

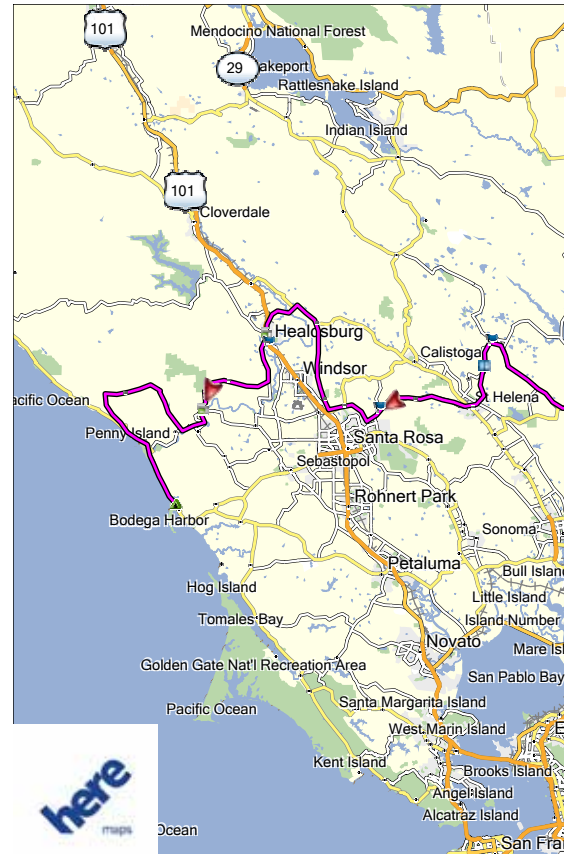


AUGUST TOUR, MEETING & CAMPING:

The August meeting, will be held a week early to make time for the Range of Light the following weekend. The meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. at the Chancellor Ranch in Bodega Bay on Saturday, August 23, 2014. Tim Bray, who is too profitably busy to attend, reserved the venue. I'll be leading the ride starting at the Valley Café in Fairfield, breakfast at 8:00 and stands-up at 9:00. The campground is not far away, and instead of making the ride longer by going to Ukiah, I decided to make it slower by putting together a "Goat Road Soup" full of the (very) minor roads that are a staple of the Norcal diet. There is no lunch break, but we'll make plenty of stops.

If you ride straight to the campout, the driveway is at the top of a rise just north of the harbor. Campers must check in at the gray building next to the stables. Our spots are past the buildings, down a gravel road that is "Prius friendly." There are plenty of restaurants near the harbor, so the event is not catered, but there will be a barbeque at the charity barn dance if you brought the right shoes. Route instructions and a GPS file will be on the Norcal web page (www.bmwnorcal.org) and on Meetup.

Tour Captain – Ted Crum



2014 NORCAL RANGE OF LIGHT GYPSY TOUR:

The 2014 Range of Light Gypsy Tour is the zenith of our riding, touring, and camping mindset. The RoL is held over Labor Day Weekend each year. This year that begins August 29th. Three days of outstanding touring awaits all that participate. The weekend starts in Gridley, CA. The route for each day of touring and camping location at the end point is a closely held secret. We provide the meals and camping for each night of the tour. We also transport your soft luggage to each camping spot for you during the entire tour so you and your bike can ride unencumbered by camping gear. At the Friday check in, each rider receives a packet containing a commemorative pin, meal tickets, raffle tickets, and a location of that night's campsite. Saturday and Sunday rides are also a Poker Run with points for questions along the route.

Sunday night concludes the RoL with an awards ceremony after dinner. Monday morning comes all too soon with everyone departing for home, sad that the tour is over and you have to wait another 12 months to enjoy something like this again. Pre-registration for this year's RoL is now open on the club website.



a touring and camping club
bmwnorcal.org

Charter No. 9, BMW Motorcycle Owners of America
Charter No. 210, BMW Riders' Association

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Cliff Dunn 408/338 5948

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PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS -

by Z Ortiz

Fort Churchill Campout: The ride to Fort Churchill for the membership meeting/campout was not without its challenges. We changed the starting location and we were to

meet two members en route. The first stop was Salas Park in Lodi where Pete Hamel would be waiting for us. The second stop was in Pioneer where Kevin Kelly would be waiting for us. Joining us was Alan Marcus and Lancer. We missed an exit on the way to the park so Pete had to wait a bit longer than anticipated which in turn made us tardy to our meeting location for Kevin. Once we got the group together and moving along we were rewarded with some pretty spectacular views and some nifty roads.

We arrived at the campground; we had our meeting and then had dinner. Shortly thereafter everyone was enjoying the coolness of the evening and as Tuco lit the campfire we were all amazed at the amount of firewood we got for \$8.00. The mood was relaxed and we chatted around the campfire until it was time to turn in.

Membership Celebrations:

Steve Dabraowski received his 25-year membership pin at the Fort Churchill Campout.

'49er Ad-Hoc Committee:

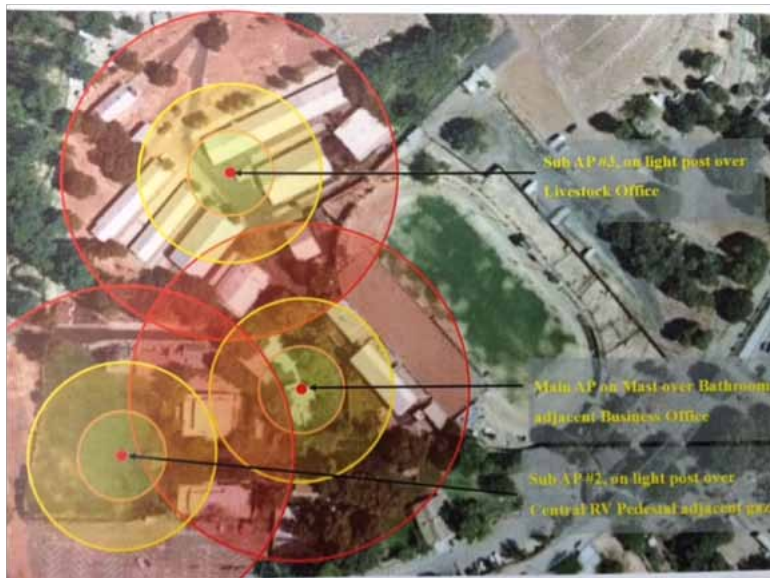
The 2014 '49er Rally was a success and while it met and exceeded our club success criteria (yes, we have one) and the preliminary financial report show us in the black, there is always room for improvement. I have asked Andy Anderson to Chair the 2015 '49er and his nomination is on hold until the committee reports back to the Board. The committee is comprised of Greg Hutchinson (Chairman), Pat Potter, Mike Morlin, Russ Drake, Greg Gibson and Andy Anderson and they are to basically cover the questions featured on our survey last year. Location, likes and dislikes about the event, things to add or change and is our Rally a better event at our current size (400-500).

There has been a lot of speculation about the vendors and their diminishing numbers. This is happening across all motorcycle related venues and surprisingly even premier events like the Laguna Seca races had a significant drop in vendor attendance.

Meanwhile the Mariposa Fairgrounds under the direction of Brian Bullis have acquired some funding for improvements to the facility. They are installing Fiber Optic cables and upping their bandwidth along with the installation of additional antennas for better Wi-Fi coverage.

Check out the wifi map on page 3.

articles, photos, events, etc.
for the newsletter are due on the
first day of each month.



We now have 139 riders on our meetup site. There has been some resistance to meetup from some members and it's OK. As always, the club website is the official representative/face of the club. Our new webpage will reflect the upcoming events on the main page so you don't have to be redirected to meetup for the information.

Second Sunday Breakfast Pre-Ride:

SSBR Chairman, Cliff Dunn, has been getting some ideas for our most popular monthly event. Bob Berner and Jim Irvine know some of the best roads in the North Bay and we pre-rode the August SSBR to ensure everything goes according to plan. Some route changes were in order and the route was finalized. Thanks Bob and Jim.

Godspeed Miguel Micheli:

I am saddened to report that Michael Micheli lost his battle with cancer. He passed away on Sunday August 3rd, 1014. Michael joined the club in July of 2011 and if you met him, you will remember him being full of life and always smiling. Our condolences to Michael's family.

--Z Ortiz



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JULY TOUR REPORT:

by Dan Rowe

Several months ago, Cliff Dunn mentioned the club was looking for a new location for July. I took on the challenge of finding a camping site. In my years as a Nevadan, I'd traveled to every county in the state (17) for both work and adventure. I'd also been on most every road in Northern Nevada on a motorcycle.

Looking at group camping in Northern Nevada, I decided to call the State Park at Fort Churchill. As it turns out, the park had a covered group site, running water, and newer facilities. I booked the site and then started my plans for the tour.

At approximately 250 miles from the Bay Area, the route needed to be somewhat expedient getting across Central California. After getting to the Sierras the route could meander as it would be cooler and the roads more varied. The route did wander a bit as we crossed into Markleville and then back up to Lake Tahoe. Kingsbury Grade is a great road, and NV 50 out of Lake Tahoe is second to none for open sweeping turns.

The morning of the ride, I met with three others for breakfast in Livermore. At our first stop, another person was added to the tour. In Pioneer, another person joined us. At this point the temperature was well on the rise. Fortunately, gaining elevation gave us a respite from the omnipresent heat. Great scenery was at hand. We passed through pine forests and by high alpine lakes. Traffic was light and passing lanes were just where they were needed to get around slower cars.

After a break in Markleville, the tour climbed out of valley and back up into the mountains. Several people had asked me why the tour took the route around the lake. Lake Tahoe does have some traffic to contend with, but the ride back down to the valley on NV50 is worth every moment. Simply, riding down NV50 was my reason for taking the route.



Our last stop in Dayton for food, yielded another person for the tour. Getting to Fort Churchill for most of us was a quick blast through the open desert on an almost arrow straight road. A couple of adventurous people did take the Fort Churchill dirt road cut off.

continued on page 6

JULY TOUR REPORT:

by Dan Rowe

Upon arriving at the campground, we were greeted by several early arrivers. As the evening progressed additional members and guests arrived. Personal friends of mine and local residents, Bruce and Ellen Carpenter brought over water, ice, beer, and snacks for tour. Their generosity was greatly appreciated by all that were present. It would be hard to argue against an ice cold beer.

Northern Nevada was my home for several years after moving from West Virginia and before moving to San Francisco. As an Easterner, I had no conception of the openness and immenseness of the West and the high desert. Northern Nevada can be a beautiful place if you are willing to seek out its beauty. I miss the desert sometimes. I'm happy that I could share part of it with the club.



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HELLO FROM OUR NEW CLUB SECRETARY:

by Joyce Sampson

Hi Folks! I'm Joyce Sampson, and having been elected secretary at the Finnon Lake Annual Meeting in June, I'm happy to serve the club as a board member this year! I've been riding motorcycles since 2004—my current steed, a 2009 R1200RT named "Bullet," is my third bike, but first of the Bavarian variety—my previous two were Japanese (unnamed) and American ("Beauregard"). I moved to California in 2011, but NORCAL was on my radar screen to check out in 2009 when I started considering a job transfer from Newport, RI to Monterey. After taking a year to get settled in, I attended a 49er, King City monthly campout, and the famed, exciting, fun, (and upcoming) Range of Light Gypsy Tour. Let's see . . . motorcycling, great roads, camping, fun folks, and good food and beer at meetings . . . check, I'm in!

Clubs are made fun and successful by the people who join and participate in them. Motivated by that thought, I was an assistant tour captain last year and lead the February ride to Pinnacles. I also served as the 49er Rally Co-Chair in 2014. So, with that thought in mind, I encourage you to volunteer to be an assistant tour captain and/or help at our major events (sign up on our website)! Finally, one of my goals is to lead some combined bike-to-adventure rides, such as bike-to-hike or, if we ever get out of the drought, white water rafting or kayaking. If you have any ideas for such day or weekend rides, please let me know! Shiny Side Up, See You at the August Meeting!

-- Joyce Sampson; flemmings27@yahoo.com



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Steve Dabrowski (on the right) was presented a 25 year pin at Fort Churchill Nevada from Dan Rowe.



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Navigating NorCal's new website

I've gotten a number of questions regarding the club's new website and how to navigate it. Below is a quick tutorial on the navigation basics of the site for desktop browsers and mobile devices.

From a usage perspective, I recommend a modern or up to date browser: Chrome or Firefox. Keeping your browser up to date and patched is important. Many websites won't display properly on out of date/unpatched browsers. I don't recommend Internet Explorer.

From our usage statistics, some of our visitors are using Windows XP and Internet Explorer versions 6, 7, or 8. For those that are using Windows XP, I urge you to transition to Chrome for your Internet browsing. Our webpage does not display navigation menus correctly when using Internet Explorer versions 6, 7, or 8.

Navigating the website



- 1.) Clicking on the NorCal Logo at any point will take you back to the home page.
- 2.) This is the Navigation bar.
 - a. Home
 - b. Events: Event Schedule, 49er, ROL
 - c. About: Who We Are, Sponsors, Safety, Contact
 - d. Galleries: Photo and Video
 - e. News: Updates, Newsletters, Archives
 - f. Club Store: Buy things
- 3.) Clicking on a Navigation bar opens the submenu.

The front page has a brief overview of our club, and a quick glance at upcoming events with links to ride sheets, GPX, and the option to RSVP.

Upcoming Events

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

August 10, 2014 Second Sunday Breakfast Ride [RSVP](#) [Route-sheet](#) [GPX](#)

August 23, 2014 Bodega Bay Tour, Meeting, and Campout [RSVP](#)

August 29, 2014 Range of Light Gypsy Tour [Tickets](#)

September 27, 2014 SongDog Tour, Meeting, and Campout [RSVP](#)

Clicking on the RSVP link directs you to our Meetup page. Club members organizing events have the ability to update the rides and details. Route sheet and GPX file links are provided on the front page as well.

Our primary photo archives are located on SmugMug. A link to the archives is on the photos page.

Common Questions:

Q: Why can't I buy anything through the store, the menu links are missing, or the pages looks strange?

A: You are using an old web browser. Try using a modern browser such as Chrome or Firefox.

Q: I'm attached to my vintage browser. Can you help me?

A: Have you considered using your smart phone or tablet to view the website?

Q: Where can I find the route sheets for the upcoming ride?

A: Links to route sheets and GPX files are located on the front page for each upcoming event.

Q: I clicked on the RSVP link and it took me to some website thing. I won't sign up for anything, and playing with others is out of the question. Can I come to your events?

A: Yes. Our Meetup page does not require a log in to download ride files or view details. Bear in mind, for catered events RSVPs are required to ensure you are fed.

Q: Where are the old newsletters?

A: Developing the website is a process. The digital copies of the newsletters will be added to the Archive section.

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

COMING EVENTS

Information in this issue.

- August 23** **Meeting & Camping** -- Bodega Bay
- Aug 29 - Sept 1** **2014 ROL Gypsy Tour** -- Start Location Gridley, CA
- September 12-14** **2014 Beemer Bash** -- www.cabr.org
- September 27** **Meeting & Camping** -- SongDog Ranch
- September 25-28** **Horizon Unlimited California Meeting** -- Mariposa, CA www.horizonsunlimited.com/events/california
- October 18** **Meeting & Camping** -- Sly Park Octoberfest

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

Prospective members may receive a complimentary newsletter by contacting the Secretary.