



SANTA BARBARA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

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

BMW MOA CLUB #165

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

Volume 23, Issue 3

March 2023

Member News and Rides

The February meeting, held at the Creekside Restaurant, had about 17 attendees.

As part of the meeting, we had several items of Club business, including nominations and elections for the Club Board. The nominations were:

- President: Steve Miller
- Vice-President: Cody Cook
- Treasurer: Chuck Beattie
- Secretary: Diane Krohn
- At Large: John Alexander, Oscar Zavala, and Bob Phinney.

All nominees were elected with unanimous votes. In addition, Diane will continue as Newsletter Editor and Michael Kramer will continue as Webmaster.

Cody bought **John T.'s** 2002 K1200LT and has done some work on it. He rode it to our meeting so we could see it, all cleaned up and shiny.

Steve and **Fran** camped at Carrizo Plain at the KCL Campground. While there, they met another rider who lives in Paso Robles and expressed interest in our Club. Steve reported that Soda Lake was full, and the roads were wet and very muddy. No other campers were there, so it was quiet, but also cold. The Goodwin

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Member News and Rides
- 2 February Discussion: Club Business
- 2 SB BMW Riders Calendar
- 3 Upcoming Events
- 3 Highway 1 Updates
- 4 Tennessee Considers Lane Sharing
- 4-6 Tales Along El Camino Sierra: A Sentimental Journey Along Highway 395

Education Center (visitor's center) has reopened. (For information about flower blooms at Carrizo and other areas, there is a wildflower hotline: 818 768-1802 ext. 7. New reports are released every Friday, from March through May.)

Marten will host a Tech Day on Saturday, March 25, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will be at 516 Palm Avenue, Carpinteria. All are invited to come by, work on your bike, get advice and enjoy the get-together. Bring food to share if you would like to. Contact Marten for questions or information: marten@cox.net.

February Discussion: Club Business

Instead of a technical topic, the meeting this month focused on Club business. Several topics were discussed.

Business cards: Our cards need an update, as the current ones reference the meetings at Cody's. Chuck will draft a new design. Most members did like the idea of having cards.

Web Design: Michael suggested that we might want to have a refresh for our website. A web design subcommittee was formed and includes Oscar, Cody, John A., Tanja and Michael. The committee will come up with ideas for updating the website, for example, rides, photos, events, etc.

Oscar talked about the times that, while on rides, people will come up to talk to you and have questions about your bike and the group. He thought that having a banner or a flag for the bikes, with the Club name on it, might be a good way to get more members and provide more visibility for the Club. Another possibility would be some sort of card holder that goes on the bike and has the Club card in it.

Another idea was to have a custom license plate frame, with our Club name and website information on it. This idea was very well-liked, and Oscar will follow up with it. The idea of a banner was also thought to be a good one,

SB BMW Riders Calendar

- ❖ Monday, March 20: Monthly meeting at Creekside Restaurant & Bar, 4444 Hollister Ave., Santa Barbara. Meeting starts at 6 p.m. Get there at 5:30 if you want to order dinner.
- ❖ Tech Day, Saturday, March 25, at 516 Palm Avenue, Carpinteria. Contact Marten with questions: marten@cox.net
- ❖ Monday, April 17: Monthly meeting at Creekside Restaurant & Bar, 4444 Hollister Ave., Santa Barbara. Meeting starts at 6 p.m. Get there at 5:30 if you want to order dinner.
- ❖ Any other activities or rides scheduled, let me know! djkrohn1@gmail.com

and Stefan can help with the graphics if we want to pursue this idea.

Cody brought up the possibility of having some sort of scholarship for an MSF (Motorcycle Safety Foundation) class, or an equivalent motorcycle training class, as a way of attracting new members/new riders to our Club. There was further discussion about having training and mentoring opportunities and safety information on our website. The web design subcommittee will consider these ideas as part of their review of our website.

.....
"When I'm riding my motorcycle, I'm glad to be alive. When I stop riding my motorcycle, I'm glad to be alive."

---Neal Peart

Highway 1 Updates

The area at Polar Star (1 mile south of Ragged Point) opened on February 11. The Mill Creek section, PM 18, is estimated to be opened on March 30, weather permitting. At that time, the southern closure limit will move north to a safe turnaround location below the south end of Paul's Slide. Once the Mill Creek slide area opens, the only section of Highway 1 expected to be closed is Paul's Slide, at PM 22. There is no estimated time opening for the Paul's Slide area. The northern closure is currently at Big Creek Vista Point, PM 27.3. It will be moved south, close to the north gate at Paul's Slide, when the weather permits crews to put in a new turnaround area.

Note: Post Mile (PM) is the distance from the border of Monterey County (Ragged Point), starting from the south end.

SUPPORT OUR SPONSOR



SportCycle Pacific
Santa Barbara
Your European Motorcycle Connection

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.

Upcoming Events

- March 18-19: BMW NorCal Annual Death Valley campout, Furnace Creek, Death Valley, CA. [BMW NorCal Annual Death Valley Camping](#)
- March 22-26, 2023: ADV Rider Death Valley Noobs Rally, Panamint Springs. This is the 16th year anniversary! [Death Valley Noobs Rally 2023](#)
- April 13-16: Horizons Unlimited Travellers Meeting, Mariposa, CA. [Horizons Unlimited California 2023](#)
- April 21-23: Campout at the Song Dog Ranch, Cuyama Valley, CA. Join BMW NorCal for this campout. [Song Dog](#)
- May 5-7: MOA Getaway at Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM. [MOA Getaway at Santa Fe](#)
- May 25-29: 49er Rally, Mariposa, CA. [2023 49er Rally](#)
- June 1-4: 12th Annual Giant Loop Ride, Crane, OR. Rides through the high desert areas of eastern Oregon. [12th Annual Giant Loop Ride](#)
- June 8-11: 50th Annual MOA National Rally, Doswell, VA. [50th Annual MOA National Rally](#)
- June 22-25: 43rd Annual Chief Joseph Rally, John Day, OR. [43rd Annual Chief Joseph Rally](#)

Tennessee Considers Lane Sharing

Article excerpted from *ADV Rider.com/Zac*

Tennessee may be yet another state to consider legalizing lanesplitting and filtering for motorcycles. The policy being proposed may be the most permissive in the US outside of California.

“Under the terms of HB1454, put forward by Rep. Jeremy Faison, motorcycles would be able to travel between lanes of stopped or moving cars in stretches of road limited to 50 mph or more. Motorcyclists would be allowed to move between cars when traffic was traveling at 25 mph or less, and would be restricted to a speed of no more than 10 mph faster than cars.

“In other words: If traffic was going 40 in a 50, no lanesplitting. If traffic was going 5 in a 55, motorcyclists could lanesplit between moving cars at 15 mph.

“Faison says motorcyclist safety is the reason for his bill. The proposed changes should reduce the chance of a motorcyclist being rear-ended in traffic. Such reasoning has generally been behind most of the movement to bring in filtering and lanesplitting in the US, although it is also true that lane sharing can also play a huge role in reducing urban gridlock as motorists move from space-hogging cars to smaller, more efficient motorcycles.”

If the bill becomes law in Tennessee, that state will be one of the other existing three that allow for motorcycle lane sharing. The other states that currently allow it are Utah, Montana and of course, California

[Tennessee Lane Sharing](#)

Tales Along El Camino Sierra: A Sentimental Journey Along Highway 395

Wayne and I were recently in Mammoth (great snowshoeing due to all the snow this winter!) and found an interesting book in the Mammoth Visitor's Center: *Tales Along El Camino Sierra: A Sentimental Journey Along Highway 395*, by David and Gayle Woodruff. There are 3 volumes of this book, although we only bought the first two volumes. These books have historical photographs and all sorts of stories about the places, people and events on Highway 395.

Highway 395 does not have the fun curves of Highway 1, but what it lacks in curves, it makes up for that with scenery and history, including the Sierra Nevada crest, the Coso volcanic

field, Mono Lake, the June Lake loop, the ghost town of Bodie, Manzanar Historic Site, and the Bristlecone Forest. Four Sierra pass roads cross and connect the eastern Sierras with the western side. There are multiple camping areas off of 395, and the various small towns offer motels, restaurants and supplies. And the most scenic access to Death Valley is from Highway 190, off of Highway 395 at Olancho.

If you do require some curvy roads, the Sierra pass roads will fulfill that requirement. The four passes are Highway 120, Tioga Pass, that goes through Yosemite Valley; Highway 108, Sonora Pass; Highway 4, Ebbetts Pass; and Highway 89, Monitor Pass. Tioga Pass is the highest of these passes, at 9,943 feet. Sonora Pass is 9,623 feet, Ebbetts Pass is 8,730 feet, and Monitor Pass is 8,314 feet. The downside of scenic, curvy mountain roads is the seasonal availability of riding on them. They are typically open from July to September; sometimes open as late as October or November, and sometimes as early as June. This year, they might not open until August!

This is an excerpt from the book about the history of the Tioga Pass road:

The first route into this area was actually a few miles south of Tioga, known as Mono Pass...In the 1880's, silver and gold were discovered on the slopes of Tioga Hill and above Lundy Canyon. The mines were located at elevations ranging from 9,000 feet to 10,500 feet. The extremely high elevation coupled with its remote location made operating the mines very difficult.

...The camp's organizers felt they had come upon a lode so rich, that 50,000 people would soon inhabit the site and a better road would be needed. In 1883, the mining company built a 56-mile road in from the west in just 130 days.

...Eventually the National Park Service took over the road and the State of California extended the road east, from Tioga Pass down Lee Vining Canyon to the Mono Basin. It was one of the first highways built by the California Department of Highways and served adventurous Yosemite mountain adventurers for the next several decades.

The road was improved over the next few decades, but it was a winding, narrow and exposed road, with no pull-outs and usually with road damage. The Lee Vining Canyon section, in particular, was a nerve-wracking drive, with its single lane, no guardrails and no turnouts. When cars met in the narrow sections, one of the drivers would have to back up to an area that would allow for passing.

The National Park Service realigned and rebuilt the section of road within Yosemite National Park, and it opened in 1961. When the Park section was complete, the State of California had the Lee Vining Canyon section rebuilt, with two lanes and guardrails where needed. Several turnouts were added also.

Tales Along El Camino Sierra contains many more interesting stories about the places and people associated with Highway 395. If you ride or drive along this highway, you might want to purchase one or more of these books as a way to learn more about the area, and to visit some places you didn't even know about.

[Tales Along El Camino Sierra](#)

[Tales Along El Camino Sierra Two!](#)

[Tales Along El Camino Sierra Three!](#)

Wayne and I have traveled on Highway 395 numerous times on trips to Death Valley and the eastern Sierras. We have also motorcycled on it, southbound, from Pendleton, OR, through John Day and Burns, and back into California.

On our motorcycle trips, we have found Lone Pine to be a good place to stop for lunch, or to stay for the night. One of our favorite places to eat in Lone Pine is the Alabama Hills Café and Bakery. They are open for breakfast and lunch only and have limited seating, but there is outdoor seating, weather-dependent: [Alabama Hills Cafe Lone Pine](#)

A historical place to stay in Lone Pine is the Dow Villa Motel. It was built in the 1920's and has both historical rooms and more modern ones. The outdoor swimming pool is wonderfully deep and huge! [Dow Villa Motel](#)



The eastern Sierra crest, as seen from the Wildrose- Charcoal Kilns Road in Death Valley.

Photo by Wayne.