

Volume 2016

No. 3

Redwood Riders Review



October

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Long Ride to Canada

**In this issue
Mt. Tam Video
Tech Tip Tools**



Club Business

President's foreword

WOW! Our club membership has just zoomed to 95 members. What a great feeling. We must be doing something right! That's the large and small of it.

We now have enough members to start thinking about bigger events. One of our first should be a charity fundraiser. If you have any ideas for a fundraising event, please contact Gretchen, our Vice President. Now is the time when we begin our event planning for the next year.

Our Tours and Event Director is thinking about what new and exciting rides we can hold. If you have a preference, please let him know. The same goes for attracting new members. Our Membership Director Marcel is hard at work in that area and would appreciate hearing from you.

We have changed our meeting location to one that promises to provide better acoustics and a larger space for our growing membership. This is temporary at the moment. Make sure you let one of the club officers know how you like it. It should be much easier to hear the proceedings as well as make yourself heard when there are discussions.

Submitted by Ben Johnstone, Pres.

Our charity recognized

Our club, along with CNN, have recognized Ceres as one of the outstanding charities in America. Cathryn Couch of Ceres in Sebastopol has been chosen by CNN as a "CNN Hero". There was also an article about her in the Press Democrat.

Ben Johnstone

Secretary's report

Redwood Riders Meeting

Sept 20, 2016

New Location: First meeting in our new location of the China Village Restaurant at 8501 Gravenstein Hwy, Cotati. Meeting called to order at 7 PM.

Opening Statement: Meeting was conducted by Vice President, Gretchen Tomm due to President, Ben Johnstone being away on vacation.

Gretchen welcomed everyone to our new location. She thanked Marcel for making the arrangements to hold our meetings here. The meeting room was a good size and we are able to conduct our meeting with everyone able to hear.

Gretchen asked for feedback from the membership on anything and everything. And asked that everyone be active in the club and its activities.

After Holiday Party will be coming up in January and we are looking for volunteers to help put it together.

Ben wanted to see what the membership thought about putting on a charity event now that we have a larger membership. This will be discussed at a later date.

Minutes: were read by Sharon McMillan

Treasurers Report: Terry Perry gave the treasurers report.

Membership: Marcel introduced new members Laurie and Steve Darling, both are riders. He introduced a returning Redwood Rider member, Clint Stevenson. After the meeting, Craig Sultan also joined the club.

We now have 95 members, 81 are riders, 14 passengers, 64 men and 31 women.

Newsletter: Marcel asked that everyone send him something to be included in the newsletter. Be it your favorite product, or photos, favorite rides.

Tours and Events: Mike said that the Mt Tam ride which was scheduled for Sunday was switched to the Wednesday date which was to Mendocino. Weekends are so busy and popular at Mt Tam that going there for our ride on Wednesday made for a better ride. There were 12 riders to Mt Tam and 16 went on the Mendocino ride on Sept. 18th.

Oct 1st – Ride to Alice's Restaurant

Oct 8th is the American Legion Ride starting out in Windsor and ending up at the Villa Chanticleer in Healdsburg. Flyer will be sent out to the membership.

Oct 9th – ride to Lakeport.

Oct 21, 22 and 23rd – club ride to Hearst Castle with an evening tour of the castle. We will be staying at the Courtesy Inn in San Simeon.

Mike talked about adding an extra ride day. The days would be the 1st and 3rd Saturdays, the 2nd Wednesday and the 2nd Sunday.

Also planning to have some overnight rides, Saturday & Sunday, starting next year, possibly one each quarter.

Mike would like to have another road captain. He will be having a road captain's meeting. No date at this time.

Safety Officer: Tony Albini shared his experience of going down on his motorcycle to avoid a person that turned left in front of him and dealing with the insurance companies. He was ok except for a scrap on his arm. Being seen and making eye contact are not enough.

Discussed staying in formation if someone drops out of the group. It was decided to not change your position until the group comes to a stop and then make the move into proper staggered positions when the group starts up.

Tony asked for suggested items to cover and to email to him.

Mike would like to see the group try to keep together if there is a narrowing of the road coming up to prevent vehicles ending up in the middle of the riders. One place that comes to mind is River Road/Mark West Springs at Old Redwood Hwy where there are two lanes at the intersection then becomes one lane once you pass through the light. Close up and take steps to keep the group together. Rosalie talked about letting vehicles pass through the group to change lanes and or move on ahead. General discussion was held.

New Business: New location – general agreement that the food and location was much better. Thanked Tony for making to initial call to reserve the room for us at our board meeting and Marcel going to the restaurant and making the reservations for our meeting.

Cornering school – Ben passed on that there was not enough interest at this time. He will check for other schedules and get more information to us.

Nominations are coming up next month in October. Voting will take place in November. You must be at the

meeting to cast your vote. There needs to be 25% of the membership in attendance in order to have a quorum which is required.

Newsletter - agreement that it was awesome.

Graham Balfour thanked Sharon McMillan for mailing the newsletter and summary of the meeting to him each month since he does not have a computer.

Terry Perry has club shirts and hats available.

50/50 Raffle: This month's raffle was won by our new member, Laurie Darling. A second drawing was held for a prize and that was won by Graham.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40

Next general meeting 7: PM Tuesday October 18 at China Village, 8501 Gravenstein Hwy, Cotati.

Submitted by Sharon McMillan, Club Secretary

Tours & Events Director's Report

September rides:

Wed, 9/14 - Mt. Tamalpais. George led 9 riders over Mt. Tam. With a rest stop at Millerton Park on Tomales Bay they still hit the summit at 11:30 and were rewarded with a clear day (read that "no fog"). The group then headed down the West slope for lunch in Stinson Beach. After a short rest at the Cheese Factory the group headed home by way of Chileno Valley.

Sun, 9/18 - Mendocino. Mike led 15 bikes (16 people) up the coast to Mendocino. With short rest stops in Jenner and Gualala the group got to Mendocino a little before 1:00pm. The weather was stunning. Clear, sunny and calm. After ordering lunch from the Mendocino Market everyone settled down in the park on Main Street for a leisurely meal. After lunch it was South for a few miles before heading back on Highway 128 for a cruise through the redwoods into Booneville. Following a short break (and a few gas-ups) it was on down 128 to Cloverdale for the last stop of the ride before heading on home, albeit in 100 plus degree weather. All in all, a great ride!

October events:

Sat, 10/1 - Alice's Restaurant, meet at Shari's at 9:00am for a 9:30 departure to Alice's Restaurant, with Mike leading. If you haven't been to Alice's, plan on going with us. It is a rustic, iconic spot that has been frequented by bikers for many years. It is on Skyline Highway in La Honda/Woodside on the spine of the coastal mountains. The ride will go south over the Golden Gate Bridge, drop through the city past the cliff house to Highway 1 and proceed south to Half Moon Bay then head East on Highway 92 to Highway 35 (Skyline). From there we'll wind our way South to Alice's. After lunch we'll take Highway 82 East to Highway 280 and head North toward home.

Sat, 10/8 - American Legion Fallen Warriors Memorial Ride. Not a Redwood Riders ride. This one is put on by the American Legion of Healdsburg. Meet at Cafe Noto at 8:30am. 650 McClelland in Windsor. BBQ after ride at Villa Chanticleer. 1248 N. Fitch Mtn. Rd., Healdsburg. Cost is \$20.

Wed, 10/12 - Lakeport. we will have a ride to Lakeport. The road Captain has not yet been chosen so the route is also yet to be determined. However, as many of you know, all of the roads to Lakeport are interesting. Stay tuned for more information on this one in the next few days.

Tues, 10/18 - General Meeting. Please try to attend since we will be nominating club officers. Likewise, if you would like to run for an office also plan on attending. Remember, this is your club!

Fri, Sat, Sun, 10/21, 22, 23 - Hearst Castle. Ben is leading our last weekend ride of the year to Hearst Castle. If you have not attended one of these rides you have missed a lot of fun as well as some beautiful country. We are

planning an evening tour of Hearst Castle on Saturday night. If you would still like to go, you can call the Courtesy Inn in San Simeon for a reservation. Their number is (805) 927-4691. If they are full you can try other motels in San Simeon or Cambria.

New Business in the Tours & Events World:

We will be keeping the additional monthly 2nd Sunday rides as well as the ride on the second Wednesday - both have been very well attended. The second Sunday rides will commence in November due the American Legion ride on Saturday October 8.

Next year we will add a once-a-month overnight weekend ride to allow those that must work to enjoy the fun of the overnighter. Details to follow.

By Mike Holden, Tours & Events Director

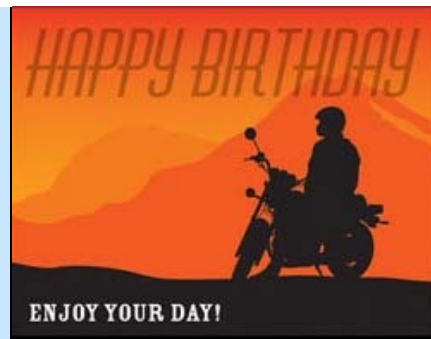
Membership Director's Report

New members since last meeting		Current membership	Membership Statistics	
		Number of riders	81	
Heidi Bigall	Andrew Lock	Number of co-riders	<u>14</u>	Men 64
Dave Broker	Laurie Darling	Total Club members	95	Women 31
Graham Hawkes	Steve Darling			
Clint Severson	Craig Sultan			

Birthdays in October

Tony Albini
Steven Bowne
Tom Cooke

Stacy De Voy
Robyn Chosy
Vanessa Carlsen



Bulletin Board Notices

New meeting location a great success!

A vote was taken and it was unanimous. Everyone at the new meeting place was very pleased with the location, the quiet environment and the food. The space is also much larger and made it easy for us to get up and move around as necessary. 35 members showed up and we had room to spare. From the restaurant's point of view, the manager was very pleased with the business we brought with us. It was mutually agreed that we would continue to have our meetings at the China Village in Cotati. Please make an effort to come to the next meeting. You won't be disappointed.

After Holiday annual party.

January is when we traditionally have our "after holiday" party. We need a couple people to help organize the party. Our VP Gretchen had taken on the task so please contact her to help her out.

vicepresident@redwoodridersmc.com

Thank you Melisa Brown for doing such a great job last year.

Upcoming elections

At the October general meeting we will be asking for nominations for the annual election of officers.

Please start thinking about who you would like to nominate for office.

RRMC Membership Cards

If you don't have your membership card yet, check with Marcel or Terry. You need these to get the

discounts offered by our sponsors.

Be proud to be a Redwood Rider

Next general meeting, please order your Redwood Riders hat. Be proud to be a Redwood Rider and show our colors. Many of you do not agree with the old style of vests and patches. I get that and it is OK. However, we can wear hats that show our logo and still be in the current style. It is also good for name recognition. It gets our name out to the public. Name recognition also helps get new recruits for our club. New members are the lifeblood of any organization.

By Marcel Svizzero, Membership Director

Safety Officer's Tip of the Month

Look ahead while riding and try to avoid debris. Try to avoid loose gravel or any other obstruction that may cause a sliding problem. If you find that you cannot avoid it slow down to a safe speed of travel before proceeding.

By Tony Albini, Safety Director

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Editorials

Wisdom of the month

This little old lady decides one day that she wants to join a biker club, so she goes down to her local club and knocks on the door. The door is opened by a big hairy biker with a beard, who's covered in tattoos.

"I'd like to join your club," says the little old lady. The biker is amused by this and decides to play along, telling her, "Ok, but you've got to meet the requirements first. Do you have a bike?" The little old lady points to a Harley and says, "Yeah, that's my bike there." The biker is surprised but says, "And do you smoke?" The little old lady says, "Yeah, I smoke 20 cigarettes a day, and when I'm shooting pool I'll smoke a few cigars too." The biker is impressed and says, "And have you ever been picked up by the Fuzz?" The little old lady says, "No, but I've been swung around by the nipples a few times."



My broom is in the shop

From various Internet sources, public domain ~ Editor

Tom's Take ~ Submitted by Tom Cooke, Newsletter staff writer

A few words to live by while riding.

1. If you value you head and face, wear a helmet at all times, not just when required by law.
2. If you are in a hurry, drive your car.
3. Stay out of blind spots of other vehicles. If you find yourself in one get out of it at your first opportunity.
4. Try to avoid making left turns. And when you do, be hyper vigilant to what is behind you and what is approaching you.
5. Any time the approaching road or intersection seems the slightest bit sketchy.....have a back up plan in mind in case danger nears.
6. Do not economize when it comes to tires. Inspect and replace them before they are worn out and traction fails.
7. When riding in a group, be aware of how many bikes are behind you and give them room when turning into a parking lot or gas station. Don't leave your riding companions out in the through-fare while you hunt for a available gas pump or shady spot.
8. Wear protective clothing. Please no shorts or sandals. Cover your ankles, protect your hands, knees and elbows. Protective gear may be hot but less hot than a bad case of road rash.
9. To state the blindingly obvious.....do not drink or use drugs.... even a little.... before or during a ride.
10. Think of riding thoughtfully as run riding, not punishment. You will end up with many more miles than reckless riders.

Paul's Tech Corner ~ by Paul Albert, Newsletter staff technical writer

This months tech tip is on Tools on your bike. Something we never think about is do I have any basic tools with my bike. Most of us will never work on our own bike, however on the road a minor tool might get you home. First thing to check is do I have a tool kit and where is it? What tools do I need? Many new bikes don't even include a tool kit. So, what to do? First check your owners manual and see if a kit is included and where it is located. Many owners manuals will show you minor repairs, battery location, adjustments, and how to change bulbs. You might want to check to see what tools you have and what is missing. Especially, if you bought the bike used. Previous owners have a habit of keeping the tool bag. So make an inventory, and see if all is there. **In addition to the basic tools,** I would suggest you purchase, a small LED flashlight, some tie straps, a small crescent wrench, pliers, a small side cutter/dykes, a tire gauge, reversible screwdriver, pocket knife, and any thing else that you think you might need. For Harley owners, most of the bikes don't come with tool kits. Harley dealerships are more than happy to sell you an over priced set of tools (watch Craigslist or Ebay for bargains). My favorite store is Harbor freight, all their hand tools can be purchased for a few dollars or less. And they work. You don't need Snap-on tools for your emergency fix. Ask other members as to what they carry if you are in doubt. In addition, I carry a slime portable **12 volt tire inflator** from wallmart, and a tire plug kit. You can watch youtube videos on how to use them. On a trip I carry Yuasa motorcycle battery jumpers. I realize space is limited, but for a bagger guys there is no excuse. I got a flat in the past, and was thankful I had a pair of dykes as I was able to grab and remove a screw that was solidly in the tire. Another option is a can of Fix A Flat. I am not crazy about fix a flat aerosol, as it may or may not work. And after use, it does not fully inflate your tire, and leaves a residue that is impossible to clean off your rim and inside your tire. And in rare cases will clog your Schrader valve leaving you stranded. Of course **the most important tool is a fully charged cell phone**, nuff said.

Members' views, stories and helpful tips

Have you tried this product? Everyone has heard of Rain-X for glass, but did you know there is a plastic formula?



The unique water repelling benefit, found in Rain-X® Original Glass Water Repellent is now available in a product specifically formulated for plastic surfaces! Rain-X® Plastic Water Repellent provides a superior water beading coating on various plastics including Lexan®, Plexiglas®, Perspex®, Lucite®, Acrylics and Polycarbonate. Watch water bead up and roll away on motorcycle windscreens, goggles, visors and boat windshields for improved visibility!

Product Features

- Applies water beading technology to dramatically enhance visibility
- Specifically formulated for plastic surfaces
- Easily applied for a durable coating

*FYI, this is listed on our Links page in the great products category
I have used it for some time. It is a fantastic product. ~ Marcel*

Taking a break on rides.

Experienced motorcyclists already know that riding is much more fatiguing than driving. On top of that, sore muscles

often occur during the first few days of a long trip, particularly when most of a motorcyclist's previous riding has been on weekend day trips.

In addition to sore muscles, there are the environmental factors, which can diminish a rider's stamina: hot or cold weather, high humidity, wind noise in the helmet, rain, strong crosswinds, reduced visibility, the high level of mental concentration required to ride safely, and the types and condition of the roads. On this last count, mountain riding with lots of curves and elevation changes is inherently more physically and mentally exhausting than riding across level terrain.

When leading a group of riders, it's important not to forget about their needs as well as your own. I'm sometimes guilty of getting into an enjoyable riding rhythm and losing track of time and the physical needs of my companions. Whether you're riding alone or in a group, here are some rules of thumb about taking breaks:



- Stop every one to two hours, depending on the factors discussed above.
- Walk around and stretch muscles to relieve or prevent aching.
- Hydrate with non-caffeinated drinks that replenish electrolytes, which is particularly important in hot weather.
- Converse with your fellow riders to gauge their level of fatigue and to relieve the intense mental focus required during the ride.
- In very hot weather, reduce body temperature by sitting under shade, *sipping* a cold drink, and/or seeking refuge in an air-conditioned building.
- In very cold weather, increase body temperature by seeking a warm place and drinking a hot liquid.
- If overcome by sleepiness, take a catnap in a safe location.

Under serious conditions, like severe weather, flooding, or excessive heat or cold, it may be advisable to seek shelter and wait out the threat. It makes little sense to push one's self to a point where the ride is no longer enjoyable. It also may be dangerous to do so. Remember, it's better to take too many breaks than too few. Ride safe!

Text: Jim Parks, Photography: Brian Shaney.

Excerpt from Road Runner Magazine suggested by Mike Holden

Member product review

Viking Saddle Bag Review – By Robyn LaMantia-Chosy

After 5 years of use, my Saddlemen Teardrop Desperado Leather Saddlebags began to sag so badly, they were in danger of melting to the exhaust pipes. So, not wanting to end up on YouTube in one of those "Fail" videos with flaming bags, I decided it was time to replace them.

Now, I am a fairly frugal individual and not one to impulse buy very often, so I began the arduous process of finding bags which satisfied the following criteria:

- Under \$400
- 3,000 Cubic Inch Capacity Minimum
- Leather

- Lockable
- Easy Hard Mount Installation
- Durable

After much research, I decided upon the Viking Ultimate Shape Studded Motorcycle Bag which satisfied all my conditions (www.vikingbags.com). These bags are a nice hybrid of the classic soft leather bag and a hard bag. They are constructed of molded fiberglass & metal with a leather exterior and rubber interior; very solid and sturdy. I opted for the studded bags because...well, why not...I love studs (and you can take that any way you want).

The kit comes complete with all the hardware necessary for throw-over or hard mounting the bags including the mounting brackets. It also included a variety of bolt lengths, washers, and spacers.

Installation was fairly easy; the supplied instructions were basic but clear plus there are a few good YouTube videos detailing the process which I found very helpful. The most difficult part for me was getting the placement correct and ensuring both bags would be symmetrically mounted. Once I was satisfied the bag over the pipes was properly located with ample clearance and the bolt holes marked, it was just a matter of transferring the drill marks to the other bag, drilling 8 holes, assembling the brackets and bolting onto the bike. The entire process took me about 2 hours and 2 beers.

PROs:

- Cost: \$233 Including Shipping
- Storage Capacity: 3,080 Cubic Inches (20" x 11" x 7")
- All Hardware & Mounting Brackets Included
- Lockable – Metal locking mechanism and keys, not one of the crappy plastic assemblies.
- Small Interior Pocket – Large enough for a cell phone or wallet
- Quality, Solid Construction

CONS:

- Due to the placement of the lock, the studs are not visually equidistant. A minor detraction which is hard for this OCD Virgo to overlook but I will survive.

Overall, I am extremely pleased with these bags and hope they are as durable as they appear. They are a great value for the price and I highly recommend.



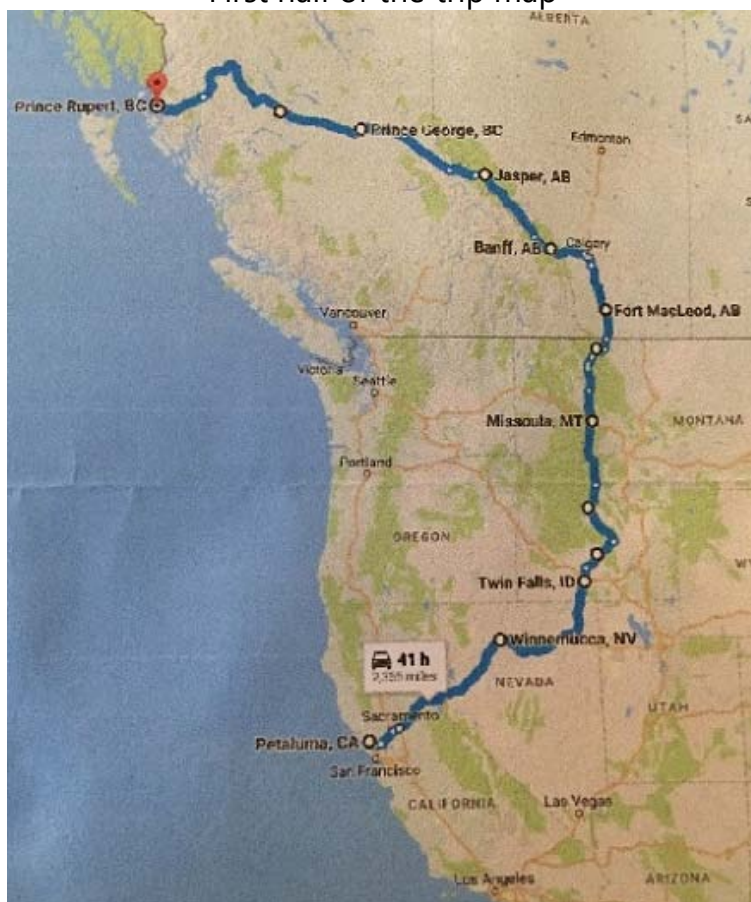
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Long Rides

Canada ride August 19th. to September 1, 2016

First half of the trip map

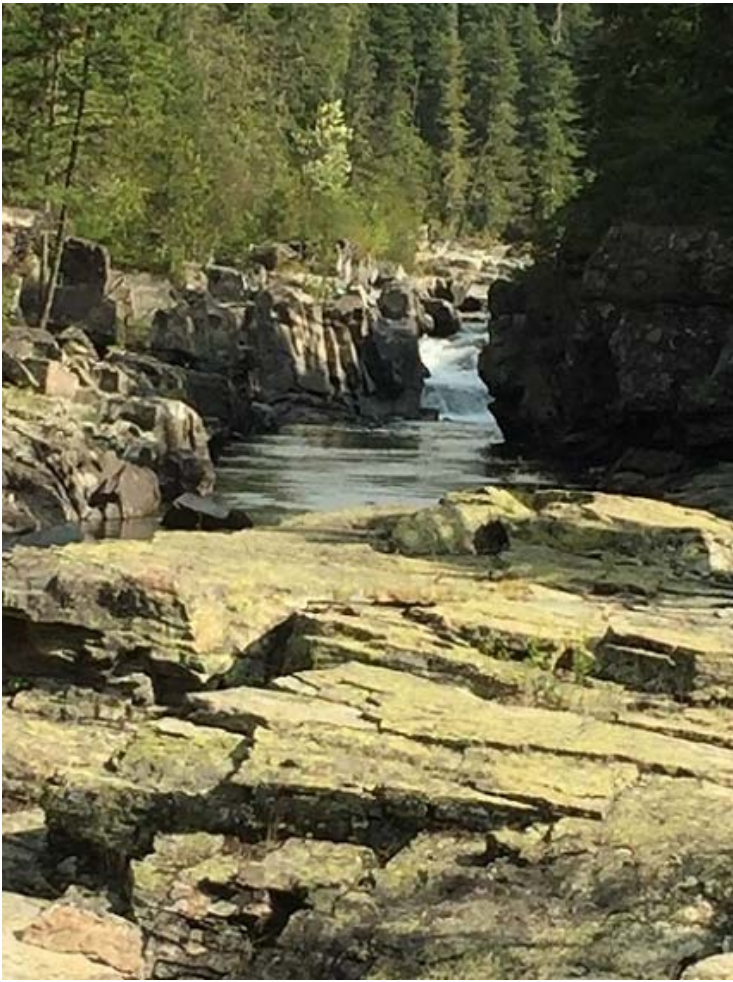


Twin Falls, Idaho



Glacier National Park, Montana







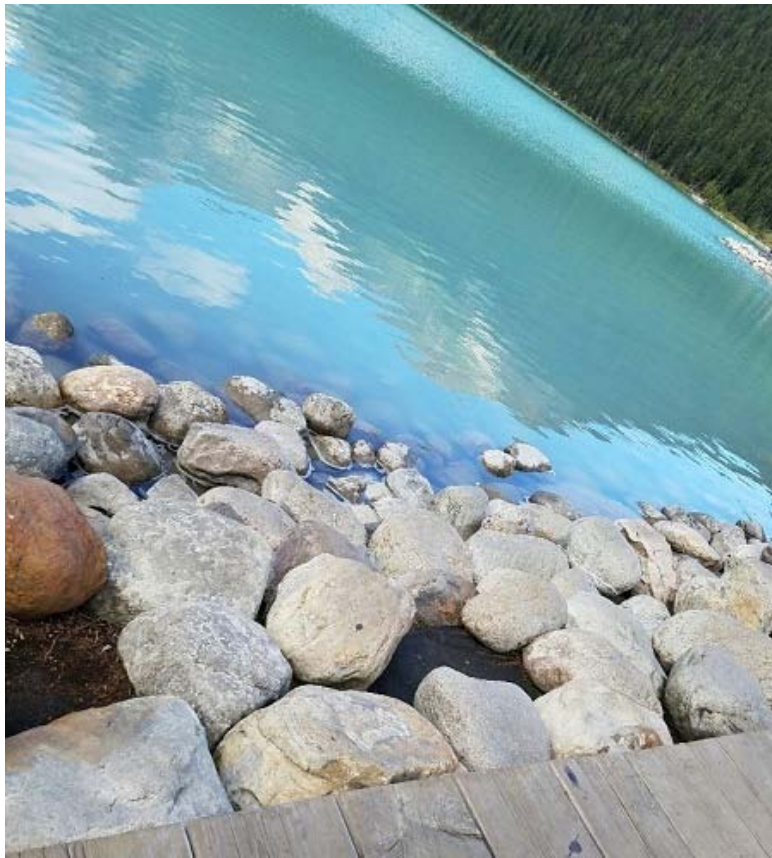


Banff, Alberta, Canada



Lake Louise





Yes, at any angle, this is really is the color of the water due to the minerals brought down by the glacier.

Photos submitted by Redwood Riders, Gretchen Tomm, Michael Holden, Tom Cooke, Wade Roberts, Marcel Svizzero.

Next Month: Installment 2, Canada.

We go places!

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Club Contacts

Officers and Road Captains

RRMC Board of Directors

President:	Ben Johnston
Vice President:	Gretchen Tomm
Secretary:	Sharon McMillan
Treasurer:	Terry Perry
Tours & Events:	Mike Holden
Safety:	Tony Albini
Membership:	Marcel Svizzero
Member at Large:	Wade Roberts
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*See Sponsor page for discounts

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Editor

Send your suggestions to: editor@redwoodridersmc.com

Webmaster

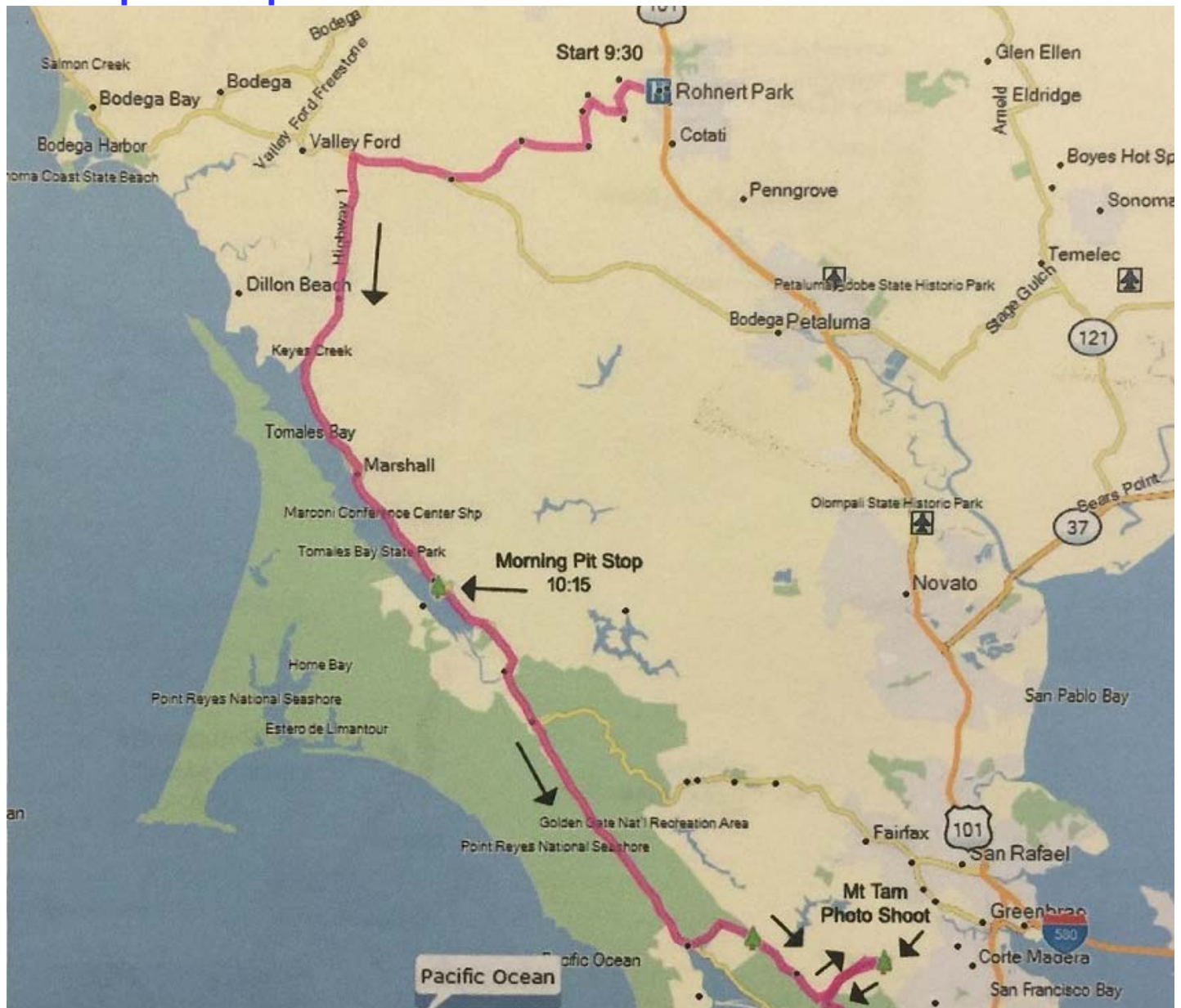
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Recent Rides

Mt. Tamalpais ride September 14th. 2016





Mt. Tamalpais





Now, see how we got there with George Homenko's great video in full screen
<https://vimeo.com/183713561>

Mendocino ride September 18th. 2016





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