



SANTA BARBARA BMW RIDERS NEWSLETTER

[HTTP://WWW.SBBMWRIDERS.ORG](http://www.sbbmwrider.org)

BMW MOA CLUB #165

Volume 20, Issue 7

July 2020

Member News and Rides

For our June 15th Zoom meeting, there were about 17 attendees.

Steve mentioned that he has spoken with Cody's, and they will not have any group meetings until California reaches Stage 5 (fully normal operations). Our club may need to think of a new venue for meetings; Mulligan's Café and the Mesa Café were suggested as possible locations. However, the current local requirements mean that only outdoor dining is allowed. We may end up continuing with Zoom meetings for the indefinite future.

Steve and **Fran** took a ride that routed them through Foxen Canyon, Betteravia, Guadalupe Dunes, stopping at Charlie's Restaurant in Los Alamos for lunch, then Drum Canyon Road, Highway 246, Santa Rosa Road, and then Highway 1. **Oscar** joined members on the ride to Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes. This is an interesting place if you have not every visited it before: [Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes](#)

Harvey rode with **John** around Malibu and they discovered a small private zoo with animals and including some camels.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Member News and Rides
- 2 SB BMW Riders Calendar
- 2 June Topic: What is Everyone Doing This Summer?
- 3 Club Picnic, July 10
- 3 Upcoming Events
- 4-8 Munich to Istanbul: Part 3



Headed for Chicago, 2016. Photo by Eddie.

What Is Everyone Doing This Summer?

Steve wanted to know what, or if, people had plans for the summer.

Michael and Veronica are going to Big Sur for a few days and meeting with a small group of friends.

Deb will be camping on Don Sachey's private property off of Paradise Road.

Marilyn is planning to attend the BMW Getaway in Los Osos.

Chuck is leaving with 3 other friends and heading to Oakhurst and then Virginia City. He found that reservations need to be made if driving a vehicle through Highway 120 (Tioga Pass Road), going through Yosemite. They are planning to camp and stay in hotels. **Note:** Currently, reservations are still required for vehicle travel through Yosemite. See the NPS site for details: [Yosemite Vehicle Day Use Reservations](#)

John and Phyllis are driving to Idaho to see friends.

Harvey plans to do some exploring in his 4Runner, accompanied by his dogs.

Glen has no big trip plans, even though he got new tires for his bike. He may attend the Los Osos Getaway. He was at the Cambria Pines Getaway last year and enjoyed it.

SB BMW Riders Calendar

- ❖ Friday, July 10: Club picnic at Don Sachey's private property off of Paradise Road. Starting at around 5:30p.m. This picnic with social distancing is in lieu of our normal summer picnic at a local park. See details on Page 3.
- ❖ Monday, August 17 Club meeting, 6 p.m. via Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent a few days before the meeting.
- ❖ We will be having Zoom meetings in lieu of meetings at Cody's Café for the indefinite future.
- ❖ Any other activities or rides scheduled, let me know! djkrohn@cox.net

Tanja is planning to work on her bike's thermostat. She has drained the cooling and checked the cooling system with a kit from O'Reilly's. She found no leaks, so she thinks the problem is the thermostat.

Oscar would like to go to Big Sur, but it seemed full. He will probably just stay in California for summer trips.

Dave M. has been out driving in his car, all around Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties: Sierra Madre Road, Highway 166, Santa Barbara Canyon, Coulson Canyon, Pozo, San Ardo, and Pine Valley Road, near Highway 198.

Club Picnic, July 10

We are planning a social distancing get together on Friday, July 10th at Don Sachey's property off of Paradise Rd. He was kind enough to offer his property for tent camping as well that evening.

Steve will grill some Aidells sausages with potato salad on the side. Please bring whatever else you want to for food and drink. This is not a pot luck.

Bring a chair, a table if you need one, and camping gear if you will stay overnight.

Don has very limited septic, so he requests using the bushes for #1 or the nearest forest service pit toilet about 0.5 miles away.

Directions: From Highway 154, exit onto Paradise Road, then take the road to Rancho Oso/ Thousand Trails camp off of Paradise Road. Continue for a few hundred yards, then turn right, up a dirt road to a house with a flag flying.

Please RSVP to Steve so that he can get a headcount. Plan on gathering at around 5:30p.m. Some will be there earlier.

Ride your bike up! It should be a beautiful evening.

Contact Steve: w6qiw.sm@gmail.com

or at: smiller302@cox.net

Upcoming Events

Note: With the current physical distancing requirements, many events and rallies have been cancelled or postponed.

- July 16-19: Bucks Lake Rendezvous 2020, Quincy, CA. Limited to 25 people. [Bucks Lake Rendezvous 2020](#)
- July 24-26: MOA Getaway Los Osos, Los Osos, CA *Sold Out*: [MOA Getaway Los Osos](#)
- August 13-16: 22nd Annual Beartooth Beemers Rendezvous, Red Lodge, MT. [22nd Annual Beartooth Beemers Rendezvous](#)
- September 11-13: MOA Getaway Cedar City, Cedar City, UT. [MOA Getaway Cedar City](#)

VISIT OUR SPONSOR



About Us
Showroom
Parts
Contact
Racing
Home

SportCycle Pacific, Santa Barbara

Your European Motorcycle Connection

627 N. Salsipuedes, near Ortega Park
805-966-6508

Now closed on Sunday and Monday
Open Tuesday- Friday, 8 a.m. to 6p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Munich to Istanbul: Part 3

By Marilyn Makepeace

Note from Marilyn: *These are abbreviated notes are from my daily journal. Our hotels were all 4-5 star with a couple of exceptions. Over Pentecost, all hotels were booked a year in advance, too soon for Ayres to book for the group, so the best ones weren't always available. I talk about members of the group and I've deleted many, but not all, comments about Bob and Donna because it sounded like complaining. It wasn't, it's observation only and my response to their behavior. Donna had many good ideas for the group through this trip. On occasion I refer to people I've ridden with on other trips.*

We last left Marilyn in Kuhtaya, Turkey...

Friday: Kuhtaya to Istanbul. The Prize.

Another very short ride to meet the ferry to cross. Easy roads, hot day, low/mid 90's. Lunch somewhere. Boarded the ferry to Istanbul to cross the Sea of Marmara outside the entrance to the Bosphorus. Once off the ferry, we were in Istanbul city traffic. Now I can say I've ridden a motorcycle in Istanbul. A point of pride (Dar Es Salam was worse).

Four Season's Istanbul: originally a prison built in the early 1900s now converted to a hotel.



Inside Hagia Sophia, Istanbul, Turkey

Dinner at the rooftop restaurant, Seven Hills, across from the hotel. The hotel is situated two blocks from Hagia Sophia and on the other side, two blocks from the Blue Mosque. Top Kapi was around the corner. View of the Mosque was outstanding.

After thoughts: roads in Turkey are cheaply made and melt in the heat. Slick on the turns.

Saturday, June 1: Rest day, Istanbul

Guided tour of the Blue Mosque, Hippodrome, Hagia Sophia and, briefly, The Grand Bazaar. While in the bazaar, I saw a big plate that I liked. The vendor wanted \$1000US for it. No way. He didn't want to bargain. I walked. Estuardo encouraged me to go back; I asked him to come with me to watch my back and he ended up making a deal for me. He got the price down to \$300US.

Sunday, June 2: Another rest day in Istanbul

In the morning, Top Kapi Palace. Bought audio guide, poorly done, not worth it. Amazing palace, huge, intricate, reflects a powerful time in history.

Nobody here likes Erdogan and they speak freely but quietly. Armored police cars and water cannon trucks surround the Hippodrome between the two mosques. Heavy police presence, more today than yesterday. Ramadan ends tomorrow and I wonder if something is in the wind.



The Blue Mosque is lit up. View from Seven Hills Restaurant, Istanbul. Photo by Axel Pabst, Tour Leader, Ayres Adventures.

Ricardo took a taxi to the hotel from the Grand Bazaar yesterday afternoon. He'd been shopping and had several big bags and didn't want to walk in the heat. He sat in front and put his bags in the back. The driver stopped, picked up another man and they robbed Ricardo at gunpoint of all his cash, about 2000 Turkish lira. Nothing else was taken. With all those bags, his new "Gucci" jacket, and then telling the driver he was going to the Four Seasons Hotel, he was a clear target.

The group wandered looking for dinner. Donna wanted to go to a Korean restaurant down the street. No one liked it when we walked in; no one wanted to do this. Since we were in Istanbul, I mentioned I'd rather to go to a Turkish restaurant. Others in the group quietly agreed and we settled on a place nearby. Donna was pissed. She'd lost control of the men; she likes the gaggle to follow her. Several times Donna said she'd get over it in a minute but it was clear she didn't. Made me laugh, not out loud, of course.

Monday, June 3rd: Istanbul to Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Tuesday, June 4th: Plovdiv to Veliko Tarnovo

Bulgarian country roads: bumpy, full of potholes. Miles away I saw the gold dome of a church. We followed Axel through the village on narrow, very steep, twisty cobbled streets to the church. When we came upon it, it glowed in the sun with black storm clouds behind it. The forecast had been for thunderstorms. Axel called the hotel to ask about the weather over the pass; it was pouring. We could see dark clouds and hear thunder so we left early and headed for Shipka Pass, hoping to get over before the rain. Beautiful tree-lined, shady pass with dappled sunlight, not steep or twisty but big on beauty. We missed the rain but we could smell the ozone and see runoff and washouts from the downpour.



Hotel parking in Bulgarian village. Ten bikes in a two-car space, with a deep hole in the middle.

This hotel was new, 4 stories with no elevator. Our bags are always brought to our rooms for us, but each morning we bring them down ourselves. Bob passed me twice while I was carrying my bag down. I was managing well but would not have refused help if offered. Mauricio stopped and helped me, he insisted. Those Chileans, I love them.

Wednesday, June 5th: Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria to Brasov, Romania

Easy border crossing. All riding was main country roads through small villages. After lunch we noticed storm clouds forming in the distance. As we passed through town and approached the pass, it started to rain so we stopped to put on rain gear. The road through town was under construction, scraped for repaving and we fishtailed our way through on wet surface. On the other side of town, the rain started coming down hard; huge, sloppy, plopping drops. I was hoping to see the group pull off at a coffee or comfort stop. No luck. The rain turned into a torrential downpour. Thunder boomed and lightning flashed, I couldn't see, water came inside my helmet, my face plate fogged, my glasses were rain splattered and fogged, I was soaked through. Who in their right mind goes over a pass in a torrential downpour and thunderstorm?

Afterthoughts: I always feel like a wimp so I never say anything. I assume everyone else has it figured out and I'm the only one challenged. Carlos said he couldn't see while riding the pass, rain came inside his helmet, his face plate and glasses were fogged and wet, he rode the pass in 2nd gear. I was right behind him watching for his taillight. I wasn't alone.

Friday, June 7th: Brasov to Sighisoara

Stopped at Castle Bran, home of Count Dracul. Yes, that one. The brutal, historic stories are about his son, Vlad the Impaler.

June 8th: Sighisoara to Eger.

Today was about making tracks, I think it's our longest day, 550km. When crossing the border, we rode on through, no exit post. Going into Hungary we had to show our passports, bike papers and, for the first time ever, our IDP's. After crossing the Hungarian border, we stopped for gas. As we pulled onto the highway on-ramp, Ricardo was having trouble with his bike. It was sputtering, running rough, blowing white smoke and died on the ramp. JP was also having trouble but he at least made it another 50 miles before his bike died. Neither made it to the rest stop. It turned out that Ricardo had filled both with diesel. Major holiday

weekend. Pentecost. No help to be found for the bikes. With a bit of juggling, Axel got both back to the hotel before dinner.

Eger: This is by far the best one-star hotel we've seen. Ha ha ha. My mattress sags, John's mattress had a spring poking up through the middle and his shower dribbled, Brad's mattress was just a simple pad on a board. The faucet in the bathroom wasn't attached to the sink. The carpet was indoor/outdoor. The AC didn't work, the electric kettle was broken, the TV remote needed batteries. No Wi-Fi. Breakfast was in an industrial-style cafeteria, reflecting the former Soviet-era occupation. The receptionist was rude and not helpful; refused to sell me a bottle of water.

Early Sunday morning, Axel siphoned the diesel out of both bikes and was able to fix the RT. He cleaned the injectors, reassembled the bike, put in regular gas and it started. The other bike is going to have to wait because Axel thinks that bike has a blown head gasket. The good thing is that Mary Lou's bike is available for Ricardo to ride.

Sunday, June 9th: Eger to Budapest

The first part of our ride was up through the hills in the equivalent of a national park. It was a beautiful, formalized recreation area with restaurants, parking, hiking trails and lots of twisties on a wonderful shaded mountain road. As the morning went on, the traffic got heavy to the point where I wasn't enjoying the ride and didn't want to pass. There were dozens of motorcycles, mostly crotch rockets going dangerously fast, passing between cars into oncoming traffic on hairpin turns and in twisties.

The ride after lunch was short and fast on the highway, directly to Budapest. It was wonderful going into that magnificent city. We entered at Hero's Plaza with its monumental arches and statues. Our hotel overlooks the Danube. Dinner out was excellent, I had traditional Hungarian Chicken Paprikash.

The Danube River.



Monday, June 10: Rest day

Double whammy: National holiday AND museums are closed Mondays. It was bloody hot again, mid 90's; stopped for lemonade at a sidewalk cafe. I continued in search of the WWII shoe memorial. It was farther than I expected, but I finally found it. Worth the search even in the heat. Moving, emotional.

Tuesday, June 11th: Budapest to Bratislava, Slovakia

It was already 90° when we left at 9:00. More heat to come. We crossed the Danube ... again... lost track of how many times we've done that...and spent the next 45 minutes leaving the city. We crossed the border into Slovakia by crossing yet another bridge over the Danube.

Wednesday, June 12th: Bratislava to Czesky Krumlov, Czech Republic

We crossed the border by crossing another bridge into Austria. Most of the day was riding in southern Austria: rolling hills, farmland, wind waves abound. It was drop-dead beautiful all day. Everything is clean, neat, tidy and well cared for.

Three bikes were dropped today. Had to do with getting into a garage and the entry gate malfunctioning. All is well.

Czesky Krumlov, Czech Republic; one of the most charming old cities I've seen. The city center is original old buildings and streets. I would love to go back. Too bad this stop is a one-nighter.

Wednesday/Thursday, June 13th: Czesky Krumlov to Munich, Germany

Last day to ride. High fives, hugs and cheers when we arrived at the hotel. Really good trip.



*Marilyn on the ferry crossing to Istanbul from Yalova.
Photo by Donna Torche.*

Thank you, Marilyn, for a wonderful recap of your amazing trip!