

River City Beemers

September 2023

RCB Newsletter



BMW MOA Club #210 & BMWRA Club #104

Catch us on the Web at WWW.RCB.ORG

Recurring Events:

Member Meeting: 1st Saturday of Every Month

Location: Susie's Country Oaks Cafe,
1000 Melody Lane,
Roseville, CA 95678

Breakfast or such whenever you arrive. Meeting starts more or less at 8:00 A.M. and runs until 9:00 A.M. or so, depending on what the Rafflemeister has in his goodie bag. Weather and other factors permitting there is a member ride after the meeting. Check the web site for details at rcb.org.

Wednesday Night Dinner Ride

Location: Coffee Republic
6610 Folsom-Auburn Road,
Folsom, CA 95630

Riders meet at the Folsom Coffee Republic before heading out to a local dining establishment 30-45 minutes away. After dinner, the riders return home on their own. Locations are chosen the previous week by the participants. Yes, we ride in rain and during holiday periods. Each week's destination is usually posted in the forum on the previous Monday or Tuesday.

Board of Directors Meeting

Location: Pete's Restaurant & Brewhouse
6608 Folsom-Auburn Road
Folsom, CA

The RCB board of directors meets monthly to review past activities and plan future events. Consideration is given to member interest and cost, and the meeting is open to all. While the meeting begins at 7:00 P.M., most of the directors gather earlier to have dinner.



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2019 Officers and Directors

Officers:

President	Fred Jewell	916-230-0951
VP	Ray Nuguit	916-625-0799
Secretary	Maggy Mini	916-716-1471
Treasurer	Gordon Olson	916-642-2221

Directors:

2022-2023	Ray Trujillo	916-601-9141
2022 – 2023	Al Morrison	916-955-2381
2023 – 2024	Bob Rasters	925-606-6129
2022 – 2023	Bob Brown	530-263-2823
2023 – 2024	Ken Caruthers	916-712-1014
2023 – 2024	Marv Lewis	916-208-1110
2023 – 2024	Rick Kilton	541-331-9553
2022 – 2023	Mike Robles	916-718-1514
2023 – 2024	Karl Weiland	530-409-5409
2022-2023	Greg Smith	916-539-9400

Appointed Positions:

Membership	Heidi Weiland	530-306-0959
Newsletter	Jack Klauschie	916-765-7737
Webmaster	Ken Caruthers	916-712-1014
Women's Liaison	Jeanie Thurston	916-626-9121
Rafflemeister	Gordon Olson	916-642-2221
Ride Catain	Ken Caruthers	916-712-1014

RCB 2023 Calendar of Events

(See RCB Web Site / Forum for Details)

October 6-8	Monthly Member Mtg / Manchester Beach
November 4	Monthly Member Meeting - Club Ride
November 18	Ladies Lunch
December 2	Monthly Mtg/Club Ride/ Holiday Party
December 9	Toy Run

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President's Corner

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I can't believe it's getting to the last few weeks of summer already, and that means we're getting ready for our annual campout at Manchester Beach in October. In the meantime, however, we have the Gypsy Tour, happening over the holiday weekend that I know a lot of our members enjoy. It's a well-run and interesting tour of Northern California, but it does involve camping, which leaves me out. Our club meeting is on the same holiday, Saturday, which means either Ray or Rick will lead a (much simpler) ride depending on the temperature. If it is relatively cool(er) out we'll go to Granzella's via the Capay Valley, or if it's hot, we might end up in the foothills somewhere. Routes are already on the club rides section of the website, check the forum for updates.

September also means that the mileage (destination) contest is drawing to a close in a couple of weeks, so get those pictures in to my email or phone by the 15th. This is your chance at a set of tires for your bike, installation included donated by Randy at A&S, which is nothing to sneeze at (if that's your idea of fun). It is a raffle so the more places you go to the better your chances of winning.

As I'm moving along in my second presidency of this most excellent motorcycle club, I often think of Gary Stofer, president for many years before my first stint, and the things he helped me with in becoming president of the first club I'd ever even been a member of, let alone leading one. That being said, as much as I enjoy being president, I would really like to see someone new and energetic come take the reins of the club, I would help him or her as much as I can. Pay and benefits commensurate with experience.

Gary had many pearls of wisdom he would occasionally drop on us as he saw fit. One I recall in particular was when I was complaining about the weak horn on my 1100 RT and wanted to install a louder one, and he said bad idea, you don't want aggravate drivers as you are extremely vulnerable in a road rage situation. The pearl he dropped on me was if you have time to think, react and hit that hard-to-reach horn button, you have time to avoid the situation and let the driver go on their way. I don't think I've hit the horn but a couple of times since then, and I never replaced the stock horn on any of my bikes.

Last month's trivia question answer is Kingfish, a side band of the Grateful Dead's Bob Weir I got to see in concert a couple of times in the mid-seventies.

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Here's a non-musical one for this month: On what date did the 20th century begin?

The weather's great, let's ride!

by Fred Jewell RCB Prez

Alaska 2023

By Roger Sweitzer

RIVER CITY BEEMERS TRIP TO ALASKA

Our group consisted of 6 brave people, 2 ladies Maggie Minni, & Jeanie Thurston, 4 guys, Al Morison, Gordy Olson, Ernesto Rivera aka Doc Gajet, and myself Roger Sweitzer, 2 GSA' S, 1 GS; ,2 RT's &1 R.

Thank's to Ken for his work setting up our routes on the GPS.

We got our kickstands up 30 minutes late on July 7t,but we made up time going over the coastal mountains between here and Reno Nev. We had lunch in Winnemucca, Nev. and had good BBQ for lunch. We headed north on 95 to Nampa, Id. Approx 600 miles.

Day 2, At the crack of dawn, we headed East to the Sawtooth Mountains to Stanley, and followed the Salmon River to 93 and then north to Kalispell Montana, and the beautiful Flathead Lake. We had gone another 600 miles.

Day 3 we headed north to The Canadian border @ Roosevelt. We are now in British Columbia until we get near Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada. After pics, we head south to Banff, and spend the night at a great condo style hotel. A lady from Australia served us a great dinner. This was a long 450-mile day.

Day 4 we head for Saint George, and covered some of the most beautiful areas of the trip .Glacier fed lakes, and glacier covered mountains.The road goes over a glacier, on the way to Jasper. We stopped at Price George for the night. What a great way to spend another 450 miles on our way to Alaska.

We started day 5 going north to Fort Nelson where we had our first problem with hotels. They booked us at The City of Nelson instead of Fort Nelson - 300 K apart. We

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got a room at the Super Eight and got there last 3 rooms. I called the hotel in Nelson, and they were very understanding. No Charge, Thanks Prestige Inn!

Day 6 we headed west back into B.C. and the Pacific time zone. On the way we came across a big herd of Bisson. There were at least 30-40 Dads, Moms, and Calves. We ' did not stop to take pictures, as a big bull did not take kindly to us. We stopped for lunch at Watson Lake and saw the amazing "sign post forest." We added a River City Beemers license plate frame to the forest .We spent the next night in White Horse, the largest city in Yukon Territory. It was a nice hotel with underground parking, but no pool or sauna. There are more Moose than people in the Youkon.

The next day we split up. Al & Gordy headed north to Dawson City. The four of us headed west to Delta Junction on the Alaska Highway. It should be called the Alaska Trail. Just north of Destruction Bay we rode on the worst roads I have ever been on that were shown as paved on the map. 150 K of gravel and dirt in the rain. The good news is we all made it. I think God had a lot to do with that. Jeannie said she was going to sell her bike and fly home. I said that I would pray that going south on way back would be a dry day. It was. Thank you Lord! Delta Junction was great, a bar & restaurant, and a laundry. We washed our clothes and found a truck wash to clean our bikes. They had 2" of mud on them.

We had a short day ride to Fairbanks. We stopped at the North Pole. Not the real north pole, the town. After lunch we checked in to our hotel, The Westmark Hotel. Ernesto & I went to the most northern Costco in America. Al & Gordy came in later from Dawson City. That evening we went to a place called Salmon Baked for fish. It was good, but I laid down my phone and did not miss it till we left the place. The place closed at 9:00 pm, so I could not connect until the next the day when we were in Danali Park. I had them mail my phone home to save 400 miles of riding. That night we stayed at Palmer (near Anchorage) at a condo cabin. The view was great once we found it. We had Pizza delivered and called it a night. We were wet but the place had a big dryer.

The next morning was dry and we headed back south and east .across that mess of a road to Hanes Junction .We got in at 11:00 pm and found a note on the motel on what rooms we were in. I slept like a baby

The next morning, we headed for a lovely place called the Artic Divide Lodge. It was on Dease Lake and a beautiful area. The place was just lovely, but we missed the restaurant, so we made our own pizza. Not as good as Ernesto's but OK.

In the morning, I had the best cup of coffee on the trip. We loaded up and headed to Prince Rupert. We stayed 2 days while we waited on the ferry to Port Hardy, Vancouver Island.

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The ferry ride was long, but it was a new boat with good food, and great views. We got off at 12:00 midnight. We got off the boat and found our hotel. It was locked, but we woke up some old guy who told us how to get into our rooms.

It is now July 21, 2023, day 14 of the trip. We head south to Duncan for the night. We called in and cancelled our stay in Salem, Oregon. The weather was hot, so Al & Gordy decided to stay on the coast, and the rest of us decided to head home fast, as Ernesto had to get to work. We got up at 3:30 to catch the ferry to Port Angeles, Washington. We made it first on and first off the Black Ball ferry and the USA. I heard Al & Gordy spent 3 days getting home from there. I made it home at 11:00 pm the same day. 860 miles of riding and 3 hrs. of ferry time. I was tired, sore, & happy to sleep in my own bed.

Alaska 2023

By Jeanie Thurston

Alaska via Motorcycle! July 7-23, 2023 – Jeanie Thurston's perspective of the trip.

BMW Riders: Roger Sweitzer, organizer, 1200 RT; Maggy Mini 1250 R; Al Morrison 1250 GSA; Gordon Olson 1200 GS; Ernesto Rivera 1200 GSA; Jeanie Thurston 1200 RT



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I was very apprehensive about this trip in the beginning; thought I might get a few days in and decide to come home. It was an amazingly good experience; great riding, beautiful scenery, enough adventures to keep it interesting, awesome riding companions and a lifetime of memories. Never once did I consider coming home early. "Layla" my R1200RT ran flawlessly, never worried about running out of gas, was comfortable, even in rain, gravel and mud. I jokingly posted on FB that when I got to Anchorage, that I was going to sell my bike and fly home rather than ride the Al-Can highway again... but since we didn't get to Anchorage no option! And the trip back across was windy but no rain so we had lots of scenery and no drama.

What was good/memorable:

- The immensity of nature at her best- beautiful clouds, huge mountains, glaciers, a large variety of forests with many kinds of trees and rain, yes, lots of it.
- Pink Fireweed- acres and acres mixed with yellow cosmos all over the sides of the highways and mountains; watching Gordy pick it to take home to Cindy was sweet.
- Glaciers that would take your breath away.
- Wildlife - Moose, bears, red foxes, deer, (sadly no Caribou), bald eagles, marmots, bunnies, bison, all along the highways.
- Eating at local restaurants was usually entertaining and the food was good, occasionally we gave in to chain food but not much.
- Bike-to-bike helmet communications with Maggy and Ernesto was fun, always interesting and a good safety tool along the Al-Can highway; our Sena's didn't perfectly sync but Ernesto made it work.
- Sharing food and "boutique" hotel rooms with Maggy was ideal; we had plenty of food; places to wash and dry our clothes, and lots of entertainment.
- Overall, the accommodations were interesting, well equipped and we are all grateful to Roger for all the effort needed to make 17 nights of hotel reservations.
- Gas stations which are a key part of having either a great trip or a miserable one; Canada and Alaska had enough gas stations, and most were reasonably priced.

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- Wearing rain gear almost every day of an 18-day trip;
- Chicken Dinner Lane in Nampa- some entertaining street names.
- Mooses Saloon in Kalispell, Montana; the first of a quite a few nights of pizza.
- Zen Noodle House in Prince George was one of my favorite dinners; we celebrated Al's birthday with a fruit tart and a paper sack birthday card.
- Sourdough Lodge restaurant along the Salmon River Mountains in Idaho featured the biggest breakfast plates I'd ever seen - Yes bigger than the Big Texan in Amarillo.
- Dirty Northern Bastard Pub in Whitehorse, Yukon had craft brewed beers and a restaurant called Miner's Daughter but of course we ate pizza at the bar.
- Prince Rupert- dinner at Dolly's Fish Market; on the walk home, I got to ask Gordy all the questions about his family I wanted.
- Ideal Café in Campbell which is on Victoria Island, between Port McNeil (ferry landing) and Duncan, just a cute, little good place to have lunch.
- "Motherloading" the huge meal with Ernesto and Maggy at the Salmon Bake in Fairbanks- very touristy but we got lots of seafood.
- Clarinet Wine from Alderlea winery in Duncan, BC at the Old Firehouse Pub and Wine Bar. Maggy and I split mussels and fries with aioli sauce which were great. Al found some great restaurants for us.
- North Pole, Alaska –it really is a town (population 2,700) and is touristy - all the streetlight poles are painted in red and white stripes, but it is fun; just our luck, Santa was on a break so no group picture sitting on his lap.
- The Museum of Northern British Columbia in Prince Rupert is an amazing display of culture including art, tools, clothing, dishes, housing focusing on Canada's First Nations people. Well worth the visit and there is also a very pretty garden called Sunken Garden's Park maintained by the garden club that we just stumbled into.

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- The BC Ferry from Prince Rupert to Port Hardy-Inside Passage- beautiful scenery including swimming deer and lots of fish, bears, moose and birds; a well-stocked restaurant; free movies every two hours; large comfortable lounge chairs in the Aurora Lounge (\$40.00)
- My 1200 RT - Even after I hit a rock and put a slight bend in the wheel rim, the bike was stable, rideable and always comfortable.

What was “interesting”:

- ♣ Finding out the hotel was booked in Nelson, Canada not Fort Nelson. Thanks to Al for quick action in finding a great Super 8 hotel right next door. To give Roger credit, that was the only hotel mistake!
- ♣ Well, ok we had kind of an adventure getting to the Haida Way Motor Inn in Port McNeill in the middle of a dark and rainy night, but eventually we found the hotel and the rooms.
- ♣ On The Rim restaurant, Hudson’s Hope in BC; their idea of fish and chips is not like ours; 1 small fish covered with French fries.
- ♣ Sign Post Forest, Watson Lake Yukon Territory along highway 97 on the way to Whitehorse; what a huge mess of signs, but definitely something to stop and see. Finding Premium gas was a challenge here.
- ♣ Trophy Lodge in Delta Junction. Once we located this hotel (after a tour of the town) staff were super friendly, food was good, rooms were spacious, and they let Roger and Ernesto use their laundry facilities for free!
- ♣ Fairbanks - I wouldn’t recommend staying at the Westmark Hotel since they cater almost exclusively to tour bus travelers. Also, we paid \$12.00 to ride on the school bus shuttle to the Salmon Bake - if it looks too good to be true it probably is.
- ♣ Denali National Park; you take your chance in seeing the mountain; it’s often obscured in clouds, as it was our day, but the Visitor Center is very well done.

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- ♣ How many BMW riders with GPS, and cell phones does it take to find one condo in Palmer, Alaska? Five of us (Al had lost his phone by then) and amazingly Ernesto talked a pizza delivery company into coming out there in the rain at 9:30pm.
- ♣ Roger yelling at us in the pouring rain, mud parking lot to “come up here and take your boots off before you come into this place”. Artic Divide Lodge turned out to be charming, comfortable and small, and one of the places I’d revisit. Dease Lake was beautiful! The small communal kitchen was perfect for pizza.
- ♣ “Bates Motel” looking place in Haines Junction called Glacier Inn which I rode right past the first time. We arrived at around 10:30 pm after probably the longest day on the bikes - about 638 miles. South of Anchorage to Haines Junction on the Al-Can highway. No innkeeper in sight, but a sticky note to Roger and doors unlocked to our rooms where the beds turned out to be comfortable. No Continental breakfast, but if you went behind the hotel, there was a view of the Glaciers.
- ♣ Using a local truck stop high pressure wash to get some of the Al-Can mud off the bikes. They really were totally covered in mud.
- ♣ The BC Ferry (bikes tied town in the hold) was 16 hours. We ate three meals, watched 3 movies and visited the gift shop several times, walked all over the ferry. They had cabins for rent with bunk beds which looked comfortable; I would opt to rent one as taking a nap in the Aurora Lounge chairs was not really possible; lots of people and motion. If you go with a group, make sure you tell them to seat you all together; we were spread out in several areas.
- ♣ Reading my FB posts when I got home and realizing how many mistakes I made - I was tired and probably a little drunk some nights....

What would I do differently?

As with most travel, pack less clothes; take a better journal; visit more local museums; take more snacks; try to stay organized in the side bags; they were pretty crazy by the last few days.

What I took but I didn’t use:

A good, but heavy flashlight; postcard stamps; tuna packets!

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Would I do it again?

Absolutely...but a different part of Canada, perhaps. There are just not that many roads in Alaska or the Yukon Territories.

I would travel again with these guys; very fun, nice people, smart and safe riders, flexible and easy to get along with.

17 days on the road seemed like a lot but the days flew by; we are all grateful to our spouses for keeping the home fires burning.

Alaska Photos



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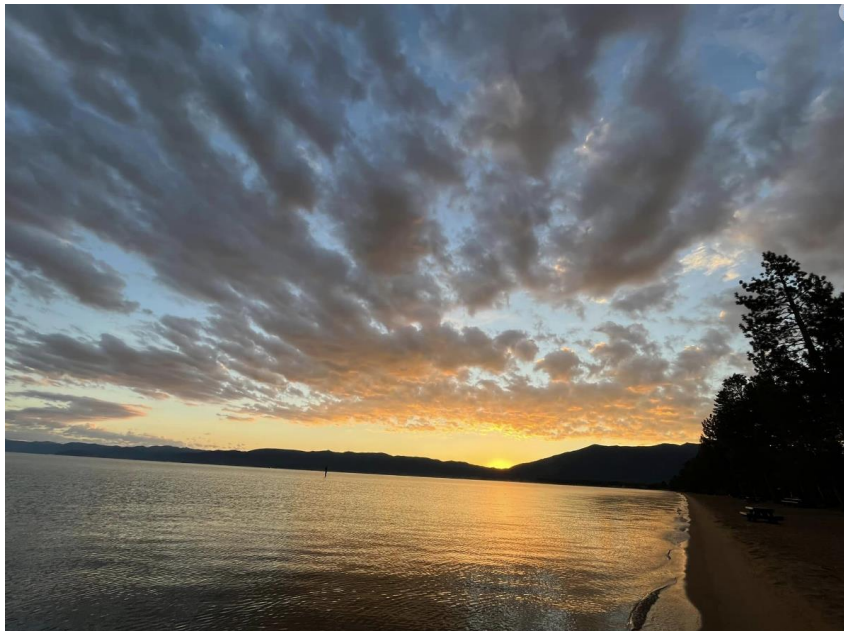
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Tahoe Chill

Photos from Ernesto



Early Crew



Tahoe Sunrise

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Virginia City



Campfire – First in Three Years

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Photos from Rick Kilton



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Editor's Request

Please take photos and write notes.

Better yet write an article or ride report.

If you read an interesting article, send me a copy.

Please send them to me at jackklau@comcast.net and I will add them to the newsletter to share with members.

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Please Check the Forum often to stay updated on club functions and events.



Log on @ rcb.org.

**Create a member account with username and password
to access the Forum.**

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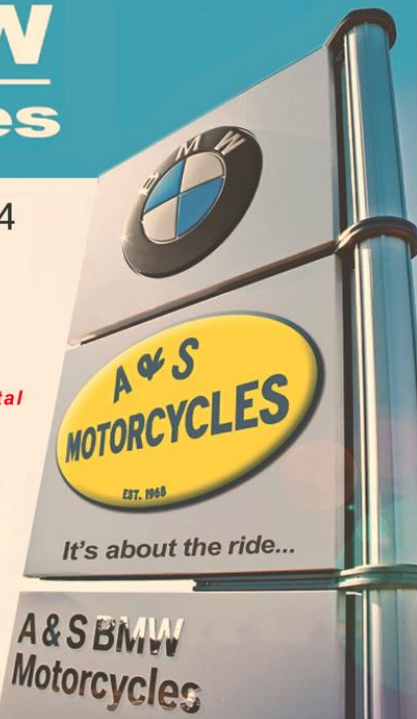
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