

THE MONTEREY BAY WATCH



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Submissions for the newsletter are due to the editor by the 15th of each month.

President's Message

I'm giving you some information on my experience with two wheeled engine driven bicycles, or as we say motorcycles. It started in Japan around 1957 or 1958 when I was about 10 years old. I got to use a motorized bicycle, a motorcycle, and drove a Japanese trike bike truck until the Military Police stopped me from driving around. In the early 1960's I got my drivers license at 14 years old, rode a moped and Lambretta. High school rode Honda 305 super hawk, in 1970 or 71 it was a R75/5, In the mid 1980's Honda Interceptor, and at the present day, I am riding Vespa's and Harley Davidson's or anything with two or three wheels or anything with a engine. Oh, I also have a BMW R 1200RT which I've ridden both 4 corners, and across Canada. Looking forward to 2011 it's going to be a Great Year.
Neil.

PS. Would like to thank: Tom Holdychof of San Jose BMW for use of a New 2011 RR S 1000



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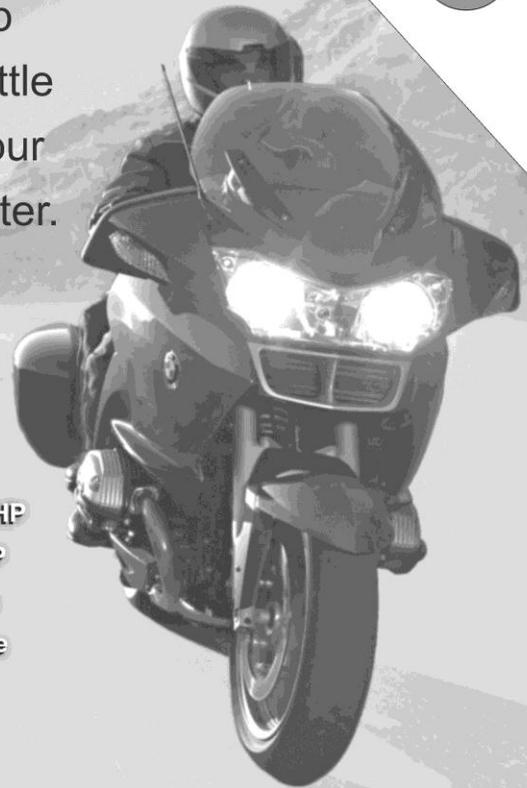


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The Monterey Bay BMW Riders meet Saturdays at 9am (when a ride is not scheduled) for breakfast and conversation. See website for current location.

SOME MORE THOUGHTS FROM THE NURSING HOME

By James Martin

Earlier this month (December, as I write this) I participated in the Kari Prager memorial ride. Upon my return to the quiet solitude of the nursing home, I was so fired up about the ride that I immediately wrote down several pages just to get the feelings off my chest, with the possibility of submitting them for publication in the “Monterey Bay Watch” (I can never write or say “Monterey Bay Watch” without think of Pamela Anderson and the Hoff, incidentally). But enough of that.

After rereading my ranting a few times, I decided to withhold any notion of inflicting my opinions on the other members of this club. The reason? My essay was one long diatribe about the type of motorcycle riders commonly referred to as “squids”. Most of you know who I’m talking about: showoffs, needless risk takers, inconsiderate jerks, guys who get all competitive on a group ride... Like I said, most of us have seen them before some of us may have even behaved like squids from time to time. I know I have. So, I rewrote the whole thing and here it is (still kinda ranty, I’m afraid).



But I’m not a squid. Furthermore, I’m lucky enough to belong to a club where there aren’t any squids. When I went riding with 150 or so other bikes on a ride to pay tribute to Kari Prayer, I was reintroduced, for the first time in a while, to the frustration of riding in close proximity to a number of them.

On the Kari Prager ride, this involved being passed constantly on the right shoulder in stop and go, light to light riding within city limits. Why should I care about that? Well, I had chosen to position myself within my subgroup (the ride leader had wisely broken the large number of ride participants into smaller groups of 10-15 bikes, with an experienced leader and sweeper for each group and had separated each group by two or three minutes upon departure) so as not to get caught at a red light and lose contact with the group and get lost. I am not very familiar with the city streets of Mountain View. Of course it is impossible to maintain your position with people passing and cutting in front of you. Why would anyone think that is OK? Ordinarily, if I decide that I’d like to change my position within a group ride, I wait until we pull out at a stop, and even then only with the consent of anyone I might be leaving in front of.

While I’m at it, I might as well tell you the other thing that bugged me during this ride. While most of us, obeying the ride leader’s admonition against “passing and other inconsiderate behavior” just followed along behind our subgroup leader, a few were continuously passing. Passing by slipping by within inches on either side of bikes in front of them, which had me watching my mirrors constantly, in addition to trying to focus on riding my own machine smoothly and predictably, or passing by crossing into the opposing traffic lane on blind corners. Grrrr

Now, my group leader was riding two up on an F650, so I can understand why some of the following riders might have gotten a little impatient, but that's no excuse for annoying everybody on the ride. If you ride in a group, sometimes you have to show a little patience – it's just good manners. The faster you and your bike -- the more patient you have to be. Save the heroics for track days, or maybe for the times you are riding with like-minded, uh, riders. I overheard one of these guys (blue and white full leathers, loud, silver R110S, anybody know him?) bragging to somebody after the ride was over about how he "blew past the guy on the HP2 Sport". As the only guy on an HP2 Sport, I had to decide whether to laugh or jab him with my cane. Fortunately, I decided against the unlawful assault option. I also considered having a little conversation with him, but a memorial ride with many of the Prager family present just is not the best place for that either.

Still sounds like a rant, doesn't it? In my own defense, let me say that I believe that riders should always show extra politeness towards each other. I may have my own two-wheeled preferences, but I really don't care what you ride, sport bike, scooter, Harley, Gold Wing...you are still out there in the weather, dodging the cagers, a little nervous about the condition of the road surface... We are all part of a brotherhood (oops, personhood). Even the squids! Good manners are the lubrication of personal interaction. If these guys care about motorcycling as much as I do, they should work on their manners. Refusal to do so says to me that you don't really care that much about that.



Sorry but I feel better now. As I sit here, deep within the bowels of the nursing home, I am now, once again, prepared to reexamine the mysteries of the universe, besides, the Lakers are on TV.



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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..... 2011

Note: Check out the change of address for Ted Porter's Beemer Shop!

Saturday – February 5th – 11am

Membership Meeting at the Whyte House – contact Dale for directions.

February 14th – Valentine's Day

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