



THE MONTEREY BAY WATCH

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ESTABLISHED 1992

MOA CHARTER #217 BMW RA #3

JANUARY 2012

2012 CLUB OFFICERS

President: Jay Whyte
Vice President: Ron Aikins
Secretary/Treasurer: Sally Hess

Newsletter Editor: Ron Aikins
Webmaster: Mike Clark
Social Coordinator: Denny Adkins
Club Postmaster: Ron Aikins
2011 Past President: Neil Talbert

2012 Directors:

Dennis Chase
Dick Dodd
James Martin
Neil Talbert
Peder Talbert

The Monterey Bay BMW Riders
meet Saturdays at 9AM
at the Red Apple Café
in Watsonville
for breakfast & conversation.

"Driving a motorcycle is like flying. All your senses are alive. When I ride through Beverly Hills in the early morning, and all the sprinklers have turned off, the scents that wash over me are just heavenly. Being House is like flying, too. You're free of the gravity of what people think."

Hugh Laurie

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! "My wish for you is Health, Good Luck, Success, and all that makes for Happiness." *



JAY WHYTE

This is the beginning of a new era for the club. The new year brings us new club officers for President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and Newsletter Editor. I congratulate them for stepping forward to serve the club. Please give them your support and encouragement throughout the year. Remember this is a group effort. Let's all play a part in making this year a good one.

This year also marks the 20th year of this club's existence. I want to thank everyone who has made the last 20 years possible. In particular, I want to thank Dale Whyte. She has been the force that made things happen for longer than most of you have

been members. She has served as the Secretary/Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and filled in everywhere there was a need for the last 18 years.

Remember when she organized the poker run for the CCB Beemer Bash, ordered club logo name badges, denim shirts, the T-shirts, the pins? She has made sure all the club holiday parties and summer BBQ's went off without a hitch. Then there's the newsletter and don't forget the banking. These are just a few of the things that come to mind; I know there are many more. Please join me in expressing thanks and appreciation for all her efforts over all these years.

Ride, Eat & Repeat!

JayW

*From a Vintage New Year's Card dated 1925

Happy New Year!!

*Rest stop on the ride to Pinnacles.
A great turnout for the
first ride of the year.*

More breakfast & ride
photos on next page



RIDE TO EAT, EAT TO RIDE

Past President's Message



NEIL TALBERT

This year went by very fast. Being president of the Monterey Bay BMW Riders Club is quite a honor. It was a great experience for me! I had never held an office before. I hope I was able to bring enough to the table for the club. I would also like to believe that I made a difference in the Monterey Bay BMW Riders Club. For instance:

1. We got new club stickers for motorcycles and cars, and small club helmets stickers.
2. We got new and improved name tags.
3. We had also two out-of-state rides. One was the Bonneville Salt Flats Motorcycle Speed Record Week. Second was the Bonneville Vintage Motorcycle and Sidecar Racing at Miller Motorsports Park in Tooele, Utah.
4. We ordered and received our 20-year Monterey Bay BMW Riders Gold Anniversary Pins.
5. Club appreciation awards were given to Dale Whyte, Louis Frutschi, and Dick Dodd.
6. Another great moment was when Dick Dodd received his half-million mile certificate and medallion at San Jose BMW and I was present, representing Monterey Bay BMW Riders Club, for that event.

All of this would not have been possible without the support of our members. You made it happen again. My hat's off to all of you.


Thank you for a great year.
Neil Talbert

P.S. A special thanks to Dale Whyte for holding my hand and cracking the whip when needed.

New Year's Eve Breakfast & Ride to Pinnacles



A post-breakfast ride to Pinnacles National Monument (east entrance) began with 15 riders. At a rest stop at the junction of Cienega Road and Old Airline Highway, everyone dismounted to stretch and chat awhile. Most elected to make their way home from there. The rest of us enjoyed the great riding weather the rest of the way into Pinnacles. Then Daniel Astier graciously invited us to stop by his house in San Juan Bautista on the way back for cake and coffee. After stopping in Tres Pinos to call his wife, Daniel took us on a rather roundabout way to his lovely hilltop home in SJB. As I suspected, his wife had instructed him to kill some time along the way to give her and her mother time to prepare.

More ride photos on the next page 

New Year's Ride



Diedre and new Secretary/Treasurer, Sally Hess, confer.



Col. Bonfoey in his Canary Islands camouflage gear assesses his current mount.



Jim Martin gives his mount a well-deserved rest.



Daniel Astier tries a special dance to conjure a cell phone signal.



Arrival at Daniel's house.



Bikers' coffee klatsch.



Daniel's wife, Irma Ines, and her mother, Ines, hosted the last rest stop of the Pinnacles ride at their lovely home.

Veep Vox Happy New (Déjà Vu) Year!

Déjà vu refers to the feeling of having an experience one has had previously. The feeling may be vague; one may not be able to exactly name the aspects of the current situation which seem so eerily familiar. On the other hand, other things may seem completely new or unique, adding to the indistinct impression. You may, like me, have such an experience reading this, the first newsletter of 2012. However, for me the new and the old are easily distinguishable.

Our club continues to thrive, adding new members among the old-timers, because, I think, we offer an enticing combination of informal social interaction and riding events. If you doubt this, you should have been in attendance at the New Year's Eve breakfast at the Red Apple. Twenty-four of us took up the better part of the back room, and the number included folks whose memberships spanned both decades and a matter of weeks. Following breakfast, fifteen of those present went for a ride together.

So both new and familiar names and faces appear regularly. However, I think the déjà vu sensation comes from seeing old faces reappear in old places, or disappear from them, as the case might be. For one thing, who's this new president anyway? Jay Whyte? Jay was president when I first joined the club in 1995. As I recall, the club had fewer than 20 members and it wasn't long before Jay had talked me into holding office and there we were: president and vice president, just how we're starting 2012. Jay and I have both held the top office more than once before. As Yogi Berra once said, "It's déjà vu all over again!"



RON AIKINS

Another reappearing face was that of Monroe Bonfoey who left us many years ago after graduating from the Defense Language Institute to serve as our club's liaison in South and Central America. (Col. Bonfoey has actually been serving as part of the US Army's diplomatic corps, but I

wanted to make his job sound a little more important.) It was great to see Monroe back again and still enthusiastic about riding. We hope he will eventually make good on his promise to retire and return to the area permanently, and that's not just because he's also promised to establish a clubhouse for us on his property in Aromas. Now, wouldn't *that* be something?

And then there's the face that disappeared. Dale Whyte, who has done the lion's share of the work that really keeps a club going for nearly as long as the club's been in existence, is finally treating herself to a well-deserved retirement. Sally Hess has stepped forward to take over the Secretary-Treasurer duties and I (with the notable assistance of my lovely, graphic designer wife) will be handling the newsletter. After all, it would be inhumane to expect one person to do all the things Dale used to do!

So begins our 20th anniversary year, looking to the future while being firmly rooted in the traditions and memories of the past. Get involved. Come to the planning meeting on the schedule for February to help plan for a great 2012! Let's make this a year to remember.

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THOUGHTS FROM THE NURSING HOME

The Blonde Bombshell



JIM MARTIN

Dick Dodd and I agreed to meet at the Chevron in Castroville for a mid-week ride for BLT's at Alice's. Really, that's never a bad ride: lots of redwood-shaded, twisty but smooth roads and nice views of the ocean on the way home.

Too bad we missed last week's big swell.

Castroville. Hardly a town at all. The two apartment complexes they recently completed probably doubled the town's population. When I roll through here, I try to imagine the circumstances surrounding the crowning of Marilyn Monroe as Artichoke Queen in 1953, but I just can't. If I ever see a woman looking even a little like Billy Jean walking down the sidewalk in Castroville, I'll probably ride right off the road.

Dick rolled into the service station immediately after I did. We gassed up and headed up Highway 1 to Ted Porter's BeemerShop. I had never been there before but I was favorably impressed with the facility and the personnel. Now I understand why Dick comes all the way up here from Salinas to get his bike serviced.

What would I do in Scotts Valley while they worked on my bike? I can always find stuff to see or do in Seaside or Watsonville during similar situations, but Scotts Valley? Unless you happen to be there during a fire or an avalanche, I just don't think it's dangerous enough -- for me, that is.

Living on the edge, that's me. I ripped the "Do Not Remove" tag off my mattress last week, with my teeth even. If there is no danger involved, it's not for

me. That's why I ride with Dick – the guy is really out there.

Before I could finish my coffee and get Josh Myrick's opinion on the best tires for my HP2, Neil Talbert, like Kramer in the old Jerry Seinfeld show, appeared at the door. After the perfunctory rude noises and bathroom humor, we were off to Alice's. Nothing of note happened along the way on a cool, sunny winter day except being heavily eyeballed by a chippy that had us riding slowly and staring at our mirrors for several miles. But we never saw hide nor hair of him again. If I get another ticket, I'll just go to court and self-immolate myself, using the ticket for a fuse, in front of the judge. "Hide nor hair" is just something my mother used to say but I don't know exactly what it means. I could publish a book full of her weird, inexplicable sayings.

There were hardly any bikes at Alice's when we arrived but, as word of our presence circulated amongst the trees, another dozen or so motorcyclists materialized. A guy on a Can-Am Spider (or is that Spyder? I really want to get this right) shared our table as we ate lunch. I've forgotten his name already, but heck, a Can-Am isn't really a motorcycle. I agree with James Kmetovic – a Can-Am is just a really cold, windy car that offers no more protection in a crash (I hate that word) than a motorcycle.

While Neil pointed east near Bonny Doon, I headed toward Ben's Motorcycle Works in Freedom to pick up a decal for my Boxer Cup that came all the way from Germany. That's pretty exciting stuff compared to hanging around the nursing home, humming the tunes from the rock opera *Tommy*.

FUN FACT

IDIOM: *(neither) hide nor hair

Cliché no sign or indication of someone or something. (*Typically: find ~; see ~.)

We could find neither hide nor hair of him. I don't know where he is. There has been no one here. We found neither hide nor hair.

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Parkfield Ride January 7



L to R: Dennis, James, Jesús, Gaylen, David, Monroe at the Parkfield Café



Rest stop on the bridge near Lonoak Rd and Hwy. 25

Seven of us met at Flapjack's in Tres Pinos for a ride to Parkfield. When I arrived, Gaylen and Jesús were already digging into full breakfasts. Others arrived at irregular intervals; no one seemed sure whether we were supposed to meet for breakfast at nine or leave at nine. No matter, it was another day of perfect weather for riding down the back roads of San Benito and Monterey Counties to lunch at the Parkfield Café.

Post-breakfast Ride to Pigeon Point Lighthouse, January 14

I joined Roger and Robert (I do well to remember even first names these days so I'll leave it at that) for a run up the coast to the Pigeon Point Lighthouse. Not only was it a beautiful sunny day for riding, but in all these years I had never actually done more than drive by Pigeon Point on Highway 1. It's actually a very pretty and pleasant little stop. The bright blue sky made for excellent pictures. The lighthouse is in the process of renovation but still a magnificent structure.

*Below: Robert and Roger beneath the old fog horns
Right: Pigeon Point Lighthouse*



CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

**FEB
11**

Meeting at Jay and Dale's to discuss the 2012 ride schedule, immediately following the breakfast at The Red Apple. If you can't make the meeting and would like to volunteer to lead a particular ride on a certain month, please send a note to ron@aikins.name. Also, if you have any ideas for rides that you would like considered send them to Ron. All rides are scheduled for the third Saturday of the month.

**FEB
18**

Third Saturday Ride: TBA

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