



SANTA BARBARA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

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BMW MOA CLUB #165

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

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Member News and Rides

Our March meeting was on Zoom, due to weather conditions not favorable for an in-person outdoor meeting. There were about 12 attendees.

Chuck, Kim and another friend went to Death Valley and stayed at Furnace Creek. They had a wonderful time, riding and some hiking. Temperatures were in the low 80's. But they ran into rain and wind on the return trip home.

Steve and **Fran** spent 5 days in Death Valley, camping and riding to various areas, including Lee Flat and Echo Canyon. Steve reported that it was a nice trip, and not windy!! Unusual for Death Valley in the spring. He also found the limits of his bike: any sand and loose gravel. But the gear ratios on the new bike are better than on the 1150GS.

Bob P. organized a ride on March 17, heading south to ride on PCH, around the Santa Monica mountains and Mulholland, and viewing the closed Rock Inn. Harvey knows Mulholland, so he provided the lead there. Nine riders, including Bob, were on this ride.

Bob P. organized another ride on March 26 to the Rock Inn at Lake Hughes. This ride had 8 riders, including Bob.

Pictures and more information about these rides on Pages 7-8.

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March Election

No surprises here. Chuck made a motion to elect Bob Phinney as a Member at Large in addition to the other members. The election results were:

- President: Steve Miller
- Vice-President: Michael Kramer
- Secretary: Diane Krohn
- Treasurer: Chuck Beattie
- Members at Large: Eddie Vertucci, John Alexander, Marten Walkker and Bob Phinney.

March Technical Topic: How Does Weather Affect Your Riding Situation?

When it comes to bad or changing weather, most members tend to hunker down and wait things out. Being flexible with respect to your route and timing is key. Snowy passes and 30 mph winds can be showstoppers.

Chuck relayed his story of getting stuck in Denver in October. As most of us know, you can't get out of the Denver area without going through some high mountain passes. He ended up shipping the bike back, and he flew home.

David H.'s weather story from June, 2008, on Chief Joseph Pass, Highway 93: Three more turns, and the road was snow and ice free. We were traveling at walking speed, and suddenly we were sliding. The head cover was holed, so we hitched a ride to town to find a tow truck which took us to Missoula, the only dealer in Montana. The tie downs were wet and covered with sand -- 80 grit sand paper would have been kinder. Two day wait for parts, and then we continued on to Glacier National Park and Jasper, Canada.



SB BMW Riders Calendar

- ❖ Monday, April 19: Club meeting. We expect that we will be able to meet at Michael and Veronica's house, pending weather conditions. Watch for an email with meeting location.
- ❖ Any other activities or rides scheduled, let me know! djkrohn@cox.net

Future Meeting Location

At the March meeting, Steve mentioned that we are losing Cody's Café as a meeting venue. They will no longer be operating after 3 p.m. Various other meeting venues were discussed. For right now, and probably into the summer, Michael's and Veronica's home is an excellent location. They have plenty of outdoor seating, room for motorcycles, and even a supply of tableware.

Some possible venue locations were suggested, including The Creekside Restaurant & Bar (4444 Hollister Ave.); Mulligan's Bar and Café (3500 McCaw Ave.); Mesa Café & Bar (1972 Cliff Drive); Le Café Stella (3302 McCaw Ave.), and Rusty's Pizza in Goleta (5934 Calle Real). Ideally, the venue should have sufficient parking for cars and motorcycles, a menu with a variety of items at reasonable cost, and either no fee or a low fee for the use of the venue. Other suggested venues are welcome!

*Left: Icy roads in Montana and an unhappy bike.
Photo by David Hamilton.*

Highway 1 Update

Progress continues to be made at the repair site at Rat Creek. Crews have developed a drainage plan for the site to divert rainwater coming down the canyon to minimize impacts on the work below. Temporary pipe has been connected to the existing buried culvert which, though damaged by the event, will be able to pass rainwater.

The last of the debris flow material has been removed from the canyon. An estimated 70,000 cubic yards of trees, rocks, and sediment have been taken off site. It is expected that 25,000 cubic yards of fill will be needed to be brought in to build up the support for the new roadway.

Crews have constructed steep paths on the north and south side of the canyon which will be used as haul roads to bring in fill material to the bottom of the canyon. Fill will be introduced into the bottom of the canyon starting early next week.

CalTrans hopes to be able to open Highway 1 by early summer. Crews continue to work 7 days per week during daylight hours.

Highway 154 – Cold Springs Bridge

A project to clean, paint and construct an access system catwalk on the Cold Spring bridge is now underway. One-way reversing traffic control will be in effect Mondays-Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Delays are not expected to exceed 10 minutes. The project is slated for completion in spring 2023.

Upcoming Events

- 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 27-31: 2021 49er Rally, Mariposa, CA. This event is totally conditional on the COVID-19 situation, but check the website for updates. [2021 49er Rally](#)
- June 4-6: 10th Annual Giant Loop Ride, Crane Springs, OR. An adventure motorcycle weekend in eastern Oregon. [10th Annual Giant Loop Ride](#)
- June 24-26: BMW MOA National Rally, Great Falls, MT. Registration is open! [BMW MOA National Rally](#)

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Motorcycle Mirrors

A query by John White: What do you like or don't like about the mirror(s) on your particular bike? Do you find them to be great "curb feelers" when lane splitting? :)

Bob P. says: I love my mirrors. They are easily positioned to give me a good look to the back. The mirrors adjust easily and hold the adjustment. If I was a better rider, I would use them more. I do not see them as lane splitting curb feelers as the mirrors are within the outside parameters of the grips. The outside edge of the grips matches the outside of the panniers. Both are about 18" from the centerline of the bike.

Happy with my GS!

John W. says: I know better but still do it. I sometimes hang my helmet on my mirror. Henceforth no more.

Note the indentations in the Styrofoam interior head portion. The foam pad also takes some of the abuse (along with age of course). A new helmet liner costs about \$36.



The Old Ridge Route

Dave M. gave information about the Old Ridge Route at the March meeting, and subsequently, some members have taken the opportunity to explore this area and provide additional information. Thanks, Dave, for the idea on the route!

The Old Ridge Route opened in 1915. It was the first paved highway linking the Los Angeles Basin with the San Joaquin Valley over the Tejon Pass and over the Sierra Pelona mountains ridge south of Gorman. The route was bypassed first by the Ridge Route Alternate, then by US Highway 99. US 99 was replaced by I-5 in 1960-70.

The road can be accessed at the Castaic-I-5 intersection, or a bit farther north at the Templin Highway exit on I-5. The route continues north to intersect with Highway 138. Be aware that legally, sections of road are closed to motor vehicles.

From the website [Old Ridge Route org](http://OldRidgeRoute.org): The Ridge Route is closed to through travel from



Castaic to Gorman. It is open from only from State 138 to the Tumble Inn at the north end, and from approximately one mile north of Templin Highway to Castaic at the south end. The central portion remains **closed to all motor vehicle traffic**. Walking, bicycling, and horseback riding are allowed. The roadway is **not open** for through travel from State 138 to Castaic.

Along the Old Ridge Route. Photo by Steve.

Steve and **Fran** did a recon of the ridge route. After some searching, they found the dirt connector road above the Paradise Ranch Mobile Home Park (MHP). For those considering this adventure, here's what Steve says:

It is important you have dirt experience on your bike. There were rutted sections that required riding precise lines to traverse. Fortunately, they were dry; otherwise, they would be very difficult if muddy. It is a steep climb on a narrow road, so mistakes cannot be made. It is steep enough in sections that it would be difficult to get going again if stopped.

The Old Ridge Route (cont.)

Once up on the ridge route, it was a beautiful ride on good, to surprisingly excellent, pavement, as well as some dirt. I had not ridden the route for at least 25 years and the views are still fantastic.

Unfortunately, there is a massive, shiny new gate about 1 mile south of Pine Canyon Road junction. Fortunately, there is a 36-inch opening on the side. Removing the saddle bags and jockeying the handlebars got us through fine. Those of you with Adventure GS's should measure the width of the bike at the crash bars to make sure you are under 3 ft.

For anyone interested in this ride, let me know and I might tag along. Another excellent adventure!

Phyllis had a story about the Old Ridge Route, too:

Like you [Steve], it has been many years since I was there either on motorcycles or trucks. You started in a different place. I generally continued east on the Templin Highway a ways past where you turned at the Paradise MHP to turn left directly onto 8N04 Old Ridge Route. That entire route was broken pavement and dirt, but no really steep hills or difficult terrain. Possibly the side road you took to access the ridge has less use and is in worse condition. Again, it has been many years since I was there.

The club did a ride there in the early 2000's when I still had my '83 R100RS, but I got a flat rear tire at the Gorman exit, so we missed out. I would like to take a trip, probably a picnic in the truck, up to see it one last time before we head to AZ.

Mike Meyer rode the Old Ridge Route end-to-end on January 10, 2021. He noted that the gates were open. Here are a couple of his photos:



Rides and Photos

Bob P. organized two rides in March. For the March 17 ride, riders included Bob Phinney, Peter Brunjes, James Chen, Ron Foil, Don Mock, Dave Murchison, Harvey Rawn and Oscar Zavala. Lee Husband met the group in Ojai and rode his restored airhead with the group to Santa Paula.

On this ride, the route was Santa Barbara to Ojai, then on to Santa Paula to Balcolm Canyon Road, to Highway 118, west to Lewis Road. On to CSUCI to Potrero Road, through Hidden Valley to Highway 23 to Mulholland Highway. From there, past the closed Rock Store, back to Mulholland and Latigo Canyon Road, to PCH, then west to Trancas Market. Lunch was at the picnic area near Vintage Grocer deli at the Trancas Country Market. All good roads with very little traffic.

Harvey, familiar with the roads in the Santa Monica mountains, led the group in that area.



The group on the March 17 ride. Photo by Dave M.

The second ride was on March 26. Riders included Bob Phinney, John Alexander, James Chen, Neal Daneman, Erik Kocher, Rick White, Oscar Zavala and John White. It was a good, fun ride.

The route was Santa Barbara to Ojai, where they picked up John W. From there, Highway 33 to Lockwood Canyon Road, to Gorman, eastbound on Highway 138, to Old Ridge Route, to Pine Canyon Road, then to the Rock Inn at Lake Hughes.

It became a bit more chilly (mid-to low-30's, depending on the telling ☺) at the section of Highway 33 near Pine Mountain Ridge Road. The north-facing roadway was given its proper respect due to recent rains and near-freezing temperature. Fortunately, all two-wheeled vehicles stayed upright.

Friendly visits and stops occurred at Ozena Fire Station and the Flying J in Lebec. The staff at the Rock Inn was friendly, and I thought the food was excellent, as was the conversation and camaraderie.

Four riders did a reverse ride back and all were impressed by James Chen's quickness; not his first ride. The traffic into Santa Barbara was horrendous. But we all made it home.



*The Rock Inn, Lake Hughes.
Photo by Rick W.*

*Rest stop at Ozena Station on Highway 33.
Photo by John A.*

