



*NOV. 2010 ISSUE*

**NEWS FLASH!! – As we went to press, Sunday, November 7**

### **Are They Lost or Drenched on This Dangerous Road??**

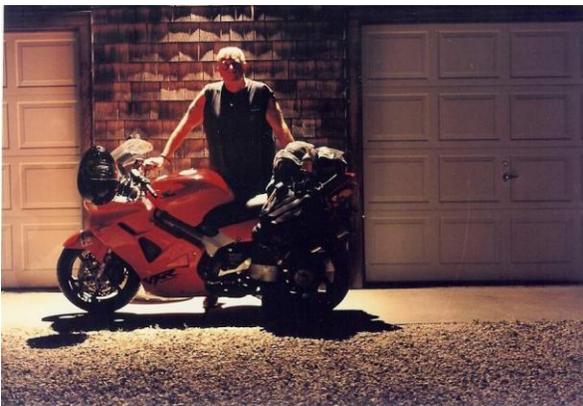
The fate is unknown of 3 valiant women SBBMW Riders near Big Sur as a 2<sup>nd</sup> rainstorm in two days gathers there. An ominous sign has been the abrupt loss of cell-phone communications between the editor of this newsletter and one of the riders functioning as a free-lance reporter in the field. The 3 women riders set out on Friday for the SBBMW Riders' usual, early November Big Sur



California Highway 1 before the gathering storm. Can you see riders in this picture? Any bike-pieces pounded by the surf?

week-end. The Newsletter Editor had originally intended to accompany them – primarily to protect them from temptations dangerous to safe riding presented by the circumstance that this is also the weekend of a major wine-tasting festival at Big Sur.

Unfortunately however, the editor was prevented from going by 5 circumstances:



(1) discovery that his son's tent had mildewed in the attic;

(2) the apparent absence of any place on his recently acquired BMW F650GS to carry a tent or sleeping bag (due to the insane recent fashion of seriously too-upswept exhaust pipes);

(3) Wine Festival-related motel bookings leaving the cheapest available lodging a single room @ \$255/night;

(4) reading storm forecasts on AOL Weather's Interactive Doppler something or other; and,

(5) inability to reproduce with the F650GS the storm-evading Appearing Technique (shown in the accompanying photographs) and (when reversed) Disappearing Technique that this editor has mastered with his Honda Interceptor.

In retrospect, it might have been better if the editor had taken the Interceptor instead.

Repeated efforts to communicate produced only the robot-statement on the free-lancer's cell phone that she was not receiving calls at the time or messages for that matter. Consequently, this editor has kept a worried vigil searching Google Maps and Doppler Interactives focused with high zoom on and around Big Sur to see whether any of the 3 intrepid female riders were visible. As of going to press, he had not succeeded in this enterprise.

He remains optimistic that the morrow's news will bring word that these riders have survived (and enjoyed) the probably wet week-end. It is possible that the reason for the Not-Receiving-Calls Cell-Message related to an extreme enthusiasm for the Wine-Tasting Festival best kept in a hopefully waterproof cloak of secrecy.

In any event a reliable account of the Big Sur week-end has been promised by Tony Suhrer for the December Newsletter.

---A. E. Keir Nash, editor

You can be surer if it's pure & if it's Suhrer near Big Suhr



SBBMWRiders Near Big Sur (Suhrer photo)

**Very Modest Turnout for October Sunday Ride** As far as we know, no one turned up. Perhaps monthly rides should be deleted from our Blog's "advertised" membership-attracting activities.

**Next Club Dinner-Meeting at Sizzler's, 5555 Hollister Ave., Goleta, CA. Monday, November 15. Dinner from 6 PM, Meeting about 7:30PM**

**WARRANTIES AND COMPANY ATTITUDES, BMW vs. TRIUMPH---  
RESULTS OF QUESTIONNAIRE DISTRIBUTED AT SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING, PART TWO.**

As noted in the last issue, I had two purposes in mind. They both arose from visiting BMW and Triumph dealerships in Michigan, Iowa, Colorado, Nevada, and California while returning from a trip to Cape Cod and Quebec. Discussion of Purpose #1 (similarity or dissimilarity in BMW and Triumph riders) was covered in October. Purpose #2 was about warranties and centered on whether there were ascertainable differences in the attitudes of the 2 companies – i.e., one interpreting the provisions more generously or flexibly than the other.

The visited dealers were on the whole more approving of Triumph's behavior respecting warranties. One referred to BMW managers as hard to work with -- like "neo-Nazis." Another told me of Triumph's encouraging Triumph owners to improve on their bikes' performance by purchasing updating computerized modifications at reasonable prices. That was in marked contrast to my experience with BMW re the F650GS and its very high 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> gears. Riding it is like riding an Interceptor or Suzuki 1000 without a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> gear – with the 650's 1<sup>st</sup> more like a 1 ½ and 2<sup>nd</sup> like a 3<sup>rd</sup>. The obvious modification to the gearing, which I had seen others on the internet had done, was to change the final drive and sprocket gears to those of the generally design-very-similar F800GS. I had made an appointment with BMW of Ventura County to do so then, cautiously, asked Ventura BMW to check with the factory re effect on warranty. The answer was so doing would entirely void the drive-train part of the warranty. That seems prima facie unreasonable. But perhaps there are good unstated reasons.

The small number of SBBMW Rider responses offered little information shedding useful light on this question. Club member experiences with BMW warranties, going by these responses, showed neither great satisfaction nor great dissatisfaction. I remain of the subjective view that Triumph management is more generous with its rider-clients. Also I remain of the subjective view that, overall, my 1998 Honda Interceptor is a more capable bike than my 2010 BMW F650GS. Allowing for inflation, the costs were almost the same. Perhaps further experience will alter these subjectivities. Any info from you all as to where the F650GS may be significantly superior would be gratefully received. --- The Editor

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**CHRISTMAS DINNER ALERT**—note from Cy Madrone -- “At the last meeting the annual Xmas party ... it was agreed ... [to] hold it at the Sizzler on **Monday Dec 20th**. I have since called the manager Mike and reserved the date (our regularly scheduled meeting date)... We are [to] bring... our own food (potluck and the club supplied ham)....”

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In the absence of promised contributed articles, we continue our examination of **German = English** with

**MORE OF “You Can Get Around Germany by Speaking English That’s Also German!”**

**Here we offer easy mastery in 5 minutes of virtually all common German words that begin with C.**

|              |                   |             |          |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------|----------|-------------------|
| Cadre        | Charakter         | Chemisett   | Choral   | 32 words in all   |
| Café         | Charge            | Cherub      | Choriamb | I'll bet you'll   |
| Cello        | Chargieren        | Chevaleresk | Christ   | recognize the     |
| Cellist      | Charivari         | Chiffre     | Chrom[e] | great majority.   |
| Cembalo      | Chassis           | Chimare     | Chronik  | Some are plain if |
| Chaiselongue | Chaussee          | China       | Couleur  | you know French.  |
| Champagner   | Chauvinist        | Chlor[ine]  | Coupe    | [ ] = additional  |
| Champhignon  | Chef              | Cholera     | Courage  | Ending for        |
| Chaos        | Chemie & Chemiker | Chor[us]    | Cousin   | English word      |



View from the Editor's Santa Barbara house patio as he contemplated riding to Big Sur and decided there was no particular reason to leave home and ride off north in a hurry

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