



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

We had a good turnout at the September meeting, with about 25 attendees, including a couple of new members/visitors.

Oscar talked about the Sierra Passes ride; see pictures and write-ups about it on Pages 4-7 and Page 8.

There may be a camping event in the first part of November, but details have not been determined yet.

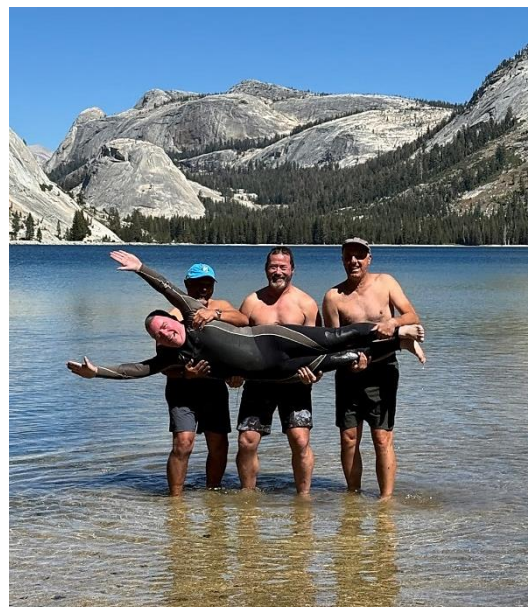
Club Ride and BBQ! Saturday, October 26

For the Club autumn event, there will be a morning ride, starting at 10 a.m. and ending around 2 p.m., followed by a barbeque at Michael's and Veronica's home, 2634 Hacienda Way, Santa Barbara. A head count will be needed so that the Club can buy the right amount of supplies and barbeque food. Members are asked to bring a side dish if they can. To help with costs, we will charge a \$10 fee. More details to come later at our regular meeting, October 21st.

Right: The guys catch an Eddie at Lake Tenaya! They were pretty sure that he was regulation size. Photo by Enzo.

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Technical Topic: Riding with Safety Margins

Steve asked: How do you determine your safety margins? He had experienced an exciting moment on Foxen Canyon Road (sand in a corner), but no harm, no foul, because he rides with enough safety margin.

John A. said that he had a crash on Jalama Road, where the road takes that 90° turn, so for his safety margin, he thinks about what could go wrong on every turn.

Diane mentioned listening to that little voice in your head, when you perhaps know that you are pushing your limits and need to slow down, or ride more cautiously.

Oscar feels that he warms up as he rides. He likes the idea of thinking, "What's around the corner?" Several members mentioned that track days are good, because you can push your limits in a safe environment.

Chuck mentioned tire grip. He watched an extremely competent fellow at the MOA National Rally demonstrate tire grip (traction). At 0 mph, there is 100% traction, but as speed increases, traction decreases.

Chuck has also shared information and links about tire traction and riding competency. The 100 points of grip video lessons are done by the person who was demonstrating tire

SB BMW Riders Calendar

- ❖ Monday, October 21: Monthly meeting at Creekside Restaurant & Bar, 4444 Hollister Ave., Santa Barbara. Meeting starts at 6:00 p.m. Get there at 5:30 if you want to order dinner.
- ❖ Saturday, October 26: Morning Ride and then a BBQ at Michael's and Veronica's home, 2634 Hacienda Way, Santa Barbara. See details on Page 1.
- ❖ Monday, November 18: Monthly meeting at Creekside Restaurant & Bar, 4444 Hollister Ave., Santa Barbara. Meeting starts at 6:00 p.m. Get there at 5:30 if you want to order dinner.
- ❖ Saturday, December 14: Annual Christmas Holiday party. Details TBA.
- ❖ Any other activities or rides scheduled, let me know! djkrohn1@gmail.com

grip, and he talks about trail braking as a key component of this 100 Points of Grip concept. Chuck has started the online lessons and has found them to be really good. The video is at this link: [100 Points of Grip](#)

Another video with online lessons that Chuck has found to be good: [Ride Like a Champion](#). Note: The Champions riding school has both in-person training and online training. There is an in-person training at Willow Springs Raceway, Rosamund, CA, on November 2 and 3. [Ride Like a Champion School Willow Springs](#)

Apps for Wildfires

As we travel around western states and wildfires become more prevalent, having an app to let you know about the existence and boundaries of wildfires is a useful tool. Several apps are available for this.

CalTopo has different layers for maps and has a fire activity overlay which combines data from 4 main sources: three satellite platforms, MODIS, VIIRS, and GOES, and the National Interagency Fire Center. [CalTopo Fire](#)

onX makes GPS mapping apps mainly for hunters, as they help sort out property lines and other useful map data. Now they have added an app for wildfire information. [onX Maps](#)

Watch Duty is a newer app. You can subscribe by county to get more targeted information. It listens to firefighters radio communications to get information in real time.

[Watch Duty](#)



Upcoming Events

- October 23-27: ADV Pahrump Rally, Pahrump, NV. This is the 10th year! [ADV Pahrump Rally](#)
- October 26-27: BMW NorCal Octoberfest, Manchester, CA. [Octoberfest](#)
- November 7-11: Airheads Salton Sea Rendezvous, Mecca, CA. [Salton Sea Rendezvous](#)
- December 7-8: BMW NorCal campout at Salt Point, CA. [Salt Point Campout](#)
- March 27-30, 2025: BMW NorCal Death Valley campout, Furnace Creek, Death Valley. [Death Valley Campout](#)

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The 3-Passes Bucket List Ride

By Oscar Zavala

Photos by Oscar, Enzo and Wayne

Inspired by the notion to do an overnight ride without the need to pack a tent and bag, the Three Passes ride was conceived! Scheduled after Labor Day, when summer was on the wane, and before any cold fronts could arrive, the timing was perfect! After considerable debate and discussion of which passes were prettier or had more sweeps and curves, and where and when to stay, I took the lead to get people together and organize a ride through the Sierra's Tioga Pass, Sonora Pass and Monitor/Ebbetts Pass.

Never having ridden the passes, I reached out to several club members such as Lee H., Chuck B., Bob P., Steve M. and others for info. As the plan came together, Tony Arnold offered his place in Santa Ynez for a final planning session where Kevin H., Juergen M., Bob, Eddie and I huddled up over coffee and rolls and solidified the dates and routes. Although Bob and Eddie were not planning to ride, their experiential input was invaluable! Decisions were made and shared and soon all the riders were checking their bikes and prepping their gear for this 3- to 4-night adventure.



Above, L to R: Robert, John, Juergen, Kevin, Tony, Diane, Wayne, Jim, Enzo, Chuck and Oscar. Photo by Enzo.

When the start day arrived, the following were ready to go: Oscar - R1200RT, Enzo-1300GS, Jim Schmidt (who rode down from the Bay area)-R1200RT, Kevin -Suzuki-VSTROM 900, Juergen-GS750, Tony -R1200R, John B.-GS1300 and Eddie -R1200RT. And, for support, we had Wayne and Diane in their beautiful convertible sports car! On our ride out, Chuck and Robert Crego provided a much-appreciated sendoff escort.

Beginning in Montecito and led by Enzo, we headed east on Highway 126 toward Highway 14 via San Francisquito Canyon Road- a scenic canyon ride to Lake Elizabeth. As we rode, the group adhering to several group riding basics, rode in impressive formation throughout the trip and clearly the envy of lesser men driving by in their cars and trucks.

A brown bag lunch under some shade trees at a Highway 395 rest stop provided us a much-needed break from the winds and monotony of Highways 14 and 395. North on Highway 395, Tony, John, Juergen, Kevin and I stopped and visited the Lone Pine Film Museum

followed by a fun ride through the rocky Alabama Hills and up along the Whitney Portal Road to the top. An absolutely beautiful spot in a pine forest with running waterfalls!

A pool swim followed by dinner in Bishop helped get us all together. Unfortunately, Kevin was distracted by having issues with his chain and in need of repair. Luckily, he located a motorcycle mechanic who had the right chain and fixed it first thing in the morning, much to the relief of us all but especially Kevin!



Right: On the road to Whitney Portal. Photo by Enzo.

Eddie, who out of the blue and much to the joy of all, showed up in Bishop on his R1200RT! On the second day, he led the group on a very isolated side road out of Bishop, Highway 6, which then connected to Highway 120 just south of Mono Lake. Lots of sweeping curves and open country- truly serene and expansive.



Above: Lunch at the Mountainview BBQ, in Walker, on Highway 395. John, Oscar, Juergen, Wayne, Diane and Jim. Photo by Enzo.

Right: Stop along Tioga Pass, Olmsted Point. L to R: Kevin, John, Eddie and Oscar. Photo courtesy Oscar.

We soon entered Yosemite via Tioga Pass and enjoyed its profound beauty. After a swim in Lake Tenaya, Jim, Enzo, Tony, Wayne and Diane headed off along various points toward Sonora. Eddie led Juergen, John, Kevin and me to Olmsted overlook, then down into the Valley floor and eventually to Sonora. After a long day and late dinner, the group retired.



On the 3rd day, the riders rode up Sonora pass. After riding through lots of small villages along the way --Twain Heart, Pinecrest, and Mi-Wuk Village - the traffic thinned, and the road soon got fun with lots of curves and sweeps! Under blue and cloudless skies, and with little traffic, we had a fabulous ride though Kennedy Meadows and the Dardanelles! Impressive how Wayne and Diane, throughout the entire trip, managed to always be in our rear-view mirrors, hanging tight with us all! It was obvious from their wide grins that they were having as much fun in the topless as the riders were having on their bikes!



Right: A stop along Sonora Pass. Front row: Enzo and Oscar. Back row: Kevin, Jim, Wayne, Diane, Juergen and John. Photo courtesy Oscar.

After a quick lunch break on Highway 395, we headed north to Highway 89-Monitor Pass west which tees into Highway 4-Ebbetts pass. Caught behind a slow large tractor, John and Kevin soon got out front and were gone. I then led the remaining group up through miles of technical riding!

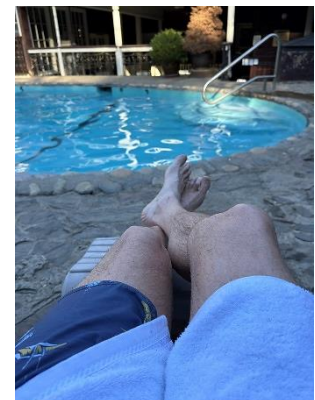
Using my Sena Comm device, and learning from Enzo on the Sonora pass, I was able to advise the other riders of approaching sharp 2nd-gear left or 1st-gear right turns or announce oncoming vehicles! This is clearly one great advantage of having comm with other riders as the road was narrow and rough and communication helped prevent any possible issues. We all met up again and took a break at Bear Valley, where we met some Backcountry Discovery Route (BDR) riders. We then headed west, down the mountain and into the foothills, back to Sonora along some nice open roads with wide sweeps.



Left: Ice cream break at Bear Valley. L to R: Kevin, Oscar, Wayne, Diane, Jim.

Right: Relaxing at the pool in Sonora. Those are Enzo's legs.

Photos by Enzo.





Left: We chatted with these riders stopped at Bear Valley. They were riding the Northern California BDR, one of the tougher sections. There were two big GS's in the group's bikes, above. Photos by Wayne.

With regard to the argument of which pass is best, Tioga, Sonora and Ebbetts passes are all very special and unique, offering, in its own way, each rider something special. But each pass does demand riders to be alert and loose, and "one" with their bike. All the passes are beautiful and impressive and truly worth the time and energy to explore, ride and revel in the adventure!

That final evening, we celebrated our hard-earned accomplishment, thankful that there were no mechanical issues or worse. We shared our favorite moments, handed out awards including a beautiful and unique sticker that Enzo created and will be proudly displayed by all of us! Many thanks to all who supported the adventure and lived vicariously through us. Next year, let's head to the Cascades!



Favorite Moments from the Sierra Passes Ride

Jim S.: “Second gear right” ... “First gear left!” ... “Bicycle on the right.” LOVED the 10-second very concise “look-ahead” in the mountain twisties.

And of course, sitting at the bar at The Armory, “I’m in the band and I want your olives.” Perhaps something spicier was whispered in Enzo’s ear but we may never really know.

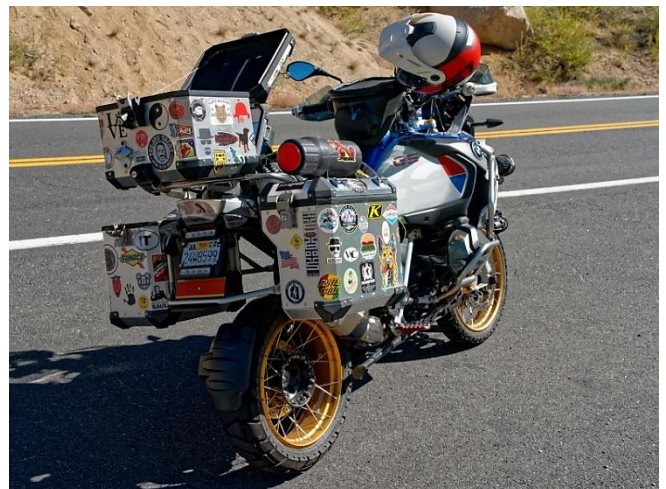
Enzo: The sound of my radar detector screaming at me to slow down.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nb4l9Y0-rfg>

Diane:

- The section of Highway 120 that goes by Mono Lake. Kudos to Eddie for suggesting that route (Highway 6 north out of Bishop, then west on Highway 120 to Highway 395).
- Everyone's smiles and looks of relief, especially Kevin's, when Kevin returned with a new chain on his bike.
- Beautiful scenery on Sonora Pass (well, every pass actually).

Juergen: I especially liked:

- The refreshing swim in Tenaya Lake with the beautiful scenery.
- The curvy road of Ebbetts Pass.



Above: Tenaya Lake, along Highway 120, Tioga Pass.

Right: Enzo's well-stickered bike.

Photos by Enzo.

SB BMW Riders Represent in Munich

It's important that we have our Club representation in Germany, home of BMW! Cody brought something to represent our Club on a recent trip to Munich.



The museum is the BMW Corporate museum and opened in 1973, shortly after the 1972 Summer Olympics opened. From 2004 to 2008, it was renovated in connection with the construction of the BMW Welt, located opposite the museum. The Welt is a combined exhibition, adventure museum and event venue.

The domed museum exhibition space is currently 5,000 square meters for the presentation of about 120 exhibits. It was designed by Viennese professor Karl Schwanzer and is known as “the salad bowl” or “white cauldron.”

Above: Cody with our SB BMW Riders banner, Munich, Germany, September 2024. The domed museum is to the right of the towers. Photo courtesy Cody.

Right: Diane and friend Lucia trying out the K1200 LT at the BMW museum, May 2002. Little did I know at the time that we would be members of the SB BMW Riders! Photo by Wayne.

