



# SANTA BARBARA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

[HTTP://WWW.SBBMWRIDERS.ORG](http://www.sbbmwriders.org)

BMW MOA CLUB #165

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## Member News and Rides

**Tanja, Steve** and **Fran** joined **Marten** at Panamint Springs campground for riding in the Death Valley area. Photos on Pages 6-7.

**Harvey** and **John** rode down Pacific Coast Highway to Neptune's Net in Malibu. Mulholland Highway was closed at PCH due to runoff from the rains, but was open at Decker Canyon Road (Highway 23) and Encinal Canyon Road. They commented that the various roads in the Santa Monica Mountains are great on weekdays, with very little traffic.

**Chuck** rode the Happy Canyon loop. There were rocks on the road, full streams, and lots of maintenance activity. The dirt section of the road was quite muddy.

**Marten** rode on West Camino Cielo: Lots of ruts and rocks; cars had to turn around due to the road conditions. But the views were good and nice with everything very green.

**Harvey** ventured out with his dog Somis to Carrizo Plain and the Antelope Valley Poppy Preserve in search of wildflowers. Mission accomplished! Photos adjacent.

**Bob** took a 4-day tour of the southeast CA/Yuma AZ area. He visited Joshua Tree, Yuma and San Luis Rio. He reports that the flowers around Borrego Springs are fading, but the backroads of eastern San Diego and Riverside still have curves and green hills.

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## March Technical Topic: Active Clothing

**Steve** asked: At what temperature and conditions do you turn on the heat? For most of us, it depends on the specific conditions: not only temperature, but wind, humidity and your own personal comfort level. It can also depend on when you last ate, whether you are fully hydrated, or your position on the bike –the pillion position tends to get more wind and is thus colder. In addition to heated jackets and vests, there are also heated gloves, heated seats and heated grips. **John A.** used 3-fingered mittens before he had heated grips. Mittens are a better choice than gloves (if you don't have heated grips) because fingers will stay warmer together than they will separately.

Steve talked about Phase-Change Material (PCM) clothing. These are materials that store, absorb, or release heat as they oscillate between solid and liquid form. Excess heat generated by the body is absorbed into the fabric, and stored heat is released back to the body as needed. The brand name for this textile technology is Outlast. Steve brought an Outlast jacket made by Roadgear, which is no longer in business. The Outlast garment goes underneath your outer jacket. Steve has found that it's not quite warm enough when it's cold and not quite cool enough when it's hot.

If you have interest in trying this technology, Rukka makes Outlast Fleece jackets and long johns: [Rukka Outlast Fleece Midlayer](#). Outlast has a webpage describing the technology: [Outlast Technology](#)

## SB BMW Riders Calendar

- ❖ Monday, April 15: 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, May 20: 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](mailto:djkrohn@cox.net)
- ❖ If members want to do any pick-up rides, post them on the member email list: <https://www.sbbmwriders.org/>

On the opposite temperature spectrum is hot weather. Many members like evaporative cooling vests. These typically contain a polymer-embedded material that absorbs water and then releases it over time. There are several brands and types to choose from: [cooling vests for hot weather riding](#)

Keeping your neck cool is also a useful technique. Cooling bandanas use the same technology as evaporative cooling vests, but there are some styles that you just fill with ice. A wet bandana or Buff works, too. Per David Hough, water evaporating from a neck cooler absorbs heat from the neck and transfers it to the air. He suggests positioning a wet bandana or cooling bandana just below the ears to maximize exposure to the carotid arteries (ref. *Proficient Motorcycling*, by David Hough, Chapter 6). Several members use this approach (it seems to work for me! –ed.).

*Continued on Page 3.*

*Active Clothing, cont. from Page 2*

Some of us use the lower-tech approach of wetting our shirts and/or jeans and then opening the vents on our protective gear. This technique works well in the low-humidity western states, but does not work in the southeast or eastern US. In those areas, riding early in the morning or later in the day may be the best options, if possible. Or take lots of water-and-cooling breaks!

With either cold weather or hot weather, one should also consider that a route change, or a delay in travel might be the better choice, depending on the weather extremes being encountered. Sometimes bad (too hot, too cold, too rainy) weather makes for a really good story, but sometimes bad weather just makes for a really uncomfortable, perhaps dangerous, ride.

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**Upcoming Events**

- April 25-29: ADV Rider WARPED XV Campout and rally, Kernville, CA. [ADV Warped 2019](#)
- April 26-28: Babes in the Dirt 5, Hungry Valley SVRA, Lebec, CA. [Babes in the Dirt 5](#)
- May 17-19: BMW Getaway Cambria. Lodging at the Cambria Pines Lodge. [BMW Getaway Cambria](#)
- May 17-19: Overland Expo West, Flagstaff, AZ. [Overland Expo West](#)
- May 23-27: 47<sup>th</sup> Annual 49er Rally, Mariposa, CA. [49'er Rally 2019](#)
- June 1-2: Huntington Beach Concours D'Elegance, Classic Car and Motorcycle Show. This year's show features BMW /2 motorcycles built between 1955-1969. Huntington Beach, CA. [Huntington Beach Concours D'Elegance](#)
- June 13-16: 2019 BMW MOA National Rally, Lebanon, TN. [2019 BMW MOA Rally](#)
- June 20-23: Red Rock Rendezvous, Panguitch, UT. [Red Rock Rendezvous](#)
- June 27-30: Chief Joseph Rally, John Day, OR. [Chief Joseph Rally 2019](#)
- July 18-20: 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Top O'The Rockies Rally, Paonia, CO. [2019 Top O'The Rockies Rally](#)

## The “Epic” Trip Around the United States (sort of): Chapter 4 By Chuck Beattie

### ***A brief recap:***

*September 5 - October 16, 2018, 42 days.*

*Participants: Chuck Beattie, Santa Barbara, CA, 2005 R1200RT, repairs: headlight connector block, replace windscreen upper riser arms, 10,115 miles, 52 mpg average.*

*Jim Schmidt, Dublin, CA, 2015 R1200RT, repairs: none, 10,600 miles.*

*Chuck left Santa Barbara and met up with friend Jim in Dublin (CA) and they headed up the coast and points east. They were last in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, their most north-easterly point of travel, where we rejoin them now:*

### **Part 4, Down the Eastern Part**

It was another chilly and rainy day in Nova Scotia. We headed south bound along the southeastern coast that was very rural and beautiful. Lots of small harbors and fishing boats all around. We could see where winters could be very long. The ride into Halifax and over big bridges over the harbor area, in the rain and wind, and major afternoon traffic brought us up short. We thought we might stay in Halifax for the night but found no rooms available. What? Why the hell not? We didn't get any good answers about that, so after phoning around, I got a reservation in a little town further south, in Conquerall Bank, NS. Still raining and now dark, we ended up in a gem of a small town and a beautiful motel on the water. Lucky for me, because Jim was starting to complain again... Granted, that part of the day was not much fun.

We had reservations for the CAT ferry from Yarmouth, NS, to Portland, Maine, so timing was important. I found a funky motel just outside of town for the evening. The motel was owned by a former North Vietnamese officer, who nearly threw us out when we asked to see the room first. We didn't mean to be insulting to the owner, but he took it that way. We were able to mend international relations and stay the night.

The loading time was 6:30 a.m. and still dark. The CAT ferry is a huge catamaran vessel with very nice accommodations. Tying the bikes down to the floor hooks was critical: four-point ties. It turned out that we were lucky to have scheduled that particular day, because the weather was getting bad and the CAT was not going to run for a few days. It was a beautiful boat ride though, lasting about six and a half hours.



We re-entered the US in Portland, ME, and made a bee line for Portsmouth, NH, where we had scheduled time to service our bikes at Max's BMW. The folks there couldn't have been nicer and took good care of us and our bikes. Jim got a 12k service and had his side stand shortened (at long last), since he had new shocks to lower the bike a bit (shorter legs). I had an oil change and, finally, had my windscreen risers replaced. What a difference, after all those miles with it stuck on low! The folks at Max's showed us around their big shop, especially some very cool old rebuilds they were doing from scratch. Great place!

From Max's, we rode to New Paltz, NY, and found a motel for the night. The reason to head to that little-known spot is that it is close to Wallkill, NY, even less known, where I was born and started out, and I wanted to do a quick visit through the town. My dad was the town doctor. It brought back fond memories of walking to school, through the snow, uphill, both ways, etc. Just kidding, but it is a nice small town and seems to have fallen on harder times. The notable change is that the main intersection in town, which used to have a yield sign, now has a stop sign! That's progress!

From there we rode to Nipetown, WV, and found a new Motel 6 that was pretty good. That's when I noticed the final drive on my bike seemed to have an oil leak, since there was oil all around the back end of the final drive and on the wheel rim. The oil seemed to be coming from the center part of the hub, possible seal leak. Hmmmm, what to do? After talking with some friends about the problem, it was Wyman who suggested to just clean up the mess, top up the oil, and monitor it each day by checking the oil level and adding more if needed. So that's what I did. It did leak a little bit more over a few days, but then stopped leaking. It must be those self-repairing BMW seals. Pretty cool. Thank you, Wyman!

**...To Be Continued....**

## **BMW Unveils Self-Driving Motorcycle Concept**

Seeing a motorcycle without a rider pass by would definitely feel weird, would it not? That's exactly what BMW unveiled at the *BMW Motorrad Techday 2018* – a self-driving concept, showing a riderless R 1200 GS doing laps around a track.

Developed by graduate engineer Stefan Hans and his team, the vehicle independently drives off, accelerates, circles a winding test track and independently slows down to a stop...

BMW stated that the project was developed to help engineers in integrating some safety features with the rider's skill. In fact, nowhere does BMW claim to be making an autonomous production motorcycle that eliminates the need for rider input. According to BMW, "the underlying technology should serve as a platform for development of future systems and functions to make motorcycling even safer, more comfortable and increase the riding pleasure." The safety system is meant to act as an aid, with the rider still in control of the bike. Read more here: [Self-Driving Concept](#)

## Panamint Springs Trip

Photos courtesy of Steve



*Cerro Gordo*



*Fran and Tanja at China Ranch*



*Owens Lake from Cerro Gordo*



## More Panamint Springs Trip



*Desert sculpture*



*Cerro Gordo climb*



*Tanja's breakdown ☹️*