



# SANTA BARBARA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

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

BMW MOA CLUB #165

Volume 19, Issue 8

August 2019

## Member News and Rides

Our Summer Picnic, held on July 15 at Tucker's Grove Park, was well-attended and enjoyed by all. Big thanks to **Veronica** for organizing the event and coordinating the food. Also, thanks to our Grill team for cooking up delicious chicken, tri-tip and veggie burgers.

Photos are on the SB BMW Riders Instagram page here:

<https://www.instagram.com/sbbmwriders/>

### SB BMW Riders Cards

Well, today I handed out my first SB BMW Riders card to someone! I always have my eyes open to hand out cards to a rider that we see around town, but there is usually not a good opportunity to do so. Today I was at my bank's ATM, spotted a rider on an R nineT, and he stopped at the ATM as well. His name is Bruce, he thanked me for the card and the information. Maybe he will show up at our meeting!

Cards can be obtained from Chuck and Michael, and they have our website and Monday meeting information on them. -ed.

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"Anyone can jump a motorcycle. The trouble begins when you try to land it."

--Evel Knievel

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Member News and Rides
- 2 BMW and a Class-Action Lawsuit
- 2 SB BMW Riders Calendar
- 3 Upcoming Events
- 3 Beemer Bash Cancelled
- 4-7 JW Powell 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary River Raft Trip



## BMW and a Class-Action Lawsuit

BMW Of North America has been hit with a proposed class-action lawsuit, alleging it sold thousands of motorcycles with defective gear indicators, posing a potential safety hazard.

The complaint was filed on behalf of plaintiff Daniel Casey. He claims the indicators intermittently displayed the wrong gear or didn't display any gear at all. Casey also claims that the faulty indicators have been the subject of many customer complaints.

The plaintiff alleges that because riders use gear readings to determine how to handle their motorcycle, inaccurate gear indicators can result in numerous problems. Casey has claimed that the defective gear indicator:

- impedes him from properly judging accelerating power and torque delivery;
- places the motorcycle in incorrect gear while on cruise control;
- reduces gas mileage;
- causes "excessive strain" on the motor among other things.

The gear indicator defect reportedly affects 2003-2019 F, K, G, R, HP2, and S series BMW motorcycles. Casey reportedly experienced the issue with his 2016 F700GS BMW. In 2017, a little over a year after purchasing the motorcycle brand new, Casey reportedly started to experience issues with his gear indicator where it would display the wrong gear or would not indicate a gear at all.

In his court filings, Casey says that BMW knew about the defective gear indicators as a result of

## SB BMW Riders Calendar

- ❖ Monday, August 19: 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, September 16: 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.sbbmwridders.org/>

complaints that appear on BMW online forums as well as failures reported to dealers or the company itself.

The BMW motorcycle class action lawsuit seeks monetary damages, treble damages, punitive damages, court costs, and attorneys' fees.

The **BMW Motorcycle Gear Indicator Defect Class Action Lawsuit** is *Casey v. BMW of North America LLC*, Case No. 2:19-cv-14761, in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey.

What do our members think? Is this a safety concern? Is BMW at fault? Should BMW pay for damages?

Links for further information:

[BMW Class Action Gear Indicators](#)

[ADV Rider: BMW Hit with Class Action Lawsuit](#)

## Beemer Bash Cancelled

The “Beemer Bash,” held in Quincy, CA for 33 years has been cancelled for 2019. This year would have been the 34<sup>th</sup> year, but due to unforeseen events or circumstances, it won’t be held this year. Instead, there will be a YOYO Rally (You’re On Your Own) on September 13-15. If you decide to attend this non-event, you can still camp at the Quincy Fairgrounds (\$10 per tent per night; and RV’s are \$20 per vehicle per night.) Reservations are not needed – just show up at the fairgrounds. There is no registration, no beer garden, no door prizes, no vendors. But there are showers at the fairground, grass camping, and great riding in the area. Plumas National Forest is nearby, and Lassen National Park is only about 70 miles away.

## Upcoming Events

- August 15-18: 21<sup>st</sup> Beartooth Rendezvous, Red Lodge, MT. [21st Beartooth Rendezvous](#)
- August 29-September 1: 8<sup>th</sup> Annual XLADV High Sierra Rally, Mammoth Lakes, CA. [8th Annual XLADV High Sierra Rally](#)
- August 30-September 1: 2019 BMW NorCal Range of Light Gypsy Tour, Grass Valley, CA. [2019 Range of Light Gypsy Tour](#)
- September 6-8: 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Bavarian Mountain Weekend Rally, Sipapu, NM. [35th Annual Bavarian Mountain Weekend Rally](#)
- September 6-9: Gather of the Tribes, Kings Canyon, CA. Three days of camping and riding at the Cove Group campsite. [Gather of the Tribes Kings Canyon](#)
- September 27-29: MOA Getaway Cedar City. Cedar City, UT. [MOA Getaway Cedar City](#)
- September 29: The Distinguished Gentleman’s Ride. Various locations. [Distinguished Gentleman's Ride 2019](#)
- October 31-November 3: 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Pahrump NV ADV Rally, Pahrump, NV. [5th Annual Pahrump NV ADV Rally](#)

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## John Wesley Powell 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary River Raft Trip

Diane Krohn

Photographs by Wayne Beckman and Bruce Hope

(No, it's not a motorcycle trip – but it does have camping, adventure, and exploration of unknown parts! Several members asked me to do a write-up about our rafting adventure in June, so here goes...)

On May 24, 1869, nine men, led by John Wesley Powell, left Green River, Wyoming, for the purpose of exploring the Green and Colorado Rivers. On August 30, 1869, ninety-nine days later, Powell and five of his remaining men reached the confluence of the Colorado and Virgin Rivers in southern Utah. This was arguably one of the most epic explorations of the American West, perhaps second only to that of Lewis and Clark some six decades earlier.

To celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this historic event, the outfitter OARS organized a 28-day rafting trip to re-trace much of Powell's trip, the section between Flaming Gorge Dam in Utah, and Lake Powell, Utah. This section is the longest un-dammed section of the Green River and Colorado River. Wayne and I signed up for this trip, along with some long-time friends. All of us had rafted on the Colorado River in Grand Canyon two times previously (14-day trips), so we felt we could manage a 28-day trip on the river. The trip had 20 passengers and six guides; we had two dories and three rafts for passengers, and one baggage raft. The advantage of a guided trip such as this is that we did not have to worry about logistics, permits (of which many special permits were needed) or food planning and prep.



*Scenery along the Green River*

We were off on a very unique trip, as there were sections of the Green River that are not normally floated as commercial trips. And, because this was a unique trip, the guides were not sure about every campsite, or lunch stop, or the landing areas for the boats. Some of our landing spots required a certain amount of vegetation trimming and sometimes step construction in mud before we could even off-load the boats.

The dories each held one guide and 4 passengers, and the rafts were the same. The baggage raft just held more supplies but no passengers. The rafts are a more forgiving ride, due to the weight, size and, well, being inflated with air; the dories give a more “roller-coaster ride” and hit the water harder. Most days followed a similar pattern of getting onto the river at around 9 or 9:30 a.m., stopping for lunch, maybe going for a hike, and then stopping for a campsite. The guides prepare the meals, which are delicious, healthy, and quite varied.



*Loaded rafts and dory.*

We had fresh fruit with breakfast every single day and usually fresh green salads at dinner. We re-supplied twice during the trip—which meant that we had ice cream for dessert each night after a re-supply!

We met in Vernal, UT for orientation, and then the next day we got into the boats at the Spillway Boat Ramp just below Flaming Gorge Dam. The water was at a very high level and was COLD (43 °F). On our second day on the river, we had one of our first challenges: a low bridge that had to be portaged. Due to the high river flow, we could not go under the bridge!



*Getting a raft onto the boat trailer.  
The water was deep and cold!*

Lucky that there was a boat ramp just above the bridge and one below the bridge. All hands were needed to get the rafts and dories on and off the trailers. One of the rafts got punctured by a Zerk fitting on the trailer—requiring a complete off-loading of that raft, a puncture repair, and subsequent breath-holding as we put the raft back in the water and looked for bubbles or leaking. The patch held. Whew!

We continued on the way, floating through a number of beautiful canyons and areas: the Canyon of Lodore, Whirlpool Canyon, Dinosaur National Monument, Desolation Canyon, the

Uinta Basin, Labyrinth Canyon, Canyonlands National Park, Stillwater Canyon, and finally Cataract Canyon. We did not go through Grand Canyon on this trip as the river is dammed at Lake Powell/Glen Canyon Dam; Lake Powell was our take-out spot.

The boats were rowed by the guides most of the days, but there were sections of flat water; and between the flat water, headwinds, and the necessity of making a certain number of miles that day, there were a few times when the boats were all tied together and a motor was used to propel us down the river.

We hiked to petroglyphs and pictographs, ancient granaries, spectacular views and waterfalls. There were a couple of days with some rain but not all-day deluges. The weather had started out on the chilly side, but as we got closer to the confluence of the Green and the Colorado Rivers, the weather got increasingly warmer. The river water warmed up to around 64 °F, making swimming and bathing reasonably comfortable –or, at least not as body-numbing as water temperatures in the 40's!



*Trip Leader Lars describing one of the rock art panels.*

We saw some desert bighorn sheep, several groups of wild horses, a few snakes and toads, and many birds, including bald eagles, great blue herons, ravens, kingfishers, golden eagles, white pelicans, mergansers, Canada geese, and ospreys. Mosquitoes? Yes, but...it could have been worse. The very high water level and fast flow meant that mosquitoes were not as numerous as they could have been.

About 3 weeks into the trip, we stopped overnight in the town of Green River, UT, for a night in a hotel (hot showers!), a visit to the John Wesley Powell Museum, and a dinner at a local dive bar. It was a nice break from the river, and allowed for the second re-supply.

After we reached the confluence of the Green River and the Colorado River, we entered Cataract Canyon which has the biggest rapids of our trip, and, per the guides, some of the biggest rapids on any river in the western US. 😬 These were big waves, indeed – coming from all directions, some as tall as 9 feet. We all made it through the rapids successfully, but

not without some excitement—one raft got stuck in a scary eddy and one dory almost lost 2 passengers and the guide!

We finished up our trip after 457 river miles. We took out at the now-abandoned Hite Marina in Lake Powell. The final thrill to the trip was flying from Lake Powell back to Vernal in small planes (a Cessna Yukon and a Gipps Aero Air Van), which allowed us a scenic flight over the river and canyons. The flight took about an hour, covering what had taken us 28 days to float.



*The sign that greets you as you enter Cataract Canyon.*



*Above: The confluence of the Green River (L) and the Colorado River (R) from the airplane window.*

I would do this trip again – but it’s not likely that I will be around in time for the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary trip! ☺

Our friend Bruce has a wonderful write-up and pictures on his blog: [JW Powell 150th Anniversary Trip](#)

Wayne has pictures on SmugMug: [JW Powell Trip Wayne's Pictures](#)

*Right: Beautiful scenery and interesting geology; Mitten Park Fault, in Dinosaur National Monument.*

