



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 21, Issue 1

January 2021

Member News and Rides

Our December meeting was a Zoom holiday party, nicely organized by Michael and Chuck. Four new members were introduced, and one former member, **Blake**, was also there. Blake was involved with the design for our Club logo. Thanks, Blake!

Chuck organized a fun Holiday Trivia Challenge game with all sorts of questions to test our knowledge and our sense of humor—or maybe our sense of absurdity.

If you missed out on the party, or if you want to re-visit the Trivia Challenge, you can watch the party at this link:

[SB BMW Riders Holiday Party 2020](#)

Randy L. mentioned that he has been out on his bikes, to Jalama Beach and on a couple of other rides with Club members.

Mike Meyer took a ride up Refugio Road from 101 and then on West Camino Cielo to the pavement end, then returned to Santa Ynez via Refugio Road. Photos by Mike on Page 5.

Michael and **Veronica** visited the Santa Maria BMW dealer and met with the manager, Chris Backs, and Jon Michael, of the Service Department. Chris has invited our Club to visit their showroom and he even will host a little party for us when we visit! Perhaps in the spring when businesses and things open up a bit more.

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January 2021

SB BMW Riders Election

The Club elections are coming up, with nominations for Officers and Members at Large to be presented in February, and to be voted on at our March meeting. The positions are:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Members at Large (at least 3 positions are available)

Look for an email coming soon that will describe the roles and responsibilities of each position.

Battery Float Chargers

Steve Miller



We have discussed these in past meetings, but worth revisiting. For those of you who don't ride your bikes every week, these devices will greatly extend the life of your battery. Unlike trickle chargers, they switch to a float mode after the battery reaches a full charge. This mode maintains about 13v on the battery and no steady current draw to boil out the battery like the trickle types. I have had motorcycle battery life exceed 10 years using these maintainers.

Available on Amazon for \$25, Part No. 021-0123

[Amazon Battery Tender](#)

SB BMW Riders Calendar

- ❖ Monday, January 18: Club meeting. Due to current stay-at-home orders ☹️, this will be a Zoom meeting, organized by Michael. Look for email with the Zoom links from Michael.
- ❖ Any other activities or rides scheduled, let me know! djkrohn@cox.net

More on Airbag Vests

The January 2021 issue of *BMW Owners News* has an article describing one user's experiences with both a Helite and Klim airbag vests.

All the Gear and then Some—Comparing Helite and Klim Airbag Vests, by James Carlisle. This article discusses in much more detail and depth what was talked about in our November 2020 meeting. The author's son got to test a Helite Turtle 2 Airbag Vest in real life during participation at a Jim Ford's Riders Workshop by overcooking a corner and going down at about 50 mph. The son was fine; the broken parts of the bike were fixable; the author (dad) was a little bit more shaken! On the airbag vest, only the gas canister had to be replaced.

The author concludes by recommending ATGATS—all the gear and then some. He feels that everyone should add an airbag vest to their kit. For himself, he is selling his Helite Turtle 2 and keeping the Klim Ai-1.

Testing Earplugs

A letter from BMW MOA member Derrick King was in the October 2020 issue of *BMW Owners News*. Mr. King has suffered from noise-induced hearing loss and was trying to determine what kinds of earplugs were the quietest.

To test, he compared 3 types of earplugs using his PC, audio software and high-quality over-the-ear headphones. He tested his hearing with no earplugs, with Bilsom Propp-O-Plast Cotton earplugs, Bilsom 303 Foam earplugs, and custom-fitted silicone hard earplugs.

Against high-frequency noise, all the tested earplugs provided good protection: 30 dB or more. Against mid-frequency noise, the foam earplugs provided the best protection, but only when positioned correctly. Against low-frequency noise, only the hard silicone earplugs provided significant protection.

The cotton earplugs did not provide consistent protection at mid- and low-frequencies; and the protection depended on how well they were placed in the ear canal. The foam earplugs also suffered from some insertion inconsistency, but not seriously.

You can test your own hearing and earplugs without special software using websites such as [Hearing test on-line](#). Your testing room must be absolutely silent for sound threshold tests. Even the background noise of a PC cooling fan will distort the results.

High-frequency noise is the most damaging to hearing, so that is the one to be most concerned about.

Upcoming Events

- February 11-15: Airheads Beemer Death Valley Rendezvous #29, Furnace Creek Campground. [Death Valley Rendezvous #29](#)
- March 25-28: ADV Rider Death Valley Noobs Rally, Panamint Springs Resort. [Death Valley Noobs Rally](#)
- April 16-18: La Jolla Concours d'Elegance at the Cove. La Jolla, CA. Vintage automobiles and motorcycles. [La Jolla Concours d'Elegance at the Cove](#)
- May 14-16: BMW MOA Getaway at Los Osos, CA. [MOA Getaway Los Osos](#)
- May 20-24: 2021 49er Rally, Mariposa, CA. This event is totally conditional on the COVID-19 situation, but check the website for updates. [2021 49er Rally](#)

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Now closed on Sunday and Monday
Open Tuesday- Friday, 8 a.m. to 6p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Santa Maria BMW Dealer

Michael and Veronica visited the Santa Maria BMW dealer, located at 2022 Priesker Lane, Santa Maria, CA. This is the same location as the Santa Maria Harley-Davidson dealer, and the building can be seen from the 101 Highway.



Michael with GM Chris Backs in the showroom.

The General Manager, Chris Backs, has offered to host a Club ride to his shop, and he will provide drinks and snacks! This is a Club ride that we could plan for perhaps in the spring, depending on when and how gatherings are allowed again.

The website is [Santa Maria BMW Dealer](#)

General Manager: Chris Backs
805-928-3668
cbacks@santamariaharley.com

Service Department: Jon Michael
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j.michael@santamariaharley.com

Exploring the Refugio Area: January 2021

Photos by Mike Meyer

