

August 2009

# SANTA BARBARA BMW RIDERS, INC.

[www.sbbmwriders.org](http://www.sbbmwriders.org)



"Will bike for Hamachi"



SBBMWRiders meet every 3rd Monday of the month at Sizzler @ 5555 Hollister Avenue in Goleta (Hollister & Kellogg) Dinner is around 6:00 PM and the meeting starts around 7:30.

**Next meeting: August 17th.**

**Mr. Chen**  
**Ed's Turn**  
**Blake's Tips**  
**Tony's Ride**

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**Pg 2-3**

## Ed's Turn

Is it that time already? It sure goes by quickly. I had to sit and think of what I did this last month since the last newsletter. Now I remember. I put up a second carport on the other side of the barn and I cobbled an old Transalp into something modern. Now the barn looks like it has wings and the TA took the place of the XR650R. Yes, it has the magic button. A friend and I are planning to attend this year's Big Dog ride. I'm taking the Africa Twin and the Transalp is the spare. He's taking his G650X Challenger and HP2. Maybe there will be a write-up next month. Maybe. Jim.



## BLAKE'S TIPS

Be careful about changing your mind on the road. Once you commit to a move, or a lane change, if you decide against it, then be careful undoing what you did. People expect certain actions on the road, and if you change lanes, or enter a turn lane, someone may decide that you are going that way and take the space you vacated. If you try to get back to where you were you may catch them off-guard. Remember, it is always better to follow through with a safe mistake then to get run over trying to undo it.

- Blake

## Tony's Lonely Ride (part two)

I spent last night (June 3, 09) camping at the Colorado River State Park near Grand Junction, CO. Sleeping in a tent is most excellent, thoroughly refreshing. Today I'll head towards Rocky Mountain National Park. The direct route, mainly interstate over the Rocky Mtns is 299 miles. Nope. I can ride the two-lanes, cross several passes, and keep the day's mileage at 415.

The first run of the day is on the two-lane highways south out of Grand Junction; 50 – 92 – 133, nothing spectacular, simply riding the high plains. I'm skipping the climb over Grand Mesa this trip as the rain/snow that fell there last night is probably ice this morning. For a few miles Hwy 133 winds through a steep gorge that is coal mining country. There are big conveyor belts that carry the coal from one side of the canyon to the other, high over the highway. The small homes are right on the roadway, with a creek at the backyard, very West Virginia. Soon I'm up in the timberlands of the Rocky Mountains. I sail through the sweepers and climb over McClure Pass towards Carbondale (note sky). Great fun.



At Carbondale I take a right on Hwy 82. About twenty miles later I run into a few raindrops and take note of the dark clouds dead ahead. I put the raingear on, ride through a shower at Aspen, and on up to Independence Pass. The last few miles before the pass are

ridden in snow/sleet/wind. No problem, the bike affords good protection, and the gear takes care of the rest. I have to stop at the top because of the conditions. What a kick. I've never ridden in a snowstorm before. The helmet never comes off until the precipitation stops. I stay warm and dry. In about ten minutes the weather dries and I spend about an hour up there having lunch and swapping stories with another rider that pulled in just after I did, as well as talking to other people strolling the paths of the viewpoint. These squalls make for such a spectacular sky, so much better



than mundane clear and sunny. Here's the storm leaving and the way down

The next shower coming in.



I get some rain before Leadville, but not massive amounts.



There is no choice but to ride I70 for about twelve miles, after which it's exit right at Dillon. Loveland Pass (Hwy 6) is a nice; wonderful is a better word, twenty mile detour around the tunnel on I70. More snow squalls arrive just before the crest and linger a few minutes more after I stop the bike. They only add to the festive atmosphere for the people at the top that are thoroughly enjoying the scenery and weather at 12,000'. This is the way I'll be riding next.

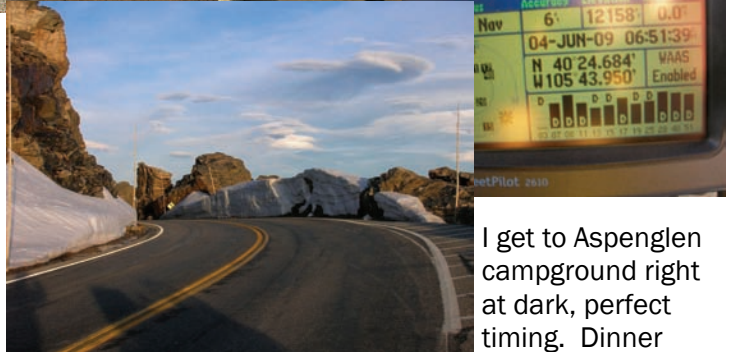
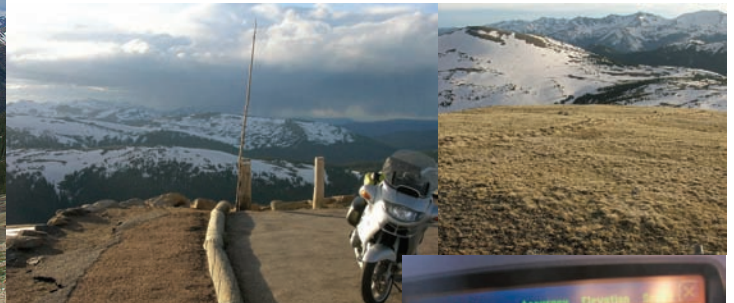
Here is the way up and the snow squall that left not long after I arrived.



A little more on I70 then a good ride over Berthoud Pass via Hwy 40. All right, I'm further than Alan and I got back in 2003; Rocky Mtn Park is not far now. The campground on the western side on Rocky Mtn Park is closed (bark beetle eradication) so I ride over the Trail Ridge Road to the next place to camp. It is a fantastic ride, especially with the current weather conditions and the dusk lighting. I took almost two hours to make the trek as I stop so much. The pictures don't adequately show the 38 degrees and wind (+12,000'). No problem, I just don't take the helmet or gloves off when I stop and wander. Most of the people that stop in their cars simply roll down their windows, snap a picture, and leave. The ecosystem is subalpine arctic tundra, quite interesting.



Big mountain, little bike.



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I get to Aspenglen campground right at dark, perfect timing. Dinner preparation by headlamp means no wasted daylight. What a day. I've never enjoyed riding more than the past several hours.

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