



# THE MONTEREY BAY WATCH

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MOA CHARTER #217 BMW RA #3

JUNE 2013

## 2012 CLUB OFFICERS

President: Jay Whyte  
Vice President: Neil Talbert  
Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Farmer  
Newsletter Editor: Ron Aikins  
Webmaster: Mike Clark  
Social Coordinator: Denny Adkins  
Pillion Princess Emeritus:  
Dale Whyte

## 2013 Directors:

James Kmetovic  
Chuck Adkins  
Haran Talbert  
Ron Aikins

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

*That night we slept the sleep of the innocent. The windows were open to the cool air that relieved the day's premature heat, and the light breeze carried a biker's lullaby as engines far and near moved through the dark, back and forth.*

--Melissa Holbrook Pierson  
from The Perfect Vehicle

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Something happened to me on my way home one Saturday in May. On Memorial Day weekend I was riding through Watsonville after breakfast on my dual sport bike and I got hit by a car.



JAY WHYTE

It seems my warning about watching out for the holiday traffic was a harbinger of things to come. I must have had a premonition something might happen. Who knew it was going to be me!

I was on Alta Vista near the DMV, just before the intersection with Freedom Blvd.; a car was speeding through a parking lot and came flying into the road from my left. WHAM! All I remember seeing was a white flash; it was the hood of the car. It knocked me down and I fell off the bike, back to my right. It's a miracle I didn't get hurt. And the bike is O.K. for the most part. I was saved by my brand new full-face helmet and new overpants with body armor and knee pads. Thank God. Afterwards, I was able to continue on my ride home as if nothing had happened with little more than a bent brake lever and some new scratches over some old

scratches as a reminder. I guess we both are pretty tough.

I don't recommend bouncing off cars, but it's a real E-ticket thrill and can change your perspective

on things. For me it is a reminder of how life can change in a heartbeat. The way this experience plays back in my mind's eye I can't figure out why I'm not dead. But, in fact, the speeds involved on impact were not very high. I feel very lucky this didn't turn out badly. I'm chalking it up to being luckier than smart, and of course, my experience and superior riding skills. No, really we all should be superior, skilled riders. And if you don't feel you are, let's work on getting you there. I'm a big proponent of rider training. It could save your life.

What have I learned from this: Always wear full protective gear. No shorts and flip flops for me. Carry a pen and note pad. In my case, get a bystander to write down the insurance information, because the adrenalin rush makes my hands shake too much to write. Photograph the other driver's

Continued on next page 

identification and insurance card. Maybe even get a picture of the license plate and other driver, too, if you are thinking straight at the time. I certainly wasn't. It would be a lot easier to have it for reference later.

Get a Police report. It makes it easier to make the claim with the insurance company.

Eat to Ride, Ride to Eat  
Jay Whyte

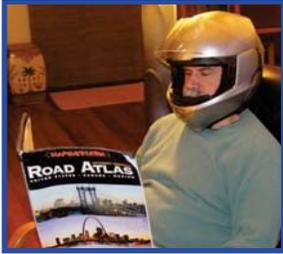


*The Talbott ride: Ride to Drink, Drink to Ride*



## Editor's Notes

Ron Aikins



RON AIKINS

### *Past Month Has Been a Wreck (One after the Other)*

Was it karma? Was it something we did or said? When bad things come in groups, the mind searches for some connection,

possibly a cause. As noted on the front page, our president had a bit of a run-in with an automobile. Thankfully, in his case he claims there was no bodily injury and he can live to tell another cautionary tale.

One of our directors, Haran Talbert was not so fortunate. His mishap occurred a couple of state lines away, in Utah, and he spent a few nights in the ICU to watch for possible lung complications. He's back home now, healing from fractures of his ankle, several ribs, and a shoulder blade. Painful as those injuries sound, you'll note the absence of any mention of a head injury. (If you get a chance to talk to him, perhaps he can extol the virtues of his Schubert helmet.) Get well soon, Haran!

As though that weren't enough, a member of another club of which I'm also a member, the NorCal Voyagers, also recently broke some ribs in a get-off and suffered some other injuries which caused his doctors to induce a coma. He's now out of that and hopefully on to a full recovery.

The worst news of all was the death of Ardys Kellerman, a well-known figure in BMW and long-distance riding circles. I never had the pleasure of meeting Ardys personally, but the many testimonials I've read about her describe both a dedicated rider and a warm and friendly woman who demonstrated her love of riding in racking up more than a million miles on two wheels. At 81, she was doing what she loved, riding her BMW motorcycle, when she was killed in an accident with an automobile driven by an 82-year-old man.

Enough already! Double up on your usual safety considerations. As of now, the rule is: *no more unscheduled get-offs!* Got that?

### *Fiddlin' Around in Fiddletown*

I usually make it a rule not to take space on these pages for non-moto topics, but Donna and I recently visited (by car, sorry) an interesting little Gold Rush town. I hasten to justify this by saying that the first time I was ever in Fiddletown I was on two wheels. As best I can recollect, I was on a group ride during one of the Auburn-based '49er rallies. Be that as it may, Donna and I were on our way home from Lake Tahoe, having spent a couple of nights in the company of some other club members, namely, James and Diedra Kmetovic, Sally Hess, and Neil Talbert. Two of those folks rode their motorcycles to Tahoe, so you see the whole excursion was at least vaguely moto-related.



*No mistaking the town logo here*

If you haven't been to Fiddletown and you enjoy finding quirky, out-of-the-way, historical places, then it's definitely worth a visit. It's not far off Highway 49, about six miles east of Plymouth on, of all things, Fiddletown Road. Do not make this a planned stop for a meal, although there are at least restroom facilities available in the public park. The only business we found open was a candy store but the

*Continued on next page* 

lady in charge was kind enough to regale us with some Fiddletown history.

Evidently the prospectors there during the Gold Rush days were known for their fiddling. This was especially true in the summer months when Dry Creek, the north fork of which runs through Fiddletown, completely dries up, making placer mining pretty darned inconvenient. The town was appropriately named in honor of their reputation and a large model of a fiddle now adorns the entrance to the town's community center building.

At one time the name of the town was changed to

Oleta by a local judge who thought being known as the "judge from Fiddletown" made him sound a bit of a rube. Oleta was his daughter's name. Immediately after his death, his wife and other proud residents of the town had its name changed back again to Fiddletown. And it's a good thing; otherwise what would they have put above the door to the community center?

There are also a few brick buildings in the town which are currently being renovated. These were built by Chinese workers back in the time when Chinese were not generally allowed to own property.



*James K's Bike in the mountains*



*The cabin at Meeks Bay, Lake Tahoe*



*Emerald Bay, Lake Tahoe*

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## CLASSIFIEDS

*Your trash might be someone else's treasure.*



**Ad Rules:** To place your ad, please send to: Ron Aikins, 1105 Funston Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950

and/or email him at [ron@aikins.name](mailto:ron@aikins.name)

Deadline is the 10th of the month prior to publication: If it sells please let the editor know asap. Classifieds will run for three months.

Ads are FREE to members. First and last name plus best contact phone number must be included with your ad. No phone-in ads will be taken.

Only motorcycle or club related ads accepted. Other items will be included on a open space basis - no guarantees.

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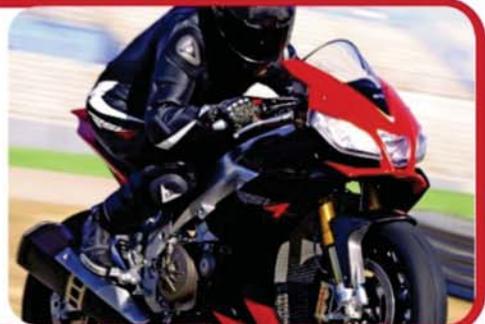
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## CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Jul 20 -	<b>Leader:</b> Jay Whyte <b>Destination:</b> Alice's Restaurant; ride leaves from breakfast at the Red Apple.	Sep 21 -	Leader: Jay Whyte Destination: Wool Growers, Los Banos
Jul 18-21 -	MOA International Rally, Salem, OR	Oct 19 -	Leader: Dick Dodd Destination: TBA
Aug 17 -	Leader: Ron Aikins Destination: TBA	Nov 16 -	Leader: James Kmetovic Destination: TBA
Aug 24-29 -	BUB Motorcycle Speed Trials, Bonneville Salt Flats, Neil Talbert leading ride	Dec 7-	(Tentative) Christmas Party
		Jan 2014 -	Leader: Ron Aikins Destination: TBA

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MONTEREY BAY BMW RIDERS  
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### FIRST CLASS MAIL

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