



SANTA BARBARA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

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BMW MOA CLUB #165

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Member News and Rides

David is planning to attend the Vintage Sidecar Rendezvous in Paso Robles (April 22) with his new sidecar, so expect to get a report from him at our May meeting.

Tanja and **Dagi** attended the GS Giants March Moto Madness at Song Dog Ranch.

Eddie went to Carrizo Plains twice; and also to Julian, camping in Anza-Borrego at Agua Caliente Springs. He reported that there were bad winds in the area. Carrizo Plains had spectacular flowers, but it seemed that everyone else in southern California had heard about the flowers, too!

There were about 20 people and 4 bikes that showed up at **Marten's** Tech Day.

Marten got accepted into the Alcan 5000 for 2018. This is a Seattle-to-Fairbanks run that has both passenger vehicles and motorcycles. As of March 2017, there are 66 participants signed up. This is a precision-in-timing rally; over 90% of the route is scenic touring and scoring is in short sections with equal penalty for early or late arrival.

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The Rally alternates between winter and summer. For 2018, it will be August 20-28.

MOA Membership

In case you are not already a member of BMW Motorcycles of American (MOA), Chuck reminded everyone of the various benefits of being an MOA member; including the Anonymous Book (listing of members by city and state who are willing to provide assistance); and discounts for various services, such as Medjet Assist, and hotels(Motel 6, Hilton Hotels).

Moto Memories

John White

What a memorable, fun trip on the Extraterrestrial Highway!

You've probably heard about the infamous Nevada State Highway 375, yes? It's located near the once Super Secret Area 51...people still see strange lights at night and call them UFO's

We took this trip and stopped at the [Little A'Le'Inn](#) in Rachel, NV, (café and camping) for a bite and look around. The shop is full of trinkets with photos of notables who stopped in; one was Dan Akroyd. A strange thing did happen to me: *my credit card was double billed at the café.*

On this trip we discovered the R100rs has an inner bearing on the rear hub. How you say? The first indication was the rear rim/tire became wobbly as the bearing failed. We were stuck in the desert!

P' is exemplary in taking care of her machines, but we did not know the existence of this inner hub bearing. Our reference material for maintenance never mentioned this bearing.

Perhaps the *Truth Out There* is taking your bike to a BMW Service Department may help, on occasion.

We were very fortunate to find a U Haul truck and the bike was repaired by "Grumpy" at BMW Las Vegas.

Our Trips continue.....

SB BMW Riders Calendar

- ❖ Monday, May 15th: Club meeting at Cody's Café, 4898 Hollister Avenue, Goleta, CA. Come at around 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. for dinner and stay for the 7:30 p.m. meeting.
- ❖ Monday June 19th: Club meeting at Cody's Café, 4898 Hollister Avenue, Goleta, CA. Come at around 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. for dinner and stay for the 7:30 p.m. meeting.
- ❖ Any other activities or rides scheduled? Let me know! djkrohn@cox.net



John and Phyllis along the Extraterrestrial Highway.

Blame the Internet

David Hamilton

I had a perfectly good and well-sorted out GS/DMC rig. But the rig did not excite me in terms of design and complexity. The internet is a wonderful place to daydream, and it was not long before I found what would excite me.

A few exchanges with Rainer Rothweiler (at Ruko) convinced me that I had found what I was looking for.

The easiest way to build a rig is to purchase a motorcycle in Germany and deliver it to Ruko. Not so fast. The EU motorcycle will not be allowed in the USA. I was able to buy a USA approved BMW R1200RS from the local dealer, BMW of Ventura, California.

After some research, air freight was chosen. Yes the actual freight charge is more, but by the time you factor in handling and port charges, air freight is about the same as ocean freight, and of course quicker.

I was able to visit Rainer and Ruko, when the rig was in the early stages of the build. To see your rig being created and seeing care and time that goes into a build is most impressive. Rainer's crew added to my confidence that I had made a good decision in having Ruko build the sidecar.

When completed and TUV certified, it was ready to come home. After arriving in Los Angeles and completing customs clearance, a very large box was delivered to the house. Unpacking was very straight forward; all the box sides were fastened with torq screws, very well thought out.



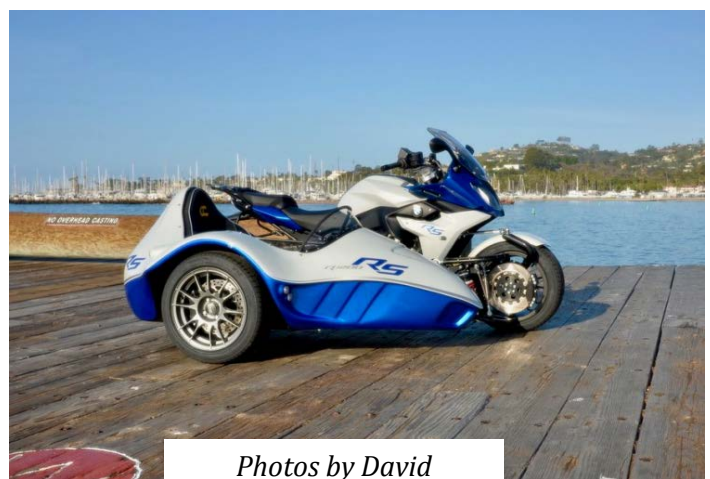
Once the rig was rolled out of the box, fuel added and battery hooked up, it was time for the first ride.

Rainer had warned me that this rig would be much more responsive than my previous rig.

Wow.

So responsive and very confidence inspiring. Wide tires and low center of mass allow much more exuberant cornering.

"I'm a happy camper."



Photos by David

Central California is Beautiful Bob Phinney

Last week I was able to take four days and visit the Yosemite Valley, the grasslands and bird refuge near Los Banos, the redwoods and Skyline Blvd on the San Francisco peninsula and the grasslands and cattle farms on Hwy 25. Riding on the central coast and central California is good.

Harbor Freight Tire Changer

Dave has a Harbor Freight tire changer available free for the taking. If interested, contact Dave: richardcabesa@cox.net

2009 Scion XB

John has a 2009 Scion XB for sale. He is asking \$9400 for it. If interested, contact John: jwawhite@verizon.net



Yosemite, Highway 41. Photo by Bob.

Mojave Trail Marten Walkker

The Old Mojave trail is a 147 miles-long trail through the Mojave Preserve. Native Americans, Spanish Missionaries and Settlers used this trail as an east/west route.

A group of us around "Earthrider" Laine went on a three day trip to ride the trail and much of the area around it. Starting from the Apple Valley International Airport, we were early-on greeted by deep sand washes and rocky roads.

I got a 300lb Suzuki DRZ 400 from a friend which was the best bike for this kind of riding. The couple of BMW 650 singles did very well, too. The BMW 800GS did not so good in the deep sand, but kept up for all the other terrain. The two BMW 1200 GS's got a lot of attention from us by constantly lifting them up or digging them out, not all the bike's fault.

We needed 8 hours for 60 miles but made it to Nipton before dark. There we had two rustic tent cabins reserved and dinner was arranged.

The next morning was a 60 mile highway run to Laughlin, NV, for breakfast and another section of the Mojave trail. Here the little DRZ 400 had to push to its limit to keep up with the big bikes.

In Laughlin was a huge Harley gathering, the "River Run," and we felt out of place. So after a Casino buffet breakfast, we went to a saner place with more dirt roads through the blooming dessert. I was all happy with my riding; all that training came together and I handled sand, gravel and downhill all very well. Just then in the afternoon, a yucca plant

jumped in front of me, lifting me out of the saddle and I landed hard on my left shoulder.

We had Doc Walt with us, who did an assessment of something is not right, as I could not lift my arm. I had to embrace the Suck, ride it out to the camp, and the next day the 5 hours back home, to the X-ray machine.

Got confirmed that it is a broken humerus which needs some rest and time to heal.

I am still glad I went because that part of the country is truly beautiful and I would have not gone there by myself.



Mojave Trail photos by Marten. More photos on Page 6.



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Open Tuesday- Friday, 8 a.m to 6p.m.
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Upcoming Events

- May 12-14: 9th Annual Overland Expo West, Flagstaff, AZ. [Overland Expo West](#)
- May 25-29: 45th Annual 49'er Rally, Mariposa, CA. [49'er Rally](#)
- June 2-4: MOA Getaway, Colorado Springs, CO. [MOA Rally Colorado Springs](#)
- June 15-17: 17th Annual Red Rock Rendezvous Rally, Panguitch, UT. [Red Rock Rendezvous](#)
- June 23-25: Chief Joseph Rally, Grant County Fairgrounds, John Day, OR. [Chief Joseph Rally](#)
- July 13-16: BMW MOA National Rally, Salt Lake City. [National Rally 2017](#)
- July 20-23: 46th Annual Top O'The Rockies Rally, Paonia, CO. [Top O'The Rockies Rally](#)
- July 20-23: 45th Annual Cascade Country Rendezvous, Republic, WA. [Cascade Country Rendezvous](#)
- August 5: 18th Annual 100,000 Ft. Ride, Lakewood, CO. [Annual 100,000 Ft Ride](#)
- August 17-20: 19th Annual Beartooth Rendezvous, Red Lodge, MT. [Beartooth Rendezvous](#)

North! To Alaska: Part 2

Diane Krohn

July, 2013: Continuing northward, we boarded the Northern Expedition Ferry to travel from Port Hardy, on Vancouver Island, to Prince Rupert, British Columbia: [Port Hardy-Prince Rupert Ferry](#). This was an all-day trip, starting at about 07:30 a.m. and ending at Prince Rupert at about 11:30 p.m., for a distance of about 500 km (274 nautical miles). We got really lucky with the weather and had clear skies and smooth waters.

From Prince Rupert, we headed north on the Cassiar Highway and took a side trip to Hyder, AK, and the Salmon Glacier. A little lunch spot not-to-be-missed in Hyder is the Fish Bus (yes, it is a bus) with fresh grilled halibut, Alaskan Amber beer (we were in a car!), and ice cream.

A couple days later, we left the Cassiar Highway and headed west on the Alaska Highway and stopped in Teslin, Yukon Territory. The road conditions varied from pretty good to pot holes, gravel, and more gravel—not unexpected, of course.

From Teslin, we continued on to Kluane Lake and then to Tok, AK. Kluane Lake had a very nice campground, Cottonwood RV Park, with space for tent camping and sites adjacent to Kluane

Lake; the campground also had flush toilets and showers.

From Tok, it was onto Fairbanks and then to Denali National Park. We had some business to attend to in Fairbanks, but it was over 80°F there, and riding through the city in our gear, we were sure that we would be the first case of heat stroke ever seen at the local hospitals! Once out of Fairbanks, we reached Denali.

To be continued....



Bridge at Teslin, YT. The longest bridge on the Alaska Highway.



View from the Port Hardy-Prince Rupert ferry.