading North from Coverdale the ride got interesting when we hit Hwy128 to Boonville. Great road and the car drivers were well behaved pulling over quickly to allow the groups of riders through. After lunch in Boonville we on Hwy253 to Ukiah. This is a brilliant road, tight curves up and down the mountains. Every time I ride with NorCal I am amazed at the roads we end up on. I will say it again – California has the best motorcycling roads in the world.

We arrived at the Clear Lake State camp ground at mid-afternoon. Great camp site, hot and cold water, showers, flush toilets and free WiFi. What more could anyone want?

Rick Webb, our historian, pointed out that Clear Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake wholly within the state, with 68 square miles of surface area. I have an interest in history and vintage airplanes, but I didn't know that before WW2 Pan-Am operated Boeing 314 Clipper flying boats from Treasure Island in the San Francisco Bay. The maintenance hangars they used are still there today. These four engine flying boats were amazing machines with a range of up to 5000 miles at 170 mph. They were designed to transport passengers in great luxury across the Pacific to Manila in the Philippines. They had dining room, sleeping accommodation and even a honeymoon suite in the tail. However, the Bay is frequently fogged in so planes were often diverted to land at Clear Lake. During WW2 Pan-Am continued to operate its Boeing 314s and Martin M-130 China Clippers and, as well as Navy supplied Consolidated PB2Y-3Rs from Treasure Island with Clear Lake being used as a backup landing site. These planes were mainly used to transport critical war material and personnel.

The picture is of a Boeing 314 on Clear Lake. Take off and landing must have been quite a sight. No Boeing 314 survives today.



February Tech Day

Thanks to Jorgen for putting on another successful Tech Day at Moto Guild, and even bigger thanks to his wife Mylene who I suspect had more than a little to do with the outstanding muffins provided as part of the refreshments.

Typically Tech Day typically focus on oil changes, tire replacements, engine tune up, fluid replacement etc, but this time member Jon Gillespie was riding to the event and the final drive on his R1200GS collapsed. He got the bike trailered to Moto Guild and started pulling it apart to figure out the damage. In most cases rear drive failures are as a result of the ring bearing within the drive failing. The cause in Jon's case was different. A bolt holding the tension strut to the gearbox fell out resulting in the drive shaft collapsing. Unfortunately the effect of this was to mangle the spline fitted into the rear drive. A casual glance at the BMW parts list suggests that individual parts for the rear drive

are no longer available, and the only solution is to purchase a complete drive. I look forward to hearing how Jon solved his problem.

Marcelo Fernandez also attended the session and he showed me a 1980's Honda GL500 Interstate that he had restored from a barn find. The Interstate came with a fairing side bags and top box – sort of a miniature Gold Wing. Marcelo started it up for me and it looks and sounds beautiful, very sweet. 50hp, shaft drive, around 500lbs weight – typical Honda. Contact Marcelo if you are interested in owning it.

Jorgen brought along three scrap books containing NorCal pictures, programs and newsletters from the 1970's and 80's. I found the one from the 70's most interesting. Who knew that the club members put on a melodrama (yes an actual play) at some the early 49er Rallies. If Jorgen brings these to future events they are definitely worth an inspection.



NEW BEEMERS

Two ~~heads~~ are better than One



Pepe accompanied Robin when she took her 2018 R1200GS in for a service at her dealership. When strolling through the showroom she noticed a brand new 2019 R1250GSA on the floor. Quick as a flash the salesperson offered Robin a deal that she couldn't refuse so right then and there she traded in her 2018 for this new one.

Robin says "the 2019 Adventure has better gas mileage as well as the bigger tank which means more riding and fewer



fuel stops, plus it comes with the crash protection and other extras that normally cost more, so I figured there is a lot of bang for the buck. This is my first GSA so I'm being extra careful not to drop it as it's a little heavier than the 1200 but the ride is awesome and planning on getting more rides in this year."

Not to be left out, Pepe seeing the great deal on offer bought one as well. Two new Adventures rode home that night.



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FEBRUARY 2020 SECOND SUNDAY BREAKFAST RIDE



20 riders showed up for the February 2020 SSBR. Apart from the starting point this is a ride that I suggested Mark Rodda, our SSBR coordinator a few months ago. Seven million people live in the Bay area, yet here is an eighty mile north-south route that for the most part, as the crow flies, within five miles of this urban population. Apart from maybe 5 miles the where it touches suburbia, it's on near empty roads carving their way through the hills. Not only that, but for most of the way there is a corner every 50 yds!. One day I am going to attempt to count them but I conservatively estimate there must be around 2000 corners to navigate on this 85 mile route. Add to this the realization this ride took place in February when most of the rest of the nation was suffering rain and snow can only confirm Northern California is the best place in the world to ride a motorcycle. The ride itself took us down Palomares, Calaveras and then on to Sierra Vista. Sierra Vista park is close to 2000 ft in elevation. On this particular day the wind was blowing with gusts up to 50 mph. Right at the top I came across a gaggle or maybe flock of electric cars - Teslas and Bolts. Clearly this was some sort of club meet (there is a club for everything in the Bay Area) and this intrepid group of 21st century explorers were testing both their limits and their vehicle's endurance, by venturing five miles away from the nearest outlet and extension cord. Some were actually standing outside of their cars, completely exposed to the elements. I still don't know if any of them made it.

After Sierra we all stopped off at the Mount Hamilton Observatory, which unfortunately was not open. The wind at this point was seriously strong and potentially strong enough to blow over a parked bike. Ed Perry was comparing it to what he

recently experienced in Patagonia. It was actually difficult to walk in a straight line. The group hurriedly left and carried on down Mines Road to lunch at the Junction.

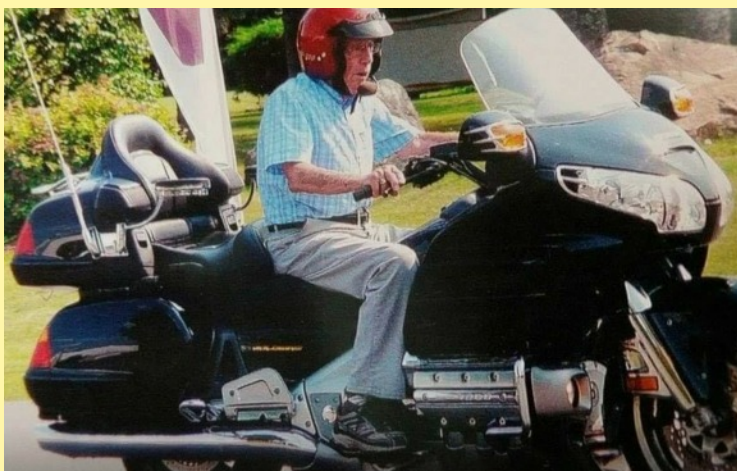
We arrived a little after noon and the parking lot was filled with bikes. We had obviously arrived at the same time as another bike group. Fortunately at my visit the previous Sunday I had given them a heads up that we were planning the ride and sufficient staff was on hand to handle the rush.

The neat thing about ending a ride at the Junction means that after leaving you have at least another 30 miles of twisting roads that exist irrespective of the chosen direction of departure. The way home was an adventure riding round broken branches and there were a couple of trees that were across the road. Fortunately someone had previously broken a path through.



Ed Perry's summary of the days ride was that it was close to perfect - it could have been a 10, if only was had started at a McDonalds.

John Ellis



Maybe there is Hope

The boomer generation (of which I am one) has for many decades driven motorcycle sales. One wonders how much longer I can carry on riding motorcycles. Is this bike my last one? To all those who share similar thoughts maybe there is hope.

Wymann Betts lives in County, Nova Scotia. He started riding bikes when he was 12 years old. He is now 100, and currently rides a 800 lb Honda Gold Wing.

Apart from living a life of positivity and exhilaration, Wymann never drinks, never smokes, and remains worry free as much as possible.

NorCal Picture Day

Early February a select group of members gathered in Livermore Denica's to plan a club photo session over Mines Road. The activity was lead by Buddy Scauzzo, who was to be responsible for still photos and Rick Klain who was shooting a video, as a way to help promote the club. The video and pictures will end up on the NorCal web page, but here is a preview of the stills that Buddy and Mini took during the day.



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*Board Member

Events

Board of Director Meeting

07 Mar 2020, 10:00am-12:00pm
MotoGuild SF, 849 13Th St. San Francisco

Northbay SSBR-Santa Rosa to Windsor

08 Mar 2020 8:00 AM
Omlette Express-112 4th Street, Santa Rosa

2020 BMW NorCal Cross Border Rally

17 Mar 2020
Portero Campground, Portero CA

March Member Meeting/Campout Death Valley

26 – 30 Mar 2020
Death Valley NP

April Member Meeting/Campout - La Grange!

25 Apr 2020
Las Cruces Rd., La Grange CA

Central Cal 2020 Spring Fling

1-3 May
American River Resort in Coloma

The 2020 BMW NorCal 49er!

21-25 May 2020
Mariposa Fairgrounds

Anniversaries

Jan	Bruce Swanston	15
Feb	Dale Rich	10
Mar	James Paolucci	5
	Alexander Rodas	5
	Steven Kesinger	25

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