



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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November 2021

Member News and Rides

The October meeting was again at Michael's and Veronica's home. There were about 15 attendees with 3 Zoom participants. We had 3 new visitors at the meeting: Lee, Jim and Pablo.

Bob P. led a group ride around the Santa Monica Mountains/Malibu Hills area on October 6. Others that joined on the ride were **John A., Kim, Oscar, Cy** and **Leo**. The route included Balcom Canyon Road, Potrero Road, Decker Road, Mulholland Drive, to Neptune's Net, then Yerba Buena Road. The route was 175 miles. Cy mentioned that he had trouble with his linkage on the ride, but he used Kroil to help free up the linkage.

Cody attended the Airheads rally Paso Robles in early October. While at the rally, he rode around the Hunter-Liggett area and explored Los Padres Forest. He reported that Sierra Madre Road is open.

Stefan is traveling to Phoenix and asked for some interesting routes on the way back as he has two days for the return. Several routes were suggested. Some of the suggested routes were:

- North on Hwy 60/93, west on I-40, then go through Mojave National Preserve.
- South on Hwy 85, then west on I-8 to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.
- West on I-10, then north on Hwy 95, then west on Hwy 62 and then into Joshua Tree National Park.

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- North on Hwy 60/93, then north on Hwy 89 to I-40, then pick up Old Route 66 west of Ash Fork.

Wayne and I rode on Hwy 62 heading east, in 2012. This road parallels a railroad bed, and we noted many artistic renderings along the railroad bed, made from the black and white rocks in the bed. In some places, rocks were painted. It makes for interesting scenery along this otherwise not-too-interesting road.



November Technical Topic: Staying Positive

The October club newsletter had an article, "On Developing a Positive Riding Attitude: A Primer for the Novice Rider," by B. Jan Hofman.

Steve asked members what they thought about the article and its premise: that putting positive thoughts into your subconscious before you start riding will make you a better rider, and to replace negative thoughts with positive ones.

Lee mentioned that he had read an article about Olympic champion skier Jean-Claude Killy, in which Killy said that he went over the event in his mind before he skied – but Lee felt that an important part was missing from Killy's comments: You need to get good training **first** and then you can tell yourself that you are good at your sport.

Stefan mentioned that you must be realistic. There can be issues with overestimating your skills as well as underestimating your skills.

Michael thought that confidence in riding is important. You can have your safety gear and training, but you should also be confident in your skills.

Many members mentioned that feedback from other club members is useful. Pablo said that reminding others on a ride to "ride your own ride" is one of the best pointers.

Jim thought that riding mindfully and visualizing were important, although visualizing doesn't always work. Other

SB BMW Riders Calendar

- ❖ Monday, November 15: Monthly meeting at Creekside Restaurant & Bar, 4444 Hollister Ave., Santa Barbara. Meeting starts at 6 p.m. The Creekside has a large outdoor patio and offers a variety of food and beverages.
- ❖ Our December meeting is traditionally the annual Christmas Holiday party. Stay tuned for details on when and where.
- ❖ Any other activities or rides scheduled, let me know! djkrohn@cox.net

factors include avoiding being tired but also avoiding overstimulation.

The general consensus about Hofman's article was that there were good points and not-so-good points.

Steve talked about an article in the October issue of the BMW ON, "DARKNT RIZING," by David Cwi. One story relayed by the author was about his friend Ron who was fearless on blind corners until one day when a deer was there. The author continued with his story about starting a ride at 4 a.m., though his body was on 7 a.m. time. He had 1000 miles to go before he got home, and figured he would be home in time for dinner. Wrong. He ran into fog, and doesn't remember too much more because he crashed and got a concussion. Luckily for him, he was wearing all the gear.

Not feeling good is a perfectly good reason to not ride, or to cut a ride short.

In other words (updated version): "A rider's got to know their limitations."

“What If?”

For our “what if” discussion: Michael asked what if you are riding in a group and see two riders very close to each other – too close to be able to react safely in case of a problem? Chuck suggested that if there is an opportunity; for example, they are stopped and you can stop, to say something to them, but gently. Not in a lecturing manner.

This led to a further discussion of how mentioning unsafe behaviors, or ways to improve your riding skills and techniques, to other members of our club should be something that we all are responsible for. And should be comfortable doing so.

Another point brought up for riding in a group is to have someone document what happened if an accident occurs: the conditions of the road, time of day, cars present, number of riders, and so on. This information is useful not only in case of insurance claims, but also for determining if other actions could have prevented the accident.

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Upcoming Events

- November 11-14: Salton Sea Rendezvous, Mecca Beach Campground, Salton Sea Recreational Area, CA. [Salton Sea Rendezvous](#)
- November 20-21: Las Vegas 300, Boulder City, NV. This is a dual-sport ride that circumnavigates Las Vegas starting from the Hoover Dam Lodge to Pahrump, and then back. [Las Vegas 300](#)
- December 31-January 2, 2022: Last Chance First Chance Rendezvous, Agua Caliente County Park, Anza Borrego State Park, CA. [Last Chance First Chance Rendezvous](#)



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Best Piece of Travel Advice Ever Received

By Elgé, Excerpted from *ADV Rider*, 9/21/2021: [Best Piece of Travel Advice](#)

Motorcycling aside, what's your best piece of travel advice ever received? I was a traveler before I became a rider, and for me, a lot of the overlanding stuff came naturally... But looking back, what about travel advice – especially now, as the world is still filled with uncertainty and open borders aren't a given?

Here's my collection of pearls of wisdom collected from other travelers over the years:

Trust People...

This one is obvious to anyone who's done any traveling at all, but it's so easy to fall back into a cycle of fear and mistrust while at home, and it takes time to just go with your gut and trust people when you're on the road. And yet, from new overlanders to experienced vets, most travelers tell the same story: 99.99% people in the world have good intentions, are willing to help, and treat foreigners as guests. Kindness of strangers is the one constant discovery all new travelers soon make, and trusting people becomes easier and easier as you go along...

...And Your Instinct

That said, trust doesn't have to be blind, and it's always best to go with your gut. When I first hit the road hitchhiking across Europe at the age of eighteen, the best piece of travel advice I received was from a fellow female hitchhiker – if something feels off, put some distance between yourself and the situation or the person that doesn't feel right. Even if it turns out to be nothing later, it's best to err on the side of caution, and whenever your gut tells you something's not right, just get out of there – trying to rationalize and ignore the first instinct just isn't worth it...

Adapt and Conquer

The number one most important tool when traveling, especially these days, is flexibility. Being dead set on certain routes or destinations means your entire trip can fall apart if just one border remains closed, or if there's some unexpected obstacles arising last-minute. On the other hand, if you're willing to adapt, pivot, change course, and go with the flow, your travels will never end in failure, only in more adventures.

Point of Balance

Travelling, especially on a motorcycle, means accepting a lot of uncertainty. You're never entirely sure where you'll sleep the next night, what the roads are going to be like, what the border crossing will be like, and so on; add in the current challenges of pandemic-related restrictions and changes, and there's a lot of unpredictability and precariousness that you've got to balance while on the road. To even this out, have one point of absolute stability during your travels – this can be staying in constant contact with your loved ones back home, once-

a-year trips to visit family and friends, a What If fund, a plan B, or anything else that gives you a sense of security and balance...

Slow Down

Even if you're already traveling slow, slow down even more – or stop altogether from time to time. With our ever-increasing pace of life, it's easy to get carried away and try to jam-pack your route with as many highlights and must-see locations as possible, but the more you rush and cram the itinerary, the closer you get to travel fatigue and burnout. Slowing down and stopping more often doesn't mean missing out on the next hot destination, it means appreciating the here and the now in more depth and layers.

What is your best piece of travel advice?

Rock Store Ride with Harvey

Photos by John W.

R: The new cruiser-style BMW R18

Below: Harvey and others, at the Rock Store



Friday Burger Run

Photos by Chuck and Kim

