



Next Club Dinner Meeting = Monday March 21, Goleta Sizzler's, 6 PM dinner, 7:30 meeting
Non-member BMW owners welcome for a spot of Middle-American *haute cuisine*

March 2011 SBBMW Riders Newsletter ————— Editor = A. E. Keir Nash at acknash@gmail.com

Is This an SBBMW Rider Losing Her Bike over Cliff On Pikes Peak?



Descending Pike's Peak on a motorcycle while feeling exhilarated by discovering that it was a *woman* professor (Katherine Lee Bates of Wellesley) who had written *America the Beautiful* on descending the same peak 118 years earlier on a horse, a Santa Barbara BMW Riders Club member may be seen here take curve too **fast**, lose bike over cliff, and fly **big fast** through air to *karma* in China.

Editor's Comment. There is something wrong with the syntax near the end of the caption. As BMW riders, let us see if the meaning comes out more clearly if we use formal (Martin-Luther-created) German word-order in an English sentence. Rather as if we were speaking to our bikes. Much as Prussia's Frederick the Great, who spoke French in court, Italian to his mistress, and German to his horse.

The relevant German sentence rules are: (1) the main verb is the second element of an independent clause but verbs come last in a dependent clause; (2) in an independent clause with a compound verb of more than one word (e.g., "may be seen" above) the first word of the verb comes second in the clause and the rest of it -- participle and/or infinitive -- comes at the end. Simple. THUS:

"On a motorcycle Pike's Peak [while by that a *woman* professor (Katherine Bates of Wellesley) who on a horse on the same peak 118 years ago *America the Beautiful* descending, written had, discovering, exhilarated feeling was] too fast descending and too fast a curve taking, may an SBBMW Riders Club member her bike over a cliff losing & through the air very fast to *karma* in China flying seen be."

Clearer, to all Bavarians, at least as to meaning, though not as to truth. Anyhow, does not all that explain why Bavarian Motor Works machines are intricately designed -- just like German sentences? Both the paralever and acceleration lag on throttle-twisting are natural outgrowths of what Mark Twain once called the dreadful German language. You often have to wait for the action-word, the verb. An ugly American was Mark Twain so the beauty of the German language to doubt.

COMING NEXT MONTH: "Pf" & Why German Is the Best Language for No-Fault Spitting at Listeners.

SANTA BARBARA VICINITY WINTER-TIME RIDING

How about a flower-seeing trip to the Carrizo plains this spring?



Photos courtesy of James Chen



Or this in the back-county



November sky near Ojai, by Harvey Rahn, riding, 11/24/2010

Here is an alternative, if you are not into nature this month. How about --
THE SANTA BARBARA CUSTOM MOTORCYCLE SCENE

Modify your BMW to look like this. Or (simpler) buy this and just add BMW decals.



Designed and built by Big Will's Redline Motorcycles, 434 E. Haley, Santa Barbara

Question: What's missing from this otherwise grand painting?



Albert Bierstadt's 1860s 12 foot by 16 foot painting of Yosemite before desecration of Yosemite by Sierra Club hikers, Camp Curry concessionaires, and John Muir (on display at the St. Johnsbury, NY Athenaeum)

Answer: a couple of nature-appreciating 19th-century motorcyclists and their machines in the right foreground. E.g., this 1869 steam-driven motorcycle invented by Sylvester Roper (1823-1896) of New Hampshire, a rough contemporary and kindred spirit of Richard Wagner and Johannes Brahms, also keen on nature.



place stamp here

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To: