

NORCAL NEWS

the 44th Anniversary of the BMW Motorcycle Club of Northern California



MEMORIAL DAY 2016
May 26-30 ⚡ Mariposa CA
Gateway to Yosemite National Park



FEATURED SPEAKER: Ted Simon, author of Jupiter's Travels

Doc Wong Street Riding Clinic • Lance Thomas GS Training • GS Giants Field Trials
GS Rides • Guided Rides • Poker Run • Field Trials • Vintage Motorcycle Show • Live Music
Vendors • Free WiFi • Charging Stations • Bike Wash • Bier Garten • AND Prizes

Rally costs \$55 adult / \$25 child under 12 years pre-registered, children under 6 admitted free
\$65 adult / \$30 child at the gate. Pre-registration ends May 22
Saturday Dinner with vegetarian option \$18 (pre-registered only).

For information, registration and updates, please email the 49'er Rally Chair: Tom Connolly, 49erchair@bmwnorcal.org
<http://bmw49er.org>

**BMW Motorcycle Club
of Northern California**



**Ride to Camp
Camp to Ride**

PRESIDENT* (775) 287-3205
Dan Rowe
rowe.dt@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

SAFETY/TECH DIRECTOR* (510) 797-1576
Steven Kesinger
bmwpilot777@sbcglobal.net

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR (925) 461-8462
John Ellis
newseditor@bmwnorcal.org

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY
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SECOND SUNDAY BREAK-FAST
Open Position

**Board Member*

A note from the Editor

As you will see the focus of this months newsletter is the 2016 49er rally. A lot of effort and thought has been applied to make this rally the most successful in recent memory. However, there is much work to do and the committee needs some help in the organization (see Dan's request on page 4) and execution (see Ted's Call for Volunteers on page 3).

I would like to thank all this months contributors including board members Ted, John, Steve, Ed and Dan as well as 49er Co-chair Tom Connolly; photographs by Richard Klain and Buddy Scauzzo.

Check out the back page for upcoming events particularly the Adopt a Highway clean up on the 19th March. Ed is looking for some help.

The club membership anniversaries on the back page . This is a really unusual month where all are long time members, with years of membership ranging from 15 to 35.

In the January newsletter I communicated the sad news that the Junction Bar and Grill on Mines Road was to close. I rode past yesterday and have much better news. The car park was full of trucks and men carrying hammers. The sign on the gate said renovations were under way. One can only hope the renovations are not too extensive and they will be over soon.

John Ellis



49er Rally - Call for Volunteers

The club needs on-site volunteers to help make the 2016 49er a success! Help will be needed as early as Thursday May 26 at noon, and as late as Sunday May 29 at midnight. Most of the work will be in 2-hours shifts at jobs like Registration, HQ/store and Biergarten. We will also need help with Poker check-in (Sat and Sun afternoons), Raffle, GS and Asphalt trials, etc.

We'll have the final schedule soon and perhaps an on-line signup, but to get the ball rolling I'd like anyone who is considering helping to contact me with the following information:

- When you intend to arrive at the rally, and when you could start
- When you will leave
- At which times can't you help
- Which events you plan to attend yourself
- Job preferences
- If you will have a car
- Contact information, including mobile.

Thanks for your help.

Ted Crum
Volunteer Coordinator



Treasurer's report



Another "snoozer" month for the Treasurer. The bank balance on 2/29/16 was \$18,053. We have 199 paid members. We are now using a bank debit card to pay our monthly internet providers: Wild Apricot, Meetup and Google. Using the bank bill payment services is working

flawlessly and is a huge time saver for the club and our vendors. We moved to a single payment vendor for all web and credit card purchases and it's PayPal. Effective today, our customers can pay with a credit or debit card (without creating an account) or logon and use their personal PayPal account to complete any transaction. Finally, we will find a better place to put our money market funds and I promise to get this done within the next 30 days.

On the Webmaster side, I've been busy getting all the pieces together, tested and rolled out for the 49'er. The new 49'er pages are live so please encourage your fellow riders, family and friends to

pre-register, save \$10, and buy those 49'er Rally tickets, today! We've also released a new Club Store for folks who just want to purchase a 49'er t-shirt or a new badge. Signups are open for rally volunteers on the website at Events, 49'er Rally 2016, Volunteer Signups. Those who sign up early get the best time slots at registration, beer garden, country store/rally HQ, 50/50 raffle and GS and street/touring skills events!

I'm excited about working with this team of folks who are committed to making the 49'er Rally in 2016 something very special. Several members and everyone on the BOD has stepped-up and taken on chair positions and additional responsibilities. We ride, we camp, we work together, we grow and all that for \$30 a year! Thanks for your continued support and if you have questions shoot me an email at treasurer@bmwnorcal.org.

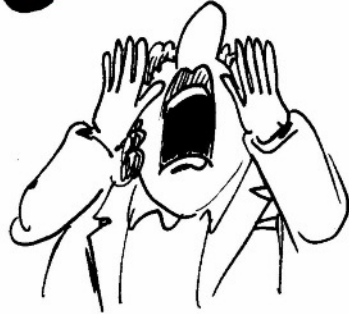
Wherever you ride, think safe!

John Vashon

MARCH 2016

Message from the President

Volunteers!



The 49'er Rally in 2016 promises to be something very special. Tom and the BoD have been on planning and executing the Rally this year. New speakers and seminars will be at the Rally along with some of our favorite regulars. Ted Simon, the author of *Jupiter's Travels* will be our guest speaker. Doc Wong and Lance Thomas will both be at the Rally as well. We are offering more robust GS training with coaching from Lance Thomas. I'm working to ensure our asphalt riders have plenty to keep them busy as well.

We are past budgeting and planning stages and it is execution time. We need your help. Before you "just say no," please give this list a quick read and then review the MANY benefits to you for helping out at the bottom of this message.

Asphalt Skills & Experiences Chair: The chair is responsible for coordinating the asphalt skills and experiences track for the rally. This includes everything from sourcing vendors, scheduling speakers, organizing a lead ride, providing self-guided rides to publishing the track in the rally schedule. Much of the work has already been done but we need someone to pull it all together as Buddy Scauzzo has done on the GS Side.

Airheads Chair. We want a "lite" track for the airheads. Steve Kesinger (BOD member) and a few other Airhead folks in the club have skills and experiences to bring to the table. We need someone to define the track, confirm the speakers and events and publish the track to the rally schedule.

Speakers & Seminars Chair. We need someone to take overall responsibility for the seminars and speakers at the rally. Much of the work is already done but it all needs to be coordinated in terms of logistics, scheduling, ensuring our featured speaker (Ted Simon) has all the resources he needs and it needs to be published in the rally schedule. We have several vendors who want to present at the show and Mike Morlin has this list. This chair will coordinate their efforts with the GS, Asphalt and Airhead chairs.

Awards & Prizes Chair. We need someone create a list of all the awards and prizes we plan to give away and then acquire the goods from our list of preferred vendors and advertisers. This person can coordinate the activities with the Ad Chair (Buddy Scauzzo) and Vendor Chair (Mike Morlin) to ensure we fully leverage our vendor

relationships. The list should include the raffles (how many, when are they drawn, where are the results posted, what do we give away) to “the winners” in the GS Giants competition, oldest bike, who travel the furthest to attend, oldest rider (???) and the grand prize given away at the end of the event (can we leverage one of our vendors here?)

Services and Fun Chair. We want to offer some standard services like charging stations, Wi-Fi, GPS download, printer(s), etc... Also, how a bike washing station run by a local charity? How about a photo booth? Bring your energy and creativity here to do something unique, fun and UNUSUAL that will give the attendees something to remember for many years to come!

Benefits, you said, right? First, you get to work with a great team that will provide lots of support to ensure your success! We meet or talk on the phone every Wednesday evening at 7 PM so there’s plenty of communication. If you can’t get something done, just ask for help and one of your teammates will jump in. Second, there’s no “one way” to do anything so bring your fresh ideas and creativity to the table and let them fly! Third, you are going to have fun, learn a lot and have the satisfaction of knowing you’ve done a good job for your team, the club and the BMW motorcycling community (it’s a great feeling!) So what’s next, email me at rowe.dt@gmail.com say you want in and tell me where you want to help. Tom, myself or one of the BOD members will get back to you and then join us next Wednesday on the conference call to meet the team!

Thanks for your support!

Dan Rowe

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MARCH 2016

2016 49er Rally In Mariposa

The 2016 49er Rally is the 44th anniversary of this annual gathering of the BMW motorcycle and community in Northern California. Every year we have riders come from all of our neighboring states as well as British Columbia and well beyond

After much discussion we opted to come back to Mariposa because of its proximity to Yosemite National Park and central location within the state as well as the cordial relationship we have developed with the City as well as the fairground staff.

In an effort for to attract a broader audience of riders to our event we have added additional riding clinics for both Street and off Road riders. We feel fortunate to be hosting Doc Wong and his riding street riding clinic at our rally for those of us that need to improve our pavement skills. For all the GS riders out there we have Lance Thomas from the Rawhide training School offering off road skills sessions as well. Of course there are a limited number of spots for both of these riding enhancement seminars so I suggest that you sign up early.

This year's featured speaker is adventure rider / author Mr. Ted Simon who holds the unique distinction of having circumnavigated our planet twice. The most recent trip being completed in 2004 aboard an R80GS. A true "man of the world" hearing Ted speak is an opportunity not to be missed.



"It was going to be the journey of a lifetime, a journey that millions dream of and never make, and I wanted to do justice to all those dreams."
Ted Simon

I strongly recommend that all of our guests take full advantages of all the amenities that the 49er has to offer this year including the guided rides on and off the pavement. The free trolley that will be running into town Friday and Saturday. I recommend that our visitors take full advantage of some of the unique establishments in historic downtown Mariposa. There will be an array of quality vendors on site that we would encourage you support. A bought myself an RKA tank bag at the 49er a couple a seasons back and took the opportunity the thank Richard Battles at the MOA National Rally in Billings MT this year for designing such a great product. We have brought back "The Soul Galaxy" as well as Tony Westlake & the Tuff Times for your entertainment Friday and Saturday evening. Do yourself a favor and get up with the roosters one of the mornings and run into Yosemite National Park. If you get there early enough it's an amazing ride. Then can cruise over to the historic Ahwahnee Hotel for a beverage or lunch.

Sunday evening brings the closing ceremony and the distribution of the valuable prizes...including everybody's favorite - CASH with the 50/50 drawing. Everyone could use some gas money for the ride home right? I know you will have a great time!

See you there,

Tom Connolly 2016 Rally Co-Chair.



Tour Captain's Report



Our “dues” paid at the January rainout, we had perfect weather for the Feb. 27 ride and meeting at Fremont Peak State Park, Doe Flat group camp near San Juan Bautista. The site was chosen to be close to home for a quick retreat if the weather turned, so I

made it a day's ride with a “C” shaped route starting at Flames that took in Almaden, Mountain Charlie Rd, a bit of Hwy 1, Browns Valley, Elkhorn Slough and San Juan Grade. We had lunch and took on provisions at the Windmill Market there before heading up to the campsite. Thanks to Ed Perry for carrying a box of firewood for us (I had another one and a case of beer.)

The ride got longer when Ed suggested that we detour 12 miles south on 101, and back, for a photo shoot in front of the sign marking the Norcal Adopt a Freeway that he has worked so hard to organize. Buddy Scauzzo and Rick Klain got well-lighted shots that may appear in the MOA magazine. With 24 riders at the start we split into two groups, one of which did not go to the shoot. Thanks to Russ Drake for leading the second unit, and to John Ellis for sweeping. Safety note: your tour captain unloaded at a shady silt wash on Mountain Charlie. Watch those low spots. (*Editor's note : see exclusive picture of Ted picking up his bike on the next page*)

Fremont Peak offered a commanding view of the Salinas Valley, over spring-green hills with oaks



and happy cows. The site has no large level area, but between the fire pit area, the upper area, and the space above the outhouse we had room for 22 tents.

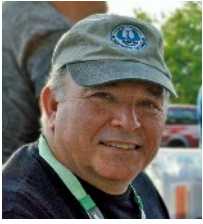
Death Valley in March! There is no guided tour to the March 26 meeting at Furnace Creek Campground, so that riders can take as many days as they need to get there and take their choice of pavement or dirt. The Facebook page would be a good place to find riding partners. We have group sites 2 and 5 and single site 70 reserved for the nights of Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The usual camping fee of \$10 for members will apply, but riders will have to pay the National Park entry fee, either at the park entrance or at the campground. If you're 62 or “better” this is a good time to buy a senior pass at the visitor center. Please follow the ranger's parking instructions and don't park in the tent area. Dining and supplies are available at the adjacent Furnace Creek Ranch.

The April 23 meeting will be at Black Butte Lake, near Orland (not near Lassen.) That will be my last meeting as tour captain, since I will miss the June meeting.

The June election meeting will be at Calaveras Big Trees, near Arnold, and will be catered. We're still looking for Tour Captain candidates. If I can do it, you can do it, and the new tour captain will start with camping set up beyond October and with a great set of notes. Enjoy the Ride!

Ted Crum Tour captain

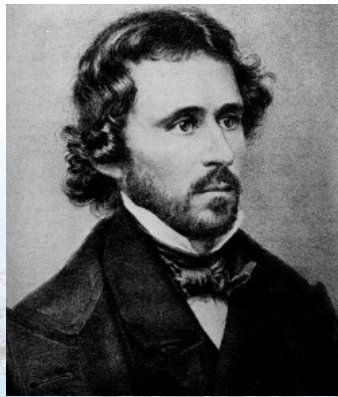
Fremont Peak Historians Report



In 1846, while California was still part of Mexico, Army Captain John C. Fremont of the Topographic Engineers led a small exploratory force to California, arriving in the Salinas Valley in March.

avoid a conflict. After several days, Fremont decided to leave his encampment as he undoubtedly realized his precarious position. A powerful windstorm blew down the flagpole and may have provided Fremont further impetus to abandon the summit.

Suspicious of Fremont's motives, Mexican Commandante General José Castro ordered him to leave the settled areas of California immediately. Fremont, believing that Castro had previously granted him verbal permission to remain, refused. Sensing an incident was coming, Fremont's party headed up to a nearby peak, where they built a makeshift fort and raised a U.S. military flag. Castro, meanwhile, assembled a group of 200 soldiers in nearby San Juan Bautista.



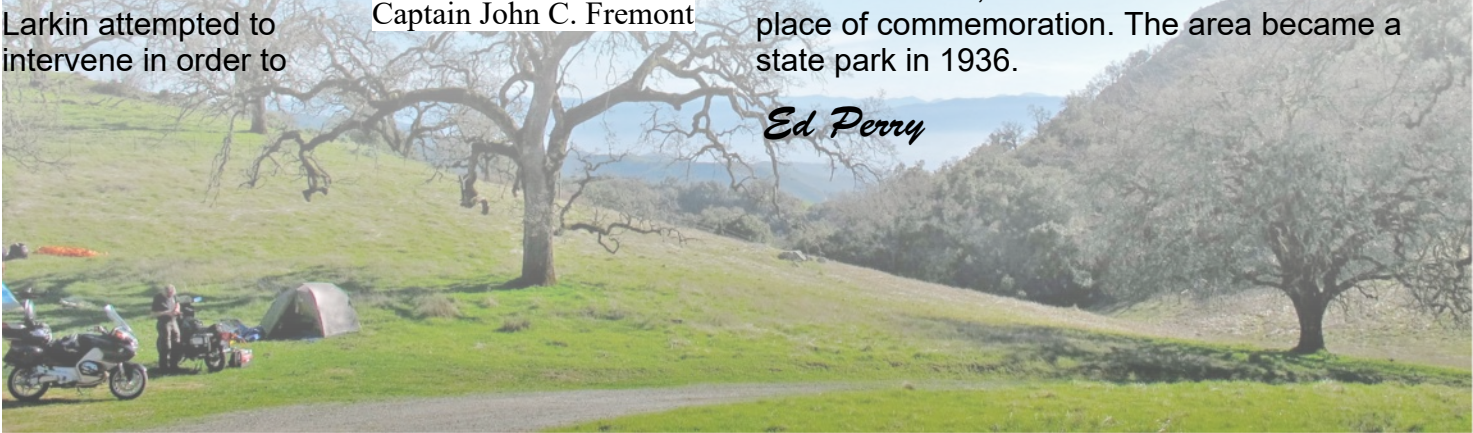
Captain John C. Fremont

During the Mexican-American war, Fremont led the California Battalion, but in 1847 U.S. General Stephen W. Kearny censured him for his "conduct in California." Fremont was arrested, court martialed and found guilty of mutiny, disobedience and "conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline." President James K. Polk later removed the charge of mutiny, and Fremont became a U.S. Senator representing California's Mariposa area. In 1856, he ran unsuccessfully for president.

In Monterey, U.S. Consul Thomas O. Larkin attempted to intervene in order to

As early as 1890, the raising of the flag by Fremont was celebrated on Fremont Peak. The Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West placed a commemorative plaque there in 1926. While some scholarship places the event on another summit, Fremont Peak has remained the place of commemoration. The area became a state park in 1936.

Ed Perry





Tech Day At Steve's



The first Tech Session of 2016 is now in the history books, or somewhere in the clouds. With 33 to 35 attendee's, everyone seemed to have a good time. I know some got their projects done, some helped, and others watched and learned.

I couldn't have done it without some help, so first I'd like to thank my wife Cynthia, who not only didn't mind having a garage and driveway filled with motorcycles, but helped me out with the shopping, set up, hosting, and finally clean up! Continuing in no particular order, I'd like to thank Lee Fulton for providing 3 mounted wheels and a dunk tank so we could poke holes in the tires, then plug them up, and lastly check to see if they sealed. There were several different kits and methods tried, and although some were easier, some harder, they all worked.

Next to Ed Perry who brought his "No - Mar" wheel changer so we got a great demonstration of its use, and also got to see all the plugs we'd put in from the inside of the tire! To Ted Crum who designed and fabricated a test rig to compare our tire pressure gauges to a calibrated digital gauge accurate to +/- .25%. One of my digital gauges checked right on, so my homework now is to check all my other gauges to that one.

Finally thanks to everyone that showed up; it wouldn't have been such a success, or as much fun without all the members that shared their Saturday with us. And now I need YOUR help. If anyone has a subject you'd like me to address, or has an idea for a future column, drop me a line or talk to me at the next meeting or Second Sunday Breakfast.

I am after all

Your Safety Guy, Ride Safe,

Steve Kesinger

Another perspective

Thanks to the promise free coffee and donuts, over 30 members turned up at Steve Kesinger's place on the 20th February to get down and dirty with the mechanical aspects of maintaining BMW motorcycles. Steve's workshop is very well equipped and has the benefit of huge working space.

Ed Perry brought along his no-mar tire changer that conveniently attaches to a trailer hitch and was demonstrating tire changes. It was clear from this demo that the secret to easily changing tires is regular weight training.

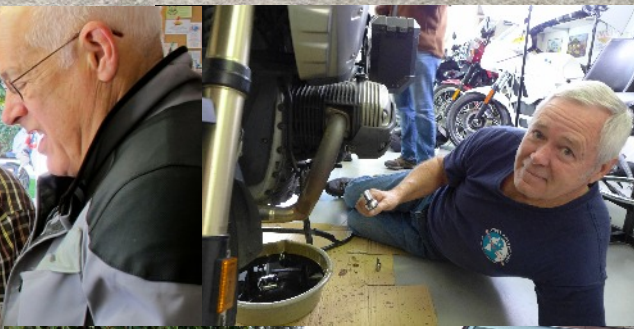
Members had an opportunity drive a screw into a tubeless tire and then practice the repair using one of three commercially available different plugging methods, and then be able to test the result of their endeavor in a water bath. Much good natured discussion around the relative merits followed, but with no definitive conclusion. A more realistic comparison would have required participants to attempt the repair at the side of a

freeway in 110 degree heat, or better still replacing a tube in a similar environment using only 7 inch tire irons.

Fred Montano enlisted Steve's help to find the volts that he claimed fell out of his battery on the ride over.

Russ Drake demonstrated a brake pad change and Lee Fulton brought along a vacuum kit for changing clutch and brake fluids. The demonstration worked so well that it convinced one member to jump on his bike and ride over to Harbor Freight to buy one, using a 20% off coupon provided by Lee. Lee highlighted several useful tips to get brakes and clutch operating in an optimum fashion and promised to write something up for a future newsletter article.

The day finished off in style with a BBQ Bratwurst and potato salad lunch. If Steve continues in like this, it may be that he will be elected Safety Tech for life.



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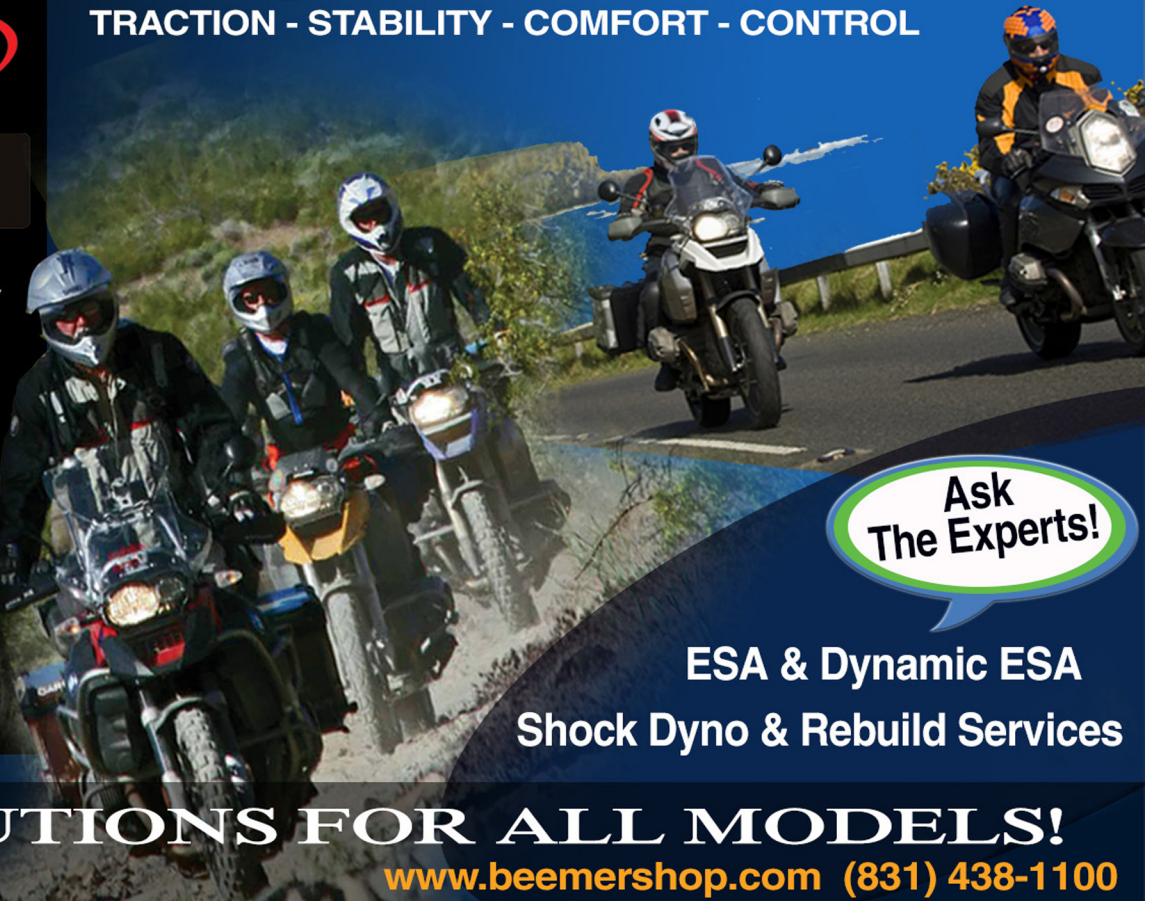
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MARCH 2016



BMW Motorcycle Club
of Northern California



BMW Club of Northern California, Inc.
P.O. Box 2472
Santa Clara,
CA 95055

March 2016 Club Membership Anniversaries

Mike Crawford	25 years
Dave Gluss	30 years
Terry Hieb	35 years
John Parodi	15 years

Upcoming Events

9 Mar 2016 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Board of Directors meeting
Location The Old Spaghetti Factory 2107 Broadway Redwood City, CA, 94063

13 March Second Sunday Breakfast Ride TBD

19 March Adopt A Highway Clean Up Day! 9.0am to 4.00pm Meet at Scrambl'z
Diner, 775 E. Dunn Ave, Morgan Hill, California

25-27 March Camp Out and meeting at Furnace Creek in Death Valley

23-24 April Camp Out will be at Black Butte Lake, near Orland

27-30 May 2016 49'er Rally in Mariposa, California

16-19 June 2016 Chief Joseph Rally in John Day, Oregon

16-19 June 2016 Red Rock Rendezvous, Panguitch, UT



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