

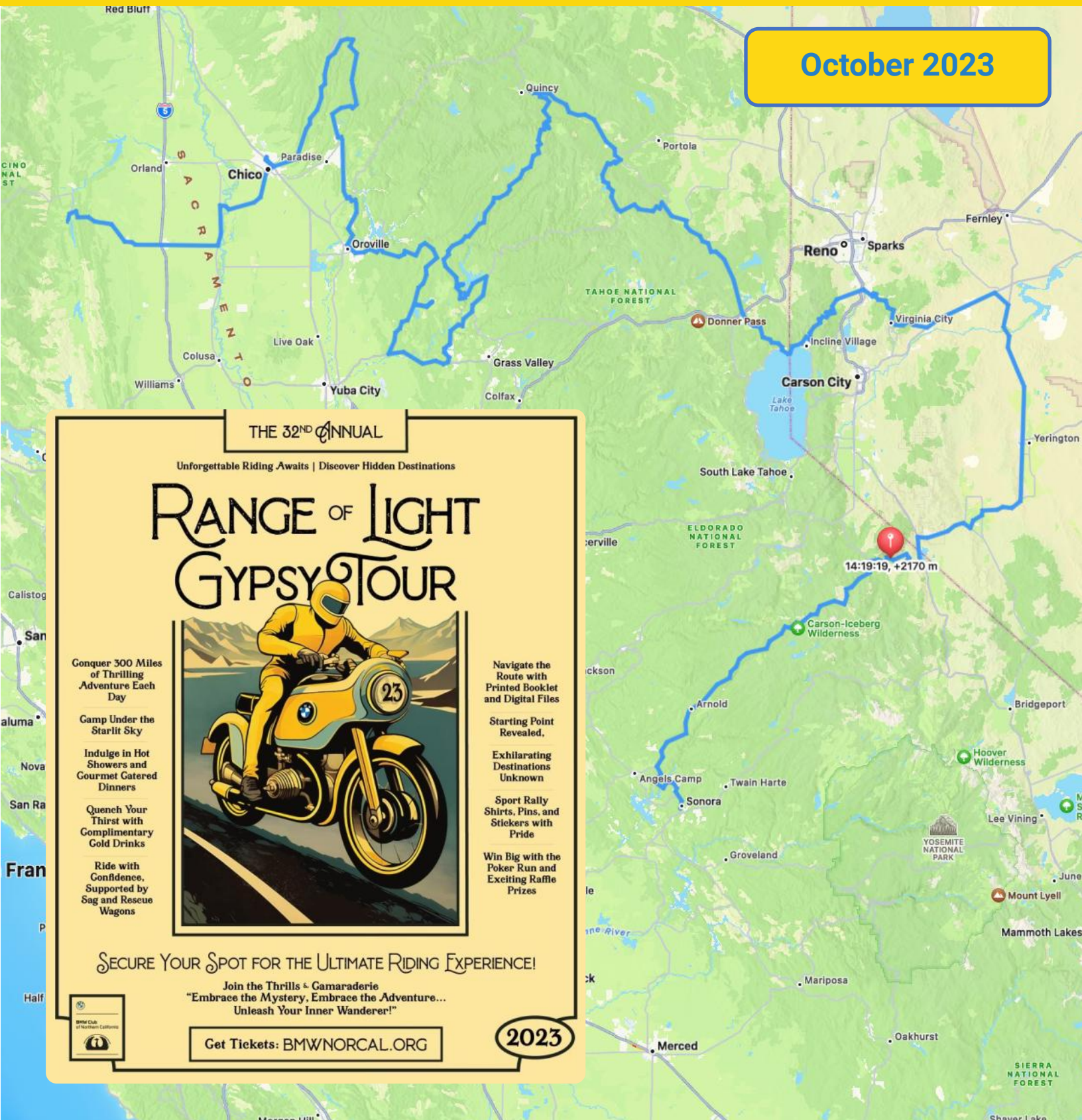
# NORCAL NEWS



Ride to Camp

Camp to Ride


October 2023



THE 32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL

Unforgettable Riding Awaits | Discover Hidden Destinations

## RANGE OF LIGHT GYPSY TOUR



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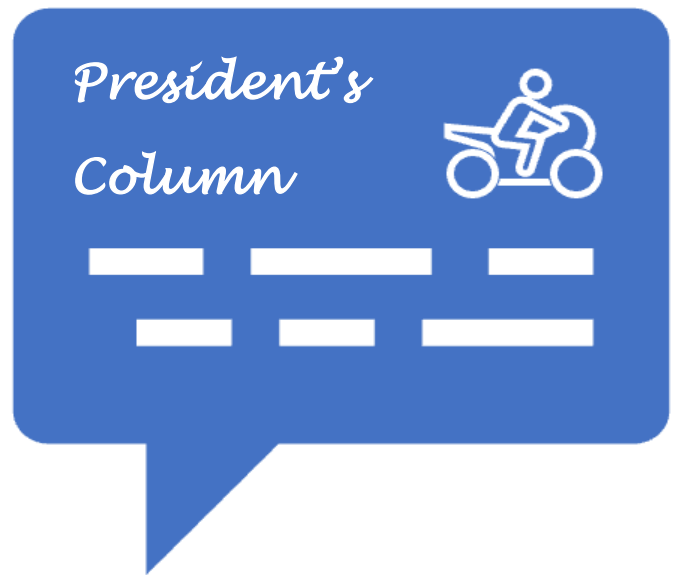


Good day Members,

Our Range Of Light Gypsy Tour is our mission to embark on an unforgettable motorcycle adventure through the stunning Sierras. The journey spanned over 3 days and 300 miles per day of diverse terrain, including rain, hail, and sunshine. We aimed to create lasting memories, foster camaraderie among riders, and soak in the breathtaking views that the Sierras have to offer.

**Day one** began in Elk Creek, California. 30 minutes West of Willows, CA off the 15. Nestled within a picturesque landscape, this unique property offers a harmonious blend of natural beauty and historical charm. As you explore this enchanting estate, you'll be captivated by its open sky, thriving eucalyptus forest, gently rolling hills, and the fascinating remnants of old lumber sawmill buildings. As the evening progressed our bellies were filled with delicious food. Once dark hit, that is when nature's drama unfolded with the recent weather casting its spell as rain, lightning, and thunder added an electrifying touch to the surroundings. Forest, vast open skyline on rolling hills were the perfect setting to start this adventure.

**Day two** we were up and at it, some taking a bit longer than others to get going as the party went well into the wee hours....4am. Our first stop was at Ozzie's BMW in Chico, CA. Ozzie's provided breakfast burritos for those who got there early enough and Nitro Cold Brew Coffee. After that, everyone was off. The road followed Hwy 70 with its iconic rivers and their deep gorges. As riders made their way up the pass, they got a visual feast of panoramic views of rugged peaks and lush valleys. Some opted for the GS route and others came to set up camp at the Quincy Fairgrounds. The fairgrounds hooked us up with the largest building they had, their folks reminisced of their day's events and got to thoroughly dry out. Some of our riders also had Suite Accommodation in the horse stalls. We had an outstanding BBQ dinner cooked up by Oran the local groundskeeper and a live band for entertainment. It was the perfect ending to a great day.



**Day three** was not for the faint of heart. Not many souls were up and out of there early. The rain had begun in the early morning hours. As riders packed up their rain-soaked gear there were many challenges ahead of them. Riding through the Sierras can be an exhilarating and challenging experience, especially when confronted with less-than-ideal weather conditions like rain and hail. While these conditions may not be the most comfortable, they did add a unique dimension to the journey making it an unforgettable adventure. As riders rolled into Mother Lode Fairgrounds in Sonora they were greeted with warm weather, clear skies, and sun!

Another great dinner was provided by Pinocchio's Italian Restaurant in Sonora. The Meatballs were a hit and the tiramisu cupcakes melted in your mouth. Many prizes were given away, along with some long-time membership pins and a few new member packets.

I want to give a HUGE thank you to all the volunteers who pitched in and helped out, before, during, and after the event. The rescue Drivers Russ Drake and Darrin Ogeltree were proud to announce they picked up no customers! I would call that a major win considering the conditions. There were some hiccups along the way, but I had fun planning for this event. I look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

*Tresha Holloway President/ROL Chair*





## Membership Anniversaries

40 Years Thane Beckstrand

5 Years Tracy Bethune

Nick Foster

## Editor's Corner



@thebritnickd

Maybe its my midlife crisis but on Jun 4<sup>th</sup> I decided it was time that I relinquished the comfort of my memory foamed California King and seek out the opportunity to gather my comfort from some random field for the weekend, and that's when I signed up to join the NorCal pack with a commitment to a saddle-sore Gipsy Tour, the Range-of-Light.



### Left Turn

Arm and hand extending left, palm facing down

The RoL tour wasn't where this self-encouraged crisis would end however, I needed to know what I was getting into and so I took the steps to gatecrash the August Board of Directors meeting which is where I learnt what the NorCal BMW Rider's

club was all about.

The meeting covered many club topics but I came to learn of the Second Sunday Breakfast, which although an hour's freeway ride away did offer me a little insight into the social aspects of the club's members. It was great to find a team of people who welcomed a newcomer with open arms and without any judgment. With the breakfast over, came the whole reason that biker meetups happen – the ride out.

This being my first ride out with a new pack obviously comes with certain trepidations, but I got to ride my own ride and no expectations imposed on me by the other riders. The ride was progressive, not too fast, not too slow and all set within the spirit of the law. It was a great and fun ride out..... Now, I do admit it though..., I was the rider that broke the cardinal biker rule, and I turned up with a nearly empty fuel tank something I whispered into one of the ride leader's ears. With that said, however, the BMW's

range calculator just kept extending the available range only validating the comfortable pace set by the ride leaders.

After the ride, I went through some of the photos captured by my bike's numerous cameras and sent a few to the NorCal team for any historical value that they may yield from them in the future, but on August 27<sup>th</sup>, I got a copy of the club's newsletter only to see some of my photo's already taking center stage. So, I sent an email to ask if the club needed more material from the membership to create more content in the club's newsletter – a short and sharp – 'Yes please' was the answer.....

John's effort has kept the interest in our sport alive and it's up to us to help maintain that spirit as he steps down from his editorial role. John's support for the newsletter and the NorcalBMW membership is only made possible through contributions from the readership itself and I therefore encourage you by asking you to help make that happen. So let's help the club by being a club of members by submitting photos, short route reports, equipment reviews, and anything else that will continue to make this club a family of members sharing a common interest.



*Nick Dutton*



# RANGE OF LIGHT GYPSY TOUR



This may have been the 32nd annual edition of the BMW NorCal Range of Light Gypsy Tour but it was my first experience of the kind

My name is Lex, a retired professional athlete of almost a decade, and a Canadian who spends half my time in Northern California, riding both bicycles and motorcycles, I've been hungry to venture out beyond the exciting yet lonely and demanding life of bike racing, to make friends doing cool stuff for *the pure fun of it*. I however quickly learned that it's not easy to find like-minded folks who also seek out similar activities. The Range of Light Gypsy Tour (RoL) is a 4-day adventure, (when you include the day it took to get to the start in Elk Creek California, and the one it took to ride back to home base from Sonora, where the Gypsy Tour ended) put me back in touch with 'my people' - you.

quirkiest convenience stores I've ever seen in my life.

The pack was a group of 5:

Maysam, the baby of the group at 32 years old

[Richard](#), marketing director from [San Jose BMW](#)).

[Dave](#), whom I met across the street from Alice's Restaurant when I was bicycling a couple of weeks ago.

[Nick](#), a British ExPat who I met at a KLIM demo night at the local BMW dealership, and who told me about the RoL event.



↑ Butte Meadows, California



↑ Sometimes when it rains, ... Maysam wears his exclusive trash can diapers...

The RoL meet-up, in Elk Creek, was on Friday night before Labour Day weekend, which in itself was an adventure. We started in San Jose, CA, and left at 10 a.m., rode across the Golden Gate Bridge, through vineyards and orchards, and only stopped at some of the

Three of us were connected using the [Sena 50S'](#) Mesh intercom network (Dave, Richard, and I), while Maysam and Nick connected their Sena [20S EVO](#) and [SRL](#) intercoms using Bluetooth. Nick allegedly was singing over the intercom, so apparently on this occasion, it was ideal to be on Sena's Mesh and off of Bluetooth.



→ Stonyford, California

Dave had the foresight to check the weather and warn the rest of us of the chances of rain, so when the skies looked ominous upon arrival at our first campsite in Elk Creek, I wasn't stunned, I was prepared.



Right Turn

Arm out, bent at 90° angle, fist clenched.

>> Cont'd



# RANGE OF LIGHT GYPSY TOUR

The first priority was to set up camp, then hit the lineup to sign in and get the burgers and beer (or... sparkling water. Thanks for providing that, BMW NorCal). I enjoyed the waiting as I got to meet riders both from and who had ridden in Europe (my next dream)

official day of the ride, was presented via a fantastically designed route pamphlet that we all received the night before... I learned the art of which was designed by a father-son team, and members of the BMW NorCal club. Many Kudos to them. Our tour lead, Dave, took charge of navigation and led the pack over the 200-mile route.



↑ Virginia City, Nevada

The skies turned pinkish as the sun set and while options were on the table, I didn't spend much time with the party-ers that evening, because like my tent partner Richard and I are early birds, not night owls. There were a few drips that leaked through the tent as the rain pelted down through the night but Nick was the worst off in our group, starting the next day soaked but merry.

Our GPS route for Saturday, the first

Shortly after passing breathtaking landscapes lit by the morning sun, we made our first stop at the Golden Arches for breakfast (though, I may have had a breakfast alternative in my LoneRider pannier that was dedicated entirely to the weekend food). The stop was followed by a second one in Chico to replace some rivets that had popped out on Dave's left pannier.

As a cyclist, I had heard a lot about Chico because of an amateur bike race held there, but had I never visited until now, I did notice there appeared to be no shortage of bakeries there!

↓ People got hungry

Plumas Sierra County Fair, East Quincy, California



>> Cont'd

↓ Lake Tahoe Basin,  
Incline Village, Nevada





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# RANGE OF LIGHT GYPSY TOUR

As we continued along our way, we made a point of stopping to find each of the answers for the Poker Run, even when it had started to rain - a lot. The Poker Run was a great excuse to ensure we weren't tempted to cut corners in from the RoL citing 'bad weather' - this ensured we got to see some of the most exciting views California and Nevada had to offer. We stopped in front of old museums, at some neat shops, and at one of the coolest grocery stores I've been to in my life: the meat case was exceptional and the owners were passionate.

My only regret:

I should have taken some of that venison salami to go...

We arrived at the fairgrounds in Quincy where a good part of the 300 or so riders chose to set up tents in the horse stalls. Our posse opted for the protection of a tree instead, where we hoped we'd be more sheltered from the rain than that of the previous night. We were beside a new Spanish friend, Michael, who recognized my sweat-shirt from Timmins, Ontario - one of the last places I'd think somebody would be familiar with in this neck of the NorCal woods. Steve set up his tent nearby too, and I met Deborah across the way, who also loves cycling, she told me that if we were closer in age we'd be friends (after overhearing something about me roughhousing). Deborah, I want to be your friend!

My favourite part of supper that night was the tri-tip, steak, and cookies. My luckiest part of that night was when I scored a sweet hand at the poker table after submitting the answers we'd found along the route. Or maybe it was that the rain wasn't too bad and didn't soak right through the old tent I slept in!

Day 2's route was also presented on a pamphlet as gorgeous as that of Day 1. Richard and Dave took turns navigating. As we approached Tahoe, the roads started to become more familiar. I'd spent a solid block there doing solo altitude training and competing in several editions of the Tour of California bike race. We stopped at one rest stop and it hit me. The last time I was there, I'd dreamed of riding in this very spot, on an adventure motorcycle. I only had a Kawasaki Ninja 400 at the time. Here I was. Retired and doing okay, riding a BMW GS1250 with some really cool people. I was living the dream. We continued up onto Mount Rose, another stretch of road that brought back special memories of the cycling glory days, where we dropped down into the flats of Nevada, and where I'd never dared to venture on my leg-powered cycle. That's

where the skies got a little special though. They turned purple and blue and had a tinge of green and orange at times. As we pulled out of the parking lot with the last chance of shelter, Dave said over the [Sena](#) Mesh intercom that this was tornado weather. I got a little nervous. We definitely got pelted, and I left a zipper slightly open in my KLIM jacket, so the Gortex didn't even have a chance to prove its worth on the right side of my torso! By the time we got to Topaz Lake, the skies had cleared again though, and we spent a decent amount of time enjoying the rest stop food. I hate pizza pockets, except on days like those!



The final and perhaps most spectacular part of the ride was the trip up Ebbetts Pass.

↑ *Sonora, California*

Tight switchbacks and steep pitches of up to 26% kept us on the edge and plenty alert. I stopped to take a photo and was glad I did, because the view was spectacular and I couldn't fully take it in, keeping my focus on the technical road and the wet conditions. I definitely put my Rain Mode setting to the test today, and I'm grateful for it. Maysam got the Trooper of the Day award for riding with no rain protection other than trash bags under his clothes, through the storms and up to altitudes of over 8500ft.. He didn't even have heated grips, which, since I've had them on my BMW GS1250, I've learned are not exactly a frivolous luxury.

We almost chickened out and got a motel, but our troop pushed onward and we made it to the last campground in Sonora.

>> Cont'd



All I can say is that the views coming into that area seduced me so much that I can't wait to go back with the moto, or the bicycle someday soon.

Wrapping up the 3rd day of riding (and the last day formal day of the RoL) had us meeting new friends, like Greg the CHP officer: who is full of passion and knowledge, and I loved it. It was also when Maysam and I became the lucky second and third-place winners of the Poker run; we received generous gift certificates from [Ozzie's BMW](#) in Chico. Thanks, [Ozzie's](#)! Now we have another great reason to return and we're already starting to plan our next ride to that neighbourhood. There were a ton of raffle prizes too, where I also scored a camping pump (so I don't have to blow up my sleeping pad manually) - what a treat! The biggest treat of all though, was forging new friendships though and really getting an appreciation for what the BMW NorCal riding community is all about.

Fortunately, after that night, there was still a final ride left to return home.

Richard opted for the highway but Dave led the rest of us through the scenic route, passing through Modesto where tomatoes fell off the farm trucks, and to Carnegie which is probably the coolest dirt biking place I've seen

# RANGE OF LIGHT GYPSY TOUR

in my life.

I went through a bit of withdrawal the next day, back at home base but I am about to head to the [BMW Performance Centre](#) in South Carolina with [San Jose BMW](#). There, I'll work on some off-roading skills so I can try to confidently handle next year's Range of Light Gypsy Tour's GS route. Let's see!

Regardless, I can't wait to ride with my new friends again and make more friends too. There's something extra special about coming across people who love adventure, fun, challenge, discovery, bikes of all sorts, and camaraderie. Thank you to everyone for making me feel so welcome. I can't wait to connect with you again soon!

And remember, it is always more fun to #RideConnected



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# History Corner

BMW is a truly successful and international name, but few know of the origins of this global brand.

The name 'BMW' comes from the Bayerische Motoren Werke GmbH, which loosely translates to the Bavarian Engine Works Company. This incarnation of the BMW brand was created in 1917 from the Munich firm Rapp-Motorenwerke which incorporated into Knorr-Bremse AG in 1920 before later becoming BMW AG in 1922.

The original 1917 BMW story begins with an aircraft manufacturer forced to change its business model under the Treaty of Versailles, signed between Germany and most of the then Allied Powers. 'Most' because the United States never ratified the agreement and made a separate peace agreement directly with Germany. The Treaty came with several requirements including reparations, guarantees, territorial changes, and military restrictions. Military restrictions prohibited Germany from stockpiling or manufacturing chemical weapons, armoured cars, tanks, and military aircraft.

Many articles written about BMW have suggested that the BMW roundel logo be in recognition of the aircraft-making history and represent the blades of a propeller cutting through a blue sky but BMW themselves later debunked this depiction and instead confirmed it being inspired by its geographical ties and the Bavarian flag.



As the company re-invented itself and with years of design, re-design, and innovation, BMW introduced the first of its many new products, a motorcycle named the BMW R 32, a 494cc, side-valve air-cooled flat-twin – the boxer engine.

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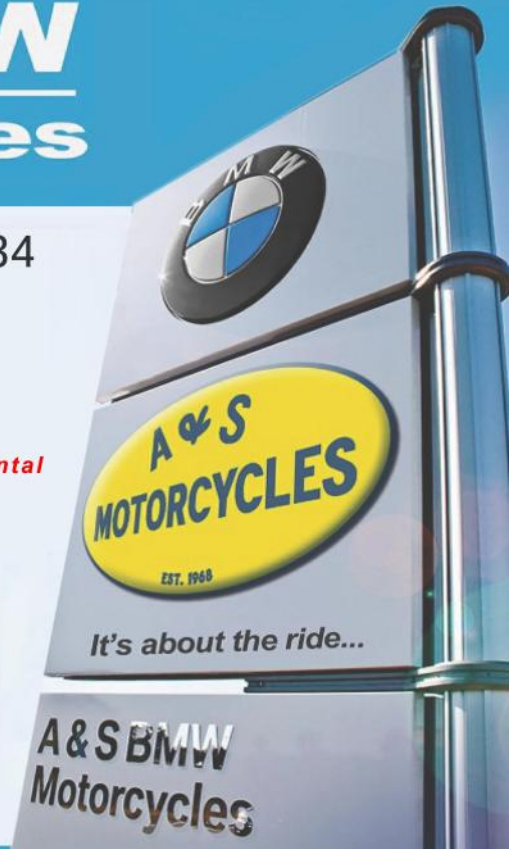
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## Quick Links

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



Pinocchio's Italian Restaurant in Sonora



Sena Motorcycle Intercoms

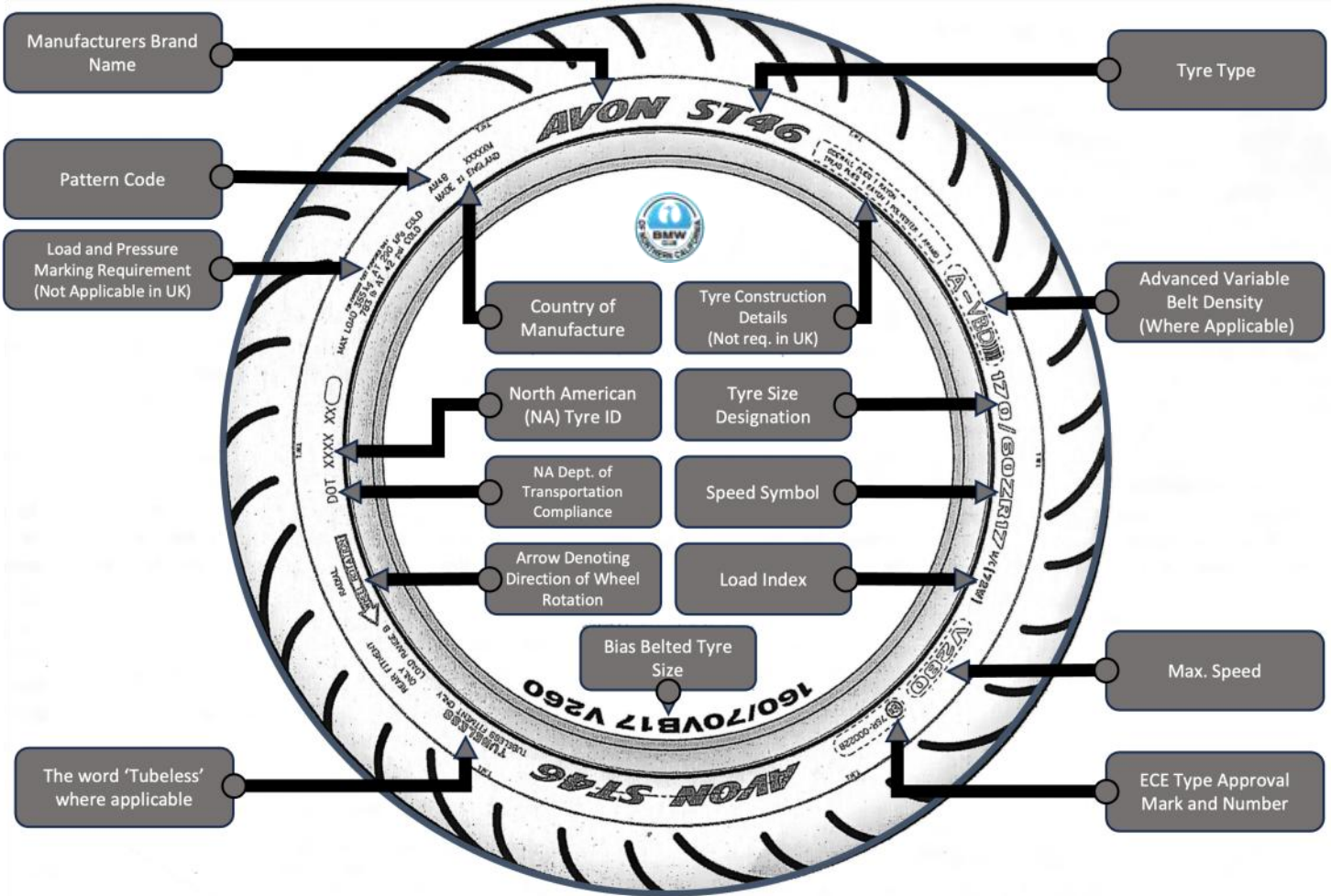


Carnegie SVRA (Dirt Track)

# MOTO GUILD

SAN FRANCISCO

REVER



# Waterproofing your tent

This is the article you wanted 8 weeks ago.....

Waterproofing your tent is an easy process, but what are those magic steps you need to achieve that warm, dry, and *luxurious* rest following the 7-hour ride across some of the most scenic roads that the state has to offer?

The seven important steps

## 1. Select a dry day to waterproof your tent.

- Waterproofing is a messy process.
- Outdoors when it's warm and dry will simply make the process more of a tolerable experience.

## 2. Make sure your tent is clean.

- The tent is what you are looking to waterproof, not the dirt and grime.
- When the dirt or grime dries and falls off, you are left with a spot of unwaterproofed tent.

**Top Tip:** A lint roller to help you out. It will pick up all the stray hairs and animal fluff that might be eluding you.

- Brush the tent to ensure all bits of dirt and grass blades are gone.
- When you are cleaning, place your tent on a clean tarp(s), to protect it from grass or dust as you set about waterproofing.

**Top Tip:** Don't use your tent's footprint – its too small. You will want extra workspace.

## 3. Seal the seams

- The number culprit to a leaky tent. Seams become worn by friction and exposure.
- Any peeling bits should be gently removed without disturbing any surrounding sealant.
- Gently clean the seam with rubbing alcohol using a **clean** rag. Do this gently so as not to damage the seam any further.
- Once the seam is clean and dry, apply the seam sealer.

## 4. Use a urethane coating to waterproof the floor and flysheet.

- If the inside of your flysheet or tent floor is flaking, to make it waterproof again, you need to apply a fresh urethane coating.
- Start by trying to remove as much of the original coating as possible. As before use rubbing alcohol, but instead of a rag use a sponge with an abrasive side. Using the rubbing alcohol and sponge, clean the surface but avoid rubbing the seams.
- Take your urethane coating and apply a thin layer to the inside of the flysheet and the entire tent floor. This step can take 24 hours for the coating to fully dry, so ensure you do this on a day when it won't rain!

## 5. Apply a durable water repellent

- If raindrops no longer bead up on the outside of your tent and flysheet, your tent needs a respray of a **durable water repellent**. This is easier to do than the other waterproofing steps because it doesn't matter if your tent is wet.
- Liberally spray the water repellent over the outside of the tent and flysheet.
- Once you've finished, your tent will be ready for a quick wipe it down to remove excess spray
- Let the tent dry

## 5. Dry out the tent fully before putting it away

- LET THE TENT DRY FULLY BEFORE PUTTING IT AWAY

## 7. Use a tarp to double your waterproofing

- You have read this far... and you are telling yourself you wished you'd thought about doing this earlier – yup me too....
- Pack a spare tarp in your tent bag. As a backup, it's a good solution....







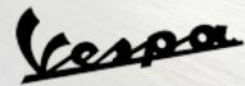
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# BMW Motorcycle Club of Northern California



As most of you have heard John Ellis has retired as our club Newsletter Editor. As we bid farewell to John a dedicated member of our team, I want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for your seven years of service as our editor. Your commitment and hard work have been instrumental in the success and growth of our club.

Throughout your tenure, you consistently demonstrated an unwavering passion for our mission and a keen eye for detail. Your dedication to ensuring that our clubs communications were polished, professional and effective did not go unnoticed. You have played a pivotal role in shaping our club's image and message, and for that, we are truly grateful.

As you embark on the new chapter of your life, please know that your legacy will continue to inspire us. Your dedication and hard work have left an indelible mark on our club.

We wish you all the best in your well-deserved retirement. May this new phase of life bring you joy, relaxation and new adventures. You have certainly earned it.

Thanks so much for being a valuable member of The BMW Club of Northern California, Inc..



Change is a common part of growth, and as we continue to grow our club we are excited to announce our new Newsletter Editor, Nick Dutton.

Nick is stepping in to continue John's work and adding his own fresh and innovative ideas to the newsletter while staying true to our core values. The newsletter will continue to grow and promises to enrich your reading experience and keep you well-informed about our club's endeavors.

Nick joins us with a wealth of creative energy and a passion for our club's mission. He understands the importance of our core values and is dedicated to preserving the essence of what makes our club unique while introducing exciting new elements.

Here are some of the exciting changes you can look forward to in our upcoming newsletters:

\* **Engaging Visuals:** Nick will incorporate new visuals and design elements that will make our newsletters more visually appealing and engaging

\* **Diverse Content:** While honoring our core values, Nick will introduce a variety of new content types, including member spotlights, informative articles, event highlights, and more, to keep our newsletters fresh and informative

Change can be invigorating, and with Nick at the help, we are confident that our newsletter will continue to be a source of inspiration, knowledge, and connection for our membership. He is dedicated to striking a balance between embracing new ideas and maintaining the essence of what makes our club special.

We invite you to extend a warm welcome to Nick and support his efforts in making our newsletter even better. Feel free to reach out to him with your ideas, feedback, or contributions. Together, we can create a newsletter that truly reflects the spirit of our club.

Thank you for being a part of our vibrant community, and we look forward to sharing the exciting journey ahead with you through the next phase of our newsletter.

*Linda Rodda, Vice President*

# Upcoming Events

## September Club Meeting in Pine Glen

22 – 24 Sep 2023 Mammoth Lakes, CA.

Registration required

## Bikerdahan 2023—Lake Don Pedro Blue Oaks Campground

28 Sep – 01 Oct 2023 La Grange, CA.

Registration required

## Central Coast Classic Motorcycle Show

30 Sept 2023, San Luis Obispo, CA

Registration required

## Monthly Board of Director Meetings—October

07 Oct 2023 : 849 13th Street, San Francisco CA 94130

MotoGuild (In Person)

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

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