



SANTA BARBARA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

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BMW MOA CLUB #165

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Member News and Rides

Tanja, Steve, Fran and Marten rode to Panamint Springs via Hwy 126 to 14 to 395 to Trona, then on to Panamint Springs for camping. The first day there, they went to the charcoal kilns. The next day, they rode to Cerro Gordo ghost town, considered one of the best ghost towns in California. There is a caretaker at the saloon who provides tours (when available) and information. Cerro Gordo was mined for silver and lead ore in its heyday. It was bought by private investors in 2018 and is privately-owned so you check in when you visit it. They also visited the Saline Valley area (24 miles of dirt each way).

The last day they went to Badwater, the date farm at China Ranch and visited the famous Amargosa Opera House. The Opera House has quite the story, and the owner, Marta Becket, will tell you all about it!

Steve, Marten, Eddie and Deborah are planning on attending the annual 49er Rally in Mariposa (May 23-27). This event features clinics and speakers, a GS Trophy course, live music and reportedly great food and beer! The location is at the Mariposa Fairgrounds, with showers and shaded lawn areas for camping.

Deborah has bought a 2009 R1200 RT (5500 miles) and will be selling her F 700 GS. She found her new bike in Alameda and enjoyed her ride up to the Bay area, taking Hwy 101 then G18/G14 from Bradley to King City.

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*On the road to Cerro Gordo
Photo by Steve*

April Technical Topic: Personal Electronic Device Use

The topic for the April meeting was Personal Electronic Device use while on the bike. **Steve** polled members and asked how many use electronics (phone, music, comms) while on the bike. About half of the members do use a variety of devices. The other half felt that devices interfered with the riding experience.

Comms seemed to be favored when riding with a friend or partner (either on a separate bike or two-up), but not everyone wants them. The same with music: some riders like it; others won't have it at all. Verbal directions from a GPS can be very useful for some. It all comes down to personal preference.

The discussion segued into earplug use. Steve relayed a story about a speaker at one of the Club's meetings who said that she did not wear earplugs on the motorcycle because she felt that she lost connectivity with her surroundings. Some members tend to go without earplugs on dirt roads, but the general consensus was earplugs for paved roads. **John** mentioned that he knows someone who is deaf, but still uses earplugs when riding to prevent further hearing damage.

Earplugs can vary from the custom-molded ones to the inexpensive foam ones. One drawback of the custom-molded ones is that your ears may change in size over time, so earplugs will need to be updated. Most states have no or few laws regarding earplug use on motorcycles, but Ohio didn't allow them until recently and Maryland prohibits them, with the exception of custom-made earplugs! (It's doubtful that you'd be ticketed for that, but...?)

SB BMW Riders Calendar

- ❖ Monday, May 20: Club meeting at Cody's Café, 4898 Hollister Avenue, Goleta, CA. Come at around 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. for dinner and stay for the 7:30 p.m. meeting.
- ❖ Monday, June 17: Club meeting at Cody's Café, 4898 Hollister Avenue, Goleta, CA. Come at around 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. for dinner and stay for the 7:30 p.m. meeting.
- ❖ Any other activities or rides scheduled? Let me know! djkrohn@cox.net
- ❖ If members want to do any pick-up rides, post them on the member email list: <https://www.sbbmwriders.org/>

Carrizo Plain Proposed Bill

In April, Central Coast Congressman Salud Carbajal re-introduced the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act, which would designate, among other areas, nearly 80,000 acres near the Carrizo Plain National Monument as new wilderness land. The proposal is for four new areas in Carrizo Plain: a 35,619-acre area known as the Caliente Mountain Wilderness Area; about 13,332 acres near Soda Lake called the Soda Lake Wilderness Area; the 12,585-acre Temblor Range Wilderness Area; and a roughly 17,870-acre area called the Diablo Caliente Wilderness Area.

The bill also designates other areas between Los Angeles and Monterey counties as wilderness land. This designation prohibits oil exploration and drilling but the areas are still open to the public.

The linked article also has a map of the proposed areas: [Carrizo Plain Proposed Bill](#) and [Map](#).

Santa Barbara Motorsports 4th Annual “Palms to Pines” Dual Sport Ride

Santa Barbara Motorsports is organizing its 4th annual "Palms to Pines" dual sport ride, scheduled for May 18-19. The ride consists of 130+ miles over West Camino Cielo Rd., down Refugio Rd., looping around Figueroa Mountain and returning via Highway 154 to 246, then up and over Refugio Rd to Highway 101 north, ending at La Quemada Ranch. At the Ranch there will be a BBQ, camping by the beach, and a continental breakfast will be served the following morning. At this time, they are sold out, but there is a waiting list.

Marten mentioned that they are looking for sweep riders this year because the group is so big. There are dirt sections on the route.

[Palms to Pines Dual Sport Ride](#)

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627 N. Salsipuedes, near Ortega Park
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Now closed on Sunday and Monday
Open Tuesday- Friday, 8 a.m to 6p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Upcoming Events

- May 17-19: BMW Getaway Cambria. Lodging at the Cambria Pines Lodge. [BMW Getaway Cambria](#)
- May 17-19: Overland Expo West, Flagstaff, AZ. [Overland Expo West](#)
- May 23-27: 47th Annual 49er Rally, Mariposa, CA. [49'er Rally 2019](#)
- June 1-2: Huntington Beach Concours D'Elegance, Classic Car and Motorcycle Show. This year's show features BMW /2 motorcycles built between 1955-1969. Huntington Beach, CA. [Huntington Beach Concours D'Elegance](#)
- June 13-16: 2019 BMW MOA National Rally, Lebanon, TN. [2019 BMW MOA Rally](#)
- June 20-23: Red Rock Rendezvous, Panguitch, UT. [Red Rock Rendezvous](#)
- June 27-30: Chief Joseph Rally, John Day, OR. [Chief Joseph Rally 2019](#)
- July 18-20: 48th Annual Top O'The Rockies Rally, Paonia, CO. [2019 Top O'The Rockies Rally](#)
- August 1-4: GS Giants 2019 Go Big Rally-Four Corners. Dolores, CO. [GS Giants Go Big Rally](#)
- August 15-18: 21st Beartooth Rendezvous, Red Lodge, MT. [21st Beartooth Rendezvous](#)

The “Epic” Trip Around the United States (sort of): Chapter 5 By Chuck Beattie

A brief recap:

September 5 - October 16, 2018, 42 days.

Participants: Chuck Beattie, Santa Barbara, CA, 2005 R1200RT, repairs: headlight connector block, replace windscreen upper riser arms, 10,115 miles, 52 mpg average.

Jim Schmidt, Dublin, CA, 2015 R1200RT, repairs: none, 10,600 miles.

Chuck left Santa Barbara and met up with friend Jim in Dublin (CA) and they headed up the coast and points east. We rejoin them now, after they have left Nipetown, WV, and after Chuck discovered an oil leak. Onward and westward!

Part 5, Across the “Southern” Part

There were a couple of things happened that interrupted our general “4 corners” plans. We had originally thought to ride down the eastern seaboard, perhaps as far as Florida, but hurricanes had caused serious damage along the coast just before this time, so we re-routed to the Appalachian Mountains. The second event for me was that my son was scheduled for surgery in Colorado Springs, where he is in the Army at Fort Carson, and I wanted to be there with him.

My good friend Jim and I parted company at this point. He went on to ride the Blue Ridge Parkway and side roads and go further south. Jim took a more southerly route and then across Texas, generally following Hwy 40 west. He encountered some crazy weather along the way, but made it all the way home to Dublin.

I took the most direct middle route west from WV to Colorado Springs that I could, Hwy 70. I skirted around Pittsburgh and Cincinnati and through St. Louis and then Kansas City. The weather was going dark on me again with cold rain and wind, so it was a matter of staying warm, staying focused and stopping when I could to exercise and get coffee.

Those were long days in the saddle. After getting into the plains area, once again, I ran out of twisties, and had a lot of straight roads, corn and alfalfa fields, and not much else. I stopped in Hays, KS for the night, pretty cold and glad for a hot shower and a good dinner. The next morning, the weather wasn't much better, but I got moving. The rain finally stopped after a

while and the road was clear, but there was snow in the fields all along the way that got progressively denser.

The temperature gage on my dash was blinking snowflakes. In warm/hot weather, my temperature gage reads about 6 degrees higher than actual. A long time ago, I checked to see if it could be corrected, and was told "no" by a beemer shop. I wondered if the same difference was true in cold temps?

Was the temperature really 31 instead of 37 degrees? This caused me to wonder a bit along the way. Between Hays and Colorado Springs, there is not much in the way of places to stop and warm up. And it started to rain again, then it turned to sleet, and then to snow. The miles passed slowly and it was cold and the temp gage was going lower. I wondered some more. Finally, I arrived in Colorado Springs and checked into my motel and thawed out as best I could.

Since it was snowing, I rented a car so I could see Patrick at the hospital. Some friends of his helped me get a pass to go on and off the post which worked well. Patrick came through the surgery well, but needed to recuperate for 4 to 6 weeks and couldn't drive for the first week or so. I had heard stories about military hospitals that weren't so great. Thankfully, the Evans Hospital at Fort Carson is top notch, the nursing staff was great and very professional, and his surgeon was an awesome Major who was very low key, checked in daily, patiently answered all our questions, and used the Da Vinci Surgical System on Patrick. Some of the nurses wore typical scrubs, but the army nurses wore their standard camo uniforms - that was a trip to see them coming in and out of his room in camo. All in all, it was a great healthcare experience!

After discharge from the hospital, I took Patrick back to his barracks and got him settled in. Unfortunately, his roommate was not much help. I brought in some groceries, washed the dishes and generally cleaned up. He seemed to enjoy being taken care of by Dad, even though in a fair bit of pain.

After a few days, he was up a bit more and able to fend for himself pretty much. His buddies, whom I like, stopped by frequently, when they were off duty, to check in and hang out, and bring stuff that he wanted. I felt it was time for me to head on toward home.

The weather continued cold and snowy. The forecast changed from cold to clear after a few days. There was another front coming through the south along Hwy 40 and snow was expected in the higher elevations. Hwy 70, from Denver and west was clear, but given the snow over recent days and that Vail Pass was 15 degrees at midday, and that I am a chicken when it comes to riding a motorcycle on ice, and that the forecast was for continued cold temps for at least the next week, not to mention urging from Joan, it made sense to ship my bike home and fly home, which is what I did. And it was nice to get home and be with Joan again after 42 days on the road.

I coordinated with Bike Haulers, who had me to take my bike to Avalanche Harley Davidson in Golden, CO, which was a pickup point for them. I then got a contract on my phone, read the incredibly tiny print (even with expanding...), signed the contract digitally, paid the tab, and left the bike there for pickup. I left my camping duffle on the back of the bike and my tank bag with all my gear. Naturally, the Avalanche folks had to hassle me for not riding a Harley - in a good-natured sort of way. They were sure to tell me that Harley was coming out with a dual sport version next year to compete(?) with BMW. That should be interesting.

Uber took me to Denver Airport and I found a seat on a United flight to LAX for that evening. I carried my helmet, a small bag, and my riding clothes on the plane. A flight attendant said she didn't think my helmet was going to be necessary and I said I sure hope so, but just in case...Joan happened to be in LA and hung around to pick me up. What a girl!

My bike showed up two weeks later, on a beautiful semi rig. Scotty, the driver, was a cool guy who delivered my bike in good shape right in front of my house, with all my gear and no new dings! I recommend Haulbikes.com highly.

...To Be Continued....

Last Day at Pine Mountain Inn—June 2018

Photos by John White and Wayne Beckman

