



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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April 2023

Member News and Rides

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

Chuck received feedback on the Club business cards, and he will proceed with the preferred simple design, with our Club logo and name and website address on one side of the card. There will also be a blank space for putting your contact information on the card. The card will be portrait aspect.

Oscar plans to be working on Club banners and a license plate frame, but right now he is recovering from hip surgery and will be out for a bit while he recovers. Hope you have an uneventful recovery, Oscar!

Bob P. is working on a protocol for group riding.

Marten hosted a Tech Day on Saturday, March 25. Pictures on Page 8.

Cody has planned a campout at Carrizo Plain for April 21-23. This will be at the KCL campground, and Cody will bring his truck and trailer and supplies. He has offered to cook on Friday and Saturday. Cody's wife Christine, Steve, Fran, Marten and a friend, Lee Husband, and Dagi are planning on attending.

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After some speculation about this year being a good super bloom year, it does look like it is so! **Tanja** went to the California Poppy Preserve in Antelope Valley and has pictures; and **Bob P.** drove to north and then east on Highway 58, to Soda Creek Road and south through Carrizo Plain, then back on Highway 166. Pictures are on Page 7. Note, too, that the flowers on Figueroa Road are in full bloom.

March Technical Topic: How Do You Compensate for Tire Wear?

Steve asked how many can tell their tires are wearing by the way the bike rides? How many ride until you see the wear bars on the tires?

Steve said that he rides until the wear bars show. He also gets more edge wear with new tires, and then has to ride to get more center wear as the tires get more used.

Chuck, on the other hand, tries to lean more to get more edge wear than center wear as the tires get more worn.

Wayne changed his tires when they were about 80 % of the wear. But riding two-up has more noticeable, and faster, tire wear.

New tires start with about 5-6 mm of tread depth. When the tread surface is worn down to the wear bars, there is about 1 mm of tread left. It is recommended to change a tire before it reaches 1mm of tread depth; and 2 mm is as low as you should go.

A penny is a handy way to measure tread depth, if you don't have a measuring tool. The distance between the top of President Lincoln's hair and the edge of the penny is about 2 mms. Place your penny in the tire groove with Honest Abe headfirst. If you can see the top of his hairline sighting along the tire's surface, then Lincoln says it's time to make a change.

It seemed that most members change out their tires before too much wear. Everyone

SB BMW Riders Calendar

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Friday, April 21-Sunday, April 23: Camping at KCL at Carrizo Plain. Cody will bring his truck and trailer and supplies and he will do some cooking. Contact Cody for info: codythewrenchcook@gmail.com
- ❖ Monday, May 15: 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

agreed that you don't ride when you see cords or metal showing in the tire. Also, make sure to check tire pressure before every ride, and inspect tires regularly; preferably before every ride.

Age of the tire is also important. Most manufacturers claim the lifespan is around 5 years, so even if the tire is not worn, it may have deterioration due to UV exposure and the rubber drying out, losing its grippy properties. All modern tires have a 4-digit manufacturing date code on the sidewall, showing the week of manufacture (first two digits) and the year (last two digits).

In addition, manufacturers will place a small arrow on the sidewall that points to the wear bars, so they are easier to spot the location on new tires.

Sports Psychologist Presentation

Dr. Dave Botsford was a visitor at our meeting in March. He is a clinical and sports psychologist who works for the UCSB Athletics Department and also has his own practice, Mountain Minded Performance Consulting. Dave has offered to give a presentation to the Club about sports psychology as it relates to riding motorcycles. As with any sport, one must pay attention to both body and mind; mentally being where you are when you need to be there.

This should be an interesting and informative presentation! The date will be announced.

Dave's website: [mm performance](http://mmperformance.com)

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Upcoming Events

- 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 6: Quail Motorcycle Gathering, Carmel Valley, CA. A gathering of more than 300 iconic classic and modern motorcycles. [Quail Motorcycle Gathering](#)
- 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](#)
- July 20-23: Top O' the Rockies Rally, Paonia, CO. [Top O' the Rockies Rally](#)
- September 1-4: Range of Light Gypsy Tour, sponsored by BMW NorCal. [Range of Light Gypsy Tour](#)

Road Updates

Highway 1: The northern closure limit of Highway 1 on the Big Sur coast continues to move south. On April 4, it moved from Deetjen's Inn in Monterey County at PM 42.2 to Lime Creek at PM 32.2. The northern closure is expected to continue to move south to the Big Creek Vista Point at PM 27. The southern closure limit remains at the Ragged Point Inn in San Luis Obispo County.

The movement of the northern closure became possible after crews cleared debris and stabilized slopes from slides just south of Torre Canyon Bridge at PM 39.5, just south of Esalen at PM 32.5, and farther south at PM 29.5. Crews may need to return at a later date to the slide area at PM 32.5 to perform additional slope stabilization efforts under one-way reversing traffic control.

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

Highway 33: Closed from south of Matilija Springs Road in Ojai (Ventura County) to 9 miles south of the Ventura/Santa Barbara County line, due to flooding. This closure is essentially at the intersection of Highway 33 and Lockwood Valley Road.

Jalama Road: Closed from Highway 1 to Jalama Beach, due to movement and cracks in the pavement. The impacted area is at Mile Marker 6, but the entire road is closed. No date has been given for re-opening.

Foxen Canyon: Single-lane at mile post 2.8, with alternating traffic.

Tepusquet Road: Closed from Santa Maria Mesa Road to Highway 166. But, per Bob, passable.

Drum Canyon Road: Closed from Highway 246 at Santa Rosa Ranch, mile post 4.2 to south of Centennial at mile post 3.1.

Gibraltar Road: Closed 500' due north of the City of Santa Barbara. Who knows when it will be open.

East Camino Cielo from Painted Cave Road to Gibraltar Road: Closed. No date for re-opening.

Figueroa Road: Open, with a spectacular flower display!

Stagecoach Road: Closed from Paradise Road to Highway 154.

A Wander Into Huasna Valley Pictures and Story by Bob Phinney

I say wander because I sauntered along, selecting the roads on a whim as I came to them.

Ballard Canyon Road and Foxen Canyon Roads are clean, clear and beautiful.

Tepusquet Canyon remains closed to through traffic by signage but the road is 100% OK. In the last couple of days, a tree fell across the road about halfway in but was not hard to get by. I noticed that the local Santa Maria sanitation guys were running their truck, servicing the homes on the south-facing half of the canyon.

Also, with so few autos in Tepusquet Canyon, I noticed several serious bicyclists enjoying the ride. I saw a recumbent bicycle. A great day for two-wheel wandering.

The creeks are awesome. Their fierceness during the deluges was evident, but the systems in place held up. The water is clear and purposefully moving along.

Twitchell Reservoir appears to be full. Everywhere the lush green grasses and the wildflowers are a joy.



The back roads around Arroyo Grande are fine, as are those into the Huasna Valley and Highway One from Arroyo Grande to Gaviota.

Remarkably beautiful.

BMW To Test eFuels In World Superbike Program

By Zac, Excerpted from ADV Rider, 4/4/2023

BMW Motorrad says the company is now working on testing efuels through its World Superbike program.

What are efuels? Basically, efuels are synthetic fuels manufactured to power internal combustion engines without using fossil fuels. BMW says efuels are “produced from water and CO2 extracted from the air in chemical processes with renewable electricity.”

Why is BMW testing efuels? High-end European auto and motorcycle manufacturers have been looking at efuels as an answer to impending internal combustion engine bans for years now. While governments are keen to mandate electric vehicles, EV limitations (not to mention the limitations of current electrical transmission infrastructure) are not going away as quick as many users want or require. So, efuels are being suggested as a replacement for petro-fuels.

Specifically in this case, the FIM backers of the World Superbike series have proclaimed that as of the 2024 season, teams in both MotoGP and WSB must use 40 percent alternative fuel for their motorcycles.

To get to that point, BMW is working with partner NORDOEL as part of a German government project called DeCarTrans (which stands for “Demonstrating a Circular Carbon Economy in Transport Along the Value Chain,” apparently). Other companies and organizations are also involved, but NORDOEL specifically teamed up with BMW to work on alternative fuel research through its World Superbike team.

So, efuels for racebikes may be interesting, but for now, what good does it do for real-world riders who want to keep their GS on the road after EV mandates and carbon taxes drive gasoline to even higher price levels, or perhaps out of existence?

It’s hard to say. While the prospect of efuels may be good for closed-circuit competition, the only “alternative” fuel that motorcycle manufacturers seem to be seriously considering for the Average Joe is ethanol-blended fuel, which Honda has already introduced to its small-cc bikes made in Brazil.

However, on its part, BMW does seem to hope for a crossover to street-legal designs with its efuel research. Per BMW, “Our technical objective is for the partially alternative racing fuel, which we use in WorldSBK, to also be usable in a production bike.”

Complete story here: [BMW to Test efuels](#)

Read more about efuels here: [Wikipedia: Electrofuel](#)

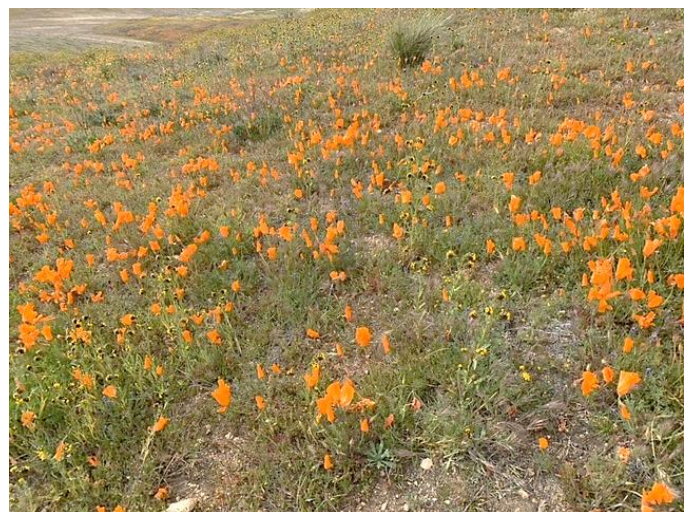


Super Bloom! Pictures by Bob P. and Tanja

Left and below: Bob took these photos on a drive from Highway 58, through Carrizo Plain, and back to Highway 101 via Highway 166. This is a highly recommended loop trip now, while the flower bloom is incredible.



Above and right: Tanja took these photos at the California Poppy Reserve in Antelope Valley.



Tech Day, March 2023

Pictures by Harvey



“Shop talk.” Left to right: Marten, Chuck, Cody and Steve.

Right: Chuck has a big smile for Tech Day!

Below: The scene at Tech Day.



Thanks to Marten for hosting yet another Tech Day!