



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 24, Issue 2

February 2024

Member News and Rides

The January meeting at the Creekside (no rain!) had about 22 attendees.

The first order of business was the presentation of the Club Gavel. **Oscar** had suggested getting a gavel as presentation for outgoing Club Presidents, or as an ongoing tradition to pass on to the next President. **Lee C.** helped manufacture a gavel, made out of a piston with an airhead valve cover as a sound block, decorated with a roundel. The gavel was presented to President Steve.

The Club presented a check to **Michael** and **Veronica**, as thanks to Michael for all of his hard work on the updated and greatly improved Club website, and also as a gift towards their honeymoon trip. Have a great time, Michael and Veronica!

Chuck passed around a Club binder with old newsletters and a list of past Club presidents. Then it was time to discuss nominations for the Board of Directors for the Club. The nominations are:

- President: Steve Miller
- Vice-President: Cody Cook
- Treasurer: Chuck Beattie
- Secretary/Newsletter Editor: Diane Krohn
- Webmaster: Michael Kramer
- Ambassadors (formerly Members-at-Large): Oscar Zavala, Bob Phinney, and John Alexander.

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Cody attended the Airheads Rally in Agua Caliente (Julian) and on one of the days, rode to Mexico for tacos. Why not?

Steve rode to NIRA and mentioned that everything was blooming already. The road may not be open after this week's rains, though...

Bob proposed a ride to see the elephant seals at San Simeon; ride report is on Page 4.

Chuck took a head count of how many plan to attend the BMW MOA National Rally in Redmond, OR, and it looks like we have at least 8 people attending.

Technical Topic: More on Riding in the Rain

Steve asked for comments on his “Riding in the Rain” article that was in the January newsletter. Everyone agreed that it was a well-written and informative article.

Additional comments included some stories about rain riding. Diane had a story about a surprisingly pleasant ride in the rain in upstate New York, with little traffic and light rain (but, she was a passenger—Wayne might not have thought it was so great!). Others reiterated about watching for diesel spills, but fortunately, it seems that very few of us have actually experienced that, although Steve did have a story of witnessing a rider going down from a diesel spill.

If it’s a heavy rain, or an all-day rain, we’ve found that even with rain gear, water can sometimes get into our inner layers, or our boots. Or places where the seams aren’t sealed.

The big question that always comes up when it starts to rain is: do you stop and put on your rain gear, or do you hope that it’s just a brief shower? It’s likely many of us have gotten soaked before we got the rain gear on, about as many of us who have gotten overcooked in the rain gear after putting it on and finding that the storm lasted 5 minutes. It will always be a conundrum of travel on a motorcycle.

SB BMW Riders Calendar

- ❖ Saturday, February 24: Holiday Party! It was delayed from December, but it’s on now! From 12 noon to 4 p.m. Details on Page 2, below.
- ❖ Monday, March 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.
- ❖ Any other activities or rides scheduled, let me know! djkrohn1@gmail.com

Holiday Party!

What holiday? Well, our postponed holiday party that was supposed to happen in December. So now it’s **Saturday, February 24**, from 12 noon to about 4 p.m. It will be at Wayne and Diane’s house, 180 Nogal Drive, Santa Barbara, CA, about two blocks away from the Creekside Restaurant.

The Club will provide a ham and plates, glasses, tableware, water and non-alcoholic beverages. Members are asked to bring a potluck dish to share. You may also bring beverages of your choice.

We will have our White Elephant gift exchange, too! Bring a wrapped (Christmas wrapping paper is encouraged) gift of no more than about \$25 value. Think motorcycle-, camping- or travel-related. Of course, random items have also shown up at times.

Watch for emails to follow with parking details and information. We hope to see everyone there!

Barber Collection at the Petersen Museum

“Around the World on Two Wheels”

The Peterson Automotive Museum currently has several historical motorcycles on loan from the Barber Vintage Motosport Museum, located in Birmingham, AL. Only a small fraction of Barber’s 1800 motorcycles is on display at the Petersen Museum, but a diverse collection is presented and includes a pair of 100-year-old bikes, a Harley and an Excelsior.

The motorcycle display will be at the Petersen Museum until March 2, 2024. The museum is located at 6060 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles. It is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

[Petersen Barber Collection](#)



Above: A custom Triumph, one of the motorcycles on display at the Petersen Museum.

Photo by Justin Hughes.

Upcoming Events

- March 7-10: Airheads Death Valley Rendezvous, Furnace Creek Campground, Death Valley, CA. [Death Valley Rendezvous](#)
- March 20-24: ADV Rider 2024 Death Valley Noobs Rider Rally, Panamint Springs, CA. [ADV Rider Death Valley Rally](#)
- March 21-25: NorCal BMW Club Death Valley Campout, Furnace Creek, Death Valley, CA. Registration will open approximately 30 days before the campout. [Death Valley Campout](#)
- May 23-27: 2024 49er Rally, Mariposa, CA. [2024 49er Rally](#)
- June 13-15: BMW MOA National Rally, Redmond, OR. [BMW 2024 Rally](#).
- July 18-21: 52nd Annual Top O' the Rockies Rally, Paonia, CO. [52nd Annual Top O' the Rockies Rally](#)

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Now closed on Sunday and Monday
Open Tuesday- Friday, 8 a.m. to 6p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

January Ride to See the Seals

By Bob Phinney

It looked cold; rain was forecast; why go on a ride?

Because.

So, on Friday, January 19, five of us, Steve Miller, Lee Schumacher, Eddie Vertucci, Oscar Zavala, and Bob Phinney headed out to the Piedras Blancas Elephant Seal rookery knowing that some seals were birthing and others were mating.



At Los Olivos, Phil Wilson and Bill Ziegler joined us. We decide to take Foxen Canyon/Bettervia Road(s) to Highway 101. From there we would get off 101 at the Avila Beach exit and take See Canyon Road up and over onto Prefumo Canyon Road and on to the Chevron Station at Highway 1 and Highway 41 in Morro Bay. Waiting for us was Nicholas Rountree, who enjoys a GS and knows many of us through our campsouts.

We scooted up Highway 1 to the overlook at Piedras Blancas to take in the cacophony of the hundreds of elephant seals. There are two webcams set on the rookery if you are interested. It was joyful to notice that some of us grandfathers enjoyed watching the natural spectacle.

Temperature: low 60's/ threatening rain but dry enough.

After a good hearty lunch at Cambria's Main Street Café, Steve and Nicholas headed out to Santa Rosa Creek Road/Old Creek Road, while the others, not enjoying the sporadic sprinkles/light rain took the highway route home.

Total 8.5 hours door to door, 315 miles.

*Photos: Top left: Two males having a discussion.
Bottom right: The seal-filled beach.*



Photos taken by Wayne, February 2022.

Tire Leaks and Fixes

Photos and Story By Chuck Beattie

Recently, I had a leaky rear tire on my 1200 GSA. It vexed me because it was a slow leak that tended to be variable and hard to find. Club members suggested soapy water, putting in a new valve stem, etc. all of which I tried. Being a slow leak, it wasn't very obvious initially but as time wore on the soapy stuff showed a tiny leak at the base of the valve stem. Aha!

I mentioned my problem in passing at the January meeting and that I was planning to take the bike to a shop and have the experts put in a new stem. John Alexander said for me to come over to his house and he would show me how to take the tire off and do the job! What an offer, as I have a lot to learn! We scheduled a time, looking for a sunny day to warm the tire. John knows his stuff, having done many tire changes on a variety of different bikes and has all the right tools - Bead breaker tool, tire irons, rim protectors, specially crafted wood blocks, speed wrenches, knee pads, tire bead soap, rags, a great location, a great attitude and more.



↑
1. Take the wheel off.



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2. Warm it in the sun - both sides.



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3. Check out the new right angle valve stems - looking good and I was looking forward to less hassle when airing up the tires.



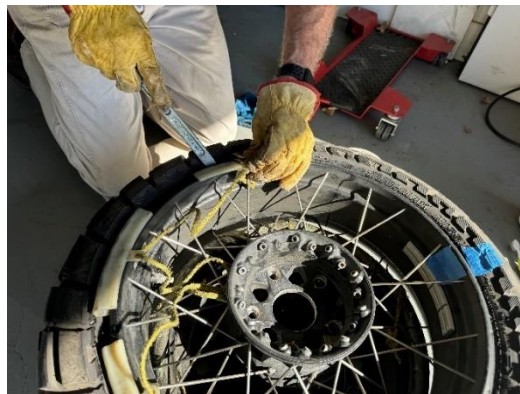
4. Break the bead - it's a chore.



5. Greet John T. and share some Scottish stories.



6. Mark the tire and rim location to match later for maintaining tire balance.



7. Wear gloves and leave one side of the tire off the rim using rim protectors.

8. Discover that the pressure sensor is integrated with the original valve stem (I should have known...).

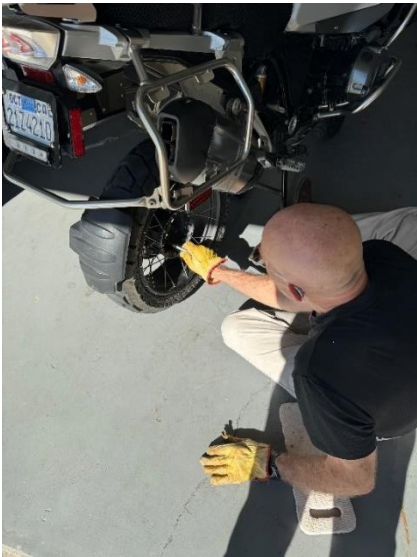
9. Also discover the likely cause of the leak is a beat up "O" ring at the base of the original valve stem.

10. Take an "O" ring from a new valve stem, put it on the original stem, mount it back on the wheel rim, keeping the pressure monitor.



←11. Mount the tire back on the rim, matching the balance marking tape. Note the wood blocks being used to keep the tire from creeping off the rim.

12. Air up the tire to set the bead



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13. Mount the tire on the bike.

←14. Torque the wheel bolts to proper tightness - look up the value online.

15. Thank John profusely for his help and teaching moments.



16. Check tire pressure a few days later to confirm no ongoing leak.

17. Confirmed!

