



Redwood Riders Review



Volume 2017

No. 1

January

[Archive](#)



2016 in review

Next page



Club Business

President's foreword

Prez Sez

January 2017

Happy New Year! I consulted my crystal ball and discovered that 2017 will be a GREAT RIDING YEAR! Look over your bike, check the oil and tires, and get ready to ride. By now you all should have received a calendar listing all of the "official" rides for 2017. As always, we can expect some unofficial rides as well as (by virtue of the friendships that have been made by virtue of being a member of the Redwood Riders) impromptu rides with friends.

Riding with the Redwood Riders will lead to lifelong friendships. You will enjoy being with these people whether it be on club rides, club get-together's, or just hanging out. These friendships are really cemented when we spend a lot of time together on things like: overnight rides, meeting dinners, and charity events with the club. Plan to spend more time on these events in 2017. You will be handsomely rewarded.

Below is a photo of a group who formed friendships when they all took a technically challenging ride.



THE SWEETWATER SIX

Submitted By Ben Johnstone ~ President

Secretary's report

Redwood Riders Monthly Meeting

December 20, 2016

Opening Statement: President Ben Johnstone opened the meeting with our club's accomplishments in 2016. We updated our By-Laws, had some great overnight rides plus adding Wednesday rides which have been attended by around 15 riders. We made our charity donation to the Ceres Community Project, Marcel did a great job getting sponsors, we have a great new meeting location, and added a member at large to our board of directors. We now have a monthly newsletter thanks to Marcel.

Next year will be even better. There are four overnights planned (Saturday/Sundays). We have new officers for our

board. Tony Albini has resigned as the Safety Officer due to work commitments. George Homenko volunteered to take on that office.

Dues are due (\$24) and need to be submitted to our new treasurer, DeeDee Dargence.

The event calendar for 2017 has been set up and will be emailed out to the membership and it will also be posted on Meetup and the main website.

Minutes: were read by Sharon McMillan

Treasurers Report: DeeDee gave her first treasurer report. She and former treasurer, Terry Perry had met and the books were transitioned.

Melisa Brown asked about the process of giving our funds collected for Ceres. Ben explained that we go to the charity headquarters in Sebastopol and personally give our donation. A tour of the facility is included at that time. No date has been set up at this time to visit Ceres.

Membership: Marcel reported that we have four new members which puts us right at 100. There are 68 men and 32 women, which represents 24 cities and 5 counties.

Discussed club hats: \$25 for Flexfit and \$15 for one that is adjustable. Our website has the contact information in the newsletter "Contacts" for Toni Morrison who makes up the hats for us. A list was passed around and nine members signed up for 10 hats.

Tours and Events: Mike Holden reported that we had 25 riders attend the Cloverdale Toy Run. Overall good turnout which included lunch and raffles.

Upcoming Rides in 2017:

Jan 7th – ride to Stinson Beach.

Jan 15th – to Gualala

Feb 4th – Coppola winery

Feb 19th – To Be Determined

Additional rides have been planned including an overnight in May to Redding, three days in June to the Sierras, July an overnigher to Tahoe, August to the Feather River area and October a three day ride to Oregon to see some of their covered bridges.

Safety Officer: George Homenko (just volunteered to fill this position at this meeting) asked for suggestions from our members regarding topics they would like to cover.

Old Business: After Holiday Party, Melisa Brown needs to know who is attending for a head count and is collecting the \$20 which includes lunch. The party will be held on Saturday, Jan 28th at our meeting site, China Village, 8501 Gravenstein Hwy, Cotati. The time is Noon – 3 PM.

New Business: The next board meeting will be held on Jan 9th at Ben's house at 2 PM. This will be our first meeting with our new board members.

50/50 Raffle: This month's raffle was won by John Bischak who donated his portion to the Ceres charity. The second prize which was a club hat was won by Matthew Howard and the last prize of a flat tire repair kit was won by Bob Gonzales.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35

Sharon McMillan, Secretary

Tours & Events Director's Report

Recent Rides and Events:

The Cloverdale Toy Run was our only December club ride. For those of you who chose not to participate you missed a great event. To start with, the opportunity to provide disadvantaged

kids children with something that will put a smile on their faces during the Holidays is one of the most satisfying thing we can do. For the price of a new unwrapped toy we got to follow Santa on his Harley through the beautiful Dry Creek Valley in full fall color and have a wonderful BBQ lunch. We had 25 Redwood Riders participate this year and from the comments I heard everyone enjoyed the day. I enjoyed the ride even though I had to throttle back "Big Red" and ran out of room for all of the Harley parts I had to pick up - did I really say that out loud?

Coming Rides and Events:

January 7 - The first ride of 2017 will be to Stinson Beach (or thereabouts) and will be lead by the intrepid George Homenko. For those of you who haven't ridden with GK you can count on a very interesting route that will make for a fun day. Lunch will be somewhere.

January 9th - Redwood Riders Board of Directors' Meeting.

January 15th - Ben Johnstone will lead the ride to Gualala. Since there are several very interesting routes for going and coming I'm this will be a fun and beautiful. Ben doesn't know it but this will also be a celebration of my 39th birthday. Gifts are not required but if you choose to give me something, cash cars or land are acceptable - NO KIDS!

January 17th - Our general meeting will again be held at China Village at 7:00pm. Come early for diviner if you'd like.

January 28th - Our After Holiday Party will be held at China Village. Last year's gala celebration, organized by Melissa Brown, was an absolute blast. This year promises to be twice as good since we have two organizers - Melissa and our very own Veep, Gretchen Tomm. So come all ye faithful riders and have a great time. The cost is \$20 per head (or any other part). Don't forget a \$10 gift for the exchange.

February 4th - I will lead the ride to Coppola Winery. The route will take us through part of the Russian River, Dry Creek and Alexander Valleys. I haven't finalized the route yet but remember, I'm going to be a year older by then and probably won't get lost. Coppola has a great atmosphere and wonderful food. Where else can you see a Tucker 48 automobile and get beignets with your lunch?

Th...Th...That's all folks!



Send your suggested rides to: tours&events@redwoodridersmc.com

By Mike Holden, Tours & Events Director

Membership Director's Report

New members in December

Current membership

Membership Statistics

Gregory Koss	Number of riders	86	Men	68
Lulu Iacoviello	Number of co-riders	<u>14</u>	Women	32
Bryan Ballard	Total Club members	100	Members from	5 Counties
Dave Trumbo				24 cities

Birthdays in January

Dave Albrighton

Rob Grassi

Paul Kenny

Terry Perry

Trisha Shew

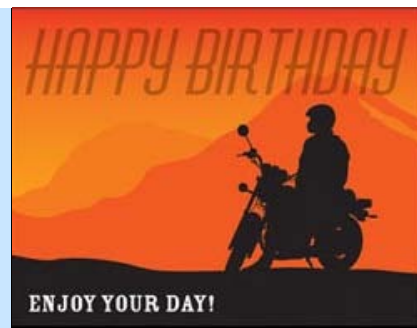
Robert Gonzales

Mike Holden

Doug Mac Pherson

Steven Randall

Arlene Svizzero



Bulletin Board Notices

Please don't forget to send in your membership dues.

If you did not get a renewal notice email, contact Marcel at: membership@redwoodridersmc.com

Send your dues to the address on the renewal form.

2017 membership cards will be handed out at general meetings and on rides.

See Dee Dee or Marcel.

After Holiday annual party is nearing.

The Party is scheduled for the fourth Saturday (28th.) of January. Time is 12: noon to 3: PM. It will be held at the China Village, Cotati. Details are found on the flyer sent by email. If you can't find it, email Marcel and it will be sent to you again, membership@redwoodridersmc.com

Two new board of directors elected*

Treasurer: Dee Dee Dargence*

Safety Director: George Homenko*

Sargeant at Arms: George Homenko*

Other board members are remaining from last year. (Complete list on contacts page.)

Thank you all for serving.

New 2017 Ride schedule announced:

See the Calendar on the Meetup site or main site for details.

Hotline

For last minute ride changes call the hotline. 707-636-4811

Club Gear

Please note, we have added the contact information for ordering patches, T-shirts and hats on the Contacts page of the newsletter. If you prefer, you can give your order to Marcel.

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.

Road Rules Safety reminder

We do not ride side by side. We ride staggered. We never pass another rider in the same lane, at any speed. It is OK to get next to the rider in front of you when coming to a stop sign or a red light but never when the bikes are moving.

RRMC Membership Cards

If you don't have your membership card yet, check with Marcel or Dee Dee. You need this card to get the discounts offered by our sponsors.

By Marcel Svizzero, Membership Director

Safety Officer's Tip of the Month

Hello Redwood Riders

My name is George and during a moment of weakness I volunteered to be the club's Safety Director. I don't claim to be an expert in motorcycle safety but I have been riding all my life on all kinds of street bikes and have never had an accident that broke the skin. Just by stating that fact I will probably end that run shortly. What I hope to do as your safety guy is to bring up some interesting and possibly stimulating discussions on the art of motorcycle riding. I have my opinions and at times I am sure some of you will disagree with me, I encourage the discussion.

When I can, a few days before our monthly meeting I will email out a discussion topic for that upcoming meeting. Marcel will also be publishing the topic in the newsletter. Whenever possible I will try to find an online video to illustrate the concept I am conveying, falling back on the old adage that a picture is worth a thousand words. Questions, comments can then be brought up at the meeting. If anyone has a topic they would like me to bring up please just ask. With that said here is what I have this month.

Here is a video I found that is a great demonstration on how to reset your motorcycle back to a position of rubber side down. I will get into the heavier safety stuff later but I thought this subject was very pertinent. I have seen a couple bikes go onto their side in parking lots in the past year while riding with the Redwood Riders. Here is the way to get your bike back on its feet, if you are by yourself with no one else around. Don't think this will work for you trike riders.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gnu6YxMJhU>

BMW George

By George Homenko, Safety Director

[Next page](#)

Editorials

Wisdom of the month

Two guys were roaring down the road on a motorcycle when the driver slowed up and pulled over.

His leather jacket had a broken zipper, and he told his friend, "I can't drive anymore with the air hitting me in the chest like that." "Just put the jacket on backwards." His friend advised.

They continued down the road but around the next bend, they lost control and wiped out. A nearby farmer came upon the accident and ran to call the police. They asked him, "Are they showing any signs of life?" "Well," the farmer explained, "the driver was until I turned his head around the right way!"



From various Internet sources, public domain ~ Editor

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

Close to Home: Lane splitting by motorcycles is a safety measure not a hazard



Article written for the Santa Rosa Press Democrat by Redwood Rider and Professor Emeritus, Tom Cooke

Those of us who commute regularly on our freeway system have become accustomed to motorcycles “lane splitting” or riding in between lanes of vehicles. This appears to be a practice that some motorists understand and approve, while angering and upsetting others — leading, in the worst of cases, to road rage and intentionally causing motorcycles to crash.

If we are driving in slow, stop-and-go traffic, as is common on Highway 101 here in Sonoma and Marin counties, we are likely not in the best frames of mind already. To have motorcycles passing us by riding in the gap between lanes does not tend to bring out our most charitable impulses.

So it can be understood that some motorists become resentful, angry and occasionally act out by intentionally and dangerously blocking the rider. Perhaps if motorists understood the reasoning behind lane splitting, tolerance would improve.

To begin with, many motorists do not realize that this practice is legal in California and enjoys the blessing of our public safety professionals and the California Highway Patrol. How, you may ask, could this have come to be? While seemingly counter-intuitive, the answer will surprise many. Researchers at UC Berkeley completed a traffic safety study in 2014 that concluded that lane splitting was, in fact, an effective highway safety measure. Accidents are reduced and fewer motorcyclists are injured when lane splitting is permitted.

Additionally, the U.S. Department of Transportation Fatality Analysis Reporting System has documented that the second-most common cause of car/motorcycle collisions is a car or truck hitting a motorcycle from behind. This most commonly occurs in stop-and-go traffic.

The consequences of such collisions are far more serious than car-on-car fender benders since the rider has virtually no protection when hit by a car. Such collisions, in addition to injuring the rider, often spill gasoline from the bike onto the roadway as it lays on the pavement, introducing the danger of a highway fire.

The Department of Transportation FARS data also show that motorcycle fatalities are 30 percent lower (controlling for population size) in California than in Florida or Texas, both of which have similarly long motorcycle-riding seasons, but neither of which permits lane splitting. It is also worth noting that lane splitting encourages some commuters to ride vs. drive, thereby reducing traffic congestion and greenhouse gases somewhat.

Of course, it is also feasible that an angry reaction to lane splitting may be encouraged by a minority of riders who lane

split recklessly and at speeds far higher than the 30 mph maximum that safe riding requires when lane splitting. And since the bikes that tend to do this are often loud, they draw attention and form the basis for negative stereotypes of riders.

Admittedly, there are a minority of riders who engage in dangerous riding habits, including lane splitting at unsafe speeds. At the same time, there are a minority of motorists who routinely drive recklessly with little regard for the public safety. These are the likely candidates for cutting off riders who lane split legally and safely. Our police departments and highway patrol officers do their best to bring these dangerous scofflaws to justice, be they on two wheels or four.

In the meantime, the rest of us can respect the law and demonstrate respect for our fellow highway travelers by making space for lane splitters or by lane splitting courteously and safely

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

On Holiday Vacation

Members' views, stories and helpful tips

What! The Iphone 7 doesn't have an audio jack?

Thats right folks. Those of you who are getting ready to upgrade your phones to the new Iphone 7 will no longer be able to plug in your current favorite headsets to the new Iphone. Apple is providing a headset which works with the lightning plug but you can't use them while charging the phone. This becomes a very important detail if you use your Iphone's GPS while riding your motorcycle, especially on a long ride. TAOTRONICS to the rescue! I recently upgraded my phone but before I did, I researched the internet and found this little device. It works great. The sound is very clear.

TaoTronics Bluetooth 4.1 Transmitter and Receiver with Music Control TT-BA08



BLUETOOTH TRANSMITTER AND RECEIVER:

Receiver lets non-Bluetooth devices like car or home stereos or any headset receive high quality audio.

INSTANT SOUND: Enjoy a latency lower than 95% of other devices with aptX Low Latency technology; end-to-end lag time is now 40 milliseconds .

A 2 FOR 1 CONNECTION: Two Bluetooth headphones or speakers can pair at once, (great for passenger too.)

ALWAYS READY: With 20 hours of continuous audio, battery protection, charging during operation, and pairing memory functionality, you're always ready.

FULL CONTROL: During receiver mode you have full control of the music including play / pausing, track selection, and volume control with buttons on the adapter controls. The adapter can connect to traditional device like wired headphones or speakers so they can receive Bluetooth music direct from phones and tablets.

LISTEN AND CHARGE AT THE SAME TIME: Important if you ride for more than 20 hours.

SIZE: 1.89 x 1.89 x .31 inches

Volume control at phone and on unit.

Your phone is the Bluetooth transmitter, the TaoTronics is the receiver. Plug in any favorite headsets or plug the TaoTronics unit into your motorcycle audio system or headset audio . This device is very versatile.

More detailed information at: <http://www.taotronics.com/taotronics-tt-ba08-bluetooth-4.1-transmitter-receiver-aptX-music->

adapter.html
Works great for me. ~ Marcel

PS. All phones will eliminate the audio plug in the near future. Bluetooth is the future. ~ *Editor*

editor@redwoodridersmc.com

[Next page](#)

Page 3

ne

Year in Review 2016

January

Half Moon Bay

Suisun

February

Mid Pines

Gualala



March

Point Reyes

Winters

Mendocino



April

Ukiah

Winters

Utah Canyon Lands





May

Lakeport

Fort Bragg

Glass Beach



Tahoe



June

Calpella

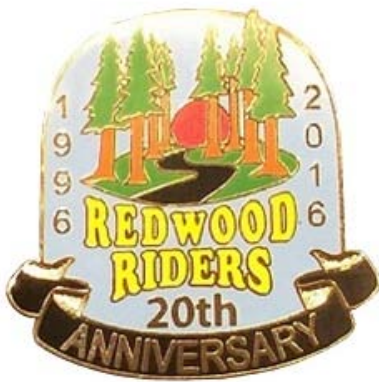
Point Reyes

Mammoth overnight





20th Anniversary and Awards Party





Awards for two of our best
July
 Athenian Grill, Suisun Pt. Reyes

Gold Beach, Oregon overnight





August

Cache Creek

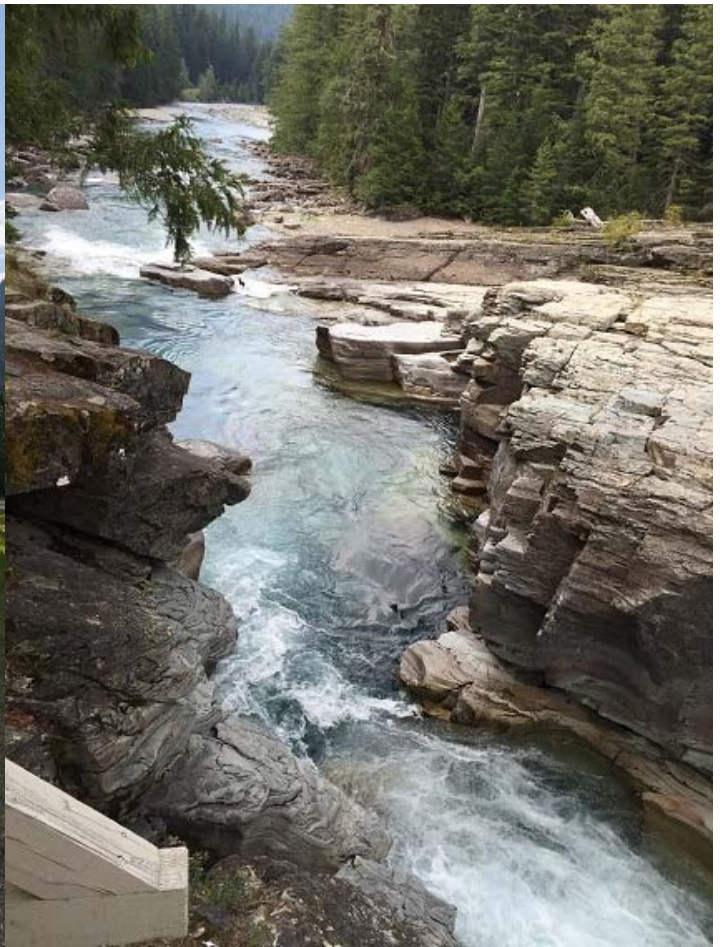
Old Town, Sacramento

River Rock

Twin Falls Idaho



Glacier National Park, Montana



Canadian Rockies







September
Mendocino

Street Vibrations



Mt. Tamalpais



October

Lakeport

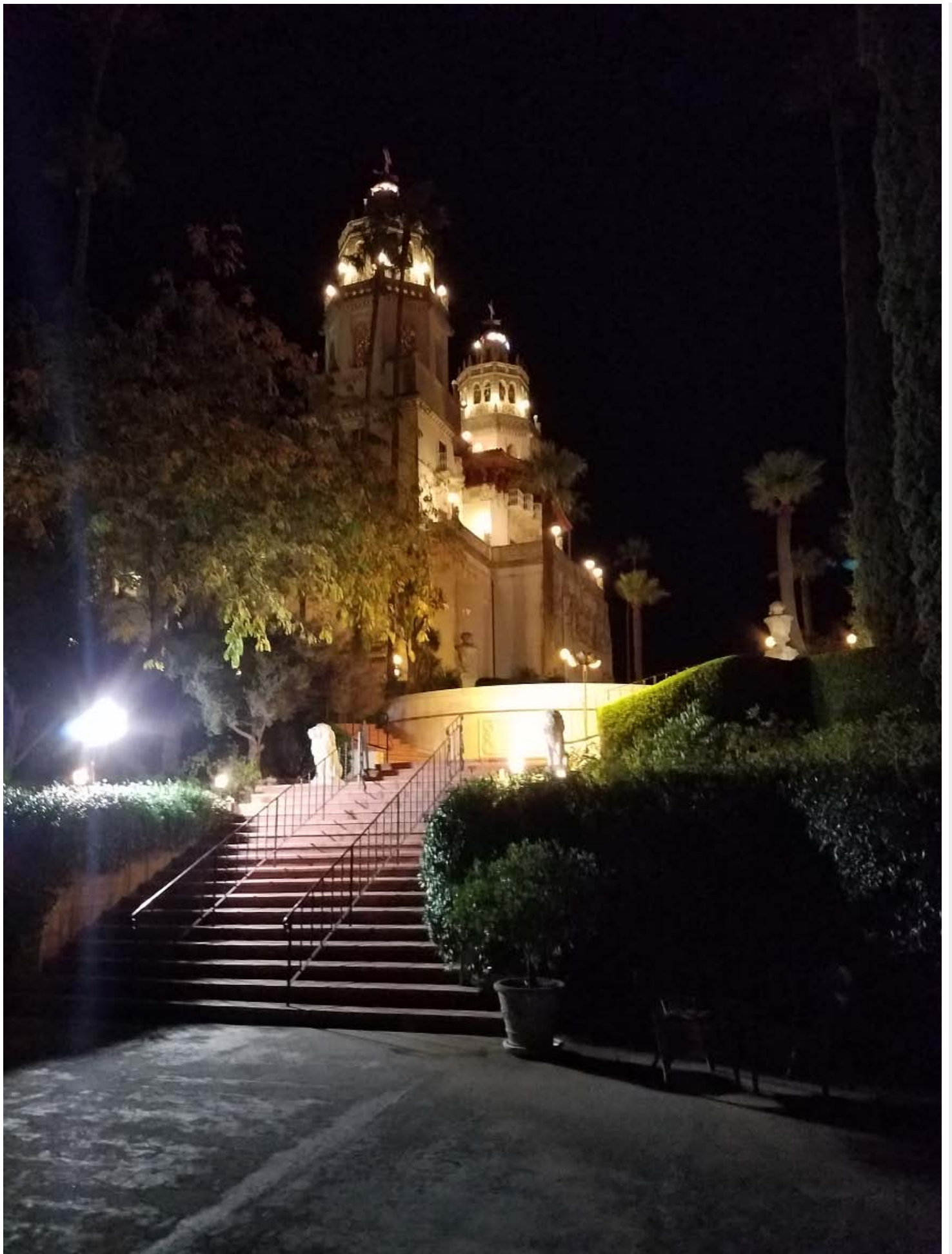
Ukiah

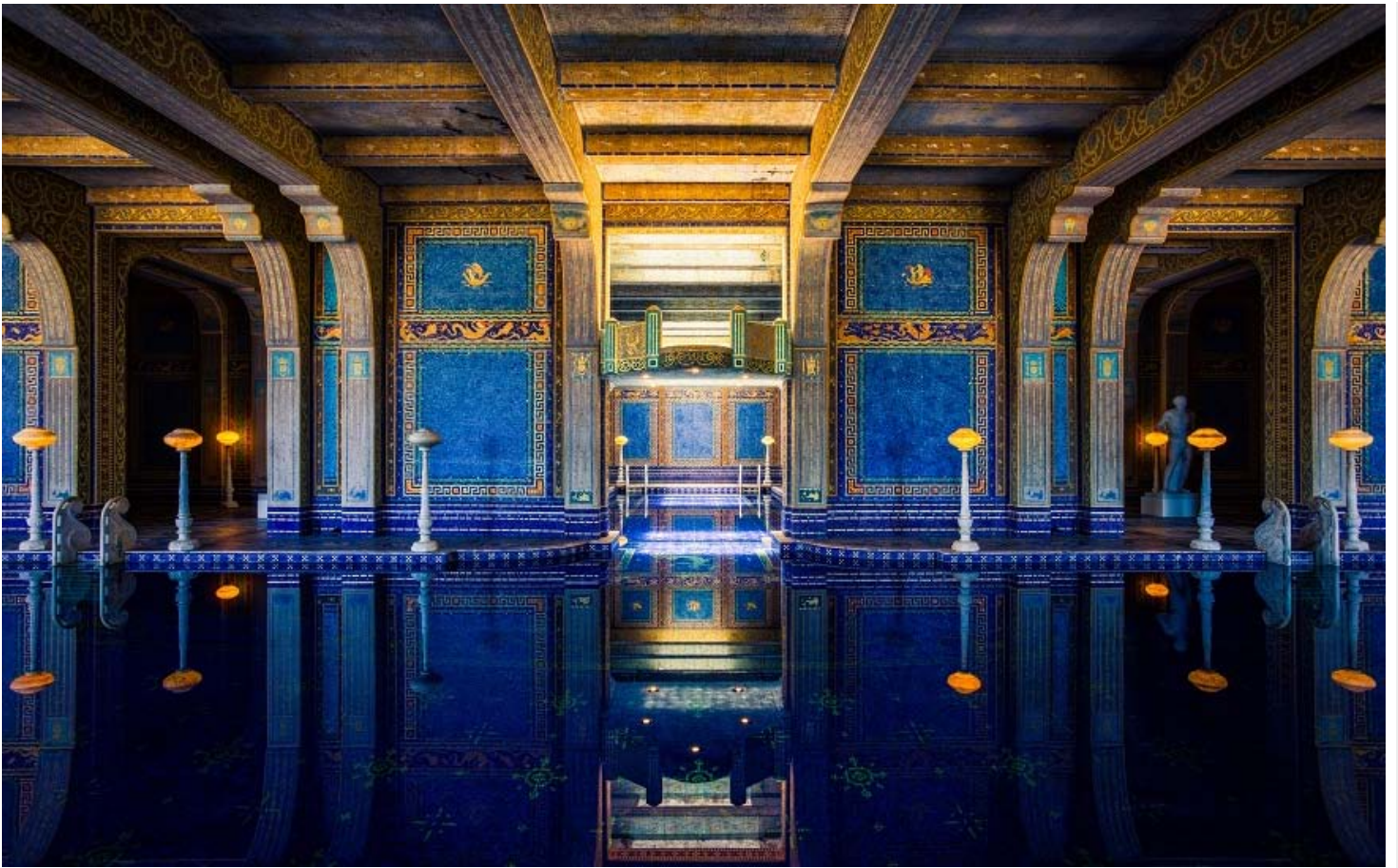
Alice's Restaurant



Hearst Castle







American Legion Fallen Warriors Ride



November

Half Moon Bay

Winters

Sausalito



December
Cloverdale Toy Run



Club accomplishments in 2016

Revised Bylaws
 Expanded Board with Member at Large
 Reinstated Membership Cards
 Reconnected with sponsors
 Increased Road Captain staff
 20th Anniversary Pins
 Reinstated Annual Awards
 Revised Club Logo to "North Bay"
 Reinstated Newsletter
 Updated Club hats
 Started week day rides
 Relocated to better meeting place

We go places!

[Next page](#)

Club Contacts

Officers and Road Captains

RRMC Board of Directors

President:	Ben Johnston
Vice President:	Gretchen Tomm
Secretary:	Sharon McMillan
Treasurer:	Dee Dee Dargence
Tours & Events:	Mike Holden
Safety:	George Homenko
Membership:	Marcel Svizzero
Member at Large:	Wade Roberts
Sgt. at Arms:	Rosalie Mack

Contacts

president@redwoodridersmc.com
vicepresident@redwoodridersmc.com
secretary@redwoodridersmc.com
treasurer@redwoodridersmc.com
tours&events@redwoodridersmc.com
safety@redwoodridersmc.com
membership@redwoodridersmc.com
memberatlarge@redwoodridersmc.com

Road Captains

roadcaptains@redwoodridersmc.com

Mike Holden, **Senior Road Captain/Trainer**

Wade Roberts

Ben Johnstone

Terry Perry

Gretchen Tomm

George Homenko

Michael Turpin

Sponsors*

Northbay Motorsports	Santa Rosa	Honda, Kawasaki	707-542-5355	northbaymotorsports.com
Mammoth Motorsports	Rohnert Park	All makes + tire specials	707-585-7677	mammothmotorsports.com
Cycle West	Petaluma	Honda, Suzuki	707-769-5240	cyclewest.net
Penngrove Motorcycle	Penngrove	Harley	707-793-7993	penngrovemotorcycleco.com
Mach 1 Motorsports	Vallejo	Honda, Yamaha	707-643-2448	mach1motorsports.com
K & B Motorsports	Petaluma	Yamaha, Kawasaki	707-763-4658	kandbmotorsports.com
NorCal Power Sports & Marine	Santa Rosa	Harley, Victory	707-527-1515	norcalpowersports-marine.com

*See Sponsor page for discounts

New

Club Gear: Patches, T-shirts, hats. You may call direct, order and pick up at your convenience.

Tony Morrison: 707-217-5912

Anyone wishing to help with the Newsletter or the main website, please contact editor below.

Editor

Send your suggestions to: editor@redwoodridersmc.com

Webmaster

webmaster@redwoodridersmc.com

[Next Page](#)



Local Rides

Cloverdale Toy Run December 4th. 2016



No other rides in December due to Holidays



| [Back to first page](#) | [Archive](#) | [Home](#) |