



SANTA BARBARA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

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BMW MOA CLUB #165

Volume 19, Issue 10

October 2019

Member News and Rides

Steve, Lee and Marten traveled to Sequoia for camping at Camp Nelson. Steve and Marten had a bit of (probably too much) “adventure” on the way back. See the story on Page 2.

Marilyn embarked on a 5½ week trip in Europe and Asia. She was on a tour through Ayres Adventures, Munich to Istanbul. The tour started in May and went through about 15 different countries, including Greece, Austria, Slovenia, Italy, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Czech Republic.

The tour had 12 people and 10 bikes, with a lead bike and a sweep van. Most of the riders were non-American. Marilyn rode on an F700GS and covered about 7800 km. The group had a couple of free days in Istanbul (she says the riding in Istanbul was challenging!) and also some free days in Greece. They got to visit Vlad Dracula’s castle in the Romanian town of Brasov. From Europe, they crossed into Asia on a ferry across the Dardanelles Strait.

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Marilyn thought that Romania was fun, and she enjoyed visiting Budapest with its Heroes’ Square, the largest square in Budapest.

Hopefully, Marilyn will have enough time in her busy schedule (she’s traveling to Horizons Unlimited and is having a house built) to tell us more about this most excellent adventure!

Ayres Adventures offers many tours all over the world, including Australia and New Zealand, Japan, South Africa, many areas of Europe and South America and Alaska.

Link to the tour that Marilyn took:

[Ayres Adventures Munich to Istanbul](#)

September Technical Topic: Oh Deer!!

Marten had quite the “adventure” coming back from Sequoia. He and Steve were riding southbound on Highway 33 on the section of road just past the turn-off to Rose Valley. Two deer appeared on the road, and the next thing, Marten found himself on the road, bike down, spilling gasoline, and one deer down. Steve saw the whole thing and was able to flag down a CHP officer and told him about the deer in the road.

The deer hit the right front of Marten’s bike. Marten thought that he first hit the deer and then probably ran it over. The deer came from his right; Marten was traveling about 45-50 mph. This occurred at about 4 p.m.

The Damage: The bike foot peg was bent. Neither the frame nor the forks were bent. In fact, the motorcycle ran fine and Marten got home okay. On his gear, his jacket had some holes down to the armor. A zipper on his pants melted. The knuckles on his gloves were worn down. His helmet ended up with a flat spot. Marten had added extra armor to his gear and recommends that everyone do that. Marten himself was sore, but he had no broken bones or other injuries.

Avoiding Deer: There was further discussion about deer avoidance, but they are unpredictable animals and can be out and about at any time of the day. In general, they tend to be more active at dusk and dawn and mating season (between October and January), but we have all seen them on the roadsides in the middle of the day.

SB BMW Riders Calendar

- ❖ October 18-20: Campout at Campo Alto Campground. See Page 1 for details. Contact Marten for additional information: marten@cox.net
- ❖ Monday, October 21: 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, November 18: 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
- ❖ If members want to do any pick-up rides, post them on the member email list: <https://www.sbbmwridders.org/>

A couple of members have deer whistles, but there is no good evidence they are effective. Anecdotal stories abound, however.

Best advice from Fred Rau: If you do see a deer, or even just a flicker of movement somewhere in your peripheral vision, flash your lights and honk your horn. Even the people who make and sell the electronic alert systems admit that your vehicle horn is likely to be more effective than their deer alerts.

“There’s a deer out there with your name on it.”

Armor information: [CE/European Ratings](#)
[Fred Rau's Deer Whistle Report](#)
[Are Deer Whistles Effective](#)

October Campout Reminder October 18-20

Marten has organized a campout for Friday, October 18, through Sunday, October 20, at Campo Alto Campground. This campground is 11.5 miles from the town of Pine Mountain Club, which has gas stations, restaurants and groceries.

The campground has vault toilets, picnic tables and fire rings, but no water. It is at 8250 feet, so bring your warm gear and sleeping bags! Marten will bring water, firewood and food for dinner. He has reserved a group campsite for Friday-Sunday. For early birds, he has reserved a single campsite, maximum of 6 people, for Thursday, October 17.

Costs will be split between attendees. Let Marten know if you will be attending so he can plan for the food. Contact him at marten@cox.net

Marten would like for some people to lead group rides, both dirt and street. These would be day rides, returning to the campground for the evening.

Campsite information here: [Campo Alto campground](#)

Upcoming Events

- October 31-November 3: 5th Annual Pahrump NV ADV Rally, Pahrump, NV. [5th Annual Pahrump NV ADV Rally](#)
- November 7-10: Adventure Rally and Camp, Julian, CA. A multi-day challenge with both on-road and off-road courses. [Adventure Rally](#)
- November 8-10: Salton Sea Rendezvous, organized by the Airhead Beemer Club. [Salton Sea Rendezvous](#)
- November 22-24: Progressive International Motorcycle Show – Long Beach, CA. The world's largest consumer motorcycle show. [Progressive Motorcycle Show Long Beach](#)
- December 28-January 1, 2020: Last Chance First Chance #25, Agua Caliente Hot Spring Campground, San Diego, CA. [Last Chance First Chance Agua Caliente](#)

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Adventures in Shock Rebuilding

Wayne Beckman

I noticed oil leaking from the front shock on my R1200GS Ohlins shock. Time for a rebuild. Actually, long past time for a rebuild. Ohlins claims it should be done every 30,000 km (18,600 miles) and it had been 33,000 miles. I have a total of 84,000 miles on these shocks; they have been rebuilt once before. Removing the shocks was much harder than it had to be because I forgot that I needed to remove my Stebel horn and alternator belt cover before removing the shocks. Instead, I just tried lifting the bike to get the old shock off. I lifted the bike with a chain hoist on the handle bars and still had difficulty. I also removed the crash bars, and it is possible that was not a necessary step if I had removed the belt cover and horn.

After removing the Ohlins shock, I reinstalled the front OEM shock so that I could set the bike back on the center stand or side stand while I waited for the shocks to be rebuilt, otherwise it set so low neither stand would work. Including shipping in both directions, the rebuild took about a month. It cost \$665; \$287 for the front, \$192 for the rear, and \$146 for the preload adjustor which had also failed.



Here are the rebuilt units with the parts that had been replaced.

I made another mistake on the reinstallation of them. The rear shock has two bolts with the same diameter (10 mm), but different thread pitches and different lengths. I installed the wrong bolt in the bottom and damaged the threads in the shock mounting hole on the swing arm.



Because the threaded hole was quite deep, there were enough good threads to allow it to be properly torqued when I installed the correct bolt, which was long enough to engage about a half inch of undamaged threads.

When I got it all back together and rode it, the bike handled much better. In fact, on our last long trip, I was wondering if I was getting too old for riding mountain roads because of the difficulty I was having on narrow bumpy roads. I think I was just fighting bad suspension. So, the story does have a happy ending.

In talking to Jeff Favorite at Ted Porter's Beemer Shop, he thought that Ohlins were not really the best choice for an aftermarket shock because of their short rebuild interval. I don't recall the brand he suggested, because I am not in the market for any more shocks for a while.



*Deb and Eddie out on the road!
Photo from Eddie.*