



# 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 23, Issue 9

September 2023

## Member News and Rides

The August meeting at The Creekside had about 16 attendees.

**Chuck** reported that the new website is still in progress. Once it gets finalized, Club members will be able to add their own biographies, and favorite pictures. The site will be more self-managed for members. There will be a section for Favorite Rides and Routes.

**Deb** and **Phil** attended the Top O' the Rockies Rally in July, in Paonia, CO. Phil reported that it was hot, especially while camping at Monument Valley in Arizona.

**Marilyn** returned from her Midnight Sun and Viking Run tours in Scandinavia and Europe. Her trip report and photos are on Pages 4-7

**Cody** organized a campout at Campo Alto for the weekend of August 24-26. **Steve, Fran, Cody, Chuck, Tanja** and **Dagi** attended, and others. Report and photos are on Page 8.

**Enzo** and **Chuck** rode to Santa Paula for lunch at Rabalais' Bistro. Looks delicious!



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*Campout at Campo Alto. Photo by Chuck.*

## August Discussion: What Do Members Want for the Club?

Right now, as a Club, we have monthly meetings, day rides, and monthly campouts, plus a summer barbecue and Christmas holiday party. Steve wanted to know if there are other activities that members would like to have.

There were several suggestions:

- Having a ride in the morning, then returning to Santa Barbara for lunch, at Michael's and Veronica's, for example (or any other member's house who is willing to host);
- Overnight or multiple night trips, with stays in hotels or alternatively, campsites. Jim mentioned that he had gone to the BMW Los Osos Getaway, in which riders stay in one hotel for several nights and do day rides from there.
- Highway 395 might be a good area to consider for this type of trip. It has hotels, resorts and camping areas and many opportunities for nice day rides.
- More barbecues and/or potlucks with members; for example, having one once a quarter, in addition to the summer barbecue and Christmas holiday party.
- Guest speakers at the monthly meetings; for example, a representative from Caltrans, or a photography or Go-Pro expert.
- Have a calendar on the Club website showing scheduled activities and upcoming events.

Lots of good ideas and possibilities! Oscar will follow up with options for a multiple night trip.

## SB BMW Riders Calendar

- ❖ Monday, September 18: 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.
- ❖ Monday, October 16: 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](mailto:djkrohn1@gmail.com)

## New GS Models for 2024

BMW Motorrad has 3 new GS models: the F 900 GS, F 900 GS Adventure, and F 800 GS. All three bikes have parallel-twin engines, "Rain" and "Road" ride modes, Dynamic Traction Control (DTC), and the dynamic brake light. They also offer an adjustable gear shift lever, and the F 900 GS features a new foot brake lever in a higher position than its predecessor, the F 850 GS.

The F 900 GS has a redesigned plastic fuel tank, which removes almost 10 pounds from its total weight, but the fuel tank holds almost as much as the previous model, at 3.8 gallons. There is an additional 9-pound reduction from the completely re-designed rear section. The luggage carrier was also updated for use with a variety of luggage, soft bags, rucksacks or aluminum cases.

Read more here:

[F900 GS, F900 GS Adventure and F800 GS](#)

## Texas Bans Lane Splitting

If you find yourself on Texas roads, don't lapse into California-style lane splitting!

As of September 1, 2023, Texas has officially banned lane splitting/lane filtering. Prior to this new law, lane splitting was not addressed and it was neither legal nor explicitly illegal. The new law provides an exception for police officers on duty, but that's it.

The new law does give motorcyclists the use of a full lane, and it is legal to ride two abreast in the same lane.

At this point, motorcycle lane sharing is legal in California, Utah, Montana and Arizona. It is being considered in Oregon.

Article here: [Texas outlaws lane splitting](#)



*The best views are from a motorcycle helmet.*

## Upcoming Events

- September 8-10: 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Bavarian Mountain Weekend Rally, Taos, NM. [38th Annual Bavarian Mountain Rally](#)
- October 28-29: Oktoberfest, BMW NorCal, Manchester, CA. [Oktoberfest](#)
- November 1-5: ADV Riders Pahrump Rally, Pahrump, NV. [ADV Riders Pahrump Rally](#)
- November 10-12: Salton Sea Rendezvous, Mecca, CA. [Salton Sea Rendezvous](#)
- June 13-15, 2024: BMW MOA National Rally, Redmond, OR. If you register by December 31, 2023, it is \$79 for members and guests. [BMW 2024 Rally](#)

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## Midnight Sun & Viking Run

### Story and Photos by Marilyn Makepeace

In July/August I spent the better part of 5 weeks traveling by motorcycle in Scandinavia and Europe. I took two trips back-to-back: Midnight Sun (Norway) and Viking Run (Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria for a minute and Germany).

“Viking Run” was designed for the long-distance rider to ride through several countries in 12 days. The ride was mostly flat and straight. We crossed the Great Mountains in Poland (Poland doesn’t have mountains) which was beautiful, and except for the “mountains” there was very little riding challenge aside from historically bad rain and wind.



*Trollstigen Pass*

“Midnight Sun” was my favorite ride. Norway is beautiful and yes, we spent most of our time north of the Arctic Circle in the Land of the Midnight sun. I had twenty-four hours of daylight for 18 days, some of those days on the second trip. We crossed mountains, visited mountain and seaside villages, went whale watching and rode alongside herds of reindeer. Camouflaged in the rocks, reindeer run alongside you and in front of you. I did a slow ride in the midst of a small herd for about 1k as they blocked traffic and ran down the road. Many have bells but these days most have GPS trackers. They are magnificent; I can’t bring myself to eat reindeer stew, steak, or burger. We rode twisties along the coast and big sweeps on the way to Nord Kapp. We encountered rain, wind, mostly cloudy weather, and an occasional sunny day.

In the first three days we rode 4 switchback passes and a few days later we rode Trollstigen Pass. Norwegians love their Trolls and their lore. We crossed mountains from Oslo to the

coast and rode along the fjords, took a ferry to the Lofoten Islands and stayed an extra day in Svolvær.

The ride to Nord Kapp (my second time) was cold and windy in a rocky, barren, arctic landscape. Getting out of Nord Kapp started in cold, dense fog and howling wind. We couldn't see more than a few feet, even in the parking lot. We rode close following lights of the rider in front of us; Jim in front of me so I could see his lights and Mark behind in case I went off

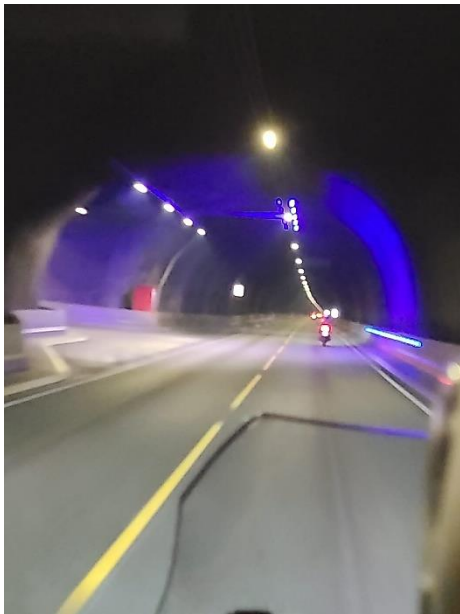
the road so someone would know where to look. I couldn't tell if I was riding in a canyon or on a ridge. After several km the fog dissipated and eventually the wind died down.



*Above: Svolvær, Lofoten Islands.*

*Left: Norwegian Tunnel.*

*Below: Jason's bike and set up in a tunnel.*



The infrastructure in Norway is remarkable. Taking ferries and riding through tunnels were daily events. Some ferries were only a few minutes ride and we waited in line for the next boat while others were an hour or more long and required reservations. Sometimes we hardly got off the bikes before reaching the landing. Tunnels varied in distance from 200 meters to 16k and not all are well lit. Not only did the tunnels go under and through mountains but some go beneath fjords. Occasionally there was a traffic circle deep in the tunnel where GPS is useless. You have to know how to read Norwegian or be behind someone following someone who is following someone else who knows where to go. And it gets cold.



Temps can drop from 16-18 °C to about 8 °C. Throughout the trip we crossed several bridges, one in excessively high wind (45 mph with gusts) and rain. The surface was slick.

On this trip we crossed the Arctic Circle more than once in different locations. Norway does it up big time with a tourist shop and restaurants. On one crossing of the Arctic Circle, we stopped at the Arctic Circle Motorcycle Museum. It's a museum/coffee stop selling coffee and

fresh Norwegian pancakes. On display was a photo of the North Pole Riders with the spiked tires used on that ride in 2017. I was in that group. Back then we stopped in at the museum and told our story to the owner. On this return visit, the museum owner was thrilled to meet a returning North Pole Rider (me) and for a nano second, I was a celebrity. And I got a free Norwegian pancake.



*Left: Marilyn showing the spiked tires from her 2017 ride, and the photo of that group.  
Below: Arctic Circle Motorcycle Museum.*



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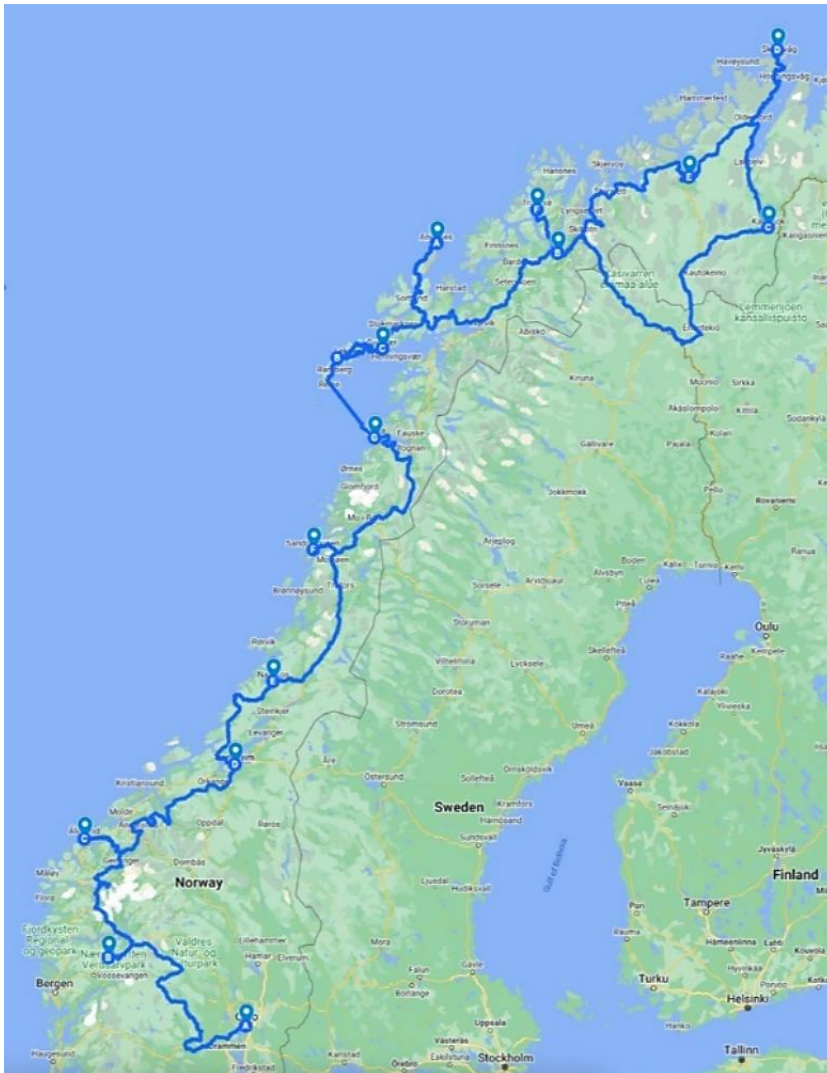
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*Above left: Fjord views.*

*Above right: Midnight sun.*

*Left: Norway route.*



## Campo Alto Campout Report and Photos by Chuck Beatty

Campo Alto is a beautiful place, near Mt Pinos, at ~8200'. Steve, Fran, Dagi, Tanja, Cody, and Chuck from SBBMW Riders as well as AirHead riders: David, Jeff, Steve, John, Greg, Nick, Bill, and Peter were there. Clear air, amazing sunsets, great people, nice days and cool nights.

Cody set up his kitchen and provided really great meals Friday and Saturday evenings. He made the event a huge success.

Cody and David brought their telescopes and shared amazing views of sunspots, the moon, stars and some distant nebulae. So much to learn about our universe when you see it like that! It's amazing what you can learn at a motorcycle campout!

