

Ride to Camp

Camp to Ride





LOOKING FOR THAT NEW CLUB TOUR CAPTAIN. IS IT YOU?

Dear Club Members -

WOW, what a way to kick off the 2024 camping season!

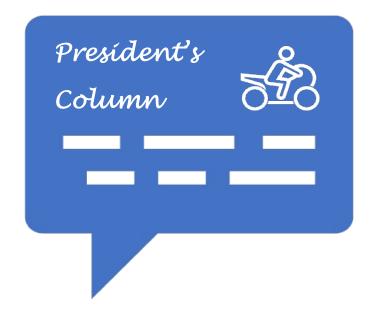
Mother Nature played nice, and we lucked out with killer weather that was even better than we'd dared to hope. We had a great member turnout, introduced many initiate members, and guests whilst also welcoming four new members to our Club. While many might shy away from camping in winter, the adventurous spirit of our dedicated club members and its guests knows no bounds. It's a reminder that each season has its allure, and winter holds a special kind of magic for those willing to embrace it. A special shoutout goes out to my dad and Russ Drake for ensuring our campfires roared well into the night. Without them, we might've had to resort to rubbing sticks together, and that's a skill most of us just haven't mastered yet. As we swapped stories and enjoyed each other's company, it became clear that our NorCal BMW Club family is ready for another incredible year.

With the success of our January campout, I can't help but



"Who picked this route?"

feel the excitement building for the adventures that lie ahead. Our calendar is brimming with thrilling rides. Coming up next is the muchanticipated annual campout to Death Valley (DV).



This will be my first time experiencing DV and I am looking forward to soaking in every moment of this adventure. In April one of our esteemed longtime club members will open their home to host a Club event. It's always special when our members extend their hospitality. It is times like these that strengthen the bonds within our Club.

As you can see from this month's magazine, the wheels are in motion for our 52nd annual 49er Rally held in Mariposa, California. This event is not only a hallmark for our club, but an event that is also widely known and anticipated beyond the boundaries of our membership. I do not doubt that this year's rally will be another resounding success.

Whether you're a seasoned rider or a newcomer, there's something magical about the shared experience we create together. A huge thank you to each member of our Nor-Cal BMW Club. Your enthusiasm, dedication, and love for the open road contribute to the success and vibrancy of our community. Here's to countless memories we've already made and the many more awaiting us on the horizon.

Tresha Holloway, President





Membership Anniversaries			
5 Years	Steven Butterfield		
10 Years	Ron Viera		
35 Years	Greg Hutchinson		
40 Years	Mike Morlin		

Editor's Corner



Well the 49er planning is underway will several of our organizational meetings under the belt. Numerous speakers, events and entertainers are already booked. We've also opened registration with an early bird discount for those eager to start the rally season. The 49er rally is open to members of the camping and motorcycle community whether they be members of the NorCal BMW club or not, making the 49er a huge bonding experience for all. As a huge bonus, for those that do attend and want to become a member, the rally is also one of the main qualifiers for membership.

While the 49er team is in full swing we are always on the hunt for volunteers. If you are interested in being a volunteer for the 49er rally contact Kevin Colman at 49erchair@bmwnorcal.org to see what options are open.

Certainly the more hands we have available, the smoother the event will be.

The 49er isn't the only thing on the radar right now though, we are already looking forward to the fantastic Range-of-Light Gipsy Tour, the next campouts which includes our annual ride to Death Valley.

Only days after the 49er several of us head out to South Carolina for even more self

inflicted exhaustion at the hands of the awesome team at the BMW Performance Center.....
(and we can't wait!)

Double FileArm with index
And middle finger extended straight up



In this issue you are going to hear a lot of the authors mention the 49er rally, there is A LOT of excitement brewing. On the last Second Sunday Ride, I lost count of them members asking me when we open up the registration pages on the website.

Well the good news is we did it. If you register now there is also an Early Bird discount. So get on over there and get spot registered!

I'll see you there!









MARIPOSA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, CA

The NorCal BMW Club has a long-standing tradition of hosting the 49er Rally over Memorial Weekend with the Mariposa Fairgrounds serving as base camp. The 49er Rally is an annual event that brings together over 500 motorcycle enthusiasts from Northern California and beyond. The Mariposa Fairgrounds, located in the Sierra Nevada foothills, at the entrance to Yosemite National Park, provides a picturesque setting for this annual gathering.

Now in its 52nd year, the 49er Rally offers a multitude of motorcycle related activities: on and offroad riding clinics, seminars, guided and unguided road adventure rides, poker runs, and the always popular English Trials and GS Challenge competitions.

Great food is available and



the Beer Garden
with its great live
music is always a
fantastic place to
hang out and unwind after the
day's hard riding
is done.

The airheads will again

be present at "Airhead Central", always willing to talk about historic BMW models and willing to share wrenching advice.

Sponsors, as always, provide great door and raffle prizes, which also includes a voucher for a two day class at the BMW Performance Center in South Carolina.

A large number of vendors will be available to demonstrate, explain and offer their wares.

The fairgrounds prove ample space for camping, RV's and other activities, creating a welcoming environment for participants. The scenic surroundings and the proximity to some of Northern California's best riding routes contribute to the overall appeal of the event.

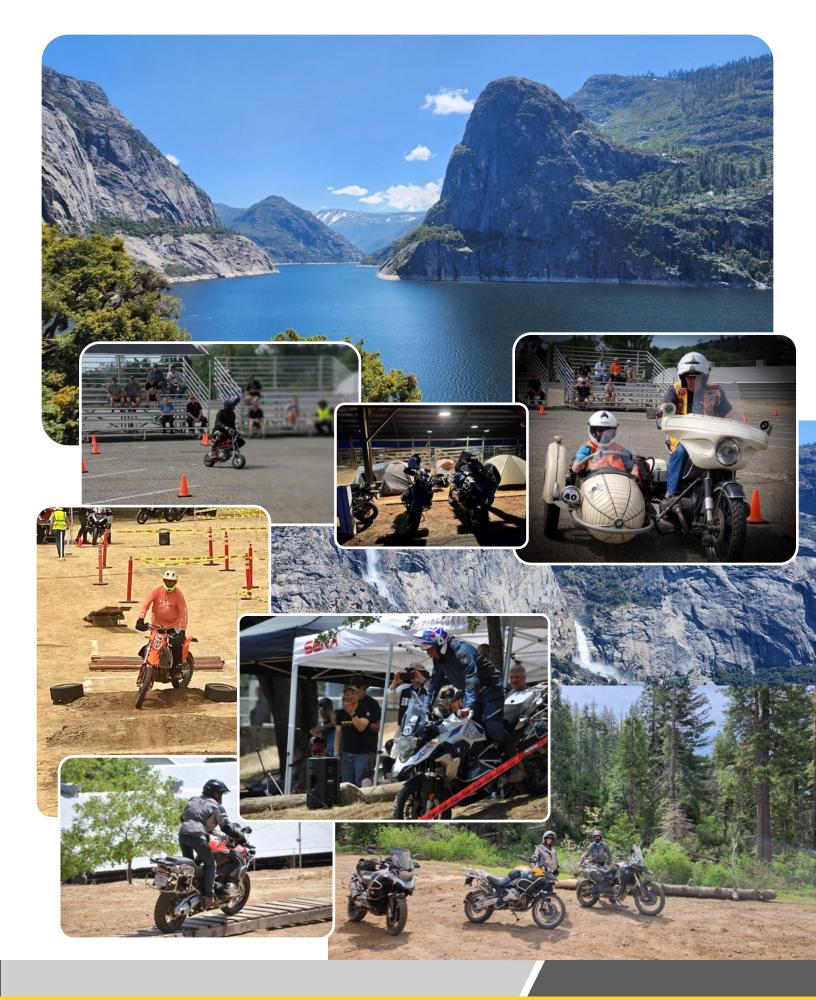
The NorCal BMW Club's 49er Rally holds a special place as it kickoffs off several motorcycle rallies on the west Coast.

The annual gathering not only marks the beginning of the riding season but also sets the tone for a series of rallies and events that follow throughout the year.

We look forward to you joining us.

Kevin Coleman, 49er Rally Chair









Continuing with Part 2 from February's article by Delf Hedde,

A Tale of Two Rallies

Last month, I was reporting how a group of friends visited the Stanley Stomp rally in Idaho, and then went on to

brave section four of the Idaho Backcountry Discovery Route: The Magruder Corridor.

After some Rest and Recreation, it was time for some of us to move on. Barbara, Carol, and Kurt decided that they needed a bit more rest and would take the direct route to Red Lodge tomorrow. We planned meet back the Beartooth Rendezvous on Thursday evening, so it was only Judy and I, who started the next part of the adventure on Wednesday morning.

To enter Glacier National Park, a reservation is required and only a limited number of tickets are available per day. There is an online system, and tickets literally are gone within seconds, however there is a way around the problem as no reservation is required if entering before 6am or after 3pm. With that said, when visiting the park in 2021 on route to the MOA Rally in Great Falls, we entered the park at 5:45am and it was seemed many folks had the same idea. As such, we rode the slow conga line even before the sun came up.

On this occasion however, as we came all the way from Corvallis, entering the park before 6am was not an option, instead, Judy and I took a leisurely ride up 93. We also, hit up some dirt to avoid the traffic in Missoula, enjoyed the ride along the eastern shore of Flathead Lake, and arrived at the Park Entrance in West Glacier around 3:30pm. No lines!

The first 15 miles in the park, along the shores of Lake McDonald, were a construction area. No pavement, but well graded dirt, this and the time of the day seems to have kept the other tourists away. There were very few cars on the road, and those that we encountered, were passed quickly. The view was somewhat compromised by smoke from forest fires in Canada, but the smoky light added an interesting atmosphere to the experience. We stopped several times to enjoy the vistas and on Logan Pass, and even encountered some of the local wildlife. Simply, no description nor photos do justice to the beauty and exhilaration of this ride. You must go and do it!

Exiting the park at St. Mary, we kept going down 89, through the Blackfoot Indian Reservation to the little town of Valier on Lake Frances. A little town with one gas station, one grocery store, bar, and one hotel. The Lake Frances Inn was perfect: clean, super friendly owner, and cheap – just what we needed. We arrived at "Froggies", the local watering hole, right at 9pm, the kitchen was supposed to be closed, but the owners took care of

"No problem – order whatever you want" and the Jalapeno Burgers were outstanding. We spend the next couple of hours drinking beer



with the owners. That bar alone might be worth a trip to Valier! If you ever find yourself between Glacier NP and Beartooth or Yellowstone, Valier is a great place to spend the night and avoid any excessive tourist pricing.

Thursday morning, it was time for Judy and me to spilt up: She turned West to get back to her home in Washington State for the weekend, while I turned East to Red Lodge for the Beartooth Rendezvous. After spending the last 10 days in the mountains, the long ride through the Northern Great Plains was certainly something different. I learned that there are a lot of gravel roads in Montana, Google makes no special mention of the lack of tarmac when recommending the fastest route....



The Beartooth Rendezvous is another famous, albeit low-key BMW Rally, organized by the Beartooth Beemers. Held every year in August, its only purpose is to raise funds for the local Lions Club youth program. Located, 10 miles out of Red Lodge, and on the Beartooth Highway, this is an absolutely stunning riding area.

The Chief Joseph Scenic Byway (Dead Indian Pass) is one of my all-time favorite rides. From the west, it's all rolling hills before the serious fun starts going up the Absaroka Range. From the east, the ride starts steeper with far fling switchbacks racing up to the pass above the vast Bighorn Basin.

Fantastic scenery, great rides and very few tourists in their view-killing, road-blocking RVs.

The Beartooth Scenic Highway (Beartooth Pass) is generally recognized as one of America's most spectacular and thrilling rides – an American icon not to be missed. Straddling the Montana/Wyoming border, the road zigzags up to nearly 11,000 feet and passes stunning alpine terrain and pristine lakes. Unfortunately, those annoying RV's do make it here.

The closest big town is **Cody**, pop: 10,000. The Cody Nite Rodeo is held every summer night from Jun 1st to Aug 31st. The Buffalo Bill Center of the West is well worth a visit as it houses many interesting artifacts, including its comprehensive museum of more than 4,000 firearms. **Yellowstone National Park** is just on the other side of the pass and also well worth the visit.

Arriving at the rally site, on Thursday, by midafternoon, I reunited with Barbara, Kurt and Carol and instead of camping, we stayed in a cabin and shared the luxury accommodations. These cabins are a great deal, bunkbeds and an electrical outlet to charge stuff all for only \$240 per eight bed (four two-bed bunks) cabin and for the three nights.

It worked out particularly well for us as we had significant rain for two nights. Food at the Beartooth Rendezvous is nearly as good as at the Stanley Stomp, and dinner includes steaks on the Saturday night which is included in the signup fee.



great
breakfast is
offered
every morning by the Lions Club for a
nominal fee.

When I got on my bike to start the Friday morning, my Tire

Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) informed me that my rear tire was a little low. I couldn't find anything wrong, so I just added air and went for a ride anyway. I lost a couple of PSI, but nothing dramatic.



That evening, I parked up my bike for the evening and while enjoying my 'boot beer', a couple of guys walked up to me to let me know that I had a nail sticking out of my rear tire. At that time, I decided to rather keep drinking beer and listening to the band. But the next morning I had to deal with an original Montana hoof nail in my rear tire! Likely picked up while riding the vast plains of eastern Montana. Well, that wasn't my first rodeo, or tire plugging exercise, and so after a quick repair, the tire was good to go again, and I took off to do some more great riding.







Fremont Peak, historically known as Gabilán Peak, is a 3,173-foot summit in the Gabilan Range, paralleling California's central coast. This prominent land mass provides panoramic views of the Salinas Valley, Santa Lucia Mountains east of Big Sur, and the San Benito Valley.



Named after John C. Frémont, a US Army Captain, surveyor, explorer, and politician; Fremont Peak gained recognition during the mid-19th century.

Frémont led several expeditions through the American West and

was threatened with arrest if captured by the Mexican Army. Historical accounts describe Fremont as having defied the Mexican Army's orders to leave and instead Fremont's crew climbed "Gavilan Peak" (former name of Fremont Peak) and planted a United States flag. Expecting aggression from the Mexican Army, Fremont set up crude fortification from logs and earth. The Mexican Army troops stationed in San Juan Bautista indeed responded, but the preliminary skirmish only involved the shouting of profanities and questionable hand gestures from both sides. After four days of yelling, the battle did not materialize so Fremont's men broke camp and left for Oregon in pursuit of more action and throat lozenges.

A few years later in 1849, Fremont Peak remained, and its surrounding areas became part of the Gold Rush era. Prospectors and settlers moved through the region in search of great riches, spurring the growth and further development of California.

The Peak is situated within the 162-acre Fremont Peak State Park, which was established in 1934 with intent to preserve the natural environment and historical significance of the area.

During World War II, the peak was used by the military for training exercises and as a lookout point due to its strategic location.

Fremont Peak is home to the Fremont Peak Observatory, which was established in 1986. The observatory serves as a popular site for stargazing and astronomical research, via a sizable 30-inch telescope. This is possible due to its relatively dark skies and strategic location away from major light pollution sources.

Fremont Peak and its surrounding areas are currently utilized for cultural events, recreational activities, educational programs, and of course, motorcycle camping!

Overall, Fremont Peak's history reflects the broader historical narrative of California, encompassing exploration, the Gold Rush, military activities, and its contemporary role as an astronomical and recreational site.

Fremont Peak Fast Facts

• Elevation : 3,173 ft (967 meters)

• Mountain Range : Gabilan Range

Typical Wildlife

- Turkey Vultures, Hawks, Chickadees, Finches, Hummingbirds, Thrushes, Woodpeckers
- Coyotes, Bobcats, Raccoons, Foxes
- Snakes
- Observatory

Opened 1986

• Telescope : 30-inch Challenger





Are Ear Plugs Legal?

California Code, Vehicle Code - VEH §27400

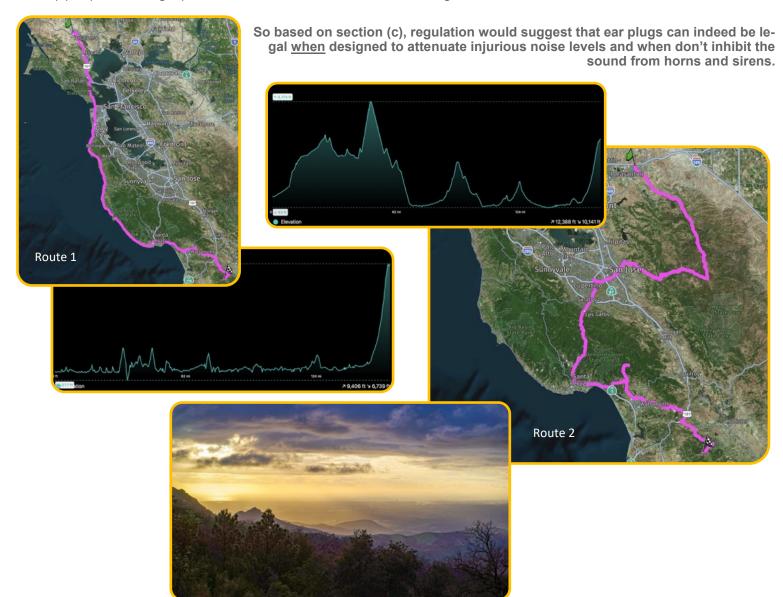
A person operating a motor vehicle or bicycle may not wear a headset covering, earplugs in, or earphones covering, resting on, or inserted in, both ears.

This prohibition does not apply to any of the following:

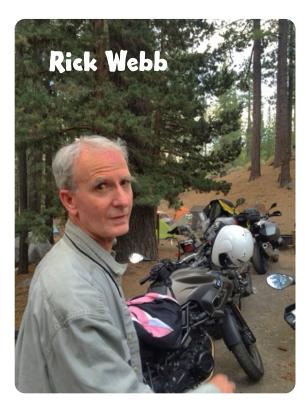
A person operating authorized emergency vehicles, as defined in Section 165.



- (a) A person engaged in the operation of either special construction equipment or equipment for use in the maintenance of any highway.
- (b) A person engaged in the operation of refuse collection equipment who is wearing a safety headset or safety earplugs.
- (c) A person wearing personal hearing protectors in the form of earplugs or molds that are specifically designed to attenuate injurious noise levels. The plugs or molds shall be designed in a manner so as to not inhibit the wearer's ability to hear a siren or horn from an emergency vehicle or a horn from another motor vehicle.
- (d) A person using a prosthetic device that aids the hard of hearing.







It is with a heavy heart and tears in our eyes that we share the devastating news about our longtime club member, Rick Webb.

Over the weekend, on his way to the monthly campout, Rick went down on his motorcycle, and despite being airlifted to the hospital, he tragically succumbed to his injuries.

The details surrounding the cause of the accident are still unclear at this time.

As we mourn the loss of a dear friend, let us also celebrate the incredible impact Rick had on us. Rick was the heartbeat of our events, and the one who never stopped talking, sharing stories and made everyone feel like family.

Rick was a very spirited, kindhearted soul. His quirky tales were infused with every gathering. It was a unique energy that defined the essence of our close-knit community. Though he may be gone, his legacy will forever resonate with the warmth of our shared memories.

As we come together in the wake of this heartbreaking news, we want to update everyone that we are currently gathering more details on how we can pay tribute to our dear friend, Rick Webb who touched our lives in so many ways.

Ride on in Peace, Rick, knowing you are dearly missed but never forgotten.



The Saturday evening closing ceremony was interesting, every single rally attendee won a raffle prize! The Beartooth Rendezvous has very strong support from the local community. Many of the local, small businesses provide swag for door prizes and the final raffle. This is especially notable, as the Beartooth Rendezvous (with about 150 participants) is the smaller one of the two motorcycle rallies conducted in Red Lodge every year. The Beartooth Rally (an event more targeted to the riders of big V-Twins) attracts more than 3000 attendees – but is not very popular with the local vendors.

Rain came in during the closing ceremony and it continued throughout the night. Thanks to the cabin, we didn't have to deal with wet tents in the morning. With the rain and low clouds on Sunday morning, my travel companions decided to take the lower altitude route home, while I opted to ride Beartooth Pass one more time. This ended up being a spectacular, completely dry ride without traffic and with amazing views.

Well, that was until I hit the entrance gate to Yellowstone NP, when it started raining again. The rain stayed with me for the rest of the day. Even in the rain, experiencing the wildlife in Yellowstone is amazing, I had to stop twice for bison crossing the road. When you are sitting on your bike and these animals walk right by you, you realize how BIG they are, I honestly do not understand how tourists mess with these animals just to get their selfies. Bisons definitely do NOT resemble big fluffy cows!

The weather kept the tourist traffic down, so I had a quick crossing. After leaving the park at West Yellowstone, I slabbed it via Hwy 20 and I-15, I-86 and I-84 to Twin Falls. This was not exactly a fun ride – but I made good time. In Twin Falls, I was planning to visit the jump site, where Evel Knievel made his most daring and final jump across the Snake River Canyon, but the never-ending rain messed with my motivation. I decided on a quick dinner, a hot shower, and an early night instead. Come Monday morning, I realized that I would gain an hour when crossing back into Nevada making it feasible to ride all the way back home, in daylight. So that's what I did: straight down the 93 to Wells, then the i-80 all the way to the 680 and home. 11 hours and 740 miles later, this great adventure was over.

Can't wait for the 2024 Rally season......

Delf Hedde







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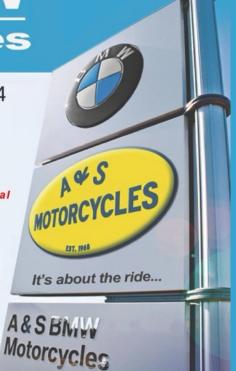
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Have you thought about extending your adventures beyond the perimeters of Northern California? Have you wanted to explore just that little bit further but talked yourself out of it citing time, logistics and a lack of the local knowledge? Don't want to ride through Central Valley and the Mojave Desert in the summer and arrive at the good stuff already tired and sweaty?

While many members explore Europe, India, Australia and Baja, Mexico we can't all make that commitment as of just right now.

Caitlin Fine found herself experiencing this very issue, being a member of the U.S. Navy and stationed thousands of miles away from anything interesting.

Caitlin had limited time off from the military and struggled to fly anywhere that looked interesting, find a rental adventure or dual sport bike that would fit her (as she is vertically challenged), get to the bike, figure out her own route, and then survive to make it back to base. She always enjoyed the research, the solo riding, and the adventures of getting lost in the woods or the desert.

She knew she couldn't be the only one that faced these challenges, so upon leaving the Navy she started her own company to supply adventurers with well-maintained BMW GS rentals and then provide unique local knowledge by way of guided tours or GPS tracks on trails she and her team have personally scouted with decades of experience in the Southwest! Having ridden motorcycles all over the country, she can confirm that the west coast is the best coast for year round riding weather and beautiful, varied scenery, so she chose to base out of San Diego after leaving the Navy.

Her company, Edge of Adventure Tours, breaks many stereo-

Edge of Adventure Tours

types by being woman veteran owned and operated. She put together a team of like minded individuals, all veterans, that have lived in Arizona, Colorado, and California (as well as many less desirable places due to the military), and enjoy exploring the wilderness, whether on two legs, two wheels, or four wheels.

Today, Edge of Adventure Tours offers BMW GS motorcycle rentals, custom guided single and multiday motorcycle tours, and a range of logistics support, everything from route planning to a chase truck, in Southern California, Arizona, Utah, and Southwestern Colorado.

She aims to provide a seamless fly and ride experience to maximize your time off. Tours can be all-inclusive, with guides, airport pickup in San Diego for the SoCal tours or in Phoenix for the Arizona, Colorado, and Utah tours. Her team also books your hotels or provides the camp gear and setup. The tours have ridealong mechanics, and a luggage chase truck. If your preference is self-sufficiency, they will provide the panniers or soft bags and pre-program the GPS routes based on your desired difficulty level.

If you want a family-friendly excursion, they also offer single day offroad truck tours out of San Diego with no off roading experience neces-







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Lelf's Safety Column

Get real. Get training!

In the February issue of the BMW Owners New Magazine, Mark Barnes published an excellent article about the benefits of continuous training for motorcycle riders. He goes into a lot of detail about what keeps riders from seeking more training.

From the folks who eschew rider training because they have ridden for decades, and they haven't died (*yet*). They think they've got it all figured out, at least well enough. Mark does a great job to expose these as delusions of grandeur. As the saying goes: Someone who has ridden for 20 years might just have ridden the first year 20 times – not advancing further than whatever he initially figured out about the most rudimentary operation of the bike's controls.

Fact is, that the best riders still practice basic skills regularly, despite their superlative abilities: that's how they got those abilities and how they hang on to them.

As a club, we really try to encourage our members to seek training and advance their riding skills.

I am proud of the fact that 12 of our members will make the journey to the Rider Academy at the BMW Performance Center in South Carolina this year to seek advanced training at one of the best facilities and from some of the best instructors available. The Rider Academy also graciously donated the Grand Prize for our raffle – a voucher for the free training of your choice at the academy.

Even if you don't have the time or the funds to make this kind of journey, there are great online resources available to you:

- John Delveccio's "Cornering Confidence Course is fun, entertaining, and free to MOA members. contact John for the comp code.
- Nick Lenatch and the Yamaha Champions Riding School offer an outstanding online curriculum at their Champs U, it is also free for MOA members

Even better, if you are joining us for the 49er Rally in Mariposa this year, you can take advantage of some truly great training opportunities and fun that the club is making available.





Rawhyde: The crew from RawHyde is back to bring their leading curriculum directly to you at the 49er in a scaled-down version! They offer beginner and advanced-level sessions on Friday and Saturday. No matter if you just want to gain some confidence for the unpaved parts of the road that lead to the campsites, or if you are a veteran of many "BRD's". Eric and JJ will show you some new tricks.

Louise Powers: Hey ladies, if you feel more comfortable learning riding skills in a female-centric environment taught by a woman, this is the class for you! Louise Powers has been teaching the ins and outs of GS riding skills since 2015. She and her crew will take you through a fun day meant to boost your adventure skills to the next level and help you gain confidence in riding in the wild. Louise will only offer one class on Saturday – so sign up while spaces are still available.

Slow Ride: After lots of complaints about the lack of training for riding on asphalt, we finally found an outstanding training provider: More often than not, the failure to control a motorcycle when the speeds get under 12 miles per hour usually results in a drop or tip-over. Think slow tight turns or weaving around an obstacle. If this describes YOU, then YOU need to attend our SLOW Ride Motorcycle Training course. These courses teach civilian riders the techniques used by police motorcycle officers in a non-stress, controlled environment. The team from Slow Ride will offer beginner classes on Friday and tech you advanced skills on Saturday.

As with all trainings, take advantage of a stipend from the MOA Foundation's Paul Bachelor Grant. The foundation updated the guidelines on January 1, 2024. The Foundation reimburses MOA members for up to 25% of the cost of participating in an approved training course with a minimum rebate of \$50 and a maximum rebate of \$200 per individual per year. You may apply for more than one rebate up to the maximum of \$200 per year. Keep in mind that request must be received 30 days before the start of the training.

Next month, I'll provide a more in-depth look at these trainings.

Delf Hedde



Upcoming Events

Monthly Board of Director Meetings—March

05 March 2024: Online

Virtual link sent upon request, email Secretary@bmwnorcal.org

March 2024 Club Meeting in Death Valley

21 - 25 March 2024

Furance Creek Campground.

Registration required

BDR California Screening with Distinguished Gest Speakers

30 March 2024

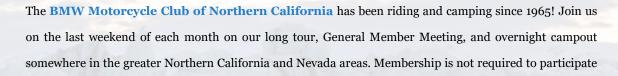
Furance Creek Campground.

Registration required

April 2024 Club Meeting in La Grange

26 - 28 April 2024

Registration required



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