



**BMW Club**  
Of Northern  
California INC.

CHARTER NO. 9 — BMW MOTORCYCLE OWNERS OF AMERICA

# NEWSLETTER

**FEBRUARY 2005**

CHARTER NO. 210 — BMW RIDERS' ASSOCIATION

## **February Meeting Furnace Creek Campground, Death Valley, CA February 19, 2005**

The February meeting and campout will be held at the Furnace Creek Campground in Death Valley. The meeting will take place on Saturday, February 19th, at **four p.m.**

Spaces at the campground have been reserved for Thursday through Sunday nights and camping is first come first served, at shared sites. Gas and a few groceries are available nearby.

There will be no official road tour, given the distance and varying departure times. If you would like someone to ride with, email me at lenij@comcast.net. If you let me know when and from where you plan to leave, I will hook you up with any other interested parties so you can work out the particulars. The Airheads have reserved sites as for the weekend also, but CCCBR will not be there as a club this year.

Leni Johns, Tour Captain

### **Update for President's Day Weekend:**

Contrary to what you may have read or heard, all sites at Furnace Creek Campground are now open, and barring heavy rain will remain so. In planning your trip it may be useful for you to survey the park web site at

<http://www.nps.gov/deva/pphtml/camping.html>. There you will find information about things to see and do as well as daily updates on road conditions within the park boundaries. Bear in mind that Rt 190 is closed between Furnace Creek (south of the campground) and Death Valley Junction due to storm damage. It will not be reopened until Spring, so park attractions along this route are virtually inaccessible. There may be other areas of the park closed due to recent flooding as well.

Brian Curry who visited Death Valley recently writes:

"DV will be different from how many remember it. It is flat green most everywhere. We even had about a half an inch of rain overnight.

At the south end of the valley, the ground was covered with green and yellow flowers. Not the usual red and brown of toasted soils. It was quite spectacular.

The roads have a LOT of mud and dust on them from the water washing across them. So use some caution. Wildrose Canyon was closed. Many of the roads to attractions were also closed due to being washed out. And the graders are so busy trying to keep the paved roads open, they can't grade the dirt roads. The Badwater salt pan is underwater.

The NPS flower expert thinks this might be the best flower season in 50 years. I would tend to agree. You just don't expect to see green grass growing everywhere in Death Valley!"

## **make your own way here . . .**



**BMW CLUB OF  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
A TOURING  
AND CAMPING CLUB**

<http://bmwnorcal.org>

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## President's Corner *by Mike Morlin*



A belated Happy New Year to all of our members. You may have noticed that you did not receive a January newsletter – sorry about that – there weren't a sufficient number of column inches to justify going to print. Of course the downside is that those of you who can't check our website are uninformed about upcoming scheduled events. The only upside was the club's budget saved on printing and postage. We'll make every effort to stay on track. I'd encourage those of you who enjoy writing and sharing your riding experiences, photos, or

want to offer a review of riding gear, have a safety or tech issue, or philosophical essay, to send in your articles to Michelle Palmer. We would like to build up a library of articles to share with members in future newsletters.

A great time was had by all at our holiday party, generously hosted by the Baldinelli's at their lovely home in Castro Valley. Great food, great company! Thanks to everyone who pitched in.

Speaking of good food... The January club meeting was great all around. Lake Hensley was a nice location, just up in the hills above the valley. I think everyone was prepared for the expected January temperatures so we didn't have to treat any hypothermia or frostbite. The real highlight of the ride was the feast waiting for everyone who signed up for the BBQ. I'd like to thank Leni Johns, her friend Nancy, and Chuck Bell for their hard work in wining and dining everyone. Once the fire was started, we all enjoyed a cozy night under a gazillion stars.

At dawn, the moon was in the southwest sky. It was a beautiful morning – crisp, ever so clear, and really green. After negotiating a couple of patches of dense valley fog, I stopped in Coalinga for breakfast, then enjoyed the ride up to Hollister. The roads were pretty clean with hardly another vehicle. What a way to start a week!

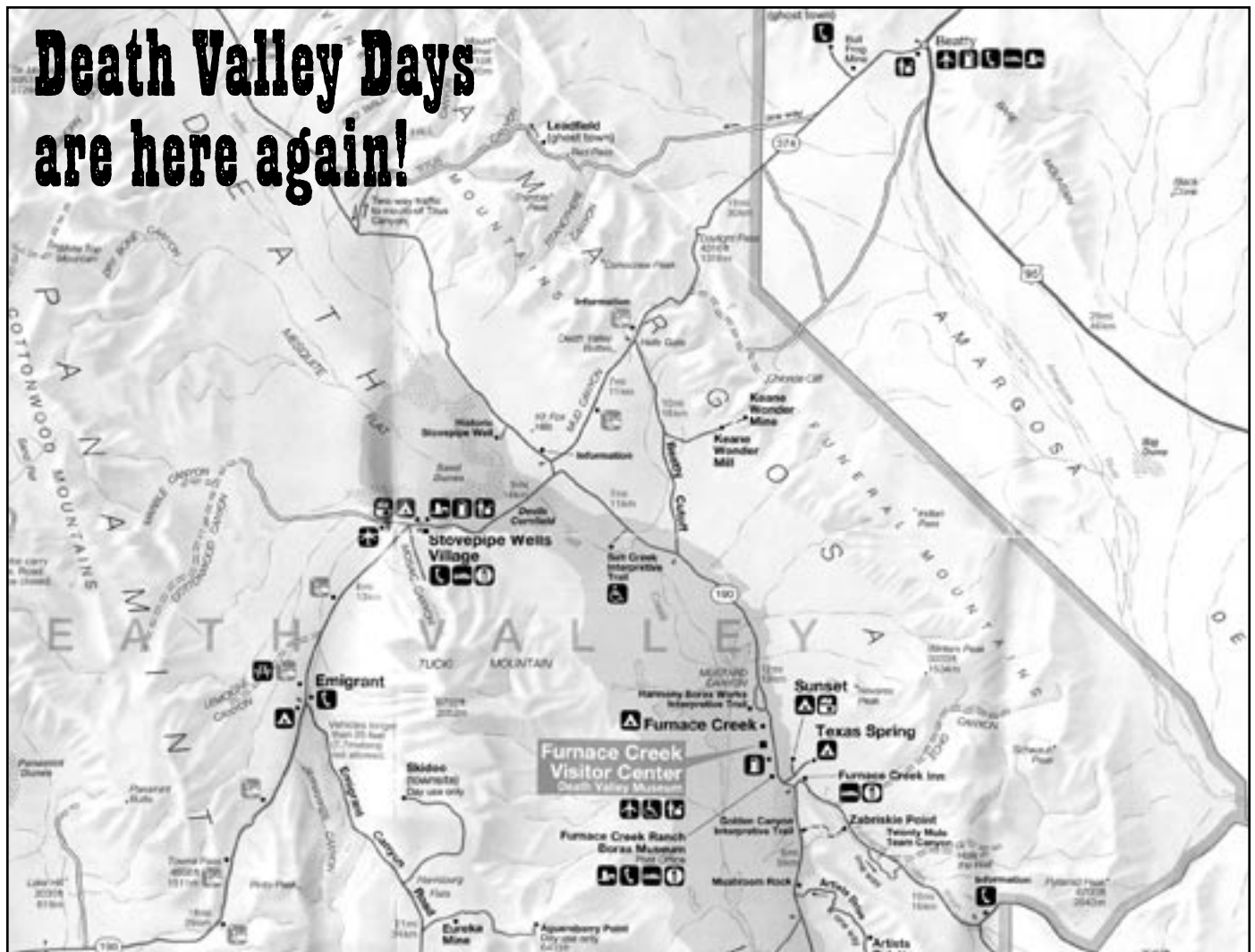
Long-time member Gene Harlamoff called me a week or so ago. He had just completed a compilation of every campground where meetings have been held since he joined in 1972. It is an impressive effort that took Gene many hours of going through his entire collection of past newsletters. Thanks Gene for your work on this historic list.

I would like to put out a general appeal to any member(s) who would be interested in chairing this year's Range of Light. If you are interested but may have any fears or concerns about what arrangements need to be made, please talk to one of our past chairpersons listed near the back of the directory. Please give me a call or e-mail if you want to volunteer. There wasn't a quorum at our February 2 Board meeting, so there isn't anything to report.

There was some minor concern that, due to the impacts of weather – flash flooding, erosion, etc.– in Death Valley, that the Furnace Creek area might be closed. Our most recent info is included in this newsletter and on our website. I hope to see you there!

### Editorial Fine Print:

- The deadline for the next newsletter, the March issue, is **March 5, 2005**.
- Ads will run for 3 months unless you call and tell us to cancel sooner, or the editor forgets, which is most likely, or we haven't received any new ones in which case we like to have something in that space!
- Please send all material for the newsletter to the editor at the club PO box (address on back page), or email to [gsmichelle@earthlink.net](mailto:gsmichelle@earthlink.net)



**Open House  
Saturday April 30th**

Test ride the **K1200S, R1200RT**  
and **R1200ST!**

Free hot dogs, Edelweiss tour  
presentation, clearance items,  
door prizes and DJ.

**A&S BMW Motorcycles**

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*It's about the Ride!*

**New Members  
and Anniversaries**

**First Timers:**

George Sitts, Oakhurst, CA

Carolyn Enlow, Ahwahnee, CA

**Second Timers and New  
Members:**

Chris Wallace, San Carlos, CA

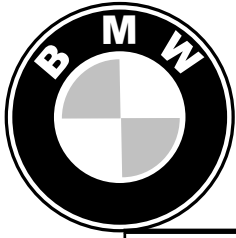
**Upcoming Anniversaries:**

Patti Gardner for 25 years

**Death Valley National Park**  
Established October 31, 1994  
About 3.3 million acres

The largest national park south of Alaska, Death Valley is known for extremes: It is North America's driest and hottest spot (with less than 2 inches of rainfall annually and a record high of 134° F), and has the lowest elevation in the Western Hemisphere – 282 feet below sea level. Even with its extremes, the park still receives 1.3 million visitors each year.

In 1849 emigrants bound for California's gold fields strayed into the 120-mile-long basin, enduring a two-month ordeal of "hunger and thirst and an awful silence." One of the last to leave looked down from a mountain at the narrow valley and said "Good-bye Death Valley."



## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Feb. 19** February Campout and Meeting (4:00 pm) – Death Valley, CA ✓  
**May 27-30** '49er Rally – Sonora, CA

✓ *Information in this issue.*

Prospective members may receive a complimentary newsletter by contacting the Secretary.



**BMW Club**  
Of Northern  
California INC.

<http://bmwnorcal.org>  
**Ride to Camp; Camp to Ride**

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**FEBRUARY 2005**