

Bay Area Club Sponsors DIY Clinic

THE SAN FRANCISCO

Bay Area BMW Motorcycle Club of Northern California (#9), like most clubs, holds monthly membership meetings. The club also has a second monthly event called the second Sunday breakfast ride, where members meet for breakfast at various Bay Area locations, then go on a guided tour.

Saturday, November 16, 2013, was a little unusual in that it was the third Saturday of the month and also the club's first Do It Yourself (DIY) Education/training in the club's new fiscal year. This was the product of a conversation between Buddy

Scauzzo, the club's Safety/Tech, and member Kevin Lindsey at the MOA National Rally in Salem, OR. In all, about 19 club members and two guests showed up at 9 a.m., and hung around until almost noon. Russ Pencin, one of Moto Shop's independent consultants, conducted the Periodic Brake Flush Maintenance Tech Session.

We also learned about Moto Shop, a different kind of motorcycle shop. Anyone can work on a motorcycle there, with or without help. Moto Shop supplies all the tools and some basic supplies like oil, shop rags, parts cleaner and so on. Reservations can be made for work stations with lifts and the tools needed to perform maintenance and repairs. For those who need some training, there are regular hands-on workshops for things like tire and oil changes, valve adjustments and more. No more than three students can work on their own motorcycles with a qualified mechanic guiding the way. Services extend to one-on-one help,



monthly motorcycle storage, motorcycle consignment (to sell a bike), parts ordering and motorcycle inspection (to evaluate the condition of a used motorcycle). Plus there are all the amenities, like free WiFi, kitchen and lounge areas and much more.

Moto Shop reminds me of another place a continent away, Knopf Tours in Heidelberg, Germany. Here's both of their websites, if you're curious: <http://www.motoshopsf.com>, and <http://www.knopf-tours.com>.

Moto Shop and Knopf Tours could prove useful, even if you didn't live in Northern California or near Frankfurt, Germany. They are both "destinations" near a major international airport (SFO and FRA). Knopf Tours caters mostly to international motorcycle tourists, even arranging for rental motorcycles, airport pickup and drop-off, bed and breakfast and more. Moto Shop can supply the storage, maintenance facilities and expertise, and SFO is less than

five miles distant via taxi or nearby public transportation. Knopf Tours is 87 km (54 miles) from the Frankfurt airport.

Knopf Tours has been around more than 20 years and Stefan Knopf is the owner. Moto Shop is two years old and is owned by Wilder and Aleksandra (Aleks) Grippo. Moto Shop is located, in a sense, at the intersection of DIY motorcycle enthusiasts and social media. Twitter is just up the road, Google and Facebook are just down the road, and great riding is all around.

The reason I bring all this up is that members of our BMW Motorcycle Club of Northern California – www.bmwnorcal.org – like most MOA members, like to go the distance, taking long trips, either riding there, shipping to–from far away, or renting a motorcycle upon arrival. For those of us living in the San Francisco Bay who are DIY inclined, but may not have the tools, facilities or expertise, Moto Shop provides the venue. ☺