

# THE MONTEREY BAY WATCH



## 2009 CLUB OFFICERS

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Secretary/Treasurer/Pillion Princess: Dale Whyte

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Tom Brazier  
Mike Clark (Club Webmaster)  
Red Davis  
Dick Dodd  
Denny Adkins

Newsletter Editor: Dale Whyte  
Club Postmaster: Jay Whyte

Social Coordinator: Denny Adkins  
web site: [www.mbbr.org](http://www.mbbr.org)

Submissions for the newsletter are due to the editor by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

## President's Message



Hi Y'all,

Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup> I broke my truck (not really, the rear end fell out) and my boss informed me that I wouldn't be able to work for a couple of days. So, Denny and I decided to take advantage of the time off and take a trip to the Russian River.

We left Sunday afternoon about 1:00 and headed over Hiway 17 and up 280 to the City. We took our usual route to skirt 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and went along Sunset Boulevard through Golden Gate Park. As soon as we turned into the park we were in bumper to bumper traffic for blocks. Every time I turned to see if we could maneuver around it seemed to get worse. If you have ever been in San Francisco traffic, you know what a pain in the behind that can be!

We finally made it across the Golden Gate Bridge and into Sonoma County. We ran up 101 to Petaluma Blvd. and into the town of Petaluma stopping for a late lunch at a diner. We went through town and took a parallel road to the freeway and turned at Hiway 116 (the Gravenstein Hiway passing through Sebastopol. If you haven't been there, go by sometime. It is a cute little town and a back way to the Russian River. There is some really beautiful scenery along the way, but we had our sights set on going north along the coast. We reached coast hiway and discovered that it had recently been repaved. It was as smooth as silk making the riding a great experience. The weather was just about perfect, the scenery stupendous and as always, the road's curves and twisties were lots of fun.

We reached Gualala about 6:30 and decided to start looking for a place to stay. We found a place called the Country Inn and because it was Sunday, the lady manager gave us a great rate. Can you believe a queen size bed with a clear view of the ocean and it included breakfast?! Monday after a filling and pleasant breakfast in the Inn's small living room, we headed up the coast to Mendocino. Once again, the weather was great and the ride was easy with almost no traffic.

Along the Mendocino coast there is a lot to see; beautiful coastal and farm lands, quaint small towns, the State parks and last but not least, the winding road. We arrived at Mendocino around 11:00 a.m. Mendocino is an artsy place with lots of little shops which, of course, Denny wanted to see. After a few hours of "window shopping" (we did purchase some small things) we headed back along Hiway 1 to Guerneville. We finished off this wonderful ride with a stop for what else, ice cream. Sometimes we really do eat dessert first.

We continued on to Santa Rosa and stopped at our usual motel for the evening and got up the next morning and headed back to the Russian River for a swim in the river. If you ever go there on your bike, take your swimsuits and go to Johnson Beach. They have a rental store there which in addition to renting kayaks, paddle boats and canoes will rent an umbrella and chairs for the day. When they found out we were on a bike they threw in a blanket too. We carry small chamis type towels so we were set. The water was great and by Tuesday the crowds were small so it was very relaxing. Sometimes these spontaneous trips can be the best ones Denny and I take. I recommend revisiting the Mendocino County if you haven't been there for a while.

#### A Reminder:

The Beemer Bash at Quincy, CA and the Stockton Mile are unfortunately, both on September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. You will have to make a choice between them. Denny and I are planning on going to the Mile as it has been quite a while since we have been to a mile race. If anyone would like to join us, let us know. We plan to make motel reservations soon for Saturday night. It is our plan to go to the Saturday events only and return Sunday. If you are going to the Bash, and want company let the members know.

Prez Chuck

## **September Ride Announcement**

### **Saturday September 19th**

Ride Leader, Jay Whyte

We will meet at BMW of Santa Cruz Co.

1875 Main Street, Watsonville.

Departure at 9:00am.

Approximate mileage is 120

Our Destination: Woolgrowers Restaurant,

609 H Street, Los Banos. Lunch at 12:30

Cost per person is \$15.00+Tip. Please bring cash, they don't take plastic.

We will make a few stops along the way. Please let me know if you will be joining us along the route.

## August Club Ride—back roads to Sunny Sunol

Mike Clark reports:

In the 14 or 15 years that I've been a member of the Monterey Bay BMW Riders, we have always been lucky in our choice of presidents. The current incumbent is no exception. With no volunteers to lead the August ride, Prez Chuck Adkins and previous-Prez Denny Adkins accepted the responsibility of the office and put together a relaxing, scenic route to Sunol for lunch.

It had been a while since I had been on a club ride or gone to the Red Apple for breakfast. With a new front tire on my RT and a new helmet, I thought it was time to amortize those expenses by putting some miles under both of them. My RT's handling gets obnoxious when the front tire wears and I had really squeezed a lot of miles out of my old tire so with a new Metzler Z6 up front it felt like a brand new bike, reminding me why I fell in love with it in the first place.

At the Red Apple, there was a long table set up for us in the back, making it easy to catch up with club members before taking off on the ride at 10:00. Six motorcycles, including a couple on a couple of Moto Guzzis tucked in behind Chuck and Denny as Chuck led us up over Hecker Pass, through Morgan Hill and across the Santa Clara Valley to Metcalf Canyon.

One of the pleasures of a small organized ride is that, unless you're the leader, all you have to do is to keep the person in front of you in view and check your mirror from time to time for those in back. I find myself taking in more of the scenery and relaxing a lot more when I'm not leading a ride, and Chuck's route provided us with some very pleasant views. Metcalf Road dives into the western flank of the Diablo Range near Coyote Creek, passing the oddly-named Motorcycle County Park (sounds to my ear like a park in Motorcycle County) before heading into some nicely wooded canyons that belie your proximity to the suburban sprawl of San Jose. Alas, that sprawl extends far enough into the foothills that it's virtually impossible to avoid when heading north, and we hit it when San Felipe Rd. ran into White Road. Still we had pretty good traffic-light luck and stayed together all the way to

our rest stop—a gas station so heavily fortified against its customers that they had done away with their restrooms. No worries, there was a restroom at the station across the street and it had plenty of internal signage to keep one from getting bored. At the rest stop we waved goodbye to Ed and Brooke, on the Moto Guzzis, as they headed off (with Chuck's expert directions) in search of brake fluid. We also said goodbye to the traffic and the traffic lights. The five remaining bikes (Tim, Ron Aikins, Sam, and me, with Chuck and Denny two-up in the lead) headed back into foothills on Sierra Road. Chuck's a professional driver and it shows in his knowledge of the roads (twice on the trip he gave folks some directions that I would have needed an atlas and GPS to provide) and in his riding—sane speeds and an alert awareness of his surroundings. He surprised me, though, when he said that he had taken his truck up Sierra Road. It's a big truck and a very narrow road. I've become moderately familiar with Sierra Road in the last few years: I rode it several times while organizing a Mt. Hamilton/Livermore ride and again while taking my mother for a visit to an iris and peony nursery up there on her 94th birthday (I took the car for that one, not as much fun.)

Sierra Road to Fetzter Road and thence to Calaveras Road took us through a rural landscape that was all the more enjoyable for being within a virtual stone's throw to the 10th most populous city in the US. Traffic picked up on Calaveras, especially motorcyclists who passed our leisurely group in both directions but it was still relatively peaceful sailing.

Lunch was at the Sunol Jazz Cafe, a great choice. I think delis where you can order at the counter are a good choice for a group like ours. The service is fast and there's no hassle with waiting for or dividing up the check. I especially liked this deli. Their lunch menu was pretty much limited to sandwiches—delicious sandwiches to be sure—but my self-imposed diet doesn't include bread. Not a problem, here. I asked for mine without bread and they served it up as an honest-to-goodness salad with—be still, oh my heart!—home grown

tomatoes. And, I was the only one in our group to get a real china plate.

We ate on the patio, pausing our conversation frequently as another motojerk roared off with deafening aftermarket exhaust pipes.

After lunch, Chuck staved off the boredom of the Interstate as long as possible by taking us down Niles Canyon, another gem of a country road nestled into a hidden cityscape. We eventually joined the freeway and wicked it up for home but

there was really no avoiding it by that point and it was time to head for home anyway.

With my new tire and new helmet, as I said, it was almost like having a new motorcycle. And, following someone else along some moderately-familiar roads was a lot like discovering them anew. My only complaint was that new helmet was giving me a splitting headache after about an hour or so in the saddle; let's just hope that eases with time. Great ride. Thanks Chuck and Denny.

## Northern California Ride for Kids®

<http://www.pbtfus.org/rideforkids/calendar/2009/northerncalifornia.html>

### October 4, 2009



*Brain tumor survivor  
Malcolm gets revved  
up for the 2008 ride.*



Solano College  
4000 Suisun Valley Rd.  
Fairfield, CA 94534

When you join hundreds of other motorcyclists for this scenic ride through the California countryside, you'll have a great time while raising funds for the PBTF's medical research and family support programs! Riders on all makes and models are welcome.

**Registration** opens at 8 a.m. and closes at 9:45 a.m. The escorted ride starts at 10 a.m. sharp, *rain or shine!*

The ride will loop back to the college. After a light lunch, participants will enjoy a Celebration of Life program that features interviews with young brain tumor survivors—the Ride for Kids® "stars" of the day. Award presentations to top fundraisers will follow.

The minimum donation to ride is \$35, but the more money you raise, the more premiums you earn. For each \$300 you raise, your name will be entered into a drawing for a brand-new Honda motorcycle! (Must be present to win.) For more information, call 800-253-6530.



The host hotel is the [Hilton Garden Inn](#) in Fairfield, at 2200 Gateway Court, Fairfield, CA, 94533. Call 1-707-426-6900 and ask for the RFK rate of \$109/night plus tax.

If you're unable to attend, send your registration form and donations to PBTF, 302 Ridgefield Ct., Asheville, NC 28806. Mark your form "Not Attending" to credit your ride and receive your premiums by mail.

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## FAMILIAR FACES FROM FAR AWAY PLACES

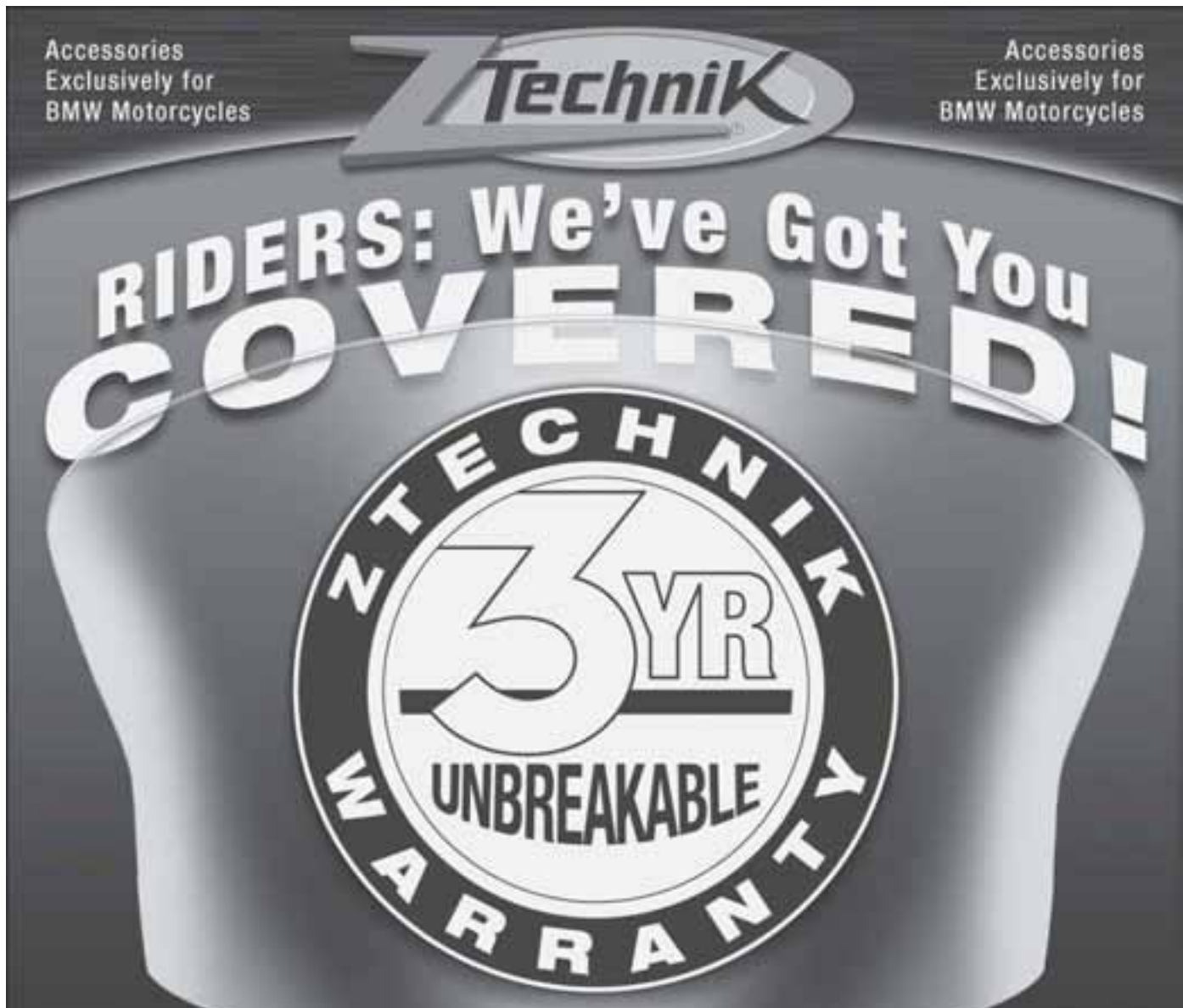
Recently club members from as far away as Arizona and Colorado have joined us for breakfast. It was great to see Bob and Sally Wilson (Sedona) and Ken and Janet Farmer (Colorado)! Seems Bob spends his time behind the lens of his camera because no one seemed to get a photo of Bob!



Janet & Ken,  
Bob & Sally,

Thanks for visiting with us!  
We look forward to seeing you again!





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*"I just wanted to let you know that I have just over 1200 miles on my R1200GS with the new VStream® Windshield, and absolutely love how well it works. This is the windshield that BMW should be selling with this motorcycle! The new windshield fits perfectly and was very easy to install. The optics are perfect and I really like the scratch resistant hardcoating."*

*"This is my second VStream® Windshield for my bike! The first one was damaged when I had an accident (highsided my bike) in June during a test ride on the BOSCH Test Circuit. The windshield was only scratched – but not broken! I was really excited about how well the VStream® worked on my BMW R1150RT. My wife (as passenger) was also impressed at how well it worked. That's the reason why we ordered a second one!"*

*"Thought I'd drop you a line to sing the praises of this VStream® Windshield for the K1200LT. The weather on our journey to Northern Ireland and back was, to say the least, arctic. But this screen worked perfectly. It kept the rain off, had no head buffeting, and it remained clear all the way... in other words, exactly what it says in the ad. Not only that, but it also looks the part."*

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**SATURDAY'S, WHEN A RIDE OR CLUB EVENT IS NOT PLANNED, THE CLUB MEETS FOR BREAKFAST at 9:00am – please see web site for current location.**

**Down the road..... 2009**

**Sept. 12 Stockton Mile ([www.StocktonMile.com](http://www.StocktonMile.com))**

**Sept. 12&13 Beemer BASH, Quincy**

**Sept. 19 Jay Whyte leads a ride to Woolgrowers in Los Banos – don't miss this one!  
See inside for details**

**Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> First Saturday Breakfast at Cowboy Corner Café in Watsonville**

**Oct. 4 Ride for Kids – Fairfield, CA**

**Oct. Open**

**Nov Open**

**Nov 20-22 Cycle World International Motorcycle Show – San Mateo Cty. Event Center**

**Dec. 5 Club Holiday Party – Hosted by Tom and Venita Brazier**

**July 15-18 BMW MOA Rally – Redmond, Oregon -- practically in our backyard!  
2010**

**MONTEREY BAY BMW RIDERS  
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