



TOUR CAPTAIN'S REPORT *by Ted Crum*

At the Annual Meeting in June I was gratified by your confidence in electing me to serve for another year as Tour Captain. Here's wishing us another year of good rides and good times!

The ride to that meeting, at Finnon Lake, started at the Railroad Café in Livermore. Twelve of us crossed the Valley and up Jack Tone Rd to Lockeford (no time to buy the famous sausages there) then up Hwy 12 to the Camanche Reservoir, the Pardee reservoir and Campo Seco. Beautiful Paloma Rd took us to Hwy26. From Jackson we rode past the Casino and on to Highway 88, then off again for lunch in Volcano. From there through Fiddletown (and Garmin's annoying errors) and Placerville to the camp. We were spared the dangerous heat of last year's ride to Finnon, with temperatures in the 80's.

Unfortunately, the passing of an old friend will keep me from leading the first tour of the second term, the July 18 ride to June Lake. Note that this is a week early than usual, so not to interfere with the National rally in Billings. To the rescue rides Historian Ed Perry, who has planned a beautiful ride that includes some of his favorite roads around his cabin at Mi-Wuk, which will be the lunch stop. Pack a lunch or buy one along the way. The ride will start at Country Waffles near Vasco Rd in Livermore, 6049 Northfront Rd; "stands up" at 9AM. Be ready for any weather at Sonora Pass, 9600ft elevation.

The campsite is on the "Squirrel" loop at the Oh Ridge campground. We have reserved sites SQ46, 47 and 48 for two nights, so that earlybirds can arrive Friday night and enjoy the local roads on Saturday. We have no tour leader for the earlybirds, but a suggested "self-guided" breakfast ride that includes some gravel is posted on Meetup and on the web page, along with the route instructions and GPS file for the tour from the Bay Area. We also have sites SQ43, 44 and 45 for Saturday.

The August 29 meeting will be at the Emigrant group camp at Stampede Reservoir in Tahoe National Forest, north of Truckee. The September 26 meeting will be at the Hornswoggle group camp at Bullards Bar Reservoir, on Marysville Rd near Hwy 49. We have the camp for Friday and Saturday night. Russ Drake will share his local knowledge by leading that tour.

The Oktoberfest meeting and party, on October 24, will be held on one acre of green grass and trees at Rancho Seco Park (25 mi SE of Sacramento), group site 2. The November meeting, traditionally delayed a week to avoid Thanksgiving, is on December 5 and will be held at Plaskett Creek in Los Padres National Forest, overlooking the Pacific. The January 2016 meeting will be at Laguna Seca.

Enjoy the Ride!

Ted Crum -- Tour Captain

A Note About Meetup from Ted:

About Meetup: Although the newsletter and the web page are the official Norcal media, Meetup.com is a convenient place to keep track of our riding activities. The same announcements and files are available there as on the web site, along with some social functions that appeal to non-members.

The social aspect is optional and you don't have to sign up to read the articles or download files. Just browse to www.meetup.com/BMW-Motorcycle-Club-of-Northern-California/, or click the stylized "M" on the Norcal home page, and click on the ride you're interested in.



a touring and camping club
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PRESIDENT*

Dan Rowe (775) 287-3205
rowe.dr@gmail.com

VICE-PRESIDENT*

Bill Lopez (408) 813-3319
bill.lopez5@gmail.com

SECRETARY*

Christine Cearing (408) 482-8062
clcearing@aol.com

TREASURER*

John Vashon (925) 698-6360
treasurer@bmwnorcal.org

TOUR CAPTAIN*

Ted Crum (510) 654-7301
tedcrum@berkeley.edu

SAFETY/TECH DIRECTOR*

Steven Kesinger (510) 797-1576
bmwpilot777@sbcglobal.net

HISTORIAN*

Ed Perry (408) 927-8288
edwardperryt@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Warren Barnes (408) 348 7999
wildguineapig@hotmail.com

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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS: 1965-2015

articles, photos, events, etc.
for the newsletter are due to the
editor by the SECOND SUNDAY of
each month.

JUMP IN THE FIRE:

by Dan Rowe

I'm honored to be the new President of the BMW Club of Northern California. Both excitement and "oh crap what have I gotten myself into." are part of what I feel. I want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of my successor Z Ortiz. Z welcomed me to the club, and later he persuaded me to take a large role as Vice President. I also know where the best Pozole is as well thanks to Z. Z and Andy Anderson were also there for me when I destroyed the wheels on my RT.

On a larger scale, I'm grateful to all of the people that have given their time, sweat, and occasionally tears to this great organization. Without their hard work, NorCal might not have continued throughout the years.

My vision for our Club is to continue to find ways to reach the younger generations of BMW riders. Adventure riding continues to grow in popularity, and you'd be hard pressed to find a group with more collective adventuring than our membership. I'd like to find ways to share that with the motorcycling community.

There are a few projects Norcal needs help with:

1. Newsletter editor: Warren has graciously offered to keep up with the newsletter editor until a replacement can be found. The editing process is not involved as he has a template (Adobe InDesign) already created.
2. Newsletter content: Our newsletter needs content. We all buy gadgets, tires, and go places. If you've purchased a USB powered coffee warmer and love it, write a few lines about it for the newsletter. If you hate it, write a few lines about it for the newsletter.
3. Second Sunday Breakfast: Ken and Andy will be doing the next two Second Sunday Rides. I'd like to rotate the rides by region each month. We'll need a ride leader for the South Bay in September.

I look forward to seeing you all at upcoming events throughout the year.

A bit about me:

I grew up and went to college in West Virginia. After college I moved to Nevada, and then to California. Many of my fondest memories have always been around motorcycles. I remember riding around on the gas tank of my Dad's motorcycle on the family farm in West Virginia as a small child. A 50cc Yamaha was my very first ride with other dirtbikes, ATVs, and a Honda Trail 110 following. Summers and weekends were filled with my Dad and I riding all of the hills and hollows near our home. One of the first dates I had with my now wife was around Gold Lake in the Sierras.

My first BMW is my current motorcycle: 2009 R1200RT.

Dan Rowe - Club President

MEET YOUR NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

by The Board

Safety & Technology Director:

Hi; I'm Steve Kesinger, your new Safety/Tech. officer. Many already know me, as I just received my 20 year membership pin this spring. I've been in the bay area for over 35 years now and just retired from a career as an airline Captain with United Airlines flying everything from the B-737 domestically, to the B-747 on international routes. Our top priority was always safety, so I should have a good background for this position and the time to give back something to the club. Additionally, I've had a motorcycle, and been riding since I was 14 and managed to survive being "self taught." If anyone has a subject you'd like me to review let me know! Ride safe.

Tour Captain:

Ted Crum: I have been riding motorcycles most of my life. I got my first street bike (a six-speed Suzuki X-6) in 1966, and I was an all-weather commuter until I retired as an electronic engineer in 2013. I was on a K75 when I rode my first Sunday Breakfast in 2009, and I joined at the 49er in 2010. I've since added an R1200GS to carry more camping gear. I am a fourth-generation Californian and I am beginning my second term as Tour Captain.

Below, left to right: Bill, Chris, Dan, (Ed Perry Historian), John. Missing is Steve and Ted.

Vice President:

Hi, I'm Bill and I currently ride a 2010 GSA after having ridden various sport bikes over the past 25 years. I enjoy long distance rides as well as campouts with the club. When I'm not riding, I'm an avid gamer and sports fan. Cris and I live in South San Jose with our two cats. I also have a grown son named Chris.

Secretary:

Hello, my name is Cris and I ride an '04 K1200GT. I've been riding for about 13 years (cut my teeth on a Honda Shadow). Bill and I live in South San Jose with our two cats, Molly and Abby. I am a start up accounting consultant by day and in my spare time I love reading and spending time with my family!

Treasurer:

John Vashon. I manage a small family business which operates six multi-family residential properties, mostly here in N. California. I worked in the software industry for 23 years, selling enterprise solutions to large and mid-sized companies all over the US. I was invited to join the club in 2011 and was just elected to my 3rd term as Treasurer. My first motorcycle was a Honda CT Trail 90 which my parents let me buy on my 13th birthday. I love to ride, camp and hang-out with folks who enjoy the same.



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ARE YOU HYDRATED?:

by Steven Kesinger

First of all, I'd like to thank everyone that voted for me. I'll do the best I can in this important position as your new Safety Tech. Also thanks to all of my predecessors who have set the bar high!

I know Buddy touched briefly on dehydration at the June meeting, but as this is July now and the hottest part of our riding season, I'd like to delve a bit deeper. The first signs are increased thirst, and dry mouth. This may be followed by a swollen tongue, then weakness. OK, at this point it's time to stop and rehydrate because it gets worse for us as riders after this point. Weakness is next then dizziness; being dizzy on a bike can't be good! Continuing symptoms as it worsens are palpitations, confusion, sluggishness, and finally fainting! Thanks to Webmd.com for this list; more is there for the curious.

Now I'd like to share a personal note from my own experience: Even slight dehydration that is chronic can contribute to kidney stones! After the terror attacks of 9-11, and my switch to flying international routes, the cockpit doors were reinforced, and we were locked in. It took at least two flight attendants to guard us while taking a biologic break, so we tried not to bother them too often. Typical intercontinental flights last 12 hours or more, and the air in the cabin runs at about 10% humidity. That's about the same as the Sahara desert!

OK; what to do? I bought a "Camel Back" from a local sporting goods store that I can wear with any of my gear. I've now seen jackets with a built in bladder and tank bags with them as well, so there are lots of options out there. Here's a tip; after use, and especially before storage, rinse it out with a small amount of mouth wash. It will kill any bacteria and keep it fresh for your next use. While on the road, anyplace one purchases gas or food ask for some ice to refill it, then top it off with water. I've been surprised by how long it stays cool.

Enjoy the ride!

Safety Tech -- Steve Kesinger



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Meals are limited to first 250 registrants so pre-register please!

Contact: Michael McPeak (604) 438-3954 or email nakusprally2015@beeceebeemers.com

Join us!



GS GIANTS:

Upcoming GS Giants Stampede, 19-21 July in Sheridan, WY. The Giants will have their event and then head to the BMW MOA National Rally in Billings, MT. The Stampede's event coordinator, Tracy Novacich, has invited our group to attend. He has come to many 49er rallies.

The GS Giants will be holding their annual rally before the Rally (The BMW MOA rally) and it will be held in the Big Horn mountains near Sheridan, WY from July 19-22. Then they will all move to the MOA rally in Billings, MT, where the fun continues with our track competition, training opportunities, seminars, and more great riding.

A video of a past event which really illustrates what this is about. It's a ton of fun for a low price.

Here is the link to their website for the 2015 event:

<http://www.gsgiants.com/#!events2015/c9ty>

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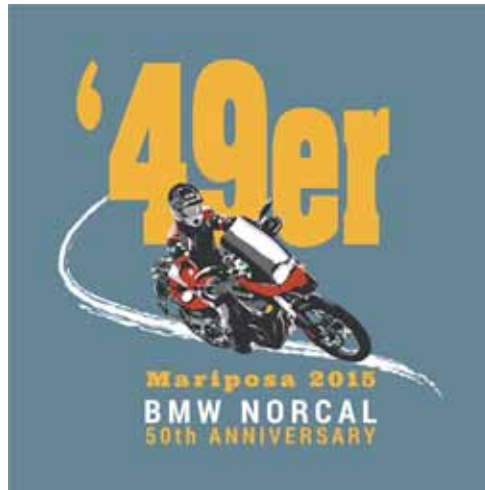
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2015 '49er Rally – Andy Anderson & Z Ortiz

The BMW Motorcycle Club of Northern California was created out of a passion for riding and camping. This year we celebrate 50 years of doing just that and the '49er Rally along with its little brother, The Range of Light, epitomize our raison d'être.

The rally template has been in place for many years and we always try to incorporate some changes to the lineup to keep things interesting. This year we improved some events, incorporating suggestions from attendees, and then added NEW events.



NEW – Ladies Happy Hour. It began at last year's Range of Light and I think it will become one of the three things only we do. English Trials, award GOLD for the winning Poker Run hand and now, Ladies Happy Hour. While imitation is the sincerest form of flattery remember, we did it first.

Last year we introduced the Trolley for one day and thanks to the Mariposa Chamber of Commerce's Damian Riley and Kyle Stivers we were able to provide the Trolley on Friday and Saturday.

The food landscape had the usual vendors; Sal's Tacos and The Grapplers handling the short order fare in the Red Bud Room along with the many restaurants available in Mariposa.

New to the Rally, Jill Ballinger's River Rock Café offered some options for those that wanted something different. They provided Fresh fruit, yogurt, juice, muffins, steel cut oatmeal and lunch boxes. The River Rock Café also provided the Saturday night BBQ and thanks to their incredible chef, Keith Williams along with the staff consisting of Adam Gidasi Clayton Williams and helper Gail Stickles an outstanding dinner was enjoyed and it will not be forgotten anytime soon. We warned Jill about you all's sweet tooth and although she made extra and had a back up, some of you at the end of the line did not get dessert. The ample portions did not detract from the quality meal provided.



NEW – Thanks to Andy Anderson's effort, this year we provided a masseuse at the Rally. Thank you David Onne.

NEW – This year we had an acoustic band. *The Soul Galaxy* is a local band consisting of legendary guitarist, Tim Hagar and imaginative percussionist, Jon Kid (it says so on their business card). They played their hearts out and were rewarded by non-stop heartfelt applause from rally participants. It was great to be able to sit by the fireplace (Thanks Brian Bullis) and listen to some tunes or have a conversation.

NEW- We had a Ladies only introduction to GS Riding Clinic and a Ladies only GS Ride. Brian Bennett conducted the clinic for ladies and it was well received. The ladies went for it and were quite pleased to have their own event. In the afternoon

Tammy Matthews and Joyce Sampson along with several ladies went for a beginners GS ride. One lady had only hours under her belt as a rider but she was game and everyone encouraged her and made sure she was OK. Motorcyclists are the best.



That is not to say that the guys didn't have a turn. The inimitable Cliff Dunn had a GS clinic on Friday morning and Chad Olson from Adventure Designs held the clinic on Saturday morning. Our own Dan Carter led the Intermediate GS Ride while Bill Lopez rode sweep. And as expected, it was wildly popular and very well attended. Dan Carter and Bill did a great job keeping the group together and Dan even documented the ride on video.

Our ever-popular Asphalt Trials/Slow Race and the English Trials also featured some changes. Not only did we have new courses but they also switched scheduled times. The Asphalt Trials were held Sunday morning to provide the riders with the cooler morning temperatures and the English Trials took place in the afternoon.

The new English Trials course was a mind blower and a bit ominous at first. The first section featured logs that were staked down with rebar for safety reasons. Yes, following the logs there was sand but instead of blasting straight ahead, the course was set up so you had to serpentine through the sand, which brings you to the whoops. These had to be addressed with timing and finesse. Go too fast and you are sent into a wild ride. Go too slow and you bog down at the crest. The speed also set you up for the hill that was basically a BIG whoop. Then came the jump where some riders got some serious air and the scramble to the firing range where you shot an air rifle at a target.

Since the first rider has it though, the riders were allowed two runs and the best time out of the two runs was scored. Spectators at these events enjoyed themselves and cheered the riders from the comfort of the shaded bleachers. During last year's English Trials 5-year old Cody Olson stole the show. This year he had some competition from his sister, 3-year old Abby Olson. And of course Chad Olson wins the father of the year award hands down along with coming in second in the event. New to the '49er Murray Rubenzahl won the event riding an airhead GS. Bert Lankins provided additional entertainment and a video, had he been riding a BMW, he would have come in second. Dan Carter managed to score a bulls-eye during the Target Shooting section of the event. Thanks to Mike Bloed, Mike Carbin, Aman Ahuja and Roy Ulsfrud for their help on these events. And special thanks to Brian Bullis and the fairgrounds staff for their help with the course. Brian provided the air

rifle and targets for the target shoot and facilitated the creation of the English Trials Course designed by Andy Anderson.



The Asphalt Trials were quite challenging but even a Harley Bagger had a go. David Opheim was impressively smooth. Andy Anderson had a wireless mic and who knew he is a great announcer? The riders maneuvered around the track as Andy called out the sections of the course making it easy for the crowd to follow along. Thanks to Mike Bloed, Mike Carbin, Aman Ahuja and Roy Ulsfrud for their help with the event.



The Poker Run featured the novel idea (Andy Anderson's idea) of having a tour leader for the Ride. We did have some issues with the plethora of GPS units you all

have and trying to upload the GPS file to said units. But everyone was in a good mood and went with the flow and we had a great turnout for the Run. Jeff Shaffer led the tour and Bill Hall checked in the Poker Hands with the help of Bert Lankins, Ted Crum.

Phew, that's a lot of riding to cover but we are not done yet. Did you attend a seminar? We had several and they featured retired CHP Officer, Greg Pert, and a representative of Yosemite Park, which is celebrating their 125-year anniversary.



Thanks to Rick Klain we had a seminar on shooting videos with your iPhone. Rick has been our go to guru regarding club videos and special projects. We are currently working on a Charter member video/article and another project that we are calling Three Generations featuring our very own Charter member Alan Huntzinger, his son, Mike Huntzinger, and his grandson Mikey. Rick is always at the ready to help out wherever he can. Thank you, Rick.

We had a GPS Seminar featuring our Tour Captain, Ted Crum. Ted has wowed members this year with some incredible rides for the club and he presented a back to basics format that was easy to understand and actually addressed the things on everyone's mind; Creating a route, sharing a route and uploading the route to your unit. We have had similar GPS at Adventure Designs but it was Mac based. Ted provided the PC version. Thank you, Ted.

One of the challenges we face every year is how to put into words, pictures or videos the essence of a '49er Rally. Rallies, like motorcycling, are their own entity and they respond and grow with our own experiences. The venue is provided but the experience is yours and the people you share it with. This year was one of those that will be remembered as a great one. For starters, it was a much younger crowd, REALLY young. We had people in their early twenties, more families, a ton of lady riders and 127 new to the '49er Rally riders!



The BMW Motorcycle Club of Northern California is a prestigious institution that features over 200 eclectic members. Our members are the core of our values and always rise to the occasion where required. Such is the case of Russ and Hillary Drake who manned the first point of contact, Registration. Hillary's input regarding registration updated the process to make it easier for volunteers. From start to finish, Russ and Hillary and their army of volunteers, made checking in a breeze and accommodated most requests where they could. Thank you!

No less daunting was Rally Headquarters run by Terry and El Burnes. Their organizational skills and experience from previous Rallies streamlined the process of handling questions on the Day Rides, Raffle Prizes, Seminars, T-shirts, GS Rides, Poker Run and everyone's favorite; Changes to the schedule. The commitment of our volunteers was heartwarming and they pitched in where needed. Things were definitely better with them around and it made things easier. Thank you Terry & El.

The 50/50 Raffle challenge was presented to Chris & Lorene Dailey. Chris went out and bought a "lucky" hat and sold a lot of blue tickets. As stated before, everyone was in good spirits and the 50/50 Raffle was one of the highest in prize money in recent memory and a nice bump to our bottom line. Chris and Lorene could also be

found helping registration and making runs to the store on behalf of the Beer Garden.

Speaking of the Beer Garden, Mike Bloed and Doreen Cope kept the Beer Garden humming when they were not making runs to the store or helping somewhere else. It's not difficult to get volunteers for the Beer Garden but when the CO2 needs to be adjusted, a keg needs to be swapped or some unforeseen problem arises, it's good to know someone is on it . . . with a smile!

Some stats: 409 people plus vendors. We had a total of 127 '49er Rally first timers. The breakdown: 59 pre-registration, 25 Day Passes, and 43 at the Gate.

If you attend Rallies, you will find that the ones that are successful, fun and a good value, are the ones where the local community is involved. Rally events of our type rely heavily on the host community. Mariposa has been extremely generous to our club by providing services at a cost that is mutually beneficial and allowed us to offer our event at the same price as last year helping to achieve an increase in attendance while meeting or exceeding guest expectations.

The River Rock Café, The Soul Galaxy (Band), Lesay Gatsby (sang our National Anthem), The Soundman, SCOPE (Security), The Mariposa Chamber of Commerce, the community and businesses of Mariposa and in a larger role, The Mariposa Fairgrounds and staff all played an integral part in our success. Thank you Mariposa!

[Dolphin Graphics and Bebe Duarte, deserve a special mention for meeting our budget and providing the sought after long sleeve T-shirts in the process while producing their signature quality product. Wynne Benti provided the '49er T-shirt graphic and Adrian Merced ensured the graphic was represented as the artist intended. Great Job!](#)

The same can be said about the vendors that were out in force. Thank you, Adventure Designs, RKA, Cycle Specialties. Al Schibi Sound Devices, Gregg's A-List, Burnsmoto, Rex's Rally Photography, Adventure Motostuff and Bill Mayers Custom Saddles who generously donated a saddle that was won by club member Ron Harkov. Thank you Rocky!

[And last but not least, thank you for attending the '49er Rally. See you next year.](#)

[If you love riding and camping, be sure to check out BMW Norcal's annual Range of Light Gypsy Tour. There are three different stops with grassy campsites and it takes place Labor Day Weekend.](#)

<http://www.bmwnorcal.org/>

<http://www.bmwnorcal.org/gypsy-tour/>

<http://www.meetup.com/BMW-Motorcycle-Club-of-Northern-California/>

MZ.ADVENTURES' MOTO BLOG FIRST 49ER RALLY:

by AdvKat

My first ever motorcycle rally has been a shining success and a highlight to my summer so far. I met some of the most amazing people, with spectacular stories, and of course rode my motorcycle a ton! Being surrounded by a group of people who have so much experience and knowledge was both humbling and inspiring at the same time. Sometimes you've got to ride further than you've ever gone before to find the coolest stuff.

I decided to go to the rally with the hopes that I could find someone to go with me in time, I didn't. I had the time off of work, I bought the ticket, there was no way I wasn't going to go, so I went alone with new hopes of making some friends along the way. The night before, I packed up my tent, clothes, food, and the rest of the amenities I thought I might need. I stood back and looked at my poor little thumper, loaded down to the brim. So I took everything off and started again. On went the tent, sleeping bag and pelican cases full of food, clothes and hammock. In the morning I checked my tires, checked the oil and was ready to roll.

I left early in hopes of getting a good campsite at the Mariposa Fairgrounds. The ride was fantastic, despite the heavy load. Just before Mariposa there's a section of highway 49 called the Little Dragon. A little brother to the famous road, Tail of the Dragon, the switchbacks will have you grinning like an idiot. I rolled into town and saw nothing short of BMW utopia, from airheads to the newest GSs', they were all there. Once inside the fairgrounds I claimed my campsite for the next few nights and hunkered down for a nap in the hammock. When I arose from my slumber more campers had filed in each staking their claim for the weekend. I met my neighbors, a father and daughter from SoCal who became my accomplices and friends. We meandered my way over to the campfire where we had a good old time, telling tales, drinking beer and having fun! I wish I could stay forever!

The first morning I did my very first poker run with some airhead riding new friends. They showed me the ropes, and we had loads of fun riding roads that I wouldn't have normally traversed. On the second day I did the women's GS dirt clinic where we got to practice going over obstacles, sliding the rear and riding through sand. It was very informative and fun too! Afterwards we all went riding together, which was a blast! I met so many inspirational, tough women and good riders to boot!

The next day I went riding with some more new friends to Yosemite early in the morning. The way the water steamed on the road made the ride feel magical. When time came to head home I reluctantly packed up and said goodbye to my buddies, sad to go and vowing to return to next year's rally. I made my way back through the little dragon accompanied by some buddies from my area. It was the same road home, but I was filled with confidence, self fulfilment and the knowledge that I have a biker family wherever I go :)

*Thanks to Tammy for the pictures!

-AdvKat

Editor's Note: Reprinted with permission from the author. For more interesting motorcycle stories from AdvKat you can check out her cool blog at:

<http://Mzadventuresmotoblog.blogspot.com/>



THE RANGE OF LIGHT COMETH:

by Joyce Sampson

Summer's here, our fun and successful 49er Rally is over and we're fast approaching our club's other major riding event of the year—the Range of Light Gypsy Tour. Seasoned NORCAL'ers know all about this ride, but for the un-initiated or people just getting to know our club, this is a mystery, point-to-point camping and riding event, complete with two days of Poker Run questions, that covers California's—and sometimes neighboring states'—most exciting and beautiful street-bike and GS roads.

This year, Bob Empasis and I are co-chairing the event, and so far, it's been a great experience. One of the things that makes it enjoyable, is getting a chance to know, or learn more about, the club members who have graciously volunteered their time to put this event together. And, one of the best ways to do that, and to ensure we're putting together a great ride, is to pre-ride the roads and trails that will be part of the route. On Friday, 10 July, the ROL's two route designers, co-chairman Bob and Buddy Scauzo, myself, and club member Scott Maas met in Orland. We left early the next day from the fairground. Along the way, we had a few laughs, found some excellent poker run questions, checked out some roads we hadn't necessarily thought about initially, got lost, found our way, took some pictures, encountered some critters (squirrels, deer, and a long diamondback rattler) and ate in the types of out-of-the-way cafes one encounters on motorcycle trips, especially the wayfaring Rang-of-Light type.

This is the 25th time that the club has put on the ride. As always, it will include the luggage wagon, but new for this year, there will also be a chase truck in case anyone experiences mechanical troubles. The ride takes place over Labor Day weekend (4-7 September 2015), is open to any type of bike, and will be starting at the Glenn County Fairground in Orland, CA (221 E Yolo St, Orland, CA 95963). Since it is the 25th year, I've decided to do something very special and let you in on some secrets about this otherwise highly classified event. It's going to be a great ride where you'll be on routes &*##\$% and %^\$@*& and you'll get to see &^%\$, * and @#!\$%^, as well as that very spectacular &^%\$#*&. As some of our racier club members might say—bad pun intended—this is one of the best things you can do with your riding gear on. So, if you haven't put this firmly on your calendar yet, get yourself over to the club's website, sign up, buy a T-shirt with a cool logo designed by Wynne Benti and prepare for one of the most exciting rides of the year—the 25th Annual Range of Light Gypsy Tour. <http://www.bmwnorcal.org/gypsy-tour/>

Finally, I am still looking for a few volunteers to handle some light tasks during the event, so if you want to volunteer, please contact me at the email below. Please put "VOL for ROL" in the subject line.

Joyce Sampson -- flemmings27@yahoo.com

Co-Chairman, Range of Light Gypsy Tour, 2015



Above: Joyce and Bob and Buddy scouting the best roads for the 2015 ROL.

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Twisted Throttle DrySpec D-20 Saddle Bag System

Russ Drake

I picked up a pair of new soft saddle bags for my 690 KTM the other day and thought I would put together a few words about how I like them and how they were installed.

The bags are American Made for Twisted Throttle LLC in Exeter, Rhode Island and are advertised as 100% waterproof. <http://www.twistedthrottle.com/dryspec-d20-dry-saddle-bag-set>



The following is taken from TT's website:

The D20 saddlebag set is constructed of RF welded 22oz. vinyl that guarantees 100% waterproof performance even when submerged. The D20 also features a rigid core construction that allows the bags to retain their shape even when empty and makes packing and unpacking super easy.

Unlike all other saddlebags, the D20's interchangeable center strap is the core innovation that allows the bags to be so versatile. The bags mount directly to a bike with or without side racks and can attach directly to other D-Series dry bags. Use the Velcro center strap for convenience, the solid nylon strap for extremely muddy conditions, or remove the center strap all together to mount the bags directly to a D28 or D38 dry bag. Mounting the D20 saddlebags to the D28 or D38 dry bag is the ideal solution for riders who want the extra storage but are unable to mount traditional saddlebags due to high exhausts.

Features:

- Modular packing (mates with D28 and D38)
- Rigid Core construction

- Universal slip-lock mounting straps (included)
- Interchangeable center straps (Velcro or solid nylon)
- Mounts with or without side racks
- Retro Reflective logo
- Available in black, orange, or gray

Specs:

- 40 liters (20 liters each side)
- 100% waterproof (Radio Frequency Welded Seams)
- 17" long x 6" wide x 12" tall 22oz Vinyl & coated Cordura

Installation:

I have KTM side racks or loops and have installed some very thin aluminum sheets to the loops to keep the bags away from the pipe and wheels. The loops are not absolutely necessary since the bags are designed to lie over the seat/rear fender and held down with straps to the frame. I use plastic knobs through the inside of the bags into captive nuts attached to the aluminum side plates. My loops caused a problem by being too wide for the length of the straps that go over the seat. I called a very nice person at TT and explained to him my problem. After consulting with his expert I was amazed to get a phone call right back the same day telling me that new, longer straps were on the way, no charge.

I haven't had a chance to give the bags a wet, off-road test yet but I am sure that the bags will stay dry.

Pros: Very well constructed and look to be 100% waterproof
 Great service from Twisted Throttle
 American Made

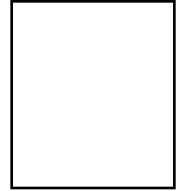
Cons: Instruction booklet could be a little clearer for attaching straps
 Supplied straps could be a tad longer to adapt to a multitude of motorcycles



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Ride to Camp; Camp to Ride



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A color version of the newsletter is available online at: www.bmwnorcal.org

COMING EVENTS

Information in this issue.

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|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 18 | Meeting & Camping -- Oh Ridge on June Lake |
| August 29 | Meeting & Camping -- Emigrant group camp -- Stampede Reservoir in Tahoe National Forest |
| September 4-7 | ROL Gypsy Tour -- Start at Glenn County Fairground in Orland, CA |
| September 26 | Meeting & Camping -- Hornswoggle group camp -- Bullards Bar Reservoir |
| October 24 | Oktoberfest -- Rancho Seco Park |
| December 5 | Meeting & Camping -- Rancho Seco or Plaskett Creek T.B.D. |

blue/bold items are Norcal events. All events in California unless otherwise stated.