



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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Member News and Rides

Our February meeting was the delayed Holiday party, held at Wayne and Diane's house. About 26 people attended, and we had delicious food, good conversation and a beautiful, sunny day. In addition, we were able to have the White Elephant gift exchange which always has surprises. Photos are on Page 8.

Board nominations were discussed at the January meeting, so we had the election as part of the party in February. The results of the election 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.

Chuck test drove a 2020 R1250 GSA, and, guess what, he bought it! So then he needed to sell his 2015 R1200 GSA, and **Raoul** bought it. Now Raoul's 2015 F700 GS is for sale. Dave B. also has his 2015 R1200 GS for sale.

Marilyn is riding in India. Her group will be riding over 6,000 km in 6 states in India. We will be looking forward to hearing her stories!

Chuck is planning to get a dedicated camping spot at the BMW MOA National Rally at Redmond, WA. Around 10 members are expected to attend.

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Spring Tech Day, March 30

Marten is once again hosting a Spring Tech Day, Saturday, March 30.

Location: 516 Palm Avenue, Carpinteria, CA.

Bring your projects, questions and your friends.

For more information, contact Marten at 805.455.0135 or email: marten@cox.net

Northern California Backcountry Discovery Route

Backcountry Discovery Routes (BDR) has a new addition to its collection, the Northern California BDR. This route is nine sections covering 940 miles.

The northern route begins in Mammoth Lakes at Minaret Vista, an elevation of 9,265 feet. Most, if not all, of the route is more than a mile above sea level. It has optional advanced routes through the largest Jeffrey pine forest in the world, a second one around Obsidian Dome, and another with a technical water crossing with slick boulders. You can bypass any or all of these by sticking to the main route.

Other highlights of the route include Mount Patterson, the highest point of the route at 11,673 feet with a loose, rocky climb to get there with steep drop-offs. The paved sections are also great: Highway 89 goes over Monitor Pass at 8,314 feet to Highway 4, crossing Ebbets Pass at 9,186 feet to Bear Valley at the end of Section 2 (Bridgeport to Bear Valley).

The route goes along the Mokelumne River before crossing the Bear River Reservoir dam. An optional side trip takes you to the Leek Springs Hill Lookout Tower at 7,621 feet before continuing down the Mormon Emigrant Trail.

SB BMW Riders Calendar

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Saturday, March 30: Spring Tech Day, Carpinteria. See Page 1 for details.
- ❖ Monday, April 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

After leaving Kyburz, the route is on part of the Pony Express trail. A combination of paved, dirt, and two-track roads take you over Donner Pass. The last town in California is Alturas, 39 miles from the Oregon border.

With the addition of the Northern California BDR, you could ride all the way from the Mexican border to the Canadian Border on BDR routes.

The BDR site has information regarding each section, the distance, optional routes, lodging, camping, food, fuel and Discovery Points (geological, historical and otherwise interesting places to visit).

[Northern California BDR](#)

[NorCal BDR trailer](#)

247 Airhead Podcast

This series of podcasts, which has episodes every two weeks, features interviews with independent mechanics, product developers and aficionados of the classic airhead BMW motorcycles, produced from 1970 to 1995.

The episodes are free to tune into via Apple Podcasts or SoundCloud or other podcast purveyors. The host is Daren Dortin.

The podcast is all about classic BMWs with the air-cooled 247-series engine, but since the insiders interviewed are enthusiasts, chances are you'll hear some talk about other bikes. As host Dortin says, "Even if you're not an airhead fan, there's some great motorcycle conversation and knowledge packed in each episode."

Here's an interview with Ted Porter, from Ted Porter's Beemer Shop: [247 podcast Ted Porter](#)



Upcoming Events

- 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](#).
- June 20-23: 44th Chief Joseph Rally, John Day, OR. [44th Chief Joseph 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.

¡Viva Cuba!

By Diane

Photos by Wayne

Warning: Very little motorcycle content, but should be of interest to travelers and adventurers.

Traveling to Cuba, for American citizens, is not quite as simple as going to many other foreign countries, but it's not that hard, either. Wayne and I signed up for a Cuban tour through OARS, an outdoor adventure company and one that we usually use for river rafting trips. This made it easy for us to figure out what documentation, visas and insurance we needed for the trip, and they provided bilingual tour guides, itineraries and reservations for the *casa particulars* (private guesthouses or hostels) for our group.

You can't just travel to Cuba as a "tourist"; as a US citizen, you must declare a travel category when you book flights and lodging. If you go with a travel company, they will provide the travel category. There are twelve categories of authorized Cuba travel, including educational activities, academic research, public performances, and humanitarian projects. Our trip was under the Support for the Cuban People category. This meant that we stayed at private guesthouses, ate at private restaurants, went to private homes and visited private businesses and museums. As US citizens, we were not allowed to support government-owned hotels, restaurants or other businesses.

We flew directly to Havana from Miami (several US airlines have direct flights), and met up with our guides. We stayed at a hostel in Old Havana and spent the next few days touring around the area.

We noticed that there were many electric motorcycles and bicycles in Havana, and, of course, many American cars from the 1950's. Old Soviet Ladas were also common. The old American cars tended to be either in excellent shape, or in pretty bad shape. Once you get out of the cities, horse-drawn wagons and carts are very common.



Right: Typical street scene in Old Havana.

One business that we visited in Havana was NostalgCars. The owner restores old American cars and provides tour service. We got a ride in a 1958 Chevy BelAir, named Benito.

Right: Benito, the 1958 Chevy BelAir, at NostalgCars..



We toured a neighborhood on the outskirts of Havana, home to native Cuban artist Jose Rodriquez Fuster. He and his helpers have created a neighborhood full of public art, called Fusterlandia, by decorating the houses and walls with tiled murals.



Above: Decorated house and walls at Fusterlandia.

From Havana, we traveled to the Vinales Valley for a visit to a farm. The owner Joseph Antonio, grows tobacco, coffee, yuca, and sweet potatoes, and also raises pigs and chickens. We were treated to an amazing lunch, with the food all grown on the farm—including barbecued pork! After lunch, Sr. Antonio talked about how he cures the tobacco for the cigars, and then he demonstrated how he rolls the cigars. Cuban cigars can not be brought in the US, but they can be smoked on-site! A couple of the cigar aficionados in our group said the cigars were the best they had ever had.

Right: Sr. Antonio demonstrates cigar rolling.



We continued on our travels, stopping at Playa Larga, located at the Bahia de Cochinos, the infamous Bay of Pigs. Here we snorkeled in clear, warm water and enjoyed scenic beaches. We also snorkeled in a cenote, a natural sinkhole.

Wayne unluckily caught Covid right at the end of the trip, so we headed back to Havana and the rest of the group continued to Cojimar, the town that inspired Ernest Hemingway's novel, *The Old Man and the Sea*.



Above: The beach at Playa Larga at the Bay of Pigs.

Despite getting sick, this was a great trip! The Cuban people are friendly to Americans, the private hostels are comfortable, and the food was outstanding--something we did not expect (although food for tourists is definitely better than the Cubans typically get, unfortunately). The island is beautiful, with typical tropical weather. We went in November, when the temperatures were moderate. Summer is probably best avoided due to the heat.

There are motorcycle tours offered in Cuba, but you must be sure that they are "US legal." Cuba is worthy of consideration for a trip, with or without a motorcycle, even though you cannot bring back cigars or rum. Coffee, though, is legal to bring back. And I learned how to make Cuba Libres!

Cuba Libre: 2 oz rum, freshly-squeezed juice from 1 lime, 4 oz cola, lots of ice! Best enjoyed while sitting overlooking a beach.



Left: Beautiful Colonial architecture was all around, as well as many buildings that were falling apart due to neglect.

Transportation Modes in Cuba



Clockwise, starting from top left: A motorized trike; Detroit iron; ox cart –yes, we rode in it! Coco taxis, 3-wheeled vehicles with 2-cycle engines; deluxe, 4-wheel horse-drawn wagon; motorcycle with side-car, probably Indian-made; policeman with Suzuki motorcycle.



Holiday Party Photos by Chuck

Our Holiday Party was delayed from December, but we had a great day in February for it. Photos, clockwise: Pippa and Enzo check out the food; the various tasty offerings for our party; President Steve talks about the Board elections; Cody wearing the appropriate headgear and attire for a Holiday Party!

