

NOVEMBER 2020

# NORCAL NEWS



Ride to Camp

Camp to Ride



BMW Motorcycle Club of Northern California

## Presidents Column

Just when I thought California was going to be opening up more with many counties moving into the Yellow or Orange risk level, it seems like we may be slowing down our opening. We were however able to organize a few riding events this past month that were well attended and demonstrated we can organize events in a responsible and safe manner. First was an impromptu Sunday ride that started at Alice's and ended at Gizdich Ranch for some pie. We didn't have an organized breakfast but a number of members showed up for breakfast. It was such a great surprise. Alice's is well set up with many outside tables and a very organized process for ordering and picking up your food. If you haven't been to Alice's since the shutdown take a run out there. I think you'll be impressed.

Our second opportunity was organized by Bert Lankins as a casual camping event at Soppiago Creek Campground. There was plenty of space to socially distance and all attendees were respectful of the rules. The Campground had a huge campfire that enabled people to spread out. Lots of good food and cheer.

## Editors Corner

WOW.. Almost like we are back to normal. Two club rides and a camp out in one month. We need to make sure we thank our President (no not that one - the one who goes by the name Kevin Coleman) for exploring ways we can get out together, and do it safely.

Thanks to Steve Kesinger who wrote up his experiences of a September MOA Cedar City, Utah weekend getaway. He rode out with Gene Austin and they visited places I had not heard of before. More items for the bucket list.

Big thanks to Jeff Zane for providing a record of the Unofficial Club Getaway. Excellent photos by Jeff and the group picture by Michael Murphy. The front cover is by Jeff.

Our third event was a bittersweet fundraiser for The Junction. We had a huge turnout with almost 100 people signed up. We overwhelmed the kitchen so the lines were long for food but everyone was in great spirits. Unfortunately the Junction shut down the very next day. Let's hope new owners can be found. The rent for the restaurant and house is quite a deal so if you are looking for a new gig be sure and give them a call. I am sure the club will support you big time!

I know there is still a huge interest in our club with many new sign ups for membership, our mailing list or our Facebook page. We are chomping at the bit to get back to our regularly scheduled events but it looks like we will have to operate in a more casual manner for the foreseeable future. Look for more casual rides and campouts in the future as we get more comfortable in the new normal.

Stay safe

*Kevin Coleman*

I did participate in the ride to the Junction. It was only when I got there did I learn that it is closing for good (or at least until someone else takes it over). Very sad. I definitely need to figure out an alternative destination for my weekly rides.

This newsletter is the last one for 2020. The Norcal Bylaws state that the Editor shall work for eleven months and on the twelfth may rest. I will start pulling the pieces together in early December for the January 2021 issue. It would make my Christmas so much better if I had some material to work with. Please take pity on me.

Happy Thanksgiving and Christmas

*John Ellis*

## Wunderlich Weather Protection



In times past, designers created this thing called a mudguard. This sophisticated piece of engineering placed a metal cover close to the actual tires and prevented mud and water being thrown all over the bike and rider. Unfortunately over time this technology was lost to mankind and current bikes no longer offer this advanced feature. As a result when in wet weather bike riders and passenger gets sprayed with mud and water. Step in Wunderlich America. They have an amazing array of add on bits for BMWs, that cover the holes and extend the protection the current bikes omit. Parts offered includes Leg Protectors, Huggers and Splash Guards, Side Wind Deflectors, Foot Protectors, Side Covers, Fender Extenders and more. Enter your specific BMW model and see the parts available for you pride and joy.

# The Junction Charity Ride - 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Kevin Coleman organized a Norcal ride out to the Junction on the 24<sup>th</sup> October. As it turned out it was the day before the current owner of the Junction Bar and Grill closed for good or at least until someone else takes it over. The current owner Micaela Harris has been hit by Covid and then the fires. Her run of bad luck continued as the cash takings from the previous weekend was stolen from a her truck.

The club created the "Charity Ride" as a way to give something back. The event was extraordinarily successful and 95 \$20 meal tickets were sold. I have never seen so many bikes and people there before. The line up for food stretched across the parking lot.

Hopefully the Junction will open some time in the future, although its hard to see it happening as long as Covid continues to hang over us all.



## Unofficial Club Getaway to Sopiago Springs Resort October 9-11, 2020

Finally after over 8 months of inactivity, an informal Club Camp and Ride was held over Columbus Day weekend in Sopiago Springs Resort, southwest of Lake Tahoe in the El Dorado National Forest. The quickly formed getaway was organized by Burt Shipkins with help from various others and attended by between 30 and 40 riders. Sopiago Springs provided the perfect venue for motorcycle camping—situated on 160 beautiful forested acres, it was ideal for allowing distancing in these Covid 19 times. The camp was designed specifically with motorcyclists in mind 34 years ago. Among the attractions were actual hot showers, a huge fire pit and a performing stage which proved to be a popular gathering spot.

With close proximity to scenic CA Highway 88, riders enjoyed various assorted ventures to, among others: GS-friendly rides around nearby Bear River Reservoir, lunch in the quaint town of Genoa, NV, beautiful vistas over the Kingsbury Pass, shimmering golden groves of

Aspen trees along Hwy 88, fishing at Caples Lake and Dam, and other nearby Fall weather treks to rustic towns like Plymouth and Markleeville.

Since it is a private campground and with permission of local authorities, the attendees were able to once again enjoy a roaring campfire. Built and maintained by the colorful camp caretaker "Raven", the fire provided welcome warmth and the ideal spot for members to catch up with each other. There wasn't a group meal Saturday night but rather small groups either utilized the ample grills and cooking stations at the campsite or drove to nearby cafes like Cooks Station, Pearl's and Ham's Station. As the campers departed on Sunday, the common sentiment was that hopefully another event like this could happen again before too long.

*Jeff Zane*





# Informal Sunday ride from Alice's to Gizdich Ranch

Kevin Coleman pulled together an "informal" Sunday ride from Alice's on Skyline to Gizdich Ranch in Watsonville on 4<sup>th</sup> October

Eight people joined the ride and all made it to Gizdich farms where we met up with two others who were already there. I made one wrong turn and we had to turn around as it turned into a dirt road. There was some pretty rough road for a bit that a few of the riders complained about but all in all a very nice route, especially the first and last 20 miles.

It was crowded when we arrived but the line went fast and it calmed down. I picked up one of Gizdich's excellent apple

pies which unfortunately took a few hits in my top box on the way back, but still tasted great.

The whole event worked out great and shows we can get more rides going in a safe and responsible way. I am going to start publishing more rides like that. Breakfast is separate so we don't create a big group and people can decide if they want to stick around for lunch.

**Kevin Coleman**



## New Dunlop Trailmax Mission Tires

Many club members ride GS machines and make use of the off-road attributes such bikes offer. Key component to worry about when using bikes for such adventures is the type of tire to use.

For long trips involving dirt it seems like a popular choice is the Shinko 804/ 805, Heidenau K60, and Mitas E-07+. All fall in the 50/50 road/dirt category.

I only have personal experience of the Mitas, and can vouch for its long life, but they were not too good on grooved road surfaces until well run in. I also know of people who removed Heidenau because of poor performance on roads.

Looking though Cycle News there was a write up for a new tire by Dunlop called Trailmax Mission which claims to be a true 50/50 tire. There was a review associated with the article than mentioned two key things which match characteristics of tires mentioned above

1. They have really stiff side walls and are difficult to mount without a machine
2. The test rider got more than 7000 miles on them (riding a big old GSA)

The tires are cross-ply which is the same construction as the high mileage 50/50 tires made by other vendors.

The test rider says they are "stiff, sticky and super stable on pavement, and stick when the road is wet". He also says they performed well "on rocky Jeep trails and in mud". At the end of the article the reviewer said he would be buying a replacement set with his own money.

Looks good on paper – maybe someone in the club who has installed these tires could provide feedback on their experiences.





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# MOA Cedar City Getaway - Steve Kesinger

Last year I went to the MOA Cambria Getaway with fellow Nor-Cal member Gene Austin and we'd had a good time, so we talked about doing another one this summer before the Pandemic slammed everything shut. We still wanted to do a long ride, and the first, as well as closest Getaway



still open was in Cedar City, UT. It was re-scheduled for Sept. 11-13 so we packed up and left the prior Thursday morning. We rode over Sonora Pass on Hwy 108 to 395 where we took a short break and gassed up in Lee Vining. Then 120 east to hwy 6 to Tonopah, NV where we spent the first night in the Best Western. We got there early enough for a swim, then a good BBQ dinner across the street. There were quite a number of other bikes in the parking lot that eve, mostly BMW's also headed to Cedar City! The next morning we made a brief stop at the Tonopah Airport, where Gene said there had been a B-24 on display, but it was long gone, and the whole area is now fenced off. Another brief stop at the Tonopah Test Range for a photo op, then it was hwy 6 and 375, the Extraterrestrial Highway to Rachel for another photo op in front of the Little A'le'Inn. A funky little place in the middle of nowhere! Our next stop was the "Area 51 Alien Research Center" which sounded interesting but turned out to

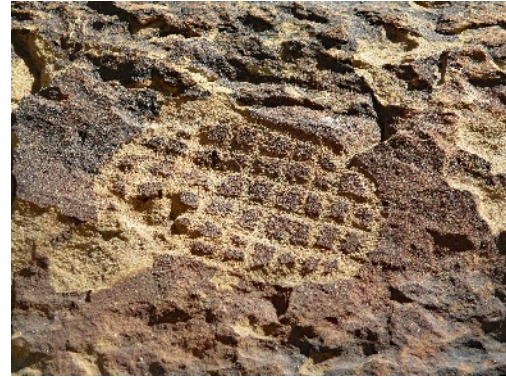


be just a tourist trap selling T-shirts and posters. I did like the mural though!

Then it was on to 93 and 310 becoming UT hwy 56 which led us rite into Cedar City where we met up with another Nor-Cal member Walt Farnlacher who now lives in Sun City West, AZ. I really like riding all these secondary highways and avoiding the big cities with all their traffic!

Unlike the Getaway last year, this one was less than half the size with a turnout of about 46. The conference room was also set up for social distancing with only 4 people around each of the large round tables. Masks were required any time not at the table eating, and throughout the hotel. Everyone seemed to be cooperating, and glad to be there as well as "out on the road again!"

S a t u r d a y . G e n e suggested a ride out to the "Parowon Loop" to see some petroglyphs and fossilized dinosaur tracks which was just



north of town. The petroglyphs were numerous and interesting having been left first by the Fremont people, then later the Hopi. Even today experts disagree on many of the petroglyph's meanings.

A little farther into the canyon were the fossilized dinosaur tracks. I'm glad there were signs by them as I'd have walked right past them! But now I can say I've seen dinosaur tracks!

My contribution for the day



was to Kolob Canyon about 17 miles south of our hotel, and it is the northern entrance to Zion National Park. Most people only go into the south entrance, but let me assure you the views in the north are spectacular! It's a short ride to the top overlook which has great views in almost all directions. Also being at a higher elevation it was a little cooler, so found a picnic table in the shade for an impromptu lunch.





Next stop was at Caliente, NV to check out the large train depot



there. I don't know why Caliente would have such a large depot for such a small town, but it is now full of city offices, and has a small museum in a boxcar on site. While there we saw a pickup and work truck driving up the rails! I did catch the truck; check it out!



Back to Tonopah where the Best Western had our same room ready for us! Alas, the grill across the street was closed being Sunday, so we settled for a pizza joint a little farther down the street. Mon. morning we made good time to the CA border,



Then it was back to the hotel for our awards banquet and a cold drink. I won a MOA pullover jacket for my wife, who gets to pick the color and size, so she'll have a nice souvenir from the trip!

Sunday morning Walt headed back to AZ, and Gene and I headed west reversing our route to CA. Our first stop was Old Irontown;



now a UT state park and just ruins, it was the site of several Kilns to make charcoal to feed a smelter where iron ore was processed from a mine on the other side of the valley.



where we could see a brown cloud of smoke ahead, so stopped and put masks on under our helmets to filter out some of the smoke. We wanted to ride Tioga Pass through Yosemite so continued up hwy 120. We got to the park entrance without seeing a single car going in; just a few leaving in the

opposite direction. I've never seen the park that void of traffic and so few tourists. We made good time until stopped by traffic waiting for a pilot car to lead past an area where the fire was all the way up to the shoulder of the road! Fire fighters and trucks had that lane blocked and we could see flames in several spots from the other lane. After arriving home the park was completely closed within a couple days, so good timing on our part.

Great weather, roads, and friends made for a great trip! I still miss our club campouts, but this was a good Getaway for us!

**Steve Kesinger**

# Do you suffer with Sweaty Bum Syndrome?

Monthly motorcycle magazines in print form are rapidly disappearing which is a real shame. I however still subscribe to a UK magazine called "Motorcycle Sport and Leisure". I was reading through this month's issue and one of the testers was talking about buying a "Cool Cover" [www.coolcovers.co.uk](http://www.coolcovers.co.uk) for the long-term test bike he was testing. He claimed they worked well and provided air-conditioning for the posterior preventing the dreaded sweaty bum syndrome.

I personally suffer quite badly in the heat, so that can anything that improve comfort when riding in the heat is very interesting to me so I checked out their web site.

Cool Cover makes covers to fit standard seats. Looks like they support most BMWs going back to 2000. The cost is rider £65, pillion £45, or a bench seat is £75 plus postage. I contacted the company and they will ship to the USA, but don't have any distributors in the USA.

Cool Covers are made using a 3D printed mash fabric, about ¼ inch thick and which cannot fully compress. This allows the air to flow underneath your buttocks, helping to keep you cool. They also claim it does not heat up when sitting outside in the sun. The cover is installed using elastic straps and Velcro. They also claim water will drain through so you can avoid sitting in a puddle of water when it rains. If you live in England and you have a custom seat, they will make you a custom cover.

I read the reviews and they seem to be overwhelmingly positive, but I was a bit reluctant to lay out a \$100 on something that might not work. I started looking around Amazon to see if I could find

something similar, since I figured the 3D material used was unlikely to be made specifically for Cool Covers.

After much searching on Amazon I found **KKmoon Motorcycle Cool Seat Cover, Universal Cushion Protector Sunscreen Mat, Mesh Seat Sun Pad** for \$18.99. The material that it is made of looks to be identical to that used by Cool Comfort. Obviously, it is a universal fit. I checked the size against the seat on my bike and decided it would work for me so I ordered one.

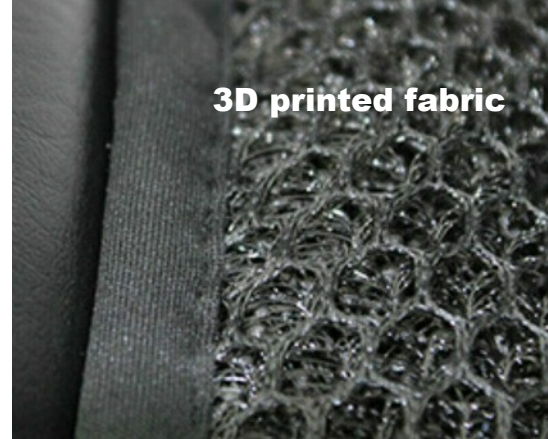
The question you are all asking is "does it work?", and the answer is a definite yes!

I installed it and headed out on the freeway. The outside temperature was probably 65F. At speeds of 50mph and higher I could feel the cool air flowing under my bum. I was wearing textile over-pants. A peculiar sensation but it was definitely working. I rode all day with it and as the temperature rose the air flow was not as obvious, even though it was still happening. This is similar to air vents in helmets. When the temperature is lower one can definitely feel the rush of cool air. When it gets hot the air is still flowing but you can't feel it in the same way.

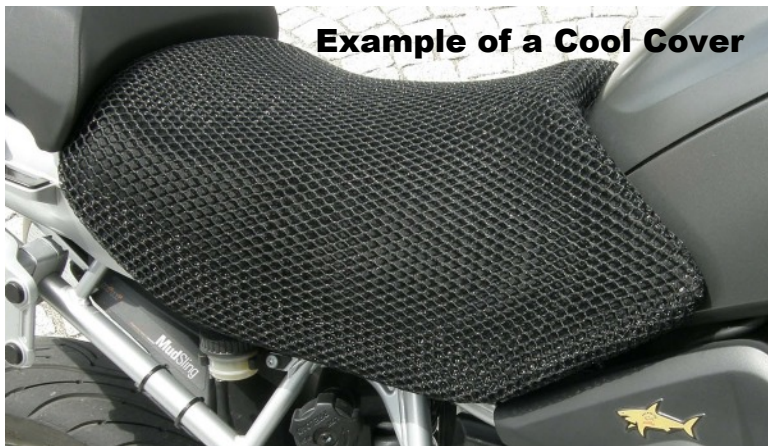
I found the cover a bit more slippery than the standard seat cover on my bike which is quite abrasive.

Do I recommend the cover? Definitely. The Cool Cover looks better, but the one on Amazon works. Not sure if it will last, but since its less than 20 bucks who cares?

**John Ellis**



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and we will keep you informed as of when the goal is reached.

We have all heard stories from riders who used the Helite Airbags and can attest the to the product performance. From slow falls to high speed crashes, riders claim that if they hadn't used the Helite Airbag, they would have been in much worse shape.

The holidays are upon us, and what better way to treat yourself - you deserve it.

Regards

Jorgen Larsen

## **Keep a look out for deer**

The deer mating season is here again. Don't forget to look out for these suckers. If you see one there is almost certainly at least one or two more around. Slow down or stop until they clear the area. If this is not possible remember if they are moving they are most likely to continue in the same direction. They are not good at reversing. Aim for its rear end.



**The Alien and the Spaceship  
Halloween in Germany  
By Julia and Moxi**

# Junction Memorial Ride

On the way to the Junction luncheon on Oct 24th, there was a memorial ride for Susan Huntzingers father, Fred Egea.

The memorial ride was over Mt. Hamilton and was joined by about 15 motorcyclists, mostly from the Philippine motorcycle Club "Crispy Pata", which provided a Color Guard. My son Mike rode down from Lincoln with children, Mikey and Des in their Flexi sidecar to join us.

Fred Egea was born in Puerto Rico in 1942. He died of a stroke this year shortly after Desi's birthday. Some of his forbears were the Taino Indians that greeted Columbus to this new world. He was the other grandfather to my two grandchildren, Mikey and Desi so they have more claim to the Americas than most of us with European origins.

Fred was a motorcyclist. He liked to build small trains (HO were too big), and his layout could fit in a suitcase. He painted scenes of the southwest on glass windows, and reverse items such as motorcycles and airplanes. His career was designing radar and computers for planes

Fred's wife, Karen, asked me to provide a memorial on a motorcycle road for Fred. I chose the road to the Junction as a suitable place. We stopped at a large rock on the hill.

I spread poppy seeds around and placed some of Fred's ashes on the seeds and the rest on top of the rock. I placed a temporary flag of a skeleton over the rock to scare away evil spirits, as the original Hallowed Eve was created to provide. I placed a few drops of his favorite Caribbean Rum on his ashes, and offered a toast. Several other attendees sipped the rum and offered a few words. I stated that some time in the future we could easily find this spot and marvel an the poppies. The "Crispy Patas" provided a song, "Ride Like the Wind", with the line "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother". We all sang along with the provided printed words. I thank the Philippine Motorcycle Club the Color Guard and music.

May we all live long and ride well.

On the way back down I was passed by 4 Vespa scooters...gasp ...and one bicyclist who shouted at me when I passed him when going slowly up hill but was much faster on the downhill portion.

It was great to see all the BMW gang at the Junction.

Thank you Jorgen Larson for contacting "Crispy Patas"

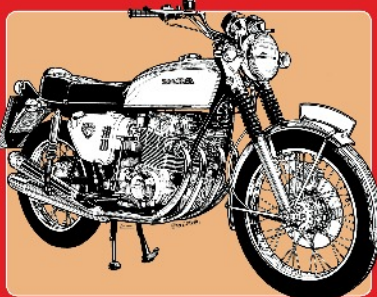
**Alan Huntzinger.**



HAYNES  
**DIARY**



Motorcycle enthusiast edition



January to December 2021 • One week to view

I hate to mention it but since this is the last newsletter before Christmas here is a stocking stuffer for those who need a desk diary to manage their day. Its not BMW, but desk diaries featuring motorcycles are rare (lots of wall calendars). The bikes featured look like they are mostly 60's and 70's - a real nostalgia trip.

Available from Amazon,  
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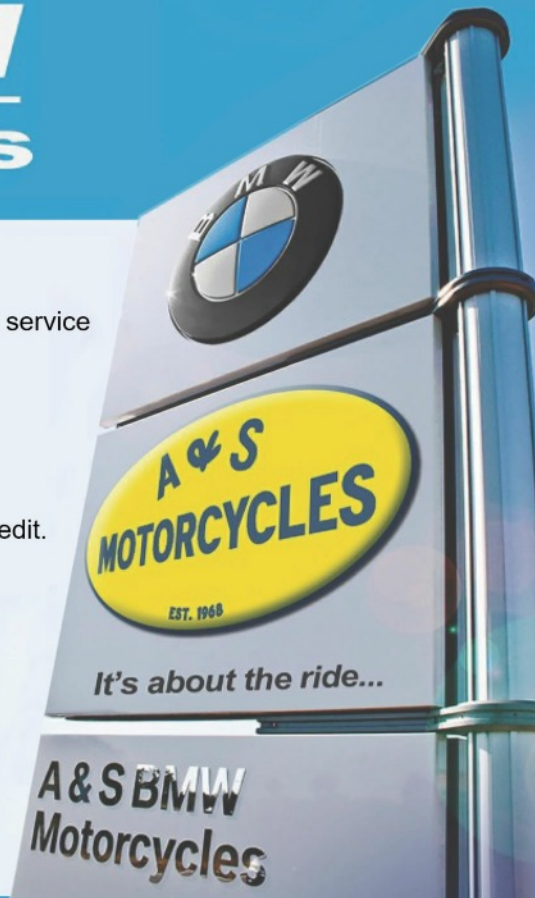
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## Events

Check [bmwnorcal.org](http://bmwnorcal.org) for latest information

### Newsletter Contributor Honor Roll

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William Frick	Richard Klain	Blake Sorrell
Patrick Carew	Adrian Pineda	Rich Morin
B Jan	Alan Huntzinger	Jeff Zane
Fred Montano	Ed Perry	Steven Kesinger

## Anniversaries

<b>October</b>	<b>Alan Huntzinger</b>	<b>55</b>
	<b>Chris Weld</b>	<b>55</b>
	<b>Carmen Vailly</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Mark Dubresson</b>	<b>20</b>
	<b>Frederick Giroux</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Doug Hubbard</b>	<b>45</b>
	<b>Thomas Jones</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Honorato Leal</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Sandy Silvas</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Mark Ruffner</b>	<b>5</b>

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