



June 2011 Newsletter — Editor = A. E. Keir Nash at aeknash@gmail.com

SPECIAL 49ERS' RUMBLE RALLY ISSUE: Attending Club Members = Dave Prato, Marten Walkker, Jim Spletstoesser, Bruno and Chris Lucadello, John White, Phyllis Mlynek, Harvey Rawn, and Phil Wilson.



Yosemite Falls in the Mist, May 2011 – Photo taken by Harvey Rawn in Reflective Moment After Club Riders' 49ers Rumble

---For Chris Lucadello's Narrative of Certain Events in and around the Rumble Rally See Top of page 2-----

Still learning after all these years

My R65 turns thirty this month but it runs strong and suits me fine. So it was with confidence that Bruno and I left the '49er rally site Saturday morning and set off for The Park (when in Mariposa *The Park* means *Yosemite*). The morning air was brisk but my electric vest kept the chill at bay. Along the Merced River and on the curves of Highway 140, tour buses slowed traffic, but some rare stretches of dotted yellow lines let us get out in front. What a relief to have a clear road ahead and the long line of vehicles diminishing in our mirrors.

Golden Age Passports eased our entry into the park and we paused briefly to record pictures of our red bikes against the backdrop of the turbulent Merced. We turned to follow the signs to Glacier Point and started to climb. It was getting colder and Bruno was wearing a mesh jacket with a liner but no electric vest. I worried about him and pulled into a turnout to see if he was game to continue the climb. He was. Onward.

However, when I pushed the starter button and nothing happened, I checked the engine cut-off switch. (It's not called the "kill switch", at least not if you have ever taken the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's basic class!) However, that wasn't the problem and the starter could not manage even a single click. That battery was stone-cold dead. Several failed bump starts convinced us that the Honda's battery needed to share its juice with the R65. With all of my bike's lights disconnected, we utilized our jumper cables while we snacked.

The next push on the start button got the middle-aged Boxer to fire right up and we turned around to head back to Mariposa. By this time, hordes of sightseers clogged the roads, causing bottlenecks and confusion. Bruno unintentionally turned onto the loop of the valley floor while I found my way out the park exit and along the twisting highway to "home". With the bike running strong again, I decided to enjoy the ride and trust that Bruno and I would find each other eventually. Then . . . a sudden power loss, two backfires and a coast to a standstill! Damn! Nothing to do but wait for Bruno's appearance and assistance. I guessed correctly that he had gotten caught in the loop and it would take approximately an hour to escape from it. After an hour and a quarter of waiting, I could see the Pacific Coast approach.

As the jumper cables were again employed, Harvey and Marten, on their way back to the rally site, saw our situation and stopped. This was one of those times when it feels especially good to be part of the club "family"; good guys that they are, they stuck with us all the way back to town. I rode my Beemer back to our camp site and parked it, realizing that my riding was over for the weekend. The next morning, a push on the starter produced zilch.

Both Bruno and I had believed that my battery was fairly new. So, safely back home in Santa Barbara, I checked the purchase date. When all I could find was an invoice dated 02/06/02, I figured that I had neglected to keep the receipt for the more recent battery purchase. We pulled the battery to see what kind it was. A Westco. Hmm, that was the same name as the one on the '02 invoice . . .

. . . Let me just repeat that name - Westco. That might be something to look for the next time you need to buy a battery. By now, it should be obvious that I'll be looking for that brand again myself; after all, I very recently had one last for over nine years! 'Nuff said and lesson learned.

Chris Lucadello



Lucadellos' bikes linked, getting a charge



Jim Spletstoesser (left) and Marten Walkker (right) – unclear why they are laughing, possibly thinking of getting a charge by throwing snowballs at the Lucadellos



Half Dome, Yosemite --- by Harvey Rawn (these 2 photos, not the dome)

MEANWHILE ON ANOTHER SIERRAS' SURPRISE SPRING WEATHER FRONT ---



Snowbound motorcycle escorts for **Amgen's California Bicycle Rally at its aborted start, May 2011**, near the Donner Pass. Discussion as to who should be eaten for lunch – if necessary. Photo by Clubmember David Walls.

Club Dinner Meeting = Mon. June 20, Goleta Sizzler's, 6 PM dinner, 7:30 meeting

From: Santa Barbara BMW Riders
P O Box 6532, Santa Barbara, CA.

Place stamp here

To: