



SANTA BARBARA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

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

BMW MOA CLUB #165

SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER...136 HP, THAT IS!

Volume 20, Issue 12

December 2020

Member News and Rides

Thanks again to **Michael** and **Veronica**, so that we were able to have another in-person meeting at their home.

Marilyn went to the Santa Maria BMW dealer. They have a Tier 1 mechanic and anticipate a couple more Tier 2 mechanics in the future. BMW bikes are in the store, including the new BMW cruiser-style R 18. It is an 1802-cc flat twin engine and costs about \$18,000, and it looks very retro.

Cody and **Eddie** went to the Airhead Salton Sea gathering in November, held at Mecca State Beach. They rode to various places in the vicinity, including Niland, Jesus Mountain and Slab City. Eddie said the traffic heading down was terrible (it was a Friday), but coming back was easy on the I-10.

Bob P. rode up to Nira and found nice fall colors. The water crossing at Nira was dry, but there was one creek that still had water on Happy Canyon Road.

Steve, Fran, Tanja and **Kevin** traveled to and camped at the KCL ground camp at Carrizo Plain. The dirt roads were good and the area was very quiet. With no moon, the stars were outstanding. They heard burrowing owls and coyotes, and Fran reported that it wasn't too cold. They rode to the San Andres Fault to check it out. The KCL campground has an old barn, picnic tables and bathrooms, but no water. Pictures on Page 5.

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The discussion also mentioned some other campgrounds in the Carrizo Plain area. All of these are privately-owned:

- RideOut HideOut: kitchen facilities, picnic tables, no water or bathrooms, pets allowed. [RideOut HideOut](#)
- Songdog Double Fire: kitchen facilities, picnic tables, bathrooms, water, fire rings, pets allowed. [Songdog Double Fire](#)
- Songdog West: kitchen facilities, picnic tables, bathrooms, water, fires allowed, pets allowed. [Songdog West](#)
- Songdog East: kitchen facilities, picnic tables, bathrooms, water, fires allowed, pets allowed. [Songdog East](#)

November Technical Topic: Motorcycle Airbags

Motorcycle airbag vests is a topic that has been discussed previously, but the technology has improved since the last time it was covered (October 2018). Steve asked how many members had them: Phil and new member Kevin both use them, and they wear them all the time when riding their bikes.

Helite is an example of the standard airbag vest or jacket. In the case of a fall, the airbag is deployed via a mechanical trigger. Upon activation, a spring-loaded piston pierces a CO₂ cartridge and inflates the airbag around the wearer's neck and body. After use, the vest or jacket can be re-used by replacing the CO₂ cartridge. This type of airbag uses a tether which is affixed to the trigger and the bike. When you fall off the bike, pop goes the airbag.

New member Kevin is using the **Klim** vest, which uses a technology different from Helite. Instead of using a tether, the Klim uses an algorithm-based system, "Smart Technology," with no physical connection to the bike. This type of system uses an array of sensors (gyros, accelerometers, GPS, and more) to detect impacts and deploy the airbag. This system requires a battery and a subscription service. The Klim AI-1 has a built-in back protector, and a battery life of 25 hours. As with a tether system, the gas cartridge must be replaced after deployment.

The Klim system's subscription service costs \$12/month, \$120/year, or a one-time purchasing option of \$399. All purchasing

SB BMW Riders Calendar

- ❖ Monday, December 21: Club meeting. Location to be announced.
- ❖ Any other activities or rides scheduled, let me know! djkrohn@cox.net

options include continuous algorithm updates and mobile app dashboard interface. The leasing option can be cancelled at any time. The vest can be worn under any type of motorcycling jacket, leather or textile.

Tether system advantages: lower cost compared to Smart Technology vests; vests and jackets are available; no electronics to re-charge.

Disadvantages: You must remember to clip in the tether and unclip when dismounting the bike; no protection unless you fall from the bike.

Manufacturers of tether airbag systems include Helite, Hit-Air, Merlin and Moto Air.

Smart technology advantages: no tether to clip into or out of; vests and jackets are available; high crash sensitivity. It can protect you if you stay with the bike during the crash.

Disadvantages: Cost, requires subscription, battery requires re-charging.

Manufacturers of smart technology airbags include Klim, Ixon, Dainese, and AlpineStars.

[Helite Airbag](#)

[Klim AI-1 Airbag Vest](#)

Panamint Springs Resort Needs Help!

Panamint Springs Resort, located in Panamint Springs/Darwin, is having financial difficulties due to the Coronavirus shutdown and travel bans. The resort is a small, rustic resort located on Highway 190, on the way to Death Valley, 45 miles east of Olancho and 55 miles west of Furnace Creek. Panamint Springs has a restaurant, bar, gas station and store, rustic rooms, campgrounds and RV services. It is a wonderful spot to use as a basecamp while exploring Death Valley, or a stop on your way to Furnace Creek or points further east.

Wayne and I have stayed here several times and can vouch for its food, outstanding beer selection, and friendly people. The rooms are not swanky, but heck, it's supposed to be that way!

Due to the pandemic and travel bans, the Resort has had fewer visitors than normal and is struggling financially. If you want to help support this family-owned, great little oasis in the desert, there is a GoFundMe page for donations. The resort is still open for people despite the current lock-downs, because Death Valley National Park is still open and has requested that Panamint Springs can stay open as well to accommodate travelers in the area.

[Keep the lights on at Panamint Springs](#)

Upcoming Events

- January 2-3, 2021: Lost Chance Rendezvous One, Escondido. [Lost Chance Rendezvous One](#)

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SportCycle Pacific, Santa Barbara
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627 N. Salsipuedes, near Ortega Park
805-966-6508
Now closed on Sunday and Monday
Open Tuesday- Friday, 8 a.m. to 6p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Left: Resident roadrunner on the patio at Panamint Springs.



Below: Some of the beers at Panamint Springs.

Question of the Month Suggested by John White

"You know you've been off the motorcycle too long when..."

- I can smell dust burning off. ---John W.
- I reach for a seatbelt. ---John W.
- When you can't find it in the garage! ---Bruce D.
- My contribution is based on fact! ...driving the car on your favorite motorcycling road, your vision is blurred by tears. ---Chris L.
- My delayed apexes are terrible. ---Anon.
- My braking at a stop and putting foot down is not smooth. ---Anon.
- Too many input corrections especially on left hand sweepers. ---Anon.
- Where's that damn horn button? ---Anon.
- Where are my boots...gloves...helmet, etc.? ---Anon.
- Damn it. I hit my shin again!!!! ---Anon.
- You drop it in the driveway moving it from one spot to another. ---Bob P.



A stop on the road, on a trip to Baja.

Photo by Rick W.

Carrizo Plain Campout: November 14, 2020

Photos by Steve

